

Speech by the Executive Secretary of the Nigerian Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) On the Occasion of the United Nations International Anti-Corruption Day Monday, December 9th, 2024 Abuja Continental Hotel, Wuse Zone 4, Abuja

1. Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,
2. It is both an honor and a profound responsibility to address you on this significant occasion of the United Nations International Anti-Corruption Day. This year's theme, "Uniting with Youth Against Corruption: Shaping Tomorrow's Integrity," highlights the crucial role young people play in fostering a society rooted in transparency, accountability, and ethical values. Youth are not only the leaders of tomorrow but also the change-makers of today. Their energy, innovation, and resolve make them formidable allies in the fight against corruption.
3. Today, we gather to reaffirm our collective commitment to eliminating the corrosive effects of corruption, particularly within Nigeria's extractive industries. NEITI, as a key institution in promoting transparency and accountability, recognizes the urgency of addressing this global challenge head-on.
4. Corruption remains one of the most significant threats to our nation's progress, and the extractive sector is no exception. The revenues generated from our natural resources should drive development and prosperity for all. However, corruption has often diverted these funds, undermining growth, stability, and the well-being of our citizens.
5. On this International Anti-Corruption Day, it is essential that we reflect on both our progress and the challenges that lie ahead. NEITI, in collaboration with various stakeholders, has been at the forefront of advocating for transparency and accountability in the extractive industries. Through rigorous audits, stakeholder engagement, and policy reforms, we have sought to foster an environment where openness prevails and corruption is curtailed.
6. Yet, our work is far from complete. Today serves as a powerful reminder that we must redouble our efforts to confront corruption directly. NEITI remains resolute in advocating for comprehensive reforms, supporting anti-corruption initiatives, and reinforcing our partnerships with government agencies, civil society, and the private sector.
7. Transparency is the foundation of NEITI's mission. We are committed to delivering accurate and timely information on the management of revenues from Nigeria's natural resources. By promoting openness, we empower citizens to hold both government and industry actors accountable.
8. Moreover, we recognize that empowering young people with the tools, knowledge, and platforms to identify, report, and resist corrupt practices is pivotal. By nurturing a culture of integrity among our youth, we ensure that ethical values permeate every facet of our society. This theme calls for intergenerational collaboration—where the experience of today's leaders merges with the energy of youth to build systems that uphold fairness

and justice. Together, we can shape a future where leadership is defined by integrity, equity, and sustainable growth.

9. As we commemorate this day, let us unite in our resolve to eradicate corruption from our society. Let us envision and work towards a future where the extractive industries serve as a genuine catalyst for sustainable development, benefitting every Nigerian.
10. Thank you for your attention. Let us advance with renewed vigor and unwavering determination in our collective pursuit of a corruption-free Nigeria.
11. Thank you.