CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC)

CISLAC 2017 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
THE BOARD OF TRUSTEE

ADVISORY COUNCIL

THE SECRETARIAT

OFFICE ADDRESS

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

EXTRACTIVE AND ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT

ECOWAS, AU & MIGRATION DEPARTMENT

MDGs, GENDER, REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH AND ANTI-CORRUPTION DEPARTMENT

HUMAN RIGHTS, AGRICULTURE/LIVELIHOOD, MIGRATION AND SECURITY DEPARTMENT

TAX JUSTICE DEPARTMENT

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT

DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATION

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 Onaja

**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**
Message from the Executive Director
In the year under review, CISLAC developed 2017-2022 strategic plan, which emerged from extensive consultations with our civil society partners, especially Transparency International, members of the Zero Corruption Coalition (ZCC).

The new Strategic Plan rests on the philosophy and institutional track of Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) carefully crafted since 2007.

Main development partners such as Department for International Development (DFID), MacArthur Foundation, United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF), Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, USAID (Strengthening Advocacy and Civic Engagement) PACT Nigeria, UNSDG, OXFAM, Save the Children, PLAN International, National Assembly, National Planning Commission, Nigeria Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (NEITI), National Institute for Legislative Studies (NILS) and others also provided their valuable inputs through a round of workshops and bilateral consultations in 2016-2017.

As approved by the Board of CISLAC on 27th of September 2017, the Strategic Plan comes in the context of challenging times for Nigeria. The protracted economic recession caused by low revenues from oil has noked millions of people out of the job market. Contrary to the global trend, Nigeria witnesses the growth of poverty reaching alarming 62% of the population living below poverty line in 2016. The average life expectancy is only 53 years, average years of schooling stand at 9 with the highest rate of children out of school in the world.

The governance domain in Nigeria is characterised by combative political nature along religious and ethnic lines. Grand corruption within the political elite continuous shocking the world and the public sentiment loses the initial enthusiasm, which came with the 2015 presidential elections and promises made to tackle vast plundering of public resources. The challenging security environment may be a symptom on political dysfunctionality and weak economic performance. Nigeria faces a number of instabilities in the North
East with continuous Boko Haram insurgencies, incessant threats in the Niger Delta region and increasing crime rate across the country.

In view of this development, CISLAC outlined its vision as a Nigeria where legislators and policy makers are safeguarding citizens’ rights and welfare while citizens effectively demand accountability. The corresponding mission guiding this document and by extension CISLAC for the next five years is to engage state and non-state actors for improved policy and legislative frameworks, transparency and accountability in governance for people oriented development. The strategic goal for CISLAC in 2017-2022 is to make government accessible, responsive and accountable to citizens.

To achieve this goal, this strategic plan identifies six strategic axes within CISLAC portfolio. Strategic axis 1 focuses on the support to democratic process in Nigeria, mainly through the formulation, implementation and monitoring of key government electoral policies that ensure credible and participatory electoral processes. Strategic axis 2 zooms the fight against corruption and promotion of transparency in public finance management with working packages related to themes within the scope of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

Promotion of Peace, Security and better management of Migration & IDP constitutes the third strategic pillar with ongoing work around the promotion of
transparency and civil oversight in defense procurements, countering violent extremism and protection of civilians as well as the promotion to adherence and implementation of UN and AU treaties on migration and internally displaced persons.

The fourth strategic axis aims at promoting the legal framework for environment and conservation of nature, in particular within the Revised African Union Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources.

The fifth strategic pillar spans over the broad area of promotion of health, human development and social inclusion. This pillar is very essential as it encompasses all the other strategic focuses of CISLAC through the engagement of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Agenda 2030, with clear indicators and targets for measuring of results.
Lastly, Institutional Strengthening of CISLAC comes as an important element to this strategic plan as the institutional and organisational upgrade and maintenance of CISLAC is of paramount importance to the successful implementation of the growing portfolio. The competency in advocacy, evidence-based policy input and continues staff capacity building will be promoted.

The implementation of the portfolio rests on upholding and deepening of fundamental values of the organisation defined as integrity, transparency and accountability, team work, partnerships and value for money. CISLAC’s national partnership landscape spans over the impressive list of governmental and non-governmental partners as well as both chambers of the Parliament and judiciary. Regional and international partnerships are vital in attaining the goal, mission and vision of CISLAC.

CISLAC has acquired a non-binding, consultative status to the UNCAC with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. The 2017 will also mark a finalisation of the accreditation process to become a fully-fledged Transparency International chapter in Nigeria. This strategic plan envisages further deepening of these relationships through a range of measures such as a liaison desk within the Nigerian Permanent Mission to UN in New York, field offices in Nigeria, MoUs with international governance think tanks, etc.
Lastly, the growing portfolio of CISLAC and obligations emerging from international partnerships urge strong internal governing mechanisms. The Board will continue leading and overseeing the strategy and monitoring the strategic plan implementation. Organisations under the CISLAC’s umbrella have formed newly inaugurated Advisory Committee, which provides a participatory platform for affiliated organisations and defines their interaction with CISLAC. The secretariat headed by the Executive Director has a clearly defined role and mandate in the implementation of this 5-year portfolio.

It is worthy of a note that the HOPe Africa Secretariat in Kansas City, Missouri, USA, bestowed on CISLAC, 2016 award of “Traceability Advocacy & Legislative Services”. The award was necessitated by “cumulative exemplary lead and displaying measurable empathy of CISLAC in discharging on-time humanitarian services at all levels of Nigerian communities”.

From L-R: Chairman, Board of Amnesty International (Nigeria), Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani); Director, Amnesty International (Nigeria) Osai Ojigho; and Secretary General, Amnesty International, Salil Shetty, at Amnesty International-International Council Meeting held in Rome Italy.
Also, during the year under review, I was invited by the ECOWAS Commission to address Newly Recruited ECOWAS EWD Staff during an Orientation organised by ECOWAS Commission in Abuja.
Nigeria is a signatory to the Revised African Union Convention on the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources. Unfortunately, Nigeria is yet to ratify this Convention although the country played significant role to its revision from the 1968 version to the 2003 one. Nigeria is also party to and signatory to many environment and climate change agreements. Non-ratification and implementation of these instruments continue to create hazardous incidents in the country. Desertification affects many states in the northern parts of the country. Various forms of soil erosion are prevalent generally in the country. Many parts of the Niger Delta face major environmental pollution. Toxic waste, unregulated mining and industrial waste are a common feature of our environment. The unbridled importation of used and overused items such as batteries, computers and tyres constitute serious environmental concerns, which should be properly managed.

The Department works to promote the adherence and implementation of treaties on environmental conservation, implementation of environmental clean-up and food security in Nigeria.

In the year under review, the Department with support from CORDAID held a one day Town Hall meeting on Environmental, Economic and Social and Human Rights Impacts in the Niger Delta. The event was attended by participants from the traditional leaders in Ogoni, Bodo, Ahoada, Abonnema, Bori and Gokana as well as other strategic Communities, Host Communities Association. Illegal oil refining in the region comes with steep economic, environmental and social costs that are not felt by those making short term gains. Oil theft also complicates existing environmental damage from pipelines that are up to 50 years old. In some cases artisanal refining has become an excuse for inaction by oil companies over oil spill clean ups. Participants committed to strengthen advocacy for economic and political drivers of
crude oil theft and illegal refining to put a stop to the activities to increase stability of Nigeria’s oil sector that is currently at risk.

Participants in a group photo at Two-day Training on Investigative Journalism in the Extractive Sector organised by CISLAC with support from USAID under the aegis of Strengthening Advocacy and Civic Engagement (SACE) in Abuja.

The Department participated actively at inaugural meeting of the Nigerian Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI) Civil Society Steering Committee held in Kano state. As part of its contributions to the process, the Department observed that the role of civil society as paramount in active public debate on various disclosures and issues by the NEITI to promote transparency, accountability and good governance in the extractive sector.
Giving the instances of the Remediation sub-committee of the CSSC which provides concrete recommendations to the government for reform of the extractive sector as a direct result of NEITI’s Reports, the Department also did not conceal the fact that civil society has promoted and engaged in discussions around the revised Petroleum Industry and Governance Bill (PIGB) in July 2016.

The Department during the year under review issued a press statement to decry the slow pace of implementation of the Federal Government’s Short and Medium Term Priorities to grow Nigeria’s Oil & Gas Industry 2015–2019, fancifully labelled the “7 Big Wins”. The statement recalled that in October 2016, the document which was highly commended, “but with caution” was released by the Ministry of Petroleum Resources and launched by the President with much fanfare and media hype. The Department called on the Executive arm through the Ministry of Petroleum Resources to expedite the process of implementing the “7 Big Wins” so that results can be achieved within the prescribed timelines, warning that reform proposal must not be allowed to end
up as another beautiful document not worth more than its flamboyant and colourful packaging.

In a subsequent press statement, the Department commended the giant legislative stride by Upper Chamber of the National Assembly that resulted in recent passage of the long awaited Petroleum Industry and Governance Bill (PIGB), after over twelve years in different legislative sessions of the Assembly. The statement said passage of the PIGB formed a major campaign promise of the present administration to be delivered; the commitment which was reiterated in the Federal Government’s Short and Medium Term Priorities to grow Nigeria’s Oil & Gas Industry 2015–2019, fancifully labelled the “7 Big Wins” with a time lapse at the first quarter of 2017. It also called on the House of Representatives to as a matter of urgency, consider the Bill or adopt the Senate version to conclude the legislative process for onwards assent by the President.

CISLAC in collaboration with Centre for Public Policy Alternatives (CPPA), Centre for Study of the Economies of Africa (CSEA), Centre for Social Justice (CSJ) and Social Action (SA) published the 2017 Benchmarking Exercise Report’ of the Nigeria Natural Resource Charter. The 233 pages study identified poor management of expectation by the government coupled with weak oversight capacity of the Legislative Committees and other agencies as contributory setbacks to the management of natural resources wealth for the benefit of current and future generations. The Report, through 12 broad principles evaluates the existing effort and capacity by the government in the management of natural resources wealth for the benefit of current and future generations; and bemoans the unfavourable oil and gas fiscal regimes to Nigeria regardless of complexity of the agencies administering taxes in the sector.

The Department in a press release called on the Federal Government to act decisively in addressing the rift between the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources and the Group Managing Director (GMD) of the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC). The release came in response to the
allegations leveled against the GMD that he circumvented the procurement process in the award of series of contracts involving a humongous sum of up to $25 billion or N9 trillion (at prevailing exchange rate of N360 to a dollar). The Department through the statement expressed worries that such abuse of due process could have gone on without restraint under an administration that promised change and a different way of conducting government business.

