



Promoting the Sustainable Citizen Participation Approach in Building Back Better from COVID-19 and in Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

by:

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ON BEHALF OF PARTNERS:

- * **Afrihealth Optonet Association, Nigeria (Lead)**
- * Society for Conservation and Sustainability of Energy and Environment in Nigeria
- * Dr Uzo Adirieje Foundation, Nigeria
- * Nanny Africa, Cameroon
- * Good Health Community Programmes, Kenya
- * Roses for Women, Nigeria
- * Self-Discovery Empowerment Foundation Int'l, Nigeria
- * Women Empowerment Self-Help and Social Dev't Initiative, Nigeria
- * Willing and Caring Hands Foundation, Nigeria
- * Family Health and Development Foundation, Cameroon
- * Citizens' Rights Development Centre, Nigeria
- * Women Initiative for Values Empowerment and Sustainability International, Nigeria

'Sustainable Citizen Participation (SCP)' is a development model espoused by Afrihealth Optonet Association (AHOA) – CSOs Network in 2017-18 in Nigeria's Niger Delta region; with funding support from the United Nations Democracy Fund (UNDEF). SCP means that governments and development leaders/partners involve citizens in policies formulation, planning and execution of all development activities, such that citizens will be able to engage with them on regular and sustained bases; as currently, majority of the citizens are only able to interact with their governments and development leaders/partners at the latter's leisure. To 'Leave no one Behind', we call for the redistribution of power to enable the less privileged citizens, presently excluded from the political and economic processes, to be deliberately included. AHOA calls for strategies by which the marginalized, persons with disability, persons without homes, education and enough nutrition are deliberately involved in determining and equitably benefitting from how information is shared, goals and policies are set/implemented, tax resources are allocated, programs are operated, projects are designed, implemented, monitored, reported and evaluated; while benefits like contracts and patronage are equitably parcelled out and justiciable. In short, SCP entails that these citizens can induce significant social reform which enables them to share in the benefits of their societies' affluence. We remind and urge governments/stakeholders and development partners at all levels to involve citizens, indigenous people, those marginalized, in the communities and all the fields of human endeavour; in formulating/conceptualizing, planning, implementing, monitoring, evaluating, auditing, improving, and expanding valued or service-oriented works/issues/services, programmes, projects, policies, practices, results, documentations, changes and items in building back better from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.