

**REMARKS OF BY OLUSEGUN A. ADEKUNLE, CHAIRMAN,
NEITI NSWG AT THE RETREAT FOR NEWLY
INAUGURATED NEITI BOARD – NATIONAL
STAKEHOLDERS WORKING GROUP (NSWG), HELD ON 9TH
AUGUST, 2021, AT IBOM HOTEL & GOLF RESORT (LE
MERIDIEN), UYO, AKWA IBOM**

PROTOCOL

I welcome all members of the newly inaugurated National Stakeholders Working Group (NSWG), our facilitators and members of the media to this Retreat taking place in Uyo, the capital of Akwa Ibom State.

2. Particularly, I welcome and appreciate the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha for underscoring the significance of this exercise by assigning my friend of over 25 years and colleague, the Permanent Secretary (Political & Economic Affairs), Mr. David Andrew Adejoh to deliver the Key Note address.

3. I also wish to thank the SGF for expeditiously inaugurating the NSWG a few days after its constitution. We definitely do not take these two important steps for granted.

4. The Retreat commencing today marks a commencement milestone for the 5th NSWG of NEITI for several reasons.

- ✓ It will reveal to members the strategic nature of the of the extractive Industry to the national economy;
- ✓ Relate the centrality of the mandate of NEITI to the anti-corruption activities of government;
- ✓ Assist members in understanding the principles and standards of the EITI;
- ✓ Deepen the accomplishments so far recorded by NEITI by raising the bar;
- ✓ Infuse governance systems and standards into the solid minerals sector;
- ✓ Drive up domestic revenue profile of the dountry by plugging leakages
- ✓ Understand the NEITI Act (its strength and weaknesses);
- ✓ Drive the Transparency, Accountability and advocacy processes in a new PIB environment;
- ✓ Provide policy and leadership direction for NEITI in a fast changing extractive industries sector especially as we wind down the 2016-2017 Strategic Plan and develop the successor plan for 2022-2026 that will consolidate the achievements of NEITI.

The list of legacy steps we should (and shall) be taking during our tenure, is by no means exhaustive.

5. It is at this point that I wish to relate to the three key areas identified by the ED-EITI Global during the Goodwill message. These are:

- (i) The role EITI can play in global transformation of the economy (Energy Transformation)

- (ii) Working to consolidate all accomplishments recorded by NEITI

- (iii) Working together to achieve internal governance

These areas are already captured in the points listed above.

6. As we go into this Retreat, therefore, I urge all members, to be attentive and fully participate so that we may come out with a better understanding of the sector, our mandate, the challenges, the elements of the Keynote address as well as the expectations of Nigerians and the international community.

7. Once again, I welcome every one to the first Retreat of the 5th NEITI NSWG and wish us all a fruitful process.

8. I now have the honor and privilege of inviting the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, represented by the Permanent Secretary (Political & Economic Affairs) Mr. David Andrew Adejoh, to deliver the keynote address and declare the Retreat open.