

Address by the Executive Director, Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA), Faith Nwadishi JP, mpi on the occasion of the Advocacy visit to the Executive Secretary of Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), Hon. Musa Sarkin Adar on January 27, 2026 at NEITI House, Wuye, Abuja, FCT

Protocol:

Honourable Executive Secretary Sir,

On behalf of the Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA), the Koyenum Immalah Foundation (KIF), and Women in Extractives (WiE), we congratulate you once again on your appointment and successful assumption of office as the Executive Secretary of the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. We appreciate your warm reception and the opportunity for this engagement.

We come to this meeting encouraged by your maiden addresses and the reform signals you have sent to stakeholders. Your experience as a legislator at the House of Representatives especially having chaired the Petroleum resources (Upstream) House committee and Over sighted NEITI, place you in a strong position to consolidate Nigeria's leadership within the EITI community, as required under Requirement 1.3. Civil society participation must remain full, independent, active, and effective, while government leadership ensures policy coherence and institutional responsiveness and particularly at a time when transparency, accountability, and civic engagement are under increasing pressure globally. nance,

We see your tenure as an opportunity to further institutionalize structured engagement between the NEITI Secretariat, the National Stakeholders Working Group, the legislature and civil society actors, particularly as Nigeria prepares for the July 2026 Validation.

✓ As civil society actors who have worked closely with NEITI over the years, we see this moment as both a transition and an opportunity to strengthen systems, deepen impact, and prepare Nigeria for the next phase of extractive governance reforms.

✓ First, on EITI Validation, the July 2026 Global Validation is not just a compliance exercise; it is a strategic moment for Nigeria. The 2023 EITI Standard places stronger emphasis on outcomes, inclusion, and civic space. Civil society is ready to align advocacy, research, and public engagement to support NEITI's preparations, support credible disclosures, and demonstrate impact, particularly around revenue management, contract transparency, environmental and social reporting; Support the implementation of the corrective measures highlighted by the validation report of 2023 and Reinforce Nigeria's standing as a leading EITI implementing country

Second, on civic space, we commend your public commitment to constructive stakeholder engagement. Protection of civic space is no longer optional; it is a mandatory requirement of the EITI Standard. Nigerian CSOs must be able to interrogate data, speak freely, and engage institutions without fear of reprisal. We propose co-creating with NEITI to:

- Develop a clear implementation guide of the Civic Space Protection and Monitoring Framework;
- Establish clear early warning mechanisms, documented response protocols and continuous engagement with regulators and security agencies where necessary for any threats or restrictions; and;
- Integrate civic space indicators into NEITI's annual progress and Validation preparations.

This will not only strengthen compliance but also safeguard the credibility of NEITI's process.

Third, on gender responsive and inclusive extractive governance, we strongly align with your vision. Women, youth, host communities, and other vulnerable groups must not remain invisible in extractive sector data and decision making. The 2023 Standard places stronger emphasis on public debate (Requirement 7.1), as well as the social and environmental dimensions of extractives (Requirement 6.4), Contribution of extractive sector to the economy (requirement 6.3).

Gender responsive reporting and inclusion of women, youth, host communities, and vulnerable groups are central to demonstrating impact. Through Women in Extractives and our community based networks, we are ready to support:

- Improved gender disaggregated data and narrative reporting beyond employment data;
- Targeted capacity building for women and youth at national and sub national levels; and
- Sub national engagement that ensures extractive reforms translate into equitable outcomes, not just national aggregates; and
- Community dissemination that links extractive revenues to lived realities.

Fourth, on legislative reform, we welcome your prioritization of the review of the NEITI Act 2007. After nineteen (19) years, the Act requires updating to reflect current realities.

From a civil society perspective, priority reform areas should include:

- Stronger enforcement and sanctioning powers; ✓

- Clear mandates on beneficial ownership, sub-national disclosures, contract transparency and solid minerals;
- Alignment with evolving EITI requirements and Nigeria's open governance commitments.
- Protection of civic space and the independent process of appointing the CSOs representative of the NSWG;
- Protection of the tenure of the board in line with the EITI procedure;
- Inclusion of a clause to protect gender participation (Women, Youth, PWDs)

We stand ready to support evidence-based advocacy, stakeholder consultations, and legislative engagement to ensure the revised Act strengthens NEITI's authority and independence.

Fifth, on sub-national and solid minerals transparency, we believe this is one of the most critical frontiers. Revenue leakages, environmental degradation, and conflict are often most visible at the sub national level. Expanding NEITI's transparency work in states and the solid minerals sector will help bridge national data with community realities and support better governance outcomes. Areas to focus on according to the EITI standard 2023:

- Sub national transfers and disclosures (Requirement 4.6);
- Environmental and social reporting (Requirement 6.4); and
- Public Debate (Requirement 7.1).

This is a critical area where civil society collaboration can help NEITI bridge national data with community realities and reduce leakages. Also, this is where the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) 2011 can be effectively tested. We encourage NEITI to proactively deploy the FOIA by issuing FOI requests to relevant agencies to obtain timely and up-to-date data, rather than waiting for the audit cycle. Information obtained through this process can be used to develop timely, evidence-based policy briefs, which will in turn strengthen public debate and inform decision-making.

Honourable Executive Secretary, our visit today is not ceremonial. It is a call for structured partnership, clear roles, shared timelines, and measurable outcomes. As we indicated in our joint correspondence and public statement, we are committed to working with your office to deepen transparency, protect civic space, strengthen inclusion, and ensure Nigeria enters the 2026 Validation from a position of strength.

We look forward to practical next steps: joint technical engagements, co-created advocacy actions, and sustained dialogue that reflects the spirit of the EITI, government, industry, and civil society working together for accountable extractive governance.

Thank you for your leadership, and we look forward to a productive partnership under your tenure.

Thank you.



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