

SUM IT UP

A TRIMESTER DIGEST BY THE NIGERIAN ECONOMIC SUMMIT GROUP (SUMMIT EDITION)



The Silver Jubilee Summit



THEME
2050
NIGERIA
SHIFTING GEARS



“

2019 has been a critical year at our think-tank. In October 2019, the silver jubilee edition of our annual flagship event: The Nigerian Economic Summit (NES), is scheduled to hold in Abuja. At the 25th NES, our invitees which consist of top public, private and development officials will set a new agenda for Nigeria to mark a critical strategic shift to a competitive private sector economy by 2050, through a renewed focus on investments in human capital development to achieve competitiveness and inclusive growth. This Second Trimester Digest also showcases the various interactions of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group, as we utilize our volunteer network, data, resources and scale to open new pathways to economic opportunity and drive inclusive growth in communities around Nigeria.

Thank you for your support and have a good read.

'Laoye Jaiyeola
Chief Executive Officer, NESG

”

In this edition

3 NEW BRAND
IDENTITY

5 EVENTS

11 RESEARCH
ALERTS

13 SPOTLIGHT

15 NES 25





NESG unveils its new brand identity

On the 10th of July, the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) unveiled its new corporate identity that aligns with its increasingly visible role as a think-tank with a mandate of promoting and championing reform of the Nigeria economy into an open and globally competitive one. The Chairman of the board of the NESG, Mr. Asue Ighodalo while unveiling the corporate identity during the colourful event stated that the NESG was founded by top private sector players in the early 1990's, and that the NESG has continued to promote its six foundational principles of commitment to a free market economy; encouragement of private sector investments, creation of an enabling environment and others. He noted that over the past few years, the organization has morphed from just a platform for dialogue into a think-tank that is constantly driven to make changes and impart positively on the economic discourse of the nation.

Furthermore, Mr. Ighodalo made it known that the new corporate identity of the NESG is based on elements that highlight the values of sustainable economic growth, innovation, globalization that the NESG has been associated with. "Over the past 25 years our talented team of colleagues and vast network of volunteers have built a solid foundation with a strong reputation for sustaining advocacy and facilitating public policy changes in the national interest. This new branding will support our tireless work to clear the path and enable further engagements with a global focus," Ighodalo noted.

The new NESG logo represents the values of sustainable economic growth, innovation and globalisation that the NESG has been associated with. The four components of the logo represent the mandate of the NESG.



The blue crest represents Nigeria's space in the global economy, and the brand's interaction with the global trends to become a world class think tank. The arrow in the typography represents the trajectory that the Nigerian economy needs to attain for the survival and happiness of its citizens.

The NESG brand is as much about sustainable economic growth and innovation as it is about identity. The new brand identity sets expectations for what people should see, hear, and expect from NESG. It also provides NESG with a way to "live the brand" by translating its values into tangible action by the collective of public and private sector stakeholders.

The launch of the new brand identity coincides with the 25th edition of the annual Nigerian Economic Summit which is the flagship of the Group. This historic milestone event will take place at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel in Abuja from October 7-8, 2019. "The theme for this year's Summit is "Nigeria 2050: Shifting Gears" and the focus is to set a new agenda for Nigeria as we usher in the next industrial revolution and mark a critical strategic shift to a competitive private sector economy by 2050.





NESG/AGRA INITIATIVE

"Moving from Farm Pain to Farm Gain"

On Tuesday, 14th May 2019, the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) in collaboration with the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and other critical stakeholders conducted a public-private dialogue session hinged on Strengthening Enabling Policy Environment for Fertilizer, Seed and Warehouse Receipt Systems in Nigeria which follows a six-month nationwide sensitization program titled "Moving from Farm Pain to Farm Gain." The Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA) and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have collaborated towards an evidence-based sensitisation campaign in Nigeria titled: "Moving from Farm Pain to Farm Gain" towards passage of the following bills:

The seed
council bill

The fertilizer
quality
control bill

The
independent
warehouse
receipt system
bill



NESG Launches BetterTax Initiative

The Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG) unveiled the findings of its nationwide survey on tax perception and government-citizen engagement for sustainable fiscal reforms through the launch of its "Better Tax" initiative.

A service of the NESG's Fiscal Policy Roundtable, the Better Tax initiative was launched in Lagos on May 15, and the initiative seeks to create a platform for discourse between government and the citizenry that will reshape tax perception. It is expected to transform tax from being perceived as a burden to a tool for socio-economic development.

According to Dr. Sarah Alade, Chairman, NESG Fiscal Policy Roundtable: "Project Better Tax is distinct from previous tax reform initiatives because it adopts a multi-pronged approach to easing the tax burden."

The project leverages the findings of nationwide surveys to cascade information on Nigeria's current fiscal position in a concise manner designed to educate stakeholders on the role of taxation, and the dual responsibility of citizens and the government to actualise the social contract envisaged through strict tax compliance and fiscal responsibility as obtains in developed economies."

[Click to view more](#)



Inauguration of the Policy Commission Steering Committee

On Wednesday, 3rd of July, 2019, Policy Commission Committees of the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) were inaugurated to pilot the affairs of the think-tank. Present at the inauguration were stakeholders from both the public and private sector which included members of the NESG, permanent secretaries of federal ministries DG's of various public sector organisations and captains of industries.



Lafarge Africa and NESG Sustainability Forum

The Nigeria Economic Summit Group (NESG), in partnership with Lafarge Africa Plc and Lagos Business School Sustainability Center, held the inaugural Lafarge Africa Sustainability Forum with the theme: Co-creating value for impact – Opportunities in Circular Economy & Coprocessing on the 16th of July 2019. The Forum is a dialogue platform intended to highlight corporate action for sustainable development and is a crucial part of Lafarge's Sustainability Week.



Behavioural Science Interventions & Impact Evaluation

The Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), Accenture and the Busara Center for Behavioural Economics makeup the structure of the Nigerian Policy Innovation Unit (PIU) and they held a strategic session to share key findings and behavioral insights gleaned from the PIU engagement with the National Social Investment Office (NSIO) on the 23rd of July, 2019 in Lagos and on the 26th of July in Abuja.

The PIU is the first public policy institution in sub-Saharan Africa dedicated to the use of behavioural theory, tools and testing to inform social program design; and the three organisations jointly conducted an impact evaluation on three of the four National Social Innovation Programs (NSIP) between March and April of 2019 which was discussed at the strategic session.



Signing of the AfCFTA and the impact on the Nigerian economy

Nigeria, together with Benin, signed the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) agreement on the margins of an extraordinary summit of the African Union (AU) in Niamey, the capital of Niger, where the operational instruments of the agreement establishing AfCFTA were launched. With the elimination of trade barriers under this treaty, Nigeria will have the opportunity to harness most of its own resources that might be needed in some other African countries.

With the removal of trade barriers through this treaty, Nigeria stands to gain a lot from new markets for its products. The treaty also has a range of provisions to facilitate trade, reduce transaction costs, provide exceptions, flexibilities, and safeguards for vulnerable groups and countries in challenging circumstances.



Workshop on MSME's Community of Practice Inaugural Meeting

The Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) in collaboration with Fate Foundation held a workshop on Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSME's) on the 30th of July, 2019 at the Summit House.

Mrs. Nike Adeyemi of Fate Foundation said that the organization found out that a lot of the small and medium enterprises they facilitated had developed but were still in need of improvements. The improvements that was adopted include the use of data miners, and advocacy engagement through policy dialogue series.

Furthermore, she said that the preliminary context of MSME's is largely based on funding, the challenges they face and how they can improve on existing resources. The NESG will continue to strive to support this community



Dialogue session on the growth and development of the Nigerian Mining and Development industry

The Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) held a stakeholder dialogue session on the growth and development of the Nigerian Mining and Development industry at the NESG Abuja Secretariat on the 27th of August, 2019.



Media tour for NES25

Asue Ighodalo, chairman, Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG), led other members of the board of the NESG and a team of the foremost private sector-led think tank to top tier media houses including BusinessDay, Punch, Dailytrust, CNBC, TVC and Channels television among others on a media tour. He revealed that the summit theme is "Nigeria 2050: Shifting Gears" and that the NES#25 sub-themes will focus on achieving rapid industrialisation, transforming education, managing demography and sustainable peace and security.

He also made it known that discussions at #NES25 will be anchored on three pillars – economic growth, competitiveness and inclusive development – which will drive discussions at the summit and generate robust and rigorous engagements with an overarching objective of signaling a coherent and clear 30-year forward agenda for the private sector to lead sustainable economic development.





Regional consultative meeting: Popularising the National Agricultural Seeds Council Act

The Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) in collaboration with the National Agriculture Seeds Council (NASC) and the Alliance for a Green Revolution (AGRA) held a regional consultative meeting on popularising the National Agricultural seeds Council act in Lagos on the 22nd of August and in Abuja on the 27th of August 2019. The regional consultative meeting was to popularize the National Agricultural Seeds Council Act and to ensure that farmers not only get the best possible seeds available, but also move from farm pain to farm gain.



RESEARCH



Nigerian States Revenue Update

July 2019

Internally Generated Revenue (IGR) grew by 25% in 2018 but accounted for 31% of total States Revenue. According to data released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the 36 Nigerian States and the FCT generated a total revenue of N3.7 trillion in 2018. This represents a 40% increase from N2.7 trillion generated in 2017. (IGR), a component of total States Revenue was N1.17 trillion in 2018, an increase of 25% from N936.5 billion in 2017. IGR represented 31% of total States Revenue, while the other component- net Federal Account Allocation Committee (FAAC) Allocation had a share of 69% (N2.6 trillion). On the composition of IGR, Pay As You Earn (PAYE) accounted for 57% of total IGR across states; Direct Assessment had a share of 4%; Road and Other Taxes – 16% and MDAs & Other Revenue – 23%.

