



**17th TELECONFERENCE MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16th SEPTEMBER 2020**

We, members of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF), at our meeting held today, deliberated on salient issues affecting the country especially the subnational economy following from the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

1. The NGF Chairman provided the following updates:
  - a. The Forum will be playing a strategic role in the forthcoming 26th Nigerian Economic Summit (NES #26) which, is designed to focus on the sub-nationals as the frontiers for economic growth and development in the country. It will bring together local and global policy makers, business leaders, development partners and scholars to lead and participate in sessions that will focus on building strategic partnerships and cooperation between governments, business enterprises and the civil society. At least 18 Governors will take part in physical and virtual high-level panel dialogues from 26th - 27th October 2020.
  - b. The Technical Committee of the NGF-NESG Economic Roundtable (NNER) was inaugurated on 14th September 2020. The Committee will be responsible for coordinating the activities of the NGF-NESG partnership based on a Memorandum of Understanding signed between both institutions in 2017 to facilitate joint program aimed at promoting sub-national competitiveness.
  - c. The 2019 Annual Performance Assessment (APA) for the States' Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability (SFTAS) program conducted by the Office of the Auditor-General of the Federation (OAuGF) will be completed this week. The exercise has already been completed in 32 States. States remain committed and will continue to work assiduously to meet the requirements and Disbursement Linked Indicators (DLIs) of the program.
  - d. Updates were also provided on ongoing health-related interventions across States, including the Regional Disease Surveillance Systems Enhancement (REDISSE)



COVID-19 Support Fund, the Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF); and the Saving One Million Lives Performance for Results (SOML-PforR). On the SOML program, the Forum urges the World Bank to fast track the review of the SMART Survey conducted by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). States are also called upon to finalize their baseline assessments and capacity building activities to fast track access to the BHCPF.

The Forum received further updates and presentations:

- i. The Governor of Lagos State, H.E Babajide Sanwo-Olu, provided updates on behalf of the NGF Sub-Committee interfacing with the Presidential Task Force (PTF) on COVID-19. In his brief, the Governor highlighted the role of government in monitoring controls as the country welcomes international travellers. This includes the requirement for Travellers to present credible COVID-19 PCR Test results in order to safeguard the health of the populace;
- ii. The Vice-Chairman of the National Food Security Council and Governor of Kebbi, Atiku Bagudu briefed the Forum on the activities of the National Food Security Council as it concerns agricultural development and food security in the country;
- iii. The World Bank Country Director Mr. Shubham Chaudhuri in company of the Bank's Lead Specialist on the Nigeria CARES Program, Prof. Foluso Okunmadewa provided an update on the Nigeria COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (CARES) Program for Results. The program objective is to fund investments at the State level aimed at protecting livelihoods and food security for vulnerable families and facilitating economic recovery for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in the country;
- iv. The Bank called for greater support for State Focal Persons and the institutions responsible for implementing the program, including the Social Safety Net, the Community and Social Development Agencies (CSDA), and the FADAMA and SME platforms. Governors were also called to establish a State CARES



- Coordination Unit in their Ministries of Budget and Planning to ensure proper coordination with other ministries, departments and agencies;
- v. Mr. Bismarck Rewane, member of the Presidential Economic Advisory Council made a presentation on managing state economies: challenges, opportunities and policy solutions for State governments. The presentation highlighted the deteriorating economic condition in the country as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and called for informed response from governments to steer the country to a v-shaped economic recovery in 2021.
  - vi. Lastly, the Honourable Minister of Water Resources, Engineer Suleiman Hussein Adamu briefed the Forum on the National Water Resources Bill 2020. The Minister emphasized that the basic philosophy behind the Bill is to integrate water resources management in the country by bringing all laws related to water resources management into one consolidated code. He noted that the new bill is consistent with the Land Use Act, and will promote equitable development, management, use and conservation of Nigeria's surface and groundwater resources.

Thereafter, Members of the Forum Resolved to:

1. Commend the World Bank for facilitating ongoing activities geared towards accelerating the uptake of the CARES program during the COVID-19 period and meet with the Federal Ministry of Finance, Budget and National Planning on the terms of the program.
2. Schedule a more intensive session on economic management with their Commissioners of Finance and Budget and Planning on the back of the presentation of Mr. Bismarck Rewane member of the Presidential Economic Advisory Council;
3. Partner with KAINOS Edge Consulting in conducting a Household Survey designed to gather data, analyze, generate and publish insights on the household economy across



the 36 States of Nigeria and the FCT. This Survey will cover household demographics, decision-making and wellbeing characteristics;

4. Finally, Forum members while commending the Minister of Water Resources for taking an integrated approach on water resource management as a national good, Resolved that the proposed Bill and other relevant laws including the River Basins Development Authorities Act 2004; the Natural Water Resources Act 2004; and the Nigeria Hydrological Resources Act 2004 will be reviewed by their Attorneys General and Executive Councils of States after which a common position of States will be presented to the Ministry of Water Resources.

Governor Kayode Fayemi  
Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum  
16th September 2020