



European Union

Designing a Better World

A Tale of Fashion, Advocacy, and Global Impact



“

I've always been passionate about helping marginalised groups, especially people with disabilities

Adetejumadedola Adeniji, a talented fashion designer from Ogun State, is someone who straddles two seemingly distinct worlds—fashion and diplomacy. However, for Adetejumadedola, these fields are not as different as they may appear. Her goal is to merge her passion for sustainable fashion with her desire to advocate for global and environmental change. Through the PLAC legislative internship, she's on a journey to develop the skills and knowledge necessary to make that dream a reality.

Although she originally studied international law, diplomacy, and conflict and peace studies, Adetejumadedola found her calling in fashion. Yet, she never abandoned her interest in global issues, especially when it came to sustainability. For her, fashion is more than an aesthetic pursuit—it's an opportunity to make a difference. “Not a lot of people know

that fashion can be sustainable in nature,” she explained. “Not many people know you can wear clothes made from mushrooms or seaweed.”

This passion for sustainability drives her desire to understand how policies are formulated and implemented, especially when it comes to protecting the environment. “We don't really have policies that preserve our ecosystem in this country,” she said, pointing out the need for better laws to protect Nigeria's natural resources. Through the PLAC internship, Adetejumadedola hopes to learn what it takes to become an advocate for sustainable policies—ones that could transform not only the fashion industry but also the country's relationship with the environment. “Learning about this will give me the tools I need to push for policies that preserve the ecosystem and wildlife in Nigeria, while taking the fashion industry to a global stage,” she

added.

For Adetejumadedola, the community service aspect of the PLAC legislative internship is another significant draw. "I've always been passionate about helping marginalised groups, especially people with disabilities," she explained. When she learned that PLAC works to give a voice to those who are often unheard, she knew she had found an organisation that aligned with her values. "They bridge the gap between the legislature and the people, ensuring that the public knows what their representatives are doing," she said. This commitment to humanity and social justice speaks directly to her heart.

Despite her love for fashion, Adetejumadedola's vision goes far beyond the industry. With a background in international law and diplomacy, she understands the global crises that plague today's world—wars, humanitarian emergencies, and displaced communities. "I studied peace and conflict studies at the master's level, and I know the world needs humanitarian assistance, especially for those going through crises," she explained. This knowledge has shaped her long-term goal of becoming a diplomat who can provide aid and relief to those in need.

Her dream is to build a conglomerate that merges her fashion brand with humanitarian work. "I want to provide clothing for less privileged communities, especially those in IDP camps, and partner with NGOs and INGOs to supply humanitarian aid," she said. In addition to providing material support, Adetejumadedola hopes to use her diplomatic skills to help reduce the impact of conflicts.

"As a diplomat, I aspire to contribute to society by offering humanitarian assistance and helping to prevent wars or crises from escalating," she said.

This internship, she believes, will be a life-changing experience that will shape her future in profound ways. "It's going to change my life," she said confidently. "Being here allows me to meet people who inspire me

to do better, and it challenges what I know—and what I don't know." For Adetejumadedola, the PLAC legislative internship is not just an opportunity to learn about policies; it's a chance to grow as a leader and step out of her comfort zone. "I'm an introvert, but this experience is helping me develop my communication, public speaking, and leadership skills," she shared.

The internship is also preparing her for her future diplomatic career. "Being a diplomat means representing your country on the global stage, and what you say or don't say matters a lot," she said. Through this programme, she hopes to sharpen her negotiation and advisory skills, which will help her navigate the complex world of policy formulation and advocacy. "Nigerian foreign policy needs to be reviewed, and this internship will give me the practical knowledge of how to make that happen," she added.

One of the most significant personal transformations Adetejumadedola is experiencing is her growing confidence. Although naturally introverted, she finds herself increasingly stepping into leadership roles. "I've always found myself in leadership positions, and I need to be prepared for where I'm going," she explained. For her, the internship is a platform to challenge herself, overcome her fears, and develop the skills necessary to lead and make a difference. "We need to be the change we want to see, and this internship is pushing me to talk to people, network, and take action," she said.

As she continues her journey through the PLAC internship, Adetejumadedola Adeniji is not only learning how to advocate for policies that can preserve Nigeria's environment and elevate sustainable fashion, but she's also growing into a confident leader ready to take her place on the global stage. "This experience is helping me socially, and I'm getting better every day," she said, reflecting on her progress. With her eyes set on diplomacy, sustainability, and humanitarian work, Adetejumadedola is well on her way to making an impact far beyond her local community.





European Union

About the EU-SDGN Programme

The European Union Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria (EU-SDGN) is the EU's flagship democracy support programme in Nigeria. The programme is designed to complement the efforts of the Nigerian government to improve and strengthen democracy.