NSWG Ref No: 02/2025

MINUTES OF THE 6TH MEETING OF THE SIXTH NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS WORKING GROUP (NSWG) HELD ON TUESDAY, 26TH AUGUST 2025

The National Stakeholders Working Group (NSWG) met on August 26, 2025, both virtually and at the NEITI House, Wuye, Abuja.

Attendance

S/N Name	Designation
1. Sen. George Akume CON	Chairman (Rep by the PS GSO Dr. Mohammed Sanusi Danjuma)
2. Dr. Nguumbur Lovette Ononuga	Representative of FIRS
3. Mr. Adedapo A. Segun	Representative of NNPCL
4. Mr. Gwueke Ajaifia	Representative (OPTS)
5. Mr. Dele Ayanleke	Representative of Miners Association, Nig.
6. Dr. Erisa Danladi Sarki	Representative of the Civil Society
7. Engr. Nkechi Isigwe	Representative of Women/Geo-Scientists
8. Comrade Williams Akporeha	Representative of NUPENG
9. Prof. Abubakar Mu'azu	Representative of North-East Zone
10. Amb. Matthew Sunday Adoli MFR	Representative of North-Central Zone
11. Mr. Olasupo Abdel-Jeleel Taiwo	Representative of South-West Zone
12. Chief Israel Ikechukwu Ikwuegbu	Representative of the South-East Zone
13. Dr. Stephen Leo Akpan	Representative of South-South Zone
14. Dr. Orji Ogbonnaya Orji	Executive Secretary/CEO

Apologies

1. Barr. Musa Abdullahi Lawan	Representative of North-West Zone

Observer

1. His Excellency, Pieter Leenknegt	Ambassador of Belgium to Nigeria (Rep by Mrs. Dorian Laermans)

NEITI Staff in Attendance

❖ Mrs Jane Onwumere	Director Legal Services
❖ Mrs. Sadiya Gashinbaki	Team Leader, Legal Services

REFERENCE: NSWG/02/2025

1.0 OPENING: The Meeting commenced at 12:00pm with the rendition of the First Stanza of the National Anthem.

2.0 REVIEW AND ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA. NSWG Members reviewed the agenda for the meeting. Mr. Olasupo Abdel-Jeleel Taiwo, Representative of South-West Zone moved a motion for the adoption of the agenda, and was seconded by Chief I. Ikwuegbu, Representative of the South East zone

3.0 CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

The meeting commenced with remarks by NSWG Chairman, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), Senator George Akume, CON, represented by Dr. Mohammed Sanusi Danjuma FCNA (Permanent Secretary, General Services Office). He welcomed NSWG members to the meeting, recalling the unity and shared vision from the Umuahia retreat which focused on energy transition, transparency, and stakeholder engagement. He emphasized the need to mainstream lessons learned into practical policies. In addition, he highlighted fiscal challenges, particularly delays in fund releases that have slowed Government projects nationwide, but assured that steps are being taken to resolve the challenge.

Reaffirming Nigeria's strong commitment to the EITI, he stressed the need for better performance in the upcoming 2026 EITI Validation exercise. He commended NEITI's Executive Secretary and NSWG members for their resilience and called for sustained reforms, transparency, and accountability in extractive governance.

Responding to the Chairman's speech, the Executive Secretary thanked the Secretary to the Government of the Federation for his consistent dedication as the Chairman of the NEITI Board despite his busy schedule while congratulating the representative on his new role as the Permanent Secretary GSO.

4.0 MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th May 2025 were reviewed, and members highlighted their comments, observations and corrections.

Mr. Dele Ayanleke, President, Miners Association of Nigeria, moved a motion for the adoption of the minutes and Chief I. I Ikwuegbu, Representative of the South-East zone, seconded the motion subject to corrections.

