





Dear Stakeholders,

The COVID-19 pandemic, which began as a health emergency earlier in the year but soon evolved into an economic crisis, has exposed and reinforced pre-existing vulnerabilities in the Nigerian economy.

The fragile recovery of the economy from the recession witnessed in 2016 was interrupted in the second quarter of 2020 when aggregate economic activity contracted by 6.1%. The rebound in economic activities in the third quarter of the year following the relaxation of lockdown restrictions was not sufficient to pull the economy out of the negative growth territory. With two consecutive quarters of negative growth rates, the Nigerian economy officially slipped into its second recession in 4 years with a growth rate of -3.62% for Q3 2020, according to data from the National Bureau of Statistics.

From a sectoral perspective, the oil sector has been one of the most severely impacted by the pandemic, contracting by 13.89% year-on-year in the third quarter of the year. The gradual easing of lockdown measures however

resulted in improvement in the non-oil sector's growth. The manufacturing sector grew by -1.51 in Q3 2020 from -8.78 in Q2 2020 while arts, entertainment and recreation grew by -4.67 in Q3 2020 from -8.93 in Q2 2020. Sectors with positive growth rates in the quarter include agriculture (1.39%), construction (2.84%), information and communication (14.56%), financial services and insurance (3.21%), and human health and social services (2.82%).

The contraction in economic activity in the year was further compounded by the poor performance of other indices of macroeconomic stability. Unemployment rate increased dramatically, rising to 27.1% in Q2 2020 from 23.1% in Q3 2018. Inflation also trended upward, spiking to 14.2% in October from 12.3% in March 2020, when the lockdown restrictions were initially imposed by the government.

The resultant "stagflation" in the economy poses a dilemma for policymakers in their pursuit of macroeconomic stability. Policy measures aimed at taming rising prices for instance can worsen growing unemployment rates and slow down the growth of aggregate output.

Moreover, spiralling debt levels with the attendant sustainability concerns, depreciation pressures on the exchange rate, and the plunge in capital flows into the economy, all constrain policy responses by the country's fiscal and monetary authorities who are left with fewer instruments to boost growth in the short to medium term.

To restore the economy on the path of sustained and inclusive growth in the year 2021 and beyond, government, in close collaboration with the private sector, needs to urgently explore innovative and well-coordinated policy options, underpinned by bold reforms across sectors of the economy.

The above narrative has to a large extent influenced our policy advocacy and intervention activities at the NESG Secretariat this year; and as the year draws to a close, we are pleased to share with you a snapshot of some activities to keep you abreast of a few advocacy efforts and interventions you might have missed. Highlighted in this activity report are some out of many engagements in 2020.



NASSBER Engagements

NASSBER has used its unique position to enable collaborative solutions between the National Assembly, the civil society and the organized private sector to carry-out and build consensus in the process of reforming Nigeria's business environment, 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 key role in securing the passage and signing into law of several key legislation aimed at improving the business environment. It has also facilitated the progress of many other legislation through engagements with the legislators and bureaucracy of both chambers of the National Assembly.

- **CAMA:** On the 7th of August 2020, President Muhammadu Buhari signed the Bill for an Act to repeal the Companies and Allied Matters Act 1990 (CAP C20, LFN 2010) and enact the Companies and Allied Matters Act 2020. The Companies and Allied Matters Act (CAMA) had been in operation for 30 years without being amended. Over the years, the extant Act had become outdated and presented obstacles to the ease of conducting business in Nigeria, especially for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises MSMEs. The Act is one of NASSBER's priority legislation considering the imperative for pursuing reforms that will reposition the law and align it with today's business needs and realities.
- **Business Environment and Competitiveness Bills:** NASSBER also tracked and reviewed the NASSBER Business Environment and Competitiveness Bills in the 9th Assembly and continued to track and review the Bills.
- **NASSBER Brochure:** NASSBER drafted a brochure to provide information about its engagements, the strategy for the 9th Session of the National Assembly and the NASSBER Website.

- **Post COVID-19 Legislative mapping:** The NASSBER team carried out a Post COVID-19 mapping of the following broad areas: Economic Recession; Fiscal Sustainability; Impact on Business; Structural Unemployment; Movement Across of People and Goods Across (Local and National) Borders; Supply Chain Disruptions; Management of Health Systems and Digital Infrastructure to expand the scope of its agenda.



- **Courtesy visit to the AGF:** On the 17th of March, the NASSBER made a courtesy visit to the Attorney General of the Federation to intimate the Honourable Attorney General of the work of NASSBER and seek his support to ensure the passage and signing into Law of NASSBER's key legislation and explore areas of collaboration.

- **Webinar on the Infectious Disease Bill:** NASSBER held a webinar to review and deliberate on the provisions of the Control of Infectious disease Bill in June 2020.

- **Technical Working Group for Infectious Disease Bill:** NASSBER further established a Technical Working Group to review the Control of Infectious Disease Bill. The outputs of the TWG will be a Technical Report (which is ongoing) and a Clean Bill.

- **NBA-SBL Chairman:** NASSBER welcomed Mr Ayuli Jemide as the new Chairman of the NBA-SBL into the Technical Committee.

- **Technical Committee Public Sector Members:** NASSBER also welcomed into its Technical Committee, Public Sector members from the office of the AGF, the Special Adviser to the President of Legislative matters and from NILDS.

- **Appointment of Thematic Leads:** The NASSBER Secretariat worked with the Thematic Leads to select the priority Bills for their thematic areas.

- **Webpage and Bill Tracker:** NASSBER also worked with the NESG Communications department to develop and upgrade the NASSBER webpage and Bill tracker.