Ondo, Bauchi, Imo and Sokoto more than doubled their IGR in 2018. The top five states with fast growing IGR include: Ondo (127% growth), Bauchi (122%), Imo (117%), Sokoto (108%) and Niger (60%). Improvements in many of these states were as a result of reforms such as automation of the tax payment process, stakeholder's sensitisation about the tax process, introduction of new levies, appointment of new heads of the revenue agencies, etc. The bottom states include Osun with a decline of 11.5%, Benue (-9.5%), Cross River (-3.1%), Adamawa (0.1%) and Enugu (0.5%). IGR expanded in Rivers and Lagos by 26% and 14.4% respectively.

Within the last four years, IGR has grown across the six geopolitical regions of the country. The North Central led the IGR growth at 212% from 2014 to 2018, followed by the North West (136%) led by Sokoto, Kano and Kaduna and the North East (63%). IGR in the South West grew by 60% in the period, led by Ogun and Ondo States. In the South South, IGR grew by 33% with significant contributions (in terms of growth) from Edo and Akwa-Ibom States. IGR grew by 26% in the South East. Anambra and Imo experienced the highest growth in the region, within the four-year period.



GROWING AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMY: JOB CREATION AND NIGERIA'S FUTURE

July 2019

Nigeria has a major unemployment crisis. The country's rapidly growing population, increasing entrants into the labour market each year as well as the limited number of new jobs created present a key concern for both policy makers and the business community on the future of work for the vibrant young population.

Within the last five years, 3.3 million people entered into the labour market seeking for jobs. This figure increased to 4.8 million from 2015 to 2018, a lot of whom are young people. Going by this trend, the NESG estimates that over 100 million jobs will need to be created from 2019 to 2050 to maintain the unemployment rate at 23%. But where will these jobs come from?

Unfortunately, the current pace of job creation in the private sector cannot match with the expansion in the labour force. The government must embark on reforms to ensure sectoral expansion, ease business regulations, provide investment incentives and ensure massive infrastructure development.

The government must also identify new opportunity areas and pursue diversification and value-chain development across key economic sectors such as Agriculture, Manufacturing and Construction. The government needs to support structural transformation by identifying and removing the constraints limiting competitiveness in these industries.

[Click to view more](#)

SPOTLIGHT

Q: What Policy Commission and Thematic Group(s) do you operate in?

A: I operate in the Trade, Investment and Competitiveness Policy Commission (TICPC) as the Facilitator

Q: What skills do you bring to the table in this field?

A: I am a Professor of International Economic Relations at the Covenant University (CU), Ota, Nigeria and a Consultant, at ECOWAS on Common Investment Market (ECIM), Abuja. I have lectured at Covenant University (CU) since its inception in 2002 and was also on the Board of Regents of the University since inception till 2010. I am a member of the technical experts responsible for the development of the on-going Protocol on Investment in the AfCFTA Stage II by African Union. Earlier since 2014, I was a member of the technical experts that developed the Pan African Investment Code (PAIC) being used to develop the Investment Protocol of AfCFTA. Being a member of the TICPC has afforded me the opportunity to bring my experience of over 35 years in the field of economics and international economics relations to help in the development of Nigeria.



Dr. Jonathan Aremu
Professor of International Economic
Relations, Covenant University

Q: What have you learnt the most about this volunteer experience?

A: Volunteering work at NESG has been very interesting, working among fellow economic professionals that are very lively and loving

Q: What will your sector gain from volunteer work?

A: TICPC have been able to make its impact in shaping Nigeria's trade and investment policies through our numerous contributions

Q: How does volunteering affect your other commitments?

A: Since my volunteering work in NESG is similar to my other personal assignments and commitments, serving at the TICPC as the facilitator has enhanced my professional competences on trade, investment and fiscal matters



Ms. Oluwaseun Ojo
Head, Public Policy Intelligence
& Reform Management

Q: What is your role at the NESG?

A: I am the Head of Public Policy Intelligence & Reform Management at the NESG

Q: What did you do before joining the NESG?

A: Head of Performance, State Partner for Agriculture (SPA) Project, Synergos Nigeria

Q: If you had to pick one strength you bring to the team, what would that be?
A: Public policy intelligence

Q: Where were you born?

A: Ibadan, Nigeria

Q: What inspires you?

A: Stellar achievements of remarkable women in history and present day

Nigeria 2050: Shifting Gears



October 7 – 8, 2019
Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja

Context

Private sector activities and resources are very essential for the speed, quality, sustainability and inclusiveness of our nation's economic growth. Slightly over three decades ago, Nigeria, through The Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP), made a deliberate effort at placing the private sector at the centre of our nation's economic development. SAP was designed to push the Nigerian government to drastically reduce spending on public enterprises, reduce the dominance of unproductive investments in the public sector in the light of dwindling oil revenue and mounting external debts; re-orient public enterprises towards a new horizon of performance improvement, viability and overall efficiency; and create a better window in the global economy and strengthen participation in international trade.

A survey undertaken by the Technical Committee on Privatisation and Commercialisation (TCPC) in 1989 revealed nearly 600 State Owned Enterprises (SOEs) at the Federal level, and an estimated 900 at the State and Local government levels in Nigeria. After a re-examination of the performance of public enterprises and public expenditure on them, it was clear that those state-owned enterprises were draining the country's limited resources. As a result, the administration of President Ibrahim Babangida initiated the privatization and commercialization programme thus initiating a radical step towards instituting a private sector led economy.

At the 1st Nigerian Economic Summit (NES #1) in 1993, public and private sector leaders explored global scenarios covering 1992 – 2020 and defined the principles for building a competitive economy for Nigeria. Consequently, NES #1 recommended a number of principles in defining the underlying economic philosophy that would be the premise of 21st Century Nigeria. These include:

- i. Commitment to a Free Market Economy
- ii. Encouragement of Private Sector led Investments
- iii. Creation of an Enabling Environment
- iv. Good Governance in the National Interest
- v. Rule Based Economy
- vi. Establishment of Economic Foundation for Democracy

In addition to articulating the characteristics of an economic philosophy designed to enable Nigeria to achieve an open market economy, the first Summit also defined areas of focus in building a competitive economy across "New Frontiers" consisting Education; Macroeconomic Stabilization; Privatisation; Deregulation; 'Infrastructurisation' and Democratisation. After days of dialogue and deliberations, the Federal Government at NES #1 adopted the underlying economic philosophy that would be the premise of 21st Century Nigeria.

During its subsequent deliberations, the Nigerian Economic Summit has sustained the agenda to promote an open and globally competitive economy. The expectations over successive Nigerian Economic Summits being that this economic philosophy would form the basis of reform proposals, economic development planning and policies. For example, at NES #3 (in 1996), there was a national stakeholder consensus that Nigeria needed a National Vision.

That Summit proposed a National Vision Statement for Nigeria by 2025: "Nigeria will be a well ordered, well governed, just and prosperous nation, united in sustained endeavour". NES #3 also proposed a Change Programme from 1996 to 2010 (laying the foundation for the Vision 2010 Agenda). In 1997, the Vision 2010 Committee consisting of 240 members (including private sector members drawn mainly from past Summit participants) submitted the Vision 2010 Report, hence NES #4 was dedicated to discussing its implementation.

By 2001, Nigeria had transited from military rule to democracy and with a growth rate of 10%, the country was classified as one of the "MINT" nations (Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria and Turkey) with the economic potential to join the "BRICS" nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa). In 2007, the country set a bold agenda to join the league of top 20 nations in the world by 2020. The Nigeria Vision 20:2020 had ambitious targets and objectives to achieve rapid economic growth. Whilst vision 20:2020 remains the underlying definition of economic aspiration, the current administration led by President Muhammadu Buhari, in reaction to the economic recession in 2016, launched the Economic Recovery and Growth Plan (ERGP) 2017 – 2020 in April 2017 to achieve (i) much-needed economic recovery in the short-term, and (ii) set a pathway for sustained and inclusive economic growth. The ERGP (2017 – 2020)

and Vision 20:2020 will expire next year so the time has come to focus on shifting gears to a competitive private sector economy by 2050.

Towards A Private Sector Economy: The Journey So Far

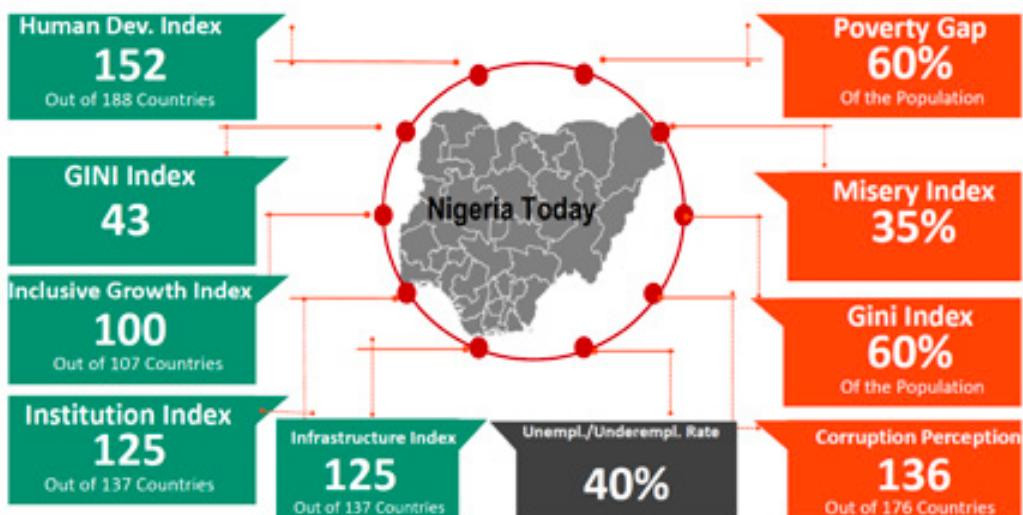
Since NES #1, the Federal Government has, at various times, sustained efforts to conclude the privatization and commercialisation programme as well as the liberalization of Nigeria's economy:

