

## **MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE EITI LEGISLATIVE TEAM HELD IN ABUJA ON THE 2<sup>nd</sup> OF AUGUST 2004**

The inaugural meeting of the EITI LEGISLATIVE TEAM was held at the office of the SSA-P BMPI Unit, State House, Abuja on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 2004

In attendance were:

<b>S/N</b>	<b>NAME</b>	<b>ORGANISATION.</b>
1	OBY EZEKWESILI	SSA-P BMPI UNIT, CHAIR
2	CAIRO OJOUGBOH	CHAIRMAN, HOUSE PET. COMM.
3	ROTIMI AMAECHI	SPEAKER, RVS ST. HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
4	APO OKIGBO	SA-P BMPI UNIT
5	STAN RERRI	EITI TECHNICAL UNIT
6	M. M. WEST	OFF. OF THE SPEAKER, RIVERS ST ASSEMBLY

APOLOGIES:

1	LEE MAEBA	CHAIRMAN, SENATE PETROLEUM COMMITTEE
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The meeting began with prayers from Hon. Dr Cairo Ojougboh. The Chairman, Obiageli Ezekwesili welcomed the Team and began with a discussion of their mandate, which is:

- To set the agenda and strategy for the legislative backbone of the EITI .
- To provide expertise support to the drafting the EITI bill, presentation to the National Assembly and passage into Law of the EITI legislation.

The Team acknowledged the progress made by the EITI Nigeria Team, particularly the work of:

- The TECHNICAL EVALUATION TEAM, which was formed to evaluate all tenders for EITI/ NSWG assignments, including the selection of a consultant to assist in developing Terms Of Reference/ Scope for the Selection of an Auditor(s) to carry out an Independent Financial and Operational/ Technical (Value for Money) Audit of Nigeria's EI .
- The FOCAL TEAM, which was set up for the design and oversight of a Technical Assistance (TA) Program that combines a variety of coordinated training programs, inward secondments of expertise and infrastructure support for selected government agencies.

The Team stated that the entire work and progress of the NEITI would come to nought if there were no legislative backing to EI initiative. The Team agreed that what was needed was a very simple piece of legislation that makes it mandatory for oil, gas and mining companies to disclose and publish payments made to government, and for governments to publicly reveal its revenues from these sectors so that citizens can hold them accountable for their management.

The Team reiterated the need for legislation to make the work of the EITI Nigeria Team irreversible. Such legislation, the Team averred would have an independent and legally backed institution/ platform, ideally the oil & gas unit- Ministry Of Finance, to monitor and oversee Audit compliance and constitutional disclosure requirements.

The Team acknowledged the proposed amendments to the Petroleum Act by the House Committee on Petroleum Resources and agreed to have an EITI bill separate from the Petroleum act. The Team adopted the following strategies:

- To prepare a draft EITI bill, in the first instance, for presentation to the National Stakeholders Working Group (NSWG), which will provide legislative back up to the financial/ tax and cost Audit requirements of the EITI/ NSWG. It will also include mandatory public disclosure of the revenues and penal measures for non-compliance.
- To channel the EITI demand for a Value For Money Audit and reviews of Local content and acreage allocations through amendments to the Petroleum Act.
- To strengthen the National Assemblies Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to ensure compliance by successive governments and relevant government agencies.
- To approach the amendment to Petroleum Act through conducting an in depth research/ study of the issues and their implications in the short, medium and long term.

In the light of the above, Hon. Rotimi Amaechi offered to prepare a draft EITI bill for presentation to the NSWG on the 10<sup>th</sup> of August 2004.

Obiageli Ezekwesili  
Chair