

Nigeria Social Forum Benin 2010

Theme Mobilizing for Change

Date and Venue 2nd – 5th November 2010

The Nigerian Social Forum (NSF) is an open meeting place where groups and movements of civil society opposed to neo-liberalism and a Nigeria dominated by capital and liberal thinking congregate. It is a space that opposes any form of imperialism, unbridled capitalism, but engaged in building a Nigerian society centered on the human person. It is about Nigerians coming together to pursue their thinking, to debate ideas democratically, to formulate proposals, share their experiences freely and network for effective action. The NSF proposes to debate alternative means to building a Nigeria, which respects universal human rights and those of all men, women, girls and boys, grounded in democratic African and International systems and institutions at the service of social justice, equality and the sovereignty of peoples.

The Objective of the forum is built on the cardinal principle of the forum; resistance to neo-liberalism in its varied forms and creating alternatives that are human centred and people driven.

Every society has the capacity for change and development. Society is dynamic and changes from time to time. But at certain times, the necessity for transformative change becomes imperative. However, for change to occur in any society requires the presence of objective and subjective conditions. Objective conditions exist when situations are evidently abnormal with huge contradictions which can only be resolved by change. The subjective conditions are the organizational preparations required to bring about change. In our view, the objective condition is ripe in Nigeria. There is poverty in the midst of plenty. There are huge contradictions and scandalous gaps between the poor and the rich. The country cannot continue in the way it is presently being run. Unfortunately, the subjective conditions are absent. There is no virile political party or movement that is committed to change neither is there a vanguard revolutionary organization to guide that change. There are no well organized democratic and popular organizations to support a change process. Although, there are individuals committed to and are driving change, the organizational support required for sustainability and great impact is lacking. The challenge is to build the organizations with dynamic and visionary leadership as well as a committed followership that is dedicated to change. Therefore ongoing attempts to build the requisite organization, leadership and followership for change which must be assisted, nurtured and consolidated for the necessary change to occur in Nigeria.

Movement organising is characterised by social dissatisfaction with the state of affairs and typified by struggle for change. It is mainly concerned with social action and engagement to bring about change. It involves organised efforts that promote or resist changes in the structure of society and involve recourse to non-institutional forms of

political participation. Movements act as enablers, catalysts and facilitators of action and change. As organisation continues and matures, social movements acquire power which enables them to obtain new spaces, political and social recognition.

The goal of the 5th Nigeria Social Forum is therefore to “**create an avenue to marshal out strategies for mobilising for change in Nigeria.**” The specific objectives include to:

- Provide a space for the exchange ideas, information, experiences and for mutual guidance among the various components of the Nigerian Social Forum on how to mobilise for transformation of Nigeria
- Draw lesson from past struggles and forge a way forward for the transformation of Nigeria
- Draw lessons from other parts of the world on how to change Nigeria
- Draw lessons from the experiences of others on the use of elections processes as a strategy for sustainable and participatory change.
- Consolidate the relationship between the Nigeria Social Forum, the African Social Forum and the World Social Forum around mutually reinforcing global issues such as climate change and other contemporary crises.

The forum Process and Activities would include but not limited to;

The Peoples March to educate, build consciousness and mobilize the peoples solidarity for the change agenda

Plenary this is an opportunity to debate the theme driving the 4th Nigeria Social Forum, issues to be debated includes; ***Strategies for Change, Mobilising for Change, Operationalising strategy and tactics for change, Role of Interest Groups in the Change Agenda (Political Parties, CSOs, FBOs, Private Sector, Professional Groups, Movements (Farmers, Labour, Environmentalists, Feminists, Students and Urban Poor etc), Election processes as a Strategy of Change, Lessons from past Nigerian elections as a Strategy of Change.*** As a forum for sharing experiences, there would be ***Lessons from Asia, Lessons from Africa, Lessons from Latin America and Lessons for the State of Kerala in India***

Self Organised Activities an opportunity for self expression by groups around the forum’s thematic axis.

The Audio-Visual Forum Experience presents stories of change, sacrifices of change for drawing inspiration

Day of Action building consensus and action-points on thematic axis

The forum would also provide space for our people’s social and cultural expressions.

Participation Based on the Principles of the Social Forum process, The NSF Benin 2010 forum would give space to diversity and plurality. The space welcomes

groups, movements, civil society organisations, cultural groups, social groups and all who have a stake in the Nigerian socio-economic and political change process.

After attending what can you do? In furthering the ideals of the forum

Join or initiate a social forum in your area or around your sphere of work

Organise activities and discussions on the issues of change in your community and sphere of work

Start or add your voice to on-going campaigns e.g, poverty, fair trade, food rights, violence against women among others

Share your experiences on the social forum through the internet (website, mailing list e.t.c, town hall meetings, local gatherings, the local media, religious gatherings and other platforms

Offer solidarity to social movements causes for justice.

Registration Please visit our website at www.nigeriasocialforum.org to register online, or registration can be done at the venue of the forum. Registration for events, exhibitions also terminates at the forum ground.

Registration fees The registration fee for participants is a flat rate, which permits entry into all workshop sessions, the exhibitions and the opening and closing ceremonies. This fee does not cover other expenses such as accommodation, feeding, and incidentals.

Participants are to seek for organizational or individual sponsorship.

Participants in Nigeria ????????????

International participants ????????????????

Exhibitors N5, 000.00

Accommodation

Participants would be accommodated in the hostel of the institution, however due to its limited nature; participants are advised to visit our website for a list of available hotels, room rates and contact phone numbers or contact the secretariat for further assistance.

Participant Registration Form (Attached)

Surname:.....

First Name:.....

Affiliation/Organization:.....

.....

.....

Address in Full

.....

.....

LGA:.....

State:.....
Geo-political Zone:.....
Telephone:.....
Fax:.....
Email:.....

Type of registration: (please circle as appropriate)

- Individual participant
- Broadcast media
- Print Media

An Exhibiting organization (tick as appropriate)

- Products/Publications
- Best Practices
- Workshop/Seminar convener

If you register as an exhibiting organization, please describe the nature of your business:

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.....

If you register as a Workshop/Seminar/Conference convener, please give the title:

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.....

Please note that participation will only be confirmed upon confirmation of your payment of the appropriate registration fees

Please return all duly completed forms or direct your enquiries to:
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