

SPEECH BY THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/CEO, NIGERIA EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRIES TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE (NEITI) HON. MUSA SARKIN ADAR ON BEHALF OF THE NEITI NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS WORKING GROUP (NSWG) AND CHAIR OF THE INTER-AGENCY TASK TEAM (IATT), AT THE COMMEMORATION OF INTERNATIONAL ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY HOLDING TODAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2025 AT SHEHU MUSA YAR'ADUA CENTRE, ABUJA.

Protocols!

1. Your Excellencies, distinguished guests, partners in government, civil society, the media and especially the young people of our great nation, it is my pleasure to extend a warm greeting on this year's

International Anti-Corruption Day.

2. The theme of today's meeting, **"Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity,"** is apt and more relevant than ever to Nigeria's aspirations for a transparent, fair, and prosperous future.

3. Across our nation, the youth remain our greatest source of hope and strength. Their energy, innovation, and desire for a more just society position them at the centre of the global fight against corruption. As we commemorate this day, I wish to affirm NEITI's commitment to empowering young Nigerians not only as advocates for accountability but also as active partners in shaping the future of integrity in the extractive industries and beyond.

4. At NEITI, we recognize that corruption undermines opportunities for growth, distorts resource governance, and deepens inequality. We also know that a united, informed, and courageous generation can dismantle these barriers. This is why NEITI will continue to expand civic education, strengthen our reporting mechanisms, support youth-led innovation, and create more platforms for constructive engagement with young professionals, students, and entrepreneurs.

5. The International Anti-Corruption Day is a call to action, it reminds us that building a corruption-free Nigeria requires all of us government, industry, civil society, and especially the youth to

stand together. NEITI remains steadfast in its mission to promote transparency, strengthen accountability, and ensure that our natural resources truly benefit every Nigerian.

6. On this important day, I celebrate the courage, resilience, and integrity of Nigeria's youth. I invite you to join hands with NEITI as we work collectively to shape a future defined by honesty, justice, and shared prosperity.

7. One of the key issues being looked at today as we commemorate this day is: Tax Transparency and Trust: How can Nigeria's New Tax Policies Curb Corruption and Promote Accountability? Let me inform you that NEITI recently concluded a policy-backed policy brief on the need for an inclusive implementation of Nigeria's 2025 tax and revenue reforms.

8. In the brief, NEITI outlines a comprehensive roadmap for implementing the new tax laws; assess conformity of the legislative provisions with global standards of transparency, accountability, and efficiency in revenue administration and recommends targeted

safeguards to protect the fiscal autonomy of states and local governments.

9. This reform marks a new chapter for Nigeria's fiscal system yet the biggest risk lies not in passing laws, but in mobilising domestic resources and strengthen federalism, the mechanisms of transparency, disaggregation, and accountability must be built in from day one.
10. The new tax frameworks which comprising the Nigeria Tax Act, the Nigeria Revenue Service (Establishment) Act, the Nigeria Tax Administration Act, and the Joint Revenue Board Establishment Act — seeks to consolidate more than two dozen legacy tax statutes and streamline tax collection under a centralised authority: the Nigeria Revenue Service (NRS). NEITI supports these objectives but notes that without deliberate design features, the reforms could undermine its purpose particularly in resource-rich regions.

Recommendations and Implementation Roadmap

11. To operationalize these policies as enshrined in the Nigeria Tax Act, NEITI proposes a short, medium and long-term phased action

plan. This roadmap prioritizes actions to support effective implementation, institutional alignment, and sustainability of the reforms.

12. On the Short-Term Recommendation, the policy brief advised on refining legislation to mandate disaggregated extractive revenue reporting and annual disclosure of tax waivers. Establish inter-agency MoUs for data-sharing and transparency. Launch nationwide sensitization campaigns and publish a "Citizens' Guide to the Nigeria Tax Reform."
13. Secondly, on the Medium-Term, NEITI recommended establishment of a Taxpayer Recourse and Transparency Unit within NRS, supported by community feedback platforms in extractive regions.
14. NEITI through the policy brief recommended embedding civic education and fiscal monitoring platforms for independent revenue verification. Integrate extractive revenues into a transparent Natural Resource Fund to eliminate off-budget expenditures.

15. NEITI emphasises that effective reform depends on genuine multi-stakeholder collaboration and co-creating the process with the Federal and State governments, industry, civil society, and development partners.

16. We therefore reaffirmed that as we chart this course, we cannot afford to treat transparency as an afterthought. A robust tax reform without citizen oversight is simply centralisation under another name. NEITI stands ready to do its part by providing independent oversight, facilitating dialogue, and ensuring accountability for meaningful outcomes in the implementation of the reforms especially as it applies to extractive sector.

17. NEITI will like to use this platform to call on all stakeholders to embrace this roadmap, ensuring that Nigeria's 2025 tax reforms foster inclusive growth, fiscal accountability, and sustainable prosperity for all levels of government and every citizen particularly the youth who are our future.

18. On this note, I thank you for listening while wishing you all meaningful deliberation as we commemorate the International Anti-Corruption Day 2025.