

# **COMMUNIQUE**

**of the South West Stakeholder Road Show of the Nigeria**

**Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative**

**Lagos, December 1-2, 2005**

The Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI) held a Stakeholder Road show involving about two hundred participants drawn from civil society organizations across the South West zone from 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2005 at the Ocean View Restaurant Victoria Island Lagos.

The opening ceremony was chaired by Mr. Fola Adeola, founder Fate Foundation and attended by notable Stakeholders in the zone including the Speakers of Ogun and Osun State Houses of Assembly Rt. Hon. Titi Oseni and Hon. Adejare Bello. Also in attendance were Mrs Obiageli Ezekwesili, Minister of Solid Minerals Development and Chairperson, NEITI, the World Bank/ DFID, Ilaria Chessa, and the NEITI Executive Secretary, Dr. Bright Okogu.

Speakers and discussants included Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Minister of Finance, Obiageli Ezekwesili, Minister of Solid Minerals Development, Dr. Bright Okogu, NEITI Executive Secretary, Rt. Hon Rotimi Amaechi, Speaker, Rivers state House of Assembly, Dr. H. Assisi Asobie, Chairman, Transparency in Nigeria, Hon. Ogbuefi Ozomgbachi, Chairman, House Committee on Solid Minerals Development, Dr. Imo Itsueli, Chairman, Dubri Oil and Mr John Chaplin, Managing Director, ExxonMobil. Others were drawn from the NEITI National Stakeholder Working Group (NSWG) and Secretariat, Women's Groups, Non-Governmental Organizations, Civil Society Organizations, Government Agencies, the Ministry of Solid Minerals Development, the NNPC Group, DPR, Development Partners (DFID, USAID & the World Bank) and the industry unions.

Several presentations were made by Experts and Resource Persons and there were useful debates and discussions on issues relating to the extractive industries (for both the petroleum and emerging solid mineral sector). The Roadshow and its dialogue agreed on the following points.

- Participants again confirmed the value of the Road show in providing knowledge to the Civil Society of the operations of the extractive industries. They lauded the expansion of the focus of NEITI to the emerging Solid Minerals sector.
- Participants welcomed the repositioning of the Solid Minerals Sector to one that is led by the private sector.
- Participants welcomed the on-going comprehensive reform of the Solid Minerals Sector (including the Ministry and its parastatals). They particularly value the removal of discretionary powers of the Minister in the allocation of mining titles as well as the work in producing a robust and competitive legal framework.
- Participants commended the National Assembly on the passage of the Geological Survey of Nigeria Agency Bill (GSNA Bill) and called on the National Assembly to speedily pass the NEITI bill as well as the review of the Mining and Mineral Act into law.
- Participants re-affirmed the need to emphasize socio-economic issues at the heart of the extractive industries. These include

intergenerational equity, distributional equity, adequate and timely compensation, community conflict prevention as well as environmental sustainability. The response to these issues must be consistent with global best practices.

- Participants welcomed the need for Civil Society groups to prepare themselves for informed debates around the expected NEITI audit report by building the capacity of their members for intelligible interpretation and analyses.
- Participants suggested the abolishment of all forms of confidentiality clauses that still exist within agreements in the Extractive Industry.
- Participants called for increased coordination and information sharing among government agencies, oil / mining companies and the civil society.
- Participants called on Civil Society Organizations to become active whistle blowers and called on government to introduce a whistle blowers protection Act.
- Participants requested for more fora such as the NEITI Road Show to enable Nigerians learn more about their extractive

industry and requested for the extension of the road show to the state and local government levels.

- Participants welcomed the 2005 Oil Block bidding process as a commendable departure from discretionary oil block allocation and the improvement of transparency in the sector.
- The fora noted with delight the publication of budgetary allocation by the Federal government and requested the state and local government to emulate the Federal Government by publishing their budgetary allocations.
- Participants observed the need for mechanisms for more efficient allocation of resources through improved institutional capacity at the state and local government levels.
- Participants commended the Federal Government for the NEITI, and thanked the Government and people of Lagos State for their hospitality.

**Dr. H. Assisi Asobie**

President, Transparency in Nigeria (TIN)

**Mrs Yetunde Gandonu**

**For: National President**

National Council for Women's Societies (NCWS)

**Ntan Ebye**

Publish What You Pay Coalition

**Obiageli Ezekwesili**

Minister of Solid Minerals Development and Chairperson, NEITI