



A Concept Note on Implementing the Nigeria's Climate Change Act: Engaging the Subnational Governments

This concept note seeks to highlight the opportunities of the federal agencies collaborating with the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) in coordinating the subnational state actors to address the challenges of implementing the climate change act. Also included is a brief history of the NGF's coordinated initiatives on Climate change with regards to State appropriations.

The Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) is the association of the 36 democratically elected Governors of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and a non-partisan platform that seeks to promote unity, good governance, peer learning, and collaboration among the States to ensure a healthy and beneficial relationship amongst the States and other tiers of government. The Forum organized her Induction Program for newly elected and returning Governors of the Federal Republic of Nigeria between the 14th and 19th of May 2023 at the Presidential Banquet Hall, State House, Abuja. This event brought together past governors, national and international leaders, captains of industries and development, and was designed to build capacity of the Governors to establish, organize, manage, and set agenda/priorities using best practices whilst leveraging the tools of their trade- people, processes and programmes and public opinion- for more effective governance.

Key objectives of the induction programme included the following.

- Preparing Governors to make the most of their transition from campaign to governing and building bridges for effective leadership.
- Deepening the knowledge and skills of Governors on the principles of governance and shaping their disposition and outlook to align with work and motivation levels.
- Creating a platform that will enable new Governors fully understand the philosophies, responsibilities, organization and cultural values, along with key processes of governance.
- Creating an opportunity for peer learning, promotion of global best practices and networking with national and global leaders.
- Exposing Governors to relevant contemporary national priorities in critical sectors of the economy and driving consensus on opportunities to achieve desired outcomes.

One of the issues discussed post the induction, was the need for the Governors to recognize that at the expiration of their tenures in office (considering a two-term), the topical issue on the global stage by 2030 would be the performance of national and sub-national governments on the 17 sustainable development goals. These goals can be classified into 3 categories: Economic, Environmental and Social. For this note, the focus will be on the Environmental which comprises of Goal 6 (*clean water and sanitation*), Goal 7(*affordable and clean energy*), Goal 12 (*responsible consumption and production*), Goal 13 (*climate action*), Goal 14(*life below water*) and Goal 15(*life on land*).

To be adequately prepared for good performance on these goals, subnational governments need to factor the SDGs into their State development plans and collaborate with the relevant agencies at the Federal level for seamless implementation. Consequently, the Nigeria Governors' Forum secretariat set up an SDG Desk to coordinate SDG and Climate change related activities at the subnational level and collaborate with the federal counterparts for effective and efficient implementation of SDG national plans and targets.



Key strategic partners include the Office of the Senior Special Assistant to the President on SDGs (OSSAP-SDGs) and the Department of Climate Change (DCC) of the Federal Ministry of Environment.

Also, the NGF leveraged its partnership with the World Bank (WB) during the implementation of the State Fiscal Transparency Accountability and Sustainability programme (SFTAS) to deliver a series of trainings on Climate change budget tagging, which was designed to enable governments to,

1. Identify, classify, and track climate change and/or green growth-related public expenditures.
2. Incorporate climate considerations in projects from early stages,
3. Generate budget data and improve transparency.

These trainings occurred in 2021 and 2022 with target audience including the State Commissioners of Finance, Budget, Permanent Secretaries to identify potential entry points for mainstreaming climate change in the budget process. Guidance tools such as the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) template were disseminated to States to help plan and prepare State's climate informed budgets for analysis, reporting and expenditure monitoring and tracking climate performance. Potential entry points for mainstreaming climate change in the budget process were agreed to include the following: Capacity building exercises, Strategic planning level (MTEF, MTSS), National development plans and Legislation.

On the international stage with regards to Climate change, during COP26, Nigeria committed to achieve net-zero by 2060, and barely a week after the conference, President Muhammadu Buhari signed into law the Climate Change Act, 2021 (the Act), which was passed by the National Assembly in October 2021 in order to provide Nigeria with a legal framework for the country to achieve its climate goals for achieving low GHG emissions, achieve long-term social and economic sustainability, and resilience and to mainstream climate change actions into national plans and programmes.

However, the Climate Change Act did not account for the role of the subnational governments in the implementation of the Climate change policies. A result of the silos operations and gaps in the flow of information and implementation between the federal and subnational agencies. The NGF believes that beyond invitations to the inter-ministerial committee on Climate change, the seamless coordination and implementation at the subnational level can be achieved through her convening channels in collaboration with the Federal Ministry of Environment, Department of climate change. The result being the development of an institutional framework that includes the States and works for Nigeria.

Eghosa M. Omoigui

Assistant Director
Head Stakeholder Relationships & SDGs
Nigeria Governors' Forum