



## NESG 2018 ACTIVITY SNAPSHOT



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## Dear Stakeholder,

The year 2018 has indeed been a challenging one with the overall macro-economic environment being characterized by bursts of growth and deceleration. While GDP stood at 1.95% in Q1, it declined to 1.50% in Q2, and while it was thought that there may have been an improvement in Q3, the figure of 1.81% released by the National Bureau of Statistics shows that Q1 GDP remained our best performance yet in 2018. Businesses have however continued to struggle to remain operational despite bursts of growth and contraction in several sectors of the economy. Unemployment and insecurity continue to be main issues to contend with in the environment even as we head towards the polls in 2019.

It is however, these complexities and uncertainties that kept us busy at the NESG Secretariat in terms of public policy engagements as well as interventions during the year. As the year is gradually drawing to a close, we are pleased to share with you a snapshot of some activities in a bid to keep you our esteemed abreast of a few of these that you might have missed.

Highlighted in this activity report are some out of many engagements that took place during the year.



## Launch of NESG Macroeconomic Outlook for 2018

The year commenced with the unveiling of our 2018 Macro-Economic Outlook Report on January 28 titled *“Growing Beyond Numbers: Will Nigeria’s Growth Be Inclusive in 2018 and Beyond?”*. The report emphasized the need for Nigeria to set a sustainable path for achieving inclusive growth and development in 2018 and beyond. It examined three pillars of inclusive growth and proposed policy measures to achieve broad-based and sustained growth.

The report also provided a basis for the Group’s prediction of three scenarios of GDP growth in 2018. These included: 3.5%; 2.3% and 1.5% in the optimistic, business- as-usual and pessimistic scenarios respectively. The report was launched in Abuja on February 28 to our public-sector stakeholders as part of our strategy to continuously engage the public sector on issues of national interest.



## Visit to Mr. President

On the 22nd of January, immediate past Chairman, Kyari Bukar, led a delegation comprising Board Members and Senior Management of the NESG to the State House Abuja to present the report of the 23rd Nigerian Economic Summit (NES#23) and the NESG 2018 Macroeconomic Outlook Report to President Muhammadu Buhari (GCFR). In addition to presenting the two reports, the visit to Mr. President was to highlight several challenges in the economy and to appeal for these to be addressed in a bid to avert a reversal of the progress made in 2016.



## **NASSBER Engagements**

Working in close collaboration with the Senate and the House of Representatives of the 8th National Assembly, and in consultation with the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), the Nigerian Bar Association – Section on Business Law (NBA-SBL) and other key private sector stakeholders; the ENABLE-DFID and GEMS 3 programmes conducted a business environment legislative review in 2016 which identified institutional, regulatory and legal instruments constraining and impeding business activity in Nigeria.

The underlying objective of the review was to provide a framework for the assessment and improvement of legislation and policy affecting businesses in Nigeria. The formal presentation of the Business Environment Legislative Review Report to the Office of the Senate President took place on 29th February 2016 at the National Assembly.

The findings and recommendations of the Business Environment Legislative Review Report formed the agenda of the first business environment roundtable convened by the Office of the Senate President on 21st March 2016 and the bedrock of subsequent engagements between the private sector and the Legislature under the National Assembly Business Environment Roundtable (NASSBER) for which NESG serves as the secretariat. Some major outcomes of this collaboration between 2016 and 2018 in terms of passage of legislation is captured in the table below:

## NASSBER BILLS PASSED BY THE 8TH ASSEMBLY

SN	Bill	Comment
1.	Secured Transactions in Movable Assets Bill	Signed into law
2.	Credit Reporting Bill	Signed into law
3.	National Transport Commission Bill	Passed at both Chambers
4.	National Inland Waterways Authority Bill	Passed at both Chambers
5.	Federal Roads Authority Bill	Passed at both Chambers
6.	National Roads Funds Bill	Passed at both Chambers
7.	Petroleum Industry Governance Bill	Passed in both Chambers
8.	Federal Competition and Consumer Protection Bill	Passed in both Chambers
9.	Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010	Passed in both Chambers
10.	Small and Medium Scale Enterprises Development Agency of Nigeria Act; Cap. S19 Revised Edition, LFN 2004	Passed in both Chambers
11.	Chartered Institute of Capital Market Registrars (Establishment) Bill, 2015	Passed in both Chambers
12.	Franchise Bill, 2015	Passed in both Chambers
13.	Hydroelectric Power Producing Area Development Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015	Passed in both Chambers
14.	Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development Act, 2010	Passed in both Chambers
15.	Nigeria Agricultural Quarantine Service Establishment) Bill, 2015	Passed in both Chambers
16.	Public Procurement Act, Cap, P44, LFN2004	Passed in both Chambers
17.	Agricultural Credit Guarantee Scheme Fund (Amendment) Bill	Passed in both Chambers
18.	Nigerian Railway Bill	Passed in the Senate
19.	Companies and Allied Matters Repeal and Re-enactment Bill	Passed in the Senate

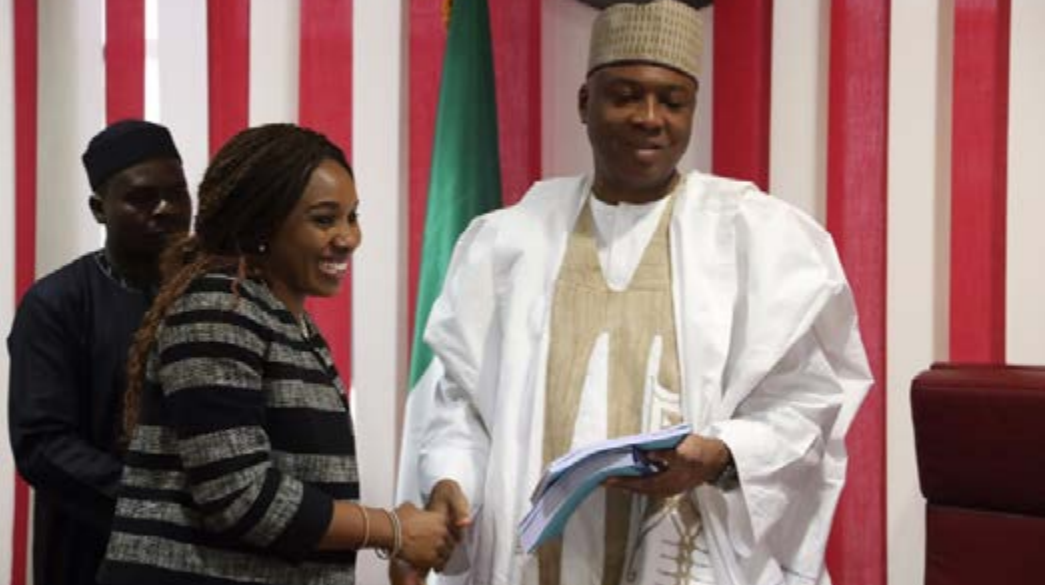
SN	Bill	Comment
20.	Nigerian Investment Promotion Commission Act, Cap N117, LFN, 2004	Passed in the House
21.	Nigerian Ports & Harbour Authority Bill	Passed in the Senate
22.	The Oil and Gas Export Free Zone Act CAP 05 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill, 2015	Passed in the House
23.	Arbitration and Conciliation Act, Cap A18, LFN 2004	Passed in the Senate
24.	Public Enterprises (Privatization and Commercialization) Act, Cap. P38, LFN 2004	Passed in the Senate
25.	Immigration Act, 2015	Passed in the House
26.	Counterfeit and Fake Drugs and Unwholesome Processed Foods (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Amendment) Bill, 2015	Passed in the Senate
27.	Energy Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015	Passed in the House
28.	National Fertilizer Bill, 2015	Passed in the House
29.	Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act	Passed in the House
30.	The Nigerian Tourism Development Corporation (Amendment) Bill 2015	Passed in the Senate
31.	Price Control Act, Cap. P28, Revised Edition, LFN, 2004	Passed in the House
32.	The Franchise Bill	Passed in the Senate

**A breakdown of bills passed specifically in 2018 are as follows:**

SN	House of Representatives	Date Passed
1.	Energy Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015	01/02/2018
2.	The Oil and Gas Export Free Zone Act CAP 05 LFN 2011 (Amendment) Bill, 2015	24/01/2018
3.	Petroleum Industry Governance Bill, 2016	25/01/2018
4.	Hydroelectric Power Producing Area Development Commission Act (Amendment) Bill, 2015	08/02/2018
5.	Immigration Act, 2015	28/02/2018
6.	Federal Roads Authority Bill, 2017	27/03/2018
7.	The Coastal and Inland Shipping (Cabotage) Act, (HB. 529)	03/05/2018
8.	The National Inland Waterways Authority Act (HBs. 267 and 854)	03/05/2018

SN	Senate	Date Passed
1.	Arbitration and Conciliation Act	01/02/2018
2.	The National Transport Commission Bill	15/03/2018.
3.	The Franchise Bill	25/03/2018
4.	Public Enterprises (Privatization and Commercialization) Act	29/03/2018
5.	The Companies and Allied Matters Repeal and Re-enactment Act	15/05/2018





## **NASSBER Engagement with AGRA**

As part of NESG's collaboration with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) through the NASSBER platform, regional sensitization for small holder farmers were undertaken. The farmers were enlightened on the benefits of the following bills:

1. The Fertilizer Quality Control Bill,
2. Nigeria Independent Warehouse Receipt System Bill and
3. The Nigeria Seed Council Bill

These regional advocacy meetings championed by AGRA-NESG provided an opportunity for NASSBER to interact with the stakeholders who are directly affected by the agribusiness Bbills to get a sense of what they are going through and to encourage them to support the passage of these Bbills.

Regional meetings have taken place in Delta, Imo, Ondo and Ogun states respectively. Turnout has been generally positive with the farmers showing tremendous support for the Bills and making inquiries about how they can speak to their representatives at the National Assembly about these Bills.



## The Nigerian Renewable Energy Roundtable (NiRER)

Prior to June 2017, issues of renewable energy were canvassed on the platform of the NESG Sustainability Policy Commission. However, this workstream gained prominence and was raised to the level of a special platform given the fact that it cut across Sustainability, Energy and Science & Technology Policy Commissions of the NESG.

The Nigerian Renewable Energy Roundtable (NiRER) was inaugurated on June 20, 2017 by the Acting President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi Osibanjo, SAN, at the Banquet Hall of the State House in the Presidential Villa, Abuja. NiRER is a platform designed to provide an enduring framework to not only address the challenges of renewable energy advancement in Nigeria but to also provide a scaling up and expansion of opportunities in the renewable energy space to mainstream it as a key socio-economic driver across the various sectors of the Nigerian economy in order to create jobs, improve business value chains and increase access to steady electricity.

During the year 2018, NiRER has made great strides as follows:

- NiRER's active collaboration with the Renewable Energy Association of Nigeria (REAN) has given NiRER greater prominence as a public-private dialogue platform. The platform now receives requests to mediate and act as a vehicle for resolving sector challenges.

- On Friday 19th October, 2018 members of the Nigerian Renewable Energy Roundtable (NiRER's) communication and advocacy working group met with the Mrs. Damilola Ogunbiyi, Managing Director, Rural Electrification Agency (REA) to discuss and seek alignment on the action plans for NiRER going into 2019. The work group also presented the hard-copy of its soon to be launched Minigrid Investment Report to Mrs. Ogunbiyi. Major outcomes of the meeting included discussions on implementation of key recommendations contained in the Minigrid report and REA's acceptance to join NiRER's working group on access to affordable finance. Dr. Sanusi Ohiare, Executive Director, Rural Electrification Fund was selected as the focal person for REA.
- On the 23rd of October, 2018 NiRER hosted a breakfast meeting with the theme: **Financing Off-Grid Electrification Projects and Formal Launch of The Nigerian Minigrid Investment Report** during NES 24 at the Transcorp Hilton, Abuja. A significant number of NiRER Technical Committee members were in attendance. The report was formally launched by the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing.
- On the 30th of October, 2018 the Office of The Honourable Minister for Power, Works and Housing approached NiRER, expressing interest to meet with the NESG/NiRER to discuss the recommendations contained in the Minigrid report.



