



Official Report for the Niger State Government on the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), New York – September 2025

**Official Report for the Niger State Government
on the 80th Session of the United Nations General
Assembly (UNGA), New York – September 2025**



His Excellency, Mohammed Umaru Bago

**Executive Governor of Niger State
Federal Republic of Nigeria**



His Excellency, Comrade Yakubu Garba

Deputy Governor of Niger State
Federal Republic of Nigeria

Produced for **Niger State Government, Federal Republic of Nigeria**
by **MRL® Public Sector Consultants Ltd.**

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MRL® Public Sector Consultants Ltd, November 2025.

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1. Executive Summary

This report is the summary of Niger State Governments attendance at the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 80), held in September 2025 in New York by (MRL®) Public Sector Consultants, the appointed Education Consultants to the State Government.

The Niger State Government's attendance marked a defining moment for the future of Africa's development. During the High-Level Week, from 21st to 30th September, a series of engagements fostered critical dialogue between nations and leaders on the continent's developmental trajectory. The week also provided a platform to highlight Nigeria's emerging leadership in shaping that agenda.

Under the leadership of **His Excellency Mohammed Umaru Bago, Executive Governor of Niger State, Federal Republic of Nigeria**, the delegation outlined the State's transformative agenda for economic growth, industry expansion, and sustainable development. The mission at UNGA 80 was fourfold:

- To highlight key human capital challenges in health, education, and poverty alleviation and propose scalable, evidence-based solutions;
- To address structural and institutional barriers to agricultural investment and identify opportunities for reform;
- To promote collaboration in education, health, climate-smart agriculture, digital governance, infrastructure, and service delivery; and
- To facilitate meaningful engagement between subnational governments, international partners, and the Nigerian diaspora.

The 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 80) was attended by senior government officials and key delegation members from both the federal and state levels of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, including, but not limited to:

1 His Excellency
Kashim Shettima
Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria

2 **Yusuf Tuggar**
Honourable Minister of Foreign Affairs

3 **Dr Dele Alake**
Honourable Minister of Solid Minerals Development

4 **Dr Tunji Alausa**
Honourable Minister of Education

5 **Dr Bosun Tijani**
Honourable Minister of Communications Innovation and Digital Economy

6 **Hannatu Musa Musawa**
Honourable Minister of Art, Culture and the Creative Economy

7 **Imaan Sulaiman-Ibrahim**
Honourable Minister of Women Affairs

The delegation from the Niger State Government included, but was not limited to:

1

His Excellency

Mohammed Umaru Bago

Executive Governor of Niger State

2

His Excellency

Fatima Umaru Bago

First Lady of Niger State

3

Senator Sani Musa

Senator representing the Niger East Senatorial District of Niger State

4

Hon. Abdullahi Usman Gbatamangi

Chief of Staff to the Executive Governor of Niger State

5

Mustapha Ndajiwo

Hon. Commissioner, Niger State Planning Commission

6

Dr Murtala Bagana

Special Adviser to the Executive Niger State Governor on Special Duties

7

Hajiya Maimuna Mohammed

Director General Reforms Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education

8

Professor Kuta Yahaya

Pro-Chancellor of AbdulKadir Kure University Minna Niger State

9

Dr Roni Ajao

Executive Director MRL® Public Sector Consultants

10

Onyaole Patience Koku

Executive Director of Niger Foods Security Systems and Logistics Company Ltd

11

Hauwa Bako Mohammed

Special Adviser to the Executive Governor of Niger State on Social Investment Programmes

The full list of delegate is in Appendix A.





welcomes you to

Niger State Side Event at the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly 2025







Across multiple high-level engagements, including Unstoppable Africa 2025, Renewed Hope Global, the UN Global Compact Leaders Summit, TradeLink 2025, Semafor: The Next 3 Billion Summit, the UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund Dialogue, Celonis: From Pledges to Progress Forum, and the Niger State Side Event — delegates from the Niger State Government and MRL® showcased the importance of subnational development, highlighting how as a visionary, data-driven, people-centred governance strengthen national and global outcomes.

By the close of the Assembly, MRL® on behalf of the Niger State Government had engaged with multiple organisations and private-sector leaders, building recognition and interest into Niger State's transformativ agenda. This report captures the substance and significance of those engagements, outlining the key implications for the State and the next steps to expand Niger State's impact across education, health, agriculture, and digital governance.

This report focuses primarily on the Education and Health Sectors in line with MRL®'s assignments for the Niger State Government.



2. Background and Objectives

The UN General Assembly convened under the theme “**Better together: 80 years and more for peace, development and human rights**”, bringing together world leaders, policymakers, business executives and industry experts to address the pressing global challenges of inequality, climate change, and economic fragmentation.

The aim and objectives of participation at UNGA 80 for the Niger State Government were therefore clear and strategic:

Aim: To leverage the 80th UNGA week as a platform to attract global partnerships, demonstrate alignment with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), increase development financing and enhance Niger State’s visibility in the international development landscape.

Objectives:

- **Promote Niger State’s Sustainable Development Vision and Progress** – By presenting the New Niger Vision 2055, Human Capital Development Investment Framework, the Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone Handbook.
- **Showcase Niger State’s development achievements** – by presenting the Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme and Health Sector Transformation Programme (HSTP) to demonstrate verifiable impact and alignment with the SDGs.
- **Strengthen Niger State’s International Presence** – by establishing the State as a key player in Africa’s development ecosystem and a credible destination for investment.
- **Engage International Stakeholders/ Financial Investors** – by exposing the State to global leaders, UN agencies, development partners, donor institutions and private sector investments to attract funding opportunities, expertise and innovation that can support local initiatives.



The aim and objectives aforementioned informed the **Niger State Government on the next steps**. The delegation undertook an extensive and strategic preparation process designed to present a powerful narrative of the State's sub-national achievements. Guided by a shared vision to demonstrate measurable impact and global relevance, the teams coordinated strategic stakeholder and committee meetings. The preparation included itinerary planning, programme evaluations and presentation strategies. Each component of Niger State's presentation reflected tangible progress in agriculture, human capital development, education, health, and institutional development, showcasing the State's alignment with the (SDGs).

Central to the presentation was the **Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme**, aimed at addressing the State's Out-of-School Children problem and strengthening teacher capacity. Comprehensive briefing notes, reports and multimedia materials were prepared to demonstrate quantitative and qualitative progress in the State's education reform. A comprehensive document on the **Education Personnel Management Information System (EPMIS)**, showing how real-time data is used for human-resource allocation, teacher attendance tracking, and infrastructure auditing. This system embodies Niger State's commitment to digital innovation, transparency and performance management.

In parallel, the **Health Sector Transformation Programme (HSTP)** was highlighted as a model for improved public health delivery, using geospatial mapping and data visualisation, to identify gaps in health-facilities and track service delivery outcomes across all Local Government Areas.



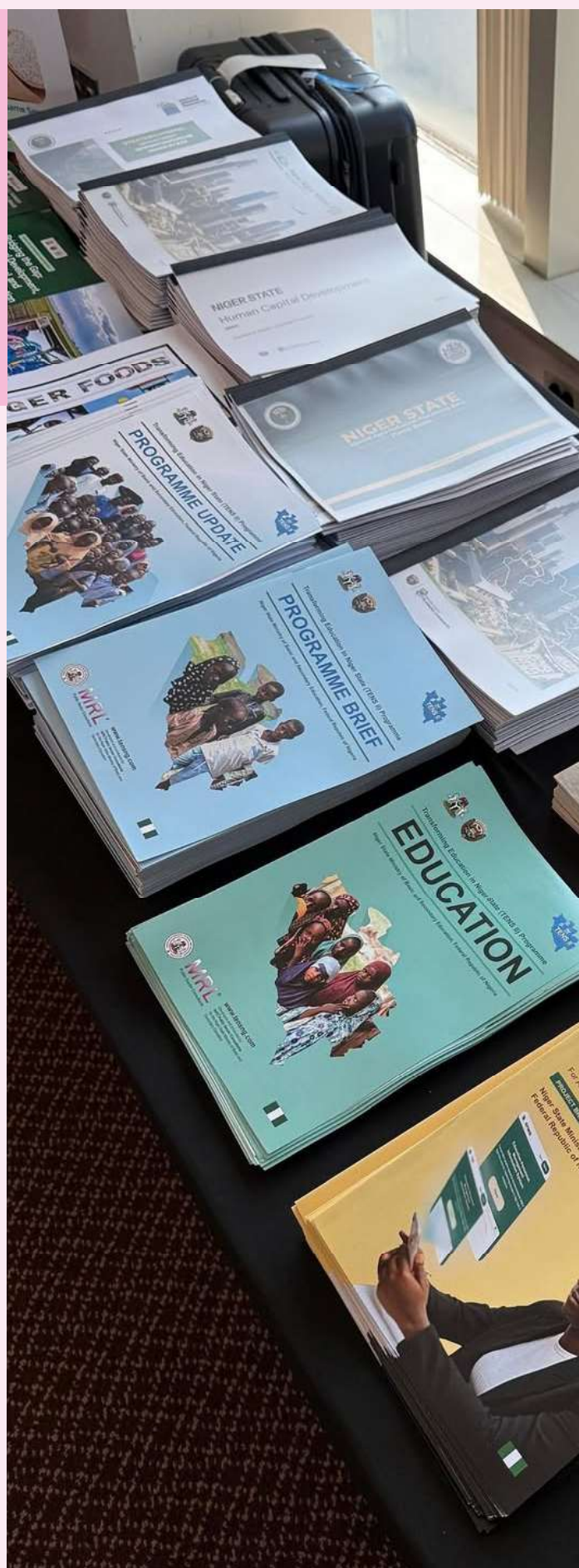
Documentation Prepared for UNGA 80

Key documents prepared by the Niger State Planning Commission for the Niger State Government's engagement at the United Nations General Assembly High-Level Week included the following:

1. The New Niger Vision 2055
2. The Human Development Investment Framework
3. The Special Agro-Industrial Processing Zone Handbook

In addition, the following supporting documents were developed on behalf of the Niger State Government:

1. *Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme; Overarching and Specific Recommendations on the Way Forward in the Education Sector in Niger State Summary'. Niger State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Niger State, Federal Republic of Nigeria, November 2024.*
2. *Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme; 'A Strategy to Reduce the Challenge of Out-of-School Children.' Niger State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Niger State, Federal Republic of Nigeria, November 2024.*
3. *Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme; 'Education Summary' Niger State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Niger State, Federal Republic of Nigeria, November 2024.*
4. *Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme; 'Programme Brief' Niger State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Niger State, Federal Republic of Nigeria, November 2024.*
5. *Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme; '4th Edition Newsletter.' Niger State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Niger State, Federal Republic of Nigeria, December 2024.*





6. *Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme; 'High-Level Plan', Niger State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Federal Republic of Nigeria, February 2025*
7. *Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme; 'Niger State's Education Transformation Initiatives.' Niger State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Niger State, Federal Republic of Nigeria, April 2025.*
8. *Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme; 'Education Personnel Management Information System Project Brief' Niger State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Niger State, Federal Republic of Nigeria, July 2025.*
9. *Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme; 'Programme Update' Niger State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Niger State, Federal Republic of Nigeria, September 2025.*
10. *Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme; 'Quick Facts' Niger State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Niger State, Federal Republic of Nigeria, September 2025.*
11. *Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme; '5th Edition Newsletter.' Niger State Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education, Niger State, Federal Republic of Nigeria, September 2025.*
12. *Health Sector Transformation Programme (HSTP); '1st Edition Newsletter.' Niger State Ministry of Primary Healthcare and Secondary Tertiary Health, Niger State, Federal Republic of Nigeria, September 2025.*
13. *Health Sector Transformation Programme (HSTP); 'Health Sector Transformation Programme Summary' Niger State Ministry of Primary Healthcare and Secondary Tertiary Health, Niger State, Federal Republic of Nigeria, September 2025.*

Furthermore, the following postcards were prepared for UNGA 80:

- Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Website Postcard.
- Health Sector Transformation Programme (HSTP) Website Postcard.
- Niger State's Education Transformation Initiatives Postcard.
- A Strategy to Reduce the Challenge of Out-of-School Children Report Postcard.
- Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme 5th Edition Newsletter Postcard.
- Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme 4th Edition Newsletter Postcard.
- Health Sector Transformation Programme (HSTP) 1st Edition Newsletter Postcard.

The Niger State Planning Commission, led by Hon. Mustapha Ndajiwo, anchored the organisation of UNGA 80, with support from Dr. Roni Ajao, Executive Director of MRL®.

This rigorous preparation ensured that the Niger State Government arrived at UNGA 80 with a solid narrative of reform and results. By the end of the High-Level Week the delegation had engaged with a number of key stakeholders and high-level forums, positioning sub-national reforms as a driver of national stability and sustainable development.







3. MRL[®] Public Sector Consultants Overview

MRL[®] attended a series of international forums on investment, sustainability, digital innovation, and human capital development aiming to build global partnerships to support the New Niger Vision 2055. The delegation leveraged Niger State's achievements in education and health as a model for sub-national development.

The delegation, comprising of Dr Roni Ajao, Executive Director and supported by Barr. Sonia Okechukwu, Associate Consultant and Executive Assistant, participated in forums that provided opportunities to advance Niger State's transformative reform agenda, strengthen strategic partnerships, and align sub-national priorities with global development frameworks. Some of the engagements attended are highlighted in the summary table below.

Key events and engagements attended included:

Event Name	Date attended
Unstoppable Africa 2025	21st – 22nd September 2025
Renewed Hope Global Event	22nd Septemeber 2025
The UN Global Compact Leaders Summit	23rd Septemeber 2025
TradeLink 2025	23rd Septemeber 2025
Semafor: The Next 3 Billion Summit	24th September 2025
UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund Dialogue	24th September 2025
Celonis: From Pledges to Progress Forum	25th September 2025
The Niger State Side Event	26th September 2025

Source: MRL® Public Sector Consultants

This report is a comprehensive account from MRL® of Niger State's participation at the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 80). It highlights the key forums, engagements, and strategic dialogues attended by the delegation. UNGA 80 served as a critical platform for strengthening Niger State's partnerships with multilateral institutions, international development organisations, and private sector investors, ensuring that the State's reform initiatives are positioned at the forefront of international dialogue, aligned with global frameworks for sustainable growth, and attractive to potential investors.



4. Emerging Themes

Throughout UNGA 80, several cross-cutting themes emerged that would inform the Niger State Government and MRL®'s programme delivery within the state.

The following central themes were identified:

1

The Centrality of Data

Across all panels, speakers and participants emphasised that data forms the foundation of credibility, underscoring the need for reforms to be based on accurate, verifiable and credible data.

2

Education

Africa's long-term growth and competitiveness depends on its ability to invest and build on its human capital. Every dialogue, from trade to innovation, identified education as prerequisite for optimal productivity and as the foundation for sustainable development.



3

Inclusivity

Discussions consistently emphasised the benefits of inclusivity, underscoring that gender equity and youth participation are essential components of stability and growth.

4

The Shift from Commitments to Execution

Value creation centered every discussion, identifying the need to create a shift from rhetoric to results. Global actors now seek proof of implementation and the capacity to execute, monitor, and sustain initiatives that generate measurable impact.



5. Key Engagements



5.1 Unstoppable Africa 2025

Organised by the Global Africa Business Initiative and the UN Global Compact (21–22 September 2025), “Unstoppable Africa 2025” convened Heads of State, business leaders, and economic experts to discuss how Africa can translate potential into measurable progress. Key figures such as **Dr Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (WTO)**, **António Guterres (UN Secretary-General)**, and **Amina J. Mohammed (UN Deputy Secretary-General)** emphasised Africa’s centrality in global solutions, from climate resilience, intra-African trade, supply-chain resilience, artificial Intelligence, technology and human capital development.

MRL® showcased the Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) and Health Sector Transformation Programme (HSTP) as models of data-driven governance built to restore trust in the public sector and improve service delivery across Niger State. Niger State’s work was presented in several high-level discussions as a sub-national example bridging the gap between policy and implementation.

Key Implications for Niger State:

- **Global Visibility:** Niger State's reform programmes were spotlighted internationally, reinforcing its reputation as a State driving measurable change.
- **Policy Credibility:** Recognition of TENS II and HSTP validates Niger's data-led approach and can attract technical partnerships and donor support.
- **Investment Readiness:** Advocacy of the TENS II and HSTP positions Niger as a credible environment for investors seeking transparent governance and developmental impact.
- **Strategic Learning:** Insights from continental leaders support the refinement of Niger's economic and education strategies in alignment with Africa's collective development goals.





5.2 Renewed Hope Global: Global Partnerships, Local Prosperity



As part of the high-level engagements of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 80), Renewed Hope Global hosted a landmark event themed “Global Partnerships, Local Prosperity: Unlocking Nigeria’s Renewed Hope Blueprint for Sustainable Growth.” Held at the Nigeria Mission House in New York, the side event attracted an impressive line of dignitaries, including **His Royal Highness Sanusi Lamido Sanusi, Emir of Kano; His Excellency, Uba Sani, Executive Governor of Kaduna State;** and key federal ministers including **Honourable Minister of Health and Social Welfare, Dr Muhammad Ali Pate, Honourable Minister of Youth Development, Mr Ayodele Olawande Wisdom,** and

Director General of the National Identity Management Commission, Engr. Abisoye Coker-Odusote alongside senior executives from NITDA, NASENI, NEMA, and the Presidential Committee on Economic and Financial Inclusion.

Senior government officials, investors, multilateral partners, and members of the Nigerian diaspora gathered together to explore Nigeria’s reform agenda and its commitment to inclusive, sustainable development. The event served as a bridge between national reforms, diaspora, investment, and sub-national progress and a medium to drive to global investment in Nigeria.

Key Implications for Niger State:

- **Enhanced Reputation and Strategic Visibility:** The event was used as an opportunity to amplify Niger's voice in national and global policy conversations. Whilst reinforcing Niger's role as a reform-driven state committed to sustainable, data-led governance.
- **Federal Alignment:** Demonstrates synergy between Niger's TENS II and HSTP reforms and the Federal Government's Renewed Hope Blueprint.
- **Partnership Opportunities:** Strengthens Niger's access to federal collaboration and global development partners.
- **Investment Readiness:** Positions Niger as a credible partner for donor and public-sector engagement.





5.3 UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2025

The UN Global Compact Leaders Summit 2025 celebrated twenty-five years of the world's largest corporate sustainability initiative. It brought together more than 1,500 executives and policymakers to reaffirm the Compact's founding principles of human rights, environmental stewardship, and anti-corruption. Discussions on data governance, AI ethics, and impact reporting showcased how measurable transparency drives long-term progress. In addition, panel sessions focused on data governance, impact reporting, innovation, the ethical deployment of artificial intelligence and the need for re-skilling in a rapidly digitising world.

As members of the United Nations Global Compact, MRL[®] leveraged the opportunity to showcase the TENS II and HSTP programmes and initiatives. Discussions focused on Niger State's adoption of digital solutions to drive public-sector sustainability, particularly through the development and implementation of the Education Performance Management Information System (EPMIS).

Key Implications for Niger State:

- **Sustainability Integration:** Niger State is viewed as a State that embeds sustainability as a core governance principle rather than a policy add-on.
- **Governance Benchmarking:** Aligns Niger's reforms with global standards of transparency and accountability.
- **Trust Building:** Niger State to strengthen confidence among investors and citizens through measurable reporting systems.
- **Digital Leadership:** Niger State to Strengthen responsible integration of AI and data systems in state governance.
- **Sustainability Integration:** Niger State is viewed as a State that embeds sustainability as a core governance principle rather than a policy add-on.



A man in traditional Nigerian attire, including a white cap and a long white robe, is speaking at a podium. He is holding a microphone and a clipboard. The background is a large red screen with the word "TRADE" in large, stylized letters. The word "GLOB" is also visible in the top right corner of the screen.

5.4 TradeLink 2025

Convened by Global Dropoff Logistics (GDL), TradeLink 2025 explored Africa–U.S. trade integration under the theme “From Potential to Partnership: Reimagining Africa–U.S. Trade for the Next Decade”. This event aimed to strengthen economic cooperation between Africa and the United States. The event assembled policymakers, entrepreneurs, investors, and development partners to explore new pathways for trade integration and value creation.

His Excellency Governor Mohammed Umaru Bago of Niger State delivered a keynote address positioning industrialisation, agricultural transformation, and youth empowerment as the pillars of Africa’s next growth phase, with emphasis on the continent’s transition from merely participating in trade, to shaping its direction through value addition and local processing.

AL DROPOFF LOGISTICS
PRESENTS

DELINK

Key Implications for Niger State:

- **Trade Partnerships:** Strengthen Niger States standing in Africa-Us Trade and economic collaboration and can reinforce its capacity to attract and manage sustainable investment.
- **Industrial Growth:** Advances Niger's shift from raw exports to value-added production.



5.5 Semafor: The Next 3 Billion Summit

Hosted by Semafor and held at the famous Marriot Marquis, New York, this summit focused on connecting the next three billion people to digital opportunity. The summit gathered policy leaders, academics, investors, and innovators from across continents to discuss bridging digital inequality and building inclusive systems for growth.

The event emphasised digital inclusion as a moral and economic imperative with a directive to create tailored approaches that adapt technological solutions to local contexts — a principle mirrored in the TENS II Programme's strategy of customising education interventions to Niger State's specific needs i.e the STEAM Farm Project and tailored initiatives for nomadic children. Subsequent sessions on artificial intelligence, digital finance, and education reinforced the importance of educating and upskilling human capital to ensure sustainable development and technological advancement.

Key Implications for Niger State:

- **Digital Inclusion:** Niger State to reinforce commitment to integrating digital literacy into the TENS II framework and provides insight to the need to further strengthen technology-based learning systems.
- **Workforce Competitiveness:** Highlights the urgent need to prepare Niger's youth for participation in a global digital economy.
- **Policy Innovation:** Niger State to increase and supports the adoption of adaptive, data-led governance in public administration.



Untapped Opportunities: Globalization and Trade

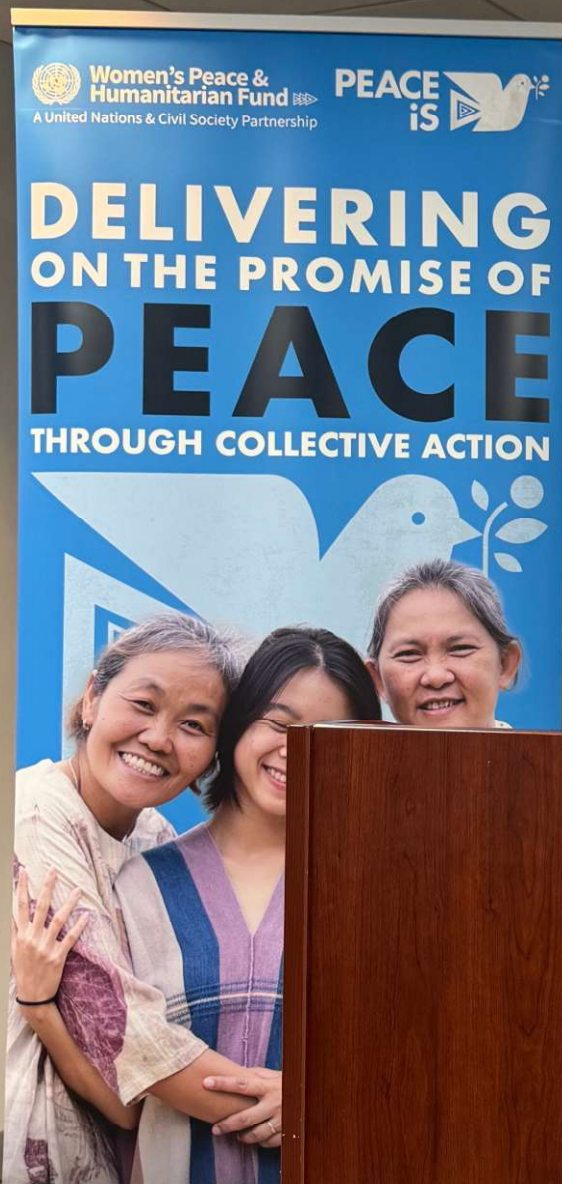


BEN SMITH
Co-Founder and
Editor-in-Chief, Semafor



**DR. NGOZI
OKONJO-IWEALA**
Director-General,
World Trade Organization





5.6 UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund

The UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF) hosted a series of high-level events highlighting women's leadership and participation in peacebuilding and crisis response. One of the featured events — "Peace Is All of Us: A Celebration of South Africa's Heritage Day" reinforced peace, stability, and humanitarian progress cannot be achieved without the participation of women.

Discussions between **Toni-Ann Brodber, Head of the UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund (WPHF)**, and **Dr Roni Ajao**, opened important conversations around advancing the education of the Girl-Child and the potential establishment of UN Chapters in Nigeria to support women-focused initiatives and capacity-building programmes.

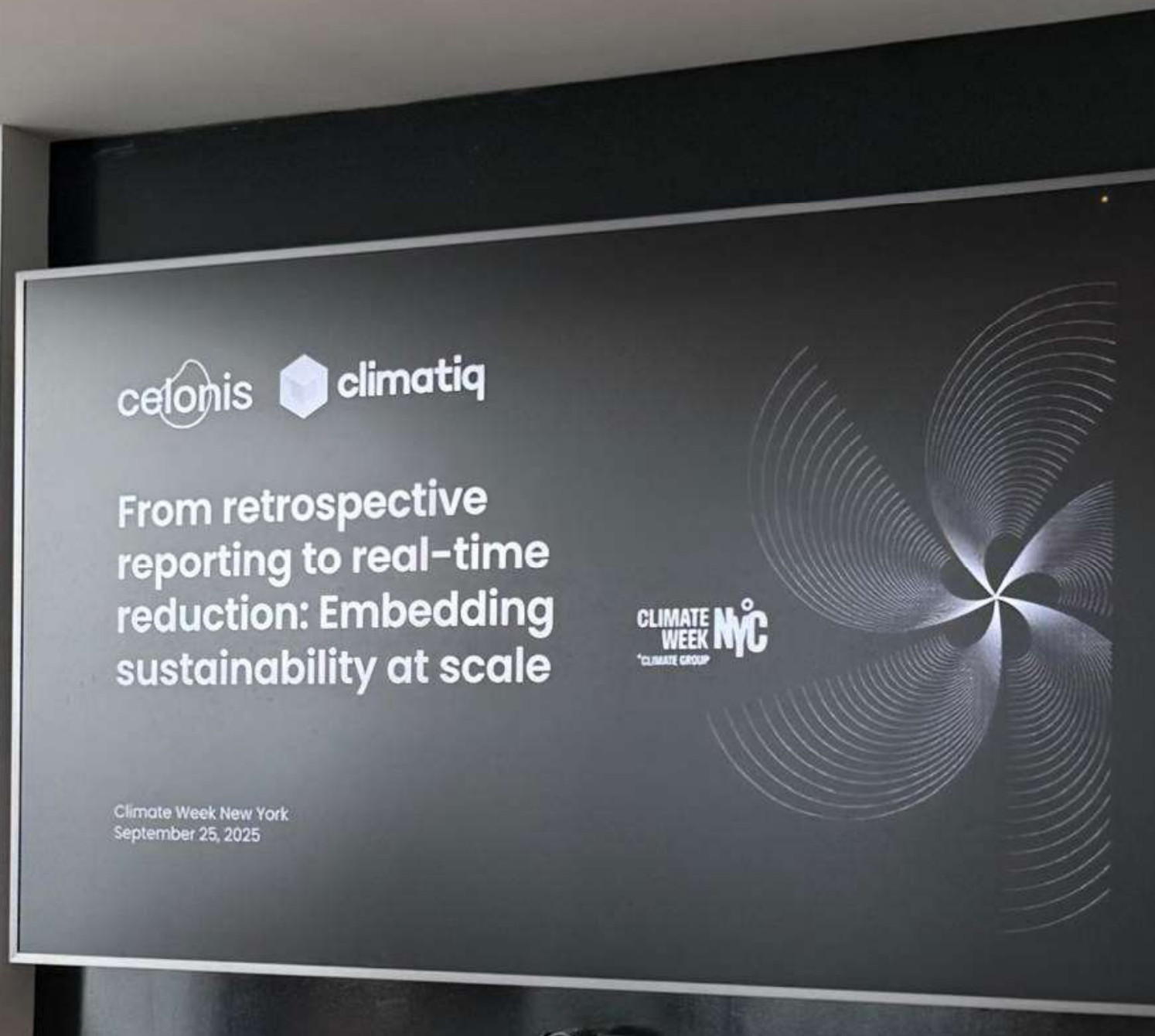
Key Implications for Niger State:

- **Global Partnerships:** Strengthening ties within the UN ecosystem enhances Niger State's visibility and credibility as a sub-national actor committed to gender-responsive governance and inclusive growth.
- **Capacity Building:** Collaboration with WPHF can support training initiatives for local women-led organisations across the 25 local governments, thereby improving their ability to deliver community-based peacebuilding and development projects.
- **Advancing Human Capital Goals:** The engagement complements His Excellency's ongoing agenda on human capital development, particularly in ensuring that women and young

girls are central to education, leadership, and economic participation. Encouraging young girls to take part in the 21st Century Leadership Skill for the Young will help to develop leadership skills from a bottom up approach .

- **Policy Alignment:** The insights and continued dialogue with the UN Women's Peace and Humanitarian Fund can inform Niger State's approach to integrating gender equity and women's participation into its education and governance policies, ensuring alignment with progressive international standards and best practices.





5.7 Celonis × Climatiq Forum: From Pledges to Progress

Celonis and Climatiq co-hosted a forum titled “From Pledges to Progress: Embedding Sustainability at Scale.” The discussion convened corporate leaders and sustainability experts to highlight how data and reporting can be harnessed to turn sustainability commitments into measurable, profitable outcomes embedded within everyday organisational processes.

The forum offered valuable insight into scaling accountability through data systems. The approach mirrors the digital transparency framework of the TENS II and HSTP programmes, where real-time data drive policy and measured impact.

Key Implications for Niger State:

- **Data Accountability:** Enhancing the State's capacity to use data and analytics will strengthen investor confidence by demonstrating transparency, evidence-based decision-making, and measurable progress across development initiatives.
- **Institutional Efficiency:** Highlights the importance of using automation to support efficient administration.
- **Climate Leadership:** Positions Niger State as a forward-thinking state in environmental sustainability and demonstrates the investment readiness of the State as a viable territory for climate-related investments.





5.8 The Niger State Side Event

The Niger State Side Event, held at the Nigerian House in New York, was a historic milestone for subnational leadership in Nigeria. Themed **“Bridging the Gap: Sub-national Development, Human Capital and Agricultural Transformation,”** the event which commenced at 10:00AM EST showcased the State’s commitment to state-level growth and economic viability through the launch of the **New Niger Vision 2055**.

His Excellency, the Executive Governor of Niger State, Mohammed Umaru Bago, outlined four pillars of the Vision: livelihood improvement, a sustainable economy, urban renewal and rural transformation, and good governance. In particular, the event identified how Niger State’s development strategy is anchored in data, technology, and human capital development.

Distinguished panel speakers at the event examined the States’s current landscape in a two part session titled *Human Capital Development: Challenges and Opportunities*, and *Investment and Agriculture Transformation* respectively. The event also highlighted education and health as critical drivers of development. This signified a shift in development discourse as it defined sub-national reform as significant contributors to Africa’s future. The side event generated new commitments, partnerships, and technical support across the sectors of education, agriculture, health and technology setting the stage for continued collaboration and joint implementation following UNGA 80.

A comprehensive list of distinguished speaker, guest and attendees is available at the Niger State Planning Commission.

Key Implications for Niger State:

- **Evidence-Based Strategy:** Niger State's 2055 Vision establishes a long-term, measurable roadmap for development.
- **National Leadership:** Niger State's event highlights the State as a pioneer in subnational planning and transformation.

- **Partnership Development:** the event enabled commitments, partnerships, and technical support across several sectors.





5.9 TENS II Wins the Changemakers Award at the Pioneers in SDGs Awards

In October 2025, the Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme won the Changemakers Award at the Pioneers in SDGs Awards Ceremony 2025 following a highly competitive process that saw 77 submissions from 43 countries, each reflecting extraordinary dedication to advancing peace, human rights, and sustainable development across all 17 Global Goals. This award ceremony was organised by the Journalists and Writers Foundation in association with the UN Department of Global Communications and its 56 global partners.

The award honours innovation and impact in advancing the SDGs. The TENS II's documentary submission, accompanied with detailed accounts of the project brief showcased how education reform in Niger State is actively addressing the issue of Out-of-School Children, as well as integrating digital tools through the Education Personnel Management Information System (EMPIS) to modernise teacher data management, for improved resource allocation, better workforce planning, and a more effective education system in Niger State. The programme was recognised as a progressive model for achieving SDG 4 (Quality Education).

The congratulatory letter and the Judges' Report issued by a highly esteemed panel of judges, are provided on the next page.





PIONEERS IN SDGs AWARDS 2025

8 October 2025, Wednesday | www.unga-conference.org | New York

October 21, 2025

Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme
MRL® Public Sector Consultants Ltd

Re: Congratulations! Your project received the Changemakers Award.

Dear **MRL® Public Sector Consultants Ltd Team**,

On behalf of the Journalists and Writers Foundation and its esteemed Global Partners, I congratulate you and your team for winning **Changemakers Award** in the Pioneers in SDGs Awards 2025.

The Pioneers in SDGs Awards honor outstanding individuals and organizations who demonstrate unwavering commitment and dedication to advancing sustainable peace, development, and the promotion of a culture rooted in peace, human rights, and sustainable development goals (SDGs). Your exceptional project “**Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme**” exemplifies this commitment.

As we move forward, we remain committed to supporting visionary individuals and organizations like yours in enhancing their projects and raising their impact even further. The recognition of your project as Changemakers Award Winner of the Pioneers in SDGs Awards 2025 is a testament to your dedication and the positive change you are bringing to the world.

Additionally, we are pleased to share that the *Pioneers in SDGs Awards Winners 2025 and the Awards Ceremony 2025* has been uploaded to [JWF's YouTube channel](#) for broader access and inspiration.

Once again, congratulations on this well-deserved recognition. We look forward to witnessing the continued impact of your project and the transformative change it brings to communities.

Sincerely,

Mehmet Kilic
President
Journalists and Writers Foundation

* JWF is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization registered in New York State.

* JWF is associated with the United Nations Department of Global Communications.

Project Name: Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme

Organization: MRL® Public Sector Consultants Ltd

Country: United Kingdom

Jury Members

- 1. *Dr. Rajendran Govender*
- 2. *Dr. Reginald Nalugala*
- 3. *Dr. Joan Hernandez Serret*
- 4. *Patrice Samara*

Feedback for Improvement

This is a high-impact project with clearly tangible outcomes and demonstrated creativity through technology and design thinking applications. The initiative shows strong community engagement, reflecting local ownership and inclusivity, though private sector partnerships could be further expanded to enhance sustainability and innovation. Its multi-regional activities illustrate substantial scalability and operational capacity, positioning the project as a model for cross-regional collaboration. The potential for long-term, transformative outcomes is significant, though maintaining robust monitoring and evaluation systems will be essential to ensure continued progress and accountability.

The project is both inspiring and forward-looking, addressing educational challenges in innovative ways. However, it may benefit from diversifying its educational delivery methods—particularly by enhancing ICT integration, to supplement limitations in physical infrastructure and promote digital inclusion. Strengthening digital literacy among participants could further bridge educational gaps and increase access to learning opportunities.

The initiative has also contributed to social, economic, and political improvements, with clear links to multiple Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Its replicable models, such as the use of training kits and sanitation-focused components, demonstrate potential for wide-scale adoption in other contexts.

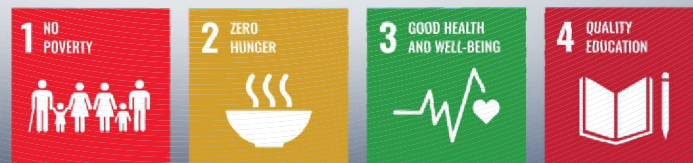
To ensure continuous growth, the project team should track progress over time, collect both quantitative data and participant narratives, and adapt the program based on findings. Establishing an alumni network would help sustain engagement, mentorship, and advocacy, while also creating a pipeline of champions who can amplify the project's mission.

Overall, this is a transformative and well-conceived initiative that bridges technology, education, and community empowerment. With strengthened monitoring, private sector collaboration, and digital innovation, it has the potential to serve as a global model for inclusive and sustainable development.

Key Implications for Niger State:

- **Global Recognition:** Validates Niger State's innovative solutions in education as an international benchmark for progressive and impactful education reform.
- **Investment Hub:** Promotion of Niger State's activities and programmes enhances Niger's attractiveness for technical and financial support.
- **Proof of Impact:** Reinforces measurable success of evidence-based reform and strengthens the State's international profile as a trusted partner for investment and public-sector reform.
- **Replication Potential:** Establishes Niger as a model for sub-national transformation in West Africa.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



CHANGEMAKERS AWARD 5

GOES TO

**Transforming Education in Niger
State (TENS II) Programme
Federal Republic of Nigeria
(United Kingdom)**



5.10 UN Global Compact Network UK Annual Summit

The UN Global Compact Network UK Annual Summit, held at Church House Westminster under the theme “Unlocking Competitive Advantage Through ESG,” brought together senior executives from organisations including **Aviva**, **Unilever**, **AstraZeneca**, and **Lloyds Banking Group** to discuss how environmental, social, and governance (ESG) principles drive long-term value. The discussions centred on key themes such as finance, policy, inequality, and innovation.

