

Speech By Dr. Orji Ogbonnaya Orji- Executive Secretary/CEO, Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative- NEITI on Delivering Methane Abatement from the Extractive Industry at the Nigeria Energy Forum on Thursday, the 23rd November 2023.

Good afternoon Special Guests, Distinguished Ladies and gentlemen.

I thank you for the privilege to speak on an issue that is of concern to natural resource governance environmental sustainability.

Methane is a potent greenhouse gas with warming potentials greater than carbon dioxide over the short term. Its impact on global warming is undeniable, making it a priority and a challenge for our planet's future. Besides its climate change discourse is quite significant.

At a time when Nigeria is faced with huge energy gap, energy insecurity, inadequate energy capacity deployment and utilization and above oil, inadequate information, public education and enlightenment on global transition to renewable energy, this event is very useful. It is therefore important to acknowledge the initiative and role of the United States Consul General in creating this timely awareness platform in collaboration with the Nigeria Energy Forum.

NEITI's legitimate interest in the discussion is in view of the fact that the extractive industries is a major source of Methane emissions with huge negative consequences to the environment, health hazards for host communities, livelihoods, security of lives and property and loss of revenues to government as well as extractive companies.

For instance, from NEITI independent reports in the oil and gas sector Nigeria's potential revenues in five years 2017-2021 from gas royalties and gas flare penalty stood at \$2.13billion. While \$1.3 billion of this amount were potential revenues from gas royalty while over \$835 million were from gas flare penalty showed that gas revenues from royalty and gas flare were almost at par with each other.

We in NEITI find the focus of this forum on Methane Abatement as quite consistent with global EITI standards on energy transition recently approved by our organisation at its last global conference held in Dakar Senegal in June this year.

Nigeria joined the Global Methane Initiative, an international public private sector initiative in 2004, the same year our country began implementation of the global extractive industries transparency EITI as a founding member. For the global Methane Initiative, Nigeria's goal is to seek international collaboration and partnership on methane abatement, Methane recovery, cost efficiency and use as clean energy resource, the Initiative also required access to data and informational, institutional support to remove market barriers to develop tools and resources, training, technology required

Nigeria's commitment to abating methane emissions in the extractive sector is further strengthened by special provision in Nigeria's on section 6 sub section (e) i-iv of the Petroleum Industry Act. The Nigeria Energy Transition Plan also provided for guidelines on implementation of the Methane Emissions Reduction.

NEITI has offered necessary advice to the Nigeria Upstream Regulatory Commission in its ongoing Gas Flare Commercialization Program in view of the relevance of the program and its strategic importance in supporting the country's methane emissions abatement program

At the federal, state and host community levels, the government has put in place relevant regulations on methane emission control. These include restrictions on bush burning, improper waste disposal and other air pollutants. From NEITI's decades of industry exposure, Nigeria has complex challenges managing extractive sector methane emissions reduction and abatement. A 5-year trend analysis of gas flared in Nigeria from 2017 to 2021 shows that \$835 million.

Besides, last year's projection of methane emissions in Nigeria showed that out of the 1,957 Kiloton of methane emitted in Nigeria, 1,555 Kiloton (79.46%) of the emissions would have been abated if the government regulations and policies put in place as earlier highlighted were meticulously implemented.

I therefore recommend that this conference should develop, pay priority attention evolving strategies, suitable rules of engagement to work with reform-mandate-oriented institutions and agencies with requisite skills, knowledge, competency and industry exposure to work with in partnership and collaboration. NEITI is one of those agencies ready and available.

The forum should also consider the need for stakeholders mapping to build clarity on the roles of government, civil society, and relevant industries such as the extractives, energy and environment etc on methane abatement, emission control and reduction.

The consequences of climate change from extreme weather events to rising sea levels are real, quite severe with negative impacts and requires urgent attention as part of our national methane emissions reduction and mitigation program these impacts.