



ACTIVITY SNAPSHOT

2021





Dear Stakeholders,

Following the fragile recovery from the COVID-19 induced downturn in the fourth quarter of 2020, the Nigerian Economy has sustained impressive growth rates in 2021, with aggregate output expanding by 3.2% in the first three quarters of the year. According to data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the country's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew by 4% (year-on-year) in the third quarter of 2021. Overall, growth in the year was supported by the relative success of the COVID-19 vaccination drive and the tapering effects of the pandemic on global economic activities. The recovery was also accompanied by declining inflationary pressures as the headline inflation rate dropped for the seventh consecutive month in November to 16% from its peak of 18.2% in March 2021. Inflation rates however remain above the Central Bank's upper band of 9% for the year.

From a sectoral perspective, growth was driven by the non-oil sector while the oil sector continued to reel under the adverse effects of the pandemic. While the non-oil sector grew by 5.4% in Q3'2021, driven mainly by growth in the services sector, the oil sector contracted by 10.7%, the sixth consecutive quarter of contraction since the pandemic outbreak in the first quarter of 2020.

Despite successive expansion in aggregate output in the year, pre-existing vulnerabilities in the economy (exposed and reinforced by the pandemic) continue to have deleterious effects on households, worsening the food insecurity situation and trapping many below the poverty line. Moreover, pressures on the external sector intensified in the year resulting in the devaluation of the naira exchange rate to N410/US\$ and the unification of the Official and the Investors and Exporters' Windows. The country's fiscal space also remained constrained as public debt climbed to N35.5 trillion as at June 2021 from N32.9 trillion in December 2020.

The NESG Macroeconomic Outlook for 2021 had emphasised four priorities for the Nigerian economy to drive economic recovery and achieve high, sustainable and inclusive growth in the year 2021 and beyond. The priority areas include macroeconomic stability, policy and regulatory consistency, sector reforms and human capital development. The 27th Nigerian Economic Summit (NES #27) also reiterated the urgency for a collaborative response by the government and other stakeholders to reverse the poor economic trends in the country, mitigate security challenges, improve the human capital base of the economy, and lay the necessary foundation to achieve high, sustained and inclusive economic growth. Nevertheless, policy reforms and outcomes still fall below expectations.

Ultimately, while the National Development Plan (2021-2025) recently approved by the Federal Executive Council (FEC) provides policy direction to government's policies and interventions in the medium term, the economy's outlook in 2022 and beyond will be shaped by the urgency and audacity of reform initiatives across key sectors of the economy and the political will to address longstanding socio-economic and security challenges in the country.

The above narrative, has to a large extent, influenced the NESG Secretariat's policy advocacy and intervention activities this year. As the year draws to a close, we are pleased to share a snapshot of some of our advocacy efforts and interventions you might have missed. Highlighted in this activity report are some of the many engagements in 2021.



**DIALOGUE
PARTNER**

As Dialogue Partner, the NESG drives Policy Change through Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) Platforms and Engagements. The NESG has several platforms to drive this objective, including Roundtables, Policy Commissions, and Communities of Practice(s).

The 27th Nigerian Economic Summit

The Nigerian Economic Summit (NES) is the NESG's flagship event and the foremost Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) platform in Nigeria. The Summit is organized annually in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning.

In the wake of growing security threats, rising unemployment, high poverty rate, widening inequality and an economy in slow recovery, the 27th edition of the Nigerian Economic Summit (NES #27) convened stakeholders in government, business, politics, civil society, the diplomatic community and academia to discuss, debate, examine, explore and conceptualise ways Nigeria can reverse poor economic trends, improve the human capital base of the economy, mitigate security challenges, lay the necessary foundation that will leapfrog Nigeria into a future of high and sustained inclusive economic growth.

In the year leading to the Summit, a profound sense of urgency was unmistakable in the agitations of Nigerians for targeted and concerted action towards achieving economic, social and national security. Hence, participants expressed optimism that the theme of the Summit ***"Securing Our Future: The Fierce Urgency of Now"*** aptly presented the platform for stakeholders to engage in candid discussions and make those tough choices needed to reverse poor economic trends and steer the course towards a secured future of high growth and socio-economic development.

Discussions at the Summit were structured around five sub-themes: High and Sustained Growth; Quality of Life; National Security, Political Economy and Digital Transformation, as stakeholders highlighted the risks, opportunities and priorities to accelerate and sustain inclusive economic growth. The key objectives of the Summit were to:

- Assess the current state of the economy, Nigeria's economic vulnerabilities that perpetuate regression, poor performance and the risks associated with such susceptibilities;
- Foster a people-centred approach to rethink economic, social, political and governance strategies targeted at reversing emerging trends and shape a secured future of inclusive and sustainable economic growth;

- Identify the vital imperatives of leveraging modern technology to accelerate significant improvements in the social, economic and security conditions of Nigeria;
- Galvanise a renewed commitment of stakeholders to urgently and actively prioritise the pursuit of economic growth that can sustainably create jobs, lift millions out of poverty and enable Nigeria to realise its economic potentials on the global stage; and
- Agree on a compact that compels stakeholders to take urgent and immediate actions and efficient monitoring mechanisms to actualise the critical recommendations made at NES #27.

Over the two days of the Summit, participants converged in 6 Plenary Sessions, 19 Interactive Panels, 1 Debate, 1 Insight Session, and 1 Co-Creation Lab to deliberate on the Summit theme and continue the dialogue, which had commenced in 9 Pre-Summit Events. To enrich the deliberations, the Nigerian Economic Summit Group collaborated with its partners to host two side events at the Summit to discuss several platform issues that accentuated the core objectives of the NES#27. The Summit further presented the most appropriate platform for the launch of the Policy Innovation Centre, the first national-level centre to apply behavioural insights and other innovative policy tools to improve the design and implementation of government policies and programmes in Nigeria. The full report (Greenbook) would be published on the NESG website.





THE NESG ROUNDTABLES

Roundtables are special-purpose public and private dialogue platforms established to champion a specific reform process. They are usually initiated by MOUs, specific Stakeholder drives, or Donor funding. The following are the Roundtables at the NESG:

The National Assembly Business Environment Roundtable (NASSBER)

The National Assembly Business Environment Roundtable (NASSBER) has used its unique position to enable collaborative solutions between the National Assembly, the civil society, and the organised private sector to build consensus in the process of reforming Nigeria's business environment. NASSBER strives to accomplish this by broadening participation, engagement and the quality of output to the nation's legislative process. By ensuring steady advancement of business environment legislation through the National Assembly, NASSBER has, over the years, played a crucial role in securing the passage and signing into law of several key legislations aimed at improving the business environment. It has also facilitated the progress of many other legislations through engagements with the legislators and bureaucracy of both chambers of the National Assembly.

NASSBER has sustained its engagement with the 9th Session of the National Assembly. However, the scope of NASSBER's agenda has been expanded. During the 8th Session of the National Assembly, the NASSBER

Agenda focused on improving the business environment to achieve economic development, which requires a stable macroeconomic environment. However, to enhance macroeconomic stability, Nigeria needs to adopt policies that target key macroeconomic indicators with structural reforms that strengthen and improve the functioning of domestic markets and economic sectors. For the NESG, it also ensures that critical dots in the economy are connected for national growth and development. Therefore, a broader perspective is now required to achieve a reform of the economic landscape. As a result, our legislative advocacy will focus on both improving the Business Environment and Achieving Competitiveness.

Key activities in the year include:

- NASSBER Collaborative meeting with Policy and Legislative Advocacy Centre (PLAC): In the first quarter of the year, the NASSBER team held a collaborative meeting with the Executives of the Policy and Legislative Advocacy Centre.
- NASSBER Technical Committee Meeting: NASSBER held its first and second Technical Committee meetings on the 15th of February and the 1st of June 2021, respectively.
- Expert Network Onboarding Session: On the 23rd of March 2021, NASSBER conducted an onboarding session for members of its Expert Network. The main objectives of the session were to provide further information on NASSBER, discuss the roles and responsibilities of the Expert Network, and onboard members to the NASSBER portal.
- NASSBER Advisory Council meeting: The NASSBER Advisory Council held its 2nd Quarter meeting for 2021 on the 11th of June 2021.
- Collaboration with the National Judicial Institute: As part of its Stakeholder Engagement plan, NASSBER has collaborated with the National Judicial Institute (NJI) to provide key resource persons and experts to participate in capacity-building workshops for Judges. The first workshop was held on the 27th and 28th of October 2021 with the theme: "The Role of the Bench in Nigeria's Economic Growth and Development." The workshop was a success, with robust conversations between the judicial officers and the Private Sector participants. The Chairman of the NESG, the Chief Justice of Nigeria and the Administrator of the NJI were also in attendance. NASSBER has also partnered with the NJI in the area of research.
- Visit to the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC): In furtherance of the Advisory Council's approval to engage with regulators, NASSBER visited the Nigerian Communications Commission. Key outcomes from the engagement include:
 - *Legislative Gap Analysis on the Nigerian Communications Act.*

- *20-year economic impact assessment on the Liberalisation of the Telecommunications Industry.*
- *Research Collaboration.*
- *The Commission also sought the technical assistance of NASSBER on a Critical National Infrastructure Bill that will protect critical infrastructure across the country. The NASSBER Secretariat is currently developing a framework for implementing these areas of agreement.*

- **Appointment of a Thematic Lead for Human Capital Development Thematic Area:** A new Thematic Lead was appointed for NASSBER's Human Capital Development Thematic Area, with the onboarding session conducted on the 9th of August, 2021. The Human Capital Development Expert Network is currently reviewing the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill.
- **CAMA 2020 Advocacy Event:** NASSBER held a panel discussion on the 16th of September 2021 to analyse the one-year impact of CAMA 2020 on the Nigerian economy, particularly on small and medium enterprises. The virtual event titled "CAMA 2020 - One Year on: Implementation, Impact and Challenges" was one of the Pre-Summit events held in the weeks leading to the Summit.
- **Passage of Priority Bills:** Two of NASSBER's priority infrastructure bills; The National Roads Fund Bill and the Federal Roads Bill, have been passed into law by both chambers of the National Assembly and awaiting transmission for Presidential Assent. The NASSBER expert network members have remained focused on ensuring that most of the key legislations identified are passed and signed into law before the end of the ninth assembly.
- **Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill:** Following the meeting of NASSBER with the Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), on the review of the Bill, among other issues, the NIPC has sought Technical Assistance from NASSBER on a joint review of the Bill. A working group was constituted to work with the team from the Commission.
- Other Bills currently being reviewed by the NASSBER team include:
 - *The Arbitration and Dispute Resolution Bill*
 - *The Investments and Securities Act (Amendment) Bill*
 - *The Factoring Bill*
 - *The National Transport Commission Bill*

- *The Start-up Bill,*
- *The Mining Industry Bills, and*
- *The Patents and Designs Act (Repeal and Re-enactment) Bill*

State Assemblies Business Environment Roundtable (SABER)

In the period under review, the NESG extended its legislative reform agenda to the Sub-nationals. An inaugural meeting was held with the Conference of Speakers, which led to the formation of the State Assemblies Business Environment Roundtable (SABER). Implementation of the SABER framework is being finalised. When completed, SABER will strengthen the NESG's engagements at the Sub-national level.

The Nigerian Renewable Energy Roundtable (NiRER)

The Nigerian Renewable Energy Roundtable (NiRER) is an action-oriented partnership of relevant stakeholders committed to resolving the bottlenecks that limit the expansion of Nigeria's on-grid and off-grid renewable energy market. Since its establishment in 2017, the roundtable has established itself as a mainstay on Renewable Energy (RE) issues in Nigeria.



For the year 2021, the activities of NiRER were geared towards developing a legislative framework to address the myriad of challenges that inhibit the utilisation of renewable energy to bridge Nigeria's large electricity gap. Key activities in the year include:

- **Integration of the Renewable Energy Electricity (REE) Bill into the Electricity Sector Reform Amendment Act:** Following the adoption of viable inputs from stakeholders into the REE Bill, provisions of the Bill were then integrated into the Electricity Sector Reform Act to form the renewable industry component of the Act. As of 6th of May 2021, the amendment act was read for the first time at the Senate. This is in line with the long-term recommendation of the RE Legislative Gap Analysis, which is the enactment of an all-encompassing electricity sector legislation that addresses the issues in the renewable energy sector.

- Engagement with the Senate Chair; Committee on Power: On the 23rd of April 2021, the NESG paid a courtesy visit to Senator Gabriel Suswam, Chair, Senate Committee on Power, to assure him of NiRER's support towards a legislative framework that addresses the myriad of challenges in the renewable energy sector and to seek potential avenues to facilitate the passage of the electricity Bill into law.

The Debt Management Roundtable

The NESG-OSIWA Debt Management Roundtable (DMR) Project focuses on providing an understanding of the public debt situation in ECOWAS, providing policy recommendations to save the economies and engaging in advocacy to ensure implementation of the policies emanating from the DMR research.



- The Project Research team, with advisory support from the Debt Management Roundtable, conducted a landscape review of the economic, fiscal and debt management framework in the ECOWAS region. The team also developed a method for establishing debt sustainability thresholds for individual ECOWAS countries with sustainability indicators beyond the debt to GDP ratio.
- A Summary report on West Africa's debt Profile was launched at the 27th Nigerian Economic Summit.
- The Final report draft was presented at the DMR close-out meeting on the 11th of November 2021. The Debt Management Roundtable commissioners have provided feedback which is currently being implemented by the project research team.

NGF-NESG Economic Roundtable (NNER)

The NGF-NESG Economic Roundtable (NNER) is a sub-national platform expression of the NESG in partnership with the Nigeria Governors' Forum aimed at promoting sub-national competitiveness to catalyse sustainable economic growth and development.

- The Steering Committee of NNER was inaugurated on the 21st of April, 2021, with 6 State Governors and 6 Captains of Industry in attendance. The NNER Technical Committee has since developed a three-year work plan, workstreams and budget.

- The NNER Secretariat developed four workstreams to operationalise its strategic plan. The workstreams include:
 - *Ready for Investment Programme (RIPE) States Initiative,*
 - *What Works Initiative,*
 - *Subnational Competitiveness Research and Data Program,*
 - *NES Subnational Recommendations Implementation Coordination.*
- The NNER successfully onboarded four (4) Bridge Fellows who are currently serving as Technical Anchors for the different workstreams. These fellows are currently finalising their one-year work plan for the implementation of workstream projects.
- Under the RIPE States Initiative, the NNER secretariat is currently exploring partnerships with the NIPC on a Subnational Investment Promotion Support Programme. The Secretariat is conceptualising a pilot to work with select States on the project. Ogun, Oyo, Cross River, Edo and Kaduna States have been identified for the pilot phase. Interventions will include deploying an instrument to assess State Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) and scope best practices that feed into the NNER “What Works Hub” for peer learning and reform adaptation.
- Specific progress made by the NNER secretariat in 2021 includes the development of a Data and Information Framework to guide NNER’s subnational competitiveness improvement programme, convening of two Technical Committee meetings to approve the Secretariat’s strategic plan, work plan, budget and workstreams and partnership discussions with relevant organisations such as the World Bank, Secretariat of the National Action Committee on AfCFTA, and the NIPC.

Nigeria Triple Helix Roundtable

The Nigeria Triple Helix Roundtable (NTHR) was launched on the 20th of September 2019 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 the industry), and the interactive session

and retreat which held thereafter. While the primary objective of the academia-industry collaboration is to revitalise 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. The NTHR seeks to enhance collaboration between these actors for the primary objective of stimulating growth by transitioning into an innovation-led and knowledge-driven economy.

- On the 26th of August 2021, the Nigeria Triple Helix Roundtable organised an Innovation Dialogue Series on “University Technology Transfer and Commercialization.” The event provided the platform for stakeholders to discuss the requisite skill set needed for commercialization and University Technology Transfer as well as to analyze the processes, systems, and structures required for the effective commercialization of research output.
- In collaboration with the Sustainability Policy Commission of the NESG, the Nigeria Triple Helix Roundtable co-hosted a webinar on the 28th of September 2021 with the theme: “Strengthening Academia-Industry Collaboration in Circular Economy and Natural Capital” The event convened stakeholders in a town and gown approach to discuss Circular Economy and Natural Capital for capacity building that will lead to greater uptake in the Universities and industries. It also provided an opportunity to engage key policymakers, corporate and political decision-makers to develop new partnerships across multiple sectors that will champion a renewed frontier for Circular Economy and Natural Capital opportunities.

A group of men are seated in a meeting room, some wearing face masks and traditional attire. A camera on a tripod is visible in the background. The scene is dimly lit with a blue tint.

POLICY COMMISSIONS

THE POLICY COMMISSION STRUCTURE



6 ROUNDTABLES

National Assembly Business Environment Roundtable (NASSBER)

NGF-NESG Economic Roundtable (NNER)

Nigerian Renewable Energy Roundtable (NiRER)

Nigerian Triple Helix Roundtable

Sports Industry Working Group (SIWG)

Debt Management Roundtable (DMR)

In its role as a dialogue partner, the NESG strategically functions within workgroups known as “Policy Commissions”, which are comprised of public and private sector networks and experts who bring their insights to bear on strategic industry and crosscutting issues. Policy Commissions review government policies, conduct policy advocacy and facilitate the execution of programs and initiatives as dictated in the annual work plan, prepared by members, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, the NES recommendations and the NESG Macroeconomic Outlook. Policy Commissions also facilitate and fast track the adoption of various Nigerian Economic Summit (NES) recommendations.

Agriculture and Food Security Policy Commission

The Agriculture and Food Security Policy Commission (AFSPC) engages in advocacy concerning agriculture specific issues to ensure the formulation, adoption, and implementation of appropriate policies regarding the agro-industrial development space and food and nutrition security as a whole. The overarching objective of the AFSPC is to facilitate the adoption of various NES recommendations to fast-track the economy’s growth and development.



In delivering its work plan for the year 2021, the Agriculture and Food Security Policy Commission was involved in the following activities:

- The AFSPC collaborated with Sahel Consulting Agriculture & Nutrition Limited to deliver an Independent Food Systems Dialogue held on the 20th of January 2021.
- On the 28th of April, 2021, the AFSPC hosted a Webinar that focused on Expert’s Review of the Plant Variety Protection Bill – Significance and Constraints. The Bill was signed into law by His Excellency President Muhammadu Buhari in May 2021. The AFSPC was involved in advocacy efforts geared towards disseminating fact sheets and creating awareness on the importance of the PVP Bill and its impact on the food systems.
- The AFSPC on the 25th of May 2021 also collaborated with the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning to host a Private Sector Exploratory Dialogue on the United Nations (UN) Food Systems Summit (UNFSS).
- The AFSPC collaborated with National Agricultural Seed Council (NASC) to advocate for the passage and presidential assent of the Plant Variety Protection Bill.

- The AFSPC also participated in the Validation workshop for the final draft of the National Agricultural Seed Policy.
- AFSPC collaborated with the Commercial Dairy and Ranchers Association of Nigeria (CODARAN) on the World Milk Day on conversations for “Strengthening the Local Dairy Sector in Nigeria: Addressing the Pain-Points for Sustainable Impact”
- AFSPC participated in the validation of the Food Systems Short, Medium and Long term at the National Consolidatory UN Food Systems Summit organised by the Ministry of Finance Budget & National Planning.
- The Policy Commission collaborated with Flour Mills of Nigeria, NBS, FMARD, CBN, and other stakeholders to conduct a National Wheat Production Survey in the period under review.
- The NESG-AFSPC partnered with the Association of Deans of Agriculture and Agripreneurs at the Agripreneurship Summit & 64th ADAN Conference held on 16th & 17th August 2021 at the Agripreneur Academy, Shabu Farms, Kokona-Keffi and Nasarawa State University Assembly Hall, Keffi.
- The AFSPC partnered with the NGF Agriculture Desk to drive the public-private dialogue to secure consensus from Governors on the FEC approval of the National Dairy Policy.
- The AFSPC represented the Private Sector on the EU-FAO-CIRAD partnership Country Core team to provide technical support on the Rapid Food Systems Assessment conducted in Nigeria and 44 other low-income and low-middle-income countries (April - August 2021). The Policy Brief from the exercise was launched in November 2021.
- The AFSPC was involved in an advocacy drive on selected Agriculture & Food Security topics on the NESG Radio on a weekly basis in July 2021.
- The Policy Commission collaborated with Agro Nigeria and Kainosedge Consulting Limited at the Feed Nigeria Summit (FNS), 2021 to moderate a panel session, source rapporteurs and prepare the FNS 2021 Report.
- The AFSPC also participated at the hybrid AGRF Summit 2021 held in Nairobi, Kenya with the theme “Pathways to Recovery and Resilient Food Systems” from 6th – 10th September 2021.

Energy Policy Commission

The Energy Policy Commission (EPC) is a veritable public-private dialogue platform aimed at addressing and removing bottlenecks, identifying viable opportunities and developing effective frameworks to expand and scale the energy industry across the renewable energy, oil and condensates, and power and gas sub-sectors. The overarching mandate of the EPC is to facilitate the adoption of various energy-related Nigerian Economic Summit recommendations with a view to fast-tracking growth and development of the economy.



The Energy Policy Commission was engaged in the following activities in 2021:

- The Power and Renewable Energy Thematic Group of the Energy Policy Commission held a Work Planning Workshop on the 25th of May 2021. As a premise to developing a power and renewable energy work plan, the workshop aimed to evaluate Nigeria's power sector from non-renewable and renewable energy perspectives to ascertain the issues and proffer actionable solutions to the identified issues.
- The Policy Commission also reviewed the Power Sector Recovery Operation (PSRO) document. NESG Bridge Fellows assigned to the Policy Commissions participated in the review. The review process included the following:
 - *Review and summary of the entire PSRO, assessing the critical success factors and industry requirements.*
 - *Highlight areas of the PSRO that pertain to protecting the economically vulnerable/poor.*
 - *Highlight areas of the PSRO that pertain to transparency and implementation of tariffs.*

Health Policy Commission

The Health Policy Commission (HPC) was constituted after the Policy Commission (PC) restructuring process resulted in the unbundling of the Human Capital Policy Commission into two distinct Policy Commissions: The Health and Education Policy Commission. The HPC has the mandate to stimulate the country's response towards building responsive and resilient health systems to enable the achievement of Universal Health Coverage in Nigeria. The overarching objective of the Policy Commission is to facilitate the adoption of the various NES recommendations as it relates to fostering equality in access to health, ensuring quality health services, and financial risk protection.



Public-Private Dialogues and Policy Advocacy initiatives of the Health Policy Commission in 2021 include the following:

- The Health Policy Commission (HPC) hosted a General Assembly on the 12th of April 2021 towards developing its Work Plan for the year 2021.
- In the course of the year, the HPC began developing a White Paper on Enhancing the Local Production of Medicines and Vaccines in Nigeria.
- On the 29th of September 2021, the HPC held a Pre-Summit Event with the theme: Enchaining Local Manufacturing of Medicines and Vaccine. Recommendations from the event served as input into the White Paper on Local Production of Medicines and Vaccines being developed by the Policy Commission.
- The PC is also developing a Reform Paper on the Health Sector, which will subsequently be adopted in engaging the government and relevant stakeholders.

Manufacturing and Mining Policy Commission

The Manufacturing & Mining Policy Commission (MMPC) acts as a public-private policy dialogue platform for the manufacturing and mining sectors with a view to fast-tracking manufacturing and mining growth of the economy, drive advocacy that focuses on specific issues to ensure the formulation, adoption, implementation of appropriate policies. MMPC also champions the Nigerian Economic Summit (NES) recommendations to spark the intended sectoral growth and development needed in the economy. To achieve this, members of the Policy Commission meet regularly as action-oriented partnerships to deliberate on ways to remove the bottlenecks in the sector.



The Manufacturing and Mining Policy Commission engagements in the year include the following:

- On the 30th of March, 2021, the Manufacturing and Mining Policy Commission (MMPC) in collaboration with the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), International Finance Corporation (IFC) & the Manufacturer’s Association of Nigeria (MAN), held a webinar themed “Developing Nigeria’s Light Manufacturing Sector COVID-19 Response – Opportunities and Constraints”. The report of the event was drafted into a Position Paper which was sent to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment for his consideration.
- The MMPC held a discovery meeting with the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) Secretariat on how the Manufacturing Thematic Group can support and amplify the work of the secretariat with regard to the implementation of the AfCFTA in Nigeria.
- The Manufacturing Thematic Group of the MMPC held an onboarding session for new members on the 30th of August 2021.
- The Mining Thematic Group held a thematic meeting in August and re-designed its priority for the sector. The outcome of the meeting was the Mining Sector Reforms Deliverables which would help address sectoral issues across eight (8) priority areas.



Trade, Investment and Competitiveness Policy Commission (TICPC)

The Trade, Investment, and Competitiveness Policy Commission (TICPC) comprises arbiters of specialised competency in trade, investment, competitiveness, tax, and fiscal policy. The policy commission is saddled with the mandate to holistically address brewing concerns on the Nigerian business environment, focusing on progressively realising an enabling environment for enhanced economic activities and seamless regulation.

The Trade, Investment and Competitiveness Policy Commission, in carrying out its work plan for the year, engaged in the following activities:

- In collaboration with the Infrastructure Policy Commission, the Trade, Investment and Competitiveness PC (TICPC) reviewed the National Maritime Transport Policy Draft Document and submitted a report titled “NESG’s considerations for improvement of the Draft National Maritime Transport Policy” to the Ministry of Transportation. The goal was to provide further consideration towards improving the Draft National Maritime Transport Policy. The PC is also currently developing a 21st Century Nigeria Trade Policy document.
- The Policy Commission also engaged with the Nigerian Office of Trade Negotiation (NOTN) and the National Action Committee on Africa Continental Free Trade Area to fast-track the development of a 21st Century National Trade Policy.
- The Investment Thematic Group of the TICPC engaged with the Department of Investment in the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI) on an Investment Policy for Nigeria. The Thematic Group is also providing professional advice on steps to achieve commonality with 14 member countries in the ECOWAS.

Digital Economy Policy Commission

The Digital Economic Policy Commission (DEPC) is charged with enabling Digital Transformation, Digital Government, Digital Trade and Innovation to develop a Digital Economy across all sectors for inclusive and sustainable socio-economic development. DEPC aims to achieve its objective by actively promoting sectoral private-public collaboration, policy development and implementation, and adopting various recommendations from the Nigerian Economic Summit (NES). During the period under review, the Policy Commission remained very active with a series of engagements:



- The Policy Commission on-boarded Two New Thematic Group Leads into its newly established thematic groups:
 - *Digital Platform & Financial Services*
 - *Digital Infrastructure and Tech Sector Financing*
- The Digital Economy Policy Commission, on the 14th of October, 2021, held a Pre-Summit Event titled “The Nigeria Startup Bill: National Stakeholders Roundtable.” The event sought to provide a platform to assess the key provisions of the Nigeria Startup Bill, evaluate the opportunities that the Bill will unlock and lay the foundation for ongoing collaboration to develop the tech ecosystem in the country. As one of the outcomes of the Dialogue Session, the Honourable Minister endorsed the creation of the Digital Economy Industry Working Group by the NESG in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy. Outcomes of the event have been drafted into a Position Paper to be presented to the Minister.

Financial Market and Financial Inclusion Policy Commission (FMFIPC)

The Financial Markets and Inclusion Policy Commission (FMFIPC) continually works to facilitate the adoption of various financial sector-specific NES recommendations with a view to improving Nigeria's financial system and positioning the sector to support the growth and development of Nigeria's economy.



In the period under review, the Financial Market and Financial Inclusion Policy Commission was engaged in the following activities towards the implementation of its Work Plan for the year:

- The Financial Market Thematic Group was engaged in deliberations geared towards establishing a new Benchmark for the Naira. A research report is currently being prepared to validate the new Benchmark.
- Through a series of meetings held during the year, members of the Financial Inclusion Thematic Group (TG) were focused on identifying the obstacles and articulating a monitoring framework to drive the growth of Financial Inclusion in Nigeria. Members of the TG also deliberated on ways to engage relevant stakeholders to ensure the implementation of agreed solutions.

Infrastructure Policy Commission (IPC)

The Infrastructure Policy Commission (IPC) is structured to address infrastructure-specific issues and recommendations of the annual Nigerian Economic Summit to ensure the formulation, adoption and implementation by the relevant government agencies. The IPC currently works through six thematic groups led by subject and sector experts in Roads, Rail, Aviation, Ports & Inland Waterways, Water and Sanitation, and Housing & Urban Development.



The Policy Commission was engaged in the following activities in 2021:

- On the 27th of April 2021, the Infrastructure Policy Commission held a General Assembly to present its Work Plan to its members.
- The Infrastructure Policy Commission held a meeting on the 27th of May 2021 with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) to discuss a collaborative framework between the NESG (Housing and Urban Development Thematic Group) and NBS for a housing census to drive economic planning and development in Nigeria.
- The Water and Sanitation Thematic Group of the IPC, in collaboration with the UNGC Nigeria and in commemoration of the World Environment Day, hosted a one-day webinar themed: Private Sector Imperative for Sustainable Water Resources Management in Nigeria held on the 7th of June 2021.
- The Aviation Thematic Group hosted biweekly meetings to develop a policy document for subsequent engagement on Positioning Nigeria's Aviation Sector to be Regionally and Globally Competitive.
- The Infrastructure Policy Commission, specifically the Housing & Urban Development Thematic Group, held a Pre-Summit Event on the 5th of October 2021 titled Bridging the Housing & Urban Development Divide. The event provided a platform for stakeholders to deliberate on updating the National Urban Development Policy 2012 to "ensure that all Nigerians own or have access to decent, safe and sanitary housing in healthy environments with infrastructure services at affordable cost and with secure tenure".

Tourism, Hospitality, Entertainment, Creative Arts and Sports Industries (THECS) Policy Commission

The overarching objective of the Tourism, Hospitality, Entertainment, Creative Arts and Sports Industries (THECS) Policy Commission is to facilitate the adoption of various NES recommendations to fast-track growth and development of the economy.



The Policy Commission remained very active in 2021 with a series of engagements:

- The Tourism Hospitality Entertainment Creatives and Sports (THECS) Policy Commission of the NESG held its first Steering Committee Meeting on Friday, the 19th of February, 2021 and also approved the 2021 work plan.
- A new thematic lead for the Creatives and Entertainment Thematic Group was appointed On the 25th of June, 2021
- On the 14th of July, 2021, the THECS Policy Commission held its second Steering Committee Meeting, with the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Youths and Sports Development in attendance as the Public Sector Co-Chair.
- On the 19th of August, 2021, the Tourism and Hospitality Industries Thematic Group (THITG) of the THECS PC held a Focus Group Forum with the theme “Repositioning the Tourism and Hospitality Sectors for Sustainable Growth and Profitability”. The goal of the Forum was to dimension the challenges in the tourism and hospitality sectors and ultimately adopt remedial recommendations/an actionable work plan. The outcome of the forum has been developed into a report and presented to the Minister of information and Culture for his consideration
- Also, Subgroups have been created to secure input for policy review and the development of a master plan for the development of the Tourism and Hospitality Sectors.

Sustainability Policy Commission

The overarching objective of the Sustainability Policy Commission (SPC) is to facilitate the adoption of Nigerian Economic Summit recommendations with a view to bridging the gap in sustainability and support the embedding of the green, blue and circular economies in Nigeria.



The Sustainability Policy Commission remained active in the year with a series of activities geared towards the implementation of its Work Plan:

- The SPC in collaboration with Adam Smith International, held a Climate Finance Accelerator (CFA) workshop titled: “Climate Finance Accelerator (CFA) Stakeholder Engagement Workshop with Financial institutions and Project Proponents” on the 13th of August, 2021. The CFA is a four-year technical assistance programme funded by the UK’s Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy (BEIS). The programme works closely with eight middle-income countries, one of which is Nigeria, and supports each of them to develop a sustainable pipeline of bankable, low-carbon projects and identify suitable financing options. One of the objectives of the CFA is to Attract private finance for low-carbon projects, infrastructure, and climate change action.
- The Policy Commission held a second CFA workshop with the theme “Climate Finance Accelerator Nigeria-Roadmap to Sustainable Green Investment” on the 31st of August, 2021. The workshop focused on the need for governmental interference. Ultimately, Federal and State Governments have a major role in setting the policy and framework for implementing the Nationally Determined Contribution.
- In preparation for the 27th Nigerian Economic Summit, the Sustainability Policy Commission held a Pre-Summit Event on the 28th of September, 2021 with the theme “Strengthening Academia-Industry Collaboration in Circular Economy and Natural Capital Accounting”. The

event convened stakeholders in a town and gown approach to discuss Circular Economy and Natural Capital for capacity building that will lead to greater uptake in the Universities and industries. It also provided an opportunity to engage key policymakers, corporate and political decision-makers to develop new partnerships across multiple sectors that will champion a renewed frontier for Circular Economy and Natural Capital opportunities.

- The SPC also provided support to the French Embassy on a Dialogue titled “Have we done enough in the fight against climate change?” which took place at the Alliance Française in Lagos on the 6th of May, 2021. The goal of the dialogue was to promote a conversation about the fight against climate change in Africa and how to improve environmental cooperation between Nigeria and France.
- The Policy Commission held a General Assembly on Friday, the 16th of July 2021, to onboard the new members of its PC, present the overall Work Plan for the year, and discuss the next steps.

Governance and Institutions Policy Commission (GIPC)

The overarching objective of the Governance and Institutions Policy Commission (GIPC) is to facilitate the overhaul of Public Institutions, strengthen partnerships and measure the performance of government with a view to fast-tracking growth and development of the economy.



The Governance and Institutions Policy Commission was engaged in a series of activities towards the implementation of its Work Plan for the year:

- On the 6th of February, 2021, the GIPC on-boarded a new thematic lead for the “Supporting the Reforms of Public Institutions Thematic Group” in the person of Mrs. Ifueko Omoigui Okauru.
- On the 19th of March, 2021, the Governance and Institutions PC had its first (1st) Steering Committee Meeting for the year to present the PC’s Work Plan for approval and officially introduce the new Thematic Lead for the Supporting the Reforms of Public Institutions Thematic Group.
- The GIPC held a Dialogue Session on the 26th of August, 2021 with the theme “Government and Private Sector Engagement in The Times of the Covid-19 Pandemic and Beyond”. The dialogue session sought to examine the issues raised by COVID19 and its effects on governance in Nigeria and analyse areas to assist the civil service in building capacity within government for policymaking in times of crisis, fiscal and financial management, regulation and crisis and risk management.
- The Governance and Institutions Policy Commission held its 2nd Steering committee on the 31st of August, 2021, to update Steering Committee Members on the Work Plans of the 3 Thematic Groups and deliberate on the PCs engagement during NES #27. ’

- As part of its efforts to facilitate the transformation of the Nigerian Public Sector, the Measuring Performance Thematic Working Group (MPTG) of the Governance and Institutions Policy Commission (GIPC) of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) collaborated with the Aig-Imoukhuede Foundation in the development of a Public Sector Index for Nigeria. The index seeks to measure the impact of public sector activities on the Nigerian economy's overall productivity and economic growth and on the well-being of its citizens.
- The GIPC was also involved in a plenary session at the 27th Nigerian Economic Summit to discuss and elaborate on the work of the Measuring Performance Thematic Working Group (MPTG) in collaboration with the Africa Initiative for Governance (AIG) on the creation of a Nigerian public sector index.

Key Policy Commission Activities in the Year

In the period under review, one of the key strategic thrusts for the NESG was to focus on poverty reduction, job creation and the Sustainable Development Goals in line with NES recommendations and the NESG Macroeconomic Outlook.

Key Policy Commission activities geared towards Macroeconomic Stability, Trade, Investment and Competitiveness during the period under review include:

- *Trade, Investment and Competitiveness PC (TICPC): In collaboration with the Infrastructure PC, the Policy Commission reviewed the National Maritime Transport Policy Draft Document and submitted a report to the Ministry of Transportation's consideration towards improving the Draft National Maritime Transport Policy. The PC is also currently developing a 21st Century Nigeria Trade Policy document.*
- *Infrastructure Policy Commission (IPC): The Housing and Urban Development Thematic Group held a meeting on the 27th of May, 2021, with the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), to discuss a collaborative framework between the NESG and NBS for a housing census to drive economic planning and development in Nigeria.*
- *Manufacturing and Mining Policy Commission (MMPC): In collaboration with FCDO, IFC & MAN, the Manufacturing Thematic Group held a webinar towards developing the light manufacturing industry in Nigeria and has sustained the dialogue and engagement with the partners mentioned above. The Policy Commission submitted the outcomes of the webinar in the form of a Position Paper to the Minister of Industry, Trade and Investment. The Thematic Group also held a discovery meeting with the AfCFTA Secretariat on how the Manufacturing Thematic Group can support and amplify the Secretariat's efforts geared towards the implementation of AfCFTA in Nigeria.*

Key Policy Commission activities geared towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) include:

The Agriculture and Food Security Policy Commission (AFSPC) on the 28th of April, 2021 the AFSPC hosted a Webinar that focused on Expert's Review of the Plant Variety Protection Bill – Significance and Constraints. The Bill was signed into law by His Excellency President Muhammadu Buhari in May 2021. The AFSPC was involved in advocacy efforts geared towards disseminating fact sheets and creating awareness on the importance of the PVP Bill and its impact on the food systems.

Furthermore, the Agriculture and Food Security PC in the period under review forged some collaborations with key stakeholders to drive the dialogue on food security. Some of which include: collaboration with the Ministry of Budget and National Planning to host a Private Sector Exploratory Dialogue on the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS), which held on the 25th of May 2021; collaboration with the Commercial Dairy and Ranchers Association of Nigeria (CODARAN) on the World Milk Day on conversations for “Strengthening the Local Dairy Sector in Nigeria: Addressing the Pain-Points for Sustainable Impact”; collaboration with the Flour Mills of Nigeria, NBS, FMARD, CBN and other stakeholders to conduct a National Wheat Production Survey.

The Water and Sanitation Thematic Group of the IPC, in collaboration with the UNGCN, and in commemoration of the World Environment Day, hosted a one-day webinar themed: Private Sector Imperative for Sustainable Water Resources Management in Nigeria, which was held on the 7th of June 2021.

A top-down view of a group of people's hands stacked in a circle. Many of the hands are wearing blue wristbands with the word 'EMFASIS' printed on them. The background is a dark, blue-tinted image of the same scene. The text 'COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE' is centered over the image in a white, bold, serif font.

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE

As part of the Group's repositioning of the Policy Commissions in 2019, three (3) stand-alone platforms were created for marginalised groups, including the Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Gender-related issues and Youth. These platforms allow these groups to come together as communities of practice to champion and promote advocacy based on their thematic focus areas.

Community of Practice on Gender

The overarching objective of the Community of Practice on Gender is to provide a platform for key stakeholders/individuals across private and public sector groups to collectively own and champion the issues around women through the NESG's structured approach to deliberating, agreeing and advocating on policy focal points.

The Gender Community of Practice (CoP) was involved in the following activities in 2021:

- On the 24th of October, 2021, the Gender CoP held a Pre-Summit Event in preparation for the 27th Nigerian Economic Summit, themed "Gender Equality and Inclusion Strategies for Economic Development". The dialogue session sought to promote the mainstreaming of gender equality and inclusion into Nigeria's organisational framework and culture and critically examine and address policy issues on gender and inclusion across the public and private sectors.

Community of Practice (CoP) on MSMEs

The Community of Practice on MSME is a Working Group of Public, Private and Development Sector players committed to developing Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in Nigeria.

The Community of Practice on Micro and Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) was engaged in the following activities towards the implementation of its Work Plan:

- The MSME CoP held a General Assembly on Thursday, the 15th of April, 2021, to present the overall work plan of the CoP to its members. It was also an opportunity to operationalise the activities of its thematic groups for the year.

- The Access to Finance Thematic Group designed a draft funding framework tailored to the needs of Micro and Small Enterprises and met once every month to deliver on the set task.
- The Access to Market Thematic Group developed a draft blueprint on implementation framework to foster market access for MSMEs and met once every month to deliver on the set task.
- The Capacity Building Thematic Group worked on a Research Case-study of KBS on BDSPs accreditation and met once every month to deliver on the set task.
- The Regulations Thematic Group worked on a draft Legislative Gap Assessment for the MSME regulatory space and proffered recommendations. The thematic group met once every month to deliver on the set task.
- On the 21st of September, 2021, the MSME Community of Practice held a Pre-Summit Event themed: "MSME Funding in Nigeria: Insights, Impact, Accountability."

**Policy Documents Drafted across Policy Commissions
and Communities of Practice – 21**

**Total number of Public-Private Dialogues hosted
across the NESG's various PPD Platforms = 14**

**Total number of Stakeholders in attendance at
Public-Private Dialogues in 2021 – 4,387**

Government MDAs and Development Partners engaged in the year by the NESG's Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) Platforms include:

Federal Ministry of Communication and Digital Economy (FMC&DE)

National Agriculture Seed Council (NASC)

National Bureau of Statistics (NBS)

Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD)

Federal Ministry of Information and Culture (FMIC)

Federal Ministry of Youths and Sports Development (FMYSD)

Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI)

Office of the Head of the Civil Service of the Federation (OHCSF)

Nigerian Office of Trade Negotiation

Small and Medium Enterprise Development Agency of Nigeria (SMEDAN)

Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

International Finance Corporation (IFC)

The World Bank Group, Nigeria



INTERVENER

As an intervener, the NESG drives Policy Change through Interventions, Monitoring, Influential Evaluation and Reporting. Through its various interventions, the NESG is able to:

- Expand technical assistance for supporting reform implementation
- Drive change by dedicating research or human resources to drive policy changes
- Set up joint working groups with the public sector to implement
- Support capacity development to empower public and private sector institutions to implement policy reform recommendations.

National Development Plan and 30-year Visioning for Nigeria

- The subsisting National Development Plans, including the Nigeria Vision 20:2020 and Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (2017-2020) expired in December 2020. Therefore, the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN), through the Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning, commenced developing the successor National Development Plan (NDP) 2021-2025 in the last quarter of year 2020 through to the first quarter of the year 2021. The Ministry also simultaneously embarked on a 30-year vision for the country through the development of the “Nigeria Agenda 2050”.
- In true commitment to the standing partnership between the FGN and the NESG (representing the private sector), the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning has relied on the NESG to provide the much-needed private sector participation in the National Development Planning process.
- The private sector and the NESG were adequately represented in all tiers of the institutional structure set up to deliver the NDP (2021-2025) and Nigeria Agenda 2050.
- Acting on behalf of the private sector, the NESG nominated 60 subject matter experts as members of the 26 Technical Working Groups, which cut across every sector of the economy.

- Also, the Technical Working Group on Macroeconomic Framework and Growth Diagnostics was supported by the NESG Research unit.
- The NESG went a step further to support the process by deploying 25 members of the NESG Bridge Fellowship Programme as Technical Assistants to provide adequate technical support to the work of the TWGs.
- The Federal Executive Council (FEC) on the 10th of November 2021 approved the National Development Plan NDP (2021-2025) as a successor to the Economic Recovery Growth Plan (2017-2020).
- The plan is structured into six clusters: economic growth and development, infrastructure, public administration, human capital development, social development and regional development.
- The NESG co-chaired the Technical Review Team that evaluated the Zero draft of the NDP 2021-2025, Expenditure Framework, and the National Vision 2050.

The Policy Innovation Centre

Following the appointment of the Executive Director and the Deputy Director, the Policy Innovation Centre (PIC) was launched during the 27th Nigerian Economic Summit. The PIC is an initiative within the NESG sponsored by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, with the support of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. The Centre has the mandate to implement innovative policy tools, including behavioural insights, to improve policies and programmes in Nigeria. It is the first national-level unit of its kind in Africa and applies lessons from the behavioural and social sciences, including testing interventions to find evidence that can inform better policies and decision-making.

NESG Bridge Fellowship

The NESG Bridge fellowship programme, in collaboration with LEAP Africa, is a 15-month programme with mid-level professionals between the ages of 25 to 35 years who have demonstrated interest in research, public policy, community development, social work, business and/or social entrepreneurship. These professionals

are drawn from academia, the private sector and the public sectors through a stringent selection process. At the end of the fellowship, the fellows become Alumni members, serve as members of the NESG Community of Practice on Youth championing reforms in various thematic areas, and volunteer in Policy Commissions and Roundtables as technical anchors.

Since its Inception in 2020, the Programme has had two (2) cohorts of Fellows: The first cohort, the 2020/2021 set (Bridge Set 1) with 22 fellows and the second cohort, 2021/2022 set (Bridge Set 2) with 32 fellows. As such, 54 young leaders are being trained with hands-on, pragmatic experience in policy formulation and development, as it affects the Nigerian economy.

Bridge Set 1

- Each Bridge Fellow served as Technical Assistant to Thematic Working Groups on the National Development Plan (2021-2025), and Nigeria Agenda 2050. The National Development Plan (2021-2025) was approved on Wednesday, the 10th of November, 2021, by the Federal Executive Council
- Renowned industry experts have mentored the Fellows
- The Bridge Fellows were also assigned as rapporteurs at the Summit (NES #27), capturing the technical details of the Summit conversations, which are the prelude to the development of the Summit report called 'Green Book', which is presented to the President, the Federal Executive Council and other relevant stakeholders.
- As part of their capstone project, the Bridge Fellows have embarked on 4 social impact projects with the SDGs as an underlying impetus. These projects include:
 - National Security and Prison reform advocacy- where a group of Fellows conveyed the key stakeholders in a room to dialogue on bridging the gap.
 - Bone Marrow Registration drive
 - Training rural women on producing Eco-Friendly Sanitary Pad and Financial Literacy
 - Data to Drama - The fellows produced a drama called "Eagle Rising". This blockbuster stage drama animates the Nigeria at 2050 scenarios - i.e Nigeria Rises, Nigeria at Status Quo,

and Nigeria fails. The goal was to make the scenarios relatable to the government, private sector and the common man and present the urgency of making Nigeria a better place.

After completing the Bridge Fellowship Programme, the pioneer set - the 2020/2021 set - will be formally inaugurated as Alumni Fellows. At the end of the fellowship, the fellows become Alumni members, serving as members of the NESG Community of Practice on Youth to champion reforms in various thematic areas and volunteer in Policy Commissions and Roundtables as Technical Anchors.

Bridge Set 2

- The Secretariat facilitated learning sessions through the orientation programme to educate the fellows about the NESG and its strategic mandate. The facilitators/guest speakers centred their discussions on their personal and professional journey, their contributions through the NESG while also discussing relevant policy issues.
- The Fellows have been assigned to Policy Commissions and Roundtables, where they serve as technical anchors to champion the reform of the Nigerian economy.
- The Bridge Fellows were also assigned as rapporteurs at the Summit (NES #27), capturing the technical details of the Summit conversations, which are the prelude to the development of the Summit report called 'Green Book', which is presented to the President, the Federal Executive Council and other stakeholders.
- The Fellows were also granted access to an online virtual learning platform where they can access a wide range of courses to help in leadership, research and policy advocacy skills.



WATCHDOG

In its role as a Watchdog, the NESG drives policy change through Research and Evidence-Based Engagement.

RESEARCH DIVISION

The NESG gathers, collates and analyses social and economic data on the Nigerian economy with a view of generating objective and credible reports to support evidence-based policy advocacy. Outputs of the NESG research are used to champion policymaking and review by influencing economic and social policies toward sustainable growth and development of a modern, globally competitive Nigerian economy. The Thematic areas of our research publications include:

- Economic competitiveness
- Foreign aid and investment
- Inclusive growth, equitable and informal sector
- Infrastructure, energy and power
- Institutions and growth
- Private sector and business environment
- Regional integration and trade

Economic Alerts - 11
Mini-Macroeconomic Reports -2
Collaborative research projects - 3

• Internal Research Engagements in 2021

- **2021 Macroeconomic Outlook Report:** The research department launched the 2021 edition of the Macroeconomic Outlook Report titled “Four Priorities for the Nigerian Economy in 2021 and Beyond” on the 2nd of February 2021.
- **Mini-Macroeconomic Reports:** The Research department published two (2) mini-reports to explore in details the four key priorities to attract investment and spur inclusive economic growth, as highlighted in the 2021 Macroeconomic Outlook Report.

- **NESG's Economic Alerts:** The research department published a total of 11 economic alerts, including 1 MPC Alert, the 2020' GDP Alert, the 2021' Q1; Q2 & Q3 GDP Alert; the Q4' 2020 Unemployment Alert, Q4'2020; 2021' Q1 and 2021'Q2 Foreign Trade Alert, Q2-2021 Capital Importation Alert and 2021' Q1 Economic Report.
- **EPR Journal Publication:** In the period under review, the research department published the first issue of its bi-annual Economic and Policy Review (EPR) journal, focusing on "Harnessing COVID-19-induced Opportunities for Economic Recovery and Resilience in Nigeria". Call for papers for the second edition of the publication with the topic "Attracting Investments in the Quest for Accelerated and Inclusive Growth in Nigeria" was also launched in November 2021.
- **Policy Briefs:** The department released a Policy Brief on Nigeria's Manufacturing Sector dubbed "Sectoral Reforms and Investment in Nigeria: A Focus on the Manufacturing Sector".
- **Collaborative Research**
 - The NESG-OSIWA's Debt Management, Restructuring and Sustainability in the ECOWAS project has been concluded. Four (4) policy briefs are being prepared from the project.
 - In partnership with the World Economic Forum, the Research Department administered questionnaires to CEOs for insight into the Global Competitiveness of the Nigerian economic space.
 - Also, in partnership with the African Economic Research Consortium, the department is undertaking a case study on COVID-19, Human Capital Development and Post-Covid in Nigeria.
- **Engagement with the Federal Government:** The Research Department concluded the draft National Development Plan (NDP) review. The NDP was approved on Wednesday, the 10th of November, 2021, by the Federal Executive Council.
- **MacArthur's Behaviour Theory of Change:** The NESG Research department and the Policy Innovation Centre (PIC) collaborated with MacArthur Foundation to apply behavioural insights in promoting transparency.

Non-Residence Fellowship Programme

In the period under review, the Research Department launched the Non-Residence Fellowship Programme, a merit-based fellowship, that brings together outstanding and high-level intellectuals in academia, research-based institutions, the public sector and the private sector to collaborate, share ideas, produce research outputs and ensure that findings from its research are applied in practice. Following a competitive application process with hundreds of applicants, 18 impressive Senior Fellows were selected who will be supported by a faculty of 5 subject matter experts. Over the 2-year course of the Programme, the Non-resident Fellows will make notable contributions towards sustainable economic development in Nigeria. Induction of successful applicants took place on the 30th of November, 2021



CONNECTOR

One of the NESG's strategic roles is that of the Connector. In this role, we institute change through influence.

- **Nigeria's Private Sector and Public-Private Dialogue** - The NESG hosted an event titled "Nigeria's Private Sector and PPD; State of Play: A Conversation on The Role of Public-Private Dialogue in Nigeria's Socio-Economic Development". The event was aimed at sensitising emerging private sector business leaders on the importance of Public-Private Dialogue (PPD) and to ultimately provide an opportunity to promote private sector involvement in driving policy interventions and economic sustainability.
- **NESG Radio** - In February 2021, the Group launched the NESG Podcast services. The NESG Radio is a weekly, syndicated podcast that keeps Nigerians informed through curated localised content on economic policies and issues across sectors of the Nigerian economy. The NESG podcast will help effectively communicate the activities of the Group to a younger audience and extend research-based advocacy in a distillable localised format to all Nigerians. The radio has had guests from the private sector, public sector, civil societies and donor communities speak on issues of national interest. Thus far, the NESG Radio has recorded 77 episodes with several episodes translated to local languages for the mass audience. To listen please visit <https://nesgroup.org/podcast>

**77 Episodes recorded on
the NESG radio**

**ROUNDTABLE, POLICY COMMISSION AND COMMUNITY
OF PRACTICE LEADERS (VOLUNTEERS)**



Mr. Taiwo Oyedele

Chairman, NESG-OSIWA Debt Management Roundtable | Thematic Lead Fiscal Planning and Policy, Public Finance & Taxation, NASSBER



Mr. Tope Toogun

Chair, Technical Committee; Nigeria Triple Helix Roundtable



Ms. Gloria Ekpo

Facilitator, Agriculture and Food Security Policy Commission (AFSPC)



Engr. Belijie Madu

Thematic Lead, Power TG



Mr. Segun Adaju

Thematic Lead, Renewable Energy TG



Dr. Ola Brown

Thematic Lead, Health as a Business TG



Dr. Mariya Saleh

Thematic Lead, Health as a Business TG & Human Capital Development TG Lead at NASSBER



Dr. Chuku Nkata

Facilitator, Health Policy Commission



Ms. Lumun Amanda Feese
Thematic Lead, Mining TG



Mr. Bernard Orji
Thematic Lead, Manufacturing TG



Mr. Femi Awofala
Facilitator, Manufacturing and Mining
Policy Commission



Professor Jonathan Aremu
Facilitator, Trade, Investment and
Competitiveness Policy Commission



Mr. Bunmi Akinyemiju
Facilitator, Digital Economy Policy
Commission



Mr. Chris Abbulime
Thematic Lead, E-Governance, Policies
& Regulations TG



Mrs. Yemi Keri
Thematic Lead, Digital Platform &
Financial Services TG



Mr. Emmanuel Adegboye
Thematic Lead, Digital Skills, Innovation
& Entrepreneurship TG



Mr. Abiodun Oni

Thematic Lead, Digital Infrastructure
and Tech Sector Financing



Mr. Bola Onadele Koko

Thematic Lead, Financial Market TG



Mr. Zeal Akaraiwe

Facilitator, Financial Market and
Financial Inclusion Policy Commission



Mr. Niyi Ajao

Thematic Lead, Financial Inclusion TG



Mr. Nnanna Ude

Senior Fellow, Legislative
Reform Strategy & Programme
Management | Facilitator, Infrastructure
Policy Commission



Mr. Edeme Kelikume

Thematic Lead, Ports & Inland
Waterways TG



Engr. Gabriel Ekanem

Thematic Lead, Water & Sanitation TG



Mr. Vince Onyejeli

Thematic Lead, Rail TG



Mrs. Saadiya Aliyu

Thematic Lead, Housing & Urban Development TG



Mr. Tive Ekpere,

Thematic Lead, Aviation TG



Engr Olusegun Toluhi

Thematic Lead, Roads TG



Dr. Ikenna Nwosu

Facilitator, THECS Policy Commission



Ms. Nkechi Obi

Thematic Lead, Sports Industries TG



Mr. Baba Agba

Thematic Lead, Creatives and Entertainment Industries TG



Mrs. Ngozi Ngoka

Thematic Lead, Tourism and Hospitality Industries TG



Dr. Uzo Egbuche

Facilitator, Sustainability Policy Commission



Dr. Eugene Itua

Thematic Lead, Circular Economy TG



Dr. F. C. Mogo

Thematic Lead Marine Ecosystem
and Blue Economy TG



Dr. Dolapo Kukoyi

Thematic Lead, Climate Change TG



Mrs. Nkechi Onyenso

Facilitator, Governance and Institutions
Policy Commission



Dr. Adeyemi Dipeolu

Thematic Lead Strengthening
Partnerships and Collaboration TG



**Mrs. Ifueko Omoigui
Okauru**

Thematic Lead, Supporting the
Reforms of Public Institutions TG



**Mrs. Ofofwe Aig-
Imoukhuede**

Thematic Lead Measuring
Performance TG



Dr. Femi Akinbola

Thematic Lead, Improving Business
Environment and Regulation, MSME
COP



Mrs. Edughom Hanson
Thematic Lead,
Capacity Building, Education &
Business Support, MSME COP



Mrs. Adenike Adeyemi
Facilitator, MSME COP



Mr. Akintunde Maberu
Thematic Lead,
Access To Finance, MSME COP



Mrs. Ozofu Ogiemudia
Thematic Lead,
Regulations, NASSBER



Mr. Dennis Onwuegbu
Thematic Lead,
Access To Market & Infrastructure,
MSME COP



Mr. Akin Ajibola
Thematic Lead Infrastructure & Urban
Development Thematic Area, NASSBER



Mr. Leonard O. Ugbajah
Executive Director, Thematic Lead
Trade Thematic Area, NASSBER



Mr. Isaiah Bozimo
Thematic Lead,
Arbitration & Dispute Resolution,
NASSBER



Ms. Chinenye Uwanaka

Thematic Lead,
Innovation and Intellectual Property,
NASSBER



Dr. Mohammed Momoh

Thematic Lead,
Investments, NASSBER



Mrs. Olayemi Anyenechi

Thematic Lead,
Financial Services, NASSBER



Mr. Boye Ademola

Thematic Lead,
Data & Digital Economy, NASSBER



Mr. Ezenwa Anumnu

Thematic Lead,
Institutions, NASSBER



Dr. Franklin Ngwu

Thematic Lead,
Constitution Review, NASSBER



Mr. Olumuyiwa Alaba

Thematic Lead, Trade TG

ABOUT NESG

The NESG is an independent, non-partisan, non-sectarian organization, committed to fostering open and continuous dialogue on Nigeria's economic development. The NESG strives to forge a mutual understanding between leaders of thought so as to explore, discover and support initiatives directed at improving Nigeria's economic policies, institutions, and management.

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