

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNICATIONS AND CIVIL SOCIETY STEERING COMMITTEE QUARTERLY MEETING HELD
VIRTUALLY ON 29TH APRIL 2025.**

1.0	ATTENDANCE: Dr. Erisa Danladi Sarki Dele Ayanleke Abubakar Mu'azu Orji Ogbonnaya Orji Faith Nwadishi Dauda Garuba Janet Adeyemi Monday Osasah Alola Ali Cynthia Buluebiere Bright Dorcas Falodun Edosa Oviawe Farida Azira Abdulmalik Juliet Ukanwosu Oke Epia Omaojor Ogedoh Paul Kato CCSSC Chair/NSWG Member NSWG Member NSWG Member Executive Secretary NEITI	
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2.0	Peter Egbule Racheal Misaan- Ruppee Temitope Olaifa Tijan Bolton- Akpan Kolawole Banwo Joseph Gimba Chalres Uffot Dudu Manuga Obiageli Onuorah Chris Ochonu Obasi Ezine Angela Ogunjemilusi Racheal Jimba Roxanne Adetunmise Omooba COMMENCEMENT: The Meeting commenced at 7:00pm.	Ag. Director Communications & SM Dept. AD Director Communications & SM Dept. TL, Communications & SM Dept. Officer II, Communications & SM Dept. Officer II, Communications & SM Dept. Officer II, Communications & SM Dept.
3.0	INTRODUCTION: The meeting commenced at 7:20 PM with opening remarks from the Executive Secretary. The primary purpose was to address key issues related to NEITI's collaboration with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Issues discussed included Environmental Social and Governance (ESG) reporting, handling of petitions,	

	training plans for CSOs, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIAs), and Memorandum of Understanding (MOUs), notably with the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Dr Orji provided an update from the Secretariat and announced that the first Board meeting will be held on May 6, 2025, in Umuahia. The decision to hold the meeting in Umuahia is aimed at taking NEITI to the sub national level. He further noted that the 2025 Work Plan is available on the website; however, full implementation has not yet begun due to the pending approval of the year budget.	
4.0	Key Updates and Discussions: • The Executive Secretary highlighted ongoing collaborations and engagements with CSOs and close partners. • He mentioned receiving a petition from HEDA and addressed the issue of training, emphasizing its importance for manpower development. • It was also noted that there was a change of guard at the NNPC Ltd and the Executive Secretary is looking forward to meeting the new Chief Executive Officer of NNPC Ltd.	
5.0	Opening Remarks Dr. Orji, the Executive Secretary of NEITI, opened the meeting by welcoming attendees and addressing a petition sent to NEITI. He emphasized the need for diligence, noting that all agencies involved in the petition had received copies and were reviewing their responses. He thanked Janet Adeyemi for her follow-up efforts and urged CSOs to leverage NEITI's internal mechanisms before escalating issues. Dr. Janet Adeyemi made a significant contribution on ESG, stressing its importance in the extractive sector.	

6.0	She emphasized the need for robust ESG reporting, highlighting that the West uses the ESG index as a yardstick for mining companies and that a high or low ESG index matters significantly. She also predicted that by 2025, mining revenues could double those of oil and gas. Monday Osasah praised the opening presentation and sought clarification on the training plan for CSOs and details of the meeting in Abia state. Dr. Orji explained that the Abia meeting was an NSWG retreat and that the training plan would be tailored to CSO feedback and aligned with EITI standards, covering areas such as reporting, contract transparency, beneficial ownership, and resource mobilization. Comrade Cynthia Buluebiere inquired about capacity building to which Dr. Orji confirmed that plans were in place with relevant agencies. She also expressed concerns about EIAs in the Niger Delta, questioning NEITI's role in checking their developments. Dr. Orji clarified that NEITI does not get involved in prior decisions regarding EIAs, as that responsibility lies with NOSDRA, NESREA, FMENV, and state MENV. NEITI's role is to report on activities post-implementation. Janet Adeyemi proposed that NGOs and CSOs should build local capacity so that professionals can represent communities during EIAs. HEDA Petition On the petition from the Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA), Obiageli Onuorah observed that the petition and NEITI's response had been extensively reviewed by the committee members and sought clarity on the subsequent actions and collaborative efforts moving forward. Janet Adeyemi praised NEITI's response to the petition and emphasized the importance of teamwork within civil society, cautioning against airing disputes publicly. She stressed the need for resolving issues internally before	
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7.0 8.0 9.0	seeking external intervention and underscored the critical role of educating communities and involving CSOs in negotiations to mitigate environmental degradation. Additionally, she suggested that NEITI could develop and provide ESG guidelines to relevant organizations. Civil Society Protocol Dr. Erisa Danladi introduced the NEITI Civil Society Protocol, which would be circulated via email for feedback, aiming to define the relationship and engagement within the space. Peter Egbule advocated for its preliminary adoption, emphasizing that the document should reflect that it has gone through the civil society process and has been collectively reviewed and adopted. Following the discussion, the committee agreed to adopt the protocol in principle, with the understanding that final revisions would be completed before presentation to the NEITI board. MOU with National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) Obiageli Onuorah presented the MOU between NEITI and NHRC, which aims to protect civic space, and proposed that it be taken to the board for ratification. Dr. Farida Azira Abdulmalik moved for its adoption, and McDonald Ekemezie seconded the motion. Faith Nwadishi pointed out a date issue in the document that requires correction, and Obiageli Onuorah assured her that the date would be updated upon signing. Peter Egbule provided procedural guidance, suggesting that if the director of Legal Services from NHRC is signing, the Director of Legal Services for NEITI should sign as well. Alternatively, Dr. Orji could sign with Dr. Ojukwu. He also recommended that the CSO representative witness the signing to ensure proper protocol. AOB	
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Condolences: The committee expressed condolences to Madam Dudu Manuga for her loss, and a member suggested writing an official letter to formalize this gesture. NNPCL Engagement: Faith Nwadishi called for greater interaction with NNPCL, specifically requesting that NNPCL engage with CSOs. She cited an example of NNPCL sending Afe Babalola to respond to Freedom of Information (FOI) requests from CSOs and urged the Executive Secretary to speak with the new GCEO on responding to FOI requests without lawyers. Capacity Building: A 5-man committee was proposed to conduct a gap analysis for CSO training needs, including Dr. Erisa Danladi, Monday Osasah, Global Rights, Juliet Ukanwosu, Faith Nwadishi volunteered, and they are to revert back in 3 weeks on the topic. Face-to-Face Meetings: Faith Nwadishi proposed having occasional face-to-face meetings, particularly when the board meets in different regions, to engage local CSOs, such as the forthcoming retreat in the South East, and enhance their participation. Vote of Thanks: Temitope Olaifa delivered the vote of thanks and also spoke on the need to conduct oneself properly during meetings. The meeting concluded at 9:32 pm with Peter Egbule moving for adjournment, seconded by Juliet Ukanwosu.	
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