

USAID

Chargé d'Affaires Greene's Remarks

Goodwill Remarks

Monday, May 15, 2023, 3 minutes

State House

COS Gambia.
Mr. President,

Chair
Vice Chair

DSG Mohammed,

Mayer

Adams - including several

Governors

McAuliffe

+ O'Malley

U.S. Governors

and Ambassadors

Jeffrey

Governors, other distinguished guests, ladies, and

gentlemen. Permit me to stand on existing protocols.

Good morning. It is my pleasure to be here today, and I'd like to express my appreciation to the Nigerian Governors Forum for

It is an honor to participate in this Forum for Nigeria's

governors, 18 of whom, I believe, will be commencing their

duties for the first time in two weeks. Whether you will be

entering office for your first term, your second term, or are in

the process of concluding your term in office, it is a

wonderful opportunity to address such distinguished leaders,

all at once. Congratulations on having been chosen to

represent and serve as a voice for the people of your respective

states.

On behalf of the U.S. government, we are proud to be here today and to support the Forum. There are many areas of mutual interest between the United States and each of your states, including on governance, health, development, and many more.

I am
 Both because of our proud shared
 Federal
 traditions
 in
 which we
 believe
 That those
 who govern
 should be
 close to
 The people
 they
 serve
 and
 because

Those of you who have already been in office have partnered with the United States Agency for International Development. You know that USAID provides humanitarian assistance and promotes a healthier, more educated population, inclusive economic development, and good governance in Nigeria.

Through USAID, in fiscal year 2021, the United States invested \$855 million in Nigeria. We are the largest bilateral contributor of humanitarian and development assistance in the country. None of this would be possible, or would have the tremendous impact that it does, without your collaboration and partnership at the state level.

of USG support
Let's look at just one piece: health.
~~But our assistance goes beyond the areas I've mentioned.~~

Health programs are a major part of our portfolio and a key way we partner with governors across the country. Through the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Walter Reed, and USAID, the U.S. government is ~~extremely proud to~~ work *with* you and your states to implement the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, or PEPFAR.

Nigeria has become a world leader in its quest to reach HIV epidemic control. Together I know we will end HIV/AIDS as a public health threat in Nigeria by 2030.

Additionally, the Governor's Forum played a critical role in Nigeria's polio eradication effort. Your directives to vaccinate every child under five and establishment of the Polio Task Force are the reasons Nigeria was declared wild poliovirus free in 2020.

Through the U.S. CDC, we are committed to continuing our partnership with the Governor's Forum to prevent, detect, and respond to outbreaks of circulating vaccine derived polio virus and eradicate the disease completely in Nigeria.

We collaborate with and help train law enforcement and other security forces. We also work with Nigeria on bolstering education, enhancing the business climate, and working to improve court administration and reduce pretrial detention, to name a few more.

In all of these areas, governors and state governments
 are a critical partner. And I'll note that first ever ^{spec. r}
have a large role to play. The U.S. Embassy looks forward to ^{Embassy for subnational}
 working with you, individually and as an organization. Together ^{diplomacy}
 we can elevate critical state and national priorities and achieve ^{in recognition of}
 greater development outcomes for all Nigerians.

I am a career diplomat and have never sought election
 or governed a population - through it's the challenge of getting every
 Again, my sincere congratulations and appreciation for this ^{in the}
 opportunity. I wish you success at this Forum and in your ^{Embassy}
 governorships. ^{to pull together}
^{are any indicator}

I know
 you have
 an
 enormous,
 and critical,
 set of tasks
 ahead of
 you.