It called on the President, who doubles as the substantive minister for petroleum, to act decisively and resolve this rift; and relevant Committees of the NASS to be more proactive in the exercise of her oversight responsibility over the processes and agencies in the Ministry of Petroleum Resources, so as to prevent the recurrences of such abuses.

The Department with support from Facility for Oil Sector Transparency and Reform (FOSTER) organised a “One-day CSO/Legislative Stakeholders’ Round Table Meeting on the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB)” in Abuja. The meeting aimed at providing an opportunity to interact with stakeholders in the petroleum sector to forge collaboration towards the passage of the Bill.
The Department organised a National Summit on the “Niger Delta Clean-up” Abuja. The Summit called on the Federal Government to as a matter of urgency end environmental degradation and fast-track total clean-up of polluted communities in the oil-rich Niger Delta region. It said the effects and impact of environmental degradation constituted nothing but evident violation of human rights and major impediment to the development of the region. The Summit further bemoaned deliberate institutional bureaucracy slowing down the implementation of Ogoni clean-up project launched by the Federal Government since 2015; and called for inclusive process and participation of the concerned communities in the clean-up exercise.
Since the return to democratic rule in 1999, Nigeria has been working towards improving its electoral and democratic systems to be in synchronisation with other well-established democratic cultures. Within the next five (5) years, it is expected that the country will work around issues of constitutional amendment, electoral Act amendment and other laws that govern elections. Elections will be held at tiers of government with particular references to Anambra gubernatorial election in 2017, Ekiti and Osun in 2018, general elections in 2019 and Edo and Ondo elections in 2020, and again Anambra 2021, Ekiti and Osun in 2022. All these electoral and constitutional amendment processes fall within the scope and time frame of this Strategic Plan. In these processes, there will be room for intervention both at the legislative and policy levels.

The Department works to contribute towards the formulation, implementation and monitoring of key government electoral policies that ensure credible and participatory electoral processes through improved legislative oversight.
Participants in a group photo at second meeting of the Media and Civil Society on Internal Displacement in Nigeria, organised by CISLAC with support from the Embassy of Switzerland in Nigeria, and in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Abuja.

The Department with support from African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) held a Sensitisation Campaign meeting on the implementation of National Tobacco Control Act 2015 in Calabar, Cross River state. The sensitization meeting on the Tobacco Control Legislation across the South-South region was paramount to equip Civil Society in the zone with important provisions of the Law in order to effectively take a stake in implementation of the Act.
Given the recurring threats by British American Tobacco (BAT) and other multinational tobacco firms in some African countries with wild demand that they repeal or dilute existing protections against the rising dreaded health and socio-economic impacts of tobacco use, the Department issued a press release to expose the unhealthy moves across Uganda, Namibia, Togo, Gabon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Kenya and Burkina Faso.
Participants in a group photo at stakeholders’ meeting organised by CISLAC in partnership with African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) to support effective implementation of the National Tobacco Control Act in Nigeria.

It urged African governments to desist from succumbing to the emptied legal and economic threats by the group and uphold passage and implementation of regulations in accordance to the pro-poor provisions of the WHO FCTC, giving serious concern to the increasingly socio-economic burden of tobacco use on families, the poor, and health systems.

The Department also demanded for intensified and continuous awareness among policy sponsors and policy champions of tobacco control on the continent including inter-ministerial committee; and sustained advocacy by the Tobacco Control Coalitions in Africa to fast-track the passage/implementation of comprehensive Tobacco Control Bill/Act o in accordance with Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC).

In another press statement, the Department described as baseless the “global antics” employed by the Tobacco Industry to frustrate the implementation of Tobacco Control Act 2015, giving the reported media propaganda on alleged ban on some Nigerian songs that promote war against tobacco use. It commended the Federal Ministry of Health (FMoH) for its proactive measures in raising media and public consciousness on the harmful effects of tobacco consumption and the provisions of the Act, calling on all related implementing Agencies on strict adherence and compliance to provisions of Act.
Effort to devise implementation strategy and adopt holistic fiscal measures to discourage consumption of tobacco and its associated risks in accordance with provisions of the National Tobacco Control Act, 2015 brought to limelight a two-day workshop of Technical Working Group on Tobacco Taxation in Nigeria. The workshop organised by the Federal Ministry of Health in collaboration with CISLAC with support from African Capacity Building Foundation (ACBF) in Keffi, Nassarawa state, specifically aimed at enlightening relevant health institutions on financial benefits of increased tobacco tax, advocate for and recommend new tobacco tax regime to Government, canvass for the removal of tobacco industries from enjoying any government incentive, while highlighting the roles of Ministries, Departments and Agencies as critical stakeholders in the successful implementation of the National Tobacco Control Act.

The Department issued a press statement to welcome the passage of much-anticipated bill “Not Too Young To Run bill” by the Upper Chamber of the National Assembly. The passage which altered Section 65, 106, 131, 177 of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (as amended) to reduce the age qualification for the office of the President from 40 years to 30 years; Governor 35 to 30, Senate 35 to 30, House of Representatives 30 to 25 and State House of Assembly 30 to 25, also mainstreamed independent candidacy into Nigeria’s electoral process. It called on the President to in the spirit of the jubilations and commendations accord the bill with immediate assent, we as well encourage State Houses of Assembly and the governors to ensure timely domestication and implementation of the Bill in fulfilment of their political pledges towards progressive Nigerian youth.

