



# 2019

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## ACTIVITY SNAPSHOT

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Dear Stakeholders,

The Nigerian economy overtime has reflected slow economic recovery, as growth trajectory remains weak despite various policies launched to overhaul the economy. However, a closer look at the economic dynamics in the recently released 2019-Q3 Gross Domestic Production (GDP) data reflects an optimistic overview.

The economic growth recorded in 2019-Q3 represents the 2nd highest growth recorded since Q2-2017 when the economy rebounded from recession reflecting a continuous upward drift with a 2.28% economic growth in 2019-Q3.

Economic growth remains weak but with large possibilities of going over and above the IMF 2.3% forecast for 2019 while the ERGP 4.5% will be a wide goose chase.

To maintain and sustain such upward drift, growth needs to be supported by creating interventionist impetus and an enabling environment through investment-friendly policies and regulations that can attract stable domestic and foreign investment into key sectors of the economy.

Therefore, turning the current recovery into sustained strong economic growth that is inclusive, competitively sustainable would require policies aimed at reducing vulnerabilities, increasing socio-economic inclusion and raising medium-term growth prospects.

These to a large extent influenced our policy advocacy and intervention at the NESG Secretariat this year and as the year draws to a close, we are pleased to share with you a snapshot of some activities to keep you abreast of a few interventions you might have missed.

Highlighted in this activity report are some out of many engagements in 2019.



## NASSBER Engagements

- NASSBER has used its unique position to enable collaborative solutions between the National Assembly, the civil society and the organised private sector to carry-out and build consensus in the process of the reform of the Nigerian Business Environment, by broadening participation, engagement and the quality of output to our law-making.
- By ensuring steady advancement of Business Environment legislation through the National Assembly, NASSBER played a key role in securing the passage of several business environment legislations. It also facilitated the progress of many other legislations through both chambers of the National Assembly. This year, the following NASSBER priority bills were passed in the 8th Assembly and assented into law.
  1. Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Act 2019
  2. National Fertilizer Control Act 2019
  3. Nigerian Inland Waterways Authority Act
  4. National Agricultural Seed Council Act 2019

President Muhammadu Buhari signed the Federal Competition and Consumer Protection bill into Law. The Bill is one of the priority legislations of NASSBER. The passage and signing into law of this bill will create a competitive market. Protecting the welfare of consumers, by providing them with competitive prices and product choices, prohibiting restrictive business practices that distort or constitute an abuse of a dominant position of market power in Nigeria, therefore, promoting economic efficiency. This will lead to better pricing, faster employment generation, better productivity, increased consumer savings, faster economic growth and Increased Investment.

- The President also signed the Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Bill which promotes Commercial Agricultural enterprises in Nigeria by ensuring credit support for production, storage and processing of target Commodities.
- NASSBER received a recognition award from the PEBEC for its efforts in ensuring and facilitating the passage of the CAM Bill and other ease of Business Bills on the 3rd of April.
- Throughout the year, the NASSBER Working Groups played a vital role in ensuring that all stakeholder inputs were solicited and implemented in the legislative process.
- NASSBER worked closely with several committees of the National Assembly, including participation in public hearings, providing technical support and assistance to the Standing Committees of the National Assembly after the public hearing to meet their objectives of enacting legislation that is fit for purpose. This remarkable cooperation increased the efficiency of the committees and resulted in more positive outcomes for NASSBER.
- Members of the 9th National Assembly were sworn into office in June of 2019 but this did not halt NASSBER's work, the special legislation platform worked to institutionalise the presence of NASSBER in the National Assembly even after the 8th National Assembly gave way to the 9th.
- NASSBER bills were reviewed to align with the ERGP and the World Competitiveness Index.



