CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC)

CISLAC 2016 ANNUAL REPORT
Goal

“To make legislature accessible and responsive to all”

Vision
A Nigeria where legislators and policy makers are safeguarding citizens’ rights and welfare while citizens effectively demand accountability.

Mission
To engage state and non-state actors for improved policy and legislative frameworks, transparency and accountability in governance for people oriented development.

Goal
To make government accessible, responsive and accountable to citizens.

Moto
Strengthening Civil Society Legislative Advocacy
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COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

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FINANCE AND ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE

This is the policy-making organ of the organisation. It approves the budget of the organisation, provides contacts for operational funds and supports the operation of the secretariat.

1. Mr. Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)
2. Mr. Adesina Oke
3. Mr. Y.Z Y’au
4. Ms. Nkoyo Toyo
5. Mr. Emma Ezeazu
6. Ms. Hadiza Kangiwa
7. Mr. Adagbo Onoja

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council is an advisory organ consisting of people with vast experience and knowledge of socio-economic and political dynamics in the country and across the world.

1. Hon. Uche Onyeaguocha
2. Prof. Okey Ibeanu
3. Prof. Sam Egwu
4. Dr. Abubakar Momoh
5. Chom Bagu
6. Gen. Ishola Williams (rtd)
7. Late Bilikisu Yusuf (Ms.)
8. Dr. Afia Zakiya (Ms)
9. Prof. Muhammed Tawfiq Ladan
10. Halima Ben Umar (Ms.)
11. Bukhari Bello

THE SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat is vested with the day-to-day running of the organization. It implements the decisions of the Board of Trustees. It is headed by an Executive Director who oversees the day-to-day running of the organisation while a Senior Program Officer oversees programmes implementation along with other programme staff.

Head Office, Abuja:

Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) - Executive Director
Kolawole Banwo - Senior Program Officer (Extractive and Environment)
Mr. Okeke Anya - Senior Program Officer (ECOWAS & AU)
Ms. Chioma Blessing Kanu - Program Officer (MDGs, Gender, Reproductive Health and Anti-corruption)
Mr. Salaudeen Hashimu Nurani - Program Officer (Human Rights/Migration, Agriculture/ Livelihood & Security)
Mr. Chinedu Bassey - Program Officer (Tax Justice)
Mr. Augustine Erameh - Assistant Programme Officer
Abubakar Jimoh - Head of Communications and Information
Mrs. Hauwa’u Bin Abdallah - Admin Officer
Mr. Omomhenle Ehis - Finance
Ms. Abimbola S. Okoilu- Miró - Secretary/Assistant Program Officer
Mr. Gonji Dadoh Timbut - Assistant Finance Officer
Ms. Abiodun Oladipupo - Office Assistant
Ms. Fatimah Shuaibu - Office Assistant

Regional Office: Kano

Mr. Nura Maaji -- Program Officer
OFFICE ADDRESS

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Kano state
Message from the Executive Director

Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)
Executive Director, CISLAC

In the year under review, in recognition of its persistent legislative and policy advocacy on sustainable democracy and good governance and outstanding contribution to the implementation process of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through citizens’ engagement in the MY World Survey in Nigeria, CISLAC bagged the United Nations Millennium Campaign (UNMC).

As the Eight Assembly resumed legislative duties, CISLAC had through various platforms, educated and called on the members to maintain highly level of objectivity and strictly adhere to the establishing code of conduct in the performance of their legislative assignments for the maximum benefit of the country.
Having understood that high moral and ethical standards are pre-requisites for effective legislative performance, CISLAC charged the Assembly on prompt adoption of workable legislative Code of Conduct to guide members in their legislative activities to promote value of excellence, professionalism in legislators’ performance and ensure civility and responsible conduct inside and outside of the Assembly commensurate with the trust placed in legislators by the electorate.

CISLAC also through its various platform recommended immediate capacity building and development for the legislators, legislative aides and staff through training and retraining programmes to enhance effectiveness and professional competence in the performance of their respective legislative mandates; and provide necessary support dealing with technical issues.

