

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE DGD PROJECT STEERING COMMITTEE

	30 June 2014	11:00am	Executive Secretary's Conference Room, National Planning Commission, Abuja
PRESIDING	Ntufam Fidelis Ugbo, Secretary to the NPC – Chair Dr. Daouda Toure, UNDP Resident Representative – Co-Chair		
	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Welcome Remarks2. Introductions and Adoption of Agenda3. Adoption of Minutes from last Steering Committee meeting4. INEC Update5. Funding Update6. Presentation of DGD Progress Report7. AOB		
Rapporteur	Toyin Adewale-Gabriel		

Key Issues Discussed

Welcome remarks

Chair

- Welcomed all members to the meeting and requested for a review of the agenda
- Proposed frequent Steering Committee meetings for regular updates on progress towards 2015 elections.
- Requested commitment from partners to fulfill their obligations to the Joint Basket Donor Funds(JBDF) to ensure INEC and DGD are better prepared
- Commended INEC's conduct of the Ekiti elections and reiterated the commitment of the Steering Committee to support INEC's effective delivery of its mandate.

Co-Chair

- Endorsed the comments from the Chair and thanked all partners for the commitment to the Basket
- Appreciated the Technical Committee for working collaboratively with the DGD project.
- Congratulated INEC on the good outcomes of the Ekiti elections.
- Reiterated the need for all partners to fulfill their obligations to the JBDF.
- Confirmed the commitment of the JBDF partners to working with INEC to ensure successful elections.

Introductions and Adoption of Agenda

- Incorporated additional inputs into the agenda by EU and INEC, following which it was adopted.
- Introduced the Canadian Department for Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development

(DFATAD formerly known as CIDA.

Adoption of Minutes from last Steering Committee Meeting

- The minutes of the last meeting were reviewed and adopted.

Matters arising from Minutes

INEC Update

- Apologized on behalf of the INEC Chair who is unable to attend for health reasons.
- Acknowledged the tremendous support and goodwill from Development partners which factored into the positive outcomes of the Ekiti Elections.
- Stated that lessons from the Anambra gubernatorial elections were factored into the Ekiti elections and contributed to its success
- Identified improvements in logistics which enabled 90% of polling units to open by 8am.
- INEC chair visited the Supervising Resident Electoral Commissioners-
- There was an increase in security, which did not deter voters from turning out to exercise their franchise.
- Noted a 50% voter turnout which is an improvement in comparison to Anambra Elections.
- Credited observers who promptly reported issues to INEC, enabling INEC to intervene quickly.
- Noted improvements in Voter Registration - significant reduction in the number of people who did not see their names due to process put in place to sanitize the Voters Register and to distribute cards.
- Stated that there was a 50% registered voters' turnout in the Ekiti elections.
- Stated that INEC is faced with the challenge of reproducing the success of the Ekiti elections on a national scale.
- Explained that INEC will do a debriefing on the Ekiti Elections to ensure that the positive lessons are replicated in the upcoming Osun elections.
- Commended the acceptance of the outcomes of the election by the incumbent governor of Ekiti state.

Comments on INEC update

Chair:

- Requested additional information on the conduct of security personnel

- Advised that lessons from Ekiti elections should be factored into the Voter Education process and security officials should be sensitized to understand the limitations of their mandate on Election days.
- Requested INEC to explain if biometrics will be used for the 2015 elections.
- Requested INEC to identify the security needs for the 2015 general elections.
- Requested information on how INEC intends to address the issue of electoral violence.
- Recommended that INEC should develop a quarterly work plan with the budget attached to enable prioritization.
- Advised INEC to send a reminder to the National Assembly on the minimum time required for the amendment of the legal framework.
- Enquired if there was a free flow of information in the Situation room management.

DFID

- Noted that many citizens who registered did not pick up their Permanent Voters Card and requested to know how INEC intends to address the issue.

EU

- Stated that the Ekiti accomplishment may not be easily replicated in the 2015 general elections.
- Requested to know if there are available resources to replicate the massive deployment of security personnel for the 2015 general elections.
- Stated that the number of people in the register did not reflect the total population of the state and advised that this challenge will need to be addressed in the long term.

Co-chair

- Concurred with views expressed on the need to improve efforts on the sensitization of security agencies and voter education to ensure an increase in the number of registered voters participating in elections.
- Advised that the lessons learned on security may need to focus on hot spots. There is also a need to factor in lessons learned on logistics.
- Requested the Steering Committee to have a common messaging to government to prioritize funding for INEC.
- Advised on the need to envisage and plan for the worst case scenario in addressing issues related to the legal framework for the elections.

DGD

- Requested information on the enabling law that would allow elections to be held under a state of emergency.
- Enquired if the turnout report was based on the number of registered voters or those who

had collected their PVC.

INEC

- Explained that there were a few cases of soldiers at some polling units; however, INEC followed up to redirect them to the right place.
- There was a free flow of information with the situation room management.
- The legal framework was yet to be concluded and the Commission had informed the National Assembly that it was required 6 months prior to elections; but In the worst case scenario INEC will continue with the existing legal framework.
- In the case of State of emergency, the Commission will leave the security challenges to security agencies.
- The level of communication between the field and Headquarters has improved but the challenge is to reproduce it on a national scales (in terms of logistics and planning).
- Stated that INEC will prioritize some budget lines as a strategy to address some of the budget shortfall.
- Following finalization of its budget with government, INEC may revert to development partners for additional support in relevant areas.
- Explained that the Commission will adjust to the prevailing security reality in 2015.
- INEC will utilize biometrics for the voter registration but not for the actual voting. INEC has requested the National Assembly to address this issue in the proposed amendment to the Electoral Act.
- Citizens will be able to collect their permanent voters' cards at the polling units during the CVR process. Once this is concluded, the PVCs can be collected at the Local Government Areas offices.
- Elections are about confidence building and the Ekiti election has contributed to building the confidence of the electorate in the Commission.
- Stated that INEC records show a PVC collection rate of 60% of registered voters in Ekiti and the turnout rate was culled from it.
- Stated that the turnout for the Continuous Voter Registration in Ekiti was an improvement on previous gubernatorial elections; however, agreed that more needs to be done.
- Elucidated that the Inter-Agency Advisory Committee on Voter Education and Publicity, (NICVEP) has been inaugurated with support from DGD and is expected to improve INEC voter education efforts.
- Explained that the Osun State gubernatorial elections will hold on the 9th of August, 2014.
- Identified a shortfall of 62% in the budget for the 2015 elections. This is a major challenge for the Commission.
- Instituted a process to address the funding gap with government; commission is hopeful

that the situation will be remedied in time for the elections.

- Explained that the second phase of the CVR will be between July 18-20 in 12 states and the third phase will be from August 22nd -24th.
- Lessons learned from first phase of the CVR will be factored into the conduct of the Osun elections.
- Biometric accreditation, but the actual voting will be manual, as biometric voting is outlawed in Section 53 of the electoral act.
- Conducting regular meetings with political parties.
- Identified security as a major challenge and working with development partners to ensure the required security is in place. Working towards improved security towards the elections with International IDEA and AU to deploy their risk analysis tool for hot spots during the elections and create an issue-based database.
- Elections will hold in every part of Nigeria depending on the security advice.
- Stated the appreciation of the INEC Chairman for the collaboration with the partners and his hope that this will continue.

Funding Update

EU:

- Additional funding in the amount of Euros 15 million, totaling Euros 35 million. Financing Agreement to be signed after the Summer with the National Planning Commission
- The funds are not going into the JBDF but for additional programming.
- The funds will go to DGD, to support additional activities with a focus on voter education, funding of civic society organizations, and election observation.

DFID

- Stated that USD 1 million is earmarked to be given to DGD for the 2014-2015 election phase; however, the project needs to indicate if the funds are required now or in April 2015.
- Explained that there may be additional funds for the DGD should the project continue beyond 2015.

DFATD

- Explained that its contributions were advanced ahead of schedule.

UNDP

- Committed USD 5 million to the project. USD 2 million has been disbursed, USD 2 million will be disbursed in a month and the balance will be disbursed in January 2015.

Chair and Co-chair

- Requested partners to fulfill what had been agreed.
- Elections take place every 4 years; need to have the money now.
- Stressed the need to secure all the necessary funds to successfully implement the work plan of DGD II
- Recommended that the issue around DFID's funding to DGD should be discussed and finalized at the technical level.

DGD Progress Report

DGD

- The DGD Project Director presented the DGD progress report.

Discussion following the presentation

Chair and Co-Chair

- Commended the DGD Project Director and team
- Encouraged the project to circulate the progress report
- Acknowledged the contributions of the Technical Committee
- Future DGD progress reports should address constraints, identify enabling factors, and include milestones and upcoming activities.

DFID

- Requested information on progress made in relations to support to INEC on logistics.

DGD

- Clarified that DGD has identified a logistic consultant and is awaiting clearance. The support will be effected under the new support from EU.
- Coordination issues will be addressed with IFES to ensure no duplication of roles.

Chair

- Raised the need to address the issue of contributions and qualifications for joining the JBDF and participation in the technical committee and steering committee levels.
- Need to encourage other partners willing to join the basket. Informational productions like annual report and Project briefs to be readied.

Co-chair

- In line with the Paris Declaration, a coordinated JBDF reduces transaction costs but there will be need to address visibility of resources and the qualifications for Technical

Committee or Steering Committee membership.

AOB

EU: Findings of the EU Chief Observer Mid-term Review Mission

1. Highlighted the heightened risks and threats related to political and electoral violence.
 - Recommended that all stakeholders commit themselves to a code of conduct and to improving civic education.
 - Recommended technical solutions that would enable the conduct of elections in areas under a state of emergency, including the conduct of elections a week earlier in those areas.
2. Noted the need for INEC to receive its required budget for the elections.
 - EU can play an advocacy role to assist INEC get its required budget from Government.
3. Noted that there were technical and logistics challenges associated with the conduct of the 2015 elections.
4. Noted that if the required amendments to the legal framework occur too late for the election, it would be better to leave the current framework as it is and have the changes apply to the 2019 elections.
5. Stated that the EU will be available to carry out an Observer Mission for February 2015, if invited.
6. Explained that the invitations from INEC and the government of Nigeria would need to be received quickly because a preparatory mission would need to be ready by in September 2014,

UNDP:

- Stated that DGD has been audited and report is satisfactory.

Steering Committee

- Agreed to hold bi-monthly meetings
- DGD to develop a timetable for the meetings and circulate.
- Noted the need to hold regular Steering Committee meetings as Nigeria moves into the high-profile election phase.
- Send in report and agenda prior to meeting to partners.
- INEC to send a reminder to the NASS stipulating that the changes in the framework are needed but the minimum period required should be observed.

Chair

- In closing, acknowledged cordiality of the meeting and stated that going forward, the

meeting will be held within two hours

- Urged continued collaboration among the partners.

Action Points

Responsible Party

- Develop a timetable for Steering Committee meetings and circulate

- DGD

Attendees


Members

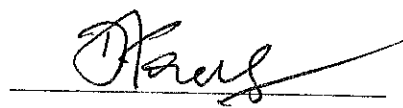
1. Ntufam Fidelis Ugbo, Secretary to the NPC – Chair
2. Dr. Daouda Toure, RR, UNDP - Co-chair
3. Ambassador Michel Arrion, Head of EU Delegation
4. Ms. Lisa DeMoor, DFATD
5. Mr. Oliver Blake, DFID
6. Dr. Mourtada Deme, DGD
7. Mr. B.O. Akpanyung, Director(International Coop.) - NPC
14. Mr. S.O. Faniran, UN System- NPC
15. Mr. Mohammed King , NPC
16. Mr. Blessing Adeleke, DGD
17. Ms. Nina Onyekonwu, DGD
18. Ms. Toyin Adewale-Gabriel, DGD
19. Mr. Yohana Kigbole, DGD
20. Prof Bolade Eyinla, DGD

In attendance

8. Mr. Alan Munday, EU
9. Ms. Laolu Olawunmi, EU
10. Dr. Pa Lamin Beyai, CD, UNDP
11. Mrs Catherine Weiss, DFID
12. Prof Okey Ibeanu, INEC
13. Mr. Abdullahi....., INEC

Minutes Approved by:


Ntufam Fidelis Ugbo
Executive Secretary to the Commission
Chairman


Dr. Daouda Toure
UN Resident Coordinator
Co-Chairman