### **In partnership with Alliance for Green Revolution for Africa (AGRA)**

- Regional sensitization workshops were held in 5 geo-political zones within 9 States (South-South: Delta, South-East: Imo, South-West: Ondo, Oyo, North-Central: FCT, Niger, Nasarawa and North-West: Kano, Kaduna) for smallholder farmers to discuss the imperatives and benefits of the Bills which kicked off on 21st November, 2018 and was completed on 1st February, 2019. This was conducted to sensitize farmers about the Bills and build momentum within the farmer groups and associations to lend their voices towards the passage of the Bills that will create an enabling environment for farmers and stakeholders to thrive in agribusiness.
- A total of Three Hundred and Fifteen (315) farmers were reached with the advocacy campaign that was expected to raise awareness for the three agri-business bills (Seed Council, Fertilizer Quality Control Bill and Warehouse Receipt System) being pushed by AGRA on the NASSBER platform of the NESG.
- Knowledge assets and collaterals such as factbooks and policy briefs on the National Independent Warehouse Receipt System Bill, National Fertilizer Quality Control Bill and the National Agricultural Seeds Council Bill were developed and produced for dissemination both electronically and hard copy.
- Nine-hundred and Forty-five (945) farmers were also reached through the “Tell a friend” initiative of the “Moving from farm pain to farm gain” campaign with advocacy materials through NESG’s partnership with Oxfam, PIND and ASSAPIN.
- The Seed Bill was passed in Q4 2018 by the House of Representatives on 11th December 2018 and in Q2 2019 by the Senate on 17th April 2019. The President assented to the National Agricultural Seeds Council Bill and it was signed into law on 24th June 2019.
- A Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) titled “Strengthening the Policy Environment for Seed System, Fertilizer System & Warehouse Receipt System in Nigeria” took place on the 14th of May 2019. A total of eighty (80) agriculture sector stakeholders attended the PPD.

- The Dialogue was well attended by critical private sector stakeholders of the Agricultural sector, Development Partners, MDAs and Media Partners; News Agency of Nigeria (NAN), The Nigerian Tribune, and Nigeria Television Authority (NTA). The event was also streamed live on NESG social media platforms.
- A conference held between the House of Representatives Committee and the Senate to harmonize the Fertilizer Quality Control and National Agricultural Seeds Council Bills on the 30th of April 2019. The clean copies of the Bills were sent to the Presidency on May 16th, 2019.
- The Warehouse Receipt System Bill was rejected by the President at the close of the 8th National Assembly while the Fertilizer Quality Control Bill was passed by the Senate and House of Representatives and was transmitted to the Presidency at the end of the 8th National Assembly.
- Following the passage and Presidential assent of the National Agricultural Seeds Council Bill, the AGRA-funded agribusiness advocacy project continued to sustain social media campaigns and advocacy on the passage of the 3 agribusiness Bills.
- NESG spearheaded a social and traditional media campaign by collaborating with the National Agricultural Seeds Council (NASC) to publicize the new National Agricultural Seeds Council Act, 2019 signed by President Muhammadu Buhari.
- There were engagements with the new Permanent Secretary of the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development on the 3 Agribusiness Bills. This led to a collaboration with the Director-General, NASC (National Agricultural Seeds Council) to engage the new Permanent Secretary on the implementation of the signed NASC Act 2019 and collaboration with NASC to further drive Stakeholder engagement on advocacy and strategy for the implementation of Seed Bill in the North & South using Public-Private Dialogue approach.
- Two sessions took place on August 22nd and August 27th with Stakeholders towards publicizing the National Agricultural Seeds Act, 2019 in Lagos and Abuja respectively. Fact Sheets were also produced on Understanding the National Agricultural Seeds Act, 2019 developed for socialization with the Stakeholders at the Consultative meetings.
- The National Fertilizer Quality Control Bill received Presidential Assent and was signed into law on 16th October 2019.
- Some of the success stories recorded on the AGRA-funded agribusiness legislative reforms project is the signing into law of two Bills (that is the National Agricultural Seeds Council Bill & National Fertilizer Quality Control Bill) among the three agribusiness Bills.
- To further ensure national reach on the success stories recorded to smallholder farmers across the Country, NESG Media team & Consultants are currently working on disseminating in local languages (Pidgin, Yoruba, Igbo & Hausa) using radio campaigns and video illustrations on social media.