CISLAC was inaugurated by the Speaker of the House of Representatives as a member of 20-Man Independent NEEDS Assessment Committee to determine the actual requirements of running and maintaining the institution of the House of Representatives of the National Assembly.
In summary, the Committee was mandated to determine what it would cost the House of Representatives and the National Assembly to conduct Public Hearings on the Bills and other legislative measures passed by both Chambers, including live coverage of these activities; what it would cost to communicate all its proceedings and activities to its different constituencies and the general public; what it would cost to build, equip, and maintain all infrastructure in the National Assembly, like offices of the bureaucracy, Members, Committee Rooms, Hearing Rooms, modernization of Chambers of both Houses, electronic communications infrastructure, e-parliament facilities etc.

CISLAC engaged rigorous media motions to address emerging development on corruption and asset recovery in the country including the reported lobbying by the former Minister of Petroleum, Mrs. Alison-Madueke to boycott accountability process with her offer to refund $250 million to President Muhammadu Buhari's government in exchange for immunity from further investigation and possible prosecution. As part of recommendations, it urged President Buhari to ensure prompt and exhaustive investigations into the dealings of NNPC under Mrs. Madueke, and expedite action on the recovery of all looted monies due to the coffers of the Nigerian people that would have
been channel into people oriented development as a way of ushering in the change that citizens voted for and in fulfilment of campaign promises. This among other engagement led to the subsequent reform and sanity reinstated in the NNPC by the President Buhari led administration, as reported in the next chapter.

In recognition of his vast experience in legislative and policy advocacy brewed with the exceptional struggles to ensure common citizens benefit largely from democracy values across in Nigeria and African regions, the Executive Director of CISLAC was appointed as Member of Board of Trustee of the Amnesty International (Nigeria).

CISLAC led civil society groups working on transparency, accountability and good governance in Nigeria to draw attention of the Government towards the dire need for appropriate policy and legislation to protect and encourage whistleblowing activities in the country. This led among other things led to the intense measures and other policies initiated by the administration on whistleblowing as one of the holistic tools to fight against corruption.
In the wake of leadership crisis rocking the National assembly, CISLAC through various engagements expressed dissatisfaction, calling on the elected members to reach out to the aggrieved legislators and maintain peace within their party to avert conflict between private interests and official duties and uphold effective functionality of the Presidency in the best interest of the nation. It also charged the elected and the appointed principal officers in the National Assembly on constructive dialogue and reconciliation with the aggrieved and their political party opposition members, and collaboratively exercise their fundamental mandates — lawmaking, oversight and representation, in the interest of peace, harmony and democracy of the country.

CISLAC also sustained public and policy awareness advocacy on corruption and asset recovery in Nigeria. It submitted widely published report to the United Nations Coalition on United Nations Convention against Corruption. Citing statistics released by Nigerian anti-corruption agencies like the EFCC, ICPC, as well as international organisations, the report reveals that trillions of naira meant for national development has been mismanaged or looted by corrupt leaders, officials and other Nigerians since independence. It canvasses for transparency and accountability in asset recovery in the country.

Moreover, CISLAC lost a reputable Member of Advisory Council, Hajiya Bilkisu Yusuf to the fatal stampede that broke out during the Hajj operation in Saudi Arabia. She was a famous anti-corruption crusader, human right and gender activist, and the first northern female editor. We recognize and appreciate her remarkable contributions and infallible efforts in advancing advocacy for the betterment of common citizens, providing the much needed mentorship for young people, as well as advancing the growth and development of humanity.
The Department during the year under review engaged several activities in line with its mandates to promote transparency, accountability and good governance in the extractive sector.

It launched Nigerian Natural Resource Charter (NNRC), an initiative led by an esteem panel of experts on natural resources governance mandated to analyse governance issues relating to petroleum. The 2014 Benchmarking Exercise Report exposed some ill-practices backpedalling transparency and accountability as well as effective utilization of natural
resources revenue in the country. As related to transparency and accountability, the report noted inconsistency in information published by the government agencies; limited disclosure of information in natural resource sector; lack of regular audits for the NNPC within the government as well as poor financial reporting standards; lack of implementation of various recommendation contained in NEITI audits; and lack of priority for the passage of PIB; rarely up to date information by the government bon reserves, production volumes, prices, the value of resources exports and companies operating in the sector; and timely monthly reports on oil reserve generation published by the Central Bank of Nigeria.

A Delegation of Nigerian and Ivorian civil society groups working on transparency in the extractive sector led by CISLAC had at the end of a multi-stakeholders meeting held in Cote D’Ivoire, called for committed effort by the respective governments towards effective regulation of the extractive sector to promote the best interest of the citizens. The group noted that despite the governments’ efforts at implementing the EITI and enhancing transparency and accountability in the extractive sector, citizens were yet to truly enjoy
the benefits from the natural resources, as a result of various secrecy and revenue loss to government.

The delegations of the two countries observed as challenges facing extractive sector to include: persistent secretive transactions; inability of the governments and citizens’ to independently verify the quantities of resources extracted and sold due to the absence of measurement infrastructure; secrecy in the processes of licensing, confidentiality in and non-publication of the contents of contracts for citizens to see and the beneficial owners of extractive companies are not disclosed. They urged the parliaments to show commitment towards the citizens’ welfare and improve their legislative oversight to ensure effective regulation of the extractive sector to promote the best interest of the people; ensure that there is effective oversight of the mining code to protect the interest of host communities, guarantee their rights and prevent environmental degradation that impact negatively on their health, welfare and livelihoods.

They advised the governments of respective countries to accelerate the implementation of recommendations made in the various audit reports to improve transparency and accountability in the sector; and introduce transparency in the process of awarding mining licenses and concessions to mining companies including public disclosures of contracts entered into.

The Department joined other group of Civil Society Organizations working on good governance, transparency and accountability in the extractive sector and tax justice openly demanded the release and effective implementation of Forensic Audit Report of the accounts and transactions of Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) by the federal government, noting that the notoriety of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC and its attitude towards the management of the nation’s commonwealth.
It bemoaned mismanagement of oil and gas resources, forming a recurring issue highlighted by the several Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI) audit reports, which recommendations had gone unheeded.

The Department called on the Management of the NNPC and the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company (NPDC) to develop a refund plan for this amount and make it public for the purpose purposes citizens’ monitoring.

It galvanized both national and regional legislative and policy advocacy towards strengthening protections for the local communities most directly impacted by the mining activities as enshrined under the new directive guiding the principles and policies of the region's mining sector in 2009 adopted by mining ministers representing the member states of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), a sub-regional body of 15 countries.

The Department stressed the importance of adopting a regional mining policy directive as an important step toward strengthening regional protections for the basic rights and livelihoods of mining-affected communities in West Africa and ensuring that mineral resources contribute to their sustainable development.

As related to public reform, the Department organized a Policy Dialogue on Cutting the Cost of Governance, Public Service Reforms and Job Creation in Nigeria on 29th June, 2015 in Abuja. The session drew participants from the Bureau for Public Service Reforms, Labour Movement, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, Professional Bodies, Students, Civil Society and the media.
Through various media motions, the Department urged the Federal Government under the leadership of President Muhammadu Buhari to recover all revenues due to the citizens of Nigeria and expedite the implementation of a decade recommendations made by the independent Auditors in the Annual Reports of the Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI).

In a press statement signed by its Executive Director, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani), the Department reiterated the report by NEITI Secretariat that nearly $11.6 billion (N2.32 trillion), which represents outstanding total dividends arising from loans and interest repayments from Federal Government’s investment in Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG), among others, yet to be remitted into the nation’s coffers and has impeded effort by the government to finance development for the citizens.

This among other efforts led to the release and publication of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC)’s Oil and Gas Report monthly report.
Following the dissolution of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Board, the Department engaged some media motions and whole-heartedly welcomed the Federal Government’s decision to dissolve the Board, describing it as a step in the right direction. In a press statement, the Department noted that no meaningful reforms of the oil and gas sector could take place with the same Board under which most of the breaches occurred.

The Department also led other civil society groups working on transparency, accountability and good governance in Nigeria to commend President Muhammadu Buhari for his courageous decision at dissolving the Boards of Federal Parastatals, Agencies and Departments, noting that the decision as announced on July 16th, 2015 was not only timely, but has come as a great relief to ordinary Nigerians who have watched helplessly as Boards became the conduit for corruption in the country. This major step had to a large extent helped to sanitise and restore dignity in the system.
During the year under review, the Department continued its programmes and activities towards strengthening Nigerian citizens’ participation in policy development, domestication, implementation and monitoring of various ratified protocols, treaties and conventions of the African Union (AU), Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) instruments, and WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

Under the aegis of State of the Union (SOTU), the Department led a campaign to raise public and policy conscious on the implementation of 2003 African Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption, ratified by Nigeria to stem unprecedented levels of corruption with impunity in the country.

