



December 13, 2016

Mr. Femi Lijadu,  
Chairman, Nigeria Network of NGOs

Re: Performance and Accountability Report

Dear Mr. Lijadu,

I am pleased to transmit to you the performance and accountability report for the Nigeria Network of NGOs for the year 2016. This is an update to the results report on the NNNGO strategic plan developed in 2015. The report includes a summary of NNNGO's performance highlights in 2016 and our income and expenditure report pending when the audited report will become available.

NNNGO management is responsible for managing and maintaining effective internal controls over financial reporting, safeguarding of assets, and complying with applicable laws and regulations. I have determined to the best of my knowledge and believe that the performance and financial data included in this report are complete and reliable. NNNGO has received an unqualified opinion on its 2015 financial statement and the auditors found no material weakness with regards to our internal controls.

Should you need additional information with regards to our submission please contact me.

Sincerely

Oyebisi B. Oluseyi

## RESULTS

NNNGO Strategic Plan 2013 to 2017

### 2016 Update

The projects Nigeria Network of NGOs works on usually do not show immediate results; they are long term processes which might take years or even decades. In order to show that these efforts are yielding and that they do pay off in the long run we selected some inspiring results and outcomes as we implement the Networks 5 year's strategic plan.

#### **Provide the platform for Nigerian NGOs to influence national policies, make contributions to policy design and implementation.**

Policies shape how people and organisations pursue different development strategies and priorities. Over the year emphasis in development has **moved towards trying to influence the design and implementation of policies** in ways that are **representative of the interests of the poor**, or by **increasing spaces** for the poor to articulate their demands within the policy-making process. NNNGO was actively involved in **policy influencing activities around acceleration in the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals** by 2015 and in the **development of the sustainable development goals (SDGs)** between 2013 and 2016 by **connecting the voices of Nigerians and civil society organisations in Nigeria with the aspirations of the SDGs**. NNNGO has helped in creating the possibilities for **local communities in Nigeria to influence Nigeria's support for the SDGs** and the **Paris Agreement** through consultations, mobilising citizens to take action and meeting with government representatives and delegations in order to shape the design, negotiation and adoption of this globally negotiated goals. In 2013 for example, NNNGO was part of the high level civil society group that guided, shaped and influenced the work of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of eminent persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda.

The Panel was co-chaired by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom, and included leaders from civil society, private sector and government. Using outcomes of consultations and inputs from our members, NNNGO was part of a civil society led policy and advocacy mission organised by the African Working Group on the Post 2015 Agenda to the United Nations in New York in June 2014 to advocate for inclusion and safeguard for some proposed goals at that time. NNNGO was present in September 2015 at the United Nations when the SDGs were adopted by all Heads of Governments.

NNNGO continued to implement its SDGs campaign activities. Specifically, after drawing on its experience with the MDGs applying the lessons learnt, in 2016 NNNGO **partnered with Splash 105.5 FM**, a Nigerian Radio Station to feature every month each of the SDGs on live radio to raise awareness on the SDGs amongst the general public. For the 2016 Federal budget, NNNGO participated at a consultation held by Senate President to seek input into the proposed budget, our submission at the event which adequately captured in the consultation report presented to the entire National Assembly was on ensuring the 2016 budget is able to launch the country into the attainment of the SDGs.

#### **Promote a vibrant, professional, collaborative, highly effective and accountable NGO sector in Nigeria.**

Civil society is recognized as a key actor in the context of the demand side of accountability however in recent times, the sectors legitimacy, transparency and accountability have also been

questioned. In the last three years our sector has witnessed the rush by the National Assembly and Government Agencies to over-regulate our work. Taking the **sectors accountability serious**, NNNGO from 2013 to 2015 **convened** over 750 civil society organisations, government and the private sector from the six geo-political zones of the country to discuss and make recommendations on how our sector can become more transparent. **Empirical evidence** is one of the strengths of our sector, in 2014, with the support of Civicus and Open Society Initiative for West Africa (OSIWA), **we generated local knowledge on our sector and developed actionable recommendations** aimed at promoting our sectors role and capacity to foster democracy and citizens participation by **developing and implementing a self-assessment tool** that contributes to evidence-based civil society strengthening at the national level.

2015 saw us **embarking on an action-oriented research to assess the legal, regulatory and policy environment** for civil society in Nigeria through a locally-owned research work rooted in primary data collected at the grassroots level, and validated by a consensus based, multi-stakeholder process with the dual purpose of strengthening the capacity of our sector to advocate for an enabling environment and improving CSO-government relations. Outcomes of these two research work was useful in our engagement with the National Assembly when in 2014 the **Foreign Contribution and NGO Regulatory Agency Bills** surfaced at the House of Representatives. **NNNGO with the support of the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) reviewed both bills in the light of international standards, treaties, and norms and concluded in a report** that if the bills passed they would threaten civil society in Nigeria. The National Assembly' momentum to pass the bills waned in late 2014, thanks both to resistance from civil society as well as the fact that elections were around the corner and the bills' proponents were busy with their re-election bids. After the elections took place in March 2015, further progress on the bills became possible. On October 20, 2015, the NGO Regulatory Bill 2015 (SB 111) came up for a first reading on the Senate floor. **NNNGO had an advocacy meeting with Senator Duro Faseyi**, sponsor of the Bill and have gotten commitments from him to work with the Network as soon as the Bill passes second reading stage.

The year 2015 also saw the release of a National Code of Corporate Governance by the Financial Reporting Council of Nigeria (FRC), which ensures the accuracy and reliability of financial reporting in Nigeria. The code seeks to extend corporate governance regulations to NGOs. Consultations about the code were held with the civil society community by the Financial Reporting Council in June and December 2015. **NNNGO provided a sector response and also met with the leadership of FRC** to discuss implications of the code for our sector

**NNNGO has contributed to improving the relationship** between regulatory agencies such as Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC), Special Control Unit against Money Laundering (SCUML), Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS) and National Planning Commission (NPC) all of whom have attended our Conferences and continued to engage with them on the growth and effective regulation of our sector in line with international best practices.

Surfacing in 2016 were the **NGO Commission Bill (HB585)** and **Civil Society Commission of Nigeria Bill (HB705)**, **leveraging on its long-term partnership** with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL), NNNGO worked with ICNL in carrying out a **clause by clause analysis of Bill H585** since it is the most advanced within the legislative ladder and is the only Bill that is publicly available. This most far reaching analysis will help us in our advocacy on the Bill when it is up for public hearing in 2017.

**NNNGO enhanced engagement with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC)** in 2016, the engagement ensured that in September 2016, CAC sponsored a **sector wide engagement**

**conference** in partnership with the Network with over **230 nonprofits from 32 States** of the Federation in attendance to share their experience, thoughts, insights and comments on CSO regulations in Nigeria and how CAC can improve.

**Build an organization that is professionally focused, representative of the sector and respected as a voice for the 3<sup>rd</sup> sector in Nigeria**

Implementation of this strand of work in our 2013 to 2017 strategy implies that NNNGO had to **strengthen its governance and organisation structure**. To allow for more coherence between the Secretariat, Board and Members we **added two new staff** and **built on their expertise in the areas of audits and communications**. We connected the expertise of our Board to the knowledge we have at the Secretariat using this to influence policy and have **simultaneously increased the frequency and intensity of Board engagement** in our work. A **focus on the Networks resource management** has assisted in strengthening individual competencies at the Secretariat. Since communication and outreach are important elements of our work we have **incorporated the use of SMS** as part of our communication tool with members. The Network's **audited reports continued to be publicly available** on our website in line with international best practices. The NNNGO Annual Conference is the **only civil society gathering in Nigeria** that brings together and strengthens civil society from different parts of the country to discuss issues affecting the sector. Through our Annual Conference, participating organisations **have found a stronger voice** for their local interests and solutions and have gained the attention of national and international policy makers. We are **increasingly being taken seriously** as a partner and participant in conferences, think tanks, consultations and government committees.

**End**