## The Nigerian Renewable Energy Roundtable (NiNER)

Since the establishment of NiNER in June 2017, the roundtable has established itself as a mainstay on issues concerning Renewable Energy (RE) development in Nigeria.

During the first quarter, NiNER undertook the following stakeholder engagements:

- On the 25th of January 2019- there were meetings with Union Bank, Nigerian Stock Exchange, Lions Head, Climate Finance Advisory and Access Bank to discuss possible collaborations with regards to the development of NiNER's Report on Financial Risk Appraisals for RE Investments.
- On the 4th of February 2019 - A meeting with the Renewable Energy and Rural Power Department of the Federal Ministry of Power to discuss the high-level initiatives for 2019. A major outcome was an agreement to jointly facilitate the creation of a Database Management System and an Integrated Web-based Electrification Planning Tool.
- In-line with NiNER's initiative for upscaling training programmes for RE Technicians, All On and Rubitec Solar awarded Mini-grid Training Scholarship to 150 Technicians. This training was successfully completed in Lagos. This was done between the 8th and 30th of March 2019. From the 27-30 of March 2019 – A 3-day training was delivered by NiNER on Minigrid Design to educate the Technicians on Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) and Policy in the sector.
- On the 11th of February 2019- Feedback was received from the Ministry of Power and Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC) on the 10% import duty. The feedback indicated that a press release to clarify the government's position on the matter would be undertaken.

- In the second quarter, NiRER signed an MoU with HBS for the development of a Consolidated Renewable Energy Bill and Position Paper for the sector. NiRER has identified a Renewable Energy Consultant to begin the process of developing the Consolidated Renewable Energy Bill – Although a contract has not been signed, we expect the project to be delivered between November, 2019 and February, 2020.
- A group of 10 Experts drawn from public, private and development partner organisations have been selected to provide technical inputs into developing the bill. The following organisations are partners in this process;
  - Heinrich Boell Stiftung
  - All On
  - Nigeria Power Sector Program
  - Detail Commercial Solicitors
  - Clean TechHub
  - Renewable Energy Association of Nigeria (REAN)
  - Energy Commission of Nigeria (ECN)
  - Nextier Power
  - Rural Electrification Agency (REA)
  - Federal Ministry of Power (FMP)
- In the fourth quarter, NiRER held a break-out session during NES#25 with the theme; “Bridging Nigeria’s Electricity Deficit” during the 25th Nigerian Economic Summit on 7 Oct, 2019 at Transcorp Hilton Hotel. The Managing Director of REA, MD of TCN and Chairman of NERC joined over 70 other public and private sector players to discuss current plans of increasing the share of renewable energy in the national energy mix.
- NiRER secured partnership commitment from the World Bank-Nigeria Office, to support the development of a web-based integrated electrification planning tool for the sector.



### **Breakfast Meeting with Development Partners and Multilateral Agencies**

NESG held its first convening of development partners and multilateral agencies on October 9th with the objective of securing resource commitment and institutional support for the Group's initiatives along its four strategic roles. Participants emphasised the need for such a convening as it helps the international development community optimise revenue mobilization and reduce duplication of efforts.



### **Fiscal Policy Roundtable with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation**

Better Tax is evidence-based advocacy initiative that brings together the Nigerian Government and its citizens to make the process of taxation more effective for Nigeria's socio-economic development. The overarching objective is to set a tax reform agenda that is all-encompassing and engages all stakeholders in a way that drives mutual collaboration and action which will, in turn, see Nigeria transform its tax strategy/performance and grow its local revenue.

