

REPORT OF THE INFORMAL BRAINSTORMING SESSION ON CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT IN THE EITI NIGERIA INITIATIVE

Thursday, 24 June 2004

Civil Society Engagement:

The EITI Nigeria team held a brainstorming session in Abuja, Nigeria on 24 June 2004 to discuss:

- (i) Identification of Civil Society actors
- (ii) Nature of Civil Society engagement
- (iii) Capacity building for Civil Society
- (iv) Linkage of EITI to broader efforts

In attendance were:

1	BEN MELLOR	DFID/ EITI TEAM
2	JAY PRYOR	CHEVRONTEXACO
3	TUNDE ALE	CHEVRONTEXACO
4	PAUL KING	PROSPECT
5	CHARLES CUTSHALL	USAID
6	HARTLEY SPRINGMAN	PROSPECT
7	EZE ONYEKPERE	SOCIO-ECONOMIC RIGHTS INITIATIVE
8	UCHE IGWE	COMMUNITY LEVEL ENVIRONMENTAL NETWORK
9	AUWAL MUSA RAFSANJANI	CDD/ TIN
10	ABIOLA AFOLABI	WARD C LAGOS
11	IKUBAJE JOHN	CENTRE FOR DEMOCRACY AND DEVELOPMENT
12	MINNIE WRIGHT	USAID
13	STEPHEN HERBALY	USAID
14	H. ASSISI ASOBIE	TIN
15	OLUSEGUN ADENIYI	THISDAY
16	ADEMOLA ARIYO	CDDC IBADAN
17	ILARIA CHEMA	DFID NIGERIA
18	LIZA LORT-PHILLIPS	SAVE THE CHILDREN UK
19	LEDUM MITEE	MOSOP
20	DAVID UGOLOR	PWYP
21	CAIRO OJOUGBOH	NATIONAL ASSEMBLY
22	ORJI OGBONNAYA ORJI	STATE HOUSE
23	STAN RERRI	STATE HOUSE
24	OBIAGELI EZEKWESILI	STATE HOUSE
25	TUTU MORAKINYO	PWYP COALITION

IDENTIFICATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS

The session began with an identification of Civil Society actors (not exhaustive) as Citizens Organisations, NGOs, Labour, Students, Advocacy

groups, Parliamentarians, media, and Community groups. Four Members from Labour/ PENGASSON, the Media/ ThisDay and the NGOs/ PWYP/ TIN and Citizens organisations/ Mrs Maduka are currently members of the EITI/ National Stakeholders Working Group (NSWG)

(a)Stakeholder Analysis: While labour and the PWYP coalition are quite vocal and manage to get their views across, community based groups tend to pour out their frustrations on Government, the Oil Companies and their operations, especially in the Niger Delta. While strategic management in the EI generally have a holistic understanding of the EI, Civil Society groups generally have disaggregated knowledge and understanding of the operations and fiscal regime prevalent in the Oil & Gas industry.

Nature of Civil Society Engagement

Deleted: (a) Stakeholder Analysis: Interest and Influence
(b) SWOT Analysis: for identified key stakeholders

The gathering envisaged that Civil Society would engage in the EITI process on three levels. The ensuing discussion sought to flesh out the nature of this engagement at each level:

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(i) As members of the National Stakeholders Working Group:

The EITI Secretariat stated that it receives on a regular basis, requests for membership of the NSWG. It came under severe pressure during the session to increase its numbers to include more Civil Society groups.

The Secretariat argued that in the first place it has no powers to increase the membership of the NSWG, but could make recommendations to the His Excellency, President Olusegun Obasanjo, GCFR based on correcting imbalances in representation.

The Secretariat was of the view that Civil Society was already ably represented in the NSWG. The 13 Government members each represent different Agencies germane to Oil Revenue Management. The 2 Members from the National Assembly are both Committee Chairmen on Petroleum for the Senate and the House of Representatives. The 2 State Legislators each represent Speakers of the State Houses of Assembly of Northern and Southern Nigeria. 3 Members from the Organised Private Sector, 3 from Oil Producing Companies and 4 from Civil Society including Mrs. Maduka. There are more Civil Society members in the NSWG than privately owned Oil Producing Companies.

The Secretariat ruled out an increase of the Membership of the NSWG but offered to seek the consent of the Members of the NSWG to invite 3 persons from the PWYP coalition to attend the meetings of the NSWG as observers on a permanent basis.

The Secretariat emphasised that our focus should be geared towards strengthening the capacity of the 4 existing Civil Society members to better engage with their constituency, in providing feedbacks to and from the NSWG

(ii) **“Grass roots communication”**:

The gathering agreed that the end product of EITI reporting must be published widely in a manner in which it can be understood and engaged with by as wide a population as possible. The Secretariat asked the PWYP coalition to come up with a template for establishing a two-way community engagement strategy. This would determine strategies to engage the grass-root communities and get feedback as well as contribution to the EITI process.

Capacity Building :

The gathering reiterated the importance of training not just for staff of the relevant government agencies but amongst the NSWG, Civil Society and the grass-root community. The capacity of all Members of the NSWG is continuously being developed through regular meetings; workshops and Seminars.

The Secretariat asked Professor Ariyo to come up with a Capacity Enhancement and Oil industry knowledge acquisition strategy/ work plan for grass-root training. This will enable Civil Society and Grass-Root communities' to better engage Government and ask the appropriate questions.

Engagement with other initiatives:

The Secretariat informed the gathering that EITI Nigeria is currently planning training sessions for relevant Government agencies and would extend this to Civil Society groups. EITI Nigeria will continue identifying funding sources and welcomes assistance from its development partners in seeking synergies with other initiatives like the G-8 Action Plan, the USAID and Petroleum Technology Development Fund

The gathering resolved to meet again in three months.

Deleted: round of training – but need to think up front about how to sustain the process over time.