REPORT ON CONSULTATION AND DIALOGUE ON SDG IMPLEMENTATION IN NIGERIA

ORGANIZED BY	EVENT DATE	TIME & DURATION	GIEVA ATTENDEE
NNGO Forum	December 09, 2025	12:00 PM – 1:35 PM (95 Mins)	Zhebati Ogodo

EXECUTIVE OVERVIEW

The consultation and dialogue focused on the current status of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) implementation in Nigeria, highlighting key challenges, operational gaps, and priority national actions required to accelerate progress. Participants strongly emphasized the interconnectedness of all 17 SDGs and stressed that Nigeria does not require additional policy documents, but rather **effective, targeted implementation of existing frameworks at the grassroots level**.

KEY DISCUSSION HIGHLIGHTS BY SDG

SDG 5 Gender Equality

- **Governance Disparity:** Increasing marginalization and harassment of women in political spaces due to election-related violence.
- **Affirmative Action:** Urgent call for mandatory quotas to guarantee female representation in governance.
- **Education Barrier:** Cited UNICEF statistics showing **60% of out-of-school children** in Nigeria are girls.
- **Justice Deficits:** Victims face systemic barriers to legal redress; cases reported where young girls are forced to marry their abusers.

SDG 16 Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions

- **Regressing Security:** Escalating hostility and violence observed across multiple regional communities.
- **Funding Vulnerability:** Unsustainable over-reliance on external international funding for local security.
- **Institutional Weakness:** Politicization of governance, poor enforcement of laws, and weak accountability mechanisms hinder justice for victims of sexual abuse.

SDG 4 Quality Education

- **Teacher Shortage:** Severe lack of qualified teaching staff in public educational institutions.
- **Learning Quality:** Low standard of learning outcomes across government-administered schools.
- **Tech Infrastructure Deficit:** Zhebati Ogodo highlighted digital gaps, referencing the CHOICES scenario and WAEC's transition to CBT testing, which threatens to deepen inequities for under-equipped schools.

SDG 3 Good Health & Well-Being

- **Primary Healthcare Deficits:** Critical infrastructure shortages in primary healthcare facilities nationwide.
- **Interconnected Impact:** Poor health outcomes directly exacerbate poverty, gender inequality, and educational dropouts.
- **Human Capital Risk:** Unsubsidized or weak primary care undermines national economic development.

SDG 1 **No Poverty & Decent Work**

- **Cross-Cutting Axis:** Poverty directly drives security breakdowns, urban degradation, and poor health.
- **Decent Work Deficit:** Shortage of dignified employment, with foreign corporate labor practices failing decent work standards.
- **Household Strain:** Heavy economic burden placed on women when primary male earners lack stable employment.

SDG 10 **Reduced Inequalities (PWD Focus)**

- **Communication Barriers:** Widespread lack of understanding of communication needs for deaf and non-verbal citizens.
- **Parental Support:** Low uptake of free sign language training due to limited parental capacity.
- **Digital Innovation:** Highlighted mobile sign language apps, though noting lack of government-led rollout.

CROSS-CUTTING ISSUES IDENTIFIED

- **Implementation Over Policy Creation:** Nigeria possesses sufficient policy framework documents; the primary bottleneck is non-enforcement at the grassroots level.
- **Low SDG Literacy:** Awareness and operational understanding of the SDGs remain shockingly low even among senior government officials.
- **Political Interference:** Short-term political interests consistently override long-term good governance and institutional accountability.
- **Socio-Cultural Barriers:** Entrenched cultural norms continue to restrict progress on child protection, social inclusion, and gender rights.
- **Performance Gap:** Nigeria's SDG benchmark achievements lag significantly behind peer developing nations actively implementing reforms.

TOP THREE DEMANDS TO GOVERNMENT (SUBMITTED BY GIEVA)

1. **Enforce Existing Legal Frameworks:** Ensure full implementation of Gender Equality frameworks, Child Protection and Child Rights laws, the *Discrimination Against Persons with Disabilities (Prohibition) Act*, and universal access to quality education.
2. **Strengthen Security & Justice Infrastructure:** Protect the lives and property of all Nigerian citizens by reforming national security architecture and fortifying rule of law institutions against political interference.
3. **Guarantee Access to Decent Work:** Create a regulated enabling environment that ensures safe, fair, equal, and dignified employment opportunities for women, youth, and vulnerable workers nationwide.

SUMMARY & STRATEGIC CONCLUSION

The consultation concluded that Nigeria's failure to meet SDG milestones is not due to a shortage of legal or legislative policies. The critical barrier lies in **political will, institutional accountability, and practical execution at local community levels**. Sustainable progress will depend on coordinated civil society action, active citizen engagement, and transparent government leadership.