- The Better Tax Launch event held on the 15th of May 2019. Following this, the advocacy campaign on better tax was sustained for 11 weeks and press materials for the campaign have been finalized.
- Also, four interviews have been conducted; Dr (Mrs.) Sarah Alade on CNBC, Mr. Taiwo Oyedele on Channels TV and Dr Neil McCulloch on NTA. The topics of the discussions were centered on Fiscal Policy reforms in Nigeria; why Nigerians do not want to pay tax and measures to be taken by the Government to harness revenue for socio-economic development in Nigeria.
- In the second quarter of 2019, meetings of the Co-Chair with IMF, World Bank and Development Partners brought about engagement with the World Bank and IMF to release their status reports to the Fiscal Roundtable. In addition, the Roundtable undertook the completion of the consolidated report on Taxpayer Perception.
- A Roadshow was scheduled to engage the Legislature, Federal Ministry of Finance, Joint Tax Board, Federal Inland Revenue Service, Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission, Open Government Partnership/NGOs

and Nigerian Governors Forum which is still undergoing.

- A Stakeholder engagement kicked off on the 22nd of August 2019 with Dr Babatunde Fowler, Executive Chairman of Federal Inland Revenue Service who also doubles as the Chairman of the Joint Tax Board.
- The engagement with the Honourable Minister of Finance and the Chairman, Revenue Mobilization Allocation and Fiscal Commission took place on 27th August, 2019.
- Engagements with NGF and NIPC were completed in September 2019.
- The Dissemination of copies of Citizen's Taxpayer Perception Report to the 36 State Governors Offices, Joint tax Board, 37 State Inland Revenue Service offices, and ALGON Office for LGAs and Tax Research Network was completed.
- The Fiscal Policy Roundtable White Paper that addresses tax administration, tax policies, and tax legislation was also finalized.



## The Nigeria Triple Helix Roundtable

The Nigeria Triple Helix Roundtable was launched as a permanent platform for implementing the government-academia-industry collaboration towards fostering economic growth and national development in Nigeria. It is the first practical expression of the Triple-Helix model in the country, coming after the signing of an MoU between the National Universities Commission (NUC) (for academia) and the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) (for industry), and the interactive session and retreat which held thereafter.

While the primary objective of the academia-industry collaboration is to revitalize the Nigerian higher education system, the broader long-term objective is to facilitate a tripartite partnership between the government, academia and industry such that the three actors can actively collaborate to develop solutions to critical problems and implement an agenda for economic growth. Consequently, the Steering Committee, comprising of key stakeholders from the public sector, private sector and academia, was inaugurated on September 20.



## Policy Innovation Unit

Having completed the initial policy nudge experiments across the NSIO products, this special policy innovation unit is in the middle of managing a transition as authorising environment actors to change in the policy space.

A major constraint faced by the unit is that it is not backed by law and is not housed in any MDA. The unit will, therefore, be embarking on an aggressive advocacy and socialisation campaign aimed at getting priority stakeholders to understand and appreciate the role that a nudge unit could play in policy formulation/implementation.

The NESG was saddled with the task of socializing the scalable recommendations of PIU. The delayed launch of the PIU Impact Assessment Report has affected the NESG's Socialization of Scalable Recommendations from the PIU project.

- The NESG developed an extensive communications document that covered both the impact evaluation findings and the scalable recommendations from the PIU, since inception.
- Following successful completion of the 4 pilots of the NSIO programmes (N-Power, GEEP, Trader money and Home-Grown School Feeding Programme), the NESG was saddled with the task of socializing the scalable recommendations of PIU. Nonetheless, the PIU Impact Assessment Report which had affected the socialization of scalable recommendations from the PIU project by the NESG was completed in the third quarter.
- The PIU had convenings with the NSIO programme owners in the government to present full results of the 4 programmes and made recommendations for scaling.

- Further engagements took place with the private and public market demand side in Lagos and Abuja on the 23rd and 26th of July respectively. The objective of the convenings was to inform the general public and show how behavioral interventions had been applied to the NSIO programmes.

