

## REPORT OF THE NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS WORKING GROUP (NSWG)/ CIVIL SOCIETY INTERACTIVE SESSION ON THE NEITI

An Interactive Session of the NSWG/Civil Society (CS) was held at the Le Meridien Hotel Abuja on the 16th of May 2005.

In attendance were:

S/N	Name	Organisation
1	Bilikisu Fatolu	National Council of Women's Societies (NCWS)
2	Okolieaboh S. N	NCWS
3	J. O. Maduka	National Stakeholders Working Group (NSWG)
4	Mnena Shija	Nigerian Society of Engineers (NSE)
5	Nwachukwu D. N.	Nigerian Bar Association (NBA)
6	Chukwuma Ofoegbu	NBA
7	Charles Cutsall	US Agency for Int'l Development (USAID)
8	Joseph Lessard	USAID
9	Ikwu Austin	Nat'l Association of Nigerian Students (NANS)
10	Baba G. Zanna	NSE
11	Olusegun Adeniyi	NSWG
12	Ese Ochoga	NSE
13	Ojeyemi J. A	PENGASSAN
14	Okoro Uche M.	PENGASSAN
15	Fadakinte, M	PENGASSAN
16	Adamu Song	NUPENG
17	Onohwohwo P. O	NUPENG
18	Chukwu A. N	NUPENG
19	Dazel Nanklin	NANS
20	Musa Alechenu	NANS
21	N. T. Okwejie	NBA
22	L. B. Ogbeifun	PENGASSAN/NSWG
23	Edem O. Edem	ABGREMO

1. The Session was chaired by Engr (Mrs) Maduka of Leccom Associates and started with prayers from Mr Ojeyemi of PENGASSAN. The meeting kicked off with self introductions of those in attendance and moved on to items on the Agenda.
2. The Chairman reminded the Session of the 5 person Action Committee that was elected during the last meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2004 and listed the Members as follows:

Emma Ezeazu  
Hajiya Binta Ahmed  
H. Assisi Asobie  
Joanna Maduka  
PWYP secretariat

The 5 person Action Committee had met on the 25<sup>th</sup> of April 2005 to draft a Strategy and Agenda for CS involvement in the NEI TI for consideration by the Interactive Session.

The chair asked the Session to look at the minutes from the 5 person team meeting and point out any issue that may be useful to the Session. The Session was in agreement with the work of the Action Committee. *See attached Minutes of CS Action Committee Meeting*

- 3 The Session then considered the recommendations of the CS Action Committee, which included:
  1. Consideration of the Draft CS/ NEI TI Communications Strategy document
  2. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the NSWG and Civil Society Organisations (CSO's)
  3. The Road Shows to take the message to the grassroots, build capacity of CSO and receive feedback
  4. Set up of CS/NSWG Steering Committee to implement the above and take the engagement process forward.

The Session reviewed the Draft CS/ NSWG Communications Strategy and agreed as follows:

- ⇒ That public trust in Nigeria is virtually nil.
- ⇒ That language/ languages is extremely relevant in the communication process as they ought to add to, and not play down, on sentiments of people. They also agreed that it was vital to separate between the ability to read and the ability to understand.
- ⇒ That it was important to be careful with statements and that care should be taken in making expressions, so that blockers are not created. Controversial issues would be left out.

The Session then directed the following changes/ adjustments to the CS/ NSWG Communications Strategy:

- ⇒ Efik, Ijaw and Pidgin English to be added to the list of local languages.
- ⇒ Communication channels to include market women/men, religious groups, youth/student groups, school teachers/headmasters, town criers etc as intermediaries
- ⇒ Self identity on Page 11 of the Draft Communications Strategy to be rephrased in a more neutral way i.e. *"Nigerians see themselves differently. NSWG, in its implementation will determine what methods to use to reach them."*
- ⇒ *State television Stations and private radio stations* to be included as part of the direct communication strategy. These would be identified during implementation.
- ⇒ Substitute the *National concord* newspaper with *Daily trust*. The following local news papers to be added - *Beacon, Tide* and *Pointer* of Delta state. *The News and Tell* magazines were also to be added to the list of magazines.

- ⇒ The paper on *role of oil workers... should be included* subject to it not being personalised. Further comments on the paper to be communicated to the Secretariat.
- ⇒ Session attendees to work harder in disseminating information to their constituencies and an extension of the awareness phase of the Communications Strategy since it was noted that people were aware that NEITI exists but knew nothing about the structure of the oil industry.
- ⇒ The Steering Committee to be set up would immediately carry on the tasks involved in achieving a better informed society, which would include a timeline and action plan.
- ⇒ The Session adopted the CS/ NSWG Communications Strategy document based on all the modifications that were made.

4. The Session went on to nominate a Steering Committee of 14 Members with two main considerations:

1. Gender sensitivity
2. Reflection of Nigeria's 6 Geo-Political zones.

The steering committee members were nominated as follows:

**CSO's**

Adamu Song -	NUPENG	(NORTH-WEST)
Mrs Okolieaboh -	NCWS	(NORTH-CENTRAL)
Mr Ojeyemi -	PENGASSAN	(SOUTH -WEST)
Mr Onohwohwo -	NUPENG	(SOUTH-SOUTH)
Miss Nanklin -	NANS	(NORTH-EAST)
Mr Ofoegbu -	NBA	(SOUTH-EAST)
Mrs Shija -	NSE	(NORTH CENTRAL)

Dr Assisi - NSWG/TI N  
 Mrs Maduka - NSWG/  
 Trevor Akindele - NSWG/SAKS RESOURCES

Mr Adeniyi – NSWG/THI SDAY  
Mr Okoro – NSWG/PENGASSAN  
Dr. Ogbeifun  
Stan Rerri – NEI TI Secretariat

5. The Session went on to discuss the Road Shows. The NEI TI Secretariat gave a brief overview of the Road Shows describing them to involve background training sessions on the Oil Industry for CS as well as community based Groups, beginning with Port Harcourt (South South). This would include training civil society groups to have a good understanding of the data and info expected from the NEI TI Audit exercise, enabling them to ask the right questions.

The Steering Committee was mandated to draw up a working document or programme for the first Road Show in Port Harcourt.

6. The Session agreed that there were too many flaws in the draft MOU. It was therefore handed over to the Members of the Nigerian Bar Association for their review and presentation at the next Interactive Session.

The Session decided to meet on a quarterly basis and chose the next meeting date (tentative) as Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005 at 10am.

The Session directed the NEI TI Secretariat to circulate the minutes of the meeting early.

7. The meeting ended with closing prayers from Engr Zanna