



COMMUNIQUE

ISSUED ON 18TH NOVEMBER AT THE 1ST NATIONAL ROUND-TABLE STRATEGY SESSION ON INTERNALLY GENERATED REVENUE (IGR) ORGANISED BY THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM FROM 16TH- 18, 2009 AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE, ABUJA,

Theme- 'Surviving the Downturn: Refocusing on Internally Generated Revenue

Noting with concern the dwindling revenue base of the Federal, States and Local Governments owing to the fluctuation in the price of oil and mindful that oil would not last forever

Recognising the need to explore and identify alternative sources of revenue so as to forestall the dire consequences of an over-dependence on oil and attain fiscal autonomy.

Appreciating the need for all the stakeholders to act in concert in building the revenue base of the country and

Acknowledging that the time to act is NOW

The following resolutions were reached:

Governors, as Chief Executives of their respective States, should be the driving force of IGR in their States by:

- i) Creating an enabling environment for investments in their States in order to shore up the revenue base of the States by encouraging private sector participation;
- ii) Employing workable strategies to enhance the identification and prioritisation of alternative revenue-generating channels;
- iii) Ensuring the participation of all the relevant stakeholders in the administration of tax in their States;
- iv) Generating reliable database of taxpayers that would aid policy makers and tax experts in assessing major changes to the tax system;

- v) Encouraging and transforming Inland Revenue Services, which would in turn boost IGR in their States, by building more pro-active, less intrusive relationships with the community;
- vi) Facilitating and enhancing the use of Information Communication Technology (ICT) to aid tax administration as well as generally professionalising the whole system of tax administration;
- vii) Promulgating tax laws and reviewing the existing laws to reflect present realities and ensuring the enforcement of these laws by law enforcement agencies and the courts;
- viii) Ensuring the use of experts in tax collection and strengthening tax collection machineries;
- ix) Holding regular dialogue with banks and financial institutions to stem delays in remittances as well as under-remittance;
- x) Enhancing professionalism by building capacity and putting in place mechanisms that would assist in increasing competence in this area and also establishing a means of evaluating the skills of practitioners;
- xi) Meeting the Tax Identification Number (TIN) obligation of their States by paying their counter-part funds;
- xii) Increasing taxpayers' awareness and generally sensitising the populace through awareness drive
- xiii) and advertisements in the print and electronic media;
- xiv) Designing appropriate policies to integrate the informal sector into the mainstream of their economy

Please note that for each one of the items outlined above to be adequately addressed, they must be implemented through an Action Plan.