



# INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION

*Zambezi Crescent, Maitama District, P.M.B. 0184, Garki - Abuja.  
Federal Capital Territory.*

*Telephone:*.....

*Ref. No.*.....

COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE CONSULTATIVE MEETING BETWEEN CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS (CSOs) AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES (PWDs) AND THE INDEPENDENT NATIONAL ELECTORAL COMMISSION (INEC) ON THE NEED TO EXPAND VOTER ACCESS TO POLLING UNITS IN NIGERIA, HELD ON TUESDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2021

## PREAMBLE

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Persons With Disabilities (PWDs) met today, Tuesday, 9<sup>th</sup> February 2021 with the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as part of the Commission's national engagement and consultations with stakeholders on the need to expand voter access to Polling Units in Nigeria. The meeting which had both virtual and in-person participation due to the on-going COVID-19 Pandemic was attended by the Representatives of the following Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):

## SEE ATTACHED LIST

Also in attendance were the Chairman of INEC, National Commissioners, Resident Electoral Commissioners, who joined the meeting virtually, as well as the Commission's Secretary and Directors. The Consultation was chaired by the Chairman of INEC, Prof. Mahmood Yakubu.

During the engagement, which coincided with the first regular quarterly meeting of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) And Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) and the Commission for 2021, INEC presented documentary and visual evidence on the challenges of voter access to Polling Units in Nigeria.

Among them was the INEC Discussion Paper No.1/2021 titled, The State of Voter Access to Polling Units in Nigeria.

## RESOLUTIONS

Following extensive deliberations the meeting resolved as follows:

1. That given the current state of voter access to Polling Units in Nigeria, expanding access to Polling Units is fundamental and critical to the exercise of the right to vote and to free, fair and credible elections.
2. That it is important and necessary to widely consult and engage in strategic communication with relevant stakeholders to develop a consensus and build trust in expanding Voter access to Polling Units.
3. That in expanding Voters access to Polling Units, due attention should be paid to the needs of women, youth, PWDs and other vulnerable groups.
4. That CSOs present in the meeting support INEC proposal for the expansion of Voter access to Polling Units and commits to collaborate with the Commission in achieving this objective.
5. That the Commission commits to a process that is data driven and will uphold the principles of transparency, accountability, equity and inclusivity in the expansion of voters access to Polling Units.
6. That there should be further consultations between INEC and the

Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to ensure successful expansion of voter access to Polling Units.

### CSOs IN ATTENDANCE

1. Yiaga Africa
2. Policy and Legal advocacy Centre (Nigeria Civil Society Room)
3. Oja Development Consult
4. Justice and Equity Organization
5. Alliance for Credible Elections (ACE-Nigeria)
6. Nigerian Women Trust Fund
7. The Albino Foundation
8. Centre for Credible Leadership
9. Inclusive Friends Association
10. Centre for Democracy and Development
11. Advocates for Peoples Rights and Justice
12. Adesuwa Women's Association
13. CLEEN Foundation
14. Equity Advocates
15. NESSACTION
16. Initiative for Women Youth Sustainable
17. Anglo-Nigerian Welfare Association for the Blind (ANWAB) and Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
18. Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI)
19. Educare Trust
20. Young Adult and Youth Affairs (YAYA)
21. Women Action Committee (WAC)
22. International Peace and Civic Responsibility Centre
23. Centre for Transparency Advocacy (CTA)
24. Challenged Parenthood Network Initiative
25. Centre for Citizens with Disabilities
26. Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations (CONGOs)
27. Coalition of Civil Society Organizations
28. Global People Rights and Values Observation Network
29. The Church Must Vote AKA One Church One Voice
30. Brown to Green Peer and Youth Development Initiative
31. Youth Initiative for Diversity in Nigeria
32. Teens and Nubile (TEENUB)
33. Divine Era Development and Social Rights Initiative (DEDASRI)
34. The Peoples Care and Advocacy Initiative
35. Grassroots Democracy Awareness Initiative (GDA)
36. Zaggi Women and Youth Initiatives for Political Awareness
37. Polling Unit Ambassadors of Nigeria (PUAN)