

## Useful information for your travel to Nigeria



### Global Forum for Partnership on Media and Information Literacy (GFPMIL)

“Promoting Media and Information Literacy as a  
Means to Cultural Diversity”.

26 - 28 June

# 2013

Abuja,  
NIGERIA

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WELCOME TO ABUJA

## 1. Travel & Transport

Time: GMT + 1.

Abuja Nnamdi Azikiwe International Airport (ABV)

Transportation, from airport to hotel and hotel to airport, will be provided for all participants sponsored by UNESCO. When you arrive at the airport, please look for a person who will be displaying, “UNESCO Conference”. Transportation to and from the meeting venue will be available for all participants staying at the Bolingo Hotel.

The airport is situated 40 km west of city centre.

**By car:** Nnamdi Azikiwe Airport is linked with city center by the Abuja-Lokoja highway and the journey takes about 30 min. The Airport Road is also known as Umaru Musa Yar'Adua Expressway.

**By taxi:** It usually cost about 3500 NGN, and the journey from the airport to city center, takes 30 minutes depending on the traffic.

**By shuttle bus:** A shuttle bus runs between the airport and Labour House in Central District every hour. Ticket costs 800 NGN one way.

**Facilities:** Shops, a cafe and currency exchange office are located in the terminal.

On a normal day (without traffic) the airport is about 20-25 minutes to the venue. There are airport taxis that cost about \$30 (if you chose to ride executive that is a single messenger). You can also decide to ride with one or two other passenger in which case the cost will be half.

## 2. Local Currency

**The naira** (NGN) is the currency of Nigeria. It is subdivided into 100 *kobo* (coins).

The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) is the sole issuer of legal tender money throughout the Federation.

The Nigerian currency, the Naira, is non-convertible. While USD may easily be exchanged at major hotels, banks and foreign exchange offices, visitors should expect to pay most bills using the local currency. Nigeria is a cash economy, and it is usually necessary to carry sufficient currency to cover the expenses of a planned visit, which makes travelers an attractive target for criminals. Credit cards are rarely accepted beyond a few upscale hotels. Due to credit card fraud in Nigeria and by cohorts in the United States, credit card use should be considered carefully.

In order to obtain timely information on the Naira exchange rate, before leaving, consult the website of The Central Bank of Nigeria:

<http://www.cenbank.org/>

### 3. Hotel Accommodation

**Bolingo hotel & Towers Abuja** has been selected to accommodate the speakers of Global Forum for Partnership on MIL.

Bolingo Hotel and Towers is a luxurious comfort hotel and 5 stars service quality. It is located in the thriving business district. Warm décor and friendly service and hospitality. Ideal place for business and other.

Address: Independence Ave, Abuja, Nigeria

Tel: +234.8067436771

+234.9.4615000

+234.8034505393

Fax: +234.9.4615027 – 8

E-mail: [info@bolingohotel-tower.com](mailto:info@bolingohotel-tower.com)

[reservation@bolingohotel-tower.com](mailto:reservation@bolingohotel-tower.com)

Website: <http://www.bolingohotel-tower.com/>

#### Other hotels close to the meeting venue:

##### **Rockview Royale**

Address: Plot 194/196 Cadastral Zone A8 Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent Wuse II,  
Abuja, Nigeria.

Tel: +234(0)9-4136722

Fax: +234(0)9-436768, 4136720

Email: [info@rockviewhotels.com](mailto:info@rockviewhotels.com)

Website: [www.rockviewhotels.com](http://www.rockviewhotels.com)

**Rockview Classic**

Address: Plot 196, Adetokunbo Ademola Crescent, Wuse II, Abuja, Nigéria

Tel: +234 9 4136722 - 38, 4130168 - 75, 4614600 – 30

E-mail: [reservationclassic@rockviewhotels.com](mailto:reservationclassic@rockviewhotels.com)

Website: <http://www.rockviewhotels.com>

**Chelsea Hotel**

Address: Plot 123 Cadastral Zone A0, Central Business District – Abuja, P.O.Box 7069, Abuja, Nigeria

Tel: +234 (0) 9 7822080 | GSM: +234 (0) 70 55016783

Email: [info@chelseahotelabuja.com](mailto:info@chelseahotelabuja.com)

Website: <http://www.chelseahotelabuja.com>

#### 4. Meeting venue

The Global Forum for Partnership on MIL (GFPMIL) will be held at Nicon Luxury Hotel, in Abuja, Nigeria.