In commemoration of the 2017 World Refugee Day, which coincided with the precarious activities of human traffickers that left thousands of Nigerian youths stranded across the globe including the wart-torn countries with slim chance of survival or safe return to the country, the Department organised a press conference expressing concerns over poor policy response to the persistent maiming and deaths of Nigerian youths exacerbated by human trafficking activities.
It condemned the political laxity in convening investigation and devising appropriate mechanisms to curb incessant horrific challenges associating human trafficking with resultant death of 26 teenage Nigerian migrant girls in the Mediterranean and their hurried burial by Italian authority.

The Department raised alarm that teeming Nigerian youths have become victims of pernicious promises and irrational enticements preached human trafficking demagogues within and outside the country, while demanding immediate but appreciable measures by relevant authorities to address persistent corrupt practices across the nation’s porous borders which have been giving chances to human trafficking activities; and effective implementation of national regulatory framework like National Policy on Migration to ensure appropriate coordination of migration activities by National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) to monitor and protect human, economic, labour and civil rights of Nigerians across the globe.

CISLAC in collaboration with House of Representatives Committee on Civil Society and Development Partners organised a One-day Interactive Technical
Roundtable between National Assembly and Civil Society Organisation on the “Bill to provide for the establishment of the non-governmental organizations commission for the coordination, supervision and harmonization of the activities of NGOs and CSOs in Nigeria” in Abuja. The event was attended by over 200 delegates from the Executive, Legislative, Judiciary and a cross-section of NGOs from all parts of the country. The meeting was convened with the main objective of bringing legislators, civil society organisations and other stakeholders together to harness broad based inputs into the draft NGO Bill.

With support from MacArthur Foundation under the aegis of a project titled “Strengthening Legislative Accountability and Anti-Corruption Mechanisms (SLAAM), the Department organised series of workshops for relevant legislative Committees in the National and State Houses of Assembly throughout the country on ‘Oversight, Ethic and Accountability’. The workshop aimed at promoting synergy and strengthen oversight functions amongst relevant Committees of the National Assembly.
The 2017 World Health Statistics on Nigeria is alarming. The maternal mortality ratio is on the increase regardless of all the efforts from the government to improve the health indices. Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) is 814/100,000 LB, under 5 mortality ratio is 108.8/1000 LB, and number of births attended by skilled birth attendants is only 35%, while neonatal mortality rate is 34.3/1000 LB (WHO). This woeful health index reflects the effort of both government towards improving health care in the country.

Though the past and current administrations have proved to exude some level of political will in terms of providing adequate health care for citizens, showcased by the passing into law the National Health Act in 2014, which had previously eroded previous administrations, the indices remain very poor. To further buttress the willingness of the government to implement the provisions of the Health Act, at sub-national level, states have begun to establish State Primary Health Care Development Centres, which is a primary requirement for the access of the 1% provision in the Health Act of the country’s consolidated revenue to the health sector.

On a more positive note, there has been a lot of improvement in the area of inclusiveness in the legislative processes as it relates to health. For the first time in many years, the legislature is involving the citizens and private sector in the area of Public Hearing on the 2017 Appropriations and National Health Insurance Scheme, all in a bid to find a way around providing adequate health care for the citizens. Furthermore, more health related bills have also been passed into law at state level.
The MDGs 3 also presented opportunity up until September 2015 for Nigeria to further reduce gender inequality but the story did not really change. The Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill that has been at the National Assembly for years has been thrown out the second time under the present administration by the Senate. However, the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Bill received assent though the implementation has been a challenge.

The Department works at promoting the adoption and implementation of health related legal frameworks and policies as well as Gender and social inclusion at the national and state levels.
In the year under review, the Department provided technical support to the Coalition of Kano State Civil Society to enhance its participation in the Public Hearing process organized by the State House of Assembly. CISLAC through a memo submitted to the legislature advocated for increased priority for adequate budgetary allocation to maternal and child health services to mitigate the avertable maternal, new-born and child mortality in the state.

The Department organized a One-day Legislative and Executive Dialogue on Action for Effective Implementation of Policies on Maternal Health. The Dialogue which aimed at bringing Kaduna State’s legislators, executive and civil society arms under one roof to brainstorm on necessary action for effective implementation and oversight of the existing policies and law on maternal and child health, drew over 20 participants representing the state’s Ministries of Health, Education and Women Affairs, Civil Society Organizations, and the Media. The Dialogue came up with proactive and holistic observations and recommendations with key action points.
As part of the efforts to raise policy consciousness on planning, policy formulation and domestication of National Health Act to provide for effective maternal and child health services, as observed and recommended by stakeholders at One-day Legislative and Executive Dialogue on Action for Effective Implementation of Policies on Maternal Health held in the State on Thursday 27th October, 2016, the Department found it essential to pay an advocacy visit to Jigawa State Ministry of Health as a major stakeholder in the provision of adequate, affordable and accessible maternal and child health services in the state.
It organised a One-day Executive and Media Roundtable on Maternal Health in Kano, Kaduna, Katsina and Jigawa states. The Roundtable aimed at bringing the states’ executives, civil society and the media under one roof to brainstorm on necessary action for timely release and effective implementation of maternal and child health budget in the states for efficient intervention and maximum impacts on the citizens. The meetings drew participants representing Ministries of Health, Planning and Budget, Women Affairs, Civil Society Organizations, and the Media.

The Federal Ministry of Budget and National Planning in partnership with CISLAC and United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) organized a two-day Budget Tracking Workshop for 12 northern states’ Policy Makers and Civil Society. The Workshop held in Kano state aimed at bringing the States Ministries of Health, Agriculture, Budget and Planning, Water Resources, Education, Women Affairs and Social Development and Primary Health Development Agencies with specific nutrition budget under one roof to: collate focused states nutrition budget data (2010-2016 financial year), share and agree on budget tracking methodology and tools to track and analyse nutrition budget allocation, releases and expenditure in state government ministries, departments and agencies and other stakeholders to inform policy and advocacy towards increasing funding to scale up nutrition interventions in the

The Department with support from MacArthur Foundation organized a One-day Legislative and Media Dialogue on Maternal Health in Kano, Kaduna, Katsina and Jigawa states. The Dialogue aimed at bringing the states’ legislature and the media under one roof to brainstorm on necessary legislative action to address current maternal health funding challenges in the state for effective, efficient and affordable maternal and child healthcare delivery in the state. The meeting drew participants representing State House of Assembly and the Media.
Participants in a group photo at “One-day Executive, Legislative, CSOs and Media Dialogue on Maternal Health” organised by CISLAC in Katsina state.

It also organised One-day Executive, Legislative, CSOs and Media Dialogue on Maternal Health Accountability in Kano, Kaduna, Katsina and Jigawa states. The meeting which brought under one roof, Kano state’s executive, legislature, CSOs and the media under one roof provided enabling platform to brainstorm on challenges militating against adequate maternal health budgetary allocation and effective oversight function and proffer holistic way forward ahead of 2019 fiscal year, giving cognisance to essential roles of the relevant stakeholders.
The House of Representatives Committees on Appropriation in conjunction with CISLAC organised a one-day retreat on “UNDERSTANDING NIGERIA’S LOWER MIDDLE INCOME STATUS AND UNLOCKING POTENTIAL FOR LOCAL RESOURCE MOBILISATION FOR SOCIAL SECTOR FINANCING” for National Assembly Members. The retreat held in Abuja aimed at providing an enabling platform for the Members to interact in proffering holistic solutions to the current trend and challenges confronting adequate and sustainable social sector financing coupled with the need to harness and strengthen domestic resources for social sector financing in the face of dwindling donors’ funding. The retreat drew about 60 participants from House of Representatives, Ministry of Budget and National Planning, civil society, and development partners. It featured presentations from experts and representative of Minister of Budget and National Planning.
Participants in a group photo at One-day Retreat for National Assembly Members on “Understanding Nigeria’s lower Middle Income Status and Unlocking Potential for Local Resource Mobilisation for Social Sector Financing” organised by House of Representatives Committees on Appropriation in partnership with CISLAC in Abuja.

The Department with support from MacArthur Foundation organised a “One-day Media Training on Budget Tracking and Investigative Journalism” in Kano, Kaduna, Katsina and Jigawa states. The training which drew over 20 participants from various media outfits in the state aimed at enhancing the capacity of selected journalist on investigative journalism and effective monitoring and reporting of maternal health budget in the states.

The trained journalists committed to engage persistent research for accurate and verifiable data collection to support fact-findings and constructive reportage on maternal and child health through prioritized use of Freedom of Information Act to de-normalise reportage into maternal and child health issues in the state; and pledged to imbibe and deploy high level professionalism, technical skills, knowledge and resources in investigative journalism into issues affecting adequate, accessible and affordable maternal and child health in the state.

Effort to complement current effort by Nigerian government in advancing the fight against corruption led to development and launching of a ‘Shadow Report’ by CISLAC at the UN General Assembly 72 Session Side Event in New York.
Apart from the launched Report, the event also availed CISLAC the opportunity to deepen advocacy and launch her ‘Global Office’ in the New York.

As emphasised in the opening address of the Executive Director, CISLAC, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani), the shadow report focuses mainly on the anti-corruption agenda, in particular on SDG 16, which specifically addresses illicit financial and arms flows, bribery and other forms of corruption, and access to information.

According to him, CISLAC’s commitments to advance human rights and good governance in partnership with development partners and diplomatic missions beyond African continent, CISLAC has resolved to establish an office in New York.
The Side Event was coordinated through the Global Office. The new Office will leverage local and international resources to galvanise operational and technical support to our partners in key areas while contributing to strengthening the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership in achieving the SDGs’ agenda and beyond.

Asst. Program Officer, CISLAC, Murtala Muhammed (2nd from right) during an advocacy visit to Jigawa State Honourable Commissioner for Health, Dr. Abba Umar Zakari (middle).

The Department with support from UNICEF paid advocacy visits to Commissioners for Health in Adamawa, Jigawa, Kano, Kebbi, Sokoto, Borno, Katsina, Gombe, Zamfara, Bauchi, Yobe and Borno states to galvanise policy support for timely release of nutrition budgetary allocation. The visits elicited appreciable commitments from the Commissioners.
The Department works to bridge the gap in the fight against corruption by promoting Transparency and Accountability in public resource management, contract transparency and equitable taxation through setting up anti-corruption CSO platforms in Nigeria, while ensuring appropriate justice for criminal activities.

Fight against corruption and promotion of transparency in public finance management – To bridge the gap in the fight against corruption by promoting Transparency and Accountability in public resource management, contract transparency and equitable taxation through setting up anti-corruption CSO platforms in Nigeria.

By virtue of article 5 of UNCAC, State Parties are required to develop and implement or maintain effective anti-corruption policies that encourage the participation of society, reflect the rule of law and promote sound and transparent administration of public affairs. Many of the administrative reform efforts of the Nigerian Government have now been backed by statute. Thus, there are now a number of provisions within the context of Nigerian law, which compliment Article 5 of the UNCAC. Section 39 of the 1999 Constitution provides for Freedom of Speech, S 19 of the PPA 2007, makes it mandatory that at least one representative of an NGO and a professional body observe the procurement process, and provides substantial CSO membership of the highest Policy making organ in the procurement Framework (The Council).

Section 16(14), 23, 24, 25, and 38 of the PPA provide for reasonable access to information by citizens, they require simultaneous and equal distribution of information relating to procurement opportunities, and access to records of procurement proceedings after a winning bidder is selected or a procurement activity is terminated without a contract, however the reference to unclassified
procurement records in S 16(14) without a definition of what is unclassified may limit the scope of application of this law.

The FRA provides for increased citizens consultation and participation in the Fiscal Planning and budget process in Nigeria, and imposes public consultation and reporting obligations on the Ministry of Finance, that improve access to public finance information and participation of citizens in decision making. The FRA has provided statutory backing for the administrative reform of fiscal planning in Nigeria which introduced the MTEF, in the same breath the PPA provides statutory backing for the Due Process Administrative Reforms.

These improvements however have largely occurred only at the federal level of government in Nigeria. Part of the underlying reasons behind the gap between the anti-corruption efforts in the country is the delay in approving the National Strategy to Combat Corruption that was approved recently after a lot of efforts by various stakeholders as well as provisions and the domestic regime has to do with the low levels of compliance to this particular obligation in the thirty-six federating states.

In view of Nigeria's lopsided Federal structure, the continued existence of the Official Secrets Act imposing an obligation on public servants to keep public information secret and similar provisions of the civil service rules does not support an environment for civil society and media to hold government accountable.

In the year under review, the Department in a public statement expressed concern at the circumstances surrounding the non-conformation by the Nigerian Senate of Ibrahim Magu as the Chairman of Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC), upon his appointment by the President, while calling on the Presidency to publicly state its position on the unfolding issues so that Nigerians could have a clear picture and draw their own conclusions as public support is crucial to a successful fight against corruption.

The Department conducted an exhaustive independent review of the SDG 16. The report focuses on the SDG 16 as sustainable and inclusive governance is widely recognized as one of the greatest weaknesses in Nigeria since its independence. The independent review shows that the progress under the SDG 16 has been achieved largely at the legislative level. Recently enacted legal provisions pave avenue to curbing illicit financial flows, recovering of stolen assets, disclosing beneficial ownership, trafficking of arms, etc.
The Department in the statement commended the role of citizens towards whistleblowing even in the absence of a Whistle Blowers Act to protect citizens; encouraged Nigerians not to continue to agonise about corruption but to take bold steps in exposing corrupt individuals and practices in our various places of work and communities for the benefit of all citizens; and called on the National Assembly to quickly pass the Whistle Blowers Act to enhance the fight against corruption.
In a press release, CISLAC condemned attack on Amnesty International, Abuja over its 2016 World Human Right Report accusing Nigerian military of extrajudicial killings and torture of 240 people in the country’s north-east and 177 pro-Biafran agitators. It described as undemocratic, the action against a credible global movement as disheartening, horrific, and dictatorial, which may backpedal the long-wrestled democracy and human rights in Nigeria, considering civil society trail-blazing involvement in the regional right to freedom of expression, adding that Amnesty International is a credible global movement that campaigns for human rights.

Giving the Department’s growing anti-corruption campaign, the Executive Director of CISLAC, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) was invited to address stakeholders at the 1st National Policy Dialogue on Strategies for Improving Service Delivery in Government Parastatals, Agencies and Commissions organised by Office of the Secretary General for the Federation on 27th March 2017.

The Department produced and launched 19 pages Report titled “Weaponising Transparency: Defence Procurement Reform as a Counterterrorism Strategy in Nigeria”. The report observes that Defence sector corruption remains a major threat to Nigeria’s internal security and political
stability, weakening Nigerian counterterrorism capacity whilst strengthening insurgency.

Similarly, the report bemoans a number of scandals recorded around the ‘security votes’, which allow politicians to appropriate millions of dollars behind closed doors simply by evoking ‘national security’.

Also, the Executive Director of CISLAC, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) was invited to serve as a panelist convened to discuss issues involving “Law Enforcement and money laundering in Nigeria”, at the Opening Ceremony of a Training on the use of INTERPOL Policing Capabilities in Cocaine Trafficking Investigations, organised by INTERPOL General Secretariat Headquarters, Lyon France in Abuja from 3rd to 12th may 2017. This provided CISLAC as the National Contact of Transparency International (TI) with an opportunity to further showcase its effort being at the forefront in demanding full operationalization and effective implementation of existing legislation and introduction of enabling ones to stem the growing corruption menace in the country.
Gloria Chinyere Okwu, Lukman Adefolahan and Halima Nuhu (4th, 5th & 7th from left) of CISLAC flanked by the operatives of the Special Control Unit against Anti-Money Laundering (SCUML) during an advocacy visit to the latter in Abuja to discuss possible areas of collaboration on CISLAC’s anti-money laundering project titled “Tackling Money Laundering through Multi-Stakeholder Approaches in ECOWAS Countries”.

The Department in a press statement, commended the judiciary for decisive judgement against the ex-governor of Plateau State, Senator Joshua Dariye, who was handed down a 14-year sentence on Tuesday June 12, for misappropriation of funds during his tenure as governor after a trial which lasted 11 years. The statement finds the judgements paramount to boost the morale of anti-corruption agencies and anti-corruption activists and also restore citizens’ confidence in the judiciary, and to serve as deterrent to other public office holders who have plans to dip their hands into public treasury.

While calling on the relevant anti-corruption agencies to carry out their primary functions without fear or favour in the fight against corruption, the Department also called on the National Assembly to support the government by ensuring the passage of all pending Anti-Corruption Bills.

Following unwarranted but suppressed attack by an unknown armed group on the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC)’s facilities on the 16th of August, 2017, with subsequent death threat against the Commission’s operatives, the Department in a statement noted with grave concern and utmost dismay the emerging trend where officials of the Commission were singled out as targets by armed individuals and/or groups in the course of their
duty and service to the nation, signalling the obstinate nature of the deep-
seated menace of corruption fighting back.

Through the statement, it demanded proactive legislative process to hasten 
the passage of Whistleblower Protection Bill to discourage potential 
victimisation against whistle-blowers; continuous legislative oversight activities 
to interrogate corruption without fear or favour; and vibrant judicial system for 
judicious prosecution of corruption and appropriate interpretation of anti-graft 
legislation.

The Department with support from Transparency International Secretariat, berlin and Glabal Affairs Canada, established Advocacy and Legal Advice Center (ALAC) which seeks to empower and encourage citizens to participate 
in governance and the fight against corruption in Nigeria by providing citizens 
with legal advice and forwarding the reports to relevant authorizes while 
following up to ensure the victims receive redress.

The Centre works to raise awareness of the existing forms of corruption; informs 
and educate citizens on their rights; receives and handles citizen’s reports 
about corruption through a toll-free hotline and social media platforms; 
collaborates with MDAs of government as well as private organizations.

The Centre organised a one-day training on “Corruption Risk Assessment (CRA) 
and Compliance” for civil society organizations through the six geo-political 
zones in the country. The training was organized as part of an on-going project 
titled “Integrity, Mobilization, Participation, Accountability, Anticorruption and 
Transparency in Nigeria (IMPACT Nigeria)” supported by Transparency 
International Secretariat, berlin and Glabal Affairs, Canada.
Participants in a group photo at a Training on Corruption Risk Assessment and Compliance for Partner organisations, organised by CISLAC-ALAC in Lagos state

Also, the Centre conducted sensitization trainings for women groups and citizens in the six geo-political zones including the FCT- Abuja on their rights in exposing and combating corruption in all ramifications.

As part of the effort to promote participatory, transparent and accountable governance in the country, the Department trained staff and other Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on anti-corruption through a ‘One-Day Capacity Building Workshop on Anti-Corruption Programming' held recently in Abuja. The workshop which was organised under the framework of a project titled “Tackling Inequalities in Nigeria through Transparent, Accountable and Participatory Governance” in collaboration with TI- S in Berlin, supported by Ford Foundation. It had in attendance participants from various organisations including Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices and Other related Offences Commission (ICPC), Ministry of Justice, Publish What You Pay, 21st Century, media outfits, among others.
In order to deepen awareness and understanding of state and non-state actors on outstanding shortcomings of Nigerian beneficial ownership transparency laws and practice, the Department in collaboration with Transparency International engaged a critical study into country’s commitment towards beneficial ownership information and regulation. The 51 pages published report titled "Nigeria country Report: An Assessment of Nigeria’s Beneficial Ownership Transparency Legal Framework" provides a detailed account of various limitations in the definition of beneficial ownership attributed to Nigerian anti-money laundering and Company Law that respectively define beneficial ownership, but not covering control through other means in addition to legal ownership and issue affecting beneficial ownership of private companies.
The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) has hitherto been involved in series of interventions on Beneficial Ownership disclosure with specific focus on the extractive sector as a means to promoting Transparency and Accountability, curbing Illicit Financial Flows and promotion of tax transparency. At a Global Forum for Asset Recovery (GFAR) held recently in Washington, USA, the Executive Director of CISLAC made some disclosures on Nigeria’s progress in Beneficial Ownership transparency.

There are indications that beneficial owners hide behind legal person members of a company in the award of contracts without being identified in Nigeria.

This disclosure was made by the Executive Director, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani) at Global Forum for Asset Recovery (GFAR) held in Washington, USA.

The Executive Director, who was also a Nigerian delegate at the Forum, bemoaned absence of legal requirement for Nigerian companies to maintain a register of Beneficial Ownership.
He said: “In Nigeria, beneficial owners can hide behind legal person members of a company without being identified. No legal requirements for Nigerian companies to maintain a register of Beneficial Ownership.

PEACE, SECURITY AND MIGRATION/IDP DEPARTMENT

Salaudeen Hashim
Senior Program Officer,
Peace, Security and Migration/IDP Department

In the period in which the previous Strategic Plan covered (2002-2017), issues that relate to peace and security became very dominant forming a major area of urgent intervention of both local and international development partners alike. However, CISLAC has, since inception, ensured that necessary policy and legislative frameworks are in place and also duly implemented to ensure adequate protection of lives and properties of individuals living within the country, develop required interventions for issues that speak to building national capacity to address irregular migration seeing migration as a needed
tool for national development and also engaging causative factors of violence.

Nigeria has adopted a National Migration Policy, and has also signed the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance for Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in Africa. These two frameworks form the core of CILSAC’s engagement in the area of migration. The Strategic Plan expects to further advance the work of CILSAC in the area of Peace and Conflict, ensuring active and a more robust engagement in the area of its migration portfolio.

The Department aims at promoting transparency in defense procurement, audit and oversight, countering violence extremism and protection of civilians as well as promote adherence and implementation of UN and AU treaties on Migration and IDPs.

The Department published series of articles to raise public awareness on the complexity of global security threats and the intensity of intra-state conflicts in the West African region, stating that it has become imperative for the regional governments to devise holistic approach to security management.
Also, issues affecting transparency and accountability in the utilization of Security vote was given maximum priority. The Department organized focal group dialogues comprising non-state actors to discuss way forward on “poor funding” and “inadequate training facilities” as major factors impeding effective performance by Nigeria Armed Forces in combating the growing insecurity in the country. The dialogues were organised by CISLAC in collaboration with Transparency International-UK (DSP) with the support from CSSF of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

Ahead of 2019 general elections, the Department raise alarm over the illegal arms influx into Nigeria remains a major concern with alarming headlines by the media showing trends of blames from the DSS that bad elements in the security agencies sold arms to bandits.
In the year under review, the Department joined a group of civil society experts in identifying 14 holistic steps for African Leaders to curtail the endemic Illicit Financial Flow (IFF) that results in monumental financial losses on the continent. The group through a statement issued as national leaders converged at the African Union Summit in Addis Ababa to discuss issues of critical importance affecting the growth and development of the continent.

The Department raise public and policy awareness on the needless tax holidays for investors in the power sector. As a member of Tax Justice and Governance Platform, Nigeria, CISLAC through the Department expressed very deep concern over news reports stating that the Federal Government is considering granting further tax holiday to investors in the power sector to enable it garner investment in the sector. It added that the country has lost the revenue that would have accrued from taxes in that sector because of the tax holiday (pioneer status) granted to these investors from inception till date. The Department called on the Federal Government to declare a state of emergency in the power sector, prioritize investment; and halt further incentive, tax holidays or waivers to the operators of the power sector.

The Department in collaboration with the Tax Justice Network-Africa, TJN-A and with support from the Open Society Foundation, OSF held a one-day Stakeholder Interface session on the New national Tax Policy in Nigeria. The session, which was held in Port Harcourt, Rivers State on July 11, 2017 was, attended by over 40 participants from six states in the south-south geo-political zone of Nigeria. These included representatives tax authorities, legislature, privates sector, professional bodies, civil society organizations and the media. The Session aimed at assessing the new Tax Policy against the yardsticks of
fairness, equity, progressivity and effect on investments, inequality, transparency and accountability.

The Department presented “Nigerian Multi-stakeholders’ Perspective on Open Contracting” at the recently concluded Pan African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows (IFF) in Nairobi, Kenya, where it emphasized the importance of domestic resources mobilisation through concerted effort to address IFF, corruption, tax evasion and avoidance, to effectively finance the implementation of SDGs at country level. It also revealed that apart from mitigating fraud and corruption in public contracts, open contracting was observed as paramount to improve efficiency and harness funding for effective implementation of SDGs.

Participants in a group photo at a One-day CSOs Workshop on “Supporting Beneficial Ownership Transparency Champions” in Nigeria, organised by CISLAC in Abuja.
The Department in a Press Conference cautioned the Federal Government against institutionalizing a policy of granting long-term tax incentives to corporate businesses to achieve project implementation. It said the position was necessitated by tendency of the proposed decision by the Federal Government to create a distorted fiscal picture essential for sustainable revenue and expenditure planning.

The Department in collaboration with the Tax Justice Network-Africa, (TJN-A) and with support from the Open Society Foundation (OSF) held a two-day Stakeholder Interface session on the New National Tax Policy in Nigeria. The session, which was held in Kano state on 30 – 31st October, 2017 was attended by 38 participants drawn from seven states of the North-West geo-political zone of Nigeria. These included representatives of tax authorities, private sector, professional bodies, civil society organizations, Organised Labour and the Media. The session aimed at popularising the content National Tax Policy (NTP), assess the new Tax Policy against the yardsticks of fairness, equity, progress and effect on investments, inequality, transparency and accountability. The session was participatory with presentations on the tax situation in Nigeria and an overview of the National Tax Policy recently approved by the Federal Executive Council.
Communications Department

Abubakar Jimoh,  
Head of Communications Department

In the year under review, apart from regular support to the programmatic issues and other topical issues as identified by the Executive Director, the Department raised legislative consciousness on pending and important issues that would shape the nation’s socio-economic development such as Petroleum Industry and Governance Bill, openness and transparency in the 2017 Appropriation Bill, Constitutional and Electoral Reforms, constituency accountability, sustainable security, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), and Open Government Partnership. This was done through a published feature story following the resumption of legislative activities for the New Year.

It is no more news that the Nigeria’s budgetary process has hitherto been faced with inherent systemic secrecy, resulting in inadequate allocation to the social sector of the economy and grossly neglect of citizens’ democratic expectations.

Appreciating the fact that effective participation and contribution of citizens in the budgetary process remain paramount to achieving proper monitoring, transparency and accountability in the appropriation, release and utilisation of funds, the National Assembly in collaboration with Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), UK Department for International Development (UKAID) and Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC) recently organised a first ever 3-day Public Hearing on 2017 Appropriation Bill.
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 organisation’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 2017 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 2017 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 2018 financial year: