



THE INITIATIVES

NATIONAL ROUNDTABLE FOR GOOD GOVERNANCE

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Concept Paper for the Initiatives' 8th National Roundtable

Topic: Post Amnesty and the Challenges of National Security



Pursuant to the Federal Government peace plan in the Niger Delta, President Umaru Musa Yar'Adua had in June 2009, proposed an amnesty deal to militants in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, who supposedly were fighting for a fair share of the oil-rich region's resources. The amnesty arrangement, which lasted for 60 days, began in August and ended on Sunday, October 4, 2009.

Prior to the amnesty offer, the security situation in the Niger Delta with its attendant restiveness, resulting to a sharp drop in production of oil and gross national revenue as well as threat to national security was a great concern to stakeholders.

The situation then was that of total breakdown of law and order and total anarchy in the face of obvious degradation in the social environment. The militancy however, resulted to social disruption, investment and capital flight, abject poverty and under development. Also disturbing was the Lack of integration in national consciousness with its concomitant severe impact in National Planning and Development.

In any case, there is no doubt that the federal government's amnesty deal has been quite successful and commendable especially considering the relative peace and stability recorded within the period in the region since the amnesty plan was achieved.

In continuation of THE INITIATIVES' Public Consultation and Mobilization Strategy (PCMS), the eighth National Roundtable for Good Governance and Proactive Laws in Nigeria on **Post Amnesty and the Challenges of National Security** shall review the gains of the amnesty granted to militants in the Niger Delta and strategies that will not only build confidence but guarantee sustainable peace in the region.

GOVERNING BOARD.

Hon. Justice Mohammed Uwais GCON - **Chairman**

His Excellency Sen. Pius Anyim - **Vice Chairman**

Chief Wole Olanipekun SAN - **Advisor**

The eighth roundtable session shall seek to identify factors that will connect the amnesty regime with sustainable peace in the Niger Delta as well as promote national security. Amnesty simply put is a general pardon of offence(s) by a government and deliberately overlooking offense(s) against it. It presupposes pardon to the criminally culpable from the just punishment of the law. Peace on the other hand is achieved when there is an agreement by parties in hitherto conflict to end hostilities in order to attain a harmonious relationship therefore, bringing about cessation of all aggression and embarking on a fresh relation based on the reconciliation of differences that led to crisis in a win-win situation.

The above definitions shall be the guide for a road map towards a sustainable peace in the region. The session shall appraise the causes of the conflict and recommend measures that will sustain peace in the post amnesty era. The session will also x-ray challenges and volatility of the region to national security and development.

The roundtable session shall further review strategies and models for the rehabilitation and reengagement of the militants with the civil populace in a cordial, proactive and conducive manner. The roundtable would identify youth Empowerment programs and job creating opportunities to create gainful employments for youths in the region in addition to identifying genuine programs that will facilitate massive investments in infrastructure development in the region.

The 8th national roundtable shall also review effective legal and regulatory standards and systems to prevent the wider illegal traffic in arms by non-State actors, especially criminal groups.

Finally, the session shall review past government interventionists programs and initiatives in the Niger Delta and come up with some recommendations that are relevant to the present state of affairs in order to build confidence and trust in the amnesty initiative as well as sustain peace and promote national security.