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Answer given by High Representative/Vice-President Kallas
on behalf of the European Commission
(10.6.2026)

The Samoa Agreement¹, signed between the EU and a number of African, Caribbean and Pacific States including Nigeria, constitutes the overarching legal framework governing, among other matters, the EU-Nigeria cooperation. Article 9 of the Samoa Agreement includes protecting and ensuring the ‘freedom of thought, religion and belief’, thus obliging all signatories not to discriminate based on religion or belief in the exercise and enjoyment of fundamental rights. In addition, under the Samoa Agreement, respect for human rights, democratic principles and the rule of law is an essential element, any breach of which may trigger consultations and, ultimately, appropriate measures, including the suspension of the Agreement or financial transfers. Financial packages under instruments such as Global Gateway are subject to internal programming procedures involving the relevant EU services, as well as strategic alignment with the EU's external action priorities.

The EU has consistently expressed its concern about violence affecting all communities in Nigeria, including attacks on both Christian and Muslim communities, and has advocated for accountability and swift responses where such attacks occur. Over the last decade, the EU has invested heavily to support counter-terrorism, stabilisation and rule of law in Nigeria.

It is widely recognised that violence in Nigeria is a multifaceted security challenge driven by terrorism, banditry and resource-based intercommunal conflict. It cuts across religious and ethnic lines and affects communities of all faiths. In any case, the EU's cooperation and partnership with Nigeria is not structured around single-issue conditionality.

¹Partnership Agreement between the European Union and its Member States, of the one part, and the Members of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, of the other, ELI:
http://data.europa.eu/eli/agree_internation/2023/2862/oj.