Through a press conference organized in Abuja, the Department noted that necessary policy, legislative and institutional frameworks had either not been put in place, or where they were in place, they had been weakened and incapacitated, making it impossible for effective combat corruption in the country.
The Department sustained policy advocacy calling for appropriate action responsibility in timely intervention towards fine-tuning necessary modalities required for the implementation of the National Tobacco Control Act 2015.

At a Press Briefing organised in Abuja, the Department called on the Honorable Minister of Health Mr. Isaac Adewole to as a matter of priority constitute the National Tobacco Control Committee which is vested with the responsibility of making regulations to govern the implementation of the Act as provided for amongst other responsibilities of the Committee.

It also advocated for the introduction of new tax regime to discourage purchase of tobacco products.
The Department intensified legislative and policy advocacy on the passage of the National Tobacco Control Bill. It paid an advocacy visit to Minister of State for Health, Dr. Khaliru Alhassan to further seek policy support towards the passage.
With support from the Ford Foundation, the Department organized consultative meetings on the draft National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) across the six geo-political zones in the country. The meetings enabled critical inputs by relevant stakeholders into the draft policy.

In collaborated with the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), the Department organized a two-day National Summit on Internally Displaced Persons to commemorate the 2015 World Humanitarian Day. The Summit was as well supported by other partners including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the State of the Union (SOTU) also supported the Summit.
The event was organized to create awareness about displacement particularly in the North East, place the issue on top national and international agenda and also serve as a platform for identification of increased partnerships and opportunities for addressing and empowering individuals and communities affected by displacement in the country.
Mr. Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani), Executive Director, CISLAC (2nd right) presenting advocacy note to Mrs. Hadiza Kangiwa, Federal Commissioner/Chief Executive, National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons Commission (2nd left), during a Sensitization visit to the Commission to advocate for full implementation of National Migration Policy in Nigeria.

The organized “Interface Meeting on the Implementation of the National Migration Policy” in Abuja, where it called for the effective implementation of National Migration Policy to address problems necessitating children to fall victims of human trafficking and smuggling in the country.
The Second Interface meeting was organized on a day coinciding with the World Day for Prevention of Child Abuse which speaks directly to a thematic area of Migration, children, adolescents and youths of the National Migration Policy. Through the meeting, the Department recommended the dire need for immediate advocacy to policy and legislative realms in addressing the basic problems necessitating Nigeria children to fall victim to trafficking and smuggling.

The Department disseminated the decision of the 26th ordinary session of the African Union held from 23-27 January 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, urging relevant authorities to take cognizance of the human rights situation in the country.

It also disseminated the call to action by the 11th Meeting of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) held in Johannesburg, South Africa in March 26, 2015. The 11th Meeting officially opened with a call to CAADP stakeholders to deliver on the commitments made in the AU Malabo Declaration on Accelerated Africa Agricultural Growth and Transformation at the 23rd African Union (AU) Ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, in Equatorial Guinea.

The Department participated in the official launching of the “My African Union Campaign” held on 17th March, 2015 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The launching witnessed the presence of some African Union Commission officers, Ambassadors of African countries, representatives of diplomatic missions, international and national civil society organizations and African citizens. Holding within the strategy for popularizing the African Union (AU) and broadening public awareness and interaction with the AU, the My African Union Campaign encourages more involvement by citizens themselves to act, do, speak out and take action on matters being decided on their behalf by their governments at the level of the AU in the form of legal instruments and policy standards.

The Department led the State of the Union Nigeria Campaign Platform (SOTU-N-CAMP) to denounce the xenophobic attacks by South Africans, describing it as most barbarous,
erratic and inhumane. In a press statement the Platform condemned in totality, the spate of gross misconduct, astonishing cruelty and brutal attacks being perpetuated by certain unscrupulous elements of the South African populace which has led to the loss of lives and properties of non-nationals, who engage in legitimate businesses and live peacefully in the country. As part of recommendations, the Platform called on the South African Government and the international community to remain committed in the implementation of their undersigned responsibility to protect under International Law, global, continental and regional instruments. It urged South African government to go beyond mere condemnation, and institute practical measures like any other disciplined government to address the situation.

