



**JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CONFERRAL OF THE  
GRAND LEGACY LAUREATE OF PUBLIC SERVICE (GLLPS)  
UPON AMBASSADOR MUSA SANI NUHU**

**by the**

**Institute for Historical Studies, Biographical Research,  
Documentation, & Legacy (IHS-BiRD & L)**

**IHS-BiRD & L Instrument No. 2025/GLLPS/01-12**



## **I. Preamble: The Standard of the Grand Legacy Laureate of Public Service**

The **Grand Legacy Laureate of Public Service (GLLPS)** represents the highest distinction conferred by the Institute for Historical Studies, Biographical Research, Documentation and Legacy (IHS-BiRD & L). The honour is reserved for individuals whose public service transcends routine office and demonstrates measurable institutional impact, strategic foresight, and enduring contributions to national and regional development.

In evaluating candidates for this distinction, the Institute is guided by its core principles:

- **Truth first** – historical accuracy and documentary rigor
- **Guardians of memory** – preserving contributions of enduring institutional value
- **Justice through legacy** – correcting omissions through documentation
- **History for growth** – identifying models of public service worthy of emulation

The conferral of the **Grand Legacy Laureate of Public Service upon Ambassador Musa Sani Nuhu** is grounded in a documented record of leadership within one of Africa’s most consequential multilateral institutions — the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)**.

Across more than two decades in diplomacy and public administration, his career reflects sustained engagement with regional integration, multilateral diplomacy, institutional reform, and conflict prevention within West Africa’s evolving political landscape.

## **II. Early Professional Formation and Entry into Public Service**

Before entering the diplomatic service, Ambassador Nuhu gained early professional experience in the private sector as **Procurement and Promotion Manager at Earth Bounties International (1993–2001)**. In this role he coordinated international marketing and promotion of Nigerian solid minerals, working with clients across European markets.

This early exposure to international commerce and cross-border engagement provided practical insight into the economic dimensions of diplomacy that would later inform his work on regional trade integration.

He joined the **Nigerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2001**, beginning a career that would span multiple divisions and international postings across Africa and Asia.

## **III. Foundation of Diplomatic Competence within Nigeria’s Foreign Service**

Ambassador Nuhu’s early diplomatic career involved assignments across several departments within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

His work in the **Inter-African Affairs Division (2001–2003)** included responsibilities connected to:

- the **New Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD)**
- the **African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights**
- the **Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD)**
- Nigeria’s participation in the **transformation of the Organisation of African Unity into the African Union**

These assignments provided early exposure to continental institutional diplomacy at a formative stage in Africa’s multilateral development.

Between **2003 and 2004**, he underwent diplomatic training at the **Nigerian Foreign Service Academy in Lagos**, acquiring professional grounding in diplomatic reporting, negotiation, policy analysis, and the advancement of Nigeria’s national interest in international relations.

#### **IV. Multilateral Development Diplomacy: Technical Aid Corps**

From **2004 to 2006**, Ambassador Nuhu served at the **Directorate of Technical Aid Corps (TAC)**, Nigeria’s flagship South–South cooperation programme.

During this period he:

- served as **Secretary of the Recruitment Committee**,
- coordinated orientation and debriefing programmes for technical volunteers,
- participated in negotiations of TAC bilateral agreements with recipient countries,
- served as Nigeria’s liaison with the **United Nations Peacebuilding Commission** on civilian capacity deployment in post-conflict states.

This assignment strengthened Nigeria’s role in development diplomacy across Africa and the Caribbean.

#### **V. Asia-Pacific Diplomatic Engagement**

Ambassador Nuhu’s early foreign posting took him to **Indonesia**, where he served as **First Secretary at the Nigerian Embassy in Jakarta (2006–2009)**.

His responsibilities included:

- managing Nigeria–Indonesia political relations,
- promoting trade and investment cooperation,
- coordinating Nigeria’s participation in the **Developing Eight (D-8) economic bloc**,
- facilitating Indonesian investment opportunities in Nigeria, and
- providing consular support to Nigerian citizens.

Upon returning to Abuja, he served in the **Asia and Pacific Division (2009–2010)** where he held desk responsibilities for:

- the People’s Republic of China
- Indonesia
- South Korea
- Singapore

He also contributed to Nigeria’s coordination with Asian development initiatives and investment cooperation programmes.

## **VI. Development Cooperation and Strategic Policy Roles**

Between **2010 and 2013**, he returned to the **Technical Aid Corps Directorate** as **Senior Counsellor**, where he continued to coordinate Nigeria’s development cooperation programmes and served as focal liaison with international partners.

He subsequently returned to diplomatic service abroad as **Minister Counsellor at the Nigerian Embassy in Algiers (2013–2016)**, serving as **Head of Chancery** and overseeing the administrative and political sections of the mission.

## **VII. Strategic Bilateral Diplomacy in Algeria**

From **2016 to 2017**, Ambassador Nuhu served as **Chargé d’Affaires ad Interim at the Nigerian Embassy in Algiers**.

During this period he supervised Nigeria’s diplomatic engagement with Algeria and coordinated bilateral initiatives including:

- the **Nigeria–Algeria Bilateral National Commission**,
- cooperation on energy diplomacy,
- coordination of Nigeria’s participation in the **15th International Energy Forum (2016)**.

