



## **EITI Validation Report: Global Rights, Social Action Support CSO Remedial Action**

Two civil society organizations, the Social Action and Global Rights, are partnering with NEITI to organize a capacity building program for CSOs in the extractive sector.

The workshop is aimed at exposing participants to the ongoing reforms in Nigeria's oil, gas and solid minerals sectors. It is also part of the effort to respond to CSO remedial issues flagged up by the EITI in the last validation exercise. Participants expected at the workshops are civil society organizations, media, development partners, policy makers, members of relevant committees of the National Assembly, relevant government agencies and extractive companies.

While the Social Action group's event will focus on the oil and gas sector reforms, the Global Rights event will look at the ongoing reforms in the solid minerals sector and examine the implementation of the mining sector roadmap.

The event will also discuss the participation of the civil society in the work of NEITI, examining the NEITI Act, its strengths and weaknesses.

NEITI's decision to partner with the two organizations is in line with its policy of providing institutional support to civil society groups that are working to advance the cause of transparency and good governance of the extractive industries in Nigeria. The

collaboration is also consistent with the Kano plan of action by NEITI –Civil Society Steering Committee to address gaps noticed by EITI validation Report on Nigeria.

Under the CSO plan of action in addressing the gaps, a stakeholders mapping and outreach exercise is expected to be in place. There is a requirement for development of information sharing framework for CSO constituency. Others are availability of simplified user-friendly information, education and communication materials, organization of town hall meetings and capacity building events.

Social Action is an indigenous civil society organization based in Port Harcourt while Global Rights is an Abuja-based international civil society organization. Both organizations are working to advance the cause of transparency, accountability and sustainability of the extractive industries through capacity building partnership with NEITI in supporting of EITI implementation in Nigeria.



### **SITEI CONFERENCE BEGINS JULY 19TH**

All is now set for the 6<sup>th</sup> Sustainability in the Extractive Industry (SITEI) conference scheduled to hold in Abuja from the 19<sup>th</sup>-20 July 2017.

The conference jointly organized by CSR-in-Action and the NEITI is to stimulate debates, evolve strategies, and contribute to government's plans of building local capacity for the Extractive Industries in Nigeria.

The Chief Executive Officer of CSR-in-Action, Mrs Bekeme Masade said the focus of the conference will be on the 7 Big Wins of the NNPC and the 20- point agenda to end militancy in the Niger Delta of the Oil & Gas sector as identified by the government.

Mrs Masade pointed out that the 2017 SITEI conference will provide platform for discussions on how the private sector can take lead in driving and actualizing government's plans for the extractive sector in Nigeria.

"We need to build local capacity in our extractive sector to ensure that local entrepreneur and investors seamlessly harness the opportunities and potentials inherent in the sector," Masade added.

The Executive Secretary of NEITI, Waziri Adio expressed optimism that the theme of the conference "Building Local for Global" aptly identifies the need for the extractive sector in Nigeria to add value to the local economy, influence the development of ancillary industries, and become competitive.

According to Mr Adio, “NEITI is pleased to partner with CSR-in-Action in organizing the SITEI Conference for the third year running. This is because the objectives and goals are consistent with the overall mandate of NEITI in ensuring that natural resources aid sustainable development.”

The 2017 SITEI Conference will bring together government, private sector, civil society and the media to exchange ideas and best practices towards the development of local content in the sector.

Minister of State for Petroleum Dr. Ibe Kachikwu is billed to declare the conference open while the Minister of Mines and Steel Development Dr Kayode Fayemi, is expected deliver the keynote address.

Other speakers expected at the conference include the Executive Secretary of NEITI, Mr. Waziri Adio and the Group Managing Director of NNPC, Dr. Maikanti Baru. There will be side events at the conference which includes an exhibition and workshop for local and international entrepreneurs in the extractive sector.



### **Women in Mining Backs Solid Mineral Reforms**

The Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency (NEITI) said it has confidence in the ongoing efforts by the current leadership at the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development to reform and transform the Nigerian mining sector.

The Executive Secretary of NEITI, Mr. Waziri Adio, stated this recently, while playing host to executive members of Women in Mining, Nigeria (WiMN) led by its President, Hon. (Engr.) Janet Adeyinka at the NEITI Secretariat in Abuja.

Mr. Adio said: “given the quality of leadership currently at the helm of affairs in the Ministry of Mines and Solid Minerals Development under the supervision of Dr. Kayode Fayemi, the solid minerals sector is in good hands.”

According to Mr Adio, “the Mining Sector Roadmap that is currently being implemented by the ministry tapped lots of inputs from several NEITI audit reports. We strongly believe that if well implemented, the Roadmap is capable of transforming the solid minerals sector.”

While commending WiMN for its work and activities in the solid minerals sector, he assured his visitors that NEITI is ready to work with the organization on issues of women vulnerability and revenue leakages in the sector.

