

MINUTES OF THE MEETING

ON CLIMATE CHANGE

HELD ON

FRIDAY, 29TH JANUARY, 2010

AT

THE NGF SECRETARIAT

ATTENDANCE LIST

S/N	NAME	DESIGNATION/ORGANISATION	TELEPHONE/E-MAIL
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S/N	NOTES/ RESOLUTIONS	ACTION
1	<p><u>COMMENCEMENT</u></p> <p>The meeting started at 11.55am with the Director General (DG), NGF presiding. He apologised for starting the meeting behind schedule and said there were official commitments that needed to be taken care of. The meeting started with general introductions.</p> <p>The DG recalled his visit to the UK High Commissioner and his discussions with the latter that brought to the fore the seriousness of the global debate on climate change. He conceded that at the Forum, not much attention had been focussed on climate change even though some governors had done some work on it at their State level. He agreed that there was a need to bring all the Governors on board in the efforts at sensitising the people on Climate Change. Different groups had approached the Secretariat on the need to hold an event on Climate Change, hence the meeting.</p> <p>The DG recalled that he attended the event on Climate Change that took place in California in 2009, anchored by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger of California and felt the need to harmonise the efforts of the Governors with what was going on at the Federal level, as was the case in the US.</p> <p>In his remarks, the Consultant to the Lagos State Government on Climate Change stated that perhaps, climate change had been the most topical agenda in the world in the last two or three years and constituted the greatest challenge confronting mankind, which explained the Copenhagen Summit on Climate Change (2009) which had over 120 world leaders in attendance. In his response to the DG on the need to match the Forum's efforts with those of the Federal Government (FG), he stated that;</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. In the US, States were quite autonomous unlike the situation in Nigeria; ii. Also not all the States in the US were interested in Climate Change; iii. California was way ahead of the US government in its efforts on Climate Change. <p>In his brief on Climate Change, the Consultant further stated that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Climate Change deals with the catastrophe that could befall mother earth; ▪ Issues around it have become political, which was why he believed that it was an issue that could only be resolved globally; ▪ Nigeria was lagging behind in the efforts on climate change; 	

- The government of Lagos State well aware of the topicality of this subject had created a department on Climate Change;
- The State had organised a Climate Summit in March 2009 which was designed to raise the consciousness on Climate Change and which to the Governor's delight had been a huge success;
- The Lagos State Governor felt that the time had come for a Climate Summit involving all the 36 Governors in the country;
- Another Summit was scheduled for March 23-26, 2010 with a theme set around the Trans-boundary issues of Climate Change;
- Lagos State Government was keen on working with other States through the NGF, in tackling the issues of climate change;
- Consequently, a date would be set aside which would be dedicated to the Governors and a communiqué detailing a Programme of Action and the Way Forward would be issued at the Summit;

The meeting bemoaned the low awareness in Nigeria of issues surrounding climate change, which explained the dearth of Government policies on Climate Change. The meeting resolved that the time had come for the country to commit to the efforts to combat the menace of climate change and there was a need to hold a sensitisation event to address the issue. The meeting also resolved to package a well thought-out brief on Climate Change that would be presented to the Forum.

It was further opined that the way to go in creating an awareness that would be appreciated by the ordinary Nigerian was to avoid elitism in addressing the issue and use ordinary examples and terminologies that would be easily understood by every one.

The meeting also wondered if there was a possibility of expanding the theme already chosen for the Lagos Summit so as to involve the Forum. The team from Lagos State feared that this would amount to dragging them back as they had gone far on the matter. What they wanted at that stage was a buy-in of the Forum to their March event by getting involved in the 1 day set aside for the Governors. This was without prejudice to any role that the Forum would want them to play in any future sensitisation attempts.

The Lagos team also promised to avail the Secretariat of the Draft Programme for the March Summit, documents of the 2009 Summit and also accommodate the Forum in the preparations for the March event.

Finally, it was resolved that:

- i. The NGF would be involved in the Lagos State Summit;
- ii. The Secretariat would fully brief the Governors on the development and ensure their commitment;
- iii. Minutes of the meeting would be circulated to every body present at the meeting;
- iv. The NGF Secretariat to ensure that the capacity (in-house) is developed so as to equip it for complete and total involvement in the activities on Climate Change;
- v. A sub-committee to be put together ~~to see~~ to drive the process. Barrister Chuku was mandated to see to this.

The meeting ended at 1.35 pm.

Chuku, C.C, Esq
Secretary