## **Sustainability Policy Commission Engagements**

The Policy Commission remained very active in 2018 with a series of engagements such as:

- In collaboration with the Nigerian Environmental Society, it hosted a one-day dialogue on “Sustainably Managing the Lagos State Flood Challenge”. The objective of the dialogue was to bring together relevant stakeholders to address disruptions to the ecosystem that have been brought on as a result of climate change. The ultimate outcome of the session was an action plan to be presented to the Lagos State Government for adoption and implementation.
- Working in partnership with the Project Management Office of the National LPG Adoption Programme in the Office of the Vice President and the Heinrich Boll Foundation, the Sustainability Policy Commission hosted a workshop on “low carbon investment to create new opportunities and jobs” with the aim of promoting peace and stability in the Niger delta. The workshop was anchored on policy alignments of the ERGP, the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and the National LPG Adoption Programme to create new job streams in power, agriculture, oil & gas, industry and transport. Participating partners that sought proof of concept to scale up included: Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC), Heinrich Boll Foundation (HBS), Partnerships for Initiatives in the Niger Delta (PIND), Market Development sponsored by DFID-UK (MADE), Bank of Agriculture, Union Bank plc, the Nigeria Incentive-Based Risk Sharing System for Agricultural Lending (NIRSAL) and USAID. Since then, the Policy Commission has been actively engaged in taking this forward.

- The Policy Commission hosted its pre-summit event on the 17th of August to advance the debate for a Sustainable Circular Economy in Nigeria. The aim of the workshop was to recognize the circular economy as a path towards sustainable human and economic development, whereby Nigeria transitions from the traditional wasteful linear economy, which is reliant on primary extraction and energy-intensive practices, to a circular economy – hinged on the practice of reuse, recycle and re-manufacture. The role of private sector participation in three primary industries (recycling; agriculture; and construction/manufacturing) was highlighted and potential benefits like mitigated supply risks, net material/cost savings, substantial waste reduction, improved land productivity, innovation potential, job creation, and long-term resilience of the economy were explored. The Policy Commission intends to sustain engagement in this regard as a pathway to opening up the circular economy space in Nigeria.





## Infrastructure Policy Commission Engagements

Following its recent MoU with the Infrastructure Concession and Regulatory Commission, the NESG, through members of the implementation team of the Infrastructure Policy Commission held a “boiler room” type session on March 13 at the NESG Abuja office. The implementation team was composed of thematic group leaders of the roads, rail, water & sanitation as well as the Facilitator of the Policy Commission. The essence of the session was to seek ways to implementing the MoU which sought to advance the cause of PPPs and other related issues in Nigeria.

Furthermore, as part of its 2018 work plan to engage MDAs related to infrastructure development in the country, the Housing and Urban Development thematic group of the Policy Commission engaged the Managing Director of the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria on Wednesday, March 14, 2018. The delegation was led by Engr. Kashim Ali, President of COREN and a Steering Committee Member of the Policy Commission.



## Trade Investment and Competitiveness Policy Commission Engagements

During the course of the year, the Policy Commission has undertaken a series of activities as underlisted:

- Collaborated with the Nigerian Investment Promotion Council (NIPC) to receive the Finance Sub-Committee of the Gambian Petroleum Negotiating Committee on a study tour to Nigeria.
- Participated on the Steering Committee and Technical Working Committee of the Presidential African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA) Readiness Assessment Study.
- Ongoing collaboration between the Policy Commission and DFID's Policy Development Facility's (PDFI) non-oil exporters community of practice towards the ongoing development of Nigeria's Trade Policy by the Nigerian Office for Trade Negotiation (NOTN).



## **Agric and Food Security Policy Commission Engagements**

As part of plans to accelerate the pace and expand outreach of the African Agricultural Transformation currently in place on the continent, the Policy Commission in collaboration with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) hosted a series of consultative sessions in 2018. These were aimed at unpacking salient questions such as:

- What key stakeholders including financial services providers are doing with respect to agriculture and food systems in general and in which locations
- Factors holding back increased investment in agriculture and food systems by the private sector
- Main challenges that constrain the private sector from working with smallholder farmers and off-takers
- Appropriate areas of partnership between NESG/AGRA and the private sector
- Policy and regulatory challenges faced by agribusiness in Nigeria

Outcomes of these engagements are expected to help create further functional areas of collaboration between both organizations beyond the one currently being channelled through NASSBER for passage of the Fertilizer Quality Control Bill, the Nigeria Independent Warehouse Receipt System Bill and the Nigeria Seed Council Bill . Ultimately, these engagements will help develop a framework to support the design of new systemic interventions and support in-country delivery of multiplex partnership programs in Nigeria.





## NESG Flagship Event – NES 24

The 24th edition of the Nigerian Economic Summit (“NES #24” or “the Summit”) held on 22nd and 23rd October 2018 at Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja, with the theme “Poverty to Prosperity: Making Governance and Institutions Work”.

The key objectives of the Summit were to:

- Underscore the link between good governance and economic growth and development
- Highlight the current state of governance and the challenges in delivering public services
- Map key governance indicators on human development outcomes
- Set an agenda that emphasizes citizens’ dividend as a measure of good governance.

It was graced as usual by dignitaries from various spheres of life. These included: the Vice President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, Prof. Yemi Osinbajo, GCON; Executive Governors and Deputy Governors of numerous States; distinguished lawmakers; Federal ministers; captains of industries; renowned academics; and other public and private sector leaders.

Major outlines of Summit 24 recommendations are captured in the table below;

Pillar	Strategic imperative	High-level action plan	Responsibilities
<b>a. Sustain the Reforms of the Judicial System to Improve Rule of law and Enhance Prosecution of Corruption Cases</b>			
Corruption and Rule of Law	Continued reform of the judicial systems to achieve fair and speedy prosecutions of corruption cases at the federal and state court systems	<p>Review obsolete laws that delay the administration of justice</p> <p>Implement detailed examination and scrutiny of judicial officials before appointment</p> <p>Implement competitive remuneration for judges</p> <p>Work closely with state judiciary to ensure harmony in the country's judiciary system</p> <p>Implement framework for enforcing appropriate disciplinary actions against lawyers who indulge in dilatory practices</p>	<p>Federal Ministry of Justice</p> <p>National Assembly</p> <p>State Judiciary</p> <p>National Judicial Council</p> <p>Head of Federal Civil Service</p>
<b>b. Strengthen Partnership with International Community and Private Sectors to Address the Challenges of Corruption</b>			
	Drive international support for anti-corruption drive by building effective partnership with international community and foreign governments	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work closely with other countries and foreign institutions to recover and return looted funds</li> <li>• Define, advocate and implement bilateral agreements with target countries on repatriation of looted funds</li> </ul>	<p>Federal Ministry of Finance</p> <p>Federal Ministry of Justice</p> <p>Ministry of Foreign Affairs</p>

Pillar	Strategic imperative	High-level action plan	Responsibilities
<p><b>c. Accelerate Transformation of the Civil Service at Federal and State Levels, Leveraging Capabilities &amp; Experience in the Private Sector to Build and Effective Public Institution in Nigeria</b></p>			
<p>Effective Public Institutions</p>	<p>Develop, roll-out and implement a comprehensive public service transformation plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct skills audit of all staff in MDAs</li> <li>• Conduct current state review of operating model of the Nigerian Civil Service to identify hindrances to productivity and service delivery</li> <li>• Re-evaluate compensation and benefits framework</li> <li>• Develop and roll-out an effective performance management system focused on outputs and outcomes</li> <li>• Develop and implement a culture transformation and change management programme across federal and state civil service</li> </ul>	<p>Office of the Head of Civil Service</p> <p>State Governments</p>



Pillar	Strategic imperative	High-level action plan	Responsibilities
	Leverage public-private sector collaboration to drive transformation in the civil service	<p>Set up a platform for interaction between Federal Civil Service, State Civil Services and the private sector</p> <p>Develop a comprehensive private-sector-led initiative to facilitate transformation of the Civil Service</p> <p>Participate in dialogue sessions with the private sector</p>	<p>Federal and State MDAs</p> <p>Office of the Head of Civil Service</p> <p>State Governments</p> <p>NESG</p>

Pillar	Strategic imperative	High-level action plan	Responsibilities
<p><b>d. Enhance Nigeria’s Economic and Sectorial Strategies &amp; Policies and Strengthen Capabilities to Drive Implementation to Achieve a Faster Economic Growth Rate</b></p>			
<p>Create sustainable economic opportunities</p>	<p>Align governments, regulators and agencies to focus on long-term growth as well as attraction of private capital investment</p>	<p>Develop economic policies that boost private capital inflow</p>	<p>Private sector  Revive sectorial strategy</p>
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultative industry groups should be set up to drive innovation in specific sectors.</li> <li>• Fast-track the development and roll-out of mining standards and codes</li> </ul> <p>Design export policy standards for agricultural commodities</p> <p>Eliminate interventions (such as price-controls) on certain inputs e.g. fertilizer</p> <p>Fight piracy by pushing for private copyright levy</p> <p>Establish a free zone for the creative industry to incentivise investments</p>	<p>Private sector  Federal Ministry of Mines and Steel  Federal Ministry of Agriculture  National Assembly  Ministry of Information and Culture  Copyright Commission</p>



Pillar	Strategic imperative	High-level action plan	Responsibilities
<b>e. Drive Targeted Investment to Boost the Rural Economic Climate and Strengthen Entrepreneurship in order to Create Sustainable Economic Opportunities and End the Vicious Cycle of Poverty</b>			
Create sustainable opportunities	Improve the rural economic climate	Invest in micro-grids for electricity supply and feeder roads for access to markets.	Federal and State Governments  Private sector
	Strengthen entrepreneurship	Improve access to affordable financing for SMEs and businesses in the informal sector	Federal Governments  Private sector (Financial Institutions)
	Promote environmental sustainability	Standardise the use of light-weight plastics  Introduce alternatives to detergents packaging  Introduce legislation to eliminate the use of plastics	National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency  National Assembly

Pillar	Strategic imperative	High-level action plan	Responsibilities
<b>f. Accelerate &amp; Boost Investment in Social Infrastructure, Health and Education to Dramatically Reverse the Declining Human Development Outcomes</b>			
Human Development	Improve funding for critical infrastructure to improve health and education outcomes	Define and implement policies targeted at encouraging private capital investments in critical development infrastructure  Form a joint committee with the private sector players with long-term funds (especially Pension Fund Administrators and insurance companies) to identify projects  Define and implement a development projects monitoring framework with focus on linking project completion/performance to funding	Federal & State Governments  Pension Fund Administrators  Insurance companies
	Improve health and education outcomes especially for vulnerable children and pregnant mothers	Define and implement initiatives that utilize retired teachers with distinguished careers in filling education gaps especially in primary and secondary schools	Federal & State Governments  Private Sector



Pillar	Strategic imperative	High-level action plan	Responsibilities
	Transform delivery of education by adopting technology and partnership with entrepreneurs and start-ups	<p>Government should implement innovative and emerging technology that will foster educational development</p> <p>Government should develop policies that enable technology entrepreneurs to become key players within the education sector and provide support for education technology incubators</p>	<p>Private Sector</p> <p>Federal &amp; State Governments</p>

**g. Enhance Citizen Participation in Governance**

Participation and Citizens' Rights	Increase collaboration between government, private sector and civil society organisation	Active involvement of civil society organisations and private sector participants in Government-led initiatives that serve to promote engagement of citizens	<p>Federal &amp; State Governments</p> <p>Private Sector</p>
	Increase demand for Government's accountability	Strengthen information dissemination channels in order to promote public accountability	Federal and State Governments





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