

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENDANCE



**EMBASSY OF NIGERIA TO THE HOLY SEE**

**ON THE OCCASION OF NIGERIA'S  
59TH INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY  
AND 43RD ANNIVERSARY OF NIGERIA'S  
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE HOLY SEE**

**HOLDS A **SYMPOSIUM** ON**

***CULTURAL DIPLOMACY, GLOBAL PEACE  
AND SHARED PROSPERITY***

**THURSDAY 31 OCTOBER 2019**

**1100-1330 HOURS**

**HOTEL ROMA AURELIA ANTICA  
VIA DEGLI ALDOBRANDESCHI 223  
00163 ROME**



## PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

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- 1100-1110 Registration
- 1110-1120 Group Photographs & Cutting of Anniversaries Cake
- 1120-1125 National Anthems of Nigeria & Vatican
- 1125-1130 Opening Prayers
- 1130-1135 Welcome Speech by HE Ambassador (Gen) GG Umo OON
- 1135-1145 Opening Address by His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin
- 1145-1150 Goodwill Message by His Eminence Cardinal Francis Arinze
- 1150-1155 Goodwill Message by Prof Federica Olivares
- 1155-1205 Setting the Tone by HE Ambassador (Gen) GG Umo OON
- 1205-1325 Discussions of Symposium's Topic by Resource Persons
- Weaponization of the Social Media and Ethical Issues – Prof Bede Ukwuije CSSp*
- Cultural Diplomacy, Xenophobia and African Integration – Dr Paulinus Nweke*
- Cultural Diplomacy as a Precursor of Global Peace and Shared Prosperity – Prof Joseph Ukemenam PhD FRSM*
- The Challenges of Cultural Diplomacy in International Relations and the Way Forward – Hon Antonio Morabito*
- 1325-1330 Leg Stretch
- 1330-1355 Interactive Session
- 1355-1400 Presentation of Souvenirs, Lunch & Dispersal

## SPEAKERS

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### **H.E. AMBASSADOR (GEN) GODWIN GEORGE UMO OON**

Born on 15 August 1956, Ambassador (Gen) Godwin George Umo OON attended all the necessary schools culminating in his admission into the Nigerian Defence Academy in 1975, from where he was commissioned Second Lieutenant into the Nigerian Army in 1977. Ambassador Umo rose to become the Commander Corps of Signals, with the rank of Major General. Prior to being the Commander Corps of Signals, the Ambassador (then a Colonel), was the Commander of the ECOMOG Signals Command from 1996-1999 during the Wars in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea Bissau. He attended the University of Ife (Obafemi Awolowo University), where he read Electronics and Telecoms Engineering. Umo has had practical factory work experience at the ERICSSONS Communications facilities in Kista, Sweden, as well as exposure to other forms of training at the Université de Benin, Togo, Administrative Staff College of Nigeria, Badagry; and Governance and Management Systems Institute, UK, to mention a few. His work experiences include equipment and systems testing and verification in India, South Africa, Australia, the UK, Israel and Sweden. Ambassador Umo is an avid Tennis player who originated, over 40 years ago, the “Agwo System” of play, now popularly employed by professional Tennis stars. He has a Masters degree in Strategic Studies from the University of Ibadan. He was appointed the Ambassador of Nigeria to the Holy See in 2017.

## SPEAKERS

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### **PROF. BEDE UKWUIJE, CSSp**

Born on 29<sup>th</sup> August 1967, Fr (Prof) Bede Ukwuije CSSp is the First Assistant to the Superior General of Spiritans. On completion of the required studies in Philosophy and Theology, both in Nigeria and France, the Prof was ordained priest on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1994. He became a missionary in France for 12 years, serving as students Chaplain at the University of Rennes, Chaplain of African Migrant Community and as Formator at the Spiritan Formation Community in Clamart. Not forgetting his roots, he returned to Nigeria in 2005, to work as Director of Formation at the Spiritan International School of Theology and lectured on Systematic Theology, just like he had done in France. Prof Ukwuije holds 2 Doctorate degrees from Institut Catholique de Paris and Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, in Theology, and Theology and Religious Studies, respectively. He is an author of many books, the most recent one being “The Trinitarian God: Contemporary Challenges and Relevance”. Prof Bede Ukwuije celebrated his 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Ordination a few days back.

## SPEAKERS

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### **DR PAULINUS CHUKWUDI NWEKE**

Paulinus Chukwudi Nweke is a priest of the Catholic Archdiocese of Jos, Nigeria. Paulinus Nweke received his tertiary education in several institutions both in Nigeria and Italy, including St. Thomas Aquinas Major Seminary, Makurdi, St. Augustine Major Seminary, Jos, the University of Jos, Jos, and the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome. He holds separate Bachelors degrees in philosophy and theology (Pontifical Urban University, Rome), Post-Graduate Diploma in Conflict Management and Peace Studies (University of Jos, Jos), and Bachelors, Licentiate, and Doctorate degrees in the Social Sciences (Sociology), at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome. Paulinus Nweke has had several pastoral and academic experiences both in Nigeria and Italy. He is currently the Chaplain of Our Lady of the Laity Hospital, Amelia (Umbria) and a lecturer at the Faculty of Social Sciences of the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, where he teaches courses in Sociology, Politics, and Methodology of Social Science research.

## SPEAKERS

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### **PROF JOSEPH UKEMENAM PhD FRSM**

Professor Joseph Ukemenam PhD FRSM is an erudite scholar of Criminology, an administrator, a researcher, a Social Scientist, a journalist and a man after the things of God. Knighted in 1997, Prof Ukemenam has served his communities in Nigeria and in the UK, meritoriously, sequel to his unmatched interests in societal growth and human capital development. Consequently, he has worked with the world's pre-eminent humanitarians and criminologists to shape the nature and direction of poverty-ridden communities in African and Europe. He contributed to the emergence of the MDGs and SDGs frameworks. The Prof teaches at the Enugu State University of Science and Technology as well as being a visiting lecturer to a number of academic institutions, including the University of East London. He has published many books, one of which is "Prostitution: A Case for Legalization"; and his current research effort centres on unraveling if "Chinese Africa Babies could be African Next Time Bomb". Considering, therefore, the many parts of Prof Joseph Ukemenam, the UN has suitably appointed him a Special Envoy to represent it in Africa.

## SPEAKERS

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### HON. ANTONIO MORABITO

Honourable Antonio Morabito began his diplomatic career in 1986 on graduation from University “La Sapienza” in Rome. He has held many appointments in the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, and also in multilateral and bilateral deployments. These include: DG Political Affairs, UN Office, Italian delegate for work on the G8 in Denver, Birmingham and Okinawa; and UN Assembly for MDGs. He was also the Italian Ambassador to the Principality of Monaco; but prior to this, he coordinated the General Department for Cultural Promotion and Cooperation for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). Some of the initiatives he carried out are: “*Meetings with Regions and Cities of Italy*”, “*Italian Style Art and Design*” Exhibition and “*Month of Culture and Italian Language*”. He also has a flair for writing and has published many books, amongst which are “*Diplomatic Suitcase*” (2017) and “*Modern Odyssey: A Conscious Journey Through the Unresolved Dramas and Profound Changes of Our Time*”(2018). Minister Plenipotentiary Antonio Morabito is, currently, in the Communication Sector of the General Department of the Country System at the MFA.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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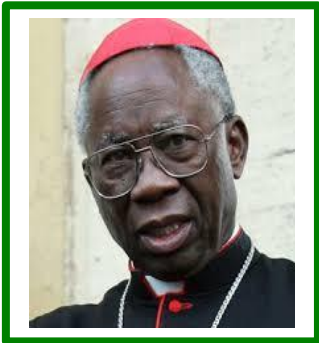


### H.E. CARDINAL PIETRO PAROLIN

His Eminence Cardinal Pietro Parolin was ordained a priest in 1980. In 1983, he entered the Pontifical Ecclesiastical Academy and later, obtained a degree in Canon Law at the Pontifical Gregorian University, Rome, in 1986. On entry into the diplomatic service of the Holy See, the same year, he was deployed to the Nunciature of Nigeria, where he served for 3 years. In 2002 he was appointed Undersecretary of the Section of the Secretariat of State for Relations with States. He is an expert in matters concerning the Middle East and has worked specifically to build up and reinforce relations between the Holy See and Vietnam. In 2008 he led the delegation that took part in the work of the Permanent Bilateral Commission between the Holy See and the State of Israel. On several occasions, he has acted as spokesman for the Apostolic See expressing its wish to work with international organizations to safeguard the basic rights of the person, including religious freedom. In 2009 he was appointed Apostolic Nuncio to Venezuela and was elevated to dignity of Archbishop with the titular Episcopal See of Acquapendente. He received his episcopal ordination in 2009. In 2013 Pope Francis appointed him Secretary of State, member of the Council of Cardinals established to advise Pope Francis in the governance of the universal Church; and to study a plan for revising the Apostolic Constitution on the Roman Curia, ‘Pastor Bonus’. He was created and proclaimed Cardinal by Pope Francis in 2014.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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His Eminence Cardinal Francis Arinze is a Nigerian Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church. He was Prefect of the *Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments* from 2002 to 2008. He has been the Cardinal Bishop of Velletri-Segni since 2005. He was one of the principal advisors to Saint Pope John Paul II and was considered *papabile* before the 2005 papal conclave, which elected Pope Benedict XVI. His Motto is *Regnum Christi floreat*, which means May the Kingdom of Christ flourish.

Between 1955 and 1960 he was a student of the Pontifical Urban University where he obtained his Bachelor of Divinity, Licentiate in Sacred Theology and Doctorate in Theology *summa cum laude*. On 23 November 1958 he was ordained a Priest. After his studies, he returned to Nigeria. His next major visit to Rome was as a newly ordained Auxiliary Bishop of Onitsha. Bishop Francis Arinze was in Rome to take part in the Second Vatican Council. He was 32 years old when he was consecrated on 29 August 1965; and that made him the youngest Bishop to participate in the major ecumenical Council of the Church, as well as, the youngest Roman Catholic bishop in the world. He became Archbishop of Onitsha on 26 June 1967. Pope John Paul II appointed Arinze pro-President of the Vatican's Secretariat for Non-Christians in 1979, which was later renamed the *Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue*. Pope John Paul II named him a Cardinal in the consistory held on 25 May 1985. Thereafter, Cardinal Arinze was appointed President of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. He served in various related capacities including the President of the Special Assembly for Africa of the Synod of Bishops. Cardinal Francis Arinze is an emeritus Cardinal.

## KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

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Professor Federica Olivares has a degree in monetary policy and she specialized in international economics at the Institute of World Affairs in New York, USA. She also took a shot at international comparative politics and economics at the Cini Foundation in Venice, Italy. She is an innovator, educationist and a publisher and was so recognized when she won the Financial Times "Global Business Book Award" in 1997, in New York. She is a member of Board of Directors of first-class Media and Arts Institutions, both in Italy and abroad. She has been teaching "Ideation of Events" at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, Rome, where she has been a member of the Council of the Department of Communication and Entertainment Sciences, since 2010. Besides being the only non-American member of the Council of the Arts at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston, USA, Prof Federica Olivares is the Director and Founder of the course on Cultural Diplomacy at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart.