

Parallel Session 4

The Impact of the EITI in Nigeria

23 May 2013, 13:00-15:00

Nigerian panel:

Ibrahim Dankwanbo, Governor of Gombe State (Moderator)

Ledum Mitee, Board Chairman of NEITI NSWG

Faith Nwadishi, National Coordinator, PWYP Nigeria, incoming member of EITI International Board

Joseph Oluwatosin, Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC)

Lai Yahaya, Team Leader, FOSTER

EITI International Secretariat staff representatives:

Siri Farstad

Jurgen Reitmaier

In their opening presentations, the panel members agreed that EITI had had considerable impact already in Nigeria, as evidenced by recovered funds of US\$2 billion and exposed underassessment and underpayment of taxes of US\$10 billion (Faith Nwadishi). However, it was made very clear by Ledum Mitee that the life of citizens had not yet improved and that the EITI reports were far too technical. This was supported by Lai Yahaya who said that the MSG did not function well. Yet civil Civil society, companies, and government still spoke different languages: civil society was confused as to what petroleum industry Nigeria should be aiming for, ~~and~~ companies were constantly on the defensive and the government lacked knowledge and communicated badly. This resulted in the three parties in the MSG, failing to understand each others' position. (Lai Yahaya).

In the discussion, Ledum Mitee maintained that the NEITI legislation had been pivotal in changing the policy terrain in Nigeria. Faith Nwadishi held that foreign donors had hindered rather than helped in building capacity for civil society; in this context, the Moderator appealed to the EITI to guide on funding of civil society. Lai Yahaya said that China had failed to secure any oil for infrastructure contracts and was now probably cured of seeking benefit in a lack of transparency.

In the closing round, the Moderator challenged the panelists to look “beyond transparency.” Lai Yahaya saw growing interest in metering petroleum flows as the commercialization of NNPC progressed. Ledum Mitee held that the considerable hidden capacity in civil society should be encouraged, to which end the Moderator recommended merging CS institutions.