1993 – 1999	1999 – 2007	2007 – 2019
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Technical Committee of Privatization and Commercialization (TCPC) was transformed into the Bureau of Public enterprise (BPE). The Nigerian economy was mainly closed till the advent of the Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) in 1986. The oil glut of the 1970s saw gross mismanagement of government funds and public enterprises, which perpetuated inefficiencies in the public services delivery. In 1992 the deregulation of Broadcast Industry commenced with the establishment of National Broadcasting Commission. Privatization of the banking sector commenced after liberalization process embarked on in preceding years. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Public Enterprises (Privatisation and Commercialisation) Act was enacted, which established the National Council on Privatization TCPC transitioned into BPE as the Bureau of Public Enterprise Act enacted to. BPE oversees and manages transactions of privatization and commercialization Telecommunication sector liberalized. Banking sector liberalized National Electric Power Authority (NEPA) became a public limited company and renamed Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN). Nigeria liberalized its import tariff regime by adopting the Common External Tariff (CET) of the ECOWAS. To strengthen the financial sector and improve availability of domestic credit to the private sector, a bank consolidation exercise was launched in mid-2004. Between 1999 and 2006, about 116 enterprises were privatized, including various loss-making government enterprises operating in industries such as aluminium, petrochemical, insurance and hotel. Nigeria Airways ceased operations in 2003 and was liquidated a year later. In 2005, the Infrastructure Concession Regulatory Commission (ICRC) Act was enacted. Government sold its stake in Automobile assembly plants to private investors. Privatisation of Mining sector began with the Obasanjo Administration The Nigerian Minerals and Mining Act was enacted in 2007. Policy thrust of government on the mining sector is anchored on the need to develop a private sector led mining industry with Government restricting its role to that of an administrator / regulator Privatization of automotive industry Privatization of Cement Plants which ushered in private sector operators such as Dangote Cement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The PHCN was unbundled and privatized leading to the first steps toward liberalization of the Nigerian Electricity Supply Industry. Ongoing privatization of AFAM Power Plant and Yola Electricity Distribution Company. Push for total deregulation of the Oil industry is still on-going. The Petroleum Industry Bill has suffered some setbacks. Ongoing privatization of the Nigerian Postal Service (NIPOST). 51% ownership of Nigeria Telecommunication Limited (NITEL) sold in 2015. Infrastructure in Nigeria is still a closed market. Nigeria is considering privatization of airport Presidential Enabling Business Environment Committee (PEBEC) established in 2016 Reversal of Ajaokuta Steel Company privatization.

Against the background of these efforts, the country made notable progress in economic growth, rising to first place within the African continent. Despite rapid growth between in the past, Nigeria still lags in key macroeconomic and socioeconomic indicators:



OCTOBER 7TH - 8TH, 2019



Nigeria in 2050: Boom or Bust?

By 2050, the United Nations estimates that Nigeria's population will double. Combined with data which shows rising incidence of unemployment and underemployment, Nigeria may be faced with an unsustainable demographic growth made up of predominantly young unemployed/underemployed Nigerians. A worrying scenario given its potential to destabilise Sub-Saharan Africa. The counterfactual is also true that the dominant young working-age population on the continent will be resident in Nigeria making it possible for the development and deployment of human capital to translate into greater national productivity and growth. Consequently, investing in human capital that drives entrepreneurship and innovation is a compelling business case for sustainable economic development.

Therefore, it is a matter of high priority for Nigeria to ensure high economic growth that stimulates jobs and economic opportunities for this large and youthful population. This requires generating economic activities that open up more economic sectors, thereby creating job opportunities within the country (Chima, 2018)¹. Population growth can turn an ineffective economy into an 'economies of scale' state (Simon, 1981)². Economies of scale improve efficiency of industry and reduces cost. These are important factors towards increasing the productivity of a nation. Significantly improved productivity (amongst other factors) will put Nigeria on the right path of competing with other leading economies.

In addition, Nigeria runs a risk of total collapse in the delivery of health, education and depletion of her physical infrastructure stock without huge investments in public services. Therefore, considering our current realities defined by low global crude oil prices, budget deficits, rising unemployment and the urgent need for the industrialisation and diversification of Nigeria's economy, the imperative of a competitive private sector in achieving fast, sustainable and inclusive growth is now clear. It is therefore critical, that industry leaders and policy makers reflect on realistic pathways forward to achieve our desired goals. Questions which such reflection must address include:

- What is the Nigeria we would like to see in 2050 and what are the possible scenarios on the path to the future we envision?
- How does Nigeria position to mobilize and attract needed investments?
- What are the critical enablers of the 'private sector led economy' we seek?
- How do we develop and deploy our human capital to achieve higher productivity?
- What policy framework do we require to guarantee we attain our mission of a globally competitive economy that is inclusive?
- What role will sub-national governments play in the competitiveness and growth agenda?

The Challenge of Sustainable Peace and Security

With Nigeria's population estimated to double in 2050, the challenge of sustainable peace and security becomes more complex and complicated. Socio-economic growth is the bedrock of national development and insecurity erodes the confidence, peace and enabling environment that is critical to achieving real tangible and substantial economic growth and development. Today, our country is dealing with several existential threats and central to the agenda of the Federal Government of Nigeria is eliminating all forms of threat to national security as these militate against our economic potential.

