

**MINUTES OF THE EMERGENCY VIRTUAL MEETING OF THE NATIONAL
STAKEHOLDERS WORKING GROUP (NSWG)
HELD ON 10TH JUNE 2026**

S/N	Name	Designation
1.	Chief I. I Ikwegbu	Representative of South-East Zone
2.	Prof. Abubakar Mu'azu	Representative of North-East Zone
3.	Barr. Musa Abdullahi Lawan	Representative of North-West Zone
4.	Dr. Stephen Leo Akpan	Representative of South-South Zone
5.	Mr. Olasupo Abdel-Jeleel Taiwo	Representative of South-West Zone
6.	Dr. Erisa Danladi Sarki	Representative of the Civil Society
7.	Engr. Nkechi Isigwe	Representative of Women/Geo-scientists
8.	Dr Nguumbur Lovette Ononuga	Representative of NRS
9.	Mr. Nasir Jajere	Representative of NNPC
10.	Mr Dele Ayanleke	Representative of Miners Assoc. Nig.
11.	Musa Sarkin Adar (Hon.)	Executive Secretary/CEO

Apologies

12.	Sen. George Akume CON	Chairman
13.	Amb. Matthew Sunday Adoli MFR	Representative of North-Central Zone
14.	Mr. Oghenegwueke Ajaifia	Representative of OPTS
15.	Comrade Williams Apkoreha	Representative of NUPENG

NEITI Staff in Attendance

1.	Mrs. Jane Onwumere	Director, Legal Services
2.	Ms. Fatima Ciroma	Director, Human Resources & Administration
3.	Mrs. Sadiya Gashinbaki	Team Leader, Legal Unit
4.	Mr. Olasunkanmi Kayode Iwala	Officer II, ICT Unit

REFERENCE: NSWG/02/2026	
1	1.0 Opening
2	The Emergency Meeting of the National Stakeholders Working Group (NSWG) commenced at 1:00 p.m. with an opening prayer led by Chief I. I. Ikwuegbu, who was physically present at the NEITI Secretariat. Other members of the NSWG participated virtually. Four (4) Members of the Board sent in apologies.
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6	2.0 NOMINATION OF A CHAIRPERSON TO PRESIDE OVER THE
7	MEETING
8	The meeting noted the absence of the NSWG Chairman, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) who had sent his apologies. It was further noted that the North-Central Zonal Representative, who would ordinarily preside over the meeting in the Chairman's absence, was unavoidably absent. Consequently, members unanimously nominated and adopted Chief I. I. Ikwuegbu to preside over the meeting. Upon assuming the role of Chairman of the meeting, Chief I. I. Ikwuegbu welcomed members and underscored the importance of the emergency meeting. He emphasized the need for collective commitment and cooperation in addressing the issues arising from Nigeria's EITI Validation process and ensuring a positive outcome.
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18	3.0 OPENING REMARKS BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
19	The Executive Secretary welcomed members and informed the meeting that the emergency session had been convened to inform the Board that the request for Validation Extension made to the EITI Board, as agreed at the last meeting of the NSWG had been declined. The EITI had written a letter conveying the decision to the Chairman of the NSWG and copied NEITI Secretariat. The Executive Secretary highlighted the need for the NSWG to agree on the next steps. He informed members that preliminary discussions had been held with the Senior Management Team (SMT) and that the issues had been escalated to the NSWG Chairman, who directed that a memorandum be forwarded through his office for transmission to the Presidency.
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29	The Executive Secretary further stated that only two months overhead budgetary releases had been received at the time of the meeting, and that inadequate funding remained a major challenge affecting the implementation of validation activities.
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32	He also informed members that the capital allocation had not been released, thereby
33	severely impacting NEITI's operations. An example is the NEITI website that has
34	been down. Although the Secretariat has partially restored the website through
35	innovative measures, permanent measures need to be put in place. He further
36	informed members that a memo seeking intervention and financial support had
37	already been submitted to the Secretary to the Government of the Federation for
38	onward transmission to the President.
39	4.0 PRESENTATION ON THE STATUS OF EITI VALIDATION
40	The Executive Secretary brief members on the status of the validation process, the
41	challenges encountered, and proposed next steps. He further informed members
42	that the meeting would deliberate on the response received from the EITI
43	International Secretariat regarding Nigeria's request for an extension and determine
44	the appropriate course of action, including the possibility of forwarding any further
45	communication to the EITI Board.
46	4.1 DELIBERATIONS
47	During deliberations, members made the following observations and comments;
48	Representative of the North-East Geopolitical Zone observed that the validation
49	should be accorded utmost priority and that discussions should focus primarily on
50	the validation process, while other matters, including the promotion report on the
51	agenda could be considered subsequently.
52	The Representative of the South-south Geopolitical Zone commended the
53	Executive Secretary for his efforts and expressed confidence that the Secretary to
54	the Government of the Federation, as Chairman of the NEITI Board, would accord
55	the matter the necessary attention. He advised that the Executive Secretary
56	continues to engage the Chairman and leverage on his office and contacts to secure
57	the required support.
58	The Representative of the South-East Geopolitical Zone raised concerns regarding
59	whether all outstanding activities could still be completed before the 1st July 2026
60	deadline if the required funds were eventually released. He suggested that a
61	communication jointly signed by the Chairman and the President, highlighting the
62	possible implications of sanctions or suspension, be forwarded to the EITI
63	International Secretariat.

64	In response, the Executive Secretary explained that the release of funds would
65	significantly boost the confidence of vendors and service providers and enable the
66	Secretariat to engage them effectively. He stressed that approval, even in
66	anticipation of actual releases, would provide the leverage needed to proceed with
67	outstanding activities.
68	The Representative of the Civil Society emphasized the need to continue pushing
69	for funding to ensure the completion of the 2024 Industry Audit Reports. She
70	observed that Nigeria's previous request to EITI may not have sufficiently
71	highlighted the severity of the circumstances, which could have contributed to its
72	rejection. The Civil Society Representative further recalled earlier suggestions to
73	leverage support from the Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC
74	Ltd.) and the Nigeria Revenue Service (NRS), both represented on the Board. She
75	noted that the 2026 Work Plan also presented opportunities for support from
76	development partners, and the Company's Forum.
77	The Representative of the South-west Geopolitical zone supported the proposal to
78	engage NNPC Ltd. and the NRS through their representatives on the Board and
79	urged the Secretariat to actively pursue such engagements.
80	The Representative of the North-west geopolitical zone concurred with the
81	submission of the Representative of the Civil Society and advised that efforts to
82	secure funding should continue to ensure readiness once approvals were obtained.
83	The Representative of the South-south zone further advised that the Office of the
84	Secretary to the Government of the Federation be approached to convene a high-
85	level meeting or issue formal communications to relevant stakeholders to strengthen
86	Nigeria's position, stressing the need to exhaust all available options.
87	The Representative of the South-east geopolitical zone further suggested that the
88	external validators and auditors be invited for dialogue to explore practical
89	solutions and facilitate progress on the validation process.
90	The Executive Secretary proposed that members resident in Abuja join him on a
91	courtesy visit the Secretary to the Government of the Federation to brief him jointly
92	on the Board's decisions and seek his intervention. This proposal was supported by
93	the Representative of the South-south zone.
94	Representative of the Companies (Miners) proposed that in addition, engagements
95	should immediately be initiated with the NRS, NNPC Ltd. and relevant donor

96	agencies to secure support and noted that the representative of the NRS on the
97	Board could assist in facilitating such engagements.
98	The Representative of NNPC Ltd. appealed to members to reach out to agencies
99	and organizations capable of providing support to enable NEITI overcome its
100	current challenges and undertook to brief the Group Chief Executive Officer of
101	NNPC Ltd. on the validation issues.
102	6.0 RESOLUTIONS
103	Following extensive deliberations, members resolved as follows:
104	i. To intensify efforts towards securing the release of funds required to complete
105	outstanding activities to be assessed in the EITI validation.
106	ii. To further engage the Office of the Secretary to the Government of the
107	Federation (SGF) and seek high-level intervention on the matter.
108	iii. To explore support from donor agencies and development partners, and the
109	Company's Forum.
110	iv. To engage NNPC Ltd, NRS and other relevant government agencies for possible
111	technical and financial support.
112	v. To constitute a team comprising the Executive Secretary, representatives of the
113	Civil Society, NNPC Ltd., South-East geopolitical zone and other designated
114	members to participate and coordinate meetings with the relevant bodies
115	mentioned.
116	vi. To continue preparations towards addressing the concerns raised during the EITI
116	Validation process and ensuring the timely completion of all outstanding
117	deliverables.
118	CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL OF STAFF PROMOTIONS
119	The NSWG Human Resources and Ethics Committee presented its report on the
120	2026 staff promotion exercise to the Board. The report highlighted the number of
121	staff eligible for promotion, available vacancies, and the methodology adopted for
122	the promotion exercise conducted from 12th to 17th April 2026.
123	Based on the justifications presented in accordance with the provisions of the
124	NEITI Conditions of Service and Section 3.9 of the Public Service Rules (PSR), the
125	Committee requested the NSWG to:

126	i. Approve the promotion of Seventy-Five (75) staff members and the lateral
127	conversion of Two (2) staff members with effect from 1st January 2026; and
128	ii. Authorise the Secretariat to notify the affected staff and issue the
129	appropriate letters of promotion and conversion.
130	BE IT RESOLVED THAT:
131	Following deliberations, the NSWG considered and approved the report of the
132	Human Resources and Ethics Committee and consequently approved the promotion
133	of Seventy-Five (75) staff members and the lateral conversion of Two (2) staff
134	members with effect from 1st January 2026. The Secretariat was further directed to
135	communicate the Board's decision to the affected staff and issue the necessary
136	letters accordingly. The motion for this approval was moved by the Representative
137	of the South-west geopolitical zone and seconded by the Representative of the
138	North-east geopolitical zone
139	7.0 ADJOURNMENT
140	There being no further business, the Chairman thanked members for their
141	commitment and cooperation during the meeting urging them to work collectively
142	towards achieving a successful validation outcome.
143	A motion for adjournment of the meeting was moved by the Representative of the
144	North -west geopolitical zone and was seconded by the representative of the civil
145	Society.
146	The meeting was adjourned at 4:10pm.

Matters Arising/Action Points		
1.	EITI's VALIDATION OF NIGERIA - 2026 - Pursue the release of funds for validation activities - Engage the SGF and seek high-level intervention - Engage NNPC Ltd., and donor partners for support - Explore opportunities with Companies Forum to carryout Validation consultations embedded in the Nigeria Country Work Plan - Coordinate follow-up meetings and stakeholder engagements on validation - Complete all outstanding validation deliverables and address corrective actions	Executive Secretary and Designated NSWG Team Executive Secretary/Secretariat Secretariat and Board Representatives Secretariat
2.	Consideration and Approval of Staff Promotion The Secretariat to notify the affected staff and issue the appropriate letters of promotion and conversion.	Executive Secretary

SIGNED:

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Musa Sarkin Adar (Hon)
Executive Secretary

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Jane O. Onwumere
Director Legal Services