

OUTCOMES AND GAINS OF PRESIDENT BUHARI'S FOREIGN TRAVELS 2015 – 2019



Benin, Niger, Chad, Cameroon (June – August 2015):

These were among the first set of countries President Buhari visited on assumption of office, to fulfil his campaign promise of energizing the fight against Boko Haram, by enlisting the cooperation of the four countries and achieving the revitalization of the Multinational Joint Task Force (MNJTF).

Niger: June 3, 2015
Chad: June 4, 2015
Cameroon: July 29 – 30, 2015
Benin: August 2 – 3, 2015

United States: July 20, 2015; September 20, 2016; April 30, 2018

- Restoration of US-Nigeria relations, which had deteriorated considerably during the previous administration.
- Renewed cooperation in Security and Anti-Corruption. The US Government is supplying 12 Super Tucano Aircraft to Nigeria, as well as repatriating recovered looted monies and assets stashed in the US.
- The Nigerian and U.S. militaries collaborated to host, April 2018 in Abuja, the 2018 African Land Forces Summit, the largest gathering of African Army chiefs, to discuss cooperation aimed at improving security on the continent.

United Arab Emirates (UAE): January 17 – 20, 2016

- During President Buhari's official visit to the country, Nigeria and UAE signed landmark Agreements on the identification and repatriation of Illicit Funds, and on the extradition of persons wanted for prosecution. On the economic front, a Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement was also signed between the two countries.

China: April 11 – 14, 2016

- President Buhari was the first African Head of State to be invited to pay a State Visit to

China following the Forum on China Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) in December 2015.

- President Buhari's April 2016 Official Visit to China unlocked billions of dollars in infrastructure funding, primarily for road and rail projects; and led to the Implementation of a Chinese Yuan (CNY) 15 billion Currency Swap Agreement between the Peoples Bank of China and the Central Bank of Nigeria.
- Nigeria secured China's commitment to fund a number of high-profile infrastructure projects, including: the Nigerian railway modernization projects from Lagos to Kano – (Lagos-Ibadan now nearing completion); and the Mambilla Hydro-electric project.
- Subsequently, the Chinese have agreed to establish a Transport University in Nigeria, build a Rail Wagon Assembly Plant, and also fund the construction of a new Deep Sea Port in Warri.

United Kingdom: May 12, 2016

- Following President Buhari's Participation in the London Anti-Corruption Summit in May 2016, the following outcomes ensued:
- The signing, in August 2016, of an MoU with the UK Government on modalities for the return of Nigeria's stolen assets in the UK.
- The establishment of a Global Forum for Asset Recovery (GFAR), hosted by the governments of the US and UK in December 2017, and focusing on assisting Nigeria and three other countries to reclaim their stolen assets.
- Nigeria joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP) in 2016 and developed a National Action Plan, which is already being implemented.

The Gambia: January 13, 2017

- President Buhari's decisive leadership helped bring an end to the post-election constitutional impasse in The Gambia in December 2016 / January 2017.

Morocco: June 11 – 13, 2018

- Reciprocation of December 2016 State Visit by His Majesty King Mohammed VI.

Japan: August 28 – September 1, 2019

- Prime Minister Abe pledged a \$300,000 support for Nigeria's Defence College as well as 12 billion Yen for Nigeria's public health sector.
- On sidelines of TICAD IV, Nigeria and the European Union signed a €50 million Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to support humanitarian and development efforts in Nigeria's North East region.
- The cooperation agreement which was signed by Nigeria's Foreign Affairs Minister, Geoffrey Onyeama and EU Commissioner for International Cooperation and Development, Mr Neven Mimica, would bring the total EU support to the country to €562million for 2014-2020.

South Africa: October 2 – 3, 2019

- Strengthening Nigeria-SA relations – the two largest economies in Africa.
- Elevation of SA-Nigeria Bi-National Commission to Presidential Level – making it the only Bi-National Commission involving Nigeria at that level
- Agreement to facilitate the issuance of long term multiple entry visas for 10 years for frequent travellers, notable business people and academics from both countries.
- Agreement to re-establish the Nigeria/South Africa Consular Forum. The forum will meet two times each year.
- Agreement to establish a Joint Ministerial Advisory Council on Industry, Trade and Investment. The inaugural meeting of this council will hold in April in Abuja next year.
- President Buhari extended invitation to President Ramaphosa for a State Visit.

Russia: October 21 – 23, 2019

- Joint government-to-government Agreement for the Russians to return to Ajaokuta Steel

Complex, to complete and operationalise it.

