PRESS RELEASE

US Elections: CISLAC congratulates Biden and Harris, demands significant development agenda for Nigeria

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) congratulates the United States of America President and Vice-President-elect, Joe Biden and Kamala Harris, having successfully won the remarkable and all-inclusive elections in the United States’ political history.

We witnessed from the elections, progressive change that reflects the aspirations and desires of the people of United States as well as anticipation of the international community.

In the spirit of felicitations, we call on the President-elect on the formulation and implementation of targeted policy to address the lingering insecurity in Nigeria and its impacts such as increasing kidnapping for ransoms, rural banditry, insurgency attacks, among other social vices that render the country ungovernable; as poor intelligent gathering, inefficiency, and inadequate response capacity by the security forces pave way for pervasive criminal activities and other social vices that remain unaddressed despite ceaseless public outcries.

While we request holistic support system to detect and prevent corruption in all ramifications, we without hesitation draw the attention of the President-elect to the systemic corruption that has eaten deep into Nigeria’s public sphere including unaccounted asset recovery and normalised money laundering. The Government has claimed recovery of assets worth billions of dollars without proper accountability on the management and utilisation of the assets to prevent re-looting.

We demand significant support for democratisation in Nigeria’s electoral process, institution and reform through proactive institutional building to successfully implement Electronic Voting System to safeguard and promote credibility, integrity and transparency in the electoral system. We on this note uphold our position that electoral voting should not be limited to Smart Card Reader; it must cover the entire process including registration, accreditation, vote counting, collation, and announcement chain.

Strengthening Nigeria-United States bilateral relationship through trade, investment and technically know-how transfer remains paramount to mitigate the fast-growing
unemployment challenges and boost industrialisation with youth employment opportunities. While trade could serve as a catalyst for economic and human development if trends in equity and fairness, this is underachieved in Nigeria, given its country’s experience in trade relations with the West.

We request the President-elect’s support in revitalising the shrinking civic space in Nigeria arising from arbitrary arrests, constant harassments and unlawful ban on civic activities, through specific policy implementation that promote operationalization and independence of civil society engagements and media activities without intimidation, fear or favour, to promote transparency and accountability in government.

In order to promote peaceful co-existence in Nigeria, we call on President-elect to discourage the unchecked pocket-serving ethno-religion politics in Nigeria including recurring but unhealthy and divisive agitations for separation by different groups from respective geo-political zones with growing threats to unity and diversity of our beloved nation.

We demand enabling support through amplified policy for the reconstruction, rehabilitation and reintegration process to restore and mitigate destruction impacts on the insurgent-attacked North East region for inclusive development in Nigeria

We further call on the President-elect to disregard ill-thought calls for sanctions against Nigeria, as anticipated impact of such would be felt only by common Nigeria, while exacerbating level of social deprivation and suffering.

Signed:

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