

Country/entity Nigeria

Region Africa (excl MENA)

Agreement name Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) Statement

Date 30 Jul 2016

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 herdsmen 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 herdsmen 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 - partial
Conflict nature	Inter-group
Peace process	Nigeria - local agreements
Parties	Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND)
Third parties	-
Description	The agreement is a statement by the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) on a preliminary dialogue with the Federal Government of Nigeria. It gives an update on various concessions and guarantees from the government and outlines upcoming initiatives, including cooperation on security issues and continuing dialogue.

Agreement document [NG_160730_MEND Statement.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Groups

Children/youth	Groups→Children/youth→Rhetorical Page 1, Paragraph 5 MEND's 'Operation Moses' is essentially to inform, educate, and generally sensitize the citizenry in the Niger Delta, particularly the Government, the youth, oil companies, elders and militant community on the need to ceasefire and support the President Muhammadu Buhari Administration in its determined bid to proffer sustainable solutions to the current Niger Delta crisis.
Disabled persons	No specific mention.
Elderly/age	Groups→Elderly/age→Rhetorical Page 1, Paragraph 5 MEND's 'Operation Moses' is essentially to inform, educate, and generally sensitize the citizenry in the Niger Delta, particularly the Government, the youth, oil companies, elders and militant community on the need to ceasefire and support the President Muhammadu Buhari Administration in its determined bid to proffer sustainable solutions to the current Niger Delta crisis.
Migrant workers	No specific mention.
Racial/ethnic/ national group	No specific mention.
Religious groups	No specific mention.
Indigenous people	No specific mention.

Other groups No specific mention.

Refugees/displaced persons No specific mention.

Social class No specific mention.

Gender

Women, girls and gender No specific mention.

Men and boys No specific mention.

LGBTI No specific mention.

Family No specific mention.

State definition

Nature of state (general) No specific mention.

State configuration No specific mention.

Self determination No specific mention.

Referendum No specific mention.

State symbols No specific mention.

Independence/secession No specific mention.

Accession/unification No specific mention.

Border delimitation No specific mention.

Cross-border provision No specific mention.

Governance

Political institutions (new or reformed) No specific mention.

Elections No specific mention.

Electoral commission No specific mention.

Political parties reform No specific mention.

Civil society No specific mention.

Traditional/religious leaders No specific mention.

Public administration No specific mention.

Constitution No specific mention.

Power sharing

Political power sharing No specific mention.

Territorial power sharing No specific mention.

Economic power sharing No specific mention.

Military power sharing Power sharing→Military power sharing→Other
Page 1, Paragraphs 4
To this end, both parties agreed that the Special Forces of the Nigerian Army should commence the purely routine but strategic military exercise code-named 'Operation Crocodile Tears'; while MEND would commence a meet-the-Government-Actors-and-People tour of the Niger Delta region code-named 'Operations Moses'.

Human rights and equality

Human rights/RoL general Page 2, Paragraph 10

On September 5 and 6, 2016 in Abuja the MEND Aaron Team shall hold sessions with the top echelon of security agencies in Nigeria as well as the top management of the intervention agencies in the Niger Delta, namely: Minister of Niger Delta; Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) and the Presidential Amnesty Office. The Minister of Justice/ Attorney General of the Federation is expected to personally attend these sessions. The focus of the sessions shall include: Extension of the presidential amnesty to certain categories of political prisoners in Nigeria; Fundamental Human Rights; NDDC Act in focus; Presidential Amnesty Proclamation 2009 in focus; collapse of federal infrastructure in the Niger Delta in focus; Calabar-Lagos rail line in focus, East/West Road in focus, etc.

Bill of rights/similar No specific mention.

Treaty incorporation No specific mention.

Civil and political rights No specific mention.

Socio-economic rights No specific mention.

Rights related issues

Citizenship No specific mention.

Democracy No specific mention.

Detention procedures No specific mention.

Media and communication No specific mention.

Mobility/access No specific mention.

Protection measures No specific mention.

Other No specific mention.

Rights institutions

NHRI No specific mention.

Regional or international human rights institutions No specific mention.

Justice sector reform

Criminal justice and emergency law Justice sector reform→Criminal justice and emergency law→Reform to specific laws
Page 2, Paragraph 10
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State of emergency provisions No specific mention.

Judiciary and courts No specific mention.

Prisons and detention No specific mention.

Traditional Laws No specific mention.

Socio-economic reconstruction

Development or socio-economic reconstruction Socio-economic reconstruction→Development or socio-economic reconstruction→Infrastructure and reconstruction
Page 2, Paragraph 10
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National economic plan No specific mention.