The steadily increasing number of the poor in Nigeria testifies that the bottom 40% of the Nigerian population did not benefit from economic growth recorded until 2014. Indeed, available data shows that only the top 10% of households in Nigeria have experienced an increase in their share of consumption over the past decade. Poverty remains largely a rural phenomenon even though the middle class is beginning to be more vulnerable. In addition, the northern part of the country has seen a deteriorating welfare when contrasted to the southern part of the country.

In consequence of these trends, there is greater inequality, with more than half of the population falling into poverty at some point during 2011 – 2016, with 22% of the previously non-poor falling into poverty by 2016. Noting that the poor are more likely to live in the northern zones, rural areas, large households and have lower educational achievements there is rampant non-monetary poverty. There is a strong correlation between the non-monetary poverty gap and growing social friction, class violence, insecurity and crime rate.

This is a national security threat needing an urgent and sustainable solution. With a land mass of 910,768 sq. km, 33 per cent of which is arable and imbued with conducive weather for farming, the country has clear potentials and capacity for self-sufficiency in food production and export, yet the country substantially relies on food imports. This inherently makes the need of food security for its teeming population a major security issue. Security threats like herdsmen-farmer/settler clashes, cattle rustling, banditry, armed inter-communal clashes aggravate the current situation.

The North East region of the country, a vast territory sharing boundary with three countries (Cameroon, Chad and Niger Republic) has a history of sectarian violence and cross-border crime yet the region with its unique geo-weather conditions is a potentially rich region in solid minerals, hydrocarbon and water resources (Lake Chad and other bodies of water). Presently, it remains the staging base of the significantly degraded Boko Haram currently waging a costly asymmetrical war on our country. The Boko Haram insurgency constitutes the most direct threat to the peace, security and sovereignty of our nation and the region.

Nigeria is also endowed with vast onshore and offshore natural resources – about 37 billion barrels of proven oil reserves and about 137 trillion in cubic feet of proven gas reserves in addition to more than 34 solid minerals in commercial quantities. The sub-optimal exploitation of these potentials and the non-judicious use of these resources due to acts of extreme violence, open militancy and terrorism constitute a security issue. Beyond our land borders, the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) - which encompasses all our maritime borders - constitutes a major frontier. The GoG spans 17 littoral states from Senegal in West Africa to Angola in Southern Africa and has a coastline of about 2,874nm covering an estimated area of about 574,800 sq. nm. With a coastline of about 420 nautical miles (nm) and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) of 200 nm, our maritime domain of about 84,000sq nm containing strategic natural resources is in the heart of the GoG.

Given the foregoing, the over-arching strategic vision of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 2050 should be to make the country a violence-free, safe, peaceful, self-reliant, prosperous and strong nation. A beacon of sustainable peace and security on the African continent and beyond. Such a vision will guide all efforts towards scaling up the volume and pace of private sector activities and increase the flow of productive investment into the economy. Agenda 2050: Competing with the Giants.

Competitive economies have stable macroeconomic conditions and their business climate keeps transaction costs low, thereby encouraging savings and investment as well as enabling vigorous competition. Such economies create a competitive private sector that can effectively compete for opportunities in the domestic, regional and global markets. For Nigeria to number amongst such economies, she must have the capacity to modernize in a way that Nigerian firms achieve more sophisticated competitive advantages and higher productivity.

Nigeria's economic prosperity depends on the productivity with which our human and natural resources are employed. In turn, this depends on the industries in which our firms can successfully compete. The imperatives will thus include:

- a modern well-regulated financial sector that turns savings into productive investments;
- ability to advance in research, development and technology;
- investment in hard and soft infrastructure as well as sustained encouragement of entrepreneurship and innovation;
- economic activity in manufacturing, services, agriculture and natural resources that are viable and plugged into global value chains;
- introduction, by the Federal and sub-national governments, of legislation and policies that provide a sustainable foundation for the continuous development of human resources, science and technology, research and development, innovation, and infrastructure;
- identification of and focus on specific industries (and industry segments) that Nigeria has or can build sustainable competitive advantages.

It is only a competitive private sector economy that can achieve a rising standard of living and economic prosperity for more than 400 million Nigerians in 2050 - majority of whom will be under the age of 35.

With a GDP size of US\$421.8 billion³ in 2018, Nigeria's economy is the biggest in Africa even though she looks unlikely to achieve the Vision 20:2020 goal. However, as shown earlier, Nigeria trails her peers on the Continent and globally in several dimensions and in consequence, the socio-economic conditions of her citizens remain below that in other comparable emerging and frontier economies. So, while Nigeria continues to be described as the 'giant of Africa', the country is still very far from being characterised as a global economic giant.

But what constitutes an economic giant, and will today's giants remain so in 2050? To be a classified as an 'economic giant', a country should rank among the top 20 in at least two of three measures: gross domestic product, competitiveness and human development.

