



**THE PATRIOTS  
NATIONAL SUMMIT  
ON  
THE FUTURE OF NIGERIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL  
DEMOCRACY  
  
PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS**

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**RESOLUTIONS AT THE END OF THE NATIONAL  
SUMMIT ON 'THE FUTURE OF NIGERIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL  
DEMOCRACY' HELD FROM 16TH TO 17TH JULY, 2025 AT THE  
TRANSCORP HILTON HOTEL, ABUJA**

## INTRODUCTION

The 2025 National Summit on **The Future of Nigeria's Constitutional Democracy** was convened by THE PATRIOTS, Nigeria's foremost group of elder statesmen and women, intellectuals and civic leaders, under the distinguished leadership of Chief Emeka Anyaoku, GCON, former Secretary-General of the Commonwealth, in collaboration with the Nigerian Political Summit Group (NPSG).

The Summit which was held between **16th and 17th July, 2025** at the Congress Hall of the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, and the Nicon Luxury Hotel, Abuja, respectively, examined the deep-rooted and systemic challenges confronting Nigeria and its diverse peoples. The Patriots before the Summit itself had undertaken some zonal consultations through Town Hall meetings and memoranda from all the six geopolitical zones of the country. Consultative meetings were also held by Diaspora, socio-cultural groups (Afenifere, Arewa, Pande, Middlebelt Forum, Ohaneze Indigbo, women, youths, labour, persons living with disability, students leaders, professional bodies, market men/women, traditional rulers, religious leaders, elderstatesmen/women, security experts, etc. All these generated a mass movement and a consensus of views reflected in the Patriots' resolutions.

These resolutions therefore represent a thoughtful and deliberate synthesis of the consensus reached at the Summit, offering clear, constructive and principled solutions to the nation's pressing constitutional and governance crises.

### 1. Urgent Need for a New Constitutional order

The Summit calls for an immediate Constitutional framework that will return Nigeria to a truly federal system of government, where the federating units enjoy the autonomy as obtained in the First Republic and in other genuine democracies of the world.

The Summit agreed that the 1999 Constitution (as amended) is deeply flawed, unrepresentative and, in that it was not made by the people, is inadequate for addressing the country's pluralism and the various challenges confronting Nigeria as a nation. Therefore, delegates agreed that there is the need for a new people-driven, inclusive, democratic Constitution anchored on true federalism. For

stability and maximal development, the Constitution must address Nigeria's plurality.

## **2. Constituent Assembly**

In order to actualize the above and other reforms agreed to at the summit. The delegates agreed that the president be requested to introduce an Executive Bill to the National Assembly to empower the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) to organize elections into a National Constituent Assembly. This Assembly will be made up of delegates elected on non-partisan basis, as well as representatives of special interest groups.

## **3. Referendum**

The Constituent Assembly shall be responsible for actualizing a peoples democratic Constitution that will be subjected to a referendum of the Nigerian people before it is assented to by the President.

## **4. Material to be considered by the Constituent Assembly**

The Constituent Assembly in formulating the new Constitution would take into full consideration the 1960, 1963 and 1999 Constitutions and the recommendations of the 2014 National Conference and others.

# **SUMMIT RECOMMENDATIONS TO CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY**

## **5. Return to genuine Federalism**

The summit calls for an immediate constitutional framework that will return Nigeria to a truly federal system of Government where the federating unit will enjoy their autonomy as obtained in the first republic and in other genuine democracies of the World.

## **6. System of Government**

The Summit agreed that the current system of government is too expensive, prone to abuse and a hindrance to people's welfare and

a major threat to the future of democracy in Nigeria. Delegates, therefore recommend that the Constituent Assembly should closely examine the most appropriate system of government for Nigeria.

## **7. Geographical restructuring**

Flowing from the above resolutions, the Summit resolved that the present six geopolitical zones should be rearranged in such a way as to ensure a truly federal system of government.

## **8. Devolution of federal powers**

The current political reality is that too much power is concentrated at the centre. Quite enormous powers are currently concentrated in the presidency. The reduction of the enormity will discourage autocratic tendencies and encourage inter-institutional checks and balances. The patriot therefore recommends the devolution of powers from the center to the federating units.

## **9. Legislature**

A two-chamber federal legislature is unsustainably expensive for Nigeria to maintain. The Summit therefore recommend a more appropriate cost effective system.

## **10. Administration of justice**

Justice delayed is justice denied. The centralized court system has impacted the administration of justice so negatively that congestion of court registries with cases has become a problem that may never be solved unless there is a decisive Constitutional intervention. Therefore, the summit delegates recommend that there is the need for each federating unit to have its court hierarchy up to the Court of Appeal, thereby leaving the Federal Supreme Court to deal with heavy Constitutional matters, interstate disputes, and disputes between the Federal and subnational governments. The summit also recommends the creation of special courts to manage special offenses such as electoral matters, corruption and terrorism cases amongst others.

## **11. Appointment of non-politically partisan Attorney-General**

The Summit recommends that the office of the Attorney-General of the Federation and that of the Minister of Justice as well as the office of the Attorney-General and Commissioner for Justice at the state level shall be separated to enable the appointment of a non-politically partisan Attorney-General

## **12. Electoral reforms**

Free, fair and credible elections are the true pillars of democracy. The current reality is a democracy that has been taken away from the control of voters. Elections are too costly and prone to corruption. Billions of Naira are spent on recruitment of electoral officers, security agencies and logistics while the courts have become the real electors of leaders. Among other reforms, the summit resolved therefore, that all elections be conducted in a single day, as this is cheaper, time-saving and less prone to corruption. Brazil and Ghana are good examples of countries that have adopted single-day elections. The National Assembly should amend the Electoral Act for Bimodal Voter Accreditation System (BVAS) and electronic transmission of results real time to be made mandatory.

