

Country/entity	Nigeria Plateau State
Region	Africa (excl MENA)
Agreement name	Declaration of Intent and Signatures
Date	10 Jul 2013
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 herdsman 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 herdsman 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 Pre-negotiation/process

Conflict nature Inter-group

Peace process Nigeria - Plateau State Process

Parties Signatures
Chairman of the Afizere Steering Committee Agwom Nyam Isha
Chairman of the Anaguta Steering Committee Aminu Agwom Zang
Chairman of the Berom Steering Committee Dr. Da Jonah Madugu
Chairman of the Fulani Steering Committee Alhaji Shehu Buba
Chairman of the Hausa Steering Committee Alhaji Umaru Sani

Third parties -

Description A pre-negotiation agreement negotiated by Humanitarian Dialogue Centre between five ethnic groups in Nigeria, Plateau State - the Afizere, Anaguta, Berom, Fulani and Hausa. The Agreement lists the issues that need to be discussed, the different opinions on each of these issues by each ethnic group, the relevant stakeholders to be included in each issue, and a comprehensive time frame for addressing it (as well as activities to be conducted by Humanitarian Dialogue Centre to assist efforts). There are 30 issues over all addressing everything from governance, crime, transitional justice, access, the idigeneship issue, demarcation of boundaries, employment, the market, cultural heritage and sancations, among other issues.

Agreement document [NG_130710_Roadmap-Agenda-for-Discussion.pdf \(opens in new tab\)](#) | [Download PDF](#)

Local agreement properties

Process type Formal structured process

Rationale There is a supporting body in the form of the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue, supporting this community led dialogue in order to identify the points of contention to move forward in the inter-communal process across multiple areas. These are clearly structured, with clear aims around community driven resolutions and consistent attempts at establishing clear process by encouraging inter-communal dialogue. This process appears to be part of a consistent inter-communal approach in these local areas of Plateau state throughout 2013.

Is there a documented link to a national peace process? No

Link to national process: articulated rationale The agreement is a roadmap agenda led by the steering committees of the communities concerned but the issues are all concerning conflict in highly localised areas. There is suggestion in the agreement text that the communities will request the presence of Federal and State government presence in future dialogues in the process as the issues raised concern their policy making. There is however no clear reference to the national process. Pending their involvement, their presence cannot yet qualify a link to national peace process.

Name of Locale Jos

Nature of Locale Region

GPS Lat/Long (DD) 9.977890, 8.878816

Participant type Local community/civilian group(s)/civil society organisations

Mediator, facilitator or similar Mediator or similar referred to

Mediator (references) The Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD) is referenced in the agreement text as facilitating this inter-communal dialogue process. HD also commits to facilitating the follow up sessions of the inter-communal dialogue committee and the affiliated working sessions for the communities concerned, as there is a wish for the HD centre to do so.

Type of mediator/facilitator/similar International or transnational actor

Local issues

Ritual/prayer and process (including use of scripture)

Page 3, 2. Religious tolerance and customs, Berom: There needs to be reciprocal respect for the culture, beliefs, religions and norms of other groups. Many Berom believe that Hausa and Fulani incursions are driven as a part of a jihad to take control first of Jos North, then Plateau State, and eventually Nigeria as a whole.

Page 4, 2. Religious tolerance and customs, ... There is a hate campaign going on by means of ethnicity and religion targeted to create suspicion mistrust and disharmony against Hausa Community.

Page 5, 4. Reopen and secure religious places, Hausa: The Plateau State Authority should intervene and ensure the safety of worship places, particularly those at Rukuba Road and Tudun Wada in Jos North and that of Barkin Ladi LGA.

Fulani: The mosque in Mahanga village in Riyom should be reopened.

Berom: Christian places of worship inaccessible in many areas of Jos, for example in Anguwan Rogo, A/Rimi, Rikkos, etc.

Page 12, 18. Skill Acquisition, ... Hausa: Muslims and Christians should be sent in as security chiefs in coherence with the state and the federal law.

Page 13, 19. Appointments to state and federal institutions, ... Hausa: All Federal agencies, especially security outfits should be represented by both Muslims and Christians. The current security outfits headed by only Christians entrench fear and suspicion by the Muslims.

