



Address By

***President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR, President of
the Federal Republic of Nigeria***

Represented By

Mr. Abubakar Malami, SAN

***Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of
Justice***

*At the Presentation of the
Nigeria's Open Government Partnership National Action
Plan (January 2017 to June 2019)*

Paris, France,

7th December, 2016

Protocol,

1. I am delighted that Nigeria has joined the Open Government Partnership (OGP) at this time in our national life. For many years, lack of openness and corruption has meant that resources meant for development have been frittered away through the entrenchment of a culture of opacity. I am therefore glad that through the OGP process, my government has committed to intensifying the fight against corruption, sharing more information about the way federal ministers are managing public resources, increasing civil society engagement in decision making and harnessing new technologies to strengthen governance.

2. Our membership of the OGP reaffirms the promise of my government to make fighting corruption a cardinal part of its policy agenda. And when I say fighting corruption, I do not see it as a stand-alone effort. Rather, it is a coordinated and multi-sectoral effort consistent with what OGP is all about. So far we have made relative progress compared to what we met on ground when we were elected more than a year ago and we will not rest on our oars.

3. Our fight against corruption is just one of the efforts we are making as a government to enthrone accountability and national prosperity. We are also pursuing complementary programs aimed at opening up our country for non-oil investments by ensuring that global standards of business practice are respected and enforced.

4. I am aware that the process of development of the National Action Plan (NAP) involved active collaboration with civil society groups and the private sector. The co-creation effort of

civil society and government in developing the NAP is something I want to specifically applaud. This government considers civil society organizations as partners in our developmental process.

5. The National Action Plan we are presenting today spans into four key thematic areas of ***fiscal transparency, anti-corruption, access to information, and citizen engagement***. The commitments are concrete, ambitious but implementable. Some of the key deliverables are ***open budgeting, open contracting, revenue transparency, and a publication of a register of beneficial ownership especially in the extractive industry among others***. They draw from the issues I committed to, on behalf of Nigeria during the Anti-Corruption Summit in London in May 2016 and aim at consolidating ongoing reform efforts within and outside the public service over the next two and a half years.

6. I am aware that there will be challenges in the implementation process but I have every confidence that we will undertake implementation in a manner that will produce desirable results for citizens in the shortest possible time.

7. I must reiterate here that our commitment to reform government to be more responsive to the aspirations of citizens remains uppermost in the results we want to deliver.

8. I am therefore happy to present this plan to you. I want to thank everyone involved in putting it together both from government, civil society and the private sector. This unique collaboration is a clear demonstration of your shared patriotism and commitment to good governance.

9. Let me most especially thank the OGP Secretariat in Nigeria, under the able leadership of the Attorney General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami SAN for taking the lead to make this happen.

10. I want to assure the development partners and the international community who supported this process (particularly the British Department for International Development, the United States Government and the MacArthur Foundation) that I will do everything within my power to foster more inclusiveness in our policy approaches to strengthen our institutions. There is very little we can achieve as a nation unless we rebuild the trust of stakeholders in our public institutions. I hope that we can achieve it through the effective implementation of the OGP National Plan.

11. It is my firm belief that we will gradually progress to increased transparency and accountability and eventually achieve national prosperity.

12. It is therefore with great pleasure and deep sense of patriotism that I present the Nigeria's Open Government Partnership National Action Plan.

Thank you.

His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari (GCFR)

President, Federal Republic of Nigeria