

REPORT ON THE NEITI CSO TOWN HALL VIRTUAL MEETING ON THE 2026 NIGERIA EITI VALIDATION

Date: Friday 31st July, 2026

Attendance: 38 Participants.

1. Board Members

S/N	Name	Role
1	Dr. Erisa Danladi	CSO Representative on the NEITI National Stakeholders Working Group (NSWG)
2	Dr. Steven Leo Akpan	South-South Representative on the NEITI National Stakeholders Working Group (NSWG)

2. Secretariat Staff

S/N	Name	Designation
1	Dr. Dieter Bassi, MNI	Director, Policy Planning and Strategy
2	Mallam Sa'ad Balarabe	Director Energy and Mining
3	Mrs. Obiageli Onuorah	Director, Communications and Stakeholders Management
4	Mr. Chris Ochonu	Deputy Director, Communications and Stakeholders Management
5	Obasi Ezinne	Assistant Director, Communications and Stakeholders Management
6	Ogunjemilusi Racheal	Officer 1, Communications and Stakeholders Management
7	Jimba Roxanne	Officer 1, Communications and Stakeholders Management
8	Adetunmise Omooba	Officer 1, Communications and Stakeholders Management
9	Ibrahim Abdulhadi	Officer 1, ICT

3. Civil Society Organizations

S/N	Name	S/N	Name
1	Akin Sokefun	15	Dr. Mina Ogbanga
2	Akinbowale Sokefun	16	Mohammed Golkos Wuyo
3	Ayo Okotie	17	Muhammad Musbahu Basirka
4	Babawale Olalekan	18	Murgah Yakume
5	Barr. Chima Williams	19	Nasir Lawal
6	Cynthia Buluebiere Bright	20	Okeiyi Juliet Obiageri (IMO)
7	Hon. Emem Edoho	21	Salihu Hussaini
8	Emilia	22	Dr. Samuel Paul
9	Farida Azira Abdulmalik	23	Sylvanus Udoenoh
10	Gloria Nwafor	24	Tijah Bolton-Akpan
11	Helen Bodunde	25	Tolu Oyero
12	Joseph Gimba	26	Yankuzo
13	Martins Alo	27	Zarah
14	Dr. Mfon Utin		

Introduction

The meeting commenced at approximately 7:20 pm

The NEITI CSO Virtual Townhall Meeting and Consultative Forum was convened by the Civil Society Representative on the Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) National Stakeholders Working Group (NSWG), Dr. Erisa Danladi, with the participation of NEITI Management and members of the NEITI Civil Society Strategic Think Tank in attendance.

The meeting was to update civil society organizations (CSO's) on developments in the NSWG and recent NEITI activities and also present the three validation templates submitted for the 2026 Nigeria EITI Validation (Outcomes and Impact, Transparency, and Stakeholder Engagement). Furthermore, the meeting was to agree on next steps ahead of the visit of the EITI International validation team scheduled for 10th to 14th August 2026. The meeting was moderated by the Deputy Director, Communications and Stakeholders Management at NEITI, Mr. Chris Ochonu.

Opening Remarks

Dr. Erisa Danladi delivered the opening remarks and welcomed participants. She noted that, as this was the first meeting of the year and the inaugural CSO Town Hall, there were no previous minutes to review. She recognized the NSWG members present, Dr. Steve Akpan, the South-South representative on the NEIT Board and commended the CSO constituency for its continued

commitment to transparency, accountability and good governance in Nigeria's extractive sector. She reaffirmed her commitment to ensuring that the voices of civil society are heard, respected and reflected in NEITI's work, and called for continued technical input from members. Participants then introduced themselves for the purpose of documentation.

Presentations

Update from the CSO Representative on the NSWG – Dr. Erisa Danladi

Dr. Erisa reported that the NSWG continues to provide strategic oversight for the implementation of the EITI Standard in Nigeria. Its recent focus has been strengthening transparency in the oil, gas and solid minerals sectors, improving public access to extractive-sector information, enhancing stakeholder participation, monitoring the implementation of audit recommendations, and ensuring that the validation templates are completed appropriately. She thanked members of the civil society for their inputs into the NEITI engagements and outlined progress made since she assumed office.

Key Achievements

- **Strategic Think Tank established**, made up of former CSO representatives on the NSWG, the national coordinators of the Resource Justice Network (RJN), and other civil society organisations. The objective of the Think Tank is to preserve institutional memory, provide policy guidance, technical analysis and coordinate advocacy. Its evidence-based positions will go to the CSO Steering Committee and the wider constituency for input before submission to the Board.
- **CSO engagement frameworks are being harmonized** into a single NEITI CSO Protocol for Engagement, to be shared with members.
- **MoU between NEITI and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)** is now in place to strengthen the protection of civic space.
- **Membership revalidation and recruitment** produced about 127 responses. Analysis is ongoing and members will be linked to their thematic areas of work.
- **The first CSO Town Hall** has been convened, addressing the communication gap between the CSO Representative, NEITI and the wider constituency.

Next Steps

- Make the Town Hall a regular forum for dialogue, learning and collective action, strengthening accountability between the CSO Representative and the constituency, and building consensus on policy positions.
- Strengthen coordination ahead of national, regional and international engagements, and encourage NEITI to hold regional town halls that address regional peculiarities.
- Encourage members to document community concerns, generate policy recommendations and take part in consultations on emerging issues such as beneficial ownership, energy transition, critical minerals and governance.

- Share the outcome of the membership revalidation exercise with the constituency.
- Keep the CSO platform strictly for extractive-sector matters, professional and free of political or religious content.

Review of Recent NEITI Activities and Emerging Issues – Mr. Chris Ochonu Deputy Director, Communications and Stakeholders Management

Mr. Chris briefed participants on preparations for the 2026 Nigeria EITI Validation and other engagements over the last six months. He provided the following updates:

- **Validation Templates:** The NSWG reviewed, approved and signed off the validation templates on Stakeholder Engagement, Transparency, and Outcomes and Impact, which have been submitted on behalf of the country to the EITI International Secretariat, and NEITI is now preparing to receive the international validation team.
- **NSWG oversight:** Three NSWG meetings were held in the reporting period, along with two emergency meetings on the 10th and 26th June 2026 after the EITI Board declined to extend the validation start date. The NSWG resolved to accelerate preparations and escalated funding constraints to its Chairman, the Secretary to the Government of the Federation (SGF), for intervention.
- **Joint NSWG and Senior Management retreat,** concluded about two days before this meeting, deepened members' understanding of the 2023 EITI Standard and the validation methodology ahead of technical sessions with the validators.
- **NEITI Act 2007 review:** The Secretariat has completed the draft amendment bill and sent it to the NSWG ad-hoc committee. It will then go to the full NSWG, wider stakeholder consultation and finally, the National Assembly.
- **Stakeholder engagements:** Meetings held with the Inter-Ministerial Task Team, the NEITI Companies Forum, and CSOs and the media. The Executive Secretary and Board members held bilateral meetings with NUPRC, the Nigeria Revenue Service (NRS), NNPC Ltd, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Planning, and the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PTDF). NEITI also responded to two Freedom of Information requests, from Kronos Legal & Co. and Media Rights Agenda.

Next Steps

- Continue bilateral engagement with covered entities, including receiving the EITI International validation team from 10th to 14th August 2026 and secure a successful validation outcome for Nigeria.
- Advance the NEITI Act amendment through NSWG review, stakeholder consultation and the National Assembly.

- Prepare for the EITI Global Conference in Brussels, Belgium, on 8th and 9th October 2026.

PRESENTATION SESSIONS

(a) Outcomes and Impact Template

The first presentation on the Outcome and Impact Template was taken by the Director, Policy Planning and Strategy, Dr. Dieter Bassi, mni

Dr. Dieter presented the Component A, a self-assessment and corrective actions under the 2023 EITI Standard, covering Requirement 1.5 (work plan and monitoring), Requirement 7.1 (public debate), Requirement 7.2 (data accessibility and open data) and Requirement 7.3 (follow-up on recommendations).

Key Achievements

- **Work plan (1.5):** the 2026 work plan was approved by the NSWG on 12th December 2025 and is 95% funded by the Federal Government, with donor support from the Ford Foundation and RoLAC. It aligned with national priorities, reflects consultation with CSOs and companies, and is linked to an M&E framework supported by the 2023 to 2025 annual progress reports. Nigeria's self-assessment score for work plan consultation and development is 90%.
- **Public debate (7.1):** Key audiences have been identified and mapped in the communication strategy. The simplified versions of the 2022 and 2023 industry reports have been produced. Outreaches included the NEITI House Dialogue, a tax reform webinar series, and CSO roundtables on energy transition and methane emissions. Policy briefs were published on energy transition, gender inclusion, state debt servicing, tax reform, illicit financial flows and oil subsidy costs. Gender inclusion is supported through International Women's Day outreach and a dedicated NSWG gender representative. These activities were designed to promote public debate.
- **Open data (7.2):** an open data policy is in place. Oil, gas and solid minerals audit data are published on the NEITI website in open formats (reports in Word and data in Excel) with no licence attached or restriction on use, and CSOs, the media and academia are already using them. No corrective action was recorded for this requirement in the previous validation.
- **Follow-up on recommendations (7.3):** The NSWG developed a corrective action plan that is now integrated into the work plan, and follow-up through NSWG meetings, committees, constituency reports, the Inter-Ministerial Task Team and bilateral engagement. Following the new tax law, under which royalty for oil and gas, and for the solid minerals, is now collected by the NRS, NEITI sensitized companies, published a policy brief and held a dialogue on the change.

Next Steps

- Institutionalize consultation with government, industry and CSOs beyond the NSWG in every work plan cycle, through a formal framework.
- Extend disclosure beyond English into Hausa, Yoruba, Igbo and Pidgin English so that host communities can follow NEITI's reports and activities.
- Sustain the NSWG follow-up mechanism and share NSWG decisions and minutes with constituencies promptly after each meeting.
- Continue policy briefs and multi-channel outreach on emerging issues: Energy transition (including stranded assets and community impact), the new tax laws, artisanal mining and security, global and regional energy security.

(b) Transparency Template

The Director, Energy and Mining, Mallam Saad Balarabe, who made a presentation on the Transparency Template explained that the template is a standardized tool used to assess and demonstrate Nigeria's compliance with the EITI Standard. It is populated from the oil, gas and solid minerals audit reports and captures licences, contracts, revenue, companies, government entities, state participation, social and environmental impact. Oil and gas and solid minerals are populated separately because their revenue streams differ.

Key Achievements

- **Oil and gas:** All six categories (C1 to C6) were completed and submitted: overview of the sector; licences, contracts and ownership; state participation; revenue collection and data quality; revenue management and subnational contributions; and social and environmental impact.
- **Solid minerals:** C1, C2, C4, C5 and C6 were submitted. State participation (C3) does not apply because there is no state-owned company in the sector, which is dominated by artisanal and private-sector miners.
- **Review and submission:** the templates were shared with the EITI Secretariat, whose comments were received and addressed before submission to the validators by 1st July 2026.

Next Steps

- Finalize the 2024 audit report and upload the information to update the submission. Because the request to defer validation was declined, the templates were populated from the 2023 audit report, which was prepared largely under the 2019 EITI Standard. The 2024 report addresses the 2023 Standard fully.
- Close the remaining gaps on contract transparency and beneficial ownership, which are national disclosure challenges rather than template preparation issues.

- Harmonize the four beneficial ownership portals (NEITI, NUPRC, the Ministry of Solid Minerals Development and the Corporate Affairs Commission) so that they interface with one another.

(c) Stakeholder Engagement Template – Mrs. Obiageli Onuorah, Director, Communications and Stakeholders Management

Mrs. Onuorah explained that the template covers Requirement 1 of the 2023 EITI Standard: government engagement (1.1), company engagement (1.2), civil society engagement (1.3) and MSG oversight (1.4). Validators assess how stakeholders are supported, how each constituency uses EITI data, and whether there are obstacles to participation. The template records progress, evidence submitted and next steps. Validation will run for a period of four to six months, and Nigeria may reply, with evidence, to the validators' initial assessment report.

Key Achievements

- **Government engagement and MSG oversight:** The NSWG has been reconstituted under the leadership of the SGF, with statutory meetings held regularly since 2024, several retreats, and the Inter-Ministerial Task Team reconstituted. A code of conduct has been adopted and an expense summary report prepared. Evidence submitted includes appointment letters, meeting notices, invitations and attendance lists.
- **Companies:** Nominations and alternates, including female alternates, were submitted. The mining sector is now represented on the Board, which was not the case in the previous validation.
- **Civil society:** The strongest area, with independent nomination, election and outreach by CSOs, including Resource Justice Network and the CSO Steering Committee. The obstacles-to-participation issue was addressed in January 2026 with the signing of the MoU with National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Nigeria's self-assessment on the civil society requirements is above 90%.
- **Overall Strengthen:** A strong EITI implementation framework, improved revenue and contract disclosures, active civil society participation and alignment with national priorities.

Next Steps

- **Civil Society:** Collect incident logs of any infringement on civic space, which is required to activate the NHRC MoU, and submit records of activities carried out over the last two to three years.
- **Companies:** Formalize the criteria for selecting company representatives, confirm constituency elections, document outreach, and encourage oil and gas companies to reference NEITI's reports publicly. Grassroots outreach should be embedded in company work plans.
- **Gender:** Women hold about 20% of Board seats. NEITI will finalize a gender parity plan and reflect gender provisions in the NEITI Act review.
- **Tenure:** Strengthen and document tenure adherence. The SGF and the Board have promised to embed tenure protection in the NEITI Act and to guide government on the EITI

requirement on Board reconstitution, since dissolution of parastatal boards also affects the NEITI Board.

- Use validation as a continuous in-country assessment tool, reviewed monthly, quarterly, half-yearly and yearly, rather than a one-off exercise.

Key Action points for the CSO constituency

- Collect and submit incident logs on civic space and evidence of CSO activities carried out over the last two to three years.
- Document community concerns, generate policy recommendations and take part in consultations on emerging issues.
- Raise questions and concerns on the CSO platform, where the facilitators will respond.

Discussion and Closing

Participants were encouraged to ask questions and concerns, which the resource persons provided response.

Participants were advised to keep the platform professional, focused on extractive-sector issues and free of political and religious contents. Appreciation was extended to the resource persons and the NEITI validation team for their commitment, and it was noted that the presentations had helped to increase understanding of the validation process.

The Town Hall will become a routine forum for updating and engaging the CSO constituency.