

NIGERIA- UNITED STATES BI-NATIONAL COMMISSION

JOINT COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 3RD REGIONAL SECURITY WORKING GROUP, ABUJA SEPTEMBER 4, 2014

The Third Session of the Regional Security Working Group of the Nigeria – United States Bi- National Commission was held in Abuja, Nigeria on 4th September 2014. The Nigerian delegation to the Session was led by the Permanent Secretary of the Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Amb. (Dr.) Martin Uhomoibhi, while the US delegation was led by the Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs of the U.S. State Department, Amb. Linda Thomas- Greenfield.

The Nigerian Government and the United States Government recognised the importance of the Bi-National Commission (BNC), particularly, the Regional Security Working Group that has provided a platform for furthering collaboration between the two countries. Recognizing the importance of maintaining a strong bilateral relationship and strong ties, both countries reiterated their commitment to advancing good governance and civilian security leading to lasting peace, democracy and prosperity in Nigeria.

The Third Session deliberated on various issues of mutual interest ranging from 2015 General Elections, Boko Haram insurgency, Election Security, Human Rights, Security Governance Initiative (SGI), Accountability/ Rule of Law and Security Sector Leadership and Management.

Both countries noted the fundamental responsibility of the Nigerian Government to preserve life, protect the population, respect human rights and fairly administer justice. Both countries agreed on the importance of good governance, transparency and accountability.

The Nigerian Government is committed to ensuring that the Nigerian Armed Forces will have the tools, equipment, and leadership they need to be successful upon deployment. The U.S. Government will continue to support Nigeria's efforts to ensure that the military have the training and support structures they need to succeed.

Both countries agreed in principle to an expanded effort to strengthen Nigerian security institutions through the Security Governance Initiative. This initiative, announced by President Obama in August 2014, represents an opportunity to work together to strengthen security institutions to more effectively address the transnational and domestic threats that challenge social and economic progress. It is a multi-year effort, reflective of the far-sighted nature of the Nigeria – U.S. bilateral relationship.

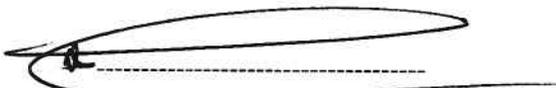
Both countries expressed their strong belief in the importance of free, fair, and credible elections as a cornerstone of democracy. As part of this effort, the U.S. Government intends to send an election Security Experts to share expertise and to learn from the Nigerian experience.

The Nigerian and United States Governments agreed to follow up on the commitments made as well as seek further collaboration to address the challenges identified by the Regional Security Working Group.

Both countries plan to seek participation from the private sector, civil society, local governments, and other Democratic Partner Countries in the next meeting of the Regional Security Working Group.

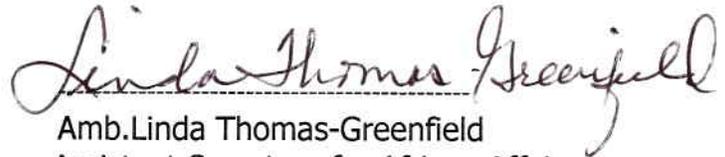
The next meeting of the Bi-National Commission will be held in October 2014, when the Good Governance, Transparency and Integrity Working Group will meet to discuss the upcoming elections.

The two countries agreed to hold the next Session of the Regional Security Working Group at a venue and date to be mutually agreed through diplomatic channel.



Amb. (Dr) Martin Uhomoibhi
Permanent Secretary

Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Amb. Linda Thomas-Greenfield
Assistant Secretary for African Affairs

U.S. State Department