No: 196/03/2026

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and Permanent Mission to the African Union (AU) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) presents its compliments to the African Union Commission, Office of the Secretary to the African Union Commission and has the honour to refer the latter's to Note Verbale No. CCP/OSC/A/A1/056.03.06 of 26th March, 2026 on the conclusion of the first meeting of the Bureau of the Assembly and to point out to the Commission that the nomination of the former President of the Republic of Senegal, His Excellency Macky Sall as African Union's consensus candidate for the position of the United Nations Secretary General was procedurally incorrect. Therefore, the Federal Republic of Nigeria takes exception to this decision and hereby expresses its reservation as a Member State. The Federal Republic of Nigeria's reservation on the decision is a matter of procedure and principle, not an opposition to the individual candidate or his state of origin. The Federal Republic of Nigeria believes that established procedures and principles were not followed in taking this decision.

The Federal Republic of Nigeria wishes to remind the African Union Commission that African Union Member States are adherents to the rule-based international order, multilateral procedures and principles and established diplomatic norms and nuances. Therefore, the Federal Republic of Nigeria sees no rationale in violating the time-honoured principle of continental rotation in the appointment of the United Nations Secretary General. It is a known fact that it is the turn of South America and the Caribbean region to produce the next United Nations Secretary General and Africa considers the Caribbean as the sixth region of the continent. By jettisoning this established practice, the Federal Republic of Nigeria believes that the African Union is putting its position and interest in jeopardy now and in the future.

The decision to present His Excellency Macky Sall as African Union's consensus candidate for the position of United Nations Secretary General also came to the Federal Republic of Nigeria as a surprise as the candidate is being fielded for such a coveted position by the Union and Member States are given such a short time to consider the decision without subjecting it to the scrutiny of the Ministerial Candidature Committee of the African Union.

The Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to Ethiopia and Permanent Mission to the African Union (AU) and United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the African Union Commission, Office of the Secretary to the African Union Commission, the assurances of its highest consideration and esteem.

Addis Ababa, 27th March, 2026,

African Union Commission,
Office of the Secretary to
African Union Commission,
Addis Ababa,
Ethiopia.

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