## **13. Independent candidature**

The new Constitution should make provision for independent candidacy for aspirants who do not wish to run for elections on party basis.

## **14. Cross-Carpeting**

The summit recommends that once a person is elected on the platform of a political party, he shall remain there till the tenure is over and shall not defect to another political party.

Where this takes place, such seat shall automatically and unconditionally be declared vacant and such person shall forthwith cease to hold the office.

## **15. Cost of governance**

Cost-cutting is a time-tested solution to bankruptcy. The present pseudo-federal system is too large and unmanageable. It takes so

much to run while the result is over-bloated bureaucracies and political structures at both federal and state levels.

#### **16. Number of Ministers and Political Appointees**

The Constitution should set caps on the number of ministers, commissioners, special advisers and such officers to reduce bloated government structures.

#### **17. Corruption & breach of public trust**

Pervasive corruption and impunity are symptoms of governance failure in Nigeria. These are enabled by the inherent contradictions and inadequacies in the 1999 Constitution which was imposed on the country by the military and all of which now manifest in central leadership structure. These flaws in the Constitution have been consistently and systematically exploited by political actors and government bureaucracies to institutionalize corruption.

The Summit agreed that for these deficiencies to be effectively tackled, there must be enough deterrence for offenders. Certainty of arrest, an uncompromised judiciary and police and severity of punishment are guaranteed deterrence to criminality. These are generally known to be absent at this point in the development of our democracy. There should therefore be comprehensive restructuring of the police and the court system for effective, corruption-free justice delivery.

#### **18. Citizens' rights/Empowerment initiatives**

The United Nations has stated that there are currently over 20 million Nigerian children out of school while over 130 million Nigerians wallow in multidimensional poverty. There is also an acute state of infrastructure decay and deficit. With over 50% infrastructure deficit that covers roads, transport, electricity, housing, water and sanitation (World Bank 2024), real development requires a dedication to system and structural overhaul much of which a people's Constitution can direct.

#### **19. Women and Other Groups**

Summit therefore recommends that the new Constitution should entrench robust provisions for the protection of the people's socio-

economic and political rights such as education, health, security and employment. Summit recommends the inclusion of women, youths, people with special needs and minorities in political participation, governance and nation building. The new Constitution should ensure gender equity in determining citizenship by marriage.

## **20. Nigerians in Diaspora**

Nigerians in the Diaspora have over the years complained of disenfranchisement and exclusion from the voting process. Currently, statistics put the figure of Nigerians in the Diaspora at over 20 million, yet these Nigerians are excluded from the voting process, despite their huge contributions to economic development through diaspora remittances. Summit recommends the establishment of a constitutional framework that will guarantee the civic rights of this class of Nigerians to participate in the democratic process.

## **21. National security architecture & strategy**

The virtual collapse of security infrastructure has led to the continuing death of thousands of Nigerians and the displacement of over 3 million from their homes. More than 10 million Nigerians have fallen victims of attacks by non-state actors. All these tragically impact lives, livelihood and business. Data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) shows that from May 2023 to April 2024 alone, 614,937 Nigerians were killed. Furthermore, the porosity of Nigeria's borders have contributed immensely to the worsening insecurity in the country. It enables the trafficking of weapons from as far as North Africa via Niger to Nigeria. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reports that there are over 350 million arms and ammunition illegally circulating in Nigeria, making the country the biggest trans-border market for illicit arms in Africa. Summit therefore recommends a broad range of measures, one of which is that there should be establishment of border/coastal security guards to support the conventional security forces. There should be enactment of statutes that will lead to the introduction of a community-based border policing model to the nation's security systems.

Summit also recommends the need for equity in statutory rotation of headship of national security agencies among the sub-nationals.

## **22. Secularity/Religion**

The Summit agreed that given her pluralism, Nigeria shall in perpetuity remain a secular state. Both the central and the sub-national governments shall do nothing to detract from this secularity.

## **23. Sub-national police**

The Summit recommends the urgency of a Constitutional framework that would enable the creation of sub-national police to tackle the pervasive internal security issues across the geopolitical zones.

## **24. Federal/Sub-national Constitutions**

In a truly federal system, the federating units enjoy a great measure of Constitutional autonomy. The three (later four) regions of the First Republic had their individual Constitutions in addition to the Federal Constitution. This is a provision which the Summit agreed should be part of the new Constitution as part of measures to reclaim the country from the vice grip of over centralized government.

## **25. True Fiscal Federalism**

The summit recommends that the new Constitution should make provision for the restoration of fiscal federalism and resource control given the fact that all parts of Nigeria are well endowed with Natural resources.

## **Conclusion**

The Summit leadership thanks all delegates attended from all the states of the federation and Nigerians in the Diaspora who attended virtually, for believing in this course. The Summit salutes the resolve of all patriots to make Nigeria work. The current gush of enthusiasm and commitment from Nigerians of all classes across the globe is a further demonstration of the urgent need for a new nation governed by a new democratic, and inclusive Constitution. With sustained action and unflagging support for the resolutions reached at this submit, it is our belief that the dawn of a new, just, equitable and peaceful Nigeria is nigh. Together, we shall live to see that new, prosperous Nigeria where no child is left behind and where no man/woman is oppressed.



**We thank you.**