The intended outcome of this was to create an awareness of the possibilities of behavioral science in different spheres of engagement; policy orientated or business-oriented. It was to also catalyze both Public and Private sector to reach out to the PIU in the design and implementation of their own programmes.

- The PIU met with Vice President Yemi Osinbajo and Mrs. Maryam Uwais on the 5th of August 2019 to show behavioral engagement results and emphasize on recommendations and potential for scaling up. The last stakeholder group engaged was the Governors' Forum as well as the National Assembly Lawmakers. The objective of engaging with them was to show how behavioral interventions have been successfully applied to the NSIPs (with results) and to advocate for the adoption and application of behavioral science to form and shape policies within the states as well as in the legislative process.
- As part of the efforts to institutionalize PIU and the capacity for behavioral science engagements in the NESG, a collaboration was initiated with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, through RPA. They agreed to the undertaking of a full study on the needs and implementation roadmap towards a successful engagement.



MEETING ROOM

# POLICY COMMISSIONS





## Sustainability Policy Commission (SPC) Engagements

The Policy Commission remained very active in 2019 with a series of engagements;

- Members of SPC participated in the Plastics Policy Review Workshop on the invitation of the Ministry of Environment.
- The Policy Commission also hosted a workshop titled “De-risking of Green Finance and Development of NDC Key Performance Indicators”. The

workshop took place from the 25th till the 27th of March at the Chartered Institute of Bankers House, Plot 19 Adeola Hopewell Street, Victoria Island. This workshop was designed to actualise immediate project finance based on assessments of commercially viable and socially responsible pipeline projects for the NDCs. This workshop is a follow up on activities from 2018 in which the Policy Commission was expected to respond to the Climate Finance Accelerator (CFA) programme call out from the United Kingdom.

- The Policy Commission had a meeting in Abuja with the new DG of National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA). The team also visited the offices of Coca Cola to discuss the pledge they made at the NES24 to contribute their resources to the proper disposal of plastics. SPC team attended a meeting in Abuja with the Federal Ministries including the Federal Ministry of Budget and Planning, Environment and Finance and some Private Sector Organizations.
- The Sustainability Policy Commission also partnered with Lafarge to host its first Sustainability forum on the 16th of July and held several meetings with the Climate Finance Accelerator (CFA) UK, CFA NG teams and members of the financial community (Private Equity firms, Commercial Banks and Micro-finance banks) to discuss the mapping of available climate finance.
- The de-risking of Green Projects to improve access to finance was another initiative carried out by the Policy Commission. The Green Finance training in collaboration with CIBN and with support from the Heinrich Boll Foundation, Rural Electrification Agency, Climate Finance Advisory Limited and the Climate Bonds Initiative UK. A total of 10 MSMEs out of 30 scaled the criteria for bankability, but only two so far were shortlisted to access finance by end of June 2019.
- The Climate dept. of the UK government is exploring strategic approaches to sustainably tackle deforestation and desertification, especially where the clean cook-stoves (which use firewood more efficiently) have not met the target. It was agreed that LPG was the strategic approach. This approach is being driven through the LPG Adoption Program of the office of the Vice President and this will constitute part of the engagement with the UK Govt. in September when the Climate Officer resumes.
- The Policy Commission also made milestones in their 2019 work plan that covered areas in Climate Change and Green Economy, Marine Ecosystem and Blue Economy, Circular Economy and Natural Ecosystem Management.



### **Infrastructure Policy Commission (IPC) Engagements**

- The Infrastructure Policy Commission held a Stakeholders Retreat on Public-Private Partnerships in Uyo, Akwa Ibom.
- In the first half of the year, the Policy Commission had continuous engagement and dialogue with the Executives and the 8th National Assembly on the Infrastructure Reform Bill. The engagement was carried on with the 9th National Assembly after the transition had been made.
- There was an Inaugural meeting with the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) to operationalize the Memorandum of Understanding with the Nigerian Economic Summit Group. The objective of the MOU is for both institutions to work towards promoting PPP and related research works in Nigeria .