4.1 MATTERS ARISING

Matters arising from the minutes were reviewed as follows;

4.1.1 Update on NNPCL Representation on the Board

The Executive Secretary briefed the Board that following the change of leadership in the NNPCL, there was need for NNPCL to renew their status as a statutory member of the NEITI Board. Letters were written and NNPCL responded. The new NNPCL Group Chief Executive Officer, Engr Bayo Ojulari has affirmed his commitment to the NSWG and also designated Mr Adedapo Segun, the Chief Financial Officer, a highly competent professional whose inclusion brings a wealth of experience to represent him at meetings he is unable to attend.

The NNPCL Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Adedapo Segun, representing the GCEO of NNPCL joined the meeting and was introduced to members of the NSWG. The Executive Secretary welcomed the NNPCL representative and reiterated the importance of the NNPCL on the Board. He stated that NEITI would be meeting subsequently with the GCEO to congratulate him on his appointment and to brief him on EITI issues that are important for validation of Nigeria, especially as NNPCL is an EITI supporting company and joined EITI on the advice of NEITI. The international community is interested in how the NNPCL responds to issues of openness and transparency. This is because it has implications concerning investors confidence and the international assessment of Nigeria. NNPCL has a strategic role to play as the national company. Mr. Adedapo Segun thanked the Executive Secretary and assured him of his support to facilitate a meeting between NEITI and the GCEO later in the week.

4.1.2 Stakeholder Constituency Engagements

The Executive Secretary stated that introductory letters to Executive Governors of the 36 States of the Federation has been drafted however, His Excellency, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF) and Chair of the NSWG stated that he would like to be the one to sign the letters and also personally speak to the Governors before dispatch for easy access. The Executive Secretary stated that he would be taking the letters to the Chairman for signing after the meeting and would announce to the Board once he concludes with the consultations.

4.1.3 2025 Budget Constraints

The Executive Secretary informed the Board that no capital funds have been released to NEITI or other MDAs, making operations very challenging. He explained that the National Assembly's extension of the 2024 Budget to December 2025, alongside the ongoing 2025 Budget has created funding complications. A recent meeting convened by the Accountant General of the Federation with Heads of Agencies confirmed that this is a national issue being addressed by Government. The Executive Secretary reported that NEITI has not received any capital release, despite critical projects awaiting completion. On overheads, allocations have been received only up to April 2025 based on the 2024 budget and not the approved 2025 budget. He noted that NEITI's work plan and preparations for the upcoming EITI Validation in 2026 are affected, but expressed optimism that the matter would soon be resolved. He has written an appeal to the Minister of Finance and noted that MDAs have been directed not to issue contracts until funds are released.

4.1.3.1 Comments and Observations

- The Representative of the Companies (OPTS) asked who is responsible for the delay in budget releases, the National Assembly or the Ministry of Finance. The Executive Secretary explained that the challenge relates to funding availability and that Government is sourcing funds to address it.
- The North-east zonal Representative raised concerns over the overlap of the 2024 and 2025 budgets as the 2026 cycle approaches. The Executive Secretary responded that consultations are ongoing and that several non-revenue generating agencies face similar challenges.
- The Representative of the South-east zone suggested exploring support from development partners to implement key aspects of the work plan. The Executive Secretary clarified that donor funding has declined globally since COVID-19 and U.S. policy changes, and current support is largely project-specific technical support. He cited the ongoing Energy Transition Study funded by the Ford Foundation as an example noting that it commenced before commencement of the tenure of the current Board. He also noted that the EITI does not fund implementing counties.
- The Representative of the North Central zone emphasized the need for less reliance on funding from international donor partners for internal local issues.

5.0 EXECUTIVE SECRETARY'S STATUS UPDATES

The Executive Secretary welcomed NSWG members and the Belgian Ambassador (observer) once again to the meeting, noting progress since the May 2025 Umuahia meeting. He expressed pride in presenting NEITI's achievements despite challenges, emphasizing the agency's continued commitment to transparency, accountability, and good governance.

5.1.1 Government Engagement

He informed NSWG members that NEITI participated in the National Conference on Illicit Financial Flows held in Abuja on the 22nd and 23rd July 2025, organized by the Federal Inland

Revenue Service (FIRS). The Conference brought together key stakeholders to explore strategies for tackling illicit financial flows and strengthening domestic resource mobilization through improved policy coordination and institutional capacity.

