



October 2023
Nigeria Office



Nigeria Press Review

13.10. – 20.10.2023

Welcome to Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung's Nigeria Weekly Press Review

The weekly press review seeks to explore and keep you informed on selected issues relating to politics, business and economy, insecurity, infrastructure and development, health related issues, new trends and matters bothering on the overall situation in Nigeria.

Content

Inflation Uptrend Ongoing with Negative Implications on Healthy Diet, South Africa to Overtake Nigeria as Largest Economy in Africa, Nigeria Fails to Secure Seat in United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Nigeria's Target of Ending Open Defecation by 2025 Unachievable

Federal Government Makes Proposal for 2024 Appropriation, Federal Government and European Union Sign Agreements worth NGN 728 billion, China Pledges 85% of Funds to Finance Nigerian Rail Projects

Insecurity: United States Warns Citizens Against Travelling to Nigeria, 31 People Abducted In Southern Kaduna, Troops Repel Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) Attack in Borno State

Inflation Uptrend Ongoing with Negative Implications on Healthy Diet, South Africa to Overtake Nigeria as Largest Economy in Africa, Nigeria Fails to Secure Seat in United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Nigeria's Target of Ending Open Defecation by 2025 Unachievable

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) revealed that headline inflation rose to 26.7% in September as against 25.8% in August, while food inflation maintained its uptrend, rising to 30.64% in September. Prices of food produce continue to inch higher than historical average, driven by incidence of flooding in food-producing states, effects of below-average planting season on primary harvests, lingering security challenges in the country's northern region, rising energy costs and unstable foreign exchange rate. Rising food prices remain a source of concern for Nigerians, as the inflationary trend is not just spiking poverty levels but also increasing the number of people who cannot afford a healthy diet. According to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (UNFAO), more than three billion people could not afford a healthy diet in 2020 globally. Collins Olayinka et. al., [The Guardian News \(October 17th\)](#) report.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has forecasted that South Africa could surpass Nigeria to become the largest economy in Africa. According to the IMF's world economic outlook, South Africa, which is one of the most industrialized countries in Africa, is projected to approach a gross domestic product (GDP) of USD 401 billion by 2024. By the IMF calculations based on current prices, Nigeria and Egypt will have GDPs of USD 395 billion and USD 358 billion, respectively. However, it is predicted that South Africa will again fall to third place by 2026. This coincides with president Bola Tinubu's economic reforms which at the moment are causing initial hardships. IMF however projects that the Nigerian GDP will grow by 3.1% in 2024. Makua Ubanagu, [Punch News \(October 17th\)](#) reports.

On Tuesday, the general assembly of the United Nations (UN) conducted an election for the membership of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC). This election saw four African countries secure seats. Ghana and Burundi were voted in as new members with 179 and 168 votes respectively, while Malawi (182 votes) and Côte d'Ivoire (181 votes) were reelected for a second term. Nigeria secured only three votes, losing an opportunity to secure a seat. The Council is the

UN's premier rights body tasked with the responsibility of upholding and advancing fundamental freedoms globally. Chiamaka Okafor, [Premium Times News \(October 14th\)](#) reports.

The United Nations Children Fund (UNICEF) says Nigeria's target of ending open defecation by 2025 could not be attained due to the slow pace of activities geared towards achieving the goals. UNICEF noted that it would take Nigeria up to 2046 to meet the national roadmap on being open defecation free. Quoting statistics from the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS), UNICEF stated that about 48 million Nigerians still defecate openly. The implication of this is that Nigeria will not be able to meet the Sustainable Development Goals at all. Peter Moses, [Daily Trust News \(October 19th\)](#) reports.

Federal Government Makes Proposal for 2024 Appropriation, Federal Government and European Union Sign Agreements worth NGN 728 billion, China Pledges 85% of Funds to Finance Nigerian Rail Projects

The federal government has proposed the sum of NGN 26.01 trillion for the 2024 appropriation bill based on the oil price benchmark of USD 73.96 and 21% interest rate. The minister of budget and economic planning disclosed this at the end of the Federal Executive Council (FEC) meeting on Monday in Abuja. The budget is expected to be presented to the National Assembly before the end of the year. The minister of works stated that FEC approved several redesigns of road projects across the country. [Premium Times News \(October 16th\)](#) reports.

