



Policy Brief

Improved Legislative Oversight On

Accountability

In

Public Sector Operations

With Support from

MacArthur
Foundation



Policy Brief

Improved Legislative Oversight on Accountability in Public Sector Operations

With Support from



Preface

Accountability, like its notional stable-mate, governance, is one of those recurrent phrases in contemporary debates on public policy and administration. The mechanisms of accountability remain one of the core principles that enthrone good governance in a Federal structure like ours, where a democratic system of government is in place. The prominence of the discourse on accountability is tied in with the need to promote good governance which compels governments to observe openness and transparency, appropriate mechanisms of accountability, provisions to maximize governmental efficiency and the encouragement of public participation.

The institutional arrangement, as expressed in the distribution of governmental powers among the three arms of the Nigerian government- the executive, the legislature and the judiciary, are guided by autonomy, separation of powers and checks and balances. The common commitment to good governance is thus evaluated and determined by the performance and synergy of these three arms of government. The Legislative, through its constitutional instrument (The Public Accounts Committee), is the centre of accountability of the public sector and it is through the committees' accountability to the legislative that the public sector is ultimately accountable to the people.

With respect to Legislative Oversight, the House of Representatives, on adoption of the legislative agenda of the 8th House, committed to furthering legislative intervention as necessitated by the ineffective implementation of some of the National Assembly's legislative and executive programmes, policies and laws by the executive. The House expressed its political will and capacity to persist in the vigorous oversight of the executive to promote accountability and reduce the misuse of public resources and thus proposed the institution of an appropriate system to incorporate Civil Society Organizations, citizen monitoring groups and the media to this end, where necessary (Guardian, 2016).

CISLAC, with support from the MacArthur Foundation, prevails on its unreserved contributions to a healthier democracy through demands for improved accountability and by extension good governance, by initiating a project titled- Strengthening Legislative Accountability and Anti-Corruption Mechanisms (SLAAM). This policy brief is predicated on the SLAAM project and with recourse to the aforementioned legislative commitment of the House, as it summarily explores the Nigerian legislative landscape with respect to oversight functions on accountability in public sector operations. It apprises the citizenry on the importance of legislative oversight, the role of the legislative in oversight on accountability, inherent challenges in discharging those responsibilities and the need for the legislative to leverage on their constitutionally mandated powers to address those deficiencies. By so doing, we hope to establish a constructive legislature-executive-CSOs working relation to build citizens' confidence and promote transparency and accountability in government.

Auwal Musa Ibrahim

Executive Director, CISLAC

2018

Improved Legislative Oversight on Accountability in Public Sector Operations

Background / Introduction:

A school of thought described the legislature as the most important of the three arms of government. There are two key reasons for this postulation:

- The legislature represents various constituencies across the country, giving all parts of the country a direct voice in governance through inclusion and participation.
- The legislature has the power of the purse, it approves the budget for implementation and adjudication by the executive and the judiciary respectively.

Through this policy brief, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) aims to promote active involvement of federal legislature in anti-corruption with hope to improve legislative response to investigative reports and inquiries on public sector corruption. This will contribute to reduction of corruption in Nigeria.

Purpose of Policy Brief

The policy brief goal is to create better understanding of the mandate of National Assembly on oversight functions as stipulated in section 85(2)(5) of the 1999 Constitution of Federal Republic of Nigeria (As amended) and thereby builds citizens' confidence and participation in accountable governance.

Specifically, the policy brief will:

- Examine the role of Public Accounts Committees (PAC) of the National Assembly, using case studies to show the current challenges of effectiveness in the performance of oversight functions.
- Explain the nexus between the Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation (OAuGF) and PAC in plugging leakages in the use of appropriated funds.
- Recommend action points for state and non-state actors to improve legislative oversight on accountability, sustainability and democratic governance.

Why Oversight is important?

A key aspect of legislature role is oversight functions, i.e. the power to monitor, evaluate, guide and ensure that due diligence is followed in the use of public funds by all governmental institutions. This process ensures that public servants are answerable to the electorate (the people), through their elected representatives. Oversight function is broad as it includes overseeing of performances of Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), approval of key executive's nominees for public offices, consideration and passage of appropriation bill and investigation of executive's conducts in the discharge of duties.

Oversight on accountability in public sector expenditure is carried out through the Public Accounts Committees' review of the Auditor General's Report as provided in Section 85(5) of the 1999 Constitution (As amended).

The Committees scrutinize public accounts of MDAs and ensure public funds are used in accordance with estimates and votes as approved by the legislature. In addition, the legislature may subpoena public servants to public investigative hearings, request clarification on public expenditures, hold formal, public or closed meeting to elicit information as part of their oversight function.¹ Key stakeholders that can strengthen oversight functions include the PAC and OAuGF. Civil society organisations (CSO) evidently need to increase support to PAC and OAuGF for improved oversight function and effectiveness on the use of public funds.

Public Accounts Committees: Oversight and Accountability in the Public Sector Operation

Public Accounts Committees of the National Assembly in both the Senate (In accordance with Order XIII Rule 97[5] of the Senate Standing Orders 2007 [As amended]) and the House of Representatives (In accordance with Order XVII Rule A. 6. (1) of the House Standing Orders) were established² in agreement with the 1999 Constitution (As amended).

The Committees in both chambers consider the audited accounts of all offices and

1. PLAC, Guide to Legislative Oversight in the National Assembly, PLAC, Abuja, 2016

2. <https://www.orderpaper.ng/corruption-public-accounts-committee-legislative-oversight/> (Last accessed July 5, 2018)

courts of the Federation when it is submitted by the OAuGF. The OAuGF is mandated to submit its reports to the legislature within ninety (90) days of receipt of Financial Statement from the Office of the Accountant General for the Federation. Key functions of the Public Accounts Committees include:

- (a) Appraise audited accounts of all offices (MDAs) and courts of the Federation and the Auditor-General's report thereof as transmitted annually;
- (b) Establish causes of spending by MDAs outside of estimates and votes approved by National Assembly and recommend steps for recovery, sanctions and/or prevention in future.

In order to perform its duties, the Committee is empowered to get evidence from any persons either in oral or written format. It may also require any person to produce any books, documents or record for this purpose.

In recent times, the Committees (in both chambers) have executed a number of oversight investigations aside the consideration of 2015 audited accounts of all offices and courts of the federation transmitted to it in part 1 and 2 on December 2nd 2016 and May 31st 2017 respectively. Some recent assignments by the Committees are as in the table below:

Case Study 1

NNPC spends N216b on subsidy without National Assembly's approval in 2017

Issue: Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) spent Two Hundred and Sixteen Billion naira (N216.9b) as differential on importation of Premium Motor Spirit (Fuel) from January – December 2017 without recourse to the National Assembly (NASS). This is a breach of 2017 Appropriation Act and Financial Regulation 417. From 1999 to 2016, there has been appropriation for subsidy duly approved by NASS.

Action: The Senate on 17th January, 2018 mandated its Public Accounts Committee (PAC) to investigate "... subsidy monies already spent by the NNPC without recourse to the National Assembly." The Committee conducted Investigative Hearing with 11 stakeholders. It affirmed that N216.9b has been expended on subsidy without approval of NASS and/or cooperation of Central Bank and Accountant-General of the Federation.

The PAC recommended that NNPC should stop illegal payment without appropriation and make formal request to NASS for appropriation for the N216.9b. This was ignored by the executive in 2018 budget.

Source: Report of the Senate PAC on the Investigation of All Subsidy by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation without Recourse to the National Assembly, April, 2018

Selected Activities of Public Accounts Committees of the National Assembly 2017 – 2018

S/N	Activity	Chamber	Date	Remarks
1	Allegations that MDAs owe Government tax liabilities of over N115 billion.	House of Representatives	Nov. 7 2017	The House of Representatives ordered the Committee to investigate the allegation.
2	Probing of MDAs on utilisation of funds appropriated for Information Technology (IT) due to deficit in Nigeria's IT use despite huge allocations annually.	House of Representatives	July 5 2018	PAC to collaborate with Finance Committee and report back in 4 weeks.
3	Exercise of oversight functions to investigate moveable assets of MDAs from 2010 – July 2017 in line with paragraphs 2106 and 2128 of Financial Regulations.	Standing Committees of House of Representatives	July 4 2017	This was necessitated by allegation of loss of over two (2) trillions naira by Federal Government between 2012 and 2017.
4	Allegations of Financial Fraud in planned diversion of \$350n in Power sector to be investigated.	The Senate	Nov. 8 2017	PAC to collaborate with Committee on Power to investigate the allegations.
5	Submission of Report on the Investigation of all Subsidy Monies spent by NNPC without recourse to the National Assembly.	The Senate	April 2018	Recommended that NNPC through Mr. President formally request for the utilised funds from NASS.
6	Review and Submission of Report on the Status of Compliance of Parastatals Submission of Audited Accounts and Auditors Reports Thereon to the OAuGF.	The Senate	February 2018	Report recommended non-approval of budget for MDAs that failed to comply.
7	Submission of Report on the Federal Audit Service Commission Bill, 2018.	The Senate	January 2018	Bill consequently passed by the Senate on March 1st 2018.

Source: Information collated from placng.org/ website. (Last accessed on July 6, 2018)

Challenges of Public Accounts Committees on Oversight and Accountability in Public Sector Operations

The Public Accounts Committees, vis-à-vis the legislature, at the federal levels has been plagued with plethora of challenges in carrying out its oversight functions, the challenges include:

- Experience and institutional memory issue:** Vague oversight experience of members of parliament due to high attrition rate limits the action of PAC. More than fifty percent (50%) of members of 7th Assembly did not return to 8th Assembly. New members therefore have to learn the process anew.
- Legislature – Executive Tussle for Power:** There has been a fraught relationship between the executive and the legislature since the return of civil rule in 1999. This is more pronounced in the 8th Assembly, where the parliament and the Presidency have sustained accusations of fund mismanagement between themselves.
- Low political culture:** There is a permeating culture of corruption in Nigeria's political system. Constituents do not make needed accountability demands on their elected representatives, thereby, not pressuring them to scrutinize the executive adequately.
- Funding:** Despite its enormous tasks, the Public Accounts Committees is not adequately funded by the National Assembly. In the interim, donor communities are supporting the Committees with technical aids to deliver on their duties. For instance, the Committees in both chambers deliberated and resolved various provisions of the 2018 Federal Audit Commission Bill with funding of UK Department for International Development (DFID) which supported a retreat for Committees' members on 26 January 2018.

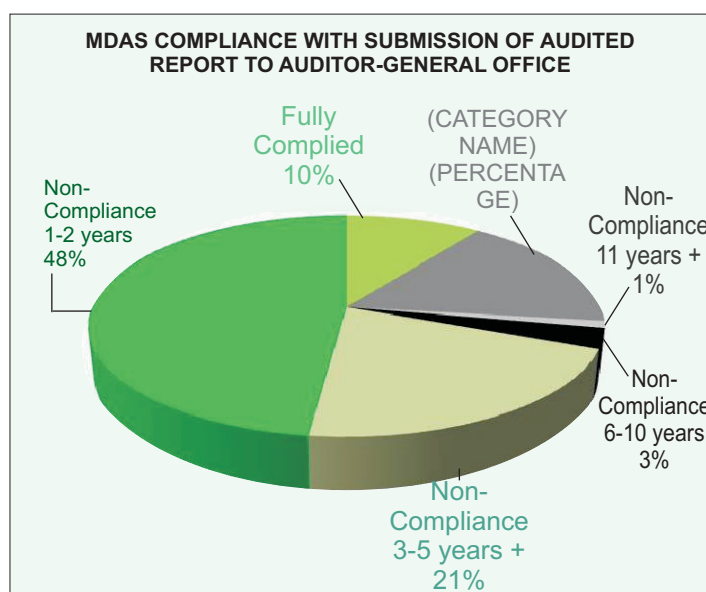


Figure 1: Source: Senate PAC Report on Parastatals' Submission of Audited Account Feb 2018. (See Case study 2 below for more details)

- **Inability to sanction erring MDAs:** The Committee has recommended sanctions against erring MDAs, including withholding of budget, etc. (See Case study 1). This has not yielded any result as the executive have at various times, refused to comply with National Assembly resolutions.

Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation: Role in Oversight and Accountability

Annually, The Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation is expected by law to provide audited accounts of MDAs and its report thereof to the Public Accounts Committees of both chambers of the National Assembly. The auditing of the public accounts in Nigeria started since the colonial era. As far back as 1866, the Colonial Branch of the Exchequer and Audit Department undertook audit of colonial government expenditure. The Audit Ordinance of 1956 expanded the duties of the Office to include safeguarding the collection of revenue, ensuring all payments are aligned with the annual budget amongst others Under the 1979 Constitution (Section 79[2]), the Office's role in public accounts

Case Study 2

85 PARASTATALS FAILED TO SUBMIT AUDITED REPORT SINCE INCEPTION

Issue: Section 85(3)(b) of the Constitution requires that MDAs submit audited account annually to the Office of Auditor-General for the Federation (OAuGF). Only 10% of 491 MDAs in Nigeria fully complied, according to 2015 Financial Statement.

85 MDAs have failed to comply since their inception. Senate Public Accounts Committee (SPAC) noted “with sadness” that parastatals do not take accountability in public expenditure seriously because there are no penalties for offenders.

Action: SPAC recommended withholding of 2018 budgetary allocations to all MDAs that fail to submit audited account by March 2018. The National Assembly has also passed the Federal Audit Service Bill, which stipulates penalties for offenders.

Source: *SPAC Report on the Status of Compliance of Parastatals' Submission of Audited Accounts & Auditor's Report thereon to OAuGF February 2018*

improved with the power to audit “all public funds and institutions without exception.”³

Challenges of the OAuGF in ensuring Effectiveness of Auditing of Federation Accounts and Courts

The Auditor-General’s Office is saddled with lot of challenges in performing its mandate of auditing MDAs for transparency and accountability in governance in Nigeria. These include:

- **Insufficient Manpower:** Currently, the office has about 1,500 staff members and audits 471 MDAs, the Auditor-General, Anthony Mkpe Ayine, has noted that over the years, the office has performed below par, considering the complexity of its task and manpower challenges.⁴ The need for effective training of the available staff members was raised in its 2017 – 2022 Strategic Development Plan (SDP) as well as a need for improved remuneration.
- **Underfunding:** Funding is noted as a major risk to the office achieving its 2017-2022 SDP. For instance, the office's 2017 total budget was N2.78 billion. Only approximately 3.26% went into purchase of equipment, while about 70% went into personnel cost, as shown in the table below.

PERSONNEL – Staff Salaries and Wages	N1,909,022,726.00
OVERHEAD – All Running Cost	N784,230,795.00
CAPITAL – All Equipment Purchases	N90,509,818.00
TOTAL: OAuGF 2017 Budget	N2,783,763,339.00

Source: OAuGF: Strategic Development Plan Sept 2017

This office will remain in a status of 'business as usual', unless its funding is improved for efficiency.

- **Weak Law:** Section 85(3) of the 1999 Constitution (as amended) excluded statutory corporations, commissions, authorities, agencies from auditing. This malady started with Decree No. 17 of 1985, when the military junta took over

3. OAuGF, Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation Nigeria: An Introduction and History, OAuGF, May 2016

4. <https://www.oaugf.ng/news1/258-audit-as-an-instrument-for-fighting-corruption>

power from civilian authorities. Till date, even MDAs that the Office has the constitutional power to audit, evidently fail to comply, cooperate or respond timely to queries on their expenditure. These acts of non-compliance saturated the 2015 annual reports (Part 1 & 2) released by the OAuGF.⁵

- **Autonomy:** Budget of the OAuGF is determined by the Ministry of Finance as with other MDAs, while its senior staff members are also appointed, disciplined and promoted by the Federal Civil Service Commission. This erodes its autonomy as evidenced by the lack of compliance in its 2015 reports.⁶

Efforts towards improving OAuGF's auditing of MDAs and Courts in the Federation

In order to improve its services to the Government of Nigeria, including the National Assembly and the Nigerian people, the

Case Study 3

MDAs Move Monies from Recurrent to Capital Expenditure Inappropriately

The OAuGF noted that Ministry of Aviation moved 51 recurrent expenditure account items (mainly travel and transportation) to Capital Development Account between October – December 2015, totaling One Hundred and Forty-Seven Million (N147m) Naira. This contravenes Financial 2015 Appropriation Act and Financial Regulation 417, which requires that expenditure should tally with estimates and votes. There was also a case of 108 personal advances to staff of the Ministry totaling N129m between January 2012 and December 2015 in breach of Financial Regulation 1404(iii). The OAuGF through an Audit Inspection report dated 13th June 2016 requested for refund to Federal Government by staff concerned. Response was still being awaited when Audited report was made public. Federal Audit bill which called for penalties may address this in future.

Source: *Annual Report of the Auditor-General for the Federation on the Accounts of the Federation of Nigeria for the Year Ended 31st Dec., 2015 (Part 1 & 2), OAuGF, 2017*

5. *ibid*

6. OAuGF, 2015 Annual Report Part 1 & 2. OAuGF, May 2017.

OAuGF's plans include:

- Adopted a Strategic Development Plan for 2017 – 2022. The five-year Plan built on the 2013-2017 Strategic Development Plan. It sets the direction for a “stronger Supreme Audit Institution for Nigeria” that will thoroughly act as a watchdog on relevant institutions.⁷

The office has implemented a number of its quick-wins for Year 1: including mapping and engaging anticorruption agencies and donors; developing regularity manuals, a communication strategy and training of staff members to meet international public sector accounting standards. However, more resources will be needed to achieve ICT improvement, high level training for technical staff and improved legal framework.

- **Improving capacity through training and engagement:** The office has trained over 1,500 staff members to increase their capacity and open them to new ways of working. In addition, it has continued to strengthen its collaboration with other anticorruption agencies and international development partners.⁸
- **Federal Audit Law:** The audit bill which has been in the National Assembly for over a decade has been passed and harmonised by both chambers in 2018. The bill provides the office with more financial and administrative independence. The office is expected to engage with critical stakeholders in key ministries – Justice and Finance, to ensure that it is assented to by Mr. President timely. The collaboration with PAC and donor agency (DFID) helped facilitate the concurrence of the Senate and House of Representatives bills.

Conclusion

The Public Accounts Committees, vis-à-vis the National Assembly, play a critical role in promoting transparency, accountability and what has been called “citizens' ownership” of public funds. Reducing corruption through blockage of leakages in public sector operations is critical for Nigeria's development. The PAC therefore needs to intensify its monitoring of misuse of public funds through continual collaboration with OAuGF and other Ministries to ensure that its recommendations, resolutions and

7. OAuGF, “Strategic Development Plan 2017 – 2022: Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation, Federal Republic of Nigeria”, September 2017.

8. <https://www.oaugf.ng/news/258-audit-as-an-instrument-for-fighting-corruption>

guides are followed in recovery of funds that public servants used in contravention of approval. The passage of the Federal Audit bills by the National Assembly to strengthen the office is welcomed; it will empower the office to sanction and fine MDAs that have continued to disregard its call for timely submission of the Financial Statements.

Recommendations

Public Accounts Committees of National Assembly:

- **Funding and training:** The Public Accounts Committees perform a specialised role, its members and technical staff therefore need specific trainings to improve their scrutiny of use of public funds, especially considering the high attrition rate of legislature in Nigeria. Measuring available skills of the committee members and working towards improving them may help the National Assembly leadership achieve better outcomes. PAC may also collaborate with Legislative Institutes nationally and elsewhere.
- **Sanctioning of erring MDAs:** Weightier sanctions on defaulting MDAs, like the non passage of such MDAs budget or other actions permissible by law, may restore MDA compliance.
- **Increased dissemination of PAC reports to critical stakeholders:** The PAC vis-à-vis the National Assembly may improve its communication strategy and further disseminate its reports to their constituents, media and other interested groups to pressure the MDAs into becoming more accountable in the use of public funds. This may include a more robust and interactive website.
- **Transmission of Federal Audit Commission Bill:** Improvement in the execution of PAC duties may be enhanced by a timely assent of the Federal Audit Commission Bill by the President.

Office of the Auditor-General for the Federation:

- **Full implementation of Strategic Development Plan:** The 2017 – 2022 Strategic Development Plan of OAuGF is designed to make the Office a “stronger Supreme Audit Institution. With inadequate funds being a threat, the OAuGF

may be required to seek increased resource assistance from government and donor agencies, for the 2017-2022 SDP to be satisfactorily implemented.

- **Transmission and Assent of Federal Audit Commission Bill:** Improvements in the execution of OAuGF duties may be enhanced by a timely assent of the Federal Audit Commission Bill by the President.
- **Increased engagement with non-state actors:** The mapping of stakeholders (anticorruption MDAs and donors) by the office is laudable. Increased collaborations with civil societies organisations (CSO), and the media to disseminate its reports and programmes may attract more support and improve auditing of public funds in Nigeria.

Civil Society Organisations Including Media and International Donor Agencies

- **Information sharing for improved result:** Civil society organisations and donor agencies should share information on their engagements and supports to PAC and OAuGF through periodic stakeholder meetings. This will help streamline interventions and improve service delivery on oversight functions.
- **Increasing awareness on oversight function amongst citizens:** CSO and donor organisations should engage the media to increase citizens' education on roles of the legislature in curbing misuse of public functions, especially and on citizens can support National Assembly on this agenda.
- **Shadow oversight of projects and advocacy to PAC for further action:** Civil society groups may also use transparency and accountability tools to monitor effectiveness around implementation of social sectors projects and furnish the PAC with information that will galvanise the activities.

About CISLAC

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) is a non-governmental, non-profit legislative advocacy, information sharing and research organization, arising from the felt need to address defects in the legislative advocacy work of civil society and open the window through which legislators can also access civil society groups. It aims to strengthen the work of Civil Society on Legislative Advocacy and bridge the gap between legislators and the Civil Society.

The formation of CISLAC arose from the context of the fact that the return to civilian rule in Nigeria was achieved largely by the struggles of the organizations of Civil Society especially the Human Rights and pro-democracy groups. Many activists lost their lives in the demonstrations, and sometimes, violent eruptions which characterized agitation for democracy and the opening of the democratic space in the context of authoritarian military rule and dictatorship.

Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC) is currently one of the major civil society organizations in Nigeria with a primary focus on legislation and legislative processes. CISLAC is also engaged in policy/legislative advocacy, civil society capacity building and media engagement. CISLAC works to train and enlighten civil society on policymaking, the responsibilities of the legislature, and the existing policies and legislations affecting Nigerian citizens. It also aims to ensure that the legislature at local, state and federal levels are aware of their relationships with other government bodies and have a responsibility of acting as a voice for the people.

CISLAC was integrated as a corporate body (CAC/IT/NO22738) with the Nigeria's Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC) on the 28th December 2006. Prior to this incorporation, however, CISLAC had actively been engaged in legislative advocacy work since 2005. The organisation is also compliant with the Anti-Money Laundering Act 2007.

The Organisation reports to SCUML, any transaction that is above One thousand dollars, detailing the payee, purpose and the other KYC (Know Your Customer) requirements. This is done on a weekly or monthly basis depending on the volume of transactions and to ensure appropriate compliance with anti-money laundering laws.

CISLAC is also registered organisation under the National Planning Commission. In recognition of its broad perspective, CISLAC was granted an ECOSOC status by the United Nations in 2011 giving it the mandate and the instrumentality of the United Nations. CISLAC is duly registered in accordance with the provisions of Section 5(1) (a) of the Money Laundering (Prohibition) Act, 2011 of the Economic and Financial Crime Commission (EFCC). It is the national contact of Transparency International (TI).

CISLAC through its engagement of the governance processes in Nigeria has contributed towards the passage of several primary legislation such as the Fiscal Responsibility Act, Violence against Persons Prohibition Act, National Tobacco Control Act, National Health Act, Public Procurement Act, and Nigeria Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative Act which promotes transparency and accountability in governance as well as the domestication of

international conventions at the Federal and state levels in Nigeria through advocacies, presentation of memoranda and public enlightenment programmes and media engagement.

CISLAC along with other civil society organizations campaigned and advocated for passage of the Freedom of Information Act. CISLAC is among the movement advocating for the passage of such pieces of legislation as Disability Bill, Gender and Equal Opportunity Bill, Whistleblower Protection Bill, Prison Reform Bill, etc.

CISLAC has created civil society awareness through publication and dissemination of monthly newsletter—Legislative Digest which have been in circulation for both public and legislative consumption since October 2006. It has been a central medium of accountability, as it provides citizens a platform to monitor the performance of their Legislators, and a channel for Civil Society Organizations advocacy on critical issues that require legislative intervention. Also, CISLAC has a wide range of publications such as Textbooks and Policy Briefs, which examines policies requiring amendment and providing recommendations.

As a renowned CSO in Legislative advocacy in the region, CISLAC has on several occasions shared its experience on best practices for legislative advocacy on invitation from its international partners such as the World Bank Parliamentary Forum and the United Nations Millennium Campaign/Sustainable Development Goals in African countries such as Kenya and Zimbabwe. Similarly, Ghana, Kenya, and Democratic Republic of Congo have also requested support from CISLAC for replication of its work in Legislative advocacy. In many West African countries such as Liberia, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Cameroon, Niger, Togo and Benin Republic, CISLAC has carried out experience sharing and advocacy exercises on the Extractive Industry Transparency Initiative processes through supporting the passage of extractive industry initiative laws in these countries. CISLAC also undertakes capacity building for legislators, CSOs and Media on policy engagements in the above countries.

CISLAC's sub-granting experience includes grants to national organisations. With skilled, committed, experienced and proactive leadership and employees, particularly in the areas of coalition building, tenacious advocacy, community mobilization and the clout needed to engage lawmakers at all levels, the organization has proven capacity to attract international solidarity, engage policy makers and mobilize local civil society groups and communities into action.

GOAL:

To make government accessible, responsive and accountable to citizens.

VISION:

A Nigeria where legislators and policy makers are safeguarding citizens' rights and welfare while citizens effectively demand accountability

MISSION:

To engage state and non-state actors for improved policy and legislative frameworks, transparency and accountability in governance for people oriented development.

ADVOCACY VISITS

CISLAC has successfully engaged key members of the National Assembly in order to wield their influence in ensuring that civil society positions are accommodated. In 2006, for instance, CISLAC targeted key players and created public awareness on draft legislation and questionable provisions incorporated by the National Assembly. Such efforts improved the levels of discipline, transparency, and accountability in the management and openness of fiscal responsibility, public procurement, and the nation's extractive Industry sector in Nigeria.

Through such efforts, CISLAC has empowered communities mostly affected by the extractive industry sector, improved the levels of information dissemination, and ensure due process and transparency in the payments made by extractive industry companies to the Federal Government and its agencies. It has also educated State and Federal legislators, their advisory staff, CSOs, the media, and key stakeholders on their oversight roles in legislation and has reviewed their commitment in implementation.

PUBLICATION OF MONTHLY NEWSLETTERS

CISLAC has strengthened Civil Society intervention by the publication of a monthly newsletter - *Legislative Digest*, which has been in circulation for both public and legislative consumption since October 2006. It has been a central medium of accountability, as it monitors the performance of Legislators, and a channel for advocacy on critical issues that need legislation. Also, CISLAC has a wide range of publications such as Textbooks and Policy Briefs.



No.16, House 3, P.O.W. Mafemi Crescent
Off Solomon Law way
Behind Chida Hotel near Daily Trust News
Utako District, Abuja, Nigeria
Website: www.cislacnigeria.net
Email: cislac@cislac.kabissa.org