



---

## THE NIGERIAN CHARTER FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND INTEGRATION

As Unanimously Adopted by the Delegates of the 2014 National Conference

---

### PREAMBLE

**P**ERSUADED that when the administrations of the Northern and the Southern Protectorates of Nigeria were amalgamated in 1914, the frameworks of a potentially great nation were laid, **CONSIDERING** the need to ensure that the amalgamation achieves its full intendment of building a fully integrated nation, **CONCERNED** that, since the post-independent political upheavals that abrogated the terms of nationhood

entered into by our founding fathers, the diverse ethnic nationalities of Nigeria have never had ample opportunities to formerly express their consent to coexist as one nation, **RECALLING** the labours of our founding fathers and of our heroes past to build a nation where, though tribe and tongue may differ, in brotherhood we would stand in the service of our sovereign nation, **HUMBLY AWARE** that, in spite of their labours, our founding fathers could not attain the nation of their dreams but

bequeathed to subsequent generations, including ours, the task of forging a more perfect union,

**GRIEVED** that since independence, millions of Nigerians - of different tribes and of different faiths - have lost their lives, and that children have been orphaned, women have been widowed, men, women, boys and girls have been maimed, hopes have been dashed, dreams have been shattered and properties have been destroyed, on account of conflicts brought about by the absence of genuine national integration and in total disregard of the tenets of our faith to truly love our neighbours as ourselves,

**CONSCIOUS** of the fact that these historical grievances have produced resentment, nurtured bitterness and sustained distrust amongst Nigerians against one another and against the Nigerian state,

**CONCERNED** that lingering underdevelopment and failure to harness our diverse human and material resources to combat our common socio-economic problems such as poverty, unemployment, disease and insecurity have been the painful consequences of the absence of good governance and genuine national integration,

**DETERMINED** to heal the painful wounds of the past, to forgive past sectional wrongs, to let go of past sectional grievances, to close the book on our troubled past, to open up vistas of greatness and to embrace our future,

**CONVINCED** that, diverse though we may be, we are better off together and that, united, we can surmount every obstacle and fulfill our great national destiny,

**NOWTHEREFORE, WE THE PEOPLE OF NIGERIA** proclaim this **CHARTER FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND INTEGRATION** as the **BASIS OF OUR UNION.**

#### **Article 1**

We hereby firmly and solemnly resolve to live in unity and harmony as one indivisible and indissoluble sovereign nation under God.

#### **Article 2**

We shall be a land of Freedom, Peace and Justice and a home of Equity and Fair Play, where no one is oppressed and no one is discriminated against on the basis of ethnicity, gender or religion and where constant and consistent dialogue is encouraged.

#### **Article 3**

We shall be a law abiding nation where the rule of law prevails, where Right is Might and the Law Impartial and Supreme.

#### **Article 4**

We shall be a God fearing nation emphasizing the fear of God in our private and public endeavours.

#### **Article 5**

We shall freely express our ethnic, cultural and religious diversity with

tolerance within the context of our corporate existence and in the pursuit of our national destiny.

#### **Article 6**

We shall respect, preserve, protect and defend the rights of every Nigerian irrespective of ethnic, gender or religious differences.

#### **Article 7**

We shall not discriminate against any Nigerian on the basis of indigeneship or place of origin.

#### **Article 8**

We shall not accept, tolerate, promote or support the subjection of the Nigerian people or any person resident in Nigeria to acts of terror or discrimination on account of their religious beliefs, ethnic identities or political allegiances or for any other reason whatsoever, nor shall we accept, tolerate, promote or support acts organized in pursuit of disunity or the disintegration of our beloved nation.

#### **Article 9**

We shall uphold family values and ensure that public policy is used as a tool to promote these values so that strong families will become the units of a strong nation

#### **Article 10**

We shall work assiduously for the development of our people and nation with zero tolerance for corruption in all

spheres of life both private and public.

#### **Article 11**

We shall be a caring and compassionate nation where children have free access to qualitative education and healthcare and where the welfare of the old, the vulnerable and the physically challenged is guaranteed.

#### **Article 12**

We shall be a nation of equal opportunity where young men and women are provided with the socio-economic environment to maximize their potentials, to experience the dignity of labour and the triumph of enterprise and innovation, and thereby earning for themselves and their families a decent standard of living while contributing to building our economy to great and enviable heights.

#### **Article 13**

We have vested upon the Nigerian state, represented by government at all levels and in all the arms, the power to guarantee the security, development and welfare of the Nigerian people and to deploy the resources of the nation solely in the service of the people and we reserve the right to change government by peaceful and constitutional means.

#### **Article 14**

We shall be a truly federal state with such powers vested exclusively on the

federal government as are necessary to firmly and prosperously knit together the federating units upon which residual powers shall be vested.

#### **Article 15**

We understand and embrace our manifest destiny to harness our diversity in providing leadership for the African continent, in engaging the international community for the defence of our interests and in promoting inter-African solidarity, world peace, international cooperation and understanding.

#### **Article 16**

In furtherance of these objectives and in pursuance of our national destiny, we shall be governed by the best, brightest and fittest from all works of life and from every geopolitical zone elected into public office through the democratic principle of free, fair and credible elections in accordance with our Constitution and our Electoral Laws while the weak, old and vulnerable shall never be disadvantaged.

#### **Article 17**

In further pursuance of these objectives, appointments into political offices and the Civil Service at every level and in every arm shall be governed by the principles of justice, fairness and in the best interest of our nation.

#### **Article 18**

The consent to live together in unity

and harmony and the principles and purpose of our national coexistence stated heretofore in this charter shall be incorporated into our Constitution upon adoption by the Nigerian people through a referendum.

#### **Article 19**

With understanding and patriotic zeal and in all solemnity, we therefore pledge to ourselves as a people and to our country Nigeria, to serve in honour and with dignity within and outside her boundaries and henceforth conduct ourselves in such a manner as to bring no reproach and dishonour to our nation.

#### **Article 20**

For this purpose, the Nigerian government at all levels and in all arms, shall propagate this charter and shall promote the principles stated herein.

*And to this end, in utmost faith, we, the delegates to the National Conference 2014, to be recalled by subsequent generations as the Centenary Conference for National Reconciliation and Integration, on behalf of the Nigerian people, do hereby append our signatures to this document as the Basis of the Union of our Nation.*

*So Help Us God.*



---

## THE NIGERIAN CHARTER FOR NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND INTEGRATION

As Unanimously Adopted by the Delegates of the 2014 National Conference

---

### PREAMBLE

**P**ERSUADED that when the administrations of the Northern and the Southern Protectorates of Nigeria were amalgamated in 1914, the frameworks of a potentially great nation were laid,

**CONSIDERING** the need to ensure that the amalgamation achieves its full intendment of building a fully integrated nation,

**CONCERNED** that, since the post-independent political upheavals that abrogated the terms of nationhood entered into by our founding fathers,

the diverse ethnic nationalities of Nigeria have never had ample opportunities to formerly express their consent to coexist as one nation,

**RECALLING** the labours of our founding fathers and of our heroes past to build a nation where, though tribe and tongue may differ, in brotherhood we would stand in the service of our sovereign nation,

**HUMBLY AWARE** that, in spite of their labours, our founding fathers could not attain the nation of their dreams but bequeathed to subsequent