The Executive Secretary announced his election as the co-Chair (Anglophone) of the West African Beneficial Ownership Forum being an initiative of the ECOWAS among member states to tackle illicit financial flows. The headquarters of that initiative is in Dakar, Senegal.

5.1.2 Civil Society Engagement

The Executive Secretary informed members of the Board that Spaces for Change held the National Extractives Dialogue (NED Conference) 2025 and it featured the South-south zonal Representative and the President of the Miners Association of Nigeria, who together examined how host communities affected by mining operations can be supported. Publish What You Pay and the NSWG CSO representative also organised an event supported by EU/IDEA RoLAC project.

5.1.3 Companies Engagement

On companies engagement, the Executive Secretary commended the representative of the Companies (OPTS) and the President, Miners Association of Nigeriae for the collaboration and support received so far. The next meeting of the Companies forum would be held in Lagos on 10th September 2025 and OPTS would provide the venue and relevant support, and would be briefing stakeholders from the Oil & Gas and Mining sectors on activities carried out. The formal request by the Board to have an engagement with the OPTS will be agreed upon at the meeting.

5.1.4 Policy Briefs

The Executive Secretary informed the Board that the Secretariat had developed two policy briefs titled "***Beyond Federal Allocation: The Cost of Borrowing and Debt Servicing at State Level in Nigeria***" and "***Beyond Assent: Pathways for Implementing Nigeria's New Tax and Revenue Framework.***" He reported that the first policy brief had been finalized, released, and widely disseminated to State Governments, Commissioners of Finance, the National Economic Council, the Minister of Finance, the Budget Office, and FAAC Members. The brief examines the rising debt profiles of Nigerian states and their implications for revenues from the oil and gas sector, noting that between 10% and 30% of monthly FAAC allocations in many states are deducted at source to service debts, thereby limiting resources available for infrastructure and poverty reduction. He added that the findings have stimulated national discourse, with RMAFC now leading discussions on restructuring the existing revenue allocation framework conceived several decades ago. He explained that this development aligns with NEITI's recommendations on strengthening debt management at the state level, including the establishment of State Debt Management Offices to prevent administrations from accumulating unsustainable debts that constrain incoming governments. He emphasized that the disclosure provides credible evidence to inform policy dialogue on debt sustainability and fiscal responsibility, and underscored the need for broad dissemination of the findings in line with the EITI Standard, which promotes transparency and accountable management of natural resource revenues.

5.1.5 Inter-Agency Collaboration

The Executive Secretary reported that NEITI continues to strengthen cooperation and bilateral engagements with relevant agencies. He informed the Board that on 16th June 2025, NEITI signed an MoU with the Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund) to promote transparency in the remittance and utilization of revenues due to the Fund.

He noted that the MoU is significant as TETFund is entitled to a percentage of extractive industry taxes (Education Tax) but often lacks accurate data on the actual amounts due from remitting entities. NEITI will therefore provide verified data and track remittances to ensure transparency and accountability. He further explained that the Fund supports tertiary institutions through infrastructure, research, and scholarships and that NEITI's role is to promote efficiency in its management. NEITI has also requested TETFund's support for capacity building of the NSWG Board, staff, and Secretariat in research, technical and other related areas.

5.1.6 Industry Audits

The FASD report ought to have been released but the release was slowed deliberately because of some gaps due to the change of leadership of the NNPCL and the new Tax reform laws. This action was taken to ensure that the report when released will not be critiqued for having gaps. We have also commenced the 2024 Industry Audits and expect that they would be concluded before the end of the year; Oil & Gas, Solid Minerals and FASD Audits. The report on energy transition which Ford Foundation is supporting is also expected to be completed before the end of the year.

5.1.7 NEITI Data Centre

The Data Centre project is critical for NEITI and the hardware component was completed since August last year. The procurement process for the software component has been completed and we are currently waiting to move into software development. This has been stalled because of unavailability of funds.

5.1.8 NSWG Activities

The Executive Secretary reported that the NSWG held a three-day retreat from 7th–9th May 2025 in Umuahia, Abia State, with support from the Ford Foundation. Declared open by the Executive Governor, Dr. Alex Otti, OFR, the retreat focused on **"Assessing Energy Transition on Nigeria's Economy."** The Secretary to the Government of the Federation and NSWG Chairman, Senator George Akume, CON, delivered the keynote address, emphasizing transparency, stakeholder engagement, and accountability. He acknowledged fiscal constraints affecting government institutions including NEITI, and assured that measures are underway to address funding delays. The retreat featured expert presentations on civil society perspectives, EITI disclosure implications, and the NSWG's role in advancing Nigeria's Energy Transition Project. It concluded with the adoption of the Energy Transition Report and new reporting guidelines for the 2024 NEITI Industry Audits, reaffirming collaboration among key stakeholders.

5.2. Comments and Responses on the Executive Secretary's Report

- The South-east Zonal Representative commended NEITI for the work done but stressed the need for increased CSO and media sensitization on NEITI's recent reports. He also noted that many sub-national allocations are reduced by deductions at source for long-standing commitments, limiting available funds. *The Executive Secretary agreed on the need for enhanced CSO/media collaboration and informed members of a scheduled meeting with CSOs on 6th September 2025.*
- The Representative of Companies (OPTS) raised concerns about unrealistic oil production benchmark in the national budget. He stated that currently, though the benchmark is 2 million barrels/day, production average is below the projection. He recommended that NEITI engages in this process. Additionally, he raised concerns that certain agencies such as TETFund, NDDC, and NCDMB have laws mandating receipt of certain funds. To ensure transparency and proper utilization of such funds, he recommended that NEITI carries out in-depth reviews which should form part of the audit reports. This will determine what has been received by the agencies over the years and the gaps. *In responding, the Executive Secretary emphasized fiscal discipline in budget preparation and clarified that there is a difference between budget projection and the actual budget and NEITI is willing to work with relevant agencies on fiscal transparency.*

- The, North East Zonal Representative supported the recommendation to establish Debt Management Offices in all states to strengthen fiscal transparency.
- The North Central Zonal Representative sought clarification on NEITI's partnerships with NCDMB, NDDC, and TETFund and called for closer collaboration with TETFund to create mutually beneficial partnerships. *The Executive Secretary reported ongoing engagements with NCDMB, limited cooperation from NDDC, and efforts to strengthen partnerships with PTDF and TETFund.*
- The South-east Zonal Representative further suggested engaging the NDDC through the Chairman's office to facilitate improved cooperation and dialogue. *The Executive Secretary also appreciated the suggestion to interface with NDDC through the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, which he noted for further action.*

The Board noted the update and encouraged continued collaboration with key development institutions.

6.0 STAKEHOLDERS CONSTITUENCY REPORTS

6.1 Civil Society (CSO)

Dr. Erisa Danladi, Representative of the Civil Society, presented updates on activities of the Civil Society Steering Committee (CSSC). She clarified that two reports exist; the CSO Constituency Report and the CSSC Report. She appreciated the President of the Miners Association for representing her at the CSSC meeting of 18th August 2025, where deliberations focused on the approved work plan, particularly the protection of civic space. She noted that the NEITI NHRC MoU earlier approved by the NSWG in principle awaits members' input and signing before the end of the year. Once signed, it will be operationalized with clear joint actions and a monitoring framework.

She also highlighted the NEITI Civil Society Protocol designed to strengthen internal governance and compliance ahead of the next EITI Validation. The CSO constituency looks forward to its formal adoption and signing. She further reported on other priorities which include capacity building later in the year and exploring alternative funding and technical support beyond government allocations.

She reaffirmed the CSO's commitment to advancing civil society participation in Nigeria's extractive governance and urged the NSWG to:

- Fast-track the signing and implementation of the NEITI - NHRC MoU.
- Adopt the NEITI - Civil Society Protocol as a governance instrument.
- Support timely release of funds to deliver the 2025 Work Plan.

