



**CLOSING REMARK BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, STRATEGY AND RESEARCH, NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM, L.O.T SHITTU AT THE 2017 IGR NATIONAL PEER LEARNING EVENT, 30TH OCTOBER 2017**

*Protocol*

It is my pleasure to give the closing remarks on this auspicious occasion. Today's event marks the continuity of a legacy that the NGF has built, together with our partners, to strengthen the tax policy discourse. I'm particularly happy that this peer learning event came through just when its most needed, when States need to come together to take stock of areas where we can deepen gains, and areas that require deliberate actions to re-strategise for the coming year.

Let me extend our profound appreciation to our long-time partners – DFID and the World Bank, who have continued to show keen interest and involvement in the work we do.

I must also extend our vote of thanks to the Joint Tax Board, for the new collaboration we are building and for your role in providing the right platform to engage on matters of tax administration. JTB plays a vital role in ensuring that the discourse stays on. We hope to deepen this relationship.

To our delegates, the commissioners of finance, and chairmen of the State Boards of Internal Revenue. We thank you for continually showing the enthusiasm to improve fiscal governance at the Sub-national level, and for your cooperation whenever we invite you for these engagement meetings. We particularly appreciate the States who have worked with our teams to improve the depth of discussion we had today – to Bauchi, Benue, Kaduna, Anambra, Ogun and Cross River – thank you for your very telling case presentations.

I should also acknowledge the contributions of our resources person and facilitators, your presentations were very engaging – setting the right stage for what we have achieved today. We hope you will always be there whenever we call upon you.

For those who worked in the background, let me express my gratitude and appreciation for a job well done. To our staff and the teams who organized this event. I say thank you.

And of course, the press. You are an important stakeholder in building a peer learning environment. We hope you will be able to disseminate the outcome of today's work, to engender the fiscal social contract around taxation, between the government and citizens.

Before closing, I should mention that our programmes – the IGR Dashboard and HelpDesk have been very instrumental in providing technical inputs to this event. For States that have not fully engaged on these platforms, please get involved. There's a lot more mileage we can cover when we work together.

Thank you.

L.O.T SHITTU