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NEITI Holds Northeast Sensitization Meeting

23 August 2007, Abuja— Stakeholders drawn from across the North East Zone will converge in Bauchi, Bauchi State from Tuesday next week to deliberate on the implications of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) for poverty reduction, good governance and sustainable development in the zone and the country at large.

Tagged the Northeast Road-show, the two-day meeting is expected to be declared open by the Governor of Bauchi State, Mallam Isa Yuguda, who is expected to be supported by the five other governors from the zone. The event will be held at Zaranda Hotel, Bauchi from 29 to 30 August 2007.

The theme of the road-show is: “Operationalization of the NEITI Act and its Implications for Civil Society, Community Groups and Wider Stakeholders.” It will be recalled that the NEITI Act was signed by former President Olusegun Obasanjo on May 28, 2007, after it was duly passed by the National Assembly. The Act empowers NEITI to promote transparency and accountability in the management of revenues from oil, gas and mining sectors of the economy.

The Road-show is a sensitization forum designed to deepen awareness of Nigerians about NEITI and its mandate, provide critical opportunities for feedback, and enhance the capacity of citizens and civic groups to access and process information on extractive revenue transparency and demand accountability in the application of revenues from the oil, gas and mining industries.

Expected speakers and resource persons at the Road-show include: Mallam Nuhu Ribadu, Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Dr. Magnus Kpakol, National Coordinator of the National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP), Professor Garba Babaaaji, the Vice Chancellor of the Abubakar Tafawa Balewa University Bauchi and Dr. Siyan Malomo, chairman of NEITI.

Also expected at the event are representatives of women and youth groups, civil society groups, the media, the academia, the extractive industries, traditional institutions, professional organizations, the federal and state legislatures, government agencies, and international development partners.

Similar road-shows have already been held in the five other geo-political zones in the country, starting from the South-south in July 2005. Though the Northeast Road-show will be last zonal sensitization forum, it will be followed by state-level activities designed to further increase the awareness of Nigerians about extractive revenue issues and stimulate them to action.

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For more information, please contact:

Waziri Adio

Director of Communications

NEITI

40, Jimmy Carter Street, Asokoro, Abuja

Phone: 0808-591-8382; 0803-345-7602

Email: wadio@neiti.org