Panels on sustainable finance underscored the importance of data-driven disclosures in building investor trust, while sessions on value chains explored how responsible sourcing and local partnerships foster more resilient markets.

During the summit, **Dr. Roni Ajao** showcased the Transforming Education in Niger State (TENS II) Programme and the Health Sector Transformation Programme as an initiative guided by sustainability principles. The programme was presented as a significant step toward realising the New Niger State Vision and as tangible evidence of actions contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)—particularly SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing and SDG 4: Quality Education.

Further discussions with **Steve Kenzie**, **Executive Director of the UN Global Compact Network UK**, explored potential collaborations with the UNGC Nigeria Network to strengthen partnerships and accelerate sustainable development efforts within Nigeria.

The UNGC Annual Summit’s overarching themes resonate strongly with the Niger State Government’s approach to building a sustainable economy—through investments in the green economy, environmental sanitation, gender and disability inclusivity, and enhanced access to quality healthcare and education for the overall improvement of livelihoods.

Key Implications for Niger State:

- **Global Standards:** Niger's governance model from the New Niger Vision 2055 aligns with international ESG principles and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Investment Attraction:** Niger's New Vision for 2055 also demonstrates suitability for responsible investment and global impact-driven investors
- **Collaborative Networks:** Engagements with the UN Global Compact (UNGC) Nigeria Network were explored to identify areas for strategic partnerships within Nigeria. Strengthening these connections would enhance international visibility, broaden investor networks, and support the scaling of sustainable initiatives in the State.



6. Cross-Cutting Insights and Lessons Learned

Analysis of all twelve in-depth engagements over the week revealed several key lessons for the development of Niger State:

- **Technology as a Way of Connecting:** The prevalent use of technology to connect, share knowledge, and exchange information highlighted its central role in modern collaboration. Companies and individuals leveraged digital tools and platforms, including social media and digital business cards, to build networks and sustain professional relationships beyond physical events. This approach is highly recommended for government, Ministries, Departments and Agencies.
- **Integration of Data and Governance:** Reliable data systems and digital frameworks are becoming critical for effective governance and reform. Evidence-based decision-making and efficient digitisation of processes enable organisations to measure impact, ensure transparency, and adapt policies that respond to real-time needs.
- **Education as the Core of Sustainable Development in Africa:** Human capital remains Africa's strongest asset, underscoring the need for sustained investment in education. The underlying theme of each engagement highlighted the critical need to educate and build skills for innovation and employability to unlock long-term growth and reducing dependency on external support.
- **From Vision to Measurable Action:** Global partners increasingly emphasise tangible outcomes over theoretical policy statements. Demonstrating measurable progress through data, reporting, and clear impact indicators strengthens credibility and attracts further investment.
- **Public-Private Sector Synergy:** Collaboration between government, private companies, and civil society is essential to sustain reforms and scale innovation. Multi-stakeholder partnerships provide the resources, expertise, and accountability needed to deliver meaningful and lasting change.
- **Inclusion as Strategy:** Empowering women and youth is a strategic investment in economic progress. not only equitable but also economically strategic. Inclusive participation enhances innovation, drives productivity, and ensures that development outcomes are sustainable.



7. Next Steps and Conclusion

In conclusion, participation at the UNGA 80 High-Level Week by the Niger State Government and MRL® collectively elevated Niger State's profile, linking its reform agenda with global best practices and by achieving the Changemakers Award by the Journalists and Writers Foundation.

As a result of the various meetings and engagements at UNGA, MRL® is transitioning from dialogue to implementation. The firm will consolidate new partnerships and expand its work with international organisations that align with Niger State's development agenda. The lessons from New York, particularly around data, sustainability, and inclusion, will continue to inform the design of the TENS II and HSTP Programme going forward.

UNGA 80 reaffirmed that Africa's transformation is being shaped by institutions that can demonstrate measurable change. Through the strategic partnership between the Niger State Government and MRL®, the engagements and recognition achieved during and after UNGA 80 have collectively strengthened both organisations long term vision of being a changemaker in Africa's journey toward sustainable development.

Emerging Actions

- **Amplify Public Awareness of the Award:** Develop and execute a communication strategy that highlights the award across media channels, reinforcing Niger State's achievements.
- **Disseminate This Report to Key Stakeholders:** Share the report with government agencies, partners, development bodies, and relevant institutions to ensure alignment and support.
- **Enhance and Finalize EPMIS for Greater Impact:** Identify necessary improvements to EPMIS and complete its development to fully unlock financial and developmental opportunities for the state.
- **Strengthen Niger State's International Presence:** Continue targeted engagements, storytelling, and strategic positioning to elevate the state's visibility on global platforms.
- **Improve Niger State's Digital Image and Online Presence:** Upgrade and modernize the government website and broaden the state's digital footprint to reflect credibility, accessibility, and global relevance.
- **Identify and Leverage International Forums and Investment Platforms:** Map and pursue high-level conferences, meetings, and global forums that can attract investors and position Niger State as a prime destination for business and development opportunities.



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