In commemoration of 52 Years of existence of the African Union (AU), the Department organized a press conference in Abuja to denounce socio-economic and political instability with resultant sustained turmoil and unrest in large parts of African continent, noting that the trend had further worsened democratization processes on the continent with grave violation of human rights and untold implications on the integration efforts amongst member states.
The Department launched the national version of “My African Union My Future Campaign” in Abuja. Through the launching, the Department sought the commitment of the government towards building a Nigeria where citizens are at the heart of governance and ensuring participation and increased inclusivity in the development, implementation and monitoring of law policies in the same year the African Union turned fifty commenced the implementation of the state of the Union (SOTU) project with the Nollywood veteran Ejike Asiegbu appointed as Champion for the National Campaign of the State of the Union (SOTU) Project in Nigeria.

It published and disseminated “The Revised African Union Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in Nigeria”. The study reveals that apart from general conservation issues and an overwhelming dependence on exhaustible natural resources whose exploitation hardly pay any heed to sustainability, the country is afflicted by a number of environmental issues which will benefit from the oversight and global best practices provisions in the Convention.
The African Youth Charter provides a strategic framework for youth empowerment and developmental activities at the continental, regional and national levels across Africa. It addresses key issues including employment, sustainable and livelihood, education, skills development, youth participation, health, national youth policy, peace and security, employment, youth in the diaspora and youth with disability. As part of the efforts to identify and project the Nigerian youths’ needs and priorities from the government, the Department under the State of the Union Nigeria Campaign Platform carried out a street survey involving Nigerian youths. Outcome of this formed part of advocacy asks from legislative and policy realms.
The Department raised public and policy awareness on the implementation of the new National Health Act, taking cognizance of the pivotal roles of the Federal Ministry of Health, State Commissioner for Health, National Council on Health, National Technical Committee to the National Council on Health, National/State Assembly, National Tertiary Health Institutions Standards Committee, National Primary Health Care Development Agency, State and Local Governments, Individual/User, Health Care Provider, National Health Research Committee, and National Health Research Ethics Committee in ensuring maximum accountability in the implementation as enshrined under relevant provisions of the Act.

Under the aegis of Macarthur supported project, the Department paid an advocacy visits to Katsina State Radio Service, Voice of America Radio, Katsina state; Freedom Radio and Radio Deutsche Welle, Kano state, Liberty Radio and Television, Freedom Radio and Kaduna State Media Corporation in Kaduna state, Freedom Radio and New World FM in Jigawa state, as part of the efforts to ensure relevant stakeholders were held accountable to their roles and responsibilities and take well-informed decisions in planning, policy formulation and domestication of National Health Act to provide for effective maternal and child health services in the states.
CISLAC’s staff with Chief Executive Officers of Freedom Radio Group during an advocacy visit to the latter on maternal and child health in Kano.

The Department led media advocacy under the Partnership for Advocacy in Child and Family Health (PACFaH), a Coalition of Civil Society working on Child and Family Health in Nigeria, in raising policy consciousness on inclusiveness in the implementation of the National Health Act. It organised a press conference in Abuja to draw attention of the electoral candidates to the poor Reproductive Maternal, New-born and Child Health (MNCH) indices in Nigeria and encourage them to share with Nigerians their proposed realistic plans to improve the lives of mothers and children.
CISLAC’s staff with Chief Executive Officers of Katsina State Radio Service during an advocacy visit to the latter on maternal and child health

The group said Nigeria’s poor Maternal New-born and Child Health status was underlined by an overarching poor governance and stewardship responsibility for health, especially at the Primary Health Care level.
In commemoration of the 20 year anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women organized by UN Women in collaboration with the City of New York, NGO-CSW, the Working Group on Girls, the Man up Campaign and the UN Women for Peace Association, the Department along with other civil society groups staged a protest in New York city in solidarity of the kidnapped Nigerian Chibok Girls.
Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani), Executive Director, CISLAC, (2nd from left) and Chioma Blessing Kanu (1st from right) flanked by other participants during a demonstration in solidarity of the kidnapped Nigerian Chibok girls in New York City.

