

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE EITI/ NSWG HELD IN
ABUJA ON THE 10TH OF AUGUST 2004**

A meeting of the EITI / NSWG was held in Abuja on the 10TH of August 2004

In attendance were:

S/N	NAME	ORGANISATION.
1	OBYE EZEKWESILI	SSA-P COORDINATOR EITI
2	U.JI TSUELI	DUBRI OIL
3	J.O.MADUKA (MRS)	EMKOL OIL SERVICES LTD
4	J. O. AJI BOYE	AUDITOR-GENERAL
5	PHILIP O. CHUKWU	NAPIMS, NNPC
6	B. O. N. OKAFOR	CENTRAL BANK OF NIGERIA
7	H. ASSISI ASOBI E	TRANSPARENCY IN NIGERIA
8	O. UGOCHUKWU	NDDC
9	CHRIS FINLAYSON	SHELL
10	GWEN NWACHUKWU	BUDGET OFFICE
11	OGBEI FUN L.B.	PENGASSAN
12	OLUSEGUN ADENIYI	THIS DAY
13	ADEGBITE ADENIJI	ADEGBITE ADENIJI & CO
14	APO OKI GBO	EITI SECRETARIAT
15	STAN RERRI	EITI SECRETARIAT
16	M. M. WEST	OFF. OF THE SPEAKER, RVHA

APOLOGIES

17	BRIGHT OKOGU	OIL & GAS ACCOUNTING UNIT
18	IFUEKO OMOIGUI	FIRS
19	ROTIMI AMAECHI	RIVERS ST. HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY
20	KAWO PETU DUKKU	GOMBE ST. HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY.

Obiageli Ezekwesili, Coordinator EITI Nigeria thanked the Members who regularly attended the meetings of the Group. She assured them of the commitment of His Excellency, President Olusegun Obasanjo GCFR to the success of the NSWG.

The Group reviewed the minutes of the last meeting and adopted it. Matters arising from the last meeting centred on the timelines for the Groups activities for the rest of the year and early 2005. The Group made adjustments to the timelines and inserted new meeting dates for the BID EVALUATION TEAM, Chaired by Mrs J Maduka. *See attached Timeline for EITI activities*

The Group went on to discuss the EITI budget. The Group was satisfied with the worksheets it directed the Secretariat to provide and asked that all the figures be domiciled in the Nigerian currency, the Naira. The Group then adopted the EITI Budget.

Obiageli Ezekwesili, Chairman of the LEGISLATIVE TEAM gave an update of the work of the Team. *See attached minutes of the Legislative Team meeting*

She stated that the LEGISLATIVE TEAM mandated the Speaker of the Rivers State House of Assembly, Hbn. Rotimi Amaechi to prepare a draft EITI bill, which was presented to the Group by M. M. West, Parliamentary Assistant to the Speaker.

The Group reached an accord that:

- Although the commitment to disclosure and publication was already part of the Fiscal Responsibility Bill, the Extractive Industry needed an industry-specific EITI bill.
- The need to make the current transparency and accountability effort irreversible is a major rationale for the EITI bill.
- The domicile of the EITI is a major issue and a Multi Stakeholder Approach domiciled within the Presidency continues to be desirable.
- An excised body or institution, possibly the Oil & Gas Accounting Unit, should be used as the platform to enforce the EITI bill.

The Group thanked M. M. West and asked Members to study the draft bill and pass on comments to the Secretariat.

The Coordinator then went on to give an update of the Civil Society Interactive Session facilitated by the Department for International Development (DFID). *See attached Report of CS Interactive Session*

She stated that Civil Society Organisations felt that they were not sufficiently represented within the NSWG. She requested that 3 members of the Publish What You Pay Coalition (PWYP) of 47 Civil Society Organisations be allowed to attend meetings of the NSWG as observers.

In response, the Group stated 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. J. Maduka.

The Group was in agreement that the crucial issue of Civil Society Engagement should go beyond mere mute observer status at NSWG meetings. The Group stated that:

- Civil Society Organisations should be more directly involved in the activities of the NSWG by way of membership of NSWG Sub-Committees.
- In the first instance, the Secretariat should immediately set up a Civil Society Team with Dr. Asobie as Chairman, Mrs J. Maduka, Dr. Brown Ogbeifun and 2 persons from the Civil Society outside the NSWG, as members.
- Olusegun Adeniyi from ThisDay Newspapers and Orji Ogonnaya Orji, formerly of the Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria and presently with the Secretariat, should act as the MEDIA TEAM.

The Group reiterate the fact that as stakeholders, all Members were representatives of their various constituencies. The group instructed the Secretariat to give Members the platform/ support to report the progress of the EITI / NSWG to their constituencies, particularly the Civil Society, Media and oil company Members.

In response the oil company members stated that they usually disseminated EITI information and updates at their regular OPTS meetings.

Dr. Imo Itsuelli gave a presentation on the progress of the TA FOCAL TEAM. *See attached TA Focal Team minutes and EITI Conference Sub-Committee Report*

He stated that the EITI Conference scheduled for the 11th to 14th of October 2004 would offer:

- Oil & Gas Industry Knowledge Acquisition
- An Inter-Agency Collaborative Work and Networking Platform
- Training to the government Agencies relevant to Oil Revenue Management

- Training to Wider Stakeholders, including Civil Society, Civil Servants and Politicians.

In response, the Group commended the work of the FOCAL TEAM and lamented the recurrent problem of lack of funding, which has accelerated the decline in skills and competencies within the relevant government Agencies.

The Group bemoaned the decline of the FIRS training school, whose exams were mandatory for promotion within the Agency. The Group stated that staff needed sufficient mental capability to efficiently and effectively carry on their duties. In the light of this, it called for the resuscitation of the Joint FIRS/ Auditor -Generals' Office Training School.

In response to a request to publish an un-Audited view of the Extractive Industry to achieve a quick-win, the Group decided to wait for the real figures from the Independent Audit Process (IAP).

The Group stated that although it understood the international pressure for quick results, it would not hurry or else, it could get it wrong. The Group averred to focus on the local perception of the EI, which is their primary constituency, by throwing some light into the black box.

Chris Finlayson, outgoing Managing Director of Shell, announced that he has been posted to another assignment and that his replacement is, Basil Omiyi. He asked the Group's permission for the new Managing Director to take his rightful position at the NSWG. The Group granted his request.

The meeting ended with prayers from Chief Onyeama Ugochukwu, Chairman Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC)