COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF PARLIAMENTARY BRIEFING ON THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA ORGANISED BY THE CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC) WITH SUPPORT FROM UNITED NATIONS MILLENIUM CAMPAIGN IN PARTNERSHIP WITH AFRICAN NETWORK OF PARLIAMENTARIANS ON THE MDGs AND OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ADVISER TO THE PRESIDENT ON MDGs ON 25th FEBRUARY, 2014 AT ROOM 211 SENATE NEW WING NATIONAL ASSEMBLY COMPLEX, ABUJA.

PREAMBLE:
Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) with support from United Nations Millennium Campaign in partnership with African Network of Parliamentarians on the MDGs and office of the OSSAP-MDGs organized a one-day roundtable meeting on Post 2015 Development Agenda. The meeting drew about 50 participants from the National Assembly Committee on MDGs including Chairman Senate Committee on MDGs, Senator Mohammed Alli Ndume, Chairman House Committee on MDGs, Honourable Alhassan Ado Doguwa, and other members of the Committee; Civil Society; Media; and Developmental Partners. The roundtable featured HE Douda Toure, UN Resident Coordinator; HE Hon. Bethel Nnamemeka Amadi, President of the Pan African Parliament; Sering Falu Njie, Deputy Director, Policy, UNMC, New York; Prof. Ikenna Onyido, Director, Nigeria Sustainable Development Solutions Network; Hilary Ogbonna, National Coordinator, UNMC; and Dr. Precious K. Gbeneol, SSAP-MDGs as the lead presenters and other discussants. After exhaustive deliberations on various thematic issues, the following observations and recommendations were made:

OBSERVATIONS:

1. Millennium Development Goals adopted in 2000 have inspired development efforts and partnership all over the world; and in Nigeria particularly, emergence of international best practices in Conditional Grant Scheme and Conditional Cash Transfers.

2. Nigeria is the first African country to institute Standing Committees on MDGs in the parliament; and it has so far shown political commitments towards the attainment of MDGs via the establishment of OSSAP-MDGs as well as channeling the Debt Relief Gains to MDGs programmes.

3. In recent times, there has been a paradigm shift of focus in addressing the MDGs to other nouvelle ideas Post 2015, primarily to sustain the achievement of the MDGs; and Nigeria has been a leading country in efforts to get citizen’s participation in the post-2015 process.

4. Involvement of the parliamentarians in MDGs activities through the establishment of MDGs Committee in the both Chambers of the National Assembly has secured sustainable parliamentary support to the executive, appropriations to specific MDGs.
interventions and provision of MDGs-related social services in parliamentarians’ constituencies across the country.

5. Although many efforts have been committed in combating poverty, fighting diseases and ensuring access to quality education and healthcare through MDGs projects; however, there is need for concerted efforts to solve the socio-economic challenges in Nigeria.

6. Inadequate involvement and consultation of parliamentarians in the formulation of MDGs framework in 2000 has altered effective Parliamentarians’ legislation, advocacy, oversight and appropriation in the MDGs implementation process.

7. Continuing gaps on poverty, hunger, health, gender equality, water, sanitation and many other issues remain serious concerns that should demand global focus and attention after 2015.

8. Drastic changes in the nation’s population demographic, social inequality and political instability have threatened the achievement of MDGs in Nigeria.

RECOMMENDATIONS


2. Prioritized efforts towards structural transformation in determining an inclusive Post-2015 Agenda; and enhanced investment measures, particularly in infrastructure focusing on energy and transportation in the post-2015 agenda.

3. Increased focus in the development of Africa’s political economy to drive sustainable human development over the medium term, as well as poverty reduction in the context of current systemic vulnerability.

4. Adequate parliamentary oversight and responsibility toward MGDs activities; and continuous use of the Debt Relief Gains to provide for MDGs development activities.


6. Constructive efforts to tackle problems associated with inequalities, human and food security, climate change, non-communicable diseases, and ineffective and poor service delivery at grassroots in the Post-2015 Agenda.

7. Prompt efforts to tackle issues not currently address under the current MDGs framework, with poverty eradication, access to sustainable energy, infrastructure, population demographic, security and governance at the centre.

8. Increased focus of Post-2015 on improved local resources mobilization to address the issues of inequality and universal coverage of essential services through increased funding and efficient and effective management of existing resources.
CONCLUSION:

The participants expressed their appreciation to CISLAC for embarking on the roundtable discussion and to UNMC for providing the support to this all important program channeled towards sustainable Post-2015 as well as knowledge amongst stakeholders. Participants expressed gratitude to the organizers noting that the engagement was revealing and indeed an opportunity to begin to create bigger conversation amongst players on Post-2015 Agenda across the globe. It was also unanimously agreed that quality of conversation should set an effective Agenda for Post-2015.

Signed

Mallam Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani)
Executive Director, CISLAC

Senator Mohammed Alli Ndume
Chairman House Committee on MDGs

HE Daouda Toure
UN Resident Coordinator

Hilary Ogbonna
National Coordinator, UNMC