The event was heralded by highly notable dignitaries such as: the UN Women Executive Director, Ambassador Gertrude Mongella, First Lady of New York City, the Mayor of New York City, Special Assistant to the UN Secretary General- Banki Moon- Hajiya Amina J. Mohammed, President of the NGO-CSW, His Excellency, Minister for Gender Equality and Women Issues- Denmark, Representative of the board of UN Women for Peace Association, Dame Josephine Anenih, Dr. Charmaine Perera, Mojubaolu Okome, Bisi Olateru-Olagbegi among many others.

The Department organized “Civil Society Capacity Building Workshops on Public Hearing” in Katsina, Kano, Kaduna and Jigawa states. The Workshops aimed at enhancing the capacity of Civil Society groups in the states with required practical skills and experience to independently engage policy and legislative processes, especially on issues relating to maternal and child health Public Hearing in the State Houses of Assembly.
It organised Civil Society Workshops on Legislative and Policy Advocacy on Agriculture, Nutrition and Health across Bauchi, Kano, Kaduna, Lagos, Niger, Nassarawa, Oyo states, and FCT-Abuja. The Workshops aimed at training civil society groups to understand and effectively demand accountability on Nigeria’s legislative and policy process in the areas of agriculture, nutrition and health.
The Department raised policy and public consciousness against gender imbalance in Nigeria Political Space through a published piece by Chioma Kanu, Head of MDGs, Gender, Reproductive Health and Anti-corruption Department. The piece laments that general elections that took place in April 2015 further dipped the hopes of women in Nigeria as the election saw fewer women in government - the senate recorded 8 and the House of Representatives 16 women. According to the piece, the same dismal story unfolded across the Federal Cabinet, Ministries, Departments and Agencies, among others.

It led a group of civil society organisations to condemn anti-gender politics and needless negative comments from the opposition party against the appointment of Mrs. Amina Bala Zakari as the Acting Chairman of Nigeria’s foremost Independent National Electoral Commission after the expiration of Prof. Attahiru Jega’s tenure. In a press conference organised in Abuja, the group noted that Mrs. Amina Zakari had been a serving commissioner with the INEC with shared successes of the Prof. Jega led administration which was marked by transparency, fairness and free electoral process.
The group called for gender inclusion in governance to compliment effort of President Buhari at fulfilling campaign manifesto, and improve social development. It further commended and encouraged the President to fulfil his promise to increase the number of women in positions of authority.

The Department led civil society coalition under the aegis of Partnership for Advocacy in Child and family health (PACFaH) in Nigeria in advocacy visits to media outfits in Lagos state. The visits enabled the coalition to further intensify advocacy, calling on governments at all levels to identify innovative mechanisms to provide adequate funding for effective child and family health in Nigeria. In various interactive sessions across the media outfits in Lagos, the group urged the government to ensure adequate funding to four important areas in child and family health such as Routine Immunization, Family Planning, Amoxicillin as first line treatment for Pneumonia and ORS-Zinc as treatment for childhood diarrheal diseases, and Nutrition.

With support from Heinrich Boll Stiftung, the department organised “Legislative- Constituents Dialogue Session on Citizens’ Legislative Priorities/Expectations from Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC)”. The session which was held in Abuja aimed at projecting citizens’ legislative priorities/expectations from the legislature towards inclusive legislation. The session drew participants from AMAC legislature (including Honourable Speaker and other Committee Chairs) and Civil Society Organisations. It also organized “Capacity
Building for Abuja Municipal Area Council Legislators on Gender Sensitive Budgeting and Law Making. The session aimed at enhancing capacity of AMAC legislature towards gender sensitive budgeting and law making with participants drew from AMAC legislature including Honourable Speaker and other Committee Chairs, and Civil Society Organisations.
As part of its efforts to promote peace and stability in the country, the Department led a group of Civil Society working on electoral governance in Nigeria to publicly condemned hate speeches and reckless political statements by political parties, regarding them as unwelcome in the context of our commitment to furthering and deepening our nation’s democracy and rule of law. The group called on all politicians and indeed all citizens to remain law-abiding and have faith in rule of law and due process, while encouraging them to address their grievances and misgivings through legally established channels.
Ahead of the general elections in the country, the Department galvanized public awareness on the role of social media in mobilization of citizens for their involvement and participation in the electoral process, and in making informed choices about whom to elect into positions of authority.
Photo of participants at One Day Town Hall Meeting on Peaceful Elections organized by CISLAC with support from NSRP recently in Kuje, Abuja.

