

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE CIVIL SOCIETY-LEGISLATURE
INTERACTIVE SESSION ON THE NIGERIAN EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY
TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (NEITI) BILL, HELD AT PROTEA HOTEL, PORT
HARCOURT, RIVERS STATE, ON JUNE 30, 2006**

A one-day Civil Society-Legislature Interactive Session on the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) Bill, organised by the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), in partnership with the NEITI Secretariat and the Senate Committee on Establishment and Public Services, was held at the Protea Hotel, Port Harcourt, with participants drawn from the Legislature, Civil Society and the Media.

Three lead presentations were made on the following topics:

1. The Legislature and the Challenges of the NEITI Bill by **Senator Felix Ibru**
2. Civil Society Perspectives on the NEITI Bill by **Barrister Bamidele Aturu**
3. Aspects of the NEITI Legislation by **Dr. Bright Okogu**.

Following discussions and debate generated by the presentations and contributions from Senator Zik Sunday, Senator Teslim Folarin, Hon. Ike Chinwo, Hon David Idoko and Dr. Otive Igbuzor, participants called on the legislature to make the legislative process more participatory, effective and people-oriented.

OBSERVATIONS:

The meeting observed as follows:

1. That the NEITI is a welcome development deserving of support from all stakeholders
2. That there is low level of awareness amongst Nigerians of the NEITI Bill and its content.
3. That there is no provision in the NEITI Bill with respect to Extractive Resource Transparency at the Sub National Level (State and Local Governments)

RECOMMENDATIONS:

The meeting recommended as follows: -

1. That there is need to expand the level of engagement on the NEITI Bill through such inclusive mechanisms as Town Hall meetings and Advocacy programmes.
2. That there is need to provide for a mechanism that ensures that local audit firms continue to partake in the NEITI Audits. Such indigenous firms should, however, not be appointed for more than two consecutive years.
3. That there should be a provision that compels all operators in the oil industry to disclose their plan for local staff recruitment, training and transfer of technology to local companies and workers.
4. That there is need for full disclosure of all payments made to Communities as part of extractive companies' Corporate Social Responsibility Programmes, including contracts and grants that benefit local communities.
5. That there is need for clear and unambiguous remedial actions for the lapses identified by the Hart Audit Report.

6. That there is need to provide for transparency in the management of resources from the extractive sector at the state and local government levels, in view of the quantum of resources going to them, and to provide for the empowerment and participation of host communities.
7. That every stakeholder should take more than a passing interest in transparency issues within the Nigeria Extractive Industries.
8. That there should be a provision in the NEITI Bill that compels Extractive Industries Operators to comply with relevant environmental laws, particularly the EIA legislation.
9. That there is need for civil society and the legislature to scale up their engagement of the NEITI process and other transparency and accountability matters in governance
10. That the EITI Validation Process being developed by the EITI International Advisory Group is a welcome development that should lead to the issuance of transparency certificates to compliant Extractive Resource companies
11. That the sanctions clause in the NEITI Bill should consider penalties such as forfeiture of license, stringent administrative fines, prohibition from future bidding and person responsibility in the case of management negligence.
12. That the National Assembly should prioritise the NEITI Bill to ensure its speedy passage before the end of the current legislative year.

The Interactive Session commended; CISLAC for organising the meeting; the National Assembly and NEITI Secretariat for their active participation; and PACT-Nigeria (USAID) for supporting the NEITI engagement process in Nigeria.

Senator Felix Ibru

Chairman,
Senate Committee on Establishment and
Public Services
National Assembly
Abuja

Dr. Bright Okogu

Ag. Executive Secretary
NEITI Secretariat
The Presidency
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