### **Trade Investment and Competitiveness Policy Commission (TICPC) Engagements**

- With respect to the Policy Commission's work, after an extensive engagement on the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA) with the Federal Government, the ACFTA was signed. The Facilitator and anchor of the Policy Commission were members of the Committee that worked on the Readiness Report of ACFTA that was used for the engagement.
- The Policy Commission currently serves as the Private Sector Co-chair in the development of the National Scorecard Implementation Committee for the World Bank Project on ECOWAS Investment Climate Scorecard.
- The PC supports the GIZ Project Team of the Global Alliance for Nigeria's WTO/Trade Facilitation commitments and fostered the collaboration with PDF II in the development of a Computable General Equilibrium Model for evidence-based trade impact assessment.
- The PC is currently serving as the carrying Policy Commission for the NESG-BMGF Fiscal Policy Roundtable.
- The Policy Commission is serving as the private-sector co-chair of the EU-World Bank-ECOWAS Investment Climate Scorecard Implementation Committee for Nigeria.

- The Policy Commission is appointed by the Honourable Minister of the Federal Ministry Industry, Trade, and Investment (FMITI) to sit as a member of the National Action Committee (NAC) for the implementation of the recommendations of the AfCFTA Readiness and Impact Assessment Study.
- The Policy Commission is invited to participate in Nigeria’s representation at the ECOWAS Regional Negotiation on AfCFTA.
- The TICPC is currently serving as the private sector representative for the FMITI regional sensitization across the six geopolitical zones on how private businesses can take advantage of the ECOWAS Common Investment Code. The NESG on this platform has delivered presentations on “ECOWAS Common Investment Code – Identifying the Winning Strategy for Nigerian Enterprises” at Lagos, Cross River and Enugu. The remaining 3 geo-political zones are yet to be covered.



### **Manufacturing and Mining Policy Commission (MMPC) Engagements**

- A one-day mining Stakeholder dialogue session was held with Ministry of Mines and Steel Development (MMSD) to harmonize ideas and interest in “Mineral Reporting and Mineral Processing Initiatives” in line with the “Roadmap for the Growth and Development of the Nigerian Mining Industry”.



### **Energy Policy Commission (EPC) Engagements**

- During the period under review, this Policy Commission hosted a two-day Expert Forum on Nigeria’s Power Sector from the 27th till the 28th of March at Fraser Suites, Plot 294, Leventis Close, Central Business District, Abuja. The aim of the forum was for knowledgeable stakeholders to re-evaluate, re-strategize and develop various strategies and interventions to tackle the multi-faceted challenges currently plaguing the sector. The forum was also designed to collate divergent views while considering the several factors that affect market performance.



### **Science and Technology Policy Commission (STPC)**

- The PC constituted the ICTS-TG consisting of thought leaders from the public and private sectors
- The policy commission also had a number of collaborations with the FMoC to update and review the current e-Government Masterplan (abridged) and launched in Transcorp Hilton by the SGF and Minister in May 2019. This was followed by the working collaboration with Galaxy Backbone to develop citizen and participatory government strategies for the development of e-Governance solutions.



### **Governance & Institutions Policy Commission (GIPC) Engagements**

The PC was constituted this year and a lot of efforts went into setting up the governance structure, creating a mandate and aligning with institutions. The following were achieved:

- Re-constitution of the Steering Committee
- Appointment of a new Facilitator
- Post-Transition Engagement
- Interactive sessions with Heads of relevant MDAs
- Multi-Stakeholder meetings on Thematic issues



## Human Capital Development Policy Commission (HCDPC) Engagements

- The Policy Commission and the National Universities Commission (NUC) hosted a Policy Dialogue on Revitalisation of Higher Education in Nigeria on the 4th of April. The aim of the Policy Dialogue was to build consensus on the need for partnership between academia and industry; adopting the Triple Helix Model in order to reform tertiary education outcomes in Nigeria. This engagement is a fall out of the recent collaboration between the NUC and the NESG.
- The second leg of this policy dialogue was a closed retreat session between the private sector and NUC from the 4th to 5th of April. This retreat was apt as it took place at a time when NUC is embarking on a comprehensive reform agenda for the Nigerian University System (NUS), and thus it created ample opportunity for the private sector to contribute to the reform agenda, and also develop a mechanism to facilitate ongoing dialogue and sustained collaboration between academia and industry. This is with a view to align perspectives and engage with the government from a unified position.
- The NESG HCDPC has met with the officials of the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment on the side-lines of the 24th Nigerian Economic Summit in 2018 to seek a collaboration on a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the NESG and the FML&E to promote initiatives for employment creation and capacity strengthening of the FML&E to deliver on its mandates on job creation.
- An Interactive session with Directors of Research of Nigerian Universities was conducted on April 24 with the theme "Bolstering Research Impact and Relevance through Systemic Research Governance in Nigerian Universities. The objectives of the session were; To discuss actionable solutions that will revive the culture of rigorous problem-oriented and relevant research; To improve the unsavoury situation of poor research governance; To intensely deliberate on the necessary steps required to achieve a direct link between research activities in Nigerian Universities and the nation's socio-economic and technological development.



## **Tourism Hospitality Entertainment Creatives and Sports (THECS) Policy Commission Engagements**

During the period under review, THECS engaged in various activities;

- Conducted several meetings of the Sports Thematic Group to complete the TETFUND Research Grant Application/Concept Note between August 5 - 19, 2019.
- The Thematic Group had meetings with the Chairman of its Eminent Focal Group to present its Market Liberalisation Strategy Document for final approval to the CEO on August 8, 2019.
- The Thematic Group also met with the Federal Ministry of Information and Culture to discuss strategic collaborations to drive the growth and development of the Creative and Entertainment Sectors on August 22, 2019.
- The Sports Industry Thematic Group's Eminent Focal Group (EFG) was inaugurated in April 2019.
- The Sports Industry Thematic Group, in collaboration with the Ministry of Youths and Sports Development, held the Inter-Ministerial Technical Session on Sports Industry Development on Thursday 21st and Friday 22nd November 2019.
- The inter-Ministerial technical session brought together for the first time, six (6) key Ministries: Federal Ministries of Education, Federal Ministry of Information & Culture, Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade & Investment, Federal Ministry Women Affairs, and Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget & National Planning with the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development serving as the coordinating Ministry in partnership with the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG). This session was organized to brainstorm and harmonise on cross-cutting, cross-sectoral issues with significant impact on the development of Sports Industry in Nigeria.



## Agriculture Policy Commission Engagements

The Market Access Thematic Group meeting held on the 20th of August 2019 and the Post-Harvest Management TG meeting held on the 15TH of August 2019. The following action plans are ongoing:

- Information gathering silo concessions
- Information gathering on Staple Crop Processing Zones
- Collaboration with AFDB on Staple Crop Processing Zones
- Work with Developmental Finance Institutes.
- Research on activities of other Stakeholders in the Agricultural space to ensure synergy.





**NESG  
Communities**

## Communities of Practice

The Group re-positioned its Policy Commissions and as part of that process stand-alone platforms were created for 3 key but easily marginalised groups: Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Gender-related issues and Youths. so that they can together as communities of practice have a voice to champion and promote advocacy based on thematic areas of focus.