Photo of participants at One Day Town Hall Meeting on Peaceful Elections organized by CISLAC with support from NSRP recently in Gwagwalada, Abuja.
In collaboration with the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR) with support from Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Program (NSRP), the Department organized a One Day Town Hall meetings on Peaceful Elections in Gwagwalada, Kuje and Abaji, Bwari, Mararaba/Nyanyan Area Councils in the Federal Capital Territory to raise community consciousness against electoral violence before, during and after elections. The meetings were attended by Political Parties, Union of Road Transport Workers, Clergy Men, religious leaders, Traditional Heads, Artisans, community influence and opinion Leaders, Council Officials, Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps, Youth Groups, Market Women Associations, Students and Community Based Organizations.

Efforts by the Forum to achieving peaceful elections included series monthly consultative meetings to raise awareness on the strategic role of the Youths, Ethics, Values and Patriotism in amplifying tolerance, social justice, peace and security particularly in the North East.

These meetings recorded active participation by political parties, road transport workers union, clergy men, traditional rulers, artisans, community influence and opinion leaders,
council officials, security personnel, youth groups, Keke Napep and Okada Riders Association, market women associations, students and community based organizations.

They affirmed to: work towards advancing understanding, tolerance and solidarity among all civilizations, peoples and cultures, including towards ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities across the FCT; strictly adhere to the principles of freedom, justice, democracy, tolerance, solidarity, cooperation, pluralism, cultural diversity, dialogue and understanding at all levels of society and among people irrespective of their political affiliations.

Major General Chris Kolade, Director of Defence Information (middle) flanked to the left by Salaudeen Hashim, Program Officer, CISLAC during a meeting to discuss peace and security in the North East in Abuja.

The Department sustained a monthly National Civil Society Consultative Meeting on Peace and Security. The periodic meeting reflected on National Security Strategy (NSS) as a growing and evolving realm of policy and practice that faces several significant challenges in implementation, stemming in part from its origins in the security and defence arena. It also served as a civil society platform to deliberate and critically brainstorm on the implementation of the developed and launched National Security Strategy by the Office of the National Security Adviser (ONSA) to provide enduring
solutions to the country’s security challenges. The National Security Strategy encompasses a broad range of facets, all of which tie into the non-military or economic security of the nation and the value espoused by the national society.

Through a media piece, it shared experience and lesson learnt from the 2015 general elections, advising that both local and international media strictly adhere to professional code of conduct by providing unbiased and balanced reportage of events before, during and after elections. The opinion piece in one hand warned media against falling victim of manipulations by government and politicians, while on the other recognising that during the elections, media has the fundamental duty to educate and enlighten the electorate about electoral process as well as constructively analyse issues affecting economic, unemployment, insecurity, infrastructural decay, and looting of the treasury, primarily for citizen to make the right choice.

In collaboration with National Orientation Agency and the Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution (IPCR), the Department began a tripod arrangement that will systematically
enlighten relevant stakeholders on the essence of proactive Peace Policy in the country. It galvanized public awareness on the National Peace Policy, a Policy document focusing on the most effective process of a nation’s peace building and conflict management, primarily to achieving greater results.

Considering the security challenges currently facing the country, the NPP, which is in consistent with government’s National Security Strategy, Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Cyber Security Strategy, speaks directly to the very essence of the ‘soft’ approach towards countering violent extremism in Nigeria, consistent.

As part of the efforts to revisit and critically review cases of electoral violence in the 2015 general elections and advance possible pre-emptive measures against future recurrence, the Department organized a ‘Review Session for Issues of Electoral Violence in Abuja. The session recalled that though it was generally accepted that the elections were peaceful especially going by the manner in which it was conducted, the magnitude of violence before, during and after the elections should not be ignored. It recommended
that Government re-visit all previous recommendations from various Commissions set up with a bid to implement them while the relevant agencies should forthwith enforce all relevant laws as proactive measures against future electoral violence.

