



PRESIDENTIAL SUMMIT
ON MDG'S AND
POST 2015 AGENDA



Parallel Session on Inclusive Growth, Job Creation and Human Development REPORT

Venue:
Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja

Date:
19th August, 2014

1.0 INTRODUCTION

With less than two years to go to the closure on the implementation of the MDGs, the process for a successor framework is taking the centre stage. Nigeria is leading the way in providing leadership for the rest of Africa in developing strategies that can build on the gains of the MDGs, address new and emerging development challenges and propel political commitments in terms of adequate funding and institutional framework for a successful implementation of the post 2015 development agenda.

It is in fulfilling the above that the Office of the Special Assistant to the President on the MDGs (OSSAP-MDGs), in partnership with the United Nations System in Nigeria and the Centre for Law and Socio-Economic Development (CLED) hosted the 2014 Presidential Summit on the MDGs and the Post 2015 Development Agenda. The summit had the theme - the MDGs and the socio-economic transformation of Nigeria: 2015 and Beyond.

The summit was structured into eight (8) parts one of which was the Parallel session 2 themed: *Addressing Emerging Issues and Priorities in the implementation of the Post 2015 Agenda*.

The Federal Ministry of Labour and productivity in partnership with:

- I. The Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (FMARD)
- II. The Federal Ministry of Education
- III. The Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment
- IV. The Nigeria Labour Congress (NLC)
- V. The Trade Union Congress of Nigeria (TUC)
- VI. The Nigeria Employers Consultative Association (NECA)
- VII. National Directorate of Employment
- VIII. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO)
- IX. The International Labour Organization (ILO)

hosted one of the parallel sessions at the summit with a sub-theme: **"Promoting inclusive growth, job creation and human capital development"**.

1.1 STRUCTURE AND FORMAT OF THE SESSION

A. **Duration:** The session lasted from 9:30am – 10:30am.

B. **Coordination:** The session had a Chair and 2 Rapporteurs.

C. **Speakers:**

- There was a brief welcome remark by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and productivity Dr. Iloh
- A technical paper was presented by an independent consultant, on the sub-theme of the parallel session.
- A 7 member panel made up of representatives from each co-host and chaired by the host, discussed the technical paper, highlighting best practices, emerging issues and challenges that need to be addressed in the implementation of the MDGs and post 2015 agenda

- Discussions and responses from the audience where sort
- The closing remark was also made by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Labour and productivity Dr. Iloh

2.0 UNDERSTANDING THE EMERGING ISSUES AND PRIORITIES

1. We commend the efforts of the Government of Nigeria in its tenacity towards creating a vibrant and enabling business environment for economic growth and development. However, although Nigeria has maintained its impressive growth trajectory, there is a rising level of inequality in the country.
2. Like never before, there is an urgent need for inclusiveness in all the reforms and economic strategies because without it, the sustainability of the country's rapid economic growth will be threatened.
3. Growth is inclusive if it supports decent employment, and equal opportunity for all regardless of age, gender or tribe. However, in Nigeria, 38.4 Million people are unemployed, the youth are the worst hit and the trend increases as the labour market expands.
4. Job creation is a catalyst for inclusive growth but in order to create jobs, the economy needs to have a vibrant industrial and services sector. Indeed, there is a pressing need to foster and strengthen the national and sub national productive and industrial sector in the country to increase productivity, employment and overcome inequalities.
5. In addition, to realize the goals of shared prosperity and an inclusive and sustainable economic growth, now and in the post-2015 development agenda, it is crucial to understand and address the challenges facing human capital development as a central factor of growth and competitiveness.
6. Critical success factors for inclusive growth and job creation include investment in skills, infrastructure especially energy, quality infrastructure, effective institutional framework, finance and sustainable investment.

3.0 IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES

3.1 Integration into the post 2015 agenda at national and subnational level

1. The effective measures towards inclusive growth should encompass enhancing productive capacities in a way that supports the structural transformation of the economy. Such as:
 - a. improved infrastructure and innovation;
 - b. women and youth empowerment
 - c. improved education;

- d. improved investment climate for local and regional trade, particularly for small and medium sized enterprise sector, small scale industries and other new forms of community –based entities;
- 2. There is a need expand opportunities for the youths to drive inclusive growth and job creation. The youths are required to be flexible to adopt job creating opportunities in diverse sectors such as agriculture and service industries.
- 3. Long-term strategy that puts in place a framework for stable economic, legal, and political conditions is required for inclusive growth, job creation and human capital development.

3.2 Proposed mechanism for the localization of inclusive growth, job creation and human capital development in the post 2015 agenda

1. To really improve the living standards of all women and men, the benefits of growth have to be shared more equitably. This can be achieved when decent employment opportunities are available for all segments of the labour force. Manufacturing industries and their related services sectors can absorb large numbers of workers, provide them with stable jobs and good benefits, and increase the prosperity of their families and communities. Keying into the Nigeria Industrial Revolution Plan launched by the Federal Government in February 2014 is a strategic platform to drive this forward.
2. Structural transformation of economies, from subsistent agriculture to agro-industries to activities that foster local value-addition are strategies to drive job creation. The Agricultural Transformation Agenda is a mechanism that can be used to domesticate and improve inclusiveness because an efficient agro-industry, combined with increased investment in agriculture, enhances economic stability for rural households, increases food security and promotes innovation in the industrial value chains.
3. Institutional policies and incentives are needed to encourage investment in the necessary education, infrastructure, agri-business solutions, innovation, and entrepreneurial skills. Industrial policymaking needs to be stressed, as industry can be a primary driver in fighting poverty, and preventing social polarization and fragmentation. Strong institutions with a sustained focus is imperative for job creation and by extension poverty reduction.

4.0 DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

1. Structural changes require strong institutions capable of designing, implementing and monitoring development policies and programmes that promote and encourage private sector development.
2. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are crucial for effective management of the transformation towards inclusive growth and human capital development. These partnerships include:
 - a. The private sector
 - b. Civil society

- c. Academia
- d. Governmental institutions, and
- e. The international development organizations.

4. Reinforcing international cooperation at all levels is essential, particularly with regards to financing, based on the difficulties many developing countries face with attracting investments.

5. There is a need to coordinate activities amongst all relevant stakeholders, (the Government, development agencies, academia) for maximum impact on job creation and human capital development and to avoid duplication of resources.

6. Diverse sources of expertise and resources are decisive and require a strong commitment of local and national governments for sustainable development strategies.