COMMUNIQUE

Communiqué issued at the End of a 2-Day Summit on Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria organized by the Civil Society Legislative Centre (CISLAC) in collaboration with the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) with Support from the Ford Foundation.

Date: August 19-20, 2015.

Venue: National Centre for Women Development, Abuja

Preamble

The Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre with the support from Ford Foundation collaborated with the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) in organizing a Two-Day event to commemorate the 2015 World Humanitarian Day alongside a Summit on Internally Displaced Persons in Nigeria. 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 had the representatives of Federal Ministries, Departments and Agencies of Government, State Emergency Management Agencies (SEMAS), Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), International and local Humanitarian and Development Partners, members of the Diplomatic Corp, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the Media.

Nigeria currently hosts around 1.5 million Internally Displaced Persons, hence, 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.

At the end of the 2-Day event which saw active deliberations and contributions of participants, observations and recommendations were made as follows:

Observations

1. That while environmentally induced causes are also responsible for displacing people, the issue of insecurity continues to be the highest contributor to the number of Internally Displaced Persons in the country owing to activities of insurgents especially in the Northern Part of the country.
2. That the rather spontaneous and ad-hoc approach currently being experienced in addressing the issue of displacement has been less effective in nipping the crisis.
3. Responding to the crisis of displacement and finding durable solutions is a huge concern that requires an all-inclusive, comprehensive and apt coordination systems which appears inadequate or completely lacking at the moment particularly by key government interlocutors.

4. That mandates of agencies and institutions vested with providing intervention, relief and durable solutions in this area is crosscutting, hence the need for identification of all aspects of the issues, appreciation of the exact situation and fostering of harmonious working relations.

5. That the Technical Working Group (TWG) on the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) is yet to meet since concluding work on the draft National Policy in 2012.

6. Responding to the needs of IDPs particularly those who stay outside of outside the Camps is a major challenges making the need for far reaching approaches in tackling the menace not just essential but crucial.

7. That in cases of environmentally induced displacements, early warning systems, adequate preventive measures and recovery mechanism appears rather inefficient as observed during past flooding experiences in the country.

8. That early warning and preparations to deal with the impending flooding should be addressed.

9. That institutions notably amongst others the National Identity Management Commission (NIMC), National Directorate of Employment (NDE), the Standards Organization of Nigeria (SON), National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons and Other Related Matters (NAPTIP) and the National Agency for Foods, Drugs Administration and Control (NAFDAC) who have various roles to play in ensuring quality assurance, control and durable solutions in Camps and Host Communities are brought on board the advocacy for adoption as well as during the implementation stages of the policy.

**Recommendations**

1. The issue of security which is the paramount objective of government be taken as such with deliberate and sustained efforts at improving capacities of all institutions and state mechanisms that will in effect stamp out insurgents and other forms of insecurity currently confronting the country.

2. That the adoption of the draft National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons be fast tracked by the Federal Government as this will improve collaboration of stakeholders in the area of humanitarian and development intervention, and also foster inter-agency harmony and coordination which will in turn be for the betterment of the displaced.

3. The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI), together with other important national and state level stakeholders, push one agenda for both the
adoption and effective implementation of the Policy when adopted. The Federal Government considers establishing a high-level coordination mechanism bringing together key government actors, line ministries and state-level stakeholders.

4. A Multi-stakeholder Advocacy Committee is urgently constituted to develop/implement an advocacy agenda for its adoption, and also the Task Team on Law and Policy also urgently finalize the draft.

5. Improved coordination and linkages within and amongst all relevant partners be fostered in order to promoting durable solutions for IDPs in Camps as well as those living in Host Communities for effective out of Camp policies and strategies.

6. Indigenous capacities for generating scientific methods/data as well as the efficient use of same be grown and employed for benefits of addressing displacement across the country.

7. All relevant institutions and agencies engage in effective sensitization and early warning strategies that will dowse the adverse effects of displacements wherever and whenever they occur.

**Conclusion**

The 2-Day event saw active and robust contributions of participants. They expressed appreciation to the Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre and the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons for convening the Summit, expressing hope that the outcomes and recommendations from the Summit will translate into the adoption of the policy which remains in its draft stage and ultimately amount to providing durable solutions and a dignified life for displaced persons in the country.

Signed

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Honorable Federal Commissioner,

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