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GOODWILL MESSAGE TO THE ORGANISERS OF, AND PARTICIPANTS AT THE NATIONAL SUMMIT ON THE FUTURE OF NIGERIA'S CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY.

On behalf of Afenifere Worldwide and the Yoruba Nation, both in the homeland, and in the diaspora, I congratulate The Patriots, The Nigerian National Summit Group and other important stakeholders, on the inauguration of this summit, the latest, in the series of summits, conferences and confabs, that have been organised to fashion out a new, more appropriate and enduring constitutional order for our dear country, Nigeria. The Summit, is coming at an opportune time, as the socio-political fabric of the country is being stretched and stressed, in a manner that threatens its social cohesiveness and political stability. We have been here, many times before. But, as patriots, we must continue to pursue this patriotic adventure with doggedness, determination and unrelenting gusto. I therefore salute your noble resolve in bringing about this summit, the sole purpose of which, is to clarify our thoughts and generate ideas and proposals to find answers to the seemingly intractable problems bedevilling our polity.

It has been suggested, since 1986, by one of Nigeria's foremost sages, philosophers and nationalists, Chief Obafemi Awolowo, that it's improbable that we would find the solution to our perennial problem of nation-building, unless we, as a people, are re-born, through a conscious, deliberate and wholesome attitude to nation-building. Hopefully, this will not become prophetic. But sadly, our socio-political trajectory since then, does not suggest that we have taken the appropriate note and instruction, from that suggestion, as political tensions, social decadence accentuated by economic

mismanagement, have blighted our path to progress. Between 1986 and 2025, almost 40 years, the needle has moved, just by a token, towards the realisation of a better polity.

This is the setting, in which we find ourselves, as this summit begins, and our current security problems, have made our situation all the more challenging. The organisers and participants therefore, have their work cut out for them. For over seven decades, Afenifere has led the vanguard of progressive forces for the restructuring of Nigeria, with the sole purpose of placing the interest of its nationalities at the centre of the national constitutional framework, and the fulcrum of national social engineering. We therefore welcome this summit, particularly at this time. And we hope that this summit will inspire the federal government, to immediately start and expedite the process of retooling our current constitutional platform by popular participation, beyond the annual token amendments. In this regard, Afenifere commends to the organisers of this summit, the report of the 2014 confab, along with the draft constitution based on it, as working documents for this summit.

As an organisation, Afenifere, as usual, stands ready, at all times, to place the benefit of its experience and resources, at the disposal of patriotic forces, intent on re-creating a Nigeria of our dream. Once again, I commend the organisers, and charge the participants to re-dedicate themselves to the lofty goals and ideals, for which this summit has been summoned.

I wish you all, happy and fruitful deliberations.

Dated 15th day of July, 2025.



CHIEF REUBEN FAMUYIDE FASORANTI CFR

The Leader of Afenifere Worldwide and Asiwaju Yoruba.