- Prioritize structured and well-resourced capacity building to strengthen CSO engagement on emerging issues such as energy transition and climate accountability.

6.1.1COMMENTS TO THE CSSC REPORT

- The Executive Secretary assured the NSWG of the continued Secretariat support to the CSSC subject to available funding, noting the importance of CSO engagement to NEITI's success.
- The North East Zonal Representative commended the presentation by the Civil Society Representative and NEITI's policy brief on state debt, emphasizing the need for all levels of government to harness Nigeria's natural resources for sustainable debt reduction.

6.2 Companies

6.2.1 Miners Association of Nigeria

Mr. Dele Ayanleke, representing the Miners Association of Nigeria, reported key developments in the mining sector. He commended the NEITI Secretariat and Management for completing the audit reports, noting increased public visibility through extensive media citation of NEITI data.

He informed the Board of rising investment in value addition and mineral processing in states such as Nasarawa and Kaduna, with some other states also on the queue, aligning with NEITI's advocacy for domestic beneficiation which will lead to economic benefits to Nigerians. He also highlighted recent sector events, including the Africa Natural Resources Energy Summit (July 2025) and the launch of the Energy Minerals Roadmap (August 2025) by the Ministry of Solid Minerals while calling for NEITI's active participation in the upcoming 10th Edition of Nigerian Mining Week (13 - 15 October 2025) and the efforts being made to bring back NEITI to take its place in the organization of the Nigerian Mining Week. He further expressed deep concern over the mounting challenges confronting indigenous mining operators and appealed for NEITI's intervention through its networks and platforms for dialogue. He noted that the EFCC has been trailing operators, demanding refunds of arrears on unused mining titles, while some states such as Zamfara and Taraba have maintained prolonged bans on mining activities. He spoke about the recent revocation list affecting over 1,400 companies, alongside the exorbitant increases in annual service and revocation fees, which have forced many indigenous operators out of business. He urged NEITI to leverage its convening power to engage relevant authorities and seek relief for affected stakeholders. He also reported that the proposed mining stakeholders' meeting with the OPTS could not hold due to factors beyond their control. However, with the upcoming

Companies Forum, several of these companies have been invited, and it is expected to serve as a platform for dialogue with stakeholders in the solid minerals sector to address key issues and foster collaboration.

6.2.1 Comments to the Miners Association Report

The Representative of the North-central Zone inquired about government efforts against illegal mining. The President of the Miners Association of Nigeria explained that while initiatives exist, notably the Mining Marshals, they remain under-resourced with limited coverage across states. He called for greater government investment to strengthen regulatory oversight.

6.2.2 Oil Producers Trade Section (OPTS)

Mr. Gwueke Ajaifia, representing the Oil Producers Trade Section (OPTS), briefed the Board on recent developments in the oil and gas sector. He noted that 2025 has been marked by volatility in global oil prices, which explains the fluctuation in government revenue. Despite this, production levels have shown significant improvement due to intensified efforts by the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) to curb illegal bunkering and pipeline sabotage. He reported that two years ago, Nigeria's daily oil production averaged between 1.0 and 1.3 million barrels per day. However, according to the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), production rose to 1.7 million barrels per day in January 2025 and stabilized around 1.6 million barrels between February and July.

Mr. Ajaifia highlighted the government's recent incentives to enhance competitiveness in the oil and gas industry, which have spurred increased participation by indigenous operators. He cited notable divestments, including:

- Shell's sale of the Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) to Renaissance Africa Energy Company;
- Oando PLC's acquisition of 100% shareholding in the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) from Eni; and
- Seplat Energy's acquisition of Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited (MPNU) from ExxonMobil.

As a result, indigenous companies now account for over 50% of Nigeria's oil production. This development he emphasized, is critical for NEITI's work, as government revenue largely depends on royalties and tax payments. NEITI must therefore remain vigilant to ensure compliance by these new operators, who must demonstrate transparency and timely fulfilment of their fiscal obligations. He noted concerns from tax authorities over a decline in payments following IOC divestments, suggesting the need for a gap analysis to assess the disparities and potential revenue risks.

He also echoed the earlier remarks of the President of the Miners Association of Nigeria regarding the upcoming Companies Forum scheduled for 10th September 2025, which presents an opportunity to engage stakeholders in a more interactive and solution-driven manner. He encouraged greater participation from companies and expressed OPTS's commitment to supporting NEITI through data sharing and collaboration with relevant officers.

6.2.2 Comments to the OPTS Report

- The Executive Secretary inquired about OPTS's position on the ongoing divestment of IOC and NNPC Ltd assets, particularly regarding potential policy gaps that could affect State-Owned Enterprises in advancing the government's gas commercialization programme. *In response, Mr. Ajaifia explained that the divestments are part of a natural business cycle. As operating costs rise, IOCs often transfer mature assets to indigenous firms that can manage operations more efficiently, engage host communities better, and operate profitably. He emphasized that this does not reflect negatively on Nigeria's investment climate. On the contrary, the successful conclusion of several transactions has strengthened investor confidence by demonstrating that capital repatriation is possible. Regarding NNPCL's divestment, he noted that the company's current leadership has shown strong capacity and commitment to collaboration, addressing sectoral challenges proactively.*

  On gas development, he observed that while government incentives have been introduced to stimulate gas production, gas projects remain more complex and capital-intensive than oil projects. Nonetheless, progress is being made, especially with the Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Initiative, which has already seen widespread adoption among transporters as one of the administration's flagship projects. He concluded by stressing that Nigeria's vast gas reserves present enormous potential, but infrastructural gaps including the ongoing Ajaokuta - Kaduna - Kano (AKK) Pipeline must be addressed to ensure nationwide distribution. He urged that energy security be prioritized over excessive export, as ensuring domestic access to affordable energy will drive entrepreneurship, stimulate industrial growth, and accelerate economic development far more sustainably than dependence on oil revenue alone.

- The North Central Zonal Representative, also sought clarification on international perceptions surrounding these divestments. *In response, the Representative of Companies stated that the International Community doesn't have any negative feeling about the divestment process because most investors want to be able to come into a country and invest money and take it anytime they want. He stated that the divestment has been ongoing for two years and during that time there was a negative perception that assets invested would not be allowed to be repatriated however, the divestment has brought more confidence in the sector.*

The South East Representative commended the OPTS Representative for his engaging presentation and suggested future engagements and capacity building sessions with the secretariat to ensure the Board is kept abreast of the divestment process.

6.3 Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS)

Dr. Lovette Ngurunbur Ononuga, FIRS Representative, provided an update stating that, following her last presentation in Umuahia, the President has assented to four new tax laws; the Nigerian Tax Act (NTA) 2025, Nigeria Tax Administration Act (NTAA) 2025, Nigeria Revenue Service (Establishment) Act 2025, and Joint Revenue Board of Nigeria (Establishment) Act 2025 which will take effect from 1st January 2026. She noted that FIRS committees are consolidating recommendations for phased implementation, with the first phase focusing on staff training and capacity building. The Executive Chairman of the Service, has prioritized equipping staff to effectively implement and communicate the reforms. As part of this effort, the FIRS Representative inaugurated the "Wall of Knowledge" an information corridor on key tax reforms at the FIRS Taxpayers Services Department in Wuse, Abuja.

She reported that as of 24th July 2025, total tax collections stood at ₦17.352 trillion, comprising ₦13.089 trillion (75.4%) from non-oil revenues and ₦4.262 trillion (24.6%) from oil revenues, subject to FAAC reconciliation. She also announced the commencement of E-Invoicing, a digital platform that automates tax collections, reduces evasion, and enhances oversight with large taxpayers already onboarded.

In addition, she informed the Board that FIRS launched the FIRS Journal of Tax Studies during its first-ever Research Day, reinforcing the Service's commitment to evidence-based policymaking. The journal is accessible via the FIRS website.

6.3.1 Comments and Responses to the FIRS Report:

- The North Central Zonal Representative commended the presentation and inquired whether FIRS had met or surpassed its collection target for the year. *The FIRS Representative responded that FIRS had exceeded its consolidated target of ₦25.2 trillion, achieving 118% performance as of July 24, 2025, which represents 68.8% of the annual target already realized.*
- The South West Zonal Representative, commended FIRS for its achievements and inquired about the revenue remittances from dredging activities in Lagos and other parts of the country. *The FIRS Representative promised to liaise with the Director, Oil and Gas Department for a detailed report on dredgers remittances.*
- The South East Zonal Representative, asked whether FIRS could disaggregate revenues derived from the extractive sector. *It was confirmed that this was done in the Q1 report presented at the last meeting and noted that the Q2 report is being finalized pending FAAC reconciliation.*
- The NUPENG Representative, inquired about the Dangote Refinery's compliance and cooperation with FIRS regarding tax transparency and NEITI processes. *The FIRS responded that the Dangote Group maintains a strong working relationship with FIRS, with a dedicated unit in the Oil and Gas Department, Lagos, ensuring compliance and transparency.*
- The Executive Secretary thanked The FIRS Representative for her detailed presentation and requested that it be formally submitted to the Secretariat for proper documentation, with any confidential sections clearly marked. He noted that NEITI participated in the Tax Reform Committee and had earlier reviewed and issued a public position statement on the new tax laws. A policy brief, titled "***Pathways for Implementation***," has been finalized and will be released shortly. He commended the FIRS on the passage of the new laws and the ongoing training efforts, emphasizing the need for capacity building for the NEITI Board and key departments that engage with the extractive sector on tax-related matters. The Executive Secretary reiterated that while NEITI supports the tax reforms, their success depends on effective implementation, which underscores the importance of the forthcoming policy brief and continued stakeholder engagement.

  He concluded by proposing a two-phase training, one for the Board and another for the relevant technical departments to be facilitated by FIRS. A formal letter will be sent to the Executive Chairman of FIRS to request this support.

6. 4 Women in the Extractive Sector

Engr. Nkechi Isigwe representing gender, reported progress on mobilizing women in mining across geopolitical zones to increase participation and address gender-specific challenges. She emphasized the goal of value addition through local refining to enhance wealth creation. She requested clarity on her constituency's roles, expectations, and reporting format. The Executive Secretary reiterated that a standard constituency reporting template had been adopted by the NSWG for uniform use.

6.5 South East Zonal Representative

The South-East Zonal Representative expressed appreciation for the letters of introduction to State Governors, noting that they would strengthen engagement with states. He requested data on operating companies and site locations and recommended that technical support to NSWG be included in future budgets to enhance field monitoring and evaluation.

7.0 Any Other Business (AOB)

7.1 Exit of the EITI Observer

The Executive Secretary informed the representative of the Belgian Ambassador, Mrs. Dorian Laermans, that a closed session was to be held to discuss housekeeping matters. Mrs. Laermans thanked the Executive Secretary and Board for the opportunity to participate as an observer and commended the quality of deliberations before exiting the meeting. The Executive Secretary appreciated the continued cooperation of the Belgian Embassy and requested that the meeting highlights be shared with the Ambassador.

7.2 Venue for Next Meeting

The Executive Secretary invited suggestions on the venue for the next NSWG meeting, noting the need for regional balance and consideration of factors such as security, accessibility, and logistical convenience.

The Representative of the North-Central Zone proposed Plateau, Kaduna, Kano, or Nasarawa States while the Representative of the South-East Zone suggested finalizing the venue through the NSWG WhatsApp platform due to budget constraints, which was supported by Representative of the North-East Zone.

7.3 Letters of Introduction

The South-South Zonal Representative sought an update on the letters of introduction to State Governors across the geopolitical zones, emphasizing their importance for sub-national engagement and sensitization on NEITI's mandate. The Executive Secretary clarified that the letters had been prepared and were awaiting the NSWG Chairman's signature for dispatch.

