

SPEECH OF THE UNDP RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE

AT THE EKITI STATE PEER REVIEW MEETING OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNOR'S FORUM

Your Excellency, The Governor of Ekiti State, Excellency Dr. Kayode Fayemi

The Chairman of the Nigerian Governors Forum, Excellency Rotimi Amaechi

The Director General and Staff of the Nigerian Governors Forum,

Honourable members of the State Assembly,  
Members of the Ekiti State Executive Council,

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen.

Representatives of the media

Royal Highest Traditional Leaders  
Religious & Spiritual  
leaders

It is a honour to be representing the UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative, Mr. Daouda Toure here today, and to give this Goodwill message on his behalf. <sup>This important</sup> Initiation/Sensitization conference of the state peer review mechanism for Ekiti State, <sup>is very timely & shows the dynamism of the Ekiti state Administration</sup> Let me also take this opportunity to commend the Nigerian Governors Forum (NGF) for its activities, particularly the State Peer Review Mechanism, which have given Governors enormous visibility in addressing issues of governance and development.

The Peer Review Mechanism which was popularized at the African continental level some years ago, has proven to be a useful tool not only for measuring progress and performance but for inspiring innovations and changes that are necessary for development. The successes recorded at the <sup>national</sup> regional level have motivated the application of the methodology at lower levels of government in several countries. In Nigeria, the current shortage of authoritative and comprehensive assessments of State-level performance across the country underscores the need for an institutionalized Peer Review system based on comparable indicators.

As a federation, the state and national as well as lower level tiers of governments share concurrent jurisdictions in policy, institutional and developmental issues. As such, reliable information on the contribution of States to aggregate social, economic and governance performance can be verified by <sup>the</sup> means of the Peer Review. It is not only about competition, but an opportunity to obtain disaggregated analysis of several development indicators across States.

UNDP.

The peer review mechanism couple with the State Partnership for Accountability, Responsiveness and Capability will enable state governments to assess their performances in critical areas of governance: for example level of budget implementation, the promotion of fiscal responsibility, public procurement, etc. This will definitely also inform on progress towards <sup>the</sup> attainment of the MDGs.

The inauguration of the Steering Committee for the State Peer Review Mechanism (SPRM), and the appointment of Justice Muhammed <sup>Uwais</sup> Uwais, former Chief Justice of Nigeria and Chairman of the Presidential Committee on Constitutional Review, as Chair of the Committee is a welcome development. The appointment of this eminent jurist and respected professional will further enhance the credibility to the exercise and strengthen the commitment of participating States.

I am pleased to inform you that <sup>High Commission</sup> at the inauguration of the UN day on 24 October, UNDP and the Canadian <sup>Government</sup> announced the roll out of a similar assessment/competition amongst states that will focus on the progress toward the attainment of the MDGs. We are looking at close collaboration with the NGF in the implementation of this initiative, which is expected to give additional push to accelerate progress towards achieving the MDGs at the sub-national and ultimately at the national levels. The initiative will integrate the MDGs assessment surveys with State-level MDGs advocacy in order to foster critical commitments for MDGs acceleration in States. It will enable States to share best practices and provide each other with new and pragmatic ideas on best approaches.

At UNDP, we believe that this initiative is fully complimentary to the MDGs Acceleration Framework. With only 4 year to 2015, we are on the last leg in the race of time for the MDGs. UNDP's desire is to ensure that neither the States nor the Federal Government is left behind in terms of the goals and targets of the MDGs.

let me, on behalf of UNDP <sup>it has</sup> On this note, UNDP ~~wishes to commend~~ Ekiti state for the progress <sup>made</sup> in a number of the MDG targets. As the state that boasts the highest percentage of qualified professionals, you stand on firm grounds to realizing your development objectives. May I also commend the Governor of Ekiti state for his drive in developing strategic partnership for his state.

Let me also commend the state for the recently passed ~~act on~~ <sup>Gender-based</sup> violence ~~against~~ Law. This is an important milestone in promoting gender equality.

This gathering is an example of this and the strategic direction he is leading his state towards. UNDP stands ready to support you, sir, in your quest.

Finally, may I reiterate the interest of UNDP in this Peer Review exercise as initiated by the Nigerian Governors Forum which will provide the basis for State-level evidence based advocacy on governance and the MDGs. I wish you all a successful workshop.