

Nigeria Country Report

September 2017



CIVIL SOCIETY
PLATFORM
FOR PEACEBUILDING
AND STATEBUILDING



Honorable Khadija Bukar Abba Ibrahim, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and other dignitaries at the National Consultative Conference on the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) – May 2017



Country Team

Country: Nigeria

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Background

Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa (CDSEA) is the Focal Point Organisation of the **Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS)** in Nigeria. Led by an Executive Director, Mr. Theophilus Ekpon, the Centre proposes and promotes creative and new approaches towards ensuring sustainable development in Africa. The Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa advocates transformational policies that lead to peacebuilding, health for all, and good governance through advocacy, capacity development, reflective dialogue and research. It also embraces a multi-stakeholder approach while networking with organizations that share similar values at the local, sub-regional, continental and global levels. Following a consistent advocacy, the CDSEA in collaboration with the CSPPS has been able to secure Nigerian government buy-in to join the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding.

Peacebuilding and Statebuilding



National Consultative Conference on the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) – May 2017

The Federal Government of Nigeria in partnership with CSDEA and with support from CSPPS organized a well-attended and successful National Consultative Conference on 11th May 2017, focusing on the **International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS¹)** and the **New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States (New Deal²)**.

During the conference, a National Plan for the implementation of the New Deal principles³ was

unveiled and the Federal Committee has been tasked to develop a National Action Plan within a month's time to give way to further implementation of these agreements in the context of Nigeria. The Honorable Khadija Buka A. Ibrahim, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs graced the event alongside high-level representatives from relevant government Ministries, security Agencies and Civil Society. Prominent donors present in the country were also in attendance and pledged to support the New Deal Implementation in Nigeria.

In context of peace and statebuilding, the National Peace Summit Group (NPSG) and the Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa continuously publish issues related to the International

¹IDPS: www.pbsdialogue.org/en

²New Deal: www.pbsdialogue.org/en/new-deal/about-new-deal/

³New Deal principles: www.pbsdialogue.org/en/new-deal/new-deal-principles/

Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding/New Deal in its quarterly magazine 'Peace Trends' and on its website. The NPSG has also ensured that some participants to the National Dialogue Conference of the Federal Government became aware of the New Deal and has reflected this in some of the outcomes of the conference. The CSPPS Country Team in Nigeria has also paid advocacy visits to the ruling All Progressive Congress Party (APC) and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to ensure the highest level of political buy-in to the entire process. To sustain all peace and statebuilding efforts, an online mailing list has been created and operational to encourage networking among Nigerian Civil Society Organizations on the IDPS/New Deal.

Civil Society Engagement in Peacebuilding

The multi-stakeholder conference held on 11th May 2017, was a milestone and one of the best practices recorded in the context of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS). The CSPPS Focal Point in Nigeria, Mr. Theophilus Ekpon, Executive Director of Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa (CSDEA) has worked relentlessly to make this process possible and it is through his efforts that an interesting new partner is about to join the IDPS Membership.



National Consultative Conference on the International Dialogue on Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (IDPS) – May 2017

Theophilus reported that following the multi-stakeholders conference, some Civil Society Organisations embarked on mainstreaming the work of the IDPS/New Deal into their Organizational Plans. Others are involved in the Preventing Violent Extremism initiative of the Nigerian Government. He further explained that a few others have started mainstreaming UNSCR 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security into their work. The Civil Society in Nigeria work together to constitute a 'team' approach to implementing the New Deal via consultations and effective networking was done through meetings. Next to that, the issues of **youth** and **gender** are considered and given priority by Civil Society Organisations and in the ongoing partnership with the Nigerian Government.

Youth, Peace and Security

The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250 requests the Secretary-General “to carry out a *Progress Study*⁴ on the youth’s positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels”, and to present the results of the Study to

⁴Progress study on Youth, Peace and Security: <http://bit.ly/2wEd9YI>

Member States of the United Nations. To contribute to the Progress Study, the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) commissioned a report in collaboration with the Centre for Sustainable Development and Education in Africa (CSDEA), in order to conduct field studies in countries located in the Lake Chad Basin (Cameroun, Chad, Niger and Nigeria) that have experienced growth in violent extremism in recent years. The field study in Chad received strong support from Organisation des Acteurs Non Etatiques du Chad (OANET-Chad), CSPPS Focal Point Organisation in Tchad. The study was purposed to document the role of youth led and youth focused conflict and extremism prevention approaches that are dynamic and promote Peacebuilding. The study report will be released before the end of the year 2017 and will feature key findings from data collected from Cameroun, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, where the following extremist groups operates: *Ansar Dine (The Success of Islam); Boko Haram; Mujao (Movement for the Consolidation of Jihadist in West Africa).*

Early Warning and Early Monitoring Response Mechanism

The CSPPS Country Team intends to make use of the civil society organisations Network and Fragility assessment to create a responsive and flexible Platform for sharing information that have implications for the peace and working with IDPS/New Deal partners to respond in a timely manner.

Challenges

Main challenges reported were linked to the lack of space in the political arena which has been worsened by distrust and financial support for long term strategy and implementation. The proposed Government regulation of Civil Society through a designated Commission is also perceived to be a Strategy to further weaken the work of civil society in Nigeria. Once these challenges are overcome, Theophilus believes in tangible results and wider recognition of Civil Society as Partners for peacebuilding and statebuilding.

Upcoming events

Month	Description
13 September, 2017	National IDPS/New Deal Steering Committee Meeting
24 October, 2017	National IDPS/New Deal Steering Committee Meeting
November, 2017	UNSCR 2250 Working Group Meeting

This report was drafted in collaboration with Mr. Theophilus Ekpon, CSPPS Focal Point in Nigeria

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