

Partnership in Nation Building: Concept/Working Document for Convening a Citizens Summit on National Integration, Peace and Security.

Nigerian Institute of Public Relations (NIPR) & Partners



Rationale and Justification



Rationale and Justification

i. The seeming rapid loss of hope in our nationhood calls for a participatory approach that is solution-action driven.

ii. The trust gap existing between leaders and the led, across regions and states, inter and intra ethnic groups, across religions, the economic divide which fuels the unhealthy security situation in the country threatens our peace and development.



Rationale and Justification Cont.

- iii. The strength of a system which lies in its component units, demands focus on those units in order to strengthen weak links and fault lines. This calls for an independent, professionally managed and harmonized demand for charter of needs from these component units devoid of all trappings of government.
- iv. No time is better than now when agitations seem to have become more vociferous, ungoverned spaces on the increase, with armed banditry, kidnapping and insurgency on the rise.



Rationale and Justification Cont.

- v. A citizen derived solutions and actions in partnership with government and other committed platforms is possible to re-energize our nationhood
- vi. The Nigeria Social Cohesion Survey report released by the African Polling Institute in 2019, amongst other findings, has revealed that Nigeria is not a socially cohesive country; and more needs to be done by the government to promote oneness, trust, equity, inclusion, and hope for the future.



Rationale and Justification Cont.

vi. Every section of the country today has one grievance or the other, such that it is difficult to work together in peace and harmony.

viii. How then do we get the various sections together to discuss and address their challenges without which no meaningful development can take place?



Rationale and Justification Cont.

ix. The core essence of PR practice and profession is to foster Cohesion, promote understanding, build and/or mend relationships among stakeholders.

x. This responsibility certainly goes beyond the NIPR, hence the proposal for collaboration by organisations and individuals that believe in the integrity of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and burdened about the current state of the nation

This is why we have stepped forward to organize the Citizen Summit



Target



Target

Initiate a credible and robust **PROCESS** for genuine National Integration through:

- Activation of National Reconciliation
- Restoration of Trust in Relationships
- Promotion of Mutual Respect and Love
- Rebuilding of Peace and Security Process
- Relaying of Foundation for Nigerian Rebirth



Strategies



Strategy 1 – Identify like-minded, burdened organisations to build a credible and effective broad coalition of the willing, from:

01

Professional bodies

02

Labour Organisations

03

Civil Society Organisations

04

Media Organisations

05

Religious Organisations

Strategy 1 – Partnership Coalition cont.

06

Youth Organisations

07

Women Organisations

08

Student Organisations

09

Ethnic and Socio-Cultural Organisations

10

Relevant Government Agencies



Strategy 1 – Partnership Coalition cont.

11

Traders

12

Political Class

13

The Academia

14

Other Interest Groups and Associations

15

Etc.

Strategy 2: Create Partnership at 4 Levels

i. Professional Bodies /Civil Society Organisations

01

Institute for National Transformation

02

Nigerian Labour Congress

03

Nigerian Bar Association

04

Nigerian Guild of Editors

05

Nigerian Union of Journalists

i. Professional Bodies /Civil Society Organisations Cont.

06

Trade Union Congress

07

National Association of Women Journalists

08

Nigeria Union of Teachers

09

Senior Staff Association of Nigerian Universities

10

Committee of Vice Chancellors of Nigerian Universities

i. Professional Bodies /Civil Society Organisations Cont.

11

Institute of Chartered Mediators and Conciliators

12

Women in Humanitarian

13

Alumni Association of the National Institute

14

National Association of Nigerian Traders

15

Peoples Movement for a New Nigeria

i. Professional Bodies /Civil Society Organisations Cont.

16

Broadcasting Organisations of Nigeria

17

Association of Advertising Agencies of Nigeria

18

National Association of Road Transport Owners

19

International Federation of Female Lawyers *AC

20

All Farmers Association of Nigeria *AC

21

National Union of Road Transport Workers *AC

i. Professional Bodies /Civil Society Organisations Cont.

22

National Association of Nigerian Students *AC

23

National Youth Council of Nigeria *AC

24

National Council for Arts and Culture *AC

25

National Council of Women Societies *AC

26

Nigerian Inter Religious Committee *AC

27

New Nigeria is Possible Coalition *AC

ii. Special Partners

01

Christian Association of Nigeria

02

Nigerian Supreme Council for Islamic Affairs

03

Arewa Consultative Forum

04

Afenifere

05

Middle Belt Forum

ii. Special Partners cont.

