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NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL

**MEMORANDUM TO THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL ON THE APPROVED
NATIONAL SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICY**

By the Honourable Minister of Budget and Economic Planning

The purpose of this memorandum is to apprise the Council of the approved National Social Protection Policy.

2.0 The Social Protection Policy for Nigeria is an umbrella policy framework that incorporates related social agenda paradigms intended to reduce poverty and provide a life of dignity for all citizens.

3.0 Social protection is a multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary approach that contributes to poverty reduction, articulating government policy priorities towards sustainable development. It is in this context that the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning, the coordinating organ of all programmes and policies of the government, was given the task to anchor the revision of the National Social Protection Policy with the active participation and contribution of all stakeholders in both public and private sectors at the Federal and Subnational levels. It is, therefore, a national policy derived from national consultation and consensus. The policy document is a product of inputs from all the states in Nigeria, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). The approved policy also received inputs from professional and technical experts, development partners groups on social protection, as well as all Head of key Agencies of Government and institutions, including all the Directors in the Ministry, and was backstopped by the Nigerian Institute of Social and Economic Research (NISER) under the coordination of the Social Development Department with leadership provided by the top management of the Ministry.

4.0 The National Social Protection Policy (NSPP) was revised during the period from 2021 – 2022, and was presented to the National Economic Council for approval on 20th October 2022 and to the Federal Executive Council on 14th December 2022. The revision took cognize emerging issues arising from COVID-19 and recognized new Ministries, Departments, and Agencies, including the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation. The Policy has a governance structure that provides for the National Social Protection Council to be chaired by the Vice President of Nigeria with the Honourable Minister of Labour and Employment, and Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation as Vice Chairs.

5.0 The Membership of the National Social Protection Council (NSPC) and the functions of the National Social Protection Council (NSPC) are as follows:

A. The Membership of the National Social Protection Council (NSPC)

- i. The Vice President as the Chairman of the council

Vice Chair(s)

- ii. Honourable Minister of Labour and Employment,
- iii. Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development as co-chair of the Technical Working Group;

Members

- iv. Honourable Minister of Finance;
- v. Honourable Minister Budget and Economic Planning
- vi. Honourable Ministers of relevant Ministries (including but not limited to Health, Education, Women Affairs, Agriculture, Water Resources, Communication and Digital Economy, etc.)
- vii. Chairman, Nigeria Governor's Forum
- viii. One Representative from each geo-political zone,
- ix. Representative of the Organised Private Sector,
- x. Representative of Civil Society Organizations,
- xi. Representative of Nigeria Governors' Forum and ALGON,
- xii. Representatives of the OSSAP/SDGs Office,
- xiii. National Identity Management Commission (NIMC)
- xiv. Representative of Traditional Rulers in the country

- xv. Permanent Secretary, Budget and Economic Planning as member and Head of the Secretariat;

B. The Council is tasked with the following functions

- i. Present a timely annual report to the President and the National Assembly on the status of social protection policy implementation in the country;
- ii. Ensure periodic review of the NSPP;
- iii. Develop regulations on accountability measures and mechanisms;
- iv. Provide linkages with other government oversight mechanisms and institutions;
- v. Ensure that sector actors prioritize social protection programmes in the annual budgets;
- vi. Undertake/facilitate fund raising for social protection activities and capacity building;
- vii. Conduct overall monitoring, evaluation, and review of the Programmes;
- viii. Coordinate development and humanitarian partners' contribution to social protection in Nigeria in line with the national strategy;
- ix. Promote effective inter-governmental collaboration in Social Protection programs;
- x. Initiate and oversee studies, assessments, and evaluations to gather evidence; and
- xi. Work with the media on advocacy and mobilization activities.

6.0 The policy has provision for the setting up of a Technical Working Group (TWG) to be Co-Chaired by the Honourable Minister of Labour and Employment and Honourable Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Poverty Alleviation. The TWG will be from key stakeholder implementation MDAs as well as non-state actors. The Secretariat of the TWG will be domiciled in the Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning.

A. The specific functions of the TWG are to:

- i. Develop guidelines and policies for implementing Social Protection (SP) Programmes in Nigeria.
- ii. Strengthen existing structures and recommend emerging interventions.
- iii. Develop regulations on accountability measures and mechanisms.
- iv. Coordinate development and humanitarian partners' contribution to Social Protection in Nigeria in line with national development vision
- v. Initiate and oversee studies, assessments, and evaluations to gather evidence and work with the media on advocacy and mobilization activities.
- vi. Foster collaboration amongst the Social Protection community of practice in Nigeria.
- vii. Lead the development of an SP legal framework.
- viii. Advocate with relevant MDAs on the implementation of SP.

- ix. Coordinate the development of tools for monitoring and evaluation.
- x. Develop a Social Protection implementation framework.
- xi. Review the Social Protection Policy and implementation framework every five (5) years.

7.0 Council is invited to Note that:

- i. the approved National Social Protection Policy was developed with all States involved from the diagnostic Report to national validation in Abuja by Commissioners of Economic Planning from all the States, including FCT, in September 2022;
- ii. there is a need to launch the approved National Social Protection Policy by the President in view of the passion and commitment of the Government to addressing poverty at all levels of governance;
- iii. there is a Robust National Implementation Plan Monitoring and Evaluation Framework;
- iv. the implementation of the National Social Protection Policy is critical at the sub-national levels of Government;
- v. States are to adopt and adapt the Policy and provide matching grants for the implementation of the programme;
- vi. States are also to be fully involved in the implementation of the NSPP; and
- vii. States will have the flexibility to replicate the structures at the Federal level.

8.0 **Prayers**

The Council is invited to consider and approve that the:

- i. National Social Protection, as approved by the NEC on 20th October 2022 and by the FEC on 14th December 2022, should be launched by the President of the Federal Republic of Nigeria on Thursday, 26th October 2023, or any other convenient date;
- ii. National Social Protection Council should be inaugurated on the same day of the launch of the Policy by the President; and
- iii. Vice President, as the Chair of the Council, should, as a matter of urgency, inaugurate the Technical Working Group.

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Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning
September, 2023