**Nicon Luxury Hotel**

Address : Plot 903 Tafawa Balewa Way

Area 11, Garki, Abuja

Nigeria

Tel: +234 (0) 96419000

Fax: +234 (0) 9 2341897

Email: [reservations@niconluxury.com](mailto:reservations@niconluxury.com)

Website: [www.niconluxury.com](http://www.niconluxury.com)



## 5. Facts about Abuja

### Basic Facts About Abuja

Abuja is the capital of Nigeria in West Africa, Africa's most populous nation. Just under 800,000 people live in Abuja (less than a tenth that live in Lagos, the old capital). Abuja is a planned city, it became Nigeria's capital city in 1991 and it's situated in the center of the country. Many developing nations have planned capital cities situated in the geographic center in order to maintain some political neutrality as well as create an economic base in a previously underdeveloped part of the country. Abuja was constructed during the 1980's. The downtown area is planned out and mostly completed. Multinationals have their headquarters here, embassies are based here, there's a mosque, church and a large national assembly. The outskirts of town are still somewhat of a mess with little in the way of modern conveniences such as electricity and running water. Shanty towns are growing in number as the rural population is drawn to the city in search of jobs.

## 6. Useful information

### Skyline and landmarks

The Abuja skyline is made up of mostly mid-range and a few tall buildings. Only recently have tall buildings begun to appear. Most of the buildings are modern, reflecting that it is a new city.

Plans have been made to build skyscrapers such as the Millennium Tower which is currently under construction. When finished, this structure will loom 170 meters above the city. The tower will be part of a huge cultural development complex called the Nigeria National Complex including the Nigeria Cultural Centre, a 120.000 m<sup>2</sup> structure dedicated to the art and culture of Nigeria. The Cultural Centre and the Millennium Tower have been designed by the Italian architect Manfredi Nicoletti.

Landmarks include the Millennium Tower (which is currently under construction), the Central Bank of Nigeria headquarters, the Nigerian Presidential Complex, the Ship House, the National Stadium, National Mosque the Christian Center, the Castel of Law, Aso Rock and Zuma Rock.

### Central District

Abuja's Central District is between the foot of Aso Rock and into the Three Arms Zone to the southern base of the ring road. It is like the city's spinal cord, dividing it into the northern sector with Maitama and Wuse, and the southern sector with Garki and Asokoro. While each district has its own clearly demarcated commercial and residential sectors, the Central District is the city's principal Business Zone, where practically all parastatals and multinational corporations have their offices. An attractive area in the Central District is the region known as the Three Arms Zone, so called because it houses the administrative offices of the executive, legislative and judicial arms of the federal government. A few of the other sites worth seeing in the area are the federal secretariats alongside Shehu Shagari Way, Aso Hill, the Abuja Plant Nursery, Eagle Square (which has important historic significance, as it was in this grounds that the present democratic dispensation had its origin on 29 May 1999) and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier across the road facing it. The National Mosque and National Church of Nigeria are opposite each other on either side of Independence Avenue.<sup>[9]</sup> A well-known government office is the Ministry of Defense, colloquially nicknamed "Ship House".<sup>1</sup>

## **Climate**

Abuja features a tropical wet and dry climate. The FCT experiences three weather conditions annually. This includes a warm, humid rainy season and a blistering dry season. In between the two, there is a brief interlude of harmattan occasioned by the northeast trade wind, with the main feature of dust haze, intensified coldness and dryness.

The rainy season begins from April and ends in October, when daytime temperatures reach 28 °C (82.4 °F) to 30 °C (86.0 °F) and nighttime lows hover around 22 °C (71.6 °F) to 23 °C (73.4 °F). In the dry season, daytime temperatures can soar as high as 40 °C (104.0 °F) and nighttime temperatures can dip to 12 °C (53.6 °F). Even the chilliest nights can be followed by daytime temperatures well above 30 °C (86.0 °F). The high altitudes and undulating terrain of the FCT act as a moderating influence on the weather of the territory.

Rainfall in the FCT reflects the territory's location on the windward side of the Jos Plateau and the zone of rising air masses with the city receiving frequent rainfall during the rainy season from March to November every year.

## 7. Emergency contact

The participants who require other information regarding the forum organisation may contact :

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UNESCO Abuja

United Nations House

Abuja, Nigeria

Tel.: +234 (9) 291 2592; +234 805 412 0190 & +234 805 412 0193

Cell: +234 803 303 0002; +234 805 353 5002

Fax: +234 (9) 4618510