- **Local Content Bills:** NASSBER also participated in a virtual stakeholder consultative summit by the National Assembly Committee on Local Content on the 16th and 17th of September 2020. This was a pre-public hearing stakeholder engagement to review the following bills:

- Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry Content Development (Amendment) Bill 2020;
- Nigerian Local Content Development and Enforcement Bill 2020;
- Nigerian Local Content Development and Enforcement Commission Bill 2020.

- **Collaborative Meetings:** NASSBER also held collaborative meetings with the National Institute for Legislative and Democratic Studies and the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) to explore possible areas of partnerships.



The Nigerian Renewable Energy Roundtable (NiRER)

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

For the year 2020, 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:

- **Stakeholder Mapping and Engagement Framework:** A critical and extensive mapping of the key stakeholders was conducted and stakeholders were duly engaged on the principles of equitable and optimal public and private sector representation using the NiRER platform. In addition to the workshops and meetings, semi-structured interviews with sector players from the public, private and civil society have been conducted.
- **RE Position Paper:** The first draft of the renewable energy position paper was developed by the consultant enlisted by the NESG.
- **Review Meeting of the RE position Paper:** A hybrid of a physical and virtual meeting which recorded about 30 participants was held on the 11th of February 2020 to review the renewable energy position paper. The meeting culminated in the implied need for a RE legislative Gap analysis.
- **Legislative Gap Analysis:** Following the outcome of the deliberations in the RE Paper Review Meeting, it was evident that a legislative gap analysis was imperative in order to highlight the need for a renewable energy legislation by identifying the gaps in existing legislation and recommend actions to address the gaps.

- **RE Legislative Gap Analysis Validation Meeting:** This was conducted to ensure that the RE stakeholders agree with the output of the legislative gap analysis. Stakeholders expressed their satisfaction with the legislative gap analysis and agreed that there was a need for a dedicated RE legislation to facilitate the implementation of Nigeria's electricity vision. The validation meeting was held on the 9th of June 2020 with over 50 stakeholders in attendance.



- **RE Bill Review Technical Committee On-boarding Meeting (9/07/2020):** With about 11 of the nominated Technical Committee Members in attendance, the on-boarding meeting was a success as it set the premise for the Bill review work. From the meeting, it was agreed that there is a need for a Terms of Reference for the Technical Committee members. Subsequently, the Technical Committee was subdivided into 4 thematic working groups to enhance efficiency in the review of the Bill.

- **Local Content Development and Research TWG Bill Review Meeting (4/08/2020):** With about 7 stakeholders in attendance, the meeting was considered a success as the local content related provisions of the Bill were revised.

- **Institutions and Governance TWG Bill Review Meeting (5/08/2020):** The meeting was a success as participants debated on provisions of the Bill that pertains to governance. Recommendations were made and these recommendations were noted and it has been incorporated into the Bill.

- **Finance and Incentives TWG Bill Review Meeting (14/08/2020):** With about 5 members in attendance, the meeting was a success as the finance and incentives related areas of the Bill were reviewed.

- **Institutions and Governance TWG Bill Review Meeting (14/08/2020):** The work session was a success as participants debated on provisions of the Bill that pertained to governance. Recommendations were made and these recommendations were noted and incorporated into the Bill.

- **Consolidating the Feedback from the TWGs into the draft Renewable Energy Electricity Bill (28/08/2020 - 3/09/2020):** A series of working sessions were held between the project consultant, the team from the secretariat and volunteers from GEP Law and Dr. Patrick Tolani (REAN) to consolidate the feedback and comments from the 4 thematic working groups.

- **Final Draft of the Renewable Energy Electricity Bill:** The input from the technical working groups and silos of independent expert reviews have been integrated into the Renewable Energy Electricity Bill. This was carried out by a small team from the Technical Committee with support from the secretariat.

- **Technical Committee Validation Meeting (2/10/2020):** With relevant stakeholders like REA and other members of the Technical Committee in attendance. The REE Bill was debated and validated by stakeholders.

- **Renewable Energy Electricity Bill Stakeholder Validation (9/10/2020):** Following the validation and the incorporation of the feedback from the Technical Committee validation meeting into the Bill, the Bill was validated by a wider stakeholder audience.



Fiscal Policy Roundtable with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation

The Fiscal Policy Roundtable (FPR) held its closeout event (virtually) on June 21, 2020, to off-board the roundtable's efforts on Nigeria's Fiscal Sustainability and to also appreciate all stakeholders that contributed to the successful implementation of its work plans and set goals. The closeout event was also an opportunity to formally announce the roundtable's transitioning into the "Fiscal Planning and Policy Thematic Group" of the Trade, Investment and Competitiveness Policy Commission, the platform that will continue the advocacy efforts of the Roundtable on Nigeria's Fiscal Sustainability.



NGF-NESG Economic Roundtable (NNER)

- The Public Policy Intelligence & Reform Management unit continued engagements with the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) to operationalise the NGF-NESG Economic Roundtable (NNER). The Roundtable is a sub-national platform expression of the Nigeria Governors' Forum and NESG partnership aimed at promoting sub-national competitiveness to catalyze sustainable economic growth and development.
- The NESG officially communicated the list of private sector members of the Steering and Technical Committees of the NNER to the NGF. Members of the Steering Committee as nominated by the NESG consist of 6 Captains of Industry. These members represent leaders across different sectors of the economy: Agriculture, Solid Minerals, Manufacturing, Services/Knowledge-Economy, Infrastructure, and Technology. The NGF equally nominated 6 Governors from the six geo-political zones to the Steering Committee.
- The Technical Committee of the NNER was inaugurated on the 14th of Sept 2020 and has since commenced the design of the Workplan and Budget for the Roundtable.
- Following the reaffirmation of the robust partnership between subnational governments and the private sector made by the Chairman of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) at the 26th Nigerian Economic Summit, the NGF, at its meeting held on the 2nd of December 2020 resolved to inaugurate the Steering Committee of the NNER in January 2021.



Medium-Term National Development Plans and 30-year Visioning for Nigeria:

- As the subsisting National Development Plans, Nigeria Vision 20:2020 and Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (2017-2020) both come to expiration in December 2020, the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) through the Ministry of Budget and National Planning have since the first quarter of the year commenced the process of developing successor medium-term National Development Plans for 2021 to 2025, and 2026-2030. The Ministry has also simultaneously embarked on a 30-year visioning for the country through the development of “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 President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria officially inaugurated the National Steering Committee of the National Development Plan on the 9th of September 2020. Prior to the inauguration of the Steering Committee, the Honourable Minister of State Budget and National Planning had inaugurated 26 Technical Working Groups and the Central Working Group on the 11th June and 3rd July 2020, respectively.
- The private sector and the NESG have adequate representation in the three tiers of the institutional structure set up to deliver the MTNDP (2021-2025 & 2026-2030) 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 is 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 institutional arrangement as designed by the FGN to develop the National Development Plans and the Long-term Agenda is set to deliver the MTNDP (2021-2025) by December 2020; the MTNDP (2026-2030) by March 2021; and Nigeria Agenda 2050 by July 2021.



NESG Bridge Fellowship

The Bridge Fellowship is a project of the NESG, in collaboration with Leap Africa, to train and equip 25 young visionary leaders with leadership, research and policy advocacy skills to contribute to policy reform in diverse policy areas of concentration. The eighteen (18) month NESG Bridge Fellowship Programme kicked off on July 4, 2020, with an onboarding session on the History, Evolution, Mandate and Strategy of the NESG and the Future of Advocacy.

- Due to the COVID 19 lockdown and social distancing restrictions, the proposed one (1) week onsite orientation programme was restructured into a 2-month virtual programme which occurred twice every week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays. The orientation programme came to an end on September 8th 2020, with plans to have further engagements with the Fellows.

- A series of Fireside Chats were facilitated by the secretariat through the 2-month orientation programme to educate the fellows about the NESG and its strategic mandate. The facilitators/guest speakers centred their discussions around their personal and professional journey, their contributions through the NESG while also discussing relevant policy issues of interest.
- The 25 Bridge fellows were then assigned to serve as Technical Assistants to a Thematic Working Group (TWG) on the National Development Planning Process, and have been working directly with their respective TWG coordinators. They were also attached to Mentors who would assist and guide them through the fellowship year in their areas of interest and specialization.
- The fellows also participated in a survey on the impact of COVID-19 on households in the country. This culminated in the preparation of a report titled “Assessing the Impact of COVID-19 Lockdown on Households in Nigeria” which was submitted to the secretariat and is currently under review by the Research Department.
- The fellows also participated at the 26th Nigerian Economic Summit (NES#26) which held between the 23rd and 24th of November, 2020, serving as rapporteurs at sessions, with two fellows speaking as panellists at a plenary session on the “Power of the Youth.”

<https://www.nesgroup.org/bridge>



Policy Innovation Unit (PIU)

Following the Board's approval to institutionalise the PIU, all efforts were geared towards creating a Terms of Reference (TOR) for the Head of Unit, recruiting and kicking off on the 1st of April 2020. Nonetheless, with the COVID-19 Pandemic the Executive Director of the PIU has been rescheduled to resume on January 2021. This has been communicated to the donor.

However, during the year 2020, the following activities were embarked upon in build-up to the full operations, some of which are:

- The PIU has secured some expressed interest from the World Bank in connection with addressing tax aparthty and compliance issues; for which the Ministry was willing to initiate a request for the technical assistance of the PIU through the World Bank. This was part of the sustainability plan for the just concluded NESG-BMGF Fiscal Policy Roundtable (FPR) priorities of tax compliance, which stalled due to the pandemic.
- The new NESG-OSIWA Debt Management Roundtable (DMR) Project draws attention to the primary issue of growing domestic revenue; with immediate low-hanging fruits of shoring leakages due to corruption and ensuring tax compliance as ready assignments for the PIU to take-on under the project expected to start in the first quarter of 2021.

- The PIU is leading the behavioural design of the UNGC Poverty Alleviation Intervention Programme for female-headed households in Nigeria, with considerations for mainstreaming of poor women into the value chain of UNGC stakeholders.
- The PIU is prospecting for a soon-to-commence BMGF-sponsored human capital development project coordinated by AERC for which the NESG is chosen as a national implementing partner.
- PIU has developed a proposal for a McArthur grant to deploy behavioural science in designing an anti-corruption programme(s). This development was met with some expressed interest by the donour in having a collaboration between the PIU and the Behavioural Insights Team (BIT).
- The PIU is prospecting for a Ford Foundation Natural Resource Governance project aimed at addressing the disadvantages of host communities, paying attention to behavioural considerations as communication/enlightenment, leadership, etc.





Research Department Engagements

- In response to the impact of COVID-19 on the Nigerian economy, the research department was engaged in a series of research projects, which involved the publication of several reports and the development of strategic documents for the NESG's engagement with the government and other stakeholders.
- In executing these tasks, the department had to update the NESG Macroeconomic and CGE models to capture more recent data as well as recent trends in the Nigerian economy. This exercise implies that the NESG has the most updated economic model in Nigeria and perhaps, in the continent.
- Following the impact of COVID-19 on the economy, the research department had to revise its Macroeconomic outlook for the year 2020 which resulted in the publication of a technical report on "COVID-19, Global Oil Price and The Nigerian Economy - A 4-Year Macroeconomic Impact Assessment and Optimal Policy Response".


