TALKING POINTS ON STATUS OF EITI IMPLEMENTATION IN NIGERIA- JANUARY – APRIL 2024.

1. Protocol!

2. NEITI Management, dear colleagues, gentlemen of the Press
3. I bring you greetings from the Management and Staff of NEITI. I am delighted to welcome you all to this meeting to provide you with important updates on the progress we made working closely in partnership and collaboration with the government, extractive companies, the civil society and the media in pushing the boundaries of implementation of Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in Nigeria.

4. Please recall that I had a briefing session with you in December 2023. In line with our resolve to keep our quarterly media briefings on track, this briefing would have come in the first quarter of 2024 but, a delegation from the EITI International Secretariat visited Nigeria from January 22 – 26, 2024, to officially communicate the validation outcome to the government. NEITI held several meetings with the different stakeholders' constituencies. Updates on EITI implementation in Nigeria were provided during these meetings and we had sessions for the media on their arrival and before departure. The briefing today is therefore to address important developments since after the EITI Mission.

5. **NSWG Reconstitution:** One major message the EITI International Mission communicated clearly to our government was the urgency to reconstitute the NEITI NSWG (Board) which was dissolved on the 19th June 2023.

- As we are all aware two days ago, the President announced the reconstitution of the NEITI NSWG. To reaffirm Nigeria's highest commitment, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, His Excellency, Senator, George Akume was announced as the Chairman of the NSWG.
- Other members of the new NEITI Board (6th NSWG) include; The Executive Chairman, FIRS Zacch Adedeji representing government; The Group Chief Executive Officer, NNPC Ltd, Mallam Mele Kyari representing Companies; Mr Oghene Gwueke Ajafia representing Oil Producers Trade Section (OPTS), Lagos Chamber of Commerce; President, Miners Association of Nigeria Mr. Dele Ayanleke; Engr. (Mrs) Nkechi Isigwe representing Women/ Geoscientist representing Extractive Industries expert; and President, NUPENG Comrade Willians Apkoreha.
- Members representing the 6 geopolitical zones are Barr. Musa Abdullahi Lawan (North-West); Mr Abubakar Mu'azu (North-East); Amb. Mathew Sunday Adoli (North Central); Olasupo, Abdel –Jeleel Taiwo Adekunle (South-West); Chief Israel Ikechukwu Ikwuegbu (South East); and Dr Stephen Leo Akpan (South-South).
- I wish to clarify that it is a 15-member Board no more no less as provided by law. As Secretary to the Board and NEITI Executive Secretary/CEO, I remain on a 5-year single term, no more no less as provided by law.
- NEITI is following with interest but from a distance, the ongoing independent process by CSOs to elect their representative on the Board. While we commend the painstaking efforts from the Civil Society Organizations constituency, we hope this would be completed very soon to enable them take up their rightful position waiting for them on the reconstituted Board. For this to happen, I appeal and call on the civil

society to close ranks and bury their differences. NEITI is and always would be their institution ready and open to work with all CSOs as important partners in the EITI.

- We have received support from the larger CSOs in areas of partnership and collaboration. Our relationship with the media is very impressive as the media has supported all our dissemination and public enlightenment efforts.

6. **Corrective Action Plan to Address Issues identified in the Validation Report:** Meanwhile, as part of the follow – up actions to the EITI delegation visit, NEITI has developed a corrective action plan to address the issues identified in the validation report. This corrective action plan has been shared with the EITI International Secretariat, outlining concrete steps to enhance Nigeria's implementation of the EITI Standard.

7. For the avoidance of doubt, Nigeria's corrective actions would focus on improving our ranking on Stakeholders' Engagement, which include:
    - Requirement 1.1- Government Engagement
    - Requirement 1.2-Company Engagement
    - Requirement 1.3-Civil Society Engagement
    - Requirement 1.4- MSG Governance
    - Requirement 2.2-Contracts and license allocations
    - Requirement 2.3- License Register
    - Requirement 2.4- Contracts.

Already our strategy on improving stakeholders' engagement has yielded very positive results. We now have the NSWG in place with the SGF chairing the NEITI

Board, NEITI – Companies Forum now has a Deputy Chair and both the chair and his deputy have stepped up their engagements and support to the EITI process.

I want to reassure our stakeholders, international partners and the global EITI that no stone is being left unturned in ensuring that at the next validation, Nigeria scores the maximum points of 100 in its assessment.

8. **NEITI Industry Reports:** On the Industry Reports, NEITI has commenced and made very good progress with the conduct of the 2022-2023 industry reports of the oil, gas and mining sectors. Two indigenous independent Administrators are conducting the exercise. They are Haruna Yahaya for the Solid Minerals report and Adeshile Adedeji & Co for the conduct of the oil and gas report. We have also set September, 2024 as the date for the completion of the reports. We have deployed our automated information-gathering infrastructure-NAMS for the conduct of the exercise.

   The theme of the Oil & Gas report is "Impact of the PIA on domestic resource mobilization," while the theme of the Solid Minerals report is "Unleashing the potential of the solid mineral sector: assessing the Nigeria mining roadmap." The Terms of Reference for these reports have been reviewed and agreed upon by the stakeholders in the absence of the National Stakeholders Working Group (NSWG). (A summary of the ToR is provided below):

Oil & Gas

- ❑ Disclose information on the regulatory framework for the sector (legal, fiscal regimes, reforms and laws addressing corruption risks.
- ❑ Disclose procedures for awards and transfers of licenses;

- Disclosure on production and export levels and comprehensive information on NNPC participation in the sector;
- Disclosure on greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions;
- Disclose all company payments and government revenues from oil and gas, revenue management and distribution highlighting subnational transfers and revenue sustainability;
- Disclose information on the contribution of the oil, gas & mining sectors to the economy
- Show adherence to approved data quality assurance procedures.
- Disclose information on the employment data and earnings by gender.

Solid Minerals

- To report on the regulatory framework for the solid mineral industry, including the legal framework, fiscal regime, roles of government entities and reforms, laws, and regulations relating to addressing corruption risks in the solid mineral sector,
- Provide the statutory procedures for awards and transfers of licenses and assess if these procedures are followed in practice,
- Disclose comprehensive information on property rights to mineral licenses and leases.
- Disclose information on the exploration activities in the solid mineral sector.
- Disclose information about mineral production levels and a valuation of extractive output.
- Furnish comprehensive reports detailing mineral production, utilization, and storage on a project-specific basis within the sector.

- To disclose information on mineral export quantities, assess the value of exports, and steps taken to monitor and verify the accuracy of export data from the sector.
- Report on extractive company(s) and community(s) consultation policies, laws, regulations, or contracts highlighting the ethos of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) in Nigeria.

All the reports are to make observations and recommendations to support policy making that would impact Nigeria's oil, gas and mining sectors.

9. **NEITI House Dialogue:** NEITI is set to host the maiden edition of the NEITI House Dialogue, a quarterly policy engagement series that will host notable policymakers who will address policy issues and reforms in the extractive sector. The NUPRC CCE Engr. Gbenga Komolafe will grace the maiden edition of the NEITI House Dialogue. The event will hold on the 29th April, 2024 at the NEITI House, Abuja.

10. **Inter-Ministerial Task Team:** The NEITI Inter-Ministerial Task Team -IMTT has been reconstituted after about 7 years. The IMTT will be inaugurated on the 13th May 2024 with high-ranking officers no less than a Director, as part of the team. It comprises key government agencies such as the Nigerian Upstream Regulatory Commission (NUPRC), Nigeria National Petroleum Company (NNPC) Ltd, Office of the Accountant General of the Federation (OAGF), Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Revenue Mobilization, Allocation & Fiscal Commission (RMFAC), and the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN), Office of the Auditor General of the Federation (OAuGF), Ministry of Solid Minerals Development, Office of the Secretary to

the Government of the Federation (OSGF), Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), Mining Cadastre Office, among others. The IMTT is saddled with the responsibility of implementing recommendations and findings of the NEITI's industry reports and deepen government oversight and reforms in the extractive sector.

11. **Remediation Plan:** A draft remediation plan is being developed for implementation in line with NEITI's mission and strategic plan which is to institutionalize accountability mechanisms and processes to instill a culture of transparency and participation in Nigeria's extractive sector for the benefit of all. The IMTT program also aims to increase integrity and transparency within regulatory agencies and operators in the extractive industries.

12. **Data Center:** Work on the NEITI Data Center has also commenced and the expected completion date is August 2024. The data center when completed will serve as a repository of information and data on extractive and natural resource governance.

13. **Engagement in the Policy Space:** On engagement in the Policy Space, NEITI has published Issues 19 and 20 of the FAAC Quarterly Review. The Review analysed allocations and disbursements to the three tiers of government-Federal, States, Local Government and statutory recipients in 2023. Details are on the NEITI website. However, work on the following research study and publications will commence in May, 2024.
    - Study on PMS consumption in Nigeria before and after subsidy removal
    - Policy Brief/ Advisory on Domestic Resource Mobilisation.

14. **Engagement with National Assembly:** NEITI's partnership and collaboration with National Assembly has improved and yielded positive results. NEITI reports were tabled at the Plenary for debate and committed to an Ad Hoc Committee of the House of Representatives for further legislative action. For us at NEITI this is a significant milestone. There has also been an unprecedented interest and attention paid to the NEITI reports by members of the National Assembly.

15. **Inter-Agency Collaboration:** NEITI is strengthening engagements with other government agencies (NUPRC, NNPC, FIRS, etc.) through bilateral meetings on remediation. We are also drafting an MoU to be signed with National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) on data sharing to enhance national coordination and data access and integrity. NEITI will also sign MoU with National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) on the protection of civic space for civil society organisations working in the extractive sector.

16. **Anti -Corruption:** Nigeria has been admitted to the **Inter- Ministerial Committee on money laundering and Counter Terrorism.** Similarly, NEITI has been admitted as a member of the Nigeria Economic Summit Group to lead the extractive thematic group. The Head of the EITI International Secretariat has been invited to speak at the next summit. NEITI is also a member of the Presidential Committee on Fiscal Policy and Tax Reforms.

17. **Engagement with Development Partners:** Our relationships with our key stakeholders remain cordial and active. We are exploring areas of strengthening our relations with development partners like GIZ, NRGI and Ford Foundation who are working with us in the areas of Energy Transition.

18. **Strengthening NEITI-Companies Forum:** The NEITI Companies Forum has been strengthened with Miners Association of Nigeria fully integrated as the Deputy Chair of the Forum. In the last Audit Report exercise, 69 Companies in the oil and gas sector and 1,214 Companies in the Solid Minerals Sector participated. NEITI has also been working with them on the draft corrective actions on the Validation Report on Nigeria.

19. Engagement with Dangote Refinery: NEITI also recently met with the Managing Director / CEO of Dangote Refineries were NEITI stressed the need for EITI Compliance and the Dangote Refineries have been invited to join EITI as a supporting company.

20. **Board and Management Retreat:** We are taking steps to strengthen our internal operations, and some of them are reviewing the NEITI HR manual, NEITI Act, drafting the code of conduct policy for the Secretariat that aligns with international EITI standards, etc. To this end, the NEITI Management will be proceeding on a week-long retreat to develop the strategy and framework for the implementation of the above policies and programmes including the post validation corrective actions. A similar retreat is being planned for the Board immediately it is inaugurated by the President.

21. **Next Steps**

- Retreat for the newly constituted NSWG.
- 2022 and 2023 Industry Reports and other special reports
- EITI Validation corrective actions
- NEITI Act Review
- Implementation of the Nigeria Country Plan

- Regular Publication of Policy Briefs.
- NEITI Data Center.
- Broadened stakeholders' engagement and sub national outreaches
- Linking NEITI reports to revenue growth, impacts and attribution.

22. Let me once again extend our heart-felt gratitude to the President, Bola Ahmed Tinubu (GCFR) and the Chairman of the NEITI NSWG, Senator George Akume, Secretary to the Government of the Federation, sister agencies, the NEITI-Companies Forum, the civil society and you, the Fourth Estate of the Realm for your commitment, steadfastness and support to the implementation of the EITI in Nigeria. The multi-stakeholder nature of the EITI is where we draw our strength from and this is what gives NEITI its uniqueness

23. Distinguished ladies and gentlemen of the press, you can assess for yourselves how much progress that we have made in the past 3 months and how farther we can go together. I enjoin you to support the NEITI so that together we can make our natural resource wealth work for our people and generations yet unborn.

24. Thank you for coming.