7.4 Business Cards and Outreach

The South-West Zonal Representatives inquired about the production of NSWG business cards and the possibility of reviving grassroots outreach activities. The Executive Secretary explained that outreach programmes would resume once the letters to State Governors were dispatched and adequate security clearance obtained.

7.5 CSO Participation at NED 2025

The Representative of the Civil Society sought clarification on her non-participation at the National Extractives Dialogue (NED Conference) 2025 and underscored the need for improved information sharing on such activities.

The Executive Secretary clarified that the NED Conference was organized by an external CSO and that invitations were at the discretion of the organizers. He assured that the Secretariat remains committed to supporting CSO participation and capacity development within available resources.

7.6 NSWG Committees

The FIRS Representative requested information on the composition and functions of the NSWG Committees as she was nominated to the NSWG recently. The Executive Secretary assured that the list would be sent to her immediately after the meeting.

7.8 Appreciation

The Executive Secretary expressed deep appreciation to members for their support during his son's wedding which took place on 5th July 2025, and prayed for similar joyous occasions in the lives of all members.

8.0 CLOSING REMARKS

The Executive Secretary thanked members of the NSWG for their active participation and valuable contributions. He noted his preference for in-person meetings but explained that due to funding constraints, the virtual format was necessary to ensure statutory meetings were held as required. He assured Board members that allowances for the meeting and various committees would be processed immediately after the session, and hoped that future meetings would be held physically as the financial situation improves.

On behalf of the Chairman, Amb. Matthew Sunday Adoli, MFR, thanked all members for their commitment and declared the meeting adjourned.

A motion for adjournment of the meeting was moved by Mr. Gwueke Ajaifia, Representative of the OPTS and seconded by Dr. Lovette Ononuga, Representative of the FIRS.

The meeting ended at 2:30 p.m.

MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES	
1.	**Stakeholder Constituency Engagements** The SGF and Chairman of the NSWG to personally sign and notify State Governors prior to dispatch to enhance access and cooperation.
2.	**Budget Constraints** The Executive Secretary to continue engagement with the Federal Ministry of Finance and relevant authorities to ensure release of both capital and overhead funds to NEITI. Updates to be provided to the Board when available.
3.	**Engagement with Development Partners** The Secretariat to continue pursuing collaboration with development partners and explore additional non-financial support, including technical assistance and capacity-building opportunities.
4.	**Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS)** ➢ The Secretariat to provide the FIRS representative the list of NSWG Committees for guidance and adequate placement. ➢ Secretariat to send a formal letter to the Executive Chairman of the Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) to request for training for the Board and Management of NEITI.
5.	**Engagement with NDDC and Other Statutory Agencies** NEITI to strengthen engagements with statutory agencies such as NDDC, NCDMB, PTDF, and TETFund to ensure transparency and accountability in the utilization of sectoral funds. The Secretariat to liaise with the SGF's Office to facilitate engagement with the NDDC.
6.	**Collaboration with TETFund** NEITI to deepen collaboration with TETFund under the existing MoU, including implementing capacity-building initiatives and knowledge-sharing programmes for the Board and Secretariat.

7.	**Engagement with CSOs and Media** NEITI to convene a meeting with Civil Society Organisations and media partners on 6th September 2025 to enhance collaboration, strengthen public sensitization, and improve dissemination of NEITI reports and policy briefs.
8.	**Follow - Up on Constituency Requests** The Secretariat to incorporate technical support needs, including logistics and field monitoring requirements into the next budget cycle and ensure fair participation of representatives in stakeholder engagements.
9.	**Mounting Challenges for Indigenous Mining Operators** The NSWG to use its convening power and networks to engage relevant authorities and seek relief for indigenous mining operators affected by regulatory actions, high fees, and prolonged state bans.
10.	**Next Meeting Logistics and Documentation** ➢ The next NSWG meeting venue to be confirmed via the NSWG WhatsApp ➢ platform (proposed Northern location). ➢ The Secretariat to ensure timely circulation of minutes and distribution of the NSWG manual.

SIGNED:

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Orji Ogbonnaya Orji Ph.D
Executive Secretary

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Jane O. Onwumere
Director Legal Services