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PRESS RELEASE

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U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Visits Nigeria for BNC

Abuja, Nigeria – Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan will visit Nigeria on November 19 and 20, where he will lead the U.S. interagency delegation to the Bi-National Commission (BNC) meetings in Abuja.

The Bi-National Commission will be hosted by Nigerian Foreign Minister Geoffrey Onyeama. Working groups at the BNC will focus on security cooperation, governance and democracy, as well as economic growth and development.

The Deputy Secretary is the highest ranking member of the Trump Administration to visit Nigeria and will convey the Administration's commitment to a strong partnership with the government and people of Nigeria.

John J. Sullivan was confirmed by the U.S. Senate and sworn in as the Deputy Secretary of State on May 24, 2017. Prior to assuming his office, Sullivan was a partner in Mayer Brown LLP, and co-chair of the law firm's national security practice. In addition to his decades of experience in private law practice, Mr. Sullivan has served in two prior administrations in senior positions at the Justice, Defense, and Commerce Departments. He served until 2009 as the Deputy Secretary of Commerce, following his service from 2005 to 2007 as the General Counsel of the Department. Previously, he was appointed Deputy General Counsel of the Defense Department by Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld. In the first Bush Administration, Mr. Sullivan was Counselor to Assistant Attorney General J. Michael Luttig in the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel.

A native of Boston, Massachusetts, Deputy Secretary Sullivan received his bachelor's degree from Brown University and his law degree from the Columbia University School of Law. Mr. Sullivan was a law clerk for Associate Justice David H. Souter of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for Judge John Minor Wisdom of the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

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