Gross Domestic Product	Competitiveness	Human Development
Economic Sectors Growth Rate GDP Per Capita	Enabling Environments Human Capital Markets Innovation Ecosystem	Long and Healthy Life Knowledge A Decent Standard of Living
GDP Ranking [2017]	GC Index [2018]	HD Index [2018]
1. United States 2. China 3. Japan 4. Germany 5. United Kingdom 6. India 7. France 8. Brazil 9. Italy 10. Canada 11. Russian Federation 12. South Korea 13. Australia 14. Spain 15. Mexico 16. Indonesia 17. Turkey 18. Netherlands 19. Saudi Arabia 20. Switzerland	1.United States 2.Singapore 3.Germany 4.Switzerland 5.Japan 6.Netherlands 7.Hong Kong 8.United Kingdom 9.Sweden 10.Denmark 11.Finland 12.Canada 13.Taiwan, China 14.Australia 15.South Korea 16.Norway 17.France 18.New Zealand 19.Luxembourg 20.Israel	1.Norway 2.Switzerland 3.Australia 4.Ireland 5.Germany 6.Iceland 7.Hong Kong, China 8.Sweden 9.Singapore 10.Netherlands 11.Denmark 12.Canada 13.United States 14.United Kingdom 15.Finland 16.New Zealand 17.Belgium 18.Liechtenstein 19.Japan 20.Austria
30. Nigeria	115. Nigeria	157. Nigeria

23rd Nigerian Economic Summit

23rd
Nigerian
Economic
Summit

MINISTRY OF
BUDGET AND
NATIONAL PLANNING



23rd
Nigerian
Economic
Summit

The Education Imperative

A critical mass of rational citizens is required to create and sustain a modern nation-state that can compete with the giants in the global economy. Therefore, a specific set of values and industry-ready skills become an imperative. The foundation of all successful modern nations is a functional and future-ready educational system. Conventional wisdom acknowledges the importance of education, but it is ultimately our collective responsibility to determine its purpose. Education is the process by which a population is transformed into human capital. Education is the bedrock of any civilisation. Without education, any hope of sustainable development will be short lived and ill informed. Without an educated workforce, Nigeria cannot be productive, leading to a failure in industry. Education is also important in establishing the right values and attitudes within a populace. It is futuristic in nature as rapid technological advances make the future even more uncertain because new skills and aptitudes are needed to prepare children for the future. Even those who do not accept that the quality of education has a causal relationship to the vibrancy of the economy, cannot dispute that there is a strong correlation between the two.

In 2050, our nation's population is expected to reach approximately 400 million. By conservative estimates, and as stated earlier, 65% of the population would be under the age of 35. Even to the untrained analyst, it is clear this will put unimaginable pressure on our educational institutions: structures, resources, and manpower. Add to these daunting numbers, the reality today is that even with the reforms of the last decade, our universities are only able to accommodate a third of all eligible tertiary students. This is no surprise as since its inception our education has never been able to catch up with our population. To relegate our discussions about how we hope to make our country one of the 'giants' without addressing this impending disaster, will be a grave and unforgivable mistake.

According to the International Organization for Migration, the illiteracy rates in Nigeria in both youth and adults was more than 20% higher than the world average. Literacy rates in Nigerian youth and adults were calculated at 72.8% and 59.6% while global rates were 90.6% and 85.3% respectively. In 2017, it was estimated that about 8.8 million children were out of school. Compared to the approximate 4.4 million who are admitted into secondary schools, only about 1.5 million sit for the Senior School Certificate Examination. Moreover, official data from Joint Admissions and Matriculation Board suggests that less than 500,000 students receive admission into Federal and State Universities. With unemployment fixed at over 40%, there is only a fraction of youth that are meaningfully engaged, and their participation can hardly make a significant impact in our economy.

Despite these compelling numbers, they only tell part of the story. As we look to project 30 years into the future, we must commence frank discussions about growing this sector and allow it to take its rightful place in the story of our development. In the last 10 years, several reforms have been passed to improve the delivery and implementation of quality education. Unfortunately, these have not yielded the results we have anticipated. Our educational system has failed, and continues to fail, taking with it our youth as its casualties. To compete with the giants, we must also place education at the centre. Oftentimes, education takes a back seat when our leaders are prioritising matters of importance and urgency. What type of economy do we hope to achieve if our focus is not returned to education as a main driver? What sorts of industries can flourish when our man power has limited abilities and impaired skills? How can we compete with the world when we make our people a by-product of our success and not the reason for it? We must commit to finding and implementing solutions for education with the velocity and ambition it deserves. The numbers are dismal in 2019. Without interventions they will be disastrous in 2050. We must act now.

NES #25: Shifting Gears

The 25th Nigerian Economic Summit (NES #25) will set a new agenda for Nigeria to usher in the next industrial revolution and mark a critical strategic shift to a competitive private sector economy by 2050 through a renewed focus on investments in human capital development to achieve competitiveness and inclusive growth. NES #25 will bring stakeholders in private sector, public sector, social sector, politics, civil society, academia, international organisations and diplomatic community together to create a unifying narrative for setting a long-term national agenda that will be led by the private sector.

The Summit Theme, "Nigeria 2050: Shifting Gears" will emphasize the imperatives for the country to shift gears to a competitive private sector economy to be able to address and respond to the challenges and implications of our 2050 scenarios. The Summit Sub-Themes will focus on achieving rapid industrialization, transforming education, managing demography and sustainable peace and security. Discussions will be anchored on 3 pillars – economic growth, competitiveness and inclusive development – and they will drive discussions at the sessions and generate robust and rigorous engagements with an overarching objective of signalling a coherent and clear 30-year forward agenda for the private sector to lead sustainable economic development. The key Summit Drivers are: Competitive Industries. Nigeria's economic prosperity depends largely on strategically identifying specific industries (and industry segments) with a competitive advantage to unleash economic opportunities and fast-track economic development that translates into productivity growth. This requires constant improvements and innovation in existing industries and the capacity to successfully compete in new ones taking into consideration our factor endowments to support those industries. Government policies will therefore be aimed at unlocking the binding constraints to the competitive growth of industry.

Accelerators. As Nigeria shifts gear towards a competitive private sector economy, several factors will accelerate that progress. A strategic approach is required in understanding their distinguishing effects and impacts in accelerating the competitiveness of the industries that will drive Nigerian economy. They also create the context in which the private sector can compete and succeed in serving as the engine of growth and development. When deployed effectively, each in its own way, and collectively, prove to be very decisive in achieving rapid acceleration.

Indicators. Human capital development drives economic growth and any meaningful economic growth model must lead to inclusive and sustainable development that promotes high standards of living. In several instances, indicators of wealth, which reflect the quantity of resources available to the nation, provide no information about the allocation of these resources. The efficiency of the market to allocate resources must ensure a fair and inclusive distribution across the economy in order to boost production and consumption, and government must intervene to correct market failures.

Competitive Industries	Accelerators	Indicators
Agriculture Manufacturing ICT Financial Services Creative Industry Extractive Industry	Macroeconomic Stability Human Capital & Productivity Investments Technology & Innovation Infrastructure Trade & Export Promotion Reinventing Government Regulations Sanctity of Contracts Business Leadership Data Economy Market Efficiency	Income Inequality Poverty Gender Gap Health & Wellbeing Industry-Ready Skills Jobs

NES 25 speakers at a glance



His Excellency
Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR
President, Federal Republic of Nigeria



Mr. Asue Ighodalo
Chairman, Nigerian
Economic Summit Group



Alhaji Aliko Dangote
President/CEO, Dangote
Group



Mrs. Ibukun Awosika
Chairman, First Bank
Limited



Prof. Justin Yifu Lin
Founding Director, China
Centre for Economic Research



Dr. Victor Oladokun
Director, Communications
& External Relations

[Click to view more](#)



ESSAY CONTEST

"Writing is a way of talking without being interrupted"

-Jules Renard

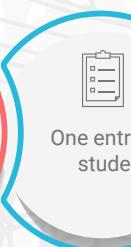
Topic: Enhancing Confidence in Nigeria for Nation Building: Towards Economic Success and Improved Quality of Life for Nigerians

Eligibility: Entrant must be an undergraduate of a Nigerian University

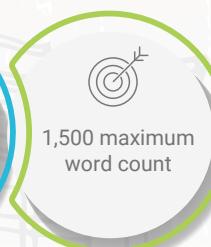
R E Q U I R E M E N T S



Entries must be written in English



One entry per student



1,500 maximum word count



Plagiarism is not accepted



Deadline August 31st 2019

H O W T O E N T E R

1

Go to the NESG Website:
nesgroup.org/essay

2

Fill in your contact details

3

Upload your recent passport photograph

4

Follow the instructions

5

Submit your essay



- Paid internship at the NESG
- Prestigious certificate of performance
- All expense paid trip to the 25th Nigerian Economic Summit in Abuja, October 2019
- Essay presentation to an audience of top public/private officials

For more information, follow [officialNESG](#) or visit www.nesgroup.org/essay

APPLICATION IS NOW CLOSED



Ministry of
Budget and
National
Planning



START-UP PITCHING CONTEST

BREAKING THE BARRIERS FOR MSMEs

APPLY NOW

REGISTRATION CLOSES ON 4TH SEPTEMBER 2019

Support:





CALLING ALL CREATIVES

COLLABORATE
TO WIN
PRIZES

2050: NIGERIA OF OUR DREAMS ART CONTEST

How to Participate



SELECT AT LEAST ONE SDG THEME

United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Good Health and Well-being, Quality Education, Gender Equality, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, Reducing Inequality, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Responsible Consumption and Production, Climate Action, Life Below Water, Life On Land, Peace Justice and Strong Institutions, Partnerships for the Goals.

2

CREATE AN ARTWORK OR VIDEO

1920 x 1080
jpeg



or



HD Upload on
YouTube

3

Submit on www.nesgroup.org/art2050
TOP ENTRIES WIN CASH PRIZES

Submission closes 6th September 2019. For more information, please contact: art2050@nesgroup.org

 officialNESG

Call for contributions

Editions of the NESG Trimester Journal are open to general contributions. If you would like to contribute any highlight or report, please attach and send your article to

info@nesgroup.org

The deadline for the 2019 Third Trimester Journal is December 1, 2019.

OUR MISSION

To promote and champion the reform of
the Nigerian economy into an open, globally
competitive one.

[Click Here to become a member](#)