



National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA)

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE 11TH ANNUAL NATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS' FORUM AND CELEBRATION OF NESREA @ 10 ORGANISED BY THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS AND REGULATIONS ENFORCEMENT AGENCY (NESREA) AT THE NICON LUXURY HOTEL, ABUJA, 12TH – 13TH DECEMBER, 2017

The National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA) held her 11th Annual National Stakeholders' Forum at the Nicon Luxury Hotel, Abuja, from 12th – 13th December, 2017. The Forum is held annually as part of the Agency's platform for public involvement and citizens' participation in environmental governance. The theme for this year's Stakeholders' Forum is '**Environmental Governance – A Key to Achieving Green Economy**'. The Agency also commemorated her 10th Anniversary.

The main purpose of the Forum was to provide a platform for an in-depth discussion and analysis of issues focusing on environmental governance as a critical factor in achieving green economy within the context of sustainable development, and how to mainstream the green agenda into our national development plan. It also considered green economy in specific areas/sectors such as industry, transportation, city, and waste management, as well as their environmental governance implications. In addition, the forum highlighted the journey so far in the NESREA Process from inception in 2007 to date.

Four-hundred and eighty-one persons participated at the Forum, including stakeholders and sector players at national, state and local government levels, as well as those in public and private sector whose activities have direct or indirect bearing on environment, consultants, the academia, research institutions, legislators, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), community leaders, members of the International Community/Development Partners, and the Media.

The Director-General/CEO, NESREA, Dr. Lawrence C. Anukam, delivered the Welcome Address. The Keynote Address was delivered by the Special Guest of Honour, Alh. Ibrahim Usman Jibril, Honourable Minister of State for Environment, ably represented by Mr. Friday Afikure of the Environmental Assessment Department in the Ministry. The Chairman of the

Forum, Prof. A. M. A. Imevbore, Chairman, Environmental Resources Managers Limited and former Director, Institute of Ecology, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, gave an Opening Remark.

Goodwill messages were delivered by the Chairman, Senate Committee on Environment, Senator Oluremi Tinubu, ably represented by Senator Foster Ogola; Chairman, House Committee on Climate Change, Hon. Samuel Onuigbo; and Chairman Senate Committee on Ecology and Climate Change ably represented by Mr. Tony Azubuike. Other dignitaries who delivered Goodwill messages were:

- Mr. Clem Ugorji, Corporate Affairs Director, Coca-cola Nig. Ltd. and Representative of Food and Beverages Recycling Alliance;
- Dr. (Mrs.) Ngeri S. Benebo, Pioneer DG/CEO of the National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency (NESREA);
- Dr. Goke Adegoroye, former Director General, defunct Federal Environmental Protection Agency, FEPA and former Permanent Secretary, FCT;
- Prince Lekan Fadina, Chairman, Centre for Investment, Sustainable Development, Management and Environment (CISME) Consulting Ltd.; and
- Justice Nkemdirim Uzoagu, incoming President, United Nations Tribunal, Nairobi, Kenya.

The Lead Paper *“Environmental Governance – A Key to Achieving Green Economy”* was delivered by Professor M. T. Ladan, Department of Public Law, Ahmadu Bello University, Zaria.

The vote of thanks at the Opening Ceremony was given by Mr. Victor Ojogbo, Director, Planning and Policy Analysis, NESREA and Chairman, Forum Organising Committee.

TECHNICAL SESSION:

The following four papers were presented at the Technical Session:

- i. “Greening our Industries for Sustainable Development”* by Prof. Lawrence I. Ezemonye, Department of Animal and Environmental Biology, University of Benin, Benin-City;
- ii. “Green Transportation: Controlling Obnoxious Emissions”* by Dr. Ahmed A. Raji, Managing Director/CEO RABELAT Nigeria Limited, Ilorin;
- iii. “Building Green and Sustainable Cities: The Place of Environmental Standards and Regulations”* by Prof. Chinedu U. Nwajiuba, Vice Chancellor, Federal University Ndufu-Alike, Ikwo;
- iv. “Integrated Solid Waste Control in a Green Economy”* by Prof. Oladele Osibanjo, President, Waste Management Society of Nigeria and former Director, Basel Convention Regional Center, University of Ibadan, Ibadan.

The papers were further discussed in the Working Groups under the following Co-chairmen:

- i. Working Group 1 – Prof. Babajide Alo, former Deputy Vice Chancellor, University of Lagos;
- ii. Working Group 2 – Dr. Ernest Afiesimama, Program Manager, African and Least Developed Countries, World Meteorological Organization (MWO), Geneva;

- iii. Working Group 3 – Dr. (Mrs.) Celina Maduemezie, Principal Consultant, Enville Environmental Consultants; and
- iv. Working Group 4 – Dr. Chris Akomas, former Deputy Governor, Abia State.

The 11th Annual National Stakeholders Forum:

Having discussed and analyzed the issues bearing on Environmental Governance and Green Economy,

Noting the Resolutions adopted at the Third Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA – 3) on environmental pollution;

Concerned about the increasing cases of environmental and human health problems associated with air pollution, including the high levels of mortality as a result of inhalation of noxious and toxic emissions from stationary and mobile sources of air pollution;

Concerned also about the numerous deaths and potential risks due to poor air quality including stroke, heart disease, lung cancer, acute and chronic respiratory diseases, etc.;

Noting the several cases of road accidents caused by reduced visibility due to emissions belched out from automobiles;

Noting also the strong linkage between air pollution and climate change and the active role of Nigeria in the implementation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), including the negotiation of the historic 2015 Paris Agreement, which Mr. President, His Excellency Muhammadu Buhari GCFR signed in New York;

Acknowledging the various NESREA enforcement programmes and activities designed to control and regulate pollution;

Recognizing the need for NESREA to work in collaboration with all key stakeholders to improve environmental quality in Nigeria;

Recalling that NESREA has been spear-heading the implementation of the National Vehicular Emission Control Programme (NVECP) that would involve the establishment of Testing Centers nationwide to provide facilities for the regular testing of vehicles plying our roads;

Recalling also that NESREA has developed a similar programme to address emissions from stationary sources, particularly the power generating sets;

Recognizing that there will be up to 90% reduction in the emission from these mobile and stationary sources if the programmes are effectively implemented;

Affirming that the success of these programmes depend on the level of commitment and dedication by all stakeholders;

Noting the need to green our economy to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);

Acknowledging the social and environmental benefits of Circular Economy;

Affirming that tackling pollution will help to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Nigeria;

Concerned about unsustainable consumption and production patterns, including the use of obsolete technology, poor infrastructure and porous borders;

Acknowledging that environmental standards and regulations are key to realizing zero waste in our cities, green technology, green investments and green jobs;

Recognizing the need for adequate financial and human capacity to support eco-innovation;

Recognizing also the need to address the weak collaboration and cooperation amongst some regulatory agencies at federal and state levels, as well as the duplication of certain functions; and

Noting the importance of awareness creation and advocacy to promote environmental governance.

Adopted the following recommendations:

1. Government should develop policies and programmes to promote green economy;
2. Government, the private sector and NGOs should be at the forefront of advocacy, education and awareness of the citizenry on environmental governance and green economy;
3. Government should streamline the functions of Regulatory Agencies to prevent undue overlap;
4. Government should strengthen the capacity of the Regulatory Agencies to foster eco-innovation;
5. Government should improve industry tax regime to encourage eco-innovation;
6. NESREA should ensure effective compliance monitoring and enforcement of Environmental Regulations to reduce pollution and environmental degradation;
7. NESREA should carryout the formal launch and full implementation of the various pollution reduction programmes including the Extended Producers' Responsibility Programme (EPR), National Vehicular Emission Control Programme (NVECP) and the National Generator Emission Control Programme (NVECP);
8. NESREA should be properly funded to enable the Agency achieve her mandate;
9. NESREA Reference Laboratories in Lagos, Kano and Port-Harcourt should be properly funded with state-of-the art facilities for effective and accurate testing and analysis;
10. NESREA should work closely with the financial sector, particularly the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and Bank of Industry (BOI) as well as other financial institutions towards the promotion of eco-innovation and the greening of industries;
11. NESREA should invest in environmental governance Models that support ecosystems' health and integrity;
12. NEREA should build capacity for public environmental literacy;
13. Government should build appropriate infrastructure to support green transportation options, including use of hybrid and electric vehicles;
14. Government should sustain its present investment in rail transportation with greater interest in green train;
15. All Stakeholders including the private sector should participate in intensive tree planting to provide a carbon sink for obnoxious emissions and control of climate change;
16. Any policy document on solid waste management should be made to address issues of green economy including circular economy and integrated solid waste management;
17. NESREA, in partnership with key Stakeholders, should embark on pilot/demonstration projects to green the waste sector;
18. Government at different levels and in partnership with the private sector should help develop the capacity of the informal sector in solid waste management;

19. NESREA should institute an award system for recognition of best practices and success stories in sound solid waste management;
20. Government should encourage the adoption of appropriate template for public/private partnership in solid waste management;
21. Government should encourage the segregation of waste at source in line with international best practices including the use of colour coded bags and bins;
22. All waste generators should be made to take full responsibility in the disposal of such waste in line with the polluter pays principle;
23. Government should ensure adoption of appropriate mechanisms and best practices for waste management including cluster waste processing for generation of energy;
24. Government should promote eco-tourism as a means to strengthening green economy;
25. The NESREA Green Corps should be established in all the states of the federation, and should be made to work; and
26. NESREA should present the outcome of this 11th National Stakeholders' Forum at the next National Council on Environment.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND APPRECIATION

The participants at the 11th Annual National Stakeholders' Forum:

- a) Acknowledged with appreciation the invitation extended to all the stakeholders;
- b) Commended the Director General of NESREA and his team for the successful organization of the Forum and the NESREA @ 10 Anniversary;
- c) Also commended the Chairman of the Forum, Prof. A. M. A. Imevbore; the Lead Paper Presenter, Professor M. T. Ladan; other Resource Persons, and all participants, for their genuine contributions and interventions; and
- d) Expressed appreciation to the Special Guest of Honour, Alh. Ibrahim Usman Jibril, Honourable Minister of State for Environment, who delivered the Keynote Address and declared the Forum open.

Dated this 13th day of December, 2017 in **Abuja, Nigeria.**