

Country/entity	Nigeria Plateau State
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Joint Declaration of Commitment to Peace and Cooperation
Date	14 Dec 2014
Agreement status	Multiparty signed/agreed
Interim arrangement	Yes

Agreement/conflict level Intrastate/local conflict

Nigerian Civil War (1967), Delta Unrest (1990 -), Communal Conflicts (1978 -), and Boko Haram Insurgency (2009 -)

Since 1960 when Nigeria became independent, it has seen a number of coup d'états and instability. In 1967, after confederation plans for the Nigerian regions to gain more independence failed, the Eastern region seceded as the Republic of Biafra and this caused the Nigerian Civil War. The conflict resulted from political, economic, ethnic and religious tensions which had existed since before Britain drew new borders when colonising the area. The discovery of oil in the Niger Delta heightened the intensity of the conflict. With the aid of British forces, the Nigerian military managed to take back the territory in 1970. Since then, ethnic violence has persisted.

Nigerian Delta Unrest (1990 -)

Conflict in the Niger Delta arose in the 1990s between foreign oil companies and ethnic groups which felt exploited after being forced to abandon their land. The Nigerian military caused international consternation in 1995 when members of the Ogoni tribe of the Niger Delta were found hanged without due process. The proliferation of arms in the region has encouraged the rise of armed groups which have targeted oil companies and pipelines. This came to a head in 2004 when Shell withdrew personnel from two oil fields in response to attacks on wells and pipelines by rebels. The military have attempted to clamp down on militant groups in the Niger Delta but it was not until the establishment of the Presidential amnesty program in 2009 which required the surrender of weapons by militants in exchange for amnesty. In 2016 a new militant group called the Niger Delta Avengers has announced its existence in the Niger Delta illustrating the continued instability in that region.

Boko Haram Insurgency (2009 -)

Sectarian violence has also been rife in Nigeria and since 2002, the radical Islamist group Boko Haram have been violently seeking to establish sharia law throughout Nigeria and an Islamic caliphate in the Northern part of the country. In 2009 they began an official insurgency which spread to Cameroon, Chad and Niger. In 2014 the group kidnapped 276 girls from a college in Chibok and bombed the town of Jos. The insurgency is the result of Muslim – Christian tensions in the country which is a constant source of instability and violence. In 2015 the military led a regional coalition of forces on a counter-offensive against Boko Haram and they were successful in taking ground. There are also conflicts between Fulani herdsman and Christian peasants in the Middle belt. Widespread corruption and lack of state authority exacerbate these many complex tensions.

Central Nigerian communal conflicts (1978 -)

Unrest in Nigeria is a product of socio-economic pressures between migrating herdsman and settled agriculturists, exacerbated by firearms proliferation, ethnic conflict, sectarianism and banditry. Since 2001, attacks have adopted a more sectarian character involving suicide bombings and shooting at churches by the jihadist group, Boko Haram. Peaks of violence occurred in 2004 and 2011, pastoral/farmer conflict has resulted in the deaths of thousands since the Fourth Nigerian Republic was founded in 1999. The Land Use Act of 1978, exacerbated conflict by allowing longtime occupants 'indigeneship' and the ability to apply for a certificate of occupancy, putting migrating communities at a disadvantage.

Close

Nigerian Civil War (1967), Delta Unrest (1990 -), Communal Conflicts (1978 -), and Boko

Stage	Framework/substantive - comprehensive
Conflict nature	Inter-group
Peace process	Nigeria - Plateau State Process
Parties	<p>Signatories, Chairpersons of the Steering Committees, Signing on Behalf of their Communities:</p> <p>Afizere: Agwom Nyam Isha [Signed]</p> <p>Anaguta: Aminu Agwom Zang, signed on his behalf by Shina Musa Agada [Signed]</p> <p>Berom: Da (Dr.) Jonah Maduga, signed on his behalf by Mr. Sam Godongs [Signed]</p> <p>Fulani: Salihu Musa Umar [Signed]</p> <p>Hausa: Alhaji Umaru Sani [Signed]</p> <p>Igbo: Barr. Zacch O. Nwankpa [Signed]</p> <p>South-South: Barr. Smart Irabor [Signed]</p> <p>Yoruba: Chief Barr. Bankole Falade [Signed]</p> <p>Women: Dr. Sumaye Hamza [Signed]</p>
Third parties	<p>Witnesses:</p> <p>Government:</p> <p>Representative of the Federal Government, Ambassador Layiwola Laseinde [Signed]</p> <p>Representative of the State Government, Hon. Isa Chungwom Song, Special Advisor Legislative Liason [signed]</p> <p>Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue</p> <p>HD Senior Advisor: David Lambo, [Signed]</p> <p>HD Gender Advisor, Alice Nderitu, [Signed]</p> <p>HD Senior Consultant, Dr. Phil Ostien, [Signed]</p> <p>HD Local Advisor, Prof. John Dung-Gwom, [Signed]</p> <p>HD Local Advisor, Khadijah Hawaja, [Signed]</p> <p>HD Local Advisor, Baba Bala Muhammad, [Signed]</p> <p>HD Local Advisor, Yakuba Sankey, [Signed]</p>
Description	<p>Communal peace agreement between the communities in Jos, Plateau State, Nigeria attempting to decrease incidents of violence between Hausa and Fulani and other groups. Agreement mediated by HD Centre and contains a list of eight recommendations that are expanded in the Annexes (but these are not attached). Recommendations touch on; Trust Building and Religious Tolerance; places of worship, burial grounds and youth; governance issues, access to public spaces; traditional rulership; land reform, IDPs and cattle rustling; settlers and migration issues in Jos City; Impunity and transitional justice as well as security of life and property.</p>
Agreement document	<p>NG_141214_Declaration of Commitment to Peace by the HD Jos Forum.pdf (opens in new tab) Download PDF</p>

Local agreement properties

Process type Formal structured process

Rationale There is a supporting body in the form of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, supporting this dialogue and other similar inter-communal processes which address the same areas of the Plateau State which were initiated in 2013 and extend to 2014. These are clearly structured with clear aims around community driven resolutions, with representation by Steering committees covering all communities in the areas around Jos. There is an attempt at establishing clear process through encouraging inter-communal dialogue and conflict mediation processes across these various areas in the Middle Belt region of Nigeria, namely Jos and Plateau State in this instance. In addition in this particular example, the agreement is also signed by Government representatives; both Federal and State level. Their involvement as assistance and support is referred to: Page 2, Responsibilities as Community Leaders and Members, ... We are grateful for other assistance and support, including from Federal, State, and Local Government

Is there a documented link to a national peace process? Yes

Link to national process: articulated rationale The text refers to the involvement of Nigerian Government officials in the dialogue and they sign as witnesses. The text also refers to the recognition among participants that the substantive issues or challenges discussed in this dialogue were universal issues, faced throughout Nigeria.

Name of Locale Jos

Nature of Locale Region

GPS Lat/Long (DD) 9.898415, 8.859590

Participant type Local community/civilian group(s)/civil society organisations

Mediator, facilitator or similar Mediator or similar referred to

Mediator (references) The text refers to the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) as being the facilitator and also refers to the HD Jos forum throughout the text with HD also featuring in the name of the agreement.

Type of mediator/facilitator/similar International or transnational actor

Local issues

Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)

Page 1, Preamble, ... representatives of the communities (with a State Government delegation of nine officials, as well as observers from the security agencies) convened for a series of discussions on issues of mutual concern, ranging from Religious Tolerance to Security Arrangements to Indigene/Settler Identity.

Page 4, Presenting the Recommendations, Beyond the general understanding agreed upon above, the HD Jos Forum developed recommendations after each dialogue session. The recommendations (presented in full in the annex) were developed to guide future action to prevent violence, address grievances, and end impunity.

- Session I: Trust Building and Religious Tolerance.

- Session II: Rebuilding Places of Worship, Burial Grounds and Issues Relating to the Youth.

Page 4, Follow-up Actions, ... The Jos Peace Dialogue Forum will also act on matters of priority in considering ways of implementing the full list of recommendations through the various stakeholders involved; beginning with the issues of the rebuilding of places of worship

Grievance List

Page 1, Acknowledgment of Past Violence, Suffering, and Mistrust, ... the social fabric of communities living in this area has been torn apart. There has been an increase in fear, distrust, destruction of life and property, violence and suffering. We have witnessed a decline in the economy and in all forms of security. Our young people have had fewer opportunities to envision and develop their future. Our businesses have faced hardships and entrepreneurship has been deterred. Every community has been deeply affected by these factors, including by displacement from homes, loss of property, insult, injury and death.

Page 3, Commitment to Peace and Implementation, ... We acknowledge the State and Federal Government Commissions of Inquiry that have been previously established to investigate the causes of violent clashes in Jos and its environs and to recommend solutions. We recognize those reports, and have studied them over the course of the dialogue process. We further recognize that the lack of the full implementation of these commissions' recommendations may have contributed to the continued crises in Jos.

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- Session I: Trust Building and Religious Tolerance.

- Session II: Rebuilding Places of Worship, Burial Grounds and Issues Relating to the Youth.

- Session III: Governance Issues and Access to Public Services and Public Spaces

- Session IV: Traditional Rulership issues and renaming of places etc.

- Session V: Countryside Problems such as Land Annexations, cattle rustling, and displacement people. Deferred to a grassroots dialogue process conducted in Barkin Ladi, Jos South, and Riyom Local Government Areas.

- Session VI: Jos City Issues such as Ownership, Indigeneship and Settlers.

- Session VII & VIII: Impunity, Reparations and Compensation. Securing Lives and Property and Public Apologies.

**Cattle rustling/
banditry**

Page 4, Presenting the Recommendations, ... Session V: Countryside Problems such as Land Annexations, cattle rustling, and displacement people. Deferred to a grassroots dialogue process conducted in Barkin Ladi, Jos South, and Riyom Local Government Areas.

Social cover

Page 3, Responsibilities as Community Leaders and Members, ... foster a cooperative relationship between our communities and the security forces, where appropriate and possible, in an attempt to root out individual perpetrators of violence and criminality amongst our communities.