These diplomatic engagements contributed to Nigeria’s strategic energy diplomacy and supported international consensus that eventually led to the **OPEC+ production adjustment framework**, which granted production exemptions to Nigeria and Libya.

## **VIII. Strategic Coordination within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

Upon returning to Abuja, he served as **Assistant Director in the Office of the Under-Secretary for African Affairs (2017–2018)**.

In this role he coordinated briefing papers, policy memoranda, and strategic documentation for senior leadership of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, while contributing to Nigeria's participation in African Union summits and bilateral commission meetings with African partner states.

#### **IX. Leadership of Nigeria's ECOWAS National Unit**

Ambassador Nuhu was appointed **Head of Nigeria's ECOWAS National Unit (2018–2019)**, where he oversaw the coordination of Nigeria's engagement with ECOWAS institutions.

His responsibilities included:

- restructuring the ECOWAS National Unit to improve institutional efficiency,
- managing ECOWAS subvention funds and programme coordination,
- supporting Nigeria's diplomatic leadership during its **Chairmanship of the ECOWAS Authority**,
- promoting Nigeria's participation in the **ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme**, which recorded the registration of more than 180 Nigerian products in a single year.

During this period he also served as **Chair of the ECOWAS Administration and Finance Committee (AFC)** and led major reviews of the organisation's **Financial Regulations and Procurement Code**.

#### **X. Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nigeria to ECOWAS**

In **January 2020**, Ambassador Nuhu was appointed **Nigeria's Ambassador and Permanent Representative to ECOWAS**.

As head of Nigeria's Permanent Mission, he supervised all diplomatic, economic, and administrative engagements between Nigeria and ECOWAS institutions.

His responsibilities covered a wide range of policy areas including:

- political affairs and peace and security
- economic integration and trade policy
- energy cooperation and infrastructure development
- human development and humanitarian engagement
- digital economy and regional ICT policy

Under his leadership the Mission was transformed from a limited "smart mission" into a fully structured multilateral diplomatic platform capable of monitoring the full spectrum of ECOWAS activities.

## **XI. Leadership During Regional Security Crises**

Ambassador Nuhu's tenure coincided with major political transitions in the Sahel, including military takeovers in **Mali, Burkina Faso, and Niger**.

During this period he:

- chaired the **ECOWAS Mediation and Security Council at ambassadorial level**,
- coordinated diplomatic deliberations on sanctions and transitional political frameworks,
- contributed to regional responses addressing terrorism and unconstitutional changes of government.

These deliberations ultimately shaped ECOWAS responses to the emergence of the **Alliance of Sahel States (AES)**.

## **XII. Institutional Reform and Governance**

Ambassador Nuhu's tenure was marked by several institutional reforms within ECOWAS governance structures.

He:

- chaired the **ECOWAS Permanent Representatives Committee**,
- contributed to strengthening the advisory authority of the PRC within ECOWAS decision-making,
- supported reforms that reduced the number of **ECOWAS Commissioners**,
- participated in reviews of ECOWAS **financial governance frameworks**.

These reforms were intended to strengthen administrative discipline and improve institutional efficiency.

## **XIII. Economic Integration and Development Initiatives**

Ambassador Nuhu also played an active role in regional economic integration initiatives.

His work included:

- advocacy for the **ECOWAS Trade Liberalisation Scheme**,
- engagement with **African Continental Free Trade Area coordination mechanisms**,
- facilitation of dialogue addressing trade barriers along the **Seme–Badagry corridor**,
- engagement with regional energy and infrastructure institutions including **WAPP, ERERA, and ECREEE**.

These initiatives contributed to strengthening trade mobility and economic cooperation across West Africa.

#### **XIV. International Engagement and Professional Recognition**

Throughout his career Ambassador Nuhu has participated in numerous international diplomatic engagements including:

- African Union summits
- ECOWAS Heads of State meetings
- United Nations conferences
- global counter-terrorism forums
- climate diplomacy engagements

His professional recognition includes:

- **Speaker’s Award for Outstanding West African Citizen (2021)**
- commendation for service as **Head of Nigeria’s ECOWAS National Unit (2019)**
- **Certified Mediator (2019)**
- **Fellow of the Institute of Corporate Administration (2018).**

He is also a member of several professional bodies including the **Historical Society of Nigeria** and the **Nigerian Society of International Law**.

#### **XV. Conclusion: Legacy Through Institutional Stewardship**

The conferral of the **Grand Legacy Laureate of Public Service upon Ambassador Musa Sani Nuhu** recognizes a diplomatic career characterized by sustained commitment to regional cooperation, institutional governance, and multilateral diplomacy.

His record reflects contributions to:

- the development of ECOWAS institutional architecture,
- regional peace and security processes,
- economic integration and trade facilitation,
- Nigeria’s diplomatic leadership within Africa.

The documentary record demonstrates that his leadership strengthened ECOWAS institutions during a period of regional political transformation.

It is therefore the considered judgment of the **Institute for Historical Studies, Biographical Research, Documentation and Legacy** that Ambassador Musa Sani Nuhu’s public service meets the standard required for the **Grand Legacy Laureate of Public Service (GLLPS)**.