

**Opening Remarks by Dr. Orji Ogbonnaya Orji, Executive Secretary,
Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI)
During the Stakeholder's Consultation/Validation Meeting on the
2023 Annual Progress Report (APR) of the Nigeria Extractive
Industries, Held 20th June 2024 @ NEITI House, Wuye District,
Abuja.**

Protocols

I am delighted to welcome you all to this important program, the stakeholder's consultation/validation meeting on the 2023 Annual Progress Report (APR) of the Nigeria's oil, gas and mining sectors, being hosted by the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI).

2. As you may be aware, the global Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) requirement 1.5 under its 2023 standard mandates all implementing countries, including Nigeria to document their review of impacts and outcomes of the EITI implementation in an Annual Progress Report (APR) or through other means as may be agreed by Multi-Stakeholders Group (MSG).
3. The global body also requires that all stakeholders – companies, government and civil society involved in the EITI process, including those not on the MSG, should be able to participate in reviewing the impact of EITI implementation, provide feedbacks, and have their views reflected in the annual progress report.
4. Therefore, this program has been designed to consult with you, validate your inputs and have your views reflected in the 2023 Annual Progress Report of the Nigeria Extractive Industries in line with the requirements of the global EITI.

5. The program also provide us an opportunity to evaluate and celebrate progress, milestones and achievements recorded through our various organization's program and activities in the oil gas and mining sector within the period under review, through the mechanism of EITI annual progress reporting.

6. The objective is to deepen EITI implementation in Nigeria and report on its progress, outcomes and impacts. It is therefore important to state that annual progress reporting is not just a NEITI Secretariat business alone, it concerns all the stakeholders whose works in their various organizations have been contributing to achieving EITI objectives in Nigeria.

7. Therefore, APR is about documenting, reporting, showcasing and celebrating the good work being done by various stakeholders - government agencies, civil society organizations and companies that have been contributing in one way or another, to deepening reforms in Nigeria's extractive industries.

8. I hereby wish to urge all our stakeholders to please share with us the good works you are doing in the extractive industries to enable us report and celebrate them through the instrumentality of the global EITI. The APR reporting framework provides platform to celebrate your key achievements and contributions to reform the sectors.

9. While we acknowledge that indeed, there are still many issues to be addressed in the sectors, we must document, report and celebrate those efforts and progress we are making in the process of addressing those issues so as to build trust, earn citizens/investors' confidence and attract the desired investment into our extractive sectors and economy.

10. On this note, I thank you all for your audience and wish you all successful deliberations.