COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A ONE-DAY WORKSHOP ON REFORMS (FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GENDER AND OPERATIONAL DISPARITIES) IN THE NIGERIAN DEFENCE AND SECURITY SECTOR, ORGANIZED BY CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE (CISLAC)/TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL IN NIGERIA (TI-NIGERIA) IN COLLABORATION WITH TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL – DEFENCE AND SECURITY PROGRAM AT AL-VARI HOTEL, KEFI NASARAWA STATE ON 29TH AUGUST, 2023.

PREAMBLE:

CISLAC)/TI-Nigeria in collaboration with Transparency International – Defence and Security Program with support from Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Netherlands held a One-day Workshop on Reforms focusing on financial management, gender and operational disparities in the Nigerian Defence and Security sector. The Workshop aimed at revisiting reform efforts in the Defence and Security sector, while proffering holistic recommendations to various challenges hampering reform process. There was opening remark from the Executive Director of CISLAC/TI-Nigeria, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani). The Workshop also had as technical sessions papers titled Reforming the Nigerian Defence and Security Sector and the Imperative of Efficient Financial Management, presented by Prof. Chris Kwaja; and Gender and Operational in Nigeria’s Defence and Security Sector: Issues, Challenges and Prospects by D. Sunday Adehjo. The Dialogue was attended by Security Agencies, Civil Society and the academia. After brainstorming exhaustively on various thematic sessions, the following observations and recommendations were made:

Observations:

1. While the Defence and Security sector has primary mandate for the design, planning, coordination and implementation of the Nigeria’s Defence and Security sector policies, adequate and sustainable reform in the sector remains a collective responsibility.

2. Faulty recruitment process, inadequate human resource coupled with decentralized remuneration system and structure constitute major impediment to efficient service delivery by Defence and Security sector.

3. Effective oversight mechanism and structure of the Defence and Security sector must take into cognizance proactive functionality and operational independence of the legislature, executive, judiciary and non-state actors.
4. Unattended corruption and lack of operational independence of the oversight institutions delays accountability of efficient financial management within the Defence and Security sector.

5. Financial mismanagement in the Defence and Security sector is enabled by non-release of funds as appropriated, opaque investment in commercial ventures, internal corruption, poor planning and mismatched policy making.

6. Inadequate technical capacity by some Members of relevant Defence and Security Committees in the National Assembly is a major barrier to efficient civilian oversight of financial management and operational activities in the Defence and Security sector.


8. While gender disparity in Defence and Security sector is a global phenomenon, certain cultural barriers backed by socially-ascribed roles/values have continued to militate against adequate women’s participation and representation in Nigeria’s Defence and Security sector.

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Recommendations:

1. Strict adherence to Defence and Security doctrine to fully effect rules of engagement, operating procedures, weapon system and logistic activities, appropriate size and structure, financial management and budget systems, personnel policies and relationships.

2. Strengthening operational and financial mechanisms for transparency and accountability in the Defence and Security sector, considering the principles of civilian oversight of the sector.
3. Integrating a gender component in Defence and Security budget led relevant Ministries to ensure adequate financial planning for inclusive operation with adequate monitory mechanism for gender-related compliance.


5. Ensuring transparency and accountability of the use of financial resources through proper disclosure of relevant components of the Defence and Security procurement to complement

6. Immediate amendment to the Audit Act by the National Assembly to address current trends and challenges, while enhancing efficient functionality of the Office of Auditor General of the Federation to fully interrogate financial management in Defence and Security sector.

7. Full implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 to adequately integrate women’s participation and representation at all levels of decision making in the Defence and Security sector.

Next step:

NSCDC representative will be concentrating more on training more women to ensure inclusive operational activities.

CCB representative to promote gender equity in representation within the system

PSC representative will ensure effective implementation of gender policy

ICPC representative will submit communique to the Commission

IPCR representative will ensure submission of communique from the meeting to relevant authority within the institute and enhance working relationship with CISLAC in experience sharing.

NPF representative will report to the DPO Keffi Division to consider gender mainstreaming
Representative of the Office of the Auditor General will submit communique from the meeting to relevant authorities for effectiveness of both financial and operational activities in the Defence and Security sector.

Researcher to cascade discussion and reflect lessons learnt from the Workshop.

**Attendance:**

1. CISLAC
2. CPSS, Yola Adamawa state
3. Office of the Auditor General for the Federation
4. Police Service Commission
5. Independent Corrupt Practices Commission
6. Code of Conduct Bureau
7. Institute of Peace and Conflict Resolution
8. Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps
9. Nigeria Police Force
10. Department of Political Science, Nasarawa State University
11. Action for Community Participation
12. Peoples’ Right and Justice Initiative
13. Youth Against Disaster
14. FMC Keffi
15. CISD