

Protocol: The Chairman, your Excellency the Vice President, Council Members.

I wish to thank the NEC for the honour done to our committee members to be saddled with the responsibility of looking into one of the most important national internal conflicts in recent times, the farmer-herder conflicts.

As you may all wish to recall 'the NEC Farmer-Herder Crisis Committee' was constituted in February 2018 made up of 10 Governors (Adamawa, Benue, Ebonyi, Edo, Kaduna, Nasarawa, Oyo, Plateau, Taraba and Zamfara), with 2 Ministers (Agriculture and Interior), with a the single mandate "to find out the remote and immediate causes of the escalating farmer-herder conflicts and proffer short and long term solutions to addressing them".

The Committee got into action immediately by establishing a secretariat in the office of the NEC Chairman; the Vice President to document its activities properly as it commenced state visits of the most affected states by the conflicts between crop and livestock farmers. The committee made several visits to most affected states, engaged with all stakeholders and documented audio-visual and written submissions made before it.

The committee submitted its interim report to this council in April 2018 with clear findings and recommendations. At that meeting, the Council accepted the report and further requested that the Committee develop a plan for pilot implementation in the 7 frontline states of the conflicts in line with its interim report. The 7 frontline states were Adamawa, Benue, Kaduna, Nasarawa, Plateau, Taraba and Zamfara.

The Committee then took in all the documented work on policy dialogue conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture seeking modernization of the livestock subsector in 2016-2017 to form part of resources to guide the development of a comprehensive national plan. The draft copy of the plan was circulated to stakeholders in the most affected states for further input and feedback as the Committee embarked on yet another rounds of state visits in October 2018.



With stakeholder feedbacks received, the Committee finalized a 10-year plan, the National Livestock Transformation Plan (NLTP) 2019-2028 which it presented to the Council in February 2019 which was approved by Council with a caveat that willing states that are not part of the 7 frontline states could apply to join the implementation of the plan.

The Plan has 6 pillars to comprehensively address the underlining humanitarian and internal security situations created by the conflicts in affected communities as well as the economic investment needed to modernize livestock production system through appropriate ranching models as well as small holder crop production. The pillars of the plan are:

1. Conflict resolution,
2. Justice and Peace,
3. Humanitarian Relief and Early Recovery,
4. Human Capital Development,
5. Crosscutting Issues and
6. Economic Investment.

The Committee further developed an Implementation Guidelines to guide FGN and State Government on how to implement the plan appropriately. Implementation is the sole responsibility of the participating state with coordination by a NEC Steering Committee with Secretariat domiciled in the Office of the Vice President to support the states and ensure transparency to the Council with technical support from relevant MDAs. FGN is to contribute 80% in grant to support state implementation while States will contribute land, project implementation structure and personnel, and 20% cost of their project.

Submission: I submit that the Council consider and approve-

- a. the conversion of the Committee into a Steering committee to Coordinate state level implementation of this plan
- b. That the Vice President of the National Food Security Council joins the Steering Committee as a member
- c. That the Minister for Police Affairs joins the Steering Committee as a member
- d. Participating states should adhere to the processes and procedures for implementation as laid out in the implementation guidelines to guarantee successful implementation