Mr. Adio said NEITI is always ready to get involved in discussion that will address the issues of transparency and accountability to boost government's revenues from the extractive sector.

Earlier, the President of WiNM, Hon. Janet Adeyinka stated that the main objective of their visit was to explore possible areas of collaboration with NEITI in view of its strategic position in the Nigerian mining sector.

Hon. Adeyemi said while WiNM's focus is primarily about the vulnerability of women in the extractive industries, the organization is also concerned with transparency and accountability issues in the entire extractive industry value chain, and advocated for policy shift in favor of women in the sector in Nigeria.

She identified issues of poor governance, weak regulatory mechanism, poor data collection, absence of mineral processing plant, illegal mining and fluctuating exchange rates as some of the challenges confronting the development of the solid minerals sector.

Hon. Adeyemi called on NEITI to use its position in the sector to address some of these challenges, noting that her organization will leverage on its relationship with artisanal miners, mostly women in various mining site, to support NEITI in this direction.

Women in Mining, Nigeria(WiMN) is a women-focused organization composed of individuals employed in, associated with, or interested in the mining industry. It was established to foster public awareness of the economic and technical inter-relationship of mineral production with the national economy and the public good.



### **Students group seeks Partnership**

The Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) has expressed commitment to partner with students in Social Science, Economics and Commercials on extractive industries governance.

This commitment was made through the NEITI's Team lead Outreach Mr. Chris Ochonu, at the inception meeting between NEITI and Executives of the International Association of Students in Economic and Commercial Sciences (AIESEC), held recently at University of Abuja, Gwagwalada Campus.

Mr. Ochonu who represented NEITI at the meeting, explained that "as part of its outreach programmes, NEITI will work with organized and credible student groups to deepen the knowledge and culture of transparency and accountability in the management of extractive resources among the younger generation."

He informed the students that this will be done through NEITI's students outreach programme. The programme is aimed at building the capacity of students to understand the principles of Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in Nigerian Universities.

He noted that it is important for students to understand operations in the extractive industries as well as the principles of EITI to enable them demand for transparency, accountability on the application of revenues accruing from the sector.

Mr. Ochonu stressed that a major challenge in the implementation of EITI process in Nigeria is poor public awareness about the laudable global Initiative. According to him, many Nigerians are yet to understand the functions of NEITI, its objectives, methods, principles, processes and procedures.

He stressed that NEITI's concerns remain that unless and except Nigerians especially the youths understand what its objectives, the benefits, policy goals are, it would be quite difficult to achieve the desired buy-in and support.

This is why strategic engagement with students' population and outreach to schools have become critical in the implementation of EITI in Nigeria. This is in view of the fact that students represent important segment of the population that could serve as change agents in extractive sector governance.

Responding, the Vice President of AIESEC, Ms. Sekinat Lawal thanked NEITI's team and welcomed the decision to design a student's outreach programme. The programme will help to educate students on the operations and governance issues in the extractive sector. She assured the team of her group's readiness to work with NEITI on this important sector of Nigeria's economy.

International Association of Students in Economic and Commercial Sciences (AIESEC) is a global platform for students in tertiary institutions aimed at exploring and developing leadership potentials. The association exists in virtually all the universities in Nigeria.



## **UNODC Tasks Media on Corruption Reporting**

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has identified the support of the Media as critical success factor in Nigeria’s anti-corruption campaign.

Addressing the closing ceremony of a special meeting for Journalists working closely with anti –corruption agencies in Lagos, the Country Director, Ms Christina Albertin underlined the need for the media to embrace evidence-based reporting of anti-corruption practice in Nigeria.

She described the media as an indispensable tool required to ensure public disclosure, dissemination, monitoring and engagement of state and non-state actors on corruption related issues.

According to Ms Albertin, corruption has disastrous impacts on development, which if left unchecked, would have serious impediments to attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development throughout the world.

“It also breaches the essential trust between citizens and governments, as well as businesses and consumers. Therefore, it is important that everyone in the community including media officers take up a responsibility to prevent and fight corruption,” the UNODC official explained.

The Country Representative identified regular consultation with the media by her Mission as key to sustaining strategies, exchange of information, ideas and manpower development in building strong advocacy against corruption.

“ it is our hope that anti-corruption agencies and the media community continue with this collaborative partnership beyond the Support to Anti-Corruption in Nigeria which our Mission is funding, this is to ensure that tangible impact through public enlightenment on anti- corruption is achieved across the country” she added.

NEITI was among the 33 participants drawn from Federal government anti – corruption and leading media establishment that attended the workshop which is also co-funded by the European Union.

The Support to Anti-Corruption agencies under the funding of UNODC and European Union have over the last five years been responsible for extensive radio programmes, capacity building for the media and support for the civil society in the areas of public enlightenment, public education and information sharing in support of on-going anti-corruption campaign in Nigeria.