Natural resources Page 1 and 2, Paragraph 9
Thereafter, the Team shall hold sessions with top executives of major indigenous and international oil and gas companies operating in Nigeria, including the state oil company, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) on August 29 and 30, 2016 in Abuja. The focus of those sessions shall include, to wit: Local content development, petroleum industry bill; corporate social responsibility/host community relations, etc.

International funds No specific mention.

Business Page 1, Paragraph 1
The Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND) is the only militant group from the Niger Delta region who are presently engaged in a dialogue with the Federal Government of Nigeria - through oil companies and security agencies - with a view to resolving the current Niger Delta crisis.

Page 1, Paragraph 5
MEND's 'Operation Moses' is essentially to inform, educate, and generally sensitize the citizenry in the Niger Delta, particularly the Government, the youth, oil companies, elders and militant community on the need to ceasefire and support the President Muhammadu Buhari Administration in its determined bid to proffer sustainable solutions to the current Niger Delta crisis.

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Taxation No specific mention.

Banks No specific mention.

Land, property and environment

Land reform/rights No specific mention.

**Pastoralist/
nomadism rights** No specific mention.

Cultural heritage No specific mention.

Environment No specific mention.

**Water or riparian
rights or access** No specific mention.

Security sector

**Security
Guarantees** No specific mention.

Ceasefire Security sector→Ceasefire→General commitments
Page 1, Paragraph 5
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Police No specific mention.

Armed forces Page 1, Paragraphs 4
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Page 1, Paragraph 5
While 'Operation Crocodile Tears' is aimed at ensuring the combat readiness of the Nigerian Army in Amphibious and Internal Security Operations in the Niger Delta as well as check criminal activities like kidnapping, pipeline vandalism, piracy and other forms of criminal activities spearheaded by the NDA in the region.

DDR	No specific mention.
Intelligence services	No specific mention.
Parastatal/rebel and opposition group forces	Page 1, Paragraph 3 However, one of the most immediate and urgent fall-outs of the ongoing dialogue is the imperative for the Federal Government and MEND to jointly and separately take proactive steps to rescue and secure the region in the event that the recalcitrant Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) continue on their senseless and politically-motivated path of attacks on the country's oil assets.
Withdrawal of foreign forces	No specific mention.
Corruption	No specific mention.
Crime/organised crime	Page 1, Paragraph 5 While 'Operation Crocodile Tears' is aimed at ensuring the combat readiness of the Nigerian Army in Amphibious and Internal Security Operations in the Niger Delta as well as check criminal activities like kidnapping, pipeline vandalism, piracy and other forms of criminal activities spearheaded by the NDA in the region.
Drugs	No specific mention.
Terrorism	No specific mention.

Transitional justice

Transitional justice general No specific mention.

Amnesty/pardon Transitional justice→Amnesty/pardon→Amnesty/pardon proper
Page 2, Paragraph 10
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Courts No specific mention.

Mechanism	No specific mention.
Prisoner release	Page 1, Paragraph 2 Various concessions and guarantees have already been secured; some of which include, but are not limited to: Release of Henry Okah and Obi Nwabueze; Review of the life sentence handed to Mr. Edmund Ebiware; based on a proposal put forward by the Aaron Team representative for Abia and Imo states Senator Adolphus Wabara, conditional release of IPOB Leader, Mr. Nnamdi Kanu and others if they renounced their agitation for a Biafra Republic; that Mr. Government Ekpemupolo shall not be arrested, harassed and/or intimidated whenever he makes himself available as a delegate of the MEND Aaron Team 2; that, international arbitrator and conflict negotiator, American Dr. Judith Asuni shall be accepted as the representative of the Niger Delta Avengers (NDA) on the MEND Aaron Team; that criminal charges against Urhobo freedom fighter, Mr. Kelvin Prosper Oniarah shall be reviewed; that, the life sentence which was handed to 7 soldiers who actively supported the Niger Delta struggle be reviewed under the Presidential Amnesty Programme.
Vetting	No specific mention.
Victims	No specific mention.
Missing persons	No specific mention.
Reparations	No specific mention.
Reconciliation	No specific mention.

Implementation

UN signatory No specific mention.

Other international signatory No specific mention.

Referendum for agreement No specific mention.

International mission/force/similar No specific mention.

Enforcement mechanism No specific mention.

Related cases No specific mention.

Source Oyibos Online, MEND Statement: Update on Preliminary Dialogue with the Federal Government by Proxy, 30 July 2016,
<http://www.oyibosonline.com/mend-statement-update-on-preliminary-dialogue-with-the-federal-government-byproxy/>
[accessed 20 October 2017]