Page 14, 22. Access to government services, ... Fulani: Urge the Plateau State Government to respect the Fulani citizens' rights irrespective of religion or tribe

Grievance List

Page 4, 2. Religious tolerance and customs, Berom: There needs to be reciprocal respect for the culture, beliefs, religions and norms of other groups. Many Berom believe that Hausa and Fulani incursions are driven as a part of a jihad to take control first of Jos North, then Plateau State, and eventually Nigeria as a whole.

Anaguta: Hausa and Fulani do not respect traditions, customs and culture. Hausa and Fulani have married several ABA women, but attempts by ABA men to marry HF women result in the killing of the man, woman, or both.

Hausa: There had been deliberate attempt to distort the history of the old Jos Division on the Plateau through several jaundiced newspaper articles and publications. There is a hate campaign going on by means of ethnicity and religion targeted to create suspicion mistrust and disharmony against Hausa Community.

Page 4, 3. Governance issues, ... Hausa: There is a need for good governance. The issue of marginalization and exclusion of Hausa community from Governance structures/Social-Economic empowerment need to be resolved. Also, issue of impunity of groups committing crime, including murder arson/destruction of property is wide spread

Page 5, 4. Reopen and secure religious places, Hausa: The Plateau State Authority should intervene and ensure the safety of worship places, particularly those at Rukuba Road and Tudun Wada in Jos North and that of Barkin Ladi LGA.

Fulani: The mosque in Mahanga village in Riyom should be reopened.

Berom: Christian places of worship inaccessible in many areas of Jos, for example in Anguwan Rogo, A/Rimi, Rikkos, etc.

5. Blockage of Highways and other roads, Hausa and Fulani: Reopen the highway between Barikin-Ladi along Jos road, the Abuja-Jos Road and Bukuru-NIPSS Vom Road blocked by Berom youths.

6. Return burial grounds, Hausa: The illegal confiscation of the burial grounds in Jos North, Jos South (Bukuru) and Barkin Ladi as well as other places need to be urgently addressed. The Hausa community must be allowed to bury their dead at both legitimately acquired and Government designated grave yards.

Page 6, 7. Access to grazing reserves and carrying out farming practices, Fulani: Berom people, with connivance of the Plateau State Government and the Police, have denied the Fulanis the right to carry out business practices and farming activities by confiscation of farmlands and attacks and

destruction of Fulani properties. Security operatives intimidate Fulani herdsman and block them from getting access to the areas to feed their cattle. Fulani urge the agencies concerned to ensure that Fulani people can freely exercise their constitutional rights. About 60% of the grazing reserve in Wase LGA of Plateau State has been taken over by farmers and the Government of Plateau State has been irresponsible. The government should in joint effort with Berom Elders ensure that grazing reserves are protected, or are created where they do not, in all farmer/grazer flashpoints particularly in Jos South, Barkin Ladi and Riyom LGAs. Berom people continue to cultivate and build their houses on areas officially designated as cattle routes and grazing reserves. Plateau State Government refused to take action.

Fulani: Local and international cattle routes which pass through Plateau State should be clearly mapped out and safeguarded against encroachment by farmers and builders.

Page 7, 9. Stop detention of youths and other persons, Fulani: Unwarranted arrests and harassment of Fulani people must stop. Fulani youth below the age of 18 are still in police detention. Dialogue should be established to insist on their freedom.

Page 8, 10. Illegal occupation of land, Berom: There can be no "no go areas" for Berom

**Cattle rustling/
banditry**

Page 10, 15. Cattle rustling, Berom: The Fulani rustled dwarf (muturu) and other cattle of the Berom.

Page 10, 15. Cattle rustling, ... Fulani: Increase in cattle rustling of the Berom from the Fulani. Vwang-vom district is used to hide these cows and the area has become a no-go-area. The Berom people should take steps to return all cows – or monetary compensation for them - stolen or taken away from the Fulani. Places where cattle are rustled into include Fan in Barakin LGA and Gyel in Jos-south LGA.

Social cover

No specific mention.