Through the National Civil Society Consultative Forum on Peace and Security, the Department reiterated concern over the alarming rate of ethno-religion crises bedeviling various states in the North Central part of Nigeria since 2001, noting that the apparent fundamental drivers of the violence varied from one state to another, but struggles over access to land, power and resources reportedly constitute the gravity of violence across the states.
In the year under review, as part of the efforts to increase and strengthen membership and intensify awareness among citizens on tax justice, accountability and tax information across South South geo-political zone, the Department under the aegis of Tax Justice Platform in Nigeria organized one day training on capacity for research and advocacy for fair tax.
The training which was held in Port Harcourt, Rivers State aimed at strengthening capacity of CSOs and citizens at the state levels to research and advocate for tax justice issues and essential service delivery at sub-national levels. It was also aimed at building a critical mass of informed citizens who understand the need to comply with tax regulations by paying their tax while at the same time, being sufficiently informed to demand accountability and document information on the lists of statutory taxes and their rates that will be disseminated as tool kit for select groups in the informal sector in pilot states to engage issues of over taxation, multiple taxation and extortion by tax officials or illegal tax collectors.

The Department under the aegis of Tax Justice and Governance Platform (TJGP) – a group of civil society organizations advocating for the promotion of a progressive, fair and transparent system in the management of domestic resources for people-oriented development.

Through regular legislative, policy and media advocacy, the Department raise awareness on the increasing Illicit Financial Flows in developing countries, where estimated corporate tax abuse accounted for 80% of the global illicit financial outflows.

The Department participated at a two day Conference on “Fostering Greater National and Regional Economic Opportunity in Africa through Human Rights and Financial Transparency organized by Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung in Johannesburg, South Africa, where it shared Nigeria’s experience, made critical inputs and proffered holistic measures to curb Illicit Financial Flows in developing countries.
Participants in a group photo at the “Inauguration of the State Chapter of Tax Justice and Governance Platform” in Ekiti state.

Through “Stop the Bleeding campaign”, the Department raised policy and legislative consciousness on the impacts Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) which continued to yield devastating effects on African economic by hampering governments’ development efforts. It joined other civil society groups across the continent in “Stop the Bleeding” protests and discussions around Illicit Financial Flows which subsequently continued to gain momentum in the international policy arena.
Following the proposed fresh tax regime by the Minister of Federal Capital Territory, Sen. Bala Mohammed on hospitality industry operating in the Territory, the Department through Press Conferences, advocacy visits and networking bemoaned the indiscriminate manners by which the government imposed levies/ taxes and on dwindling businesses. It lack of due consultation and agreement with the concerned stakeholders who would be affected by the proposed tax policy. As part of recommendations, the Department called on the Joint Tax Board to step up on their engagement in the harmonisation of taxes applicable to every sector and make necessary adjustments in the tax act to avoid the undue proliferation of taxes and levies both at the national and state levels.
Communications Department

Abubakar Jimoh,
Head of Communications and Information Department

In the year under review, as part of its mandates to promote the organization’s activities in the sphere of legislative and policy advocacy, the Communication and Information Unit engaged regular media motion in the update and dissemination of legislative and policy advocacy related information among relevant stakeholders. This was achieved through healthy interactions by issuing press releases, and sustaining the publication of monthly Newsletters—Legislative Digest and Tobacco Control Update.

Apart from supporting Program staff in coordinating communications and media activities, the Department organized Press Conferences and issuing Press Releases to address topical issues in the legislative and policy realms. It also published and disseminated several publications including reports, training manuals, policy briefs.
Some published newsletters:
DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

Hauwa’u Bint Abdallah
Head of Administrative Department

The Department is the nerve centre around which the functions of the organization revolve. The Department assists the leadership of the organization in coordination, development and management of daily routine towards effective utilization of the organization's resources.

The mandates of the Department include declaration of vacancies with subsequent advertising, processing of applications for employment, issuance of appointment letters, documentation of newly recruited, vetting, staff welfare, and other staff related matters as may be assigned to it from time to time by the Executive Director. It takes care of corporate affairs and general administrative matters of the organization including office management, office accommodation and allocation, security matter, provision or maintenance of furniture and office equipment, protocol affairs, supplies.
The Finance and Account Department during the 2016 financial year engaged series of activities, all geared towards improving the working condition of staff and productivity to achieving the organisation’s mission and goals. These include regular financial support to Program Officers at pre-, during and post implementation phases of programmes and activities, to ensure compliance and strict adherence to the established internal control system.

Similarly, the Department implemented the recommendations of the Management Letter in the 2015 Audit Report. This has helped to further strengthen the internal control for greater improvement in the Unit’s activities, which to a large extent informs true and fair view of the organisation’s Financial Statements as reported below in the 2016 financial year: