

## JOINT COMMUNIQUE OF THE HIGH-LEVEL BILATERAL MEETING FOR AN ENHANCED ECONOMIC COOPERATION BETWEEN BENIN AND NIGERIA

At the request of the Government of the Republic of Benin, a delegation from the Federal Republic of Nigeria led by Her Excellency Dr. Jumoke ODUWOLE, Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment, which included Her Excellency Bianca Odumegwu OJUKWU, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, the Comptroller General of Customs, Mr. Adewale ADENIYI visited Cotonou from 31 July to 2 August 2025 as part of the bilateral exchanges initiated by the two countries at the West Africa Economic Summit (WAES 2025), held in Abuja on 21 June 2025, on the theme: 'One Voice, One Future.'

During the joint meeting with the Beninese delegation composed of Mr. Romuald WADAGNI, Senior Minister, Minister of Economy and Finance in charge of Cooperation, Mr Yvon DETCHENOU, Minister of Justice and Legislation, Mr. Olushegun ADJADI BAKARI, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mrs. Alimatou Shadiya ASSOUMAN, Minister of Industry and Trade, the two Parties agreed on the frame of reference for the negotiation of an MoU for Enhanced Economic Cooperation and the extension of measures to facilitate trade flows along the borders of the two countries.

The two delegations were delighted with the milestone understanding that led to the signing by the Ministers of Trade of both countries of the Frame of Reference to advance the said Memorandum of Understanding.

In addition, the Nigerian delegation was received by His Excellency Mr. Patrice TALON, President of the Republic of Benin. On this occasion, the delegation conveyed to him a message of friendship and brotherhood from his counterpart, His Excellency President Bola Ahmed TINUBU GCFR, President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Her Excellency Dr. Jumoke ODUWOLE also expressed to President Patrice TALON, her delegation's sincere gratitude for the warm welcome and attention they were granted since their arrival in Cotonou.

The two Parties welcome the exemplary collaboration between the two customs administrations and undertook to continue their cooperation in the same spirit.

In addition, the Nigerian delegation visited the Port Authority of Cotonou and the Sèmè-Kraké border, which enabled them to take note of the important reforms undertaken by Benin Government to increase and facilitate trade between the two countries.

Both delegations agreed to cooperate on transhipments and avoidance of leakages of customs duties. The working group on customs under the framework of reference will respect the spirit of collaboration as well as the instructions of their custom administrations.

Finally, the two delegations agreed to begin the process of negotiations on the text of the Memorandum of Understanding for Enhanced Economic Cooperation between Benin and Nigeria, starting in September 2025.

Done at Cotonou, on August 2, 2025

For the Government  
of the Republic of Benin

For the Government  
of the Federal Republic of Nigeria



Alimatou Shadiya ASSOUMAN  
Minister of Industry and Trade

Dr. Jumoke ODUWOLE  
Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment