

**Capacity building workshop and expert group meeting on "Integrated approaches to sustainable development planning ",**

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**Presentation to session 2 of the event on "Working Groups on MDG Lessons for the SDG Transition"**

BY

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**INTRO: The Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre** was established in 2000, as a not-for-profit, non-governmental organization, working to secure economic and social justice through human rights. Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre seeks to strengthen the field of human rights with special focus on economic, social and cultural rights democratic governance, transparency and anti-corruption, climate justice, and campaign against all forms of human rights abuse and violations and further develop the tools and explore strategies for achieving their promotion, protection and fulfilment. Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre are an objective response to the widespread injustice, human rights abuse, democratic hiccups in Nigeria, corruption, ignorance and gullibility. Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre aims at broadening individuals, communities access and a platform to strengthen their participation in the design and implementation of social, political, economic and environmental policies and programs that affect them. The organization has a growing membership base of over 5000 cutting across linguistic, ethnic and religious barriers. The organization has Observer Status with United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, UNFCCC and also in Special Consultative Status with United Nations Economic and Social Council, ECOSOC, since 2014. We belong to several local and international Coalitions in furtherance of strives to make human rights and life of dignity a reality for all people!

Labour, Health and Human Rights Development Centre, Lagos, Nigeria agrees and affirms its support for transformative and innovative approach in the light of the post 2015 emerging post 2015 Sustainable Development Agenda. It agrees that though the Post 2015 Development Agenda is expected to be universal in principle but supports its flexibility in application through the recognition of the specific needs of each country.

It also supports the strengthening of the capacities of the institutions and especially the locals that will midwife the Development Agenda. Thereby affirms that capacity building is the hinge where the success of Post 2015 Development Agenda lies in our country Nigeria.

The bane to Nigeria achieving fully the past development agenda could be seen as a lack of total commitment of the government to the successful implementation of its programs. The lack of full commitment even with strong institutional mechanism and structures that were put in place for the achievement of the goals led to poor coordination between the three tiers of government in Nigeria.. This made the progress achieved through the development agenda to be very slow. This is coupled with the plague of corruption that has eaten into Nigeria's polity. In other words

#### **Challenges to achieving MDG (Millennium Development Goals) include**

- Coordination at federal, state and local government levels have been weak
- Insecurity has been a bottleneck such as in the case of Boko Haram in the North East Nigeria that affected the achievement of MDG programs
- Growing poverty levels in different sections of the country

Nigeria is currently transiting to a new political dispensation which is expected to start off in May 29, 2015 and which has promised to run a transparent government with a cardinal point of ridding the systems of corruption and its vices. The expectation is that if this could be done, there will be unwavering success of the Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Therefore, we in the Civil Society in Nigeria has joined hands together as a strong voice in fighting the corruption plague in our society by continuous sensitization of our members, the populace, the society and the three tier governments on the needs for a transparency environment as an enduring platform for the success of Post 2015 Development Agenda.

Thereby 2015 Development Agenda sensitization and advocacy will need to be sustained and encouraged at all levels of governance and society so as to raise the level of commitment that will lead to the achievement of its expected goals. Therefore the

**Key to strengthen capacity of the civil society include**

- Improve consultation and discussion between government and civil society organizations in order to improve responsiveness in government organizations to the Post 2015 Sustainable Development programmes.
- Improving understanding of the administrative and implementation procedures of SDG programs in order to improve engagement.
- Increasing engagement of Civil Society Organizations in post 2015 Sustainable Development programs through adequate representation of its members, groups and network in monitoring and evaluation of the programs

We in the Civil Society in Nigeria have emphasized in all our deliberations, meetings and trainings that Post 2015 Development Agenda will need to be integrated in our country's National, State and Local Developmental policies. We have also advocated severally in our meetings that in the Post 2015 Development Agenda, the Non-State Actors (Civil Society inclusive), Development Partners (Private sectors inclusive) should be in partnership with the Government in the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the Development Agenda.

We will also continue to emphasize that the success of Post 2015 Development Agenda will ride on the wings of full participation of all the stakeholders. This can only be gotten through their continuous sensitization and sustainable strengthening of their capacity (capacity building). This we assume the Civil Society in Nigeria has spearheaded.

Thank you very much.

Presenters to submit slides or other material, if any, by no later than 25 May to Alan AtKisson, workshop facilitator ([Alan.AtKisson@atkisson.com](mailto:Alan.AtKisson@atkisson.com)) and Darren Swanson, workshop rapporteur ([dswanson@novelfutures.com](mailto:dswanson@novelfutures.com)).

