



Communique

NIDO Americas Annual General Meeting (AGM) and World Conference held on October 14 and 15, 2022, at Best Western Plus Hotel, Atlanta East Airport, Atlanta, GA

Nigerians in Diaspora Organization, Americas (NIDOA) held its Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Atlanta on Oct 14th through the 16th. The conference's theme, "*A Unified NIDOA for Transformational Impact on Nation Building*," examined the past, present and the future of the organization in relation to the homeland, Nigeria. The body resolved to:

- **Deepen and expand unity, comradeship, and commitment among all Nigerians and concomitant organizations in the Diaspora to mobilize support and cooperation for transformational nation building and development. An *Outreach Committee* was appointed to negotiate the terms for the integration of chapter(s) that are yet to join the unified boards.**
- **Continue to collaborate with NIDO Worldwide and other Stakeholders on shared interests such as Diaspora Voting Rights and the mobilization of Talent and Resources to help create knowledge-based economy in Nigeria.**
- **Vigorously pursue the expansion of NIDO Americas to all countries of the American Continents.**
- **Organize impactful activities such as *Information Technology, Medical Certification Trainings, Foundation Education Intervention and Vocational Trainings, Discussion Fora*, and other Empowerment/Value-Added activities during the annual Diaspora Month starting in July 2023. The Board of Trustees was mandated to set up a '*Task Force*' to collate short-term and long-term programmatic initiatives; develop the modalities for implementation, including timeline and instrument to measure outcomes.**
- **Emphasize the need for all Nigerian governmental entities and diplomatic posts to channel their citizen outreach and programmatic initiatives through NIDO Americas as the organization of first resort.**
- **Seek accreditation to observe the 2023 General Elections in Nigeria as part of its civic commitment to free, fair, and democratic expression of the sovereign will of the Nigerian people.**

During the business meeting of the AGM, NIDO Americas' bylaws were amended to remove some areas of previous/potential conflict between the national and continental

bodies, strengthen election procedures, and streamline chapter creation guidelines.

1. *Specifically, the amended bylaw grants the national Boards of Directors the right to constitute election committees to conduct their respective elections.*
2. *Restricting the creation of new chapters to the residents of the locality or city who wish to establish the said chapter, and mandates that they maintain a minimum distance of 100 miles apart from each other, unless otherwise directed by the BoT.*

Activities at the 2022 AGM included a Golf Tournament kicked off by Ambassador Amina Smaila, two Plenary Sessions, and the AGM Business Session. The event concluded with an elegant gala attended by members of the Nigerian Diplomatic Mission to the United States including Nigeria's Ambassador to the United States, Ambassador Amina Smaila, Consul General of Nigeria in Atlanta (the host), and Ambassador Lot Egopija, Consul General of Nigeria in New York.

Ambassador Joe Keshi, former Permanent Secretary of Nigeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, delivered an impassioned keynote address underscoring the urgent need for NIDOA to prioritize intervention initiatives that focus on the education, health, and ICT sectors in Nigeria.

Dr. Ezekiel Macham
Chairman NIDOA Board of Trustees