



PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

Federal Republic of Nigeria

INCLUSION, TRUST AND OPPORTUNITY

Intervention Address by His Excellency, Senator Godswill Obot Akpabio, GCON, President of the Senate, Federal Republic of Nigeria, at the 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, Arusha, Tanzania, 5–9 October 2026

PROTOCOL

We gather around three words that must become living realities for ~~our~~ people: inclusion, trust and opportunity. They are the foundations of a democracy that gives every citizen a voice, every community a place and every generation a reason to hope.

For Nigeria, democracy means more than elections, and development more than impressive statistics. Their true measure is the child who can attend school, the young person who can find work, and the family that can face tomorrow with confidence. If progress is not seen in our people, our work is not finished.

Trust is the invisible currency of democracy. We cannot command it, demand it or legislate it into existence. We earn it through fairness, transparency and accountability. Every promise kept strengthens trust; every citizen heard brings government closer to the people.

The Nigerian National Assembly embraces this responsibility through legislation, representation, appropriation and oversight.



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Our chambers hear the voices of those who may never enter them. Parliament is a bridge over which the hopes of ordinary people travel into the decisions of government.

Nigeria's diversity makes inclusion a national duty and a democratic necessity. Our many peoples, languages, cultures and faiths are sources of strength. No citizen should be a stranger in his own country, and no community should stand at the margins of our common future.

Under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, working with the 10th National Assembly, Nigeria is pursuing reforms to widen participation and opportunity. Expanded regional development institutions seek to bring development closer to communities and address their needs. Tax reforms aim to make the system fairer, ease burdens on low-income earners and small businesses, and strengthen enterprise.

Through the Nigerian Education Loan Fund, NELFUND, eligible students can access interest-free financing for higher education. Behind this intervention stands a powerful conviction: poverty must never have the final word on a young person's potential. The circumstances of birth must not become the boundaries of destiny.



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These measures define a journey which success must be measured in lives improved. Across our nations, citizens ask: “Am I heard? Do I have a fair chance? Can I trust you with my children’s future?” Our answer must be visible in our laws, our budgets and our conduct.

Distinguished colleagues, let this Assembly renew our resolve to build Parliaments that listen, governments that serve and institutions that keep faith with their people. Let us turn inclusion into participation, trust into partnership and opportunity into shared prosperity.

The smallest village must have a stake in the greatest national ambition. When every citizen can say, “I belong, I am heard, and my future matters,” democracy becomes a promise fulfilled.

That is the future Nigeria seeks. That is the future we must build together. I thank you.



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