

# OPEN DATA POLICY

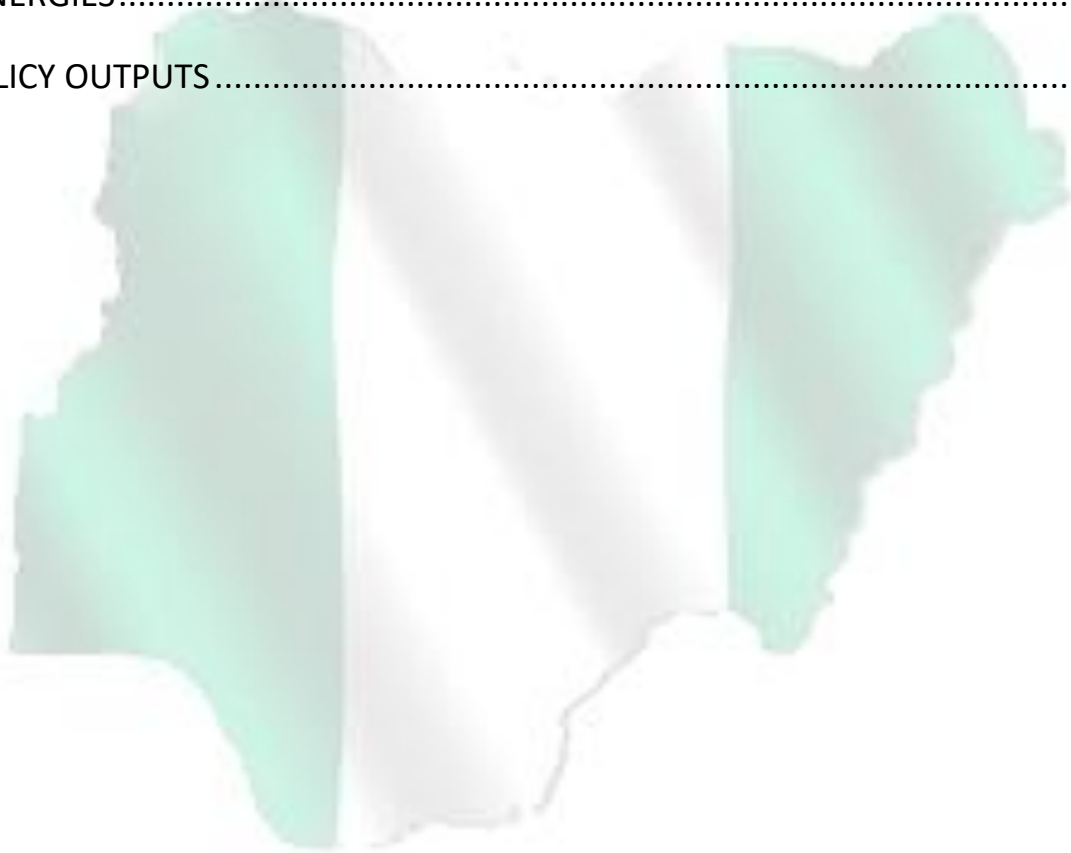


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*... promoting transparency, enabling prosperity.*

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## 1. INTRODUCTION

The world is currently witnessing a global shift towards open data and information triggered amongst other things by technological advancement as well as the need for increased transparency and accountability in the provision of information to citizens, most specifically information about the extractive sector.

All implementing countries of the EITI are required by the 2016 EITI Standard to develop by 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 an Open Data Policy.

Requirement 7.1.b - c of the 2016 EITI Standard requires the National Stakeholder Working Committee (NSWG) of Nigeria Extractive Transparency Initiative (NSWG) to:

- a. Agree a clear policy on the access, release and re-use of EITI data. Implementing countries are encouraged to publish EITI under an open license, and to make users aware that information can be reused without prior consent.
- b. Make the EITI Report available in an open data format (xlsx or csv) online and publicize its availability.

The foundation of NEITI's open data policy is the EITI Board-approved EITI open data policy document developed primarily from implementation lessons and in-depth deliberations with all relevant stakeholders and best practices globally.

This NEITI's open data policy presents a framework for the implementation of the global drive for open data especially in the extractive sector of the Nigerian economy. The policy is expected not only to create a solid foundation for open data disclosures in the extractive sector but also that it has the potential for implementation to other sectors of the economy.

## 2. BACKGROUND

Nigeria continues to subscribe to the EITI principle that sustainable development through public understanding of national revenue and public expenditure over-time facilitates public debate and informs rational choice of appropriate options and strategies leading to the eradication of poverty for sustainable development. Information on the findings of the EITI reports and the dissemination of such information are paramount drivers in the enlightenment process of citizens. The open data policy makes it easier to obtain such information.

## 3. DEFINITION

The NSWG of NEITI held a board meeting on the on the 7<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 and approved the definition of open data thus:

*"Data that is in the public domain or ought to be in the public domain that is accessible, freely used at no cost, can be shared and be built on by anyone, anywhere and for any*

*purpose without restrictions from copyright, patent or other control mechanism other than those expressly excluded by the provisions of the laws of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.”*

#### 4. OBJECTIVES

Open data policy is the governance instrument on making data publicly available and accessible in a reusable format: convenient, modifiable, in open format, easily retrievable, indexed, and well organized. Some key advantages of open data policy are:

- a. Increases transparency of government and business activities: awareness about how countries’ revenues from natural resources are used, and how extractive revenues are spent.
- b. Enhances better revenue and sector management
- c. Promotes accountability and good governance.
- d. Enhances public debate, and helps to combat corruption.
- e. Provides access to government data which empowers the citizens and business to make better informed choices on the services they receive and the standards they should expect.
- f. Provides a valuable tool for government in improving policy making process.
- g. Promotes free access to, and subsequent re-use of data that are of significant value to society and the economy.

These can be summed up as, data sharing engenders greater transparency, facilitates efficient public services delivery, encourages greater public and commercial use and re-use of government information for the benefit of the citizenry.

#### 5. POLICY GUIDELINES

- a. **Timing for data/information release:** Data/information from NEITI should be released as soon as the final EITI report by the independent administrator is ready. However, data/information produced on a regular basis by a relevant third party(ies) such as crude production data by DPR/IOCs, crude sales volume/value from COMD, should be made available pre and post reconciliation.
- b. **Level of Information to be made available:** All data contained in the EITI annual audit report(s) and annexes are to be made available, including reliable third party data which has been audited.
- c.
- d. **Data format:** Data would be made available in XLS and CSV formats on a continuous basis.

Going forward however, adopting the RDF (web-data based platform where each data-point is directly linkable to others & data structure is open) and LOD formats (network-data; where each data-point is directly pulled from source of data, and

speaks with other datasets) would be adopted in the future as part of this open data policy. The NEITI webpage will be used for this purpose on an ongoing basis with options for the use of other mediums as well in the future.

- e. **Licence Type:** This open data policy will employ the use of an Attribution License (i.e. CC-by & ODC-by). This type of license indicates that attribution must be given to the publisher of the data/information accessed/used. A major merit of this option is that it improves awareness about NEITI and allows users to freely obtain and easily re-use information/data obtained from the NEITI database whilst acknowledging NEITI as the publisher of such data/information

## 6. SYNERGIES

- a. Liaise with relevant Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government with a view to entrenching open data philosophy/practice within their individual systems by default.
- b. Work with all stakeholders in the extractive sector to increase open data literacy and understanding of open data principles of potential data users and providers.
- c. Collaborate with relevant stakeholder to ensure that data/information supplied is optimally disaggregated for use by the many classes of end users of the data/information.
- d. Explore options for ensuring that data is interoperable with national and international data standards (e.g. include GFS classification of revenue streams as encouraged by the EITI Standard.
- e. Work towards mainstreaming the open data of NEITI into government systems
- f. Encourage feedback or mapping of potential users to ensure disclosure of the information/structure of data in demand.

## 7. POLICY OUTPUTS

- a. Addressing open data issues in the Independent Administrator's Terms of Reference.
- b. Tasking the Independent Administrator to produce Excel files, and with compiling the Summary Data Templates.
- c. Clarifying the policy on open data in forthcoming EITI Reports.
- d. Publishing Excel files on EITI websites.
- e. Implementing specific activities to increase open data literacy.
- f. Commissioning feasibility studies and/or recommending reforms to promote routine automated online disclosure by companies and government agencies.