- The research department also prepared a report on the Sectoral Impact Assessment of COVID-19 and the drop in global oil price on the Nigerian economy and the optimal policy response by the government.
- The department also provided technical support for the development of a Macroeconomic Framework for the National Development Plans for Nigeria. In particular, the department completed the 2021 Budget Macroeconomic Framework projections (which has been submitted to the Ministry) and the development of macroeconomic frameworks for the Medium-Term National Development Plan (MTNDP) 2021-2025 and 2026-2030. The final report has been presented to the Technical Committee on MTNDP. The team is working on the macroeconomic framing and modelling for the long-term vision titled “Nigeria Agenda 2050”.
- The department also provided weekly economic reviews to the Presidential Economic Advisory Council, developed strategic documents for NESG’s engagement with government and other stakeholders, as well as published several economic alerts.
- In the period under review, the research department also completed a report on “Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and Future of Youth Employment in Africa” and sector-focused 4IR briefs (on Agriculture, Cottage industry, Social and the Services sectors).
- Other research activities and engagements by the team include the NESG-OSIWA Debt Restructuring and Social Financing Programme; the 2021 Macroeconomic Outlook Report; and the publication of the Economic and Policy Review Journal.



Nigeria COVID-19 Incidence and Response Tracker and Dashboard

Nigeria COVID-19 Incidence and Response Tracker and Dashboard & Nigeria COVID-19 Predictive Analytic Tool

- Following continuous engagements with the Secretariat of the Presidential Task Force (PTF) on Control of COVID-19 and the deployment of the COVID-19 Incidence and Response Tracker and Dashboard, the Platform was officially launched on the 27th August 2020, by the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Mr. Boss Mustapha.
- The NESG COVID-19 Incidence and Response Tracker and Dashboard and the ONE UN COVID-19 Response Basket Fund Dashboard were both launched as part of the PTF Transparency Initiatives. The dashboard was adopted by the PTF in the distribution of COVID-19 supplies across states.
- The COVID-19 Predictive Analytics Platform went through several iterations between the NESG team and the Secretariat of the Presidential Task Force (PTF) on COVID-19 before it was finally deployed to aid predictions of the spread of COVID-19 within Nigeria. The aim is for the short-term predictions to aid immediate planning geared towards curbing the spread of the virus, while more long-term predictions will aid policy response by the government.
- The PTF on COVID-19 is set to be disbanded on the 18th of December 2020. However, its activities will be taken over by relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government with the appropriate mandate. As planned, the NESG will handover the Dashboard and Predictive Analytic Tool to the relevant Ministry as directed by the Presidency.

A man in a suit and glasses is standing at the front of a meeting room, presenting to a group of people seated in the foreground. He is holding a small object, possibly a remote or a device. The room has a large screen on the left and a window with blinds on the right. The overall image has a blue tint.

MEETING ROOM

POLICY COMMISSIONS

THE POLICY COMMISSION STRUCTURE



Sustainability Policy Commission (SPC) Engagements

The Policy Commission remained very active in 2020 with a series of engagements:

- The Circular Economy Thematic Group held a meeting on July 24th, 2020 with Unilever to discuss the subject of product packaging.
- The Policy Commission also hosted four NES #26 Pre-Summit Events that held virtually due to the COVID-19 social distancing restrictions.
- Two pre-summit events on the Circular Economy (CE) with the theme “Increasing Opportunities & Sustaining Resilience through Circular Economy (CE) in Nigeria” held on August 28th, 2020 and 14th of September 2020, respectively. The objective of the two-part series event was to drive Circular Economy (CE) policies and create a pathway for the success and practice of CE in Nigeria. Key Priorities and Action Steps from deliberations at the event include:
 - The imperative to accelerate the adoption of circular economy models for increased opportunities. A key action step is for Government (with initiatives led by the Ministry of Environment and NESREA) to learn from the experiences of other African countries in designing a CE roadmap to chart a course for CE activities in the country. The organized private sector on the other hand is expected to foster partnerships to fast-track Nigeria’s transition to a CE model.
 - The need to promote CE policies for environmental resilience and carbon emission-free CE. Government-led initiatives are expected to be driven by the Ministry of Environment, working closely with other relevant MDAs to achieve a cleaner environment and carbon emission-free CE while the NESG, representing the private sector, is expected to provide a platform for dialogue for further discussions on the modalities of a strategy plan to achieve environmental resilience and carbon emission-free CE.
- The third Pre-Summit event themed “Investment Opportunities in Nigeria’s Blue Economy” held on the 18th of September, 2020. The objective of the webinar was to bring together public and private sector professionals, as well as, ocean enthusiasts to share expert information that will highlight opportunities for boosting



Nigeria's Blue Economy and proffer lasting solutions to shortfalls, using the Blue Economy Strategy of the African Union Agenda and others as key guides. Key Priorities and Action Steps from deliberations at the event include:

- The imperative to develop a roadmap for the involvement of stakeholders in the blue economy. A key action step is for government (with initiatives led by the Federal Ministry of Transportation and NIMASA) to create an avenue for dialogue with relevant stakeholders in developing a road map for the blue economy in Nigeria. The organized private sector on the other hand, with initiatives led by the NESG, is expected to provide the platform for dialogue between the government and relevant stakeholders on the development of the road map.
 - Long-term financing for the blue economy. Government through the Federal Ministry of Transportation and NIMASA needs to create an enabling environment to stimulate private sector investment in the blue economy.
- The SPC held a fourth Pre-Summit Event on the 24th September with the theme “Domestic Gas Utilization and Commercialization: Implementing the NDC Sectoral Action Plan for Energy”. Key Priorities and Action Steps from deliberations at the event include:
- **Harmonisation of taxes and other regulatory requirements.** The Federal and State Governments need to initiate the process for review of all taxes at Federal and state levels and harmonise all relevant taxes applicable to the gas market. The organized private sector, with initiatives driven by the NESG, needs to facilitate a dialogue between private sector players in the Gas industry and relevant government agencies in this regard.
 - **A dedicated gas industry legislation.** The federal government should work with the National Assembly to prepare a dedicated bill for the gas industry while the NESG through NASSBER is expected to initiate the discussion on the proposed bill and contribute to its drafting process.

Trade, Investment and Competitiveness Policy Commission (TICPC) Engagements

- The Supply Chain and Logistics Thematic Working Group was created as a new Thematic Group under the Trade, Investment and Competitiveness PC, and a Thematic Lead was appointed to coordinate its activities.
- The Fiscal Policy Roundtable closed out and was transitioned into the Fiscal Policy and Planning Thematic Group of the TICPC, with a thematic lead appointed to coordinate its activities.
- Two (2) Fiscal Commissioners were also nominated as members of the TICPC steering committee.
- After an extensive engagement on the Africa Continental Free Trade Agreement (ACFTA) with the Federal Government, the ACFTA was finally ratified by the President on the 11th of November 2020. The trade agreement is expected to take effect on Jan 1, 2021. The Facilitator and Anchor of the Policy Commission were members of the Committee that worked on the Readiness Report of ACFTA adopted for the engagement.
- The Fiscal Policy and Planning Policy and Planning Thematic Group has an ensuing institutional tie with the World Bank Economic Team in Nigeria, after a series with the umbrella Policy Commission on:
 - Domestic resource mobilization;
 - Transfer pricing;
 - Curbing tax avoidance amongst the top 1% of the Nigerian taxable population;
 - Restructuring tax thresholds to avoid taxing poverty;
 - Reviewing investment incentives and ensure that they are organized and rationalised;
 - Strengthening the increasing awakening to e-tax and reviewing the adequacy of the operationalization of the e-tax system by the regulators, to curbing inefficiency and corruption;
 - Driving-up tax efficiency, which is currently at about 10% in the subnational level and around 3-4% at the national level;
 - Continue advocacy for the streamlining of tax multiplicity to identified major sources of tax revenue as PAYE, CIT, and a select few others.
- The TICPC entered into a MoU with the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade, and Investment (FMITI) in July 2020.



Mining and Manufacturing Policy Commission Engagements



- In the first quarter of the year, the Mining Thematic Working Group of the Mining and Manufacturing Policy Commission engaged in an exploratory session with the Nigerian Geological Survey Agency (NGSA) for the initialization of an agreement between the NGSA and the Policy Commission to drive the National Integrated Mineral Exploration Project (NIMEP) with stakeholders in the sector. The process began with the development of the NGSA-NESG Engagement Concept Note.
- The Mining Thematic Group also held a group meeting in the second quarter of the year with the aim of restructuring the working group to focus on the broader mining sector. At this meeting, the African Mining Vision was adopted to drive the group's activities. Deliberations at the meeting resulted in the full restructuring of the Thematic Group with new thematic areas identified and subgroup leaders appointed.
- As part of the restructuring process of the Manufacturing Thematic Working Group, a new Thematic Lead was appointed and an Eminent Focal Group (EFG), which consists of influential persons with significant interest, and who have invested largely, in the development of the manufacturing industry in Nigeria, was adopted to drive the "Made in Nigeria Agenda" - based on NES #22 Summit. The Made in Nigeria Agenda is focused on facilitating the manufacturing of products within the Nigerian domestic economy.
- In the third quarter of the year, the Mining Thematic Working Group held an exploratory session with the Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers & Geoscientists (COMEG) for the initialization of an agreement between the COMEG and the PC to drive knowledge, reforms and mineral reporting agenda.
- The Thematic Group conducted a post-COVID-19 webinar on the 18th of June 2020 with the theme "Post Covid-19 Nigeria – Impact and Opportunities for the Mining Industry." The outcome of the webinar was a sector-wide Position Paper. Key Priorities and Action Steps from deliberations at the event include:
 - A Tailored Financing Scheme for the Mining Industry: The Federal Government, through the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development and the Nigerian Geological Survey Agency (NGSA), is expected to

facilitate the development of a tailored financing programme for the mining industry, particularly for ASMs while the Private Sector, NESG and Development Agencies are expected to collaborate with and mobilize sector players to drive the scheme.

- The imperative for the development of the Mining Equipment and Technology Services (METS) sector: The Federal government, through the Federal Ministry of Mines and Steel, needs to facilitate the development of a (METS) sector while the organized private sector, working through the NESG, is expected to drive collaboration between the government, private sector, academia, and technology companies to adopt innovation and creativity required to develop and sustain the growth of a METS sector in Nigeria.
- The Mining TG also held a Pre- #NES 26 Webinar on September 17th, 2020 with the theme, “New Normal – Opportunities for the Nigerian Mining Industry”. Key priorities and Action Steps from deliberations at the event include:
 - Review of the mining, metallurgical and geoscience curriculum: The Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals & Mines is expected to collaborate with COMEG and the Ministry of Education to initiate the process for the review and update of the curriculum for mining, metallurgical and geoscience courses while the Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists and the Miners Association of Nigeria (MAN) are expected to provide guidelines on evolving industry practices and skills.
 - Institutionalizing a new mineral reporting standard: Government-led initiatives, driven by the Federal Ministry of Solid Minerals & Mines should be focused on initiating the process for developing a new reporting standard for mining, metallurgical and geoscience activities in Nigeria while the Council of Nigerian Mining Engineers and Geoscientists; Miners Association of Nigeria (MAN) needs to provide a guideline on evolving and global mining industry best practices and the NESG is expected to facilitate the collaboration between public and private sector stakeholders to achieve this goal.
- The Policy Commission is also providing support for the National Development planning process

Digital Economy Policy Commission (DEPC) Engagements



- As part of the restructuring process of Policy Commissions to enhance the effectiveness of the NESG's advocacy efforts, the Digital Economy Policy Commission was formed to serve as a platform for dialogue between Public and Private sector leaders towards the advancement of the Nigerian Digital Economy.
- A Policy Commission Facilitator was appointed and some new volunteers were onboarded to join the PC.
- Four (4) Thematic Groups have been formed namely;
 - Digital Skills Innovation & Entrepreneurship
 - Digital Platforms & Digital Financial Services
 - Digital infrastructure & tech Sector Financing
 - E-Governance, Policies & Regulations
- Thematic Group leads were appointed to coordinate the activities of each TG to achieve the objectives of the Policy Commission.
- The DEPC is presently reviewing all policy documents related to the Digital Economy in Nigeria. As Digital Economy cuts across all sectors in Nigeria, some policy documents were also selected from other sectors. The policy documents reviewed include:
 - National Digital Economy Policy & Strategy Document
 - The Nigerian E-Government inter-operability framework
 - Nigerian National Broadband plan
 - CBN Financial Inclusion Policy
 - World Bank Diagnostic Report
 - Nigerian E-Government masterplan.
- The DEPC hosted a Webinar on the 28th of May 2020 themed "Assessing the Impact of COVID-19 on the Nigerian Digital Economy and Post Pandemic Strategies". The webinar provided the platform for the Minister of Communications and Digital Economy and other government executives, national stakeholders, leaders of academia and captains of industry to discuss the current state of the Digital Economy, the newly launched National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (NDEPS) document and the impact of COVID-19 on the Digital Economy and the Nigerian economy at large.

- The webinar was a culmination of series of strategic workshops which held two (2) weeks before the Policy Dialogue to analyse the Nigerian Digital Economy Policy and Strategy Document commissioned by the Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy.
- As one of the outcomes of the webinar session, the Digital Economy Policy Commission of the NESG accepted the Honorable Minister's proposal to partner and work together towards developing the Nigeria Digital Economy.
- The DEPC published a Position Paper containing the outcomes and recommendations from the webinar session and has since been circulated among Public and Private Sector actors. Key Priorities and Action Steps from Position Paper include:
 - Establishment of a Digital Economy Industry Working Group comprised of private-sector experts as well as public sector representatives, tasked with the responsibility of creating a Digital Economy Transformation Roadmap, replicating the triple-helix model.
 - Engage NITDA on policies regarding making Nigeria's ICT more competitive globally.
 - Establishment of the Nigeria Digital Economy Enterprise Portfolio (or Programme) Management Office with a performance Monitoring and Evaluation Dashboard.
- The PC hosted a Pre-Summit Event themed "Digital Identity as a Foundation for Digital Economy and Achieving the SDGs" on the 10th of September 2020 in preparation for the 26th Nigerian Economic Summit (NES#26). The event had the following objectives:
 - To critically examine the strategies proposed to drive the National Digital Identity and how this can be achieved through private sector and sub-national partnerships.
 - To help drive policy dialogue and development of action plans to ensure digital identification for Nigerians as a foundation for Nigeria becoming a top global digital economy.

- A key action step from the webinar is the need to amend the NIMC Act to allow for the licensing of private sector players to capture data in line with the data protection and privacy laws.
- The DEPC has concluded plans for a showcase project (Public Comments Platform) - A concept note has been drafted for the project and details of its implementation will be included in the DEPC 2021 workplan.
- The Federal Ministry of Communications and Digital Economy invited the DEPC to submit a memorandum at the 8th National Council on Communications and Digital Economy held in Owerri on 27th November- 1st December 2020. Volunteers from the Policy commission were at the event to represent the NESG.
- The Policy Commission is presently working towards constituting its Steering Committee.

Financial Markets and Inclusion Policy Commission Engagements

- The Financial Markets and Inclusion Policy Commission was restructured in the year with a new facilitator appointed.
- A new Thematic Lead was also appointed for the Financial Market Thematic Working Group.
- A Policy Commission Leadership Orientation and Onboarding meeting was held on 14th August 2020.



Education Policy Commission Engagements

- The Human Capital Development Policy Commission was unbundled into two Policy Commissions: Education and Health.
- The Education Policy Commission is currently being constituted.



Health Policy Commission Engagements

- The Health Policy Commission (HPC) was constituted after the PC restructuring process that resulted in the unbundling of the Human Capital PC into two distinct Policy Commissions: the Health and Education Policy Commission.
- A facilitator was appointed for the HPC and two Thematic Working Groups were formed, Health as a Business and Public Health, with Thematic leads appointed.
- The Health Policy Commission hosted a workshop on the 12th of May, 2020 with the theme “Post COVID-19 Transformation of the Healthcare Sector in Nigeria.”
- PC Leadership meetings held regularly in the year with the objective of articulating HPC’s 2020-2021 Work Plan.
- The Policy Commission hosted a NES26 Pre-Summit event with the theme “Healthcare Financing in Nigeria: Realities, Impediments and Opportunities” on the 24th of September 2020. The objective of the dialogue session was to focus on the healthcare system in Nigeria and ask the hard questions about how to raise dedicated public funds for health, the role of private sector investments and the realistic standard of healthcare that Nigeria can afford to offer at scale to achieve UHC. Key Priorities and Action Steps from the Dialogue Session include:
 - Government through the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning and the Federal Ministry of Health is expected to explore innovative options for raising revenue to fund healthcare. This can be achieved by cutting down on tax incentives to other sectors of the economy and the elimination of energy subsidies.
 - Government also needs to create enabling policies that will shape partnerships with the private sector for increased investment in the health sector.



Governance & Institutions Policy Commission (GIPC) Engagements

- The Measuring Performance Thematic Working Group (MPTG) of the Governance and Institutions Policy Commission (GIPC) in conjunction with the Africa Initiative for Governance (AIG) hosted a workshop on the 13th and 14th of February 2020 on the Assessment of the Applicability of the InCiSE Index Methodology to Nigeria.



- During the year, the three Thematic Groups in the PC presented their work plans to the Steering Committee which were approved.
- Two New Thematic Leads were appointment by the Policy Commission in the year. A Thematic Lead was appointed for the Supporting Public Institution Reform Thematic Working Group in July 2020 and another for the Measuring Performance Thematic Working Group on December 3, 2020.
- The Policy Commission also held its 2nd Quarter Steering Committee meeting on the 10th of September 2020. A technical subcommittee was created at the meeting to determine the scope of the Measuring Performance Thematic Work plan. That committee met on May 7, 2020.
- The Measuring Performance TG has also had 2 technical working committee meetings on October 9 and November 20, 2020. The next meeting is scheduled for December 18, 2020.

Energy Policy Commission Engagements

- The Power Thematic Group held a dialogue session with the Manufacturers' Association of Nigeria (MAN) on Re-engineering Grid Power Supply to Industrial Clusters in Nigeria.
- Subsequent to the dialogue with MAN, the secretariat disseminated questionnaires to over a hundred firms across 6 industrial clusters for the 1st Phase of the grid re-engineering initiative. However, we have had minimal cooperation from firms in providing the needed data despite several attempts by the secretariat to elicit support.
- The Renewable Energy Thematic Group held a series of meetings to continue work on the Renewable Energy Legislative Reform Project. The Technical Committee and Technical Working Groups met frequently to review/develop the renewable energy electricity bill.
- The Renewable Energy Legislative Gap Analysis report was developed.
- In line with the Legislative Reform Project, a series of meetings were held with stakeholders and the Technical Committee for the review and validation of The Renewable Energy Electricity Bill and other supplementary documents.



Agriculture and Food Security Policy Commission Engagements

- In the 2nd quarter of the year, the Policy Commission developed a Position Paper that assessed the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Nigerian agriculture and food security ecosystem and suggested mitigation and adaptation strategies for policy considerations.
- The Policy Commission hosted two NES #26 Pre-Summit Events. The first Pre Summit Webinar themed “Rethinking Approaches to Investment in Agribusiness Ecosystem in Nigeria: through the Country Agribusiness Partnership Framework (CAP-F)” held on the 25th of August 2020. The session had the following objectives:
 - Operationalise the CAP-F programme in Nigeria to enable a sustained, coordinated private sector investment, agribusiness policy advocacy and development interventions;
 - Build synergy between government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) such as Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD), Nigeria Investment Promotion Commission (NIPC), Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment (FMITI), other relevant MDAs and the private sector;
 - Provide a platform for engaging the sub-national and the private sector to foster public-private dialogue with a view to harmonizing investment mobilization in the agriculture sector;
 - Articulate clear and concrete short- and medium-term recommendations for the government, private sector, and other stakeholders to consider in accelerating sustainable growth and development in Nigeria’s agribusiness ecosystem.



- A key outcome from the dialogue session is the need for agriculture to be treated not only as a development project but as a business. As a development project, government interventions in agribusiness should be well targeted with appropriate monitoring and evaluation (M&E) mechanisms established to ensure effectiveness in implementation. As a business, financial institutions should dedicate a substantial amount of their resources to support agribusinesses, employing the most innovative de-risking mechanism.
- The second Pre-summit webinar themed “Optimal Productivity in Nigeria’s Agribusiness: Achieving the Goal of Seed Security” held on the 24th of September 2020. A Key Priority and Action Step from the dialogue session is the need for Government, through the Ministry of Agriculture, and Rural Development and the National Agricultural Seeds Council to engage with key stakeholders in the seed industry to shape the policy direction in the short to medium-term and fast-track the domestication of regulations, especially the creation of a seed fund.

Energy Policy Commission Engagements

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The image shows a large-scale event in a hall with a patterned carpet. An audience of people is seated in white and brown armchairs arranged in a circular fashion. In the center is a raised circular stage with a logo that includes the number '26' and the words 'NIGERIAN PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT'. Two individuals are seated on the stage, each with a microphone. Behind them is a large screen displaying a video of a person speaking. To the left, a banner features a large '26' and the text 'TH PARTNERSHIP SUMMIT'. To the right, another banner displays the numbers '13', '45', and '6' inside gear-like shapes.

POST-SUMMIT PARTNERSHIP EVENT

- **Post-Summit Partnership Event: GAIN-NESG Governance and Accountability Strategy (GAS) Roll Out on compliance with Large Scale Food Fortification in Nigeria:**

The Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN), through its Large-Scale Food Fortification (LSFF) program, has been working with a range of food fortification stakeholders to ensure that adequately fortified food products get to the consumers. Under the Strengthening African Processors of Fortified Foods (SAPFF) project, GAIN, in collaboration with TechnoServe and with funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF), has developed a Governance & Accountability Strategy (GAS) document as a possible solution to the above-stated problem.

- The GAS is premised on taking a third-party advocacy approach. The approach involves identifying and on-boarding consumer rights organizations and champions, and nutrition enthusiasts as advocates for fortification compliance. The strategy aims to take advantage of the third-party platforms in engaging a wider audience, using several tactics to firmly advocate on behalf of consumers for more accountability on industry compliance and the enforcement of regulatory measures.

- NESG has been recognised by GAIN as a strategic ally towards advocating for fortification compliance. GAIN would like to commence the first-level implementation of the GAS by collaborating with the NESG. The collaboration involves leveraging on NESG's platform of stakeholders through the signing of an MOU for a 12-months advocacy project and engaging with NESG-AFSPC private-sector members, specifically the ones affiliated or in the business of food production.

- The GAS Launch was held on December 2nd 2020.

- The Policy Commission is also represented in the Agriculture and Food Security Thematic Working Group of the National Development Planning Process. This is to ensure that the interests of the private sector are duly represented in the national development plans.

Tourism, Hospitality, Entertainment, Creatives and Sports (THECS) Policy Commission Engagements

- The overarching objective of the Sports Industry Thematic Group of the THECS Policy Commission in the period under review was to deliver a robust National Sports Industry Policy for a viable, government-backed, private sector-led and driven Nigerian Sports Industry.

- The Sports Industry Working Group (SIWG) was inaugurated on the 20th of February, 2020 in line with the Terms of Reference and Recommendations in the IMTS (Inter-Ministerial Technical Session) Preliminary Report.

- The Sports Industry Thematic Group hosted Six (6) Stakeholder Engagement Sessions (Media & Entertainment (11th February 2020), Educational Institutions (13th February 2020), Financial Institutions (19th February 2020), Trade & Professional Groups (24th February 2020), Donor Agencies Multilaterals and Multinationals (27th February 2020) & Federations (6th March 2020)) with participation from the public, private and social enterprise sectors towards the National Sports Industry Policy Dialogue. This resulted in the development of the six (6) Stakeholder Engagement Sessions Report.
- The Sports Industry Thematic Group held a Post COVID-19 webinar on the 7th of May, 2020 to assess the impact and opportunities of the pandemic for the sports sector in Nigeria.
- A Policy Drafting Committee was also appointed to draft the National Sports Industry Policy (NSIP). This occurred between April to June 2020.
- The Draft National Sports Industry Policy (NSIP) was officially presented to the Honourable Minister of the Federal Ministry of Youth and Sports Development (FMYS), Mr. Sunday Dare on the 28th of July, 2020.
- The Report of the General Public Review and Validation Process of the Draft National Sports Industry Policy was presented to the Honourable Minister in August 2020.
- The Policy Commission hosted a NES26 Pre-Summit event on the 17th of September, 2020 with the theme: "Recategorisation of Sports as a Business Sector of The Nigerian Economy: Partnership Imperatives." Key Priorities and Action Steps from the event include the need to review the laws that underpin the sports sector to ensure that they enable the sector's viability as a business and the imperative to reorientate and sensitize Nigerian financial institutions on the potentials of the sports industry to unlock funding for the sector.
- The Creative and Entertainment Industry Thematic Group (CEITG) of the THECS Policy Commission appointed a new thematic lead to drive the focus of the working group.

Infrastructure Commission Engagements

- The Infrastructure Policy Commission in collaboration with WaterAid held a Stakeholder Round Table on WASH on the 12th of March 2020 with the theme “Nexus Between Wash And Business”. The event had the following objectives:

- To highlight the state of WASH in Nigeria and its impact on businesses and the economy.
- To present efforts by Development partners, WaterAid and the Government of Nigeria.
- To Identify areas for collaboration with the private sector towards improving WASH, supply chains and for a sustainable environment.

- The expected outcomes from the event include opportunities for cross-sector partnerships in the WASH sector identified and the focus areas for collaboration in WASH in supply chains identified.

- The Aviation Thematic Group of the Infrastructure Policy Commission held a Pre-NES 26 Event on the 24th of September 2020 with the theme “Positioning Nigeria’s Aviation Industry for Global Competitiveness.” Key Priorities and Action Steps from the event include:

- The need for government, through the Federal Ministry of Aviation and the Nigerian Civil Aviation Authority (NCAA), to leverage the benefits offered by intra-regional agreements, particularly The Single African Air Transport Market (SAATM) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA).
- Government, through the Federal Ministry of Aviation, is also expected to work towards the enforcement of key elements in Nigeria’s Aviation Roadmap. Private-sector efforts, on the other hand, led by the NESG should be focused on intermediating the dialogue process among stakeholders on better ways to implement the Aviation Industry Roadmap.

- The Infrastructure Policy Commission in conjunction with the United Nations Global Compact Nigeria (UNGC) held a Pre-NES26 event on the 6th of October 2020 to launch the CEO Water Mandate in Nigeria. The main objective of the launch of the Water Mandate in Nigeria was to establish a private sector-led platform focused on the management of water resources. The platform is expected to replicate other UN Global Compact supported platforms in other countries.





NESG Communities of Practice

Communities of Practice

The NESG re-positioned its Policy Commissions and as part of that process stand-alone platforms were created for 3 key but easily marginalised groups: Micro Small Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), Gender-related issues and Youths so that they can together as communities of practice have a voice to champion and promote advocacy based on thematic areas of focus.

Community of Practice on MSMEs

- Thematic Group activities and conversations within the Community of Practice commenced in February 2020 leading to a virtual meeting in April to on-board the newly appointed thematic leads.
- The community of practice held a series of meetings in the year to develop a Work-Plan for 2020/2021.
- To address the challenges within the Nigerian entrepreneurship ecosystem which have been intensified by the COVID-19 pandemic, the MSMEs Community of Practice hosted a Pre-summit event on September 3, 2020, with the theme “COVID-19 and Nigerian MSMEs: Impact, Priorities, and Strategies”. Key Priorities and Action Steps from the event include the need to facilitate access to markets for goods produced by MSMEs and the imperative for the formalisation of MSMEs through tax relief and other incentives.

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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