

PUBLISH WHAT YOU PAY (PWYP) NIGERIA: REPORT OF THE PWYP NIGERIA ONBOARDING WORKSHOP Day 1 | 23 June 2025 | K-Class Hotel, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja

Building a Stronger Coalition for Resource Justice

Publish What You Pay (PWYP) Nigeria convened a one-day onboarding workshop for newly elected leaders and coalition members to deepen understanding of the coalition's evolving global vision, strengthen internal governance, and reposition members for emerging opportunities in extractive sector advocacy. The workshop also provided an opportunity to reflect on the coalition's institutional journey, reinforce shared values, and examine the rapidly changing policy landscape shaping Nigeria's extractive industries, including energy transition, critical minerals governance and civic space.

The workshop brought together leaders from across the country and featured presentations from civil society leaders and natural resource governance experts.



Pic 1: Group photograph of participants

From Publish What You Pay to Resource Justice Network

The opening session, facilitated by Mr. Vincent Egoro, Senior Regional Coordinator for Anglophone Africa at PWYP International, introduced participants to the coalition's new global strategy (2025–2030) and the transition from Publish What You Pay to the Resource Justice Network (RJN). The session explained that the rebranding reflects an expanded vision that builds on two decades of transparency advocacy by embracing broader questions of justice, climate resilience, equitable mineral governance and civic participation.

Participants learned that while PWYP remains a flagship global campaign on transparency and accountability, the new identity positions the coalition to engage more effectively with the challenges of the global energy transition, shrinking civic space and the governance of critical minerals. Nigeria was recognised as one of the movement's strongest national coalitions and encouraged to play a greater leadership role in regional and global advocacy initiatives.

Strengthening Coalition Governance and Strategic Advocacy

Dr. Garuba Dauda of the Centre for Democracy and Development challenged participants to view coalition governance as a strategic asset rather than merely an administrative obligation. Reflecting on PWYP Nigeria's institutional journey, he stressed that transparent communication, clearly defined roles, mutual accountability and effective grievance management are indispensable to sustaining a vibrant national coalition.

The session also encouraged members to redirect their energies from internal contestation towards policy influence. Particular attention was given to emerging advocacy opportunities around energy transition, critical minerals, fiscal governance and civic space. Participants agreed that stronger thematic collaboration, improved communication with members and more structured engagement with governments and development partners would better position the coalition to influence extractive sector reforms.

Reviewing the Implementation of NEITI's 2025 Work Plan

A highlight of the workshop was a presentation by Dr. Orji Ogbonnaya Orji, Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), who reviewed progress in implementing NEITI's 2025 work plan and reflected on emerging priorities for Nigeria's extractive sector.



Pic 2: NEITI' s Dr. Orji making a presentation at the event

Drawing on the priorities unveiled at the beginning of the year, Dr. Orji outlined NEITI's efforts to strengthen transparency through beneficial ownership disclosures, contract transparency, systematic data reporting, implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act, digital transformation and

preparations for Nigeria's next EITI Validation. He emphasised that these reforms are laying the foundation for more accountable management of the country's natural resources while improving public confidence in extractive governance.

The review demonstrated that implementation had progressed beyond conventional extractive transparency towards a broader resource governance agenda. Particular emphasis was placed on integrating climate accountability into extractive governance, strengthening oversight of Nigeria's growing critical minerals sector and supporting evidence-based policymaking for the global energy transition.

Participants also examined NEITI's emerging three-pronged agenda for Nigeria's energy transition, centred on strengthening data and transparency systems, promoting inclusive stakeholder participation, and advancing governance reforms that support responsible divestments, environmental accountability and greater local value addition in critical minerals. The discussion reinforced the importance of civil society partnerships in ensuring that Nigeria's transition to a lower-carbon economy remains transparent, equitable and beneficial to resource-dependent communities.

Promoting Accountability and Inclusive Leadership

The final session, facilitated by Dr. Uche Igwe, focused on strengthening accountability, transparency and inclusiveness within coalition leadership. Participants reflected candidly on lessons from PWYP Nigeria's twenty-year institutional history, acknowledging both significant achievements and governance challenges that have shaped the coalition's evolution.

The discussions produced broad consensus on the need to strengthen institutional memory, modernise governance systems and promote leadership succession. Participants recommended establishing a digital repository for coalition documents, completing constitutional reforms, documenting the coalition's history, creating regular reflection forums and institutionalising more transparent communication and decision-making processes.



Pic 3: Cross-section of participants

Key Outcomes

The workshop concluded with a renewed commitment to reposition PWYP Nigeria as a stronger, more cohesive and forward-looking coalition capable of leading advocacy on transparency, accountability and justice in Nigeria's extractive sector. Participants committed to:

- aligning coalition activities with the emerging priorities of the Resource Justice Network while preserving PWYP Nigeria's established identity and legacy;
- strengthening coalition governance through improved communication, clearer accountability mechanisms and institutional reforms;
- expanding advocacy on energy transition, critical minerals governance, civic space and environmental justice; and
- deepening engagement with NEITI, and re-asserting PWYP Nigeria as the leading civil society coalition engaging the EITI process in Nigeria
- Identifying new areas of collaboration with government institutions, host communities and development partners to advance transparent and accountable natural resource governance.

Conclusion

The onboarding workshop marked an important milestone in PWYP Nigeria's institutional renewal. Beyond introducing newly elected leaders to the coalition's structures and values, it provided a strategic platform for reflecting on the future of extractive governance in Nigeria at a time of profound global change. By linking organisational strengthening with emerging policy priorities such as energy transition and resource justice, the workshop reaffirmed PWYP Nigeria's readiness to remain a leading civil society voice for transparency, accountability and equitable management of the country's natural resources.