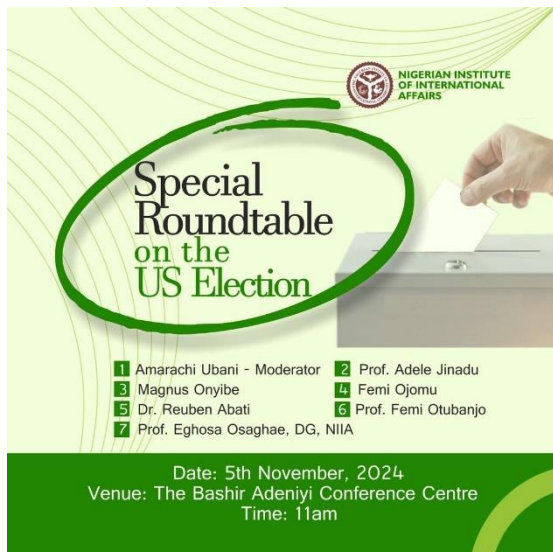


**A REPORT ON THE SPECIAL ROUNDTABLE ON THE US ELECTIONS
ORGANISED BY THE NIGERIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS, LAGOS
HELD AT BASHIR ADENIYI CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT (BACITI)
on Tuesday, 5 November 2024.**



The United States of America makes history again as the US electorate are out to exercise their franchise at the 60th quadrennial presidential election holding today, 5 November 2024. The 47th presidential position is being jostled for by Vice-President Kamala Harris, a democrat and former president Donald Trump, a republican.

The Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA) organized a special roundtable on the US elections and in attendance were erudite Professors of International Relations, representatives of the public and private sectors, media practitioners, research fellows and top

members of staff of the Institute, and the press (Channels TV, News Central, Bisi Olatilo Show, Guardian and ThisDay newspapers). Participation was both physical and virtual.

The distinguished Director-General of the Institute, Professor Eghosa Osaghae opened the discussion stating how important the US election was for the rest of the world and emphasizing that the world has moved from being spectatorial to being active in the US politics, even to the point of being election monitors.



Amarachi Ubani, an award-winning journalist with Channels TV was the anchor and moderator of the roundtable discussion. She took members of the panel: Adele Jinadu, Femi Otubanjo (both Professors of International Relations), Magnus Onyibe (a successful entrepreneur and public policy analyst), Femi Ojomu (a Barrister and Notary Public of the Supreme Court of Nigeria), and Reuben Abati (a Nigerian Journalism with Arise TV) through a round of questions bordering on the US elections. Some of the questions reflected on and responded to by the panelists were: How important is the US

election to Nigeria? What would US-Nigeria relations be with Trump or Kamala winning? How should Nigeria position herself? What are the lessons from the US campaigns?

Panelists took turns to respond to the questions. They examined each candidate's policies, considered previous US-Nigeria relations, and took a futuristic swipe at Nigeria's politics and economy giving the circumstances. While pitching their tents with either of the candidates, they all seemed to have a consensus on the terms that Nigeria should focus on her domestic politics and building institutions, fighting corruption and upholding electoral integrity.

Questions and comments were entertained from Pastor Dotun Ojelabi, a Petroleum Engineer, who suggested that Nigeria should improve on independence in politics, self-sufficiency in the economy and self-reliance in defence. Dr. Kester Onor, a Senior Research Fellow at the Institute raised a question about the efficiency of AFRICOM. Mr. Kayode Komolafe, a Journalist with ThisDay newspapers wondered about Nigerian observers at the US polls, Engineer Enakhe from Edo state warned about the likelihood of Nigerian politicians taking a cue from the US elections especially if it goes awry, while Mr. Bernard from News Central was puzzled about the 79th session of UNGA and Africa's interest in a permanent membership of the UNSC.



The session wrapped with a closing remark from the DG, raising a fundamental issue on the US polls and the action of electors and stating that America is not likely to change whether it is a Trump or Harris win. He rounds off by asking the audience to expect a post-election roundtable discussion likely to be themed, 'Now, We Know.'

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