



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

**Office of the Deputy Speaker
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Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.



Deputy Speaker's General Debate: *Enhancing Good Governance and Empowering Communities through Inclusivity, Trust and Opportunities for All*

Madam President, Distinguished Delegates,

Trust, opportunity and inclusion are not slogans. They are the test every law we pass must meet. When governance passes that test, citizens renew their faith in democracy.

Globally, only 40% of citizens trust their national government. One reason for this erosion of trust may be that 3.4 billion people now live in countries that spend more on debt servicing than on health or education. In 2024, developing economies paid a record 921 billion dollars in debt servicing. No parliament can build trust at home while a huge percentage of its budget services creditors abroad.

Nigeria's reforms have lifted growth to 4.43 percent in the second quarter of 2026, and ease of doing business has remarkably improved. Inflation has eased, and external reserves stand above 55 billion dollars, the highest in nearly two decades.

In the drive for food security, mechanisation, irrigation and access to farmer credit must reach rural communities rather than leave them behind. Equally, in a rapidly evolving digital economy, participation

increasingly depends on digital skills and technological literacy. That is why we are investing in our young people, equipping them with the skills required for the jobs of tomorrow.

Policies and laws must continually seek to revitalise primary healthcare, expand insurance coverage and grow local pharmaceutical sovereignty, which is what we have been doing in Nigeria in the past 3 years. Policies around these build trust because it is health security through local content.

In June, our National Assembly passed a constitutional amendment to allow state police and bring protection closer to communities. However, security alone does not make peace. Citizens trust institutions when courts are fair and affordable, and when the powerful answer to the same law as the poor.

But all of this rests on one condition. There must be a planet tomorrow. Climate change is not a separate agenda item, it is the ground beneath every other agenda item. Nigeria calls on every parliament to apply an earth-first lens to every law we pass. Unless we change our approach to the earth, the earth will change every plan we have made.

Distinguished colleagues, these principles continue to guide Nigeria's development journey under President Bola Ahmed Tinubu, with Parliament reinforcing them through law. We have not yet reached our destination, but we have made considerable strides.

May our legislation help build trust, create opportunity and guarantee inclusion.

Thank you.