President Bola Tinubu canvassed for the strengthening of cross-sectoral partnership between Nigeria and the European Union (EU) based on the principles of democracy, rule of law and freedom. This led to the signing of a EUR 900 million (about NGN 728 billion) financial package to advance Nigeria's green and resilient digital inclusive transition. Developed jointly between Nigeria and the EU, the package would drive new programs through the Global Gateway initiative. Under the financing agreement, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable energy, health services as well as youth and education development in Nigeria's North West have been earmarked as the areas of focus. Speaking at the EU-Nigeria strategic dialogue, which culminated in the signing of the agreements in Abuja, the minister of budget and

economic planning, Abubakar Bagudu, said the ceremony marked yet another milestone in the annals of the EU-Nigeria development cooperation. Deji Elumoye et. al., [This Day News \(October 20th\)](#) report.

The People's Republic of China has committed to paying 85% of the funds to finance the completion of the Abuja-Kano and Port-Harcourt-Maiduguri railway projects. President Xi Jinping of China made this pledge on Wednesday while responding to a request by President Bola Tinubu, who was represented by vice president Kasim Shettima at the Belt and Road Initiative Forum (BRI) in Beijing. These projects which had commenced in 2021 stalled as China withdrew its funding. A meeting between the two countries saw China renewing its commitment to refinance the building of the railway. Regarding security, Xi Jinping promised a continued crackdown on terrorists, assuring categorically that China is committed to peace in the Sahel region. Ogaga Ariemu, [Daily Post News \(October 19th\)](#) reports.

President Bola Tinubu signed the instrument of ratification of the protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the rights of persons with disabilities in Africa. The African disability protocol was adopted in 2018 by the African Union to address forms of discrimination affecting people with disabilities living in African countries. For the African disabilities protocol to come into force, at least 15 member states must sign and ratify it. So far Angola, Burundi, Kenya, Mali and Rwanda have ratified, several others are nearly there. [Sahara Reporters \(October 19th\)](#) reports.

Insecurity: United States Warns Citizens Against Travelling to Nigeria, 31 People Abducted In Southern Kaduna, Troops Repel Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) Attack in Borno State

United States citizens travelling abroad have been told to "exercise increased caution" in light of the heightened global tensions spurred by Hamas' terror attack on Israel and the unfolding Israel-Hamas war. This was published in a worldwide caution alert. Nigeria is listed under the third tier of caution alert (Reconsider to travel), highlighting Adamawa, Bauchi, Kogi, Yobe, Borno, Zamfara, Sokoto, Kaduna, Gombe, Kano and Katsina. [Vanguard News \(October 20th\)](#) reports.

About 14 people, including a young girl, were killed and no less than 31 people had been kidnapped by bandits in Kaduna state. Residents stated that hundreds of villages in Kaduna have been sacked and some taken over by bandits while many people have been rendered homeless. Out of the 12 local governments in southern Kaduna, only three have not been attacked by the bandits. Godwin Isenyo, [Punch News \(October 16th\)](#) reports.

Troops of the Multi National Joint Task Force have repelled an attack by the Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) in the Borno state. On trucks and with heavy weapons ISWAP fighters attacked a military base in the morning of Thursday. The following gun battle was said to have lasted for about an hour. The troops successfully repelled the attack with support from reinforcing troops. Francis Okoye, [Leadership News \(October 19th\)](#) reports.



Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung e. V.

Marija Peran, Resident Representative
Lukas Laible, Deputy Resident Representative
Kenechukwu Nlem, Project Assistant

Nigeria Office

www.kas.de/nigeria

www.facebook.com/kas.nigeria

marija.peran@kas.de / lukas.laible@kas.de / kenechukwu.nlem@kas.de



The text of this publication is published under a Creative Commons license: "Creative Commons Attribution- Share Alike 4.0 international" (CC BY-SA 4.0), <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/4.0/legalcode>