

COMMUNIQUE
of the North Central Civil Society Sensitization Workshop and Road Show and
Final High Level Roundtable on the Audits of the Nigeria
Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative
Abuja April 11-12, 2006

The Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) held a Stakeholder Road Show and High Level Roundtable (the latter to unveil the results of the audit of the oil and gas sector for 1999-2004) involving about two hundred participants drawn from civil society organizations across the North Central Zone from April 11-12, 2006 at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel Abuja.

The opening ceremony of the Road Show was chaired by Mr Martin Shearman, Deputy High Commissioner at the British High Commission and opening remarks by Mallam Nasir Ahmad El Rufai, Minister FCT. The High Level Roundtable was chaired by Mr Eamon Cassidy of the Department for International Development and Mallam Nuhu Ribadu of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission. In attendance were Obiageli Ezekwesili, Minister of Solid Minerals Development and Chairperson, NEITI, Hafez Ghanem World Bank Country Director, Hon Ogbuefi Ozomgbachi, Chairman Solid Minerals Committee, House of Representatives and the NEITI Ag. Executive Secretary, Dr. Bright Okogu.

Presentations were made by the following resource persons: Mr. Chris Nurse of the Hart Group, David Goldwyn of Goldwyn International Strategies, Obiageli Ezekwesili, Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Mr. Stan Rerri, Services Directorate, NEITI Secretariat, Dr. Siyan Malomo, Geological Survey Agency of Nigeria and Dr. Bright Okogu, Ag Executive Secretary NEITI Secretariat. Panelists and Discussants at the various sessions included Dr. Bright Okogu, Dr. Peter Ozo Eson, Director of Research, Nigerian Labour Congress, Professor Ademola Ariyo, University of Ibadan, Rt. Hon. Rotimi Ameachi, Speaker, Rivers State House of Assembly, Rev David Ugolor, National Coordinator Publish What You Pay Coalition, Mr. Tunji Lardner, Executive Director

WANGONET, Hon. Ogbuefi Ozomgbachi, Chairman, House Committee on Solid Minerals Development, Representative of Mr. John Chaplin, Managing Director, ExxonMobil, Sophia Mbakwe, Statoil, Mr. Gbite Adeniji of AELEX and Engr. Tony Chukwueke, Director, Department for Petroleum Resources.

The presentations made by the Resource Persons led to useful debates and discussions on issues relating to the extractive industries (for both the petroleum and emerging solid minerals sectors). The Road show and its dialogue agreed on the following points.

- The North-Central event was seen as a unique opportunity and experience because of the coincidence of the 4th NEITI Road Show with the presentation of the Final NEITI Financial, Physical and Process Audit Reports of the Nigerian Oil & Gas industry from 1999 to 2004.
- Participants acknowledged the contribution of the N-EITI process to increased transparency and reform, empowering citizens with the necessary information with which to hold Government accountable for its actions. This has provided a model that can be replicated by other countries and has positively impacted on Nigeria's image; the success of the NEITI process, amongst several other economic reform programs of the Administration, resulted in the BB- rating awarded to Nigeria by two leading international rating agencies, as well as the debt relief.
- Participants acknowledged the support and contribution of international agencies such as the World Bank and DFID but emphasized that the entire process has been Nigerian driven and owned. The ultimate aim of the N-EITI is to ensure the development of a transparent and accountable mechanism that will make Nigeria the preferred investment country globally.
- Participants received and discussed the recently concluded Audit Reports of the Oil and Gas Sector from (1999-2004) conducted by the Hart Group and agreed

that this will form the basis for remedial steps to redress the widespread shortcomings in the sector.

- Participated observed with dismay the lapses in the sector as revealed by the audit reports and strongly recommended a deeper value for money audit as well as the strengthening of the Central Bank of Nigeria, Department for Petroleum Resources, Federal Inland Revenue Service, Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation and the National Petroleum Investment Management Services to enable them perform their functions more efficiently.
- All stakeholders were encouraged to review the reports posted on the NEITI website and make comments as the recommendations of the report will be implemented in a manner that will be beneficial to all stakeholders in the long-run.
- Participants emphasized the need for cooperation and the building of partnerships between the civil society, legislature and media as they all have important roles to play in the process. Nigeria is in the midst of a great opportunity offered by the enormous future growth that is envisaged in the sector but noted that this cannot achieve without stakeholders working together.
- Participants reiterated the need for Civil Society groups to prepare themselves for informed debates based on facts from the N-EITI audit reports by building the capacity of their members for intelligible interpretation and analyses and thanked NEITI for offering support in this regard.
- Participants recognized the diversity of Nigeria and agreed that there is need to disseminate the findings and information contained in the reports through direct communications and opinion leader strategy with emphasis on translation into several Nigerian languages. The NEITI Communications Strategy Implementation Plan would provide awareness and understanding of the entire N-EITI process

through education, insight and analysis and enable the public to participate meaningfully in designing measures for improving management of this critical sector in the future.

- Participants agreed that there is need to expedite the passage of the N-EITI Bill by the Senate in order to ensure sustainability of the process, the institutions and the policies initiated by the present Government.
- Participants also agreed that the solid minerals sector of the extractive industries would adopt the reporting templates of N-EITI as this would be provided to the licensed operators from the start in order to avoid past mistakes and learn from the experience of the oil sector
- Participants welcomed the on-going comprehensive reform of the Solid Minerals Sector (including the Ministry and its parastatals). They particularly value the removal of discretionary powers of the Minister in the allocation of mining titles as well as the work in producing a robust and competitive legal framework.
- Participants observed the need for mechanisms for more efficient allocation of resources through improved institutional capacity at the state and local government levels.
- Participants commended the Federal Government for the NEITI and agreed to mobilize against anything that might lead to a reversal of the gains of the reform in the Nigeria extractive industries.
- Participants thanked the Government and people of Federal Capital Territory for their hospitality.

Signed

1. HRH Oba M.F.S. Olobayo, OON, Obaro of Kabba
2. Mr Clement Wasah, Publish What You Pay
- 3 Alpha Ameh O..Ebune, Kogi Democratic Youths

4. Mrs Sarah Pam, National Council for Women Societies
5. Dr Bright Okogu, Ag. Executive Secretary NEITI
5. Obiageli Ezekwesili, Minister MSMD and Chairperson NEITI