President Muhammad Buhari
The President,
Federal Republic of Nigeria
Aso Villa, Abuja.

Your Excellency,

WHY THE DISSOLVED NEITI BOARD MUST NOT BE RETAINED

Following the recent laudable effort by your administration at dissolving Boards of Federal Parastatals, Agencies and Departments in Nigeria including the MSG of Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative (NEITI), the under-signed group of civil society organisations working on transparency, accountability and good governance in Nigeria’s extractive sector have been observing with keen interest, some self-serving, malicious, mischievous and unscrupulous individuals calling for the retain of the dissolved NEITI Board.

Sir, it is on this note that we present you the following critical views disqualifying the dissolved Board of NEITI from being retained:

1. During the most recent concluded general elections in the country, four (4) of five (5) members of the Board were identified as candidates, contesting for political positions, while the sixth member was pre-occupied by partisan-politics involving rigorous campaign for the re-election of former President Goodluck Jonathan, who had discouraged efforts at promoting transparency and accountability in the extractive sector. The involvement of the Board in partisan-politics runs in contrary to the moral and ethical background guiding the core value and formation of such reputable institution like NEITI.

2. Sir, we would like to draw your attention to the allegation that the members of the Board have been enjoying all manners of incentives like oversee sponsorships for training from the discredited Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) identified with such monumental frauds in fuel subsidy management, non-remittance of monies due to the federation account, controversial crude for oil swaps and collapse or sabotage of our refineries. This further nullifies the moral integrity of the
Board, which should serve as oversight body on transparency and accountability in the NNPC.

3. All members of the Board representing each geo-political zone in the country were reportedly to have involved fully in partisan-politics in the just concluded 2015 general elections. This has without doubt not only jeopardise their credibility, but also their moral integrity as Members of NEITI Board.

4. It is worrisome that monies meant for the payment of salary, allowance and training of Staff of NEITI were in some occasions reportedly diverted by the Board for training abroad without accountability.

5. Based on the above, we believe Nigeria should not have individuals with moral deficit and questionable character retained as the Board of prestigious anti-corruption institution like NEITI.

We therefore call on your creditable administration to resist any attempt by the so-called Board members affected by this dissolution to lobby their way back into reckoning.

Signed: