

## Gender Equality and Poverty Reduction in the Post 2015 Agenda: Foundation for Sustainable Development in Nigeria

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### Abstract

The twin challenges of building pathways to sustainable development and reducing poverty have never been more pressing and cannot be effectively tackled without gender equality. It is the realization of this that prompted the United Nations to include poverty elimination and fight against inequality and injustice in its post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Equality among men and women is more than a matter of social justice—it is a fundamental human right. It also makes good economic sense. When women have equal access to education and go on to participate fully in business and decision-making, they are a key force against poverty. Women with equal rights are better educated, healthier, and have greater access to land, jobs and financial resources. Their increased earning power in turn raises household incomes. By enhancing women's control over decision-making in the household, gender equality also translates into better prospects and greater well-being of children, reducing poverty of future generations. It is against this backdrop that this paper examines the critical nexus between gender equality, poverty reduction and sustainable development. The paper makes the case that achieving gender equality and realizing the human rights, dignity and capabilities of a diverse group of women is a central requirement in the fight against poverty and a just and sustainable world. The paper also submits that essential public services like health and education, benefit women, men, girls and boys equitably.

**Key words:** Gender equality; Poverty; Sustainable development; Millennium development goals; Women empowerment

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### INTRODUCTION

In September 2000 at the United Nations Millennium Summit, 189 countries across the world made a commitment to take a collective responsibility for halving world poverty by 2015. The Millennium Declaration laid out a number of key development (which crystallized into the Millennium Development Goals MDGs) framed to reflect its fundamental values. Along with the reduction of poverty and hunger, these included commitments to the promotion of human development, environmental sustainability and development partnership. In addition, they included an explicit commitment to gender equality as an end itself. The summit resolved that no individual and no nation must be denied the opportunity to benefit from development. The equality rights and opportunities of women and men must be addressed

Many of the world's poorest people are women who must, as the primary family caretakers and producers of food, shoulder the burden of tilling land, grinding grain, carrying water and cooking (UNDP, 2010). Equality between men and women is more than a matter of social justice—it is a fundamental human right. It also makes good economic sense. When women are equal access to education and go on to participate fully in business and economic decision-making, they are a key driving force against poverty. Women with equal rights are better educated, healthier and have greater access to land, jobs and financial resources. Their increased earning power in turn raises household incomes. By enhancing women's control over decision-making in the household, gender equality also translates into better prospects and

greater well-being of children, reducing poverty of future generations (UNDP, 2010).

Gender equality and justice are central to poverty reduction and sustainable development in a very inescapable way. As Igbuzor (2008) says “to promote sustainable development, there is need for citizens (men and women) to participate in the economy, policy and social development of the society. Gender inequality intersects with economic deprivation to produce more intensified forms of poverty for women than men.

Worldwide, most countries recognize that equal rights should exist between men and women. Many including Nigeria have produced regulations intended to fight discrimination and programmes granting women access to health, education and economic right such as land ownership. Unfortunately, although women constitute over 50% of the population of the world, they are relegated to the background in every facet of life (Igbuzor, 2008). Women still have fewer opportunities than men to benefit from economic development, with lower participation in the labour force which inevitably will take them out of poverty.

Girls account for the majority of children not attending school, almost two thirds of women in the developing world work in the informal sector as unpaid workers in the home. According to Igbuzor (2008) the UNDP’s 1995 Human Development Report estimated that women’s unpaid work is equivalent to some \$11 trillion annually. Women are for the most part underrepresented in decision making virtually in all sector of society. Very few women make up activists groups, a significantly low number are engaged in professional career or are, elected or served as appointed officials in government positions (Fatile, Akhakpe, Igbokwe-Ibeto, & Oteh, 2012; Fodeba, 2010; Olojede, 2009). This is in spite the fact that communalism is the norm in African societies. Despite parliamentary participation, women are still out-numbered four-to-one in legislatures around the world. In Nigeria for instance, although the 2006 national population census reveals that women make up 48.78% (almost half of the total population) only a small number of exceptional women have achieved prominence in modern political and government sphere. In fact, at the National Assembly, of the 109 senators only 7 constituting less than 7% are women. At the Federal Executive Council of the 36 ministers, only 6 constituting a paltry 16.6% are women.

Even in the most advanced countries, their wages average 73% of those of women. For instance in the United Kingdom and the United States, women representation in parliament was 9.1% and 9.0% respectively as at 1994 (Igbuzor, 2008). International programmes such as the post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) point out the benefits of addressing gender inequality and the positive impact this can have on poverty reduction and ultimately sustainable

development. As Kabeer (2003) says “Gender inequality is part and parcel of the processes causing and deepening poverty in a society and must therefore constitute part and parcel of measures to eradicate poverty”. Gender equality is essential to eradicate poverty. The MDs can only be achieved by addressing the disproportionate burden of poverty, lack of access to education and health services and lack of productive opportunities borne by women. Women’s empowerment matters for poverty eradication. Evidence shows that empowering and investing in women brings a huge development dividend (Commonwealth, 2002).

It is against this backdrop, that this paper examines the critical linkages between gender equality/women empowerment, poverty reduction and sustainable development with particular emphasis on developing nations such as Nigeria and also suggests greater co-ordination and synergies in all efforts to promote gender equality in poverty eradication programmes and the SDGs.

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## 1. CONCEPTUAL ISSUES

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### 1.1 Gender Equality

Gender refers to the rules, norms, customs and practices by which biological differences between males and females are translated into socially constructed differences between men and women and boys and girls. This results in the two genders being valued differently and in their having unequal opportunities and life chances.

In the context of this article, ‘gender equality’ means both equality of treatment under the law and equality of opportunity. In addition, since these do not take structural inequality into account, it also includes substantive equality and equality of agency. Substantive equality means that the different circumstances and characteristics of men and women have to be considered to avoid unfair gender-related outcomes. For example, in a case where a man and a woman both have the qualifications for a particular occupation, the latter may be unable to take it up if there is no childcare available. Equality of agency means ensuring that both women and men can make strategic life choices for themselves (and help determine the conditions under which these choices are made).

Gender inequality is constructed both through society’s formal laws and statutes and through unwritten norms and shared understandings. It is not only pervasive across all societies but also the most prevalent form of social disadvantage within societies. It cuts across all other forms of inequality, such as class, caste and race. And because gender is key to the organisation of production and reproduction, women are also “at the crossroads between... economic growth and human development”. The argument for addressing gender inequality, therefore, is not simply that it exists in all societies but that it exists at all levels of

society. It makes the effects of poverty worse for women and biases the form taken by economic growth.

### 1.2 Sustainable Development

There are many definitions of sustainable development but the most frequently quoted is that of the World Commission on Environment and Development otherwise known as the Brundtland Commission which says it is “Development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs”. It contains within it two key concepts:

- The concept of needs, in particular the essential needs of the world’s poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and
- The idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment’s ability to meet present and future needs (IISD, 2015).

Its core is an approach to development that looks to balance different, and often competing, needs against an awareness of the environmental, social and economic limitations we face as a society. It’s also about ensuring a strong, healthy and just society. This means meeting the diverse needs of all people in existing and future communities, promoting personal wellbeing, social cohesion and inclusion, and creating equal opportunity. Sustainable development recognizes that growth must be both inclusive and environmentally sound to reduce poverty and build shared prosperity for today’s population and to continue to meet the needs of future generations. It is efficient with resources and carefully planned to deliver both immediate and long-term benefits for people, planet, and prosperity (World Bank, 2016).

### 1.3 Poverty

Poverty is the inability to satisfy one’s basic needs because one lacks the income to buy services or lack of access to services. The United Nations (2007) sees it as a denial of choices and opportunities, a violation of human dignity. It means lack of basic capacity to participate effectively in society, not having enough to feed and clothe, not having access to credit etc.. Onah (2006) explains that poverty is not only the inability of individuals to afford the basic needs of life, but reduces the strength and prestige of such individuals to participate in any given activity of the society. He says that poverty in Nigeria has deprived a good number of her citizens the prestige of citizenship.

Friedman (1996) describes poverty as a form of disempowerment and can be viewed from three dimensions: socio-economic, political and psychological. To him, socio-economic disempowerment refers to relative lack of access to the resources essential for livelihood, political disempowerment refers to the lack of clear political agenda and voice while psychological disempowerment relates to people’s internalized sense of worthlessness and passive submission to authority.

In pure economic terms, income poverty is when a family’s income fails to meet a federally established threshold that differs across countries. Typically it is measured with respect to families and not the individual, and is adjusted for the number of persons in a family. Economists often seek to identify the families whose economic position (defined as command over resources) falls below some minimally acceptance level (Smelser & Baltes, 2001). Similarly, the international standard of extreme poverty is set to possession of less than 1\$ a day.

Frequently, poverty is defined in either relative or absolute terms. Absolute poverty measures poverty in relation to the amount of money necessary to meet basic needs such as food, clothing, and shelter. The concept of absolute poverty is not concerned with broader quality of life issues or with the overall level of inequality in society. The concept therefore fails to recognise that individuals have important social and cultural needs. This, and similar criticisms, led to the development of the concept of relative poverty. Relative poverty defines poverty in relation to the economic status of other members of the society: People are poor if they fall below the prevailing standards of living in a given societal context.

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## 2. POVERTY PROFILE OF NIGERIA

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In Nigeria, poverty conveys message of hardship difficult to deny (Ogu, 2014). It speaks through visible misery, persisting destitution, endemic hunger and visible malnutrition (Akanmidu, 2004). Other manifestations and dimension of poverty include economic dependence, lack of freedom, lack of access to land and credit and inability to save or own assets. The economy of Nigeria has since the early 1980s took a turn for the worst not helped by rampant corruption. Unemployment and general condition of living among Nigerians continue to deteriorate without corresponding measures by the government to address the enormous challenges (Ogu, 2014).

Nigeria has a GDP per capita of \$2,640.3 in 2015 according to the World Bank and a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.514 (UNDP, 2016). The level of poverty is so high at individual and family level that an increasing number of Nigerians are finding it difficult to eat, clothe and shelter themselves. According to the National Bureau of Statistics (2010), a staggering 112.519 million Nigerians lived in relative poverty in 2010. The figure the Bureau reports represents 69% of the country’s total population estimated to be about 163 million. In its report titled “The Nigerian Poverty Profile 2010” the Bureau says that absolute poverty measure puts the country’s poverty rate at 99.284 million or 60.9%; the dollar per day measure 5 puts the rate at 61.2%; and the subjective poverty measure puts it at 93.9%. The report, which provides details of poverty and income distribution across the country, put the 2004 poverty measurement rate

at 54.4%. It also shows that income inequality had risen from 0.429 in 2004 to 0.447 in 2010.

The highlight of the report shows that the North-West and the North-East had the highest poverty rates in the country in 2010 with 77.7% and 76.3% respectively. However, the South-West geo-political zone recorded the lowest at 59.1%. Of all the 36 states of the federation, Sokoto had the highest poverty rate (86.4%), while Niger had the lowest at (43.6%). The 2004 poverty rate showed that Jigawa State had the highest rate of 95% while Anambra, with a poverty rate of 22%, was the least poverty-stricken state.

**Table 1**  
**National Poverty Incidence 2003/2004 and 2009/2010**

Year	Food poor	Absolute poverty	Relative poverty	Dollar per day
2004	33.6	54.7	54.4	51.6
2010	41.0	60.9	69.0	61.2

Note. National Bureau of Statistics (2010).

**Table 2**  
**Poverty Numbers With 2011 Estimates**

	2004 (%)	2010 (%)	2011 (%)
Estimated population (million)	126.3	163	168
Relative poverty	54.5	69	71.5
Absolute poverty	54.7	60.9	61.9
Dollar per day	62.8	61.2	62.8

Note. National Bureau of Statistics (2010).

Poverty which has become endemic in Nigeria according to Arogundade, Adebisi and Ogunro (2011) can be traced to factors such as corruption, bad governance, debt overhang, unemployment, low productivity, burgeoning population growth, globalization, unfocused government policies and lack of effective skills training.

### 3. GOVERNMENT POLICIES ON GENDER ISSUES AND POVERTY REDUCTION

There have been several policies, programmes and projects designed by the government to assist women particularly low-income earning women achieve not only economic independence in all spheres of their lives but also improve their participation in public life and decision-making process. These programmes include Better Life Programme (BLP); Family Support Programme (FSP); Family Economic Advancement Programme (FEAP); National Poverty Eradication Programme (NAPEP); National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) and the 35% Affirmative Action.

These programmes particularly the National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS) established in 2004 aim to ameliorate the suffering of the people by providing them with employment opportunities and access to credit facilities to enable them to establish their own businesses. NEEDS which is largely a poverty reduction strategy document contains 4 targeted areas: (a) creation of wealth, (b) job creation, (c) poverty reduction, and (d) value added direction. Then by 2006, came The National Gender Policy which is a key policy document that supports women's participation in political and public life.

One of the objectives of this Policy is the achievement of a minimum threshold of representation for women in order to promote equal opportunity in all areas of political, social, and economic life of the country. By 2007, the Nigerian Government enunciated a Seven Point Agenda, a policy document which was followed by Vision 2020 in 2010. All of these initiatives include efforts to address the gender gap, promote gender equality and women empowerment.

The measures to be adopted to achieve these goals were: Ensuring equitable representation of women in all aspects of governance. The affirmative action of proportionate representation of not less than 30% representation is to be pursued where feasible. Establishing scholarship schemes at the secondary and tertiary levels in order to expand educational opportunities for female students where necessary and expanding a program on non-formal education through sustained advocacy education e.g. adult and vocational education to cater for women beyond school age (Okoyeuzu et al., 2012).

### 4. WOMEN AND PARTICIPATION IN PUBLIC AND NATIONAL LIFE (35% AFFIRMATIVE ACTION)

The resistance to achieve the 35% Affirmative Action for women has enabled the perpetuation of discrimination against women in spite of the provisions of the National Gender Policy. The policy demands 35% involvement of women in all governance processes, including elective and appointive positions. National Gender policy, established in 2006, was an improvement of the 2000 National Policy on Women by the Obasanjo's regime. In some places, the policy is being adopted to the barest minimum, while its appropriation is stagnant in other places.

According to the 2006 population census, women constitute about 52% of the Nigerian population. Yet, this populous group is barely represented in major sectors of the country, especially in decision making positions, despite the increasing level of literacy among the Nigerian women. Available statistics reveal that out of the 109 Senators in the current National Assembly, only eight are women,

while only 24 out of the 360 members of the House of Representatives are women. The numbers evidently show an unequal membership of the legislatures in favor of men.

The same scenario is even observed at the local level, where only a few women function as members of states' houses of assembly, Chairpersons or Councilors in local government councils. The discrimination is so obvious such that no woman has ever become the country's President or Vice-President. This is unlike in other developing countries like Argentina, Brazil, Liberia, etc. where women have held and still hold prominent positions such as the presidency.

Kolawale, Abubakar, Owonibi, and Adebayo (2012) confirms that, in recent years, women's political participation witnessed an increase in terms appointments

as commissioners across the 36 states of the federation. Ngara and Ayamba (2013) observed that, from 1999 to 2011, there was an increase of women in elective positions into National Assemblies (Senate and House of Representatives), state assemblies as well as local government councils.

Despite this increase, the participation and general representation of women in the political realms in Nigeria remained insignificant when compared to their Men counterpart and by considering the international benchmark of 30%-35% (UNIFEM, 2010). UKaid (2012) perceived that, only 9% of those who stood for election in Nigeria's April 2011 National Assembly elections were women. This is below the global average and well behind South Africa and Rwanda.

**Table 3**  
**Positions Held by Women From 1999-2015**

Office	1999		2003		2007		2011		2015	
	Seat available	Women	Seat available	Women	Seat available	Women	Seat available	women	Seat available	Women
President	1	0(0%)	1	0(0%)	1	0(0%)	1	0(0%)	1	0(0%)
Vice President	1	0(0%)	1	0(0%)	1	0(0%)	1	0(0%)	1	0(0%)
Senate	109	3(2.8%)	109	4(3.7%)	109	9(8.3%)	109	7(6.4%)	109	7(6.4%)
House of Reps	360	12(3.3%)	360	21(5.8%)	360	25(6.9%)	360	26(7.2%)	360	14(3.8%)
Governors	36	0(0%)	36	0(0%)	36	0(0%)	36	0(0%)	36	0(0%)
Deputy governors	36	1(2.7%)	36	2(5.5%)	36	6(16.6%)	36	3(8.3%)	36	4(11.1%)
State's Houses of Assembly	991	24(2.4%)	991	40(3.9%)	990	57(5.8%)	991	67(6.8%)	919	46(4.6%)
Local council chairmperson	774	13(1.8%)	774	15(1.9%)	774	27(3.6%)	774	0(0%)	NA	NA
Local council councillor	6,368	69(1.1%)	6,368	267(4.2%)	6,368	235(3.7%)	6,368	0(0%)	NA	NA

Note. Ngara and Ayamba (2013) and 2015 Nigerian Election Observation Report, authors' compilation from INEC's website.

**Table 4**  
**Number of Seats Held by Women in Selected African Countries**

Country	Lower house		Upper house	
	Seats available	Seats occupied by women	Seats available	Seats occupied by women
Rwanda	80	51(63.85%)	26	10(38.5%)
South Africa	396	166(42.7%)	-	-
Ethiopia	546	212(38.3%)	135	22(16.3%)
Burundi	121	44(36.4%)	43	18(41.9%)
Zimbabwe	270	85(31.5%)	80	38(47.5%)
Cameroun	180	56(31.1%)	100	20(20%)
Kenya	350	69(19.7%)	68	18(26.5%)

Note. The Guardian Newspaper, 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.

In both elective and appointive positions, Nigerian women have fared poorer than their counterparts in other African countries. For instance, in Cape Verde, 9 out of 17 ministers are women which represent 53% while in South Africa 15 out of 36 ministers are women which represents 41.7% (The Guardian, 2015). This is in sharp contrast with Nigeria where there are only 6 women in a cabinet of 36 ministers under the current government of Muhammad Buhari representing a paltry 16.6%. This again is a sharp departure from the case during the immediate past administration of Goodluck Jonathan when women occupied about 33% of the ministerial positions.

This sad case of low representation of women in public and national life is a violation of the 35% Affirmative Action which provides that positive steps be taken to increase the representation of women in areas of education and employment from which they have historically

been excluded to at least 35% of the available positions and spaces. This has been attributed to factors such as socioeconomic and ecological factors, cultural practices deep rooted in religion, political violence, women's perception of politics as a dirty game not ideal for a woman to involve in, government policies and general low level of education and illiteracy among women (Abubakar & Bn Ahmad, 2014).

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## CONCLUSION

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Gender equality and poverty reduction are key to addressing the unfinished business of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and accelerating global development beyond 2015. Gender equality matters in its own right, and as a prerequisite for the health and development of families and societies, and a driver of economic growth. There is no chance of making poverty history without significant and rapid improvements to the lives of women and girls in Nigeria. Millennium Development Goal 3— “to promote gender equality and empower women” signaled global recognition that this is both an important development goal in itself, and a key to the success of all the other goals. While more women have entered the workforce in recent decades, they typically work at the informal end of labor markets with poor earnings and insecure conditions. This increases the risk of poverty across their lifecycle and makes it less likely that they will be covered by social protection schemes and benefits such as pensions. Women still face a gender pay gap, segregation in occupations and glass ceilings, with over-representation of low-paying jobs and under-representation in senior positions. The post-2015 framework presents a unique opportunity to build on the achievements of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), while also addressing the dimensions that lag behind. It is time to act now – to increase both the political will and the resources to achieve full and lasting gender equality, women's empowerment and women's rights (OECD, 2015).

Researches have demonstrated that successive Nigerian government has failed to protect women's rights and advance gender equality in leadership; consequently, women's participation in public and national life in Nigeria remains low. Although international laws grant women political participation rights, little is known about the struggles and experiences Nigerian women face in their quest to participate in the political life of Nigeria. Gender inequality still exists in Nigeria. Women make up about 50% of Nigeria's population of over 170 million people, yet their positions are still weak when compared with their male counterparts. Even though their presence in the labor force has increased over the last 30 years, the participation of women in Nigeria's workforce is still below that of men (Salami, 2007). Most Nigerian women

are employed in low-paying jobs and are underrepresented in several important fields, such as the academics, politics, technology, military etc..

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

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In order to promote sustainable development, there is the need for citizens (male and female) to participate in the economy, policy, and social development of the society. For this to be achieved, there is need for the government and all stakeholders to take positive steps to:

(a) Improve the quality of girl's secondary and higher levels of education and learning outcomes

Secondary and higher levels of education have enormous pay-offs for women's empowerment, yet Nigeria is far from reaching parity between girls' and boys' rates of enrolment and school completion. Just one additional year of school gives women much better economic prospects, more decision-making autonomy, greater control over their own fertility, healthier children, and better chances of sending their own children to school. If adolescent girls are kept in school to complete a quality secondary education, they will be much better equipped to reach their full potential and make informed choices about their lives.

This involves tackling social norms like early marriage that discriminate against women' education. Research has shown a strong relationship between the prevalence of early marriage and the gender gap in secondary school enrolments. It is no surprise then that there is a greater gender gap in secondary school enrolments in northern Nigeria where girls' early marriage is prevalent.

(b) Eliminate employment discriminator/y practices against women and address labour issues affecting women

This is achievable by building the human capital of women to allow comparable opportunity in the modern labor market by encouraging equal access to education and skill acquisition for women to increase their participation at the managerial level, and making vocational education and adult literacy programs available to all. It is necessary to eliminate all discriminatory practices against the employment of women in the public and private sectors of the economy, that is, by eliminating all gender-based discriminatory practices in recruitment, wages and promotion, with particular reference to the private sector. Research has shown a relationship between discriminatory social norms and women's employment outcomes, including the share of women in vulnerable employment (OECD, 2013c).

Personnel policies and practices must comply with the principle of equitable representation of both sexes to ensure effective implementation of national and international labor laws, such as the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention on Equal Treatment for men and women workers. Government should create

reward systems for organizations in the public and private sectors of the economy that operates based on gender equity and equality principles.

(c) Eliminate violence, fear and intimidation against women both at home and in politics

Violence against women and girls is a universal phenomenon rooted in persistent discrimination against women and historically unequal power relations between women and men. It cuts across all cultures, countries, regions and generations. It harms women's health and well-being, violates their human rights, and impoverishes women, families and society as a whole. Domestic violence is the most common form of violence globally and Nigeria in particular, experienced by one in three women in their lifetime. The government should enact laws that criminalize violence against women. Introducing human rights education into school curricula at all levels and building the capacity of the legislative, the judiciary and other law enforcement agencies to uphold gender justice and gender equality principles are also crucial.

(d) Reduce extreme poverty and economic empowerment of women

This could be done increasing women's ownership of and access to assets; engagement in quality employment; entrepreneurship; and time spent in unpaid caring and household work. Women's ownership of and access to assets, resources and services—land, housing, income, employment, water, technology, credit, markets, banking and financial services—are critical to women's empowerment, rights and wellbeing. Women's economic empowerment is also a driver of development that addresses poverty, reduces inequalities, and improves children's health, nutrition, and school attendance.

Government both federal, state and local should enhance the business environment through the provision of infrastructures and accounting for the value of women's work in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Building the capacity of the women and men in low-poverty groups on investment opportunities, by enlightenment on investment opportunities, providing access to institutional credit facilities, supporting and encouraging the development of small-medium-and large-scale enterprises, and providing extension services for those in poverty group.

(e) Increase women's leadership, voice and influence in public affairs

Women's capacity to participate in and influence the decisions that affect their lives—from the household to the highest levels of political decision making—is a basic human right and a prerequisite for responsive and equitable governance. Increasing women's representation and participation at all levels is essential for advancing issues of importance to women on national and local agenda. Women's participation contributes to more inclusive, democratic and stable societies. Empowering women and fully leveraging their talent and leadership

in the global economy, politics and society has a catalytic impact on maximizing Nigeria's development potentials.

To increase the number of women in elective positions and decision-making processes, there is need for affirmative actions in politics (for example, 35% of political posts to be reserved for women). The existing traditional structures which exclude women from participating in decision-making, should also be reformed. Since the return to democracy in Nigeria in 1999, women have made a lot of impact on the political landscape of the country. They have occupied and continue to occupy high and sensitive positions in both executive, legislative and judiciary arms of government. For instance, under the current democratic dispensation, the first woman Speaker of House of Representative, Hon. Patricia Etteh, was produced. The first woman governor, Dame Virgy Etiaba was produced in Anambra State. Also, the current Chief Justice of Nigeria (CJN) Aloma Mariam Mukhtar is a woman, while the Deputy Governors of Rivers and Lagos States are women.

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