- MEDPROM, one of Russia's leading rail companies, indicated interest in building the 1,400-kilometer Coastal Rail Line that will run from Lagos to Calabar.
- Agreement and MoU signed between NNPC and the Russia's Lukoil, to upgrade their commercial relationship to a government-to-government backed partnership, and to work together in upstream operations and in revamping Nigeria's government-owned refineries.
- MoU on the revival of the rested joint venture between the NNPC and Russia's gas giant, GAZPROM
- Agreement to renew lapsed Nigeria-Russia Military Technical Agreement. Agreement will elevate the procurement/sale of military hardware to a government-to-government level, eliminating middlemen and reducing cost. Will also provide a basis for training of military personnel, and refurbishment and renewal of infrastructure and equipment.
- Both countries agreed to kickstart the resolution of the protracted issue of the Aluminium Smelter Company of Nigeria, ALSCON, Ikot-Abasi, Akwa-Ibom State.
- Agreement to organize the fifth meeting of the Nigeria-Russia Joint Commission Joint Commission meeting to review and ratify all the agreements (about 40) contained in the Joint Commission's Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation Protocol of November 11, 2016.

Saudi Arabia: October 28 – November 1, 2019

- President Buhari and Crown Prince Mohammed Ibn Salman agreed to set up a joint Saudi-Nigeria Strategic Council, to focus on economic growth and development, investments in oil and non-oil sectors, and security cooperation.
- President Buhari held strategic meetings with the Chairman of Saudi ARAMCO, which is set to become the company with the largest market capitalization in the world, when it completes its public listing. The Saudi ARAMCO Chairman doubles as the Head of the Public Investment Fund (PIF), Saudi Arabia's sovereign wealth fund, and one of the largest sovereign wealth funds in the world.

VISITS OF FOREIGN LEADERS TO NIGERIA

MOROCCO: KING MOHAMMED VI, DECEMBER 1 – 3, 2016

- The visit of King Mohammed VI in December 2016 helped kickstart the launch of Nigeria's Presidential Fertilizer Initiative, PFI (which involves a partnership with the Government of Morocco, for the supply of phosphate, as well as technical assistance), and which has resulted in the revitalization of 14 blending plants across Nigeria.
- As part of the PFI, in 2018 Nigeria and Morocco signed a Memorandum of Understanding (between OCP of Morocco and the Nigeria Sovereign Investment Authority) on the establishment of a Basic Chemicals Platform, specifically to develop a significant Ammonia Production Plant in the Niger Delta.

FRANCE: PRESIDENT EMMANUEL MACRON, JULY 3 – 4, 2018

- Launch of a Franco-Nigerian Economic Forum (the Inaugural Meeting held in Lagos on July 4, 2018, bringing together 300 Nigerian and French companies) and also a Franco-Nigerian Business Club – the first of its kind in Africa, bringing together 15 Nigerian and 15 French business CEOs.

UNITED KINGDOM: PRIME MINISTER THERESA MAY, AUGUST 29, 2018

- Nigeria and the UK signed a Security and Defence Partnership, the first between the two countries. The Partnership provides for the following:
 - Provision of equipment and training for the Nigerian military;
 - Launch of a £13 million education programme that will provide training for teachers, school equipment, and security for schools, for 100,000 children living in parts of the Northeast affected by Boko Haram;
 - Roll out a new crisis response mechanism for Nigeria, similar to the UK's Cabinet Office Briefing Rooms (COBR) system;
 - A framework to strengthen policing, reduce piracy in the Gulf of Guinea, tackle organized crime, and tackle corruption;
 - Establishment of a new civil asset recovery task force will help Nigeria recover stolen assets held in Britain and stop criminals from using the UK as a safe haven for the proceeds of corruption;
 - Establishment of an enhanced human rights dialogue to ensure that collaborative efforts by both countries are in line with international human rights protocols;
 - Establishment of a regular forum for UK and Nigerian Ministers to meet and discuss solutions and responses to common security challenges and priorities.
- Signed MoU for the launch of the UK-Nigeria Economic Development Forum, which was launched in May 2019.
- Launched a new programme that will support innovative businesses in Northeast Nigeria, with the goal of raising the incomes of 3 million people and helping create 100,000 jobs;
- Launch of a new Innovation Partnerships in Nigeria, which will create linkages between UK and Nigerian tech professionals/innovators, and also provide opportunities for skills-building, education, access to investment to Nigerian innovators;
- Launch of a UK-Africa FinTech partnership (Nigerian entrepreneurs will be connected with UK FinTech investors and business mentors, for financing and mentoring), alongside a dedicated £2 million Fund to support Nigerian innovators;
- Launch of new initiatives to collaborate with and support the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC).
- Provision of up to £750 million in financing for Nigerian businesses buying British products, by UK Export Finance.

GERMANY: CHANCELLOR ANGELA MERKEL, AUGUST 30, 2018

- Establishment of the Presidential Power Initiative (PPI), a collaboration between the Governments of Nigeria and Germany, and Siemens AG of Germany, to upgrade Nigeria's power transmission and distribution infrastructure.
- Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL) and Petkus Technologie of Germany, aimed at significantly reducing the incidence/impact of post-harvest losses in Nigeria's Agriculture Value Chain.
- Signing of a MoU with Volkswagen of South Africa (VWSA) to develop a joint vision for an automotive hub in Nigeria.