

GOODWILL MESSAGE BY DR. ORJI OGBONNAYA ORJI, EXECUTIVE SECRETARY/CEO, NEITI ON BEHALF OF THE NEITI NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS WORKING GROUP (NSWG), CHAIR OF THE INTER-AGENCY TASK TEAM (IATT), AT THE COMMEMORATION OF AFRICAN ANTI-CORRUPTION DAY.

JULY 11, 2025 | SHEHU MUSA YAR'ADUA CENTRE, ABUJA

Protocols.

On behalf of the NEITI National Stakeholders Working Group (NSWG), which currently chairs the Inter-Agency Task Team (IATT), I am honoured to deliver this goodwill message at today's commemoration of African Anti-Corruption Day.

This day is more than a symbolic tradition—it is a solemn reaffirmation of our continental commitment to uproot corruption, defend integrity, and uphold the dignity of every African.

The 2025 theme—"Promoting Human Dignity in the Fight Against Corruption"—is timely, powerful, and unambiguous.

Corruption is more than financial misconduct; it is a direct attack on human dignity.

It deprives our people of access to education, healthcare, clean water, and justice.

It fuels poverty, undermines democracy, and erodes trust in public institutions.

At NEITI, we confront corruption through facts, disclosures, civic engagement, and institutional partnerships.

Through the EITI Standard—particularly Requirement 6.4—we expose the social and environmental consequences of extractive activities, giving voice to the voiceless and enabling communities to seek redress and justice.

We are also leading the national charge on beneficial ownership transparency—a strategic weapon against illicit financial flows.

Working with the Corporate Affairs Commission, we have supported the establishment of Nigeria's public BO register, which has become a reference point across the continent.

Beyond Nigeria, I am pleased to announce that I was elected as a Co-Chair of the West African Beneficial Ownership Transparency Forum (WABOT–Forum) at its inception meeting convened by GIABA in Dakar, Senegal in September 2024.

In this role, I am currently working closely with colleagues from 12 ECOWAS member states to support the implementation of the West African Commitment to Enhancing BO Transparency, adopted in Accra in 2023.

The WABOT–Forum serves as a regional platform for peer learning, legal reform, risk assessment, system integration, and coordination on BO issues.

Together, we are preparing for our next high-level meeting in Monrovia, Liberia this November, where we will review country-level progress and deepen regional action against corruption.

As part of NEITI's broader anti-corruption architecture, we have signed Memoranda of Understanding with EFCC, ICPC, and the NFIU.

These strategic partnerships ensure that data from our audits, disclosures, and reports are shared, acted upon, and used as a basis for investigations, sanctions, and reforms.

We are also expanding civic space through a formal partnership being finalised with the National Human Rights Commission.

This collaboration will ensure that civil society organisations working in the extractive sector are protected, empowered, and heard.

Let me be clear: corruption can be defeated—but only through credible data, political will, empowered citizens, and regional solidarity.

As we mark this day, let it inspire bold actions.

Let us match our declarations with decisions, and our commitments with consequences.

NEITI, the IATT, and our regional partners remain firmly committed to this mission—
for transparency, for justice, and for the dignity of every African citizen.

Thank you, and I wish you fruitful deliberations.