**COMMUNITY ON  
YOUTH**

**COMMUNITY ON  
GENDER**

**COMMUNITY ON  
MSMEs**

### MSMEs Community of Practice

**Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) Community of Practice** held its Inaugural Meeting on Tuesday 30th July 2019 in collaboration with Fate Foundation. After a thorough analysis of the priorities issues inhibiting growth of MSMEs in Nigeria by key stakeholders, 4 thematic areas of focus were identified:

- Access to Market and Infrastructure
- Access to Finance
- Capacity Building , Education and Business Support
- Improving Business Environment and Legislation

The action plans developed and key recommendations from NES #25 will serve as priority advocacy agenda in 2020.

**Gender Community of Practice** has four key focus areas in; Equity in Law, Education and Skills, Financial Literacy and Empowerment, and Gender Parity in Business.

**Youth Community of Practice** provides a platform for youths to get involved in Nation Building



Sterling

#NES25





## NESG in 25 Schools Tour

The NESG in conjunction with Junior Achievement Nigeria conducted a tour of 25 schools in different States across Nigeria. The Tour which was themed “United People”, was to commemorate the think tank’s 25th Anniversary and help inculcate the culture of Nation building among Nigerian students. One of the aims of the programme was to increase awareness in secondary school students about their responsibility in nation building.

NESG also engaged the students in thinking about how ethics, values, and entrepreneurship could contribute to creating a just and fair Nigeria; while also encouraging them to get involved in building the Nigeria of their dreams.



## NES #25 Anniversary Essay Competition

As one of the ways of ensuring active participation of Nigerian youths in shaping the agenda of the Nigerian economy and getting them involved in nation building, the NESG partnered with the National Universities Commission (NUC) to organise the NES #25 Essay Competition for Undergraduates in Nigerian Universities. The Essay Competition was themed: Enhancing Confidence in Nigeria for Nation Building Towards Economic Success and Improved Quality of Life for Nigerians.

The winner of the NES #25 Essay Competition was: Osamede Ikpowomsa Kingsley, a 400 Level undergraduate from the University of Benin studying Medicine and Surgery.

The first runner up was: Oladipupo Ogundare, a 300 Level undergraduate of Babcock University, studying Accounting, and the second runner up was: Damilola Oguntade, a 500 level undergraduate of the University of Lagos, studying Law.

The winners were awarded certificates of performance, cash gifts, paid internship opportunity at the NESG and an all expense paid trip to Abuja to attend the NES 25th Anniversary Summit, the platform on which they presented their ideas on enhancing confidence in Nigeria for Nation Building.



## NESG Bridge Fellowship

The NESG in partnership with Leap Africa instituted the NESG Bridge Fellowship this year. The goal of the fellowship is to equip a new cadre of young visionary leaders with leadership, research and policy advocacy skills to contribute to policy reform in diverse Policy Areas of Concentration and become leaders equipped with a contribution consciousness and relevant skills to lead change. Over 380 applications have been received from across all States in Nigeria and they are currently being screened.

The beneficiaries of the fellowship which will commence in 2020 are 20 female and male mid-level professionals between the ages 25 to 40 who have demonstrated interest and have done quality work in research, public policy, and community development, social work, business and/or social entrepreneurship. These professionals will be drawn from academia, the private, and public development sectors through a stringent selection process. In addition, they will go through a series of capacity development projects.

Selected applicants will be enrolled into an eighteen (18) month fellowship, during which they will develop leadership, research and policy advocacy competencies; participate in policy research and advocacy, as well as implement social impact projects. Furthermore, they will be provided networking and mentorship opportunities and be engaged in a community of practice post-fellowship. Fellows will conduct their policy research and advocacy activities in-line with the Nigerian Economic Summit Group's (NESG) 11 policy commissions and communities of Practice.

📍 **THE SUMMIT HOUSE**

6 Oba Elegushi Street,  
Off Oba Adeyinka Oyekan Avenue,  
Ikoyi, Lagos.  
P.M.B 71347, Victorial Island, Lagos.

📍 **ABUJA LIAISON OFFICE:**

4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Right Wing Unity Bank Tower,  
Beside Reinsurance building  
Plot 785, Herbert Macaulay Way,  
Central Business District, Abuja

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