

## **FRAMEWORK**

### **FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BINATIONAL COMMISSION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF NIGERIA**

The Government of the United States of America and  
The Government of the Republic of Nigeria,  
hereinafter referred to as “the Governments,”

Seeking to reinforce cooperation in all domains, based on the principles of mutual respect,  
benefit, and equality;

Convinced that consultations between the Governments will enhance the development of  
bilateral relations and cooperation on international affairs, consistent with the principles of  
the Charter of the United Nations;

Aware of the advantages that the Governments can obtain from such cooperation;

Have reached the following understandings:

#### **Section 1 – PURPOSE**

This framework aims to establish a mechanism for sustained bilateral high level dialogue to  
promote and increase diplomatic, economic, and security cooperation between the two  
countries.

#### **Section 2 – ESTABLISHMENT OF A BINATIONAL COMMISSION**

The Governments intend to establish a Binational Commission (hereinafter referred to as  
“Commission”) to serve as the framework for dialogue described in Section 1.

#### **Section 3 – SCOPE**

The Commission is intended, among other goals, to:

1. Promote and coordinate the diplomatic, economic, military, commercial, technical, social, and cultural cooperation between the two countries;
2. Address areas of mutual interest and/or concern and develop strategies for tackling these issues with assistance and coordination from both Governments;
3. Assist in the implementation and follow-up of Agreements and all other legal instruments already concluded or to be concluded between the Governments;
4. Create favorable conditions to carry out cooperation programs and projects as may be decided by mutual consent, and help to resolve any difficulties that may arise in carrying out any such programs and/or projects; and
5. Evaluate the development of cooperation between the two countries, as well as initiatives from each Government aiming to expand cooperation to new areas.

#### **Section 4 – COMPOSITION**

1. The Commission is expected to comprise members of both respective Governments and experts.
2. The Governments expect the chairmanship of the Commission to be held jointly by the Foreign Minister of the Republic of Nigeria and by the Secretary of State of the United States of America. The chairmanship may be delegated to others, as designated by their respective Governments.
3. Each Government is expected to determine the composition of its delegation to participate in the working group meetings of the Commission.

#### **Section 5 – WORKING GROUPS**

1. The Commission is intended to have four working groups to handle specific matters of bilateral interest. Working groups are expected to address the following goals:
  - a. The Governments intend for the Good Governance, Transparency, and Integrity Working Group to support robust progress on electoral and election preparations in order to achieve free, fair, and peaceful elections in Nigeria; and to build Nigeria's institutional capacity to fight corruption through improved prevention, detection, investigation, and prosecution.
  - b. The Governments intend for the Energy and Investment Working Group to improve transparency, administration and performance of the power generation and hydrocarbon sectors.
  - c. The Governments intend for the Food Security and Agriculture Working Group to increase reliable access to food in Nigeria and the region through improvements in agriculture and trade policy.
  - d. The Governments intend for the Niger Delta and Regional Security Cooperation Working Group to support plans to provide tangible development and economic opportunity to the people of the Niger Delta as well as augment partnership on regional security.
2. The Governments intend for the Commission to modify working groups whenever the Governments determine that it is necessary.
3. Working groups are expected to meet semi-annually and submit a progress report to the Binational Commission at the end of each session.

#### **Section 6 – FREQUENCY AND LOCATION**

1. The Commission is expected to meet annually, alternately in the Republic of Nigeria and in the United States of America.
2. The Governments intend to determine the date and the agenda via diplomatic channels, based on proposals submitted by the Governments.

## **Section 7 – EXPENDITURES**

1. The host country for each meeting is expected to cover expenses related to the meeting venue and related meeting costs.
2. Each Government expects to bear the expenses related to the participation of its members in the meetings of the Commission and Working Groups.

## **Section 8 – SCOPE**

This Framework constitutes political commitments and is not legally binding. None of its provisions are intended to affect the Governments' other bilateral or multilateral commitments or obligations.

## **Section 9 – COMMENCEMENT**

The Governments intend to commence activities under this Framework upon signature by both Governments.

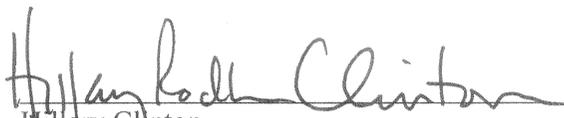
## **Section 10 – TERM**

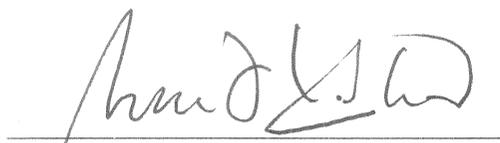
This Framework is intended to continue until one of the Governments notifies the other, in writing and via diplomatic channels, of its intent to cease its participation. The Governments should endeavor to provide six months advance notice from the intended date of cessation.

## **Section 11 – REVISIONS AND MODIFICATIONS**

Each of the Governments may seek revision of this Framework. Any revision or modification would apply as set forth in Section 9 hereto.

**Signed at** Washington on the 6th day of April, 2010.

  
Hillary Clinton  
Secretary of State  
United States of America

  
Alhaji Yayale Ahmed, CFR  
Secretary to the Government of the  
Federation on behalf of the Federal  
Republic of Nigeria as Designated  
by the Acting President