



UNITED NATIONS OFFICE FOR WEST AFRICA

# UNOWA

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## PRESS RELEASE

### **Statement attributable to Mohammed Ibn Chambas, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for West Africa, on elections in Nigeria**

**Dakar, 27 March 2015** - Mohammed Ibn Chambas, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA), calls on all candidates, political parties, state institutions, and citizens of Nigeria to ensure free, credible, and peaceful elections scheduled for 28 March and 11 April 2015.

The Special Representative has been following the electoral preparations closely and held a series of consultations with key stakeholders in the country to convey the support of the United Nations and the international community to all efforts aiming to consolidate and strengthen Nigeria's democracy.

Mr. Chambas commends the vigorous preparatory work conducted by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), civil society organizations, and security agencies to ensure that citizens across the country are able to exercise their constitutional rights without fear of intimidation or reprisals.

The Head of UNOWA congratulates the signatories of the Abuja Peace Accord and encourages each camp to uphold their commitments and refrain from any action that could incite confrontation and violence. He calls on all citizens to firmly reject all undemocratic and negative voices that seek to promote conflict between Nigerians and disrupt the elections.

Along with a range of other representatives of the international community, the Special Representative is present in Nigeria during this defining moment in the country's history. He hopes that the successful conduct of free, credible and peaceful elections could set an example for other upcoming elections in West Africa and underscore Nigeria's leadership in the region.

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