06

Northern Elders Council

07

Ohaneze Ndigbo

08

PANDEF

09

Institutions of Traditional Rulers

iii. Official Partners

01

National Assembly *AA

02

Nigerian Governors Forum *AA

03

National Orientation Agency

04

National Council for Arts and Council

05

State Houses of Assembly / Speakers Forum* AA

Official Partners

06

State Ministries of Information Nationwide *AA

07

Association of Local Governments of Nigeria *AC



iv. Media Partners

1

Nigerian Television Authority

2

Arise Television

3

TVC

4

Federal Radio Corporation of Nigeria

5

AIT / Raypower *AC

6

News Agency of Nigeria *AA

7

Channels Television *AA

Strategy 3

Undertake effective and strategic consultations and consensus building process, to ensure that our actions are properly understood, and enjoys wide acceptance and buy-in across board.



Strategy 4 – Primary Level: State Consultative Fora

- The journey starts at the primary level (state), then proceeds to secondary (zone) and culminates at the tertiary level (national summit).
- At the state level are the State Consultative Fora (SCF) that will hold in all the 36 states of the federation and if considered necessary, the FCT. The fora is to enable state actors present their views on focal issues to be developed by Research and Documentations Sub-Committee.
- The outcome of state fora will be harvested and presented at the Zonal Dialogue by respective state contingents.
- The SCF should not last more than 3 hours.



Strategy 4 – State Consultative Fora

- The SCF will be organized by State Organising Team, under the direct supervision of Zonal Organising Committee.
- The SCF will have a team of 7-12 members, with a Coordinator, Secretary, etc. Each state can adapt what works for them based on their operative environment. Any modification should be communicated to the ZOC and NPC, respectively.
- Each Zone should start with a pilot state which will produce a ‘bang impact’ The pilot will be attended by a delegation from the National Team to set the tone for other states to take their lead from.
- The ZOC takes full responsibility of the quality of forum that takes place in each state.



Strategy 4 – State Consultative Fora

- The month of September is dedicated to the State Consultative Fora, to hold from Wednesday September 1st to Thursday September 30, 2021
- The choice of a Guest Speaker at the SCF must be very carefully considered. The proposed Guest Speaker should be credible, a respected voice and opinion leader who is popular enough to attract good media attention within and outside the immediate environment.



Content of State Consultative Fora

- Courtesy Visits on leaders in the Host State comprising:
 - Governor of the State
 - Speaker of the House of Assembly;
 - Chairman of State Council of Traditional Ruler, if within an hour to the Capital. Otherwise, visit the highest ranking traditional ruler residing in the state Capital;
 - Any other respected Elder considered relevant by SOC;
 - Make presentations of appropriate gifts at the courtesy visits.
- Presentations from various stakeholders and groups in each state. The Research and Documentation, and Content Development Sub-Committees will provide a template of areas of discussion, to forestall possible wild goose chase.



Strategy 5 – Secondary Level: Zonal Dialogue Series

- The success of State Fora will create the rhythm for the Zonal Dialogue Series which will hold in the 6 geopolitical zones, Culminating into the National Summit at Abuja.
- The Zonal Dialogue series will have a build up effect to the National Summit.
- Consideration to determine choice of host states and sequencing of zonal dialogue will be influenced by the following:



Strategy 5 – Secondary Level: Zonal Dialogue Series cont.

- i. Willingness of the State Government or influential indigenes;
- ii. Acceptance and effective participation;
- iii. Effective Linkages with important structures in the concerned state;
- iv. Travel Consideration, Logistics and Security;
- v. Centrality of the State to the zone
- vi. Strong Media support;
- vii. Support from the host state – kind or/and cash;
- viii. Adequate presence of human structures;
- ix. Intelligence and any other matter that may arise.



Strategy 6: Proposed Schedule for Zonal Dialogue Series

SN	ZONE	SUGGESTED HOST STATE	PROPOSED DATE	REMARK
1.	North East	Gombe	October, 2021	ZOC to advise on actual date
2.	South East	Enugu	October 2021	ZOC to advise on actual date
3.	South West	Ibadan	October 2021	ZOC to advise on actual date



Strategy 6: Proposed Schedule for Zonal Dialogue Series

4.	North Central	Jos	October 2021	ZOC to advise on actual date
5.	South South	Port Harcourt	October 2021	ZOC to advise on actual date
6.	North West	Kano	October 2021	ZOC to advise on actual date



Strategy 7 – Content of Zonal Dialogue Series

- Day 1 – Arrival of Presidential Delegation 2 days to the Dialogue)
- Day 2 – Courtesy Visits on leaders in the Host State comprising:
 - Governor of the State;
 - Speaker of the House of Assembly;
 - Chairman of State Council of Traditional Ruler, if within an hour to the Capital. Otherwise, visit the highest ranking traditional ruler residing in the state Capital;
 - Any other respected Elder as may be advised by ZOC;
 - Make presentations of appropriate gifts at the courtesy visits;
 - Etc.



Strategy 7 – Content of Zonal Dialogue Series cont.

- Day 3 – Zonal Dialogue, comprising:
 - Presentations by various interest groups in the zone;
 - Presentation of Zonal Dialogue Conclusions and Communique;
 - Any other matter

Each zonal dialogue should not last more than 3 hours.

Effective Time Management & Content will be key
- Day 4 - Departure



Strategy 8 – Zonal Structure

- There will be a Zonal Organising Committee in each zone, comprising NIPR and members of Partner organisations within each zone;
- To ensure smoothness in planning and organization and Each Chairman of State Organising Committee, with one other person where necessary, shall be a member of the Zonal Organising Committee, just as Chairmen of Zonal Organising Committees are also of the National Planning Committee.
- The Zonal Organising Committee should have a membership of about 12-15 persons.

The choice of Guest Speaker at the Zonal Dialogue Series should be very carefully considered. The Guest Speaker should be credible, a respected voice and opinion leader; as well as popular enough to attract positive media attention.



Strategy 9: Composition of Proposed Sub-Committees

10 sub-committees and a Zonal Coordinating Team is proposed:

1. Research and Documentation
2. Content Development Sub-Committee
3. Finance Sub-Committee
4. Communication Sub-Committee
5. Advocacy and Mobilisation
6. Civil Society Liaison
7. Mediation and Reconciliation
8. Security and Logistics
9. Venue and Programme Sub-Committee
10. Entertainment
11. Zonal Coordinating Team

Each Sub committee is to have about 7-10 members.



Strategy 10: The Citizens National Integration Summit

- Date: Proposed for Novemebr, 2021. Actual date to be confirmed.
- Venue: Africa Hall, International Conference Centre or NAF Conference Centre, Abuja
- Special Guest of Honour: H.E. Gen Yakubu Gowon (provide for plans B and C)
- Co-Chairmen: Six leaders of the the socio-cultural organisations the 6 zones

Highlights of Content:

- **Opening Ceremony**
- **Presentation of Reports from Zonal Dialogue Series**
- **Goodwill Messages from Eminent Nigerians**
- **Discussion on the Zonal Reports**
- **Conclusions and Action Plan for Way Forward for the Nation**



Strategy 11: Post Summit Actions

- It is envisaged that recommendations from the Summit will be reach and wide ranging. These recommendations will be formally presented to governments at local, state and national levels as the content will determine.
- Other actions will be based on outcome, which we may not be able to completely determine at this point. We will collectively be following events as they develop.



Strategy 12

Resource Persons

Resource Persons/Guest Speakers will be determined based on the principle earlier established in this presentation.



Strategy 13

Funds and Funding Mechanism

Unlike other professional bodies and organisations like..., the NIPR is yet to be a rich institute. However, we believe that with the help of God, immense goodwill and reputational capital in this room, we will raise the fund that will do this programme. To this end, we are going to seek funding support, in cash and kind, at state, zone and national level.



Our mission is relevant to the survival of the nation, therefore, we expect that credible organisations and even individuals will see the need to identify with this vision and support us through:

- i. Support/Sponsorship in cash and kind;
- ii. Revenue from Adverts in Dialogue and Summit Booklets
- iii. Media partnership;
- iv. Crowd funding initiatives
- v. Etc.



CONCLUSION

Its time to kickstart to rebirth of Nigeria,
from the unlikely quarters like us.

