



**ISSUED AT THE END OF THE TELECONFERENCE MEETING (4TH IN 2022) OF THE
NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 20TH APRIL 2022**

We, members of the Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF), at our meeting held today, deliberated on issues of national of importance and resolved as follows.

1. The Forum expressed concern over the connection between drug use and rising insecurity across parts of the country following a briefing on *Drug Abuse and Insecurity – Relationship and New Perspectives* by the Chairman/Chief Executive of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Brig. Gen. Mohamed Buba Marwa (Rtd). In furtherance to its March 2021 commitment to the agency when the NDLEA Chief Executive first presented to the Forum, Governors reiterated their commitment to maintain logistical support to the agency, and committed to providing additional opportunities for operational synergy, including bringing the agency into the State's Security Council meetings, and providing land for barrack operations.
2. Members received an update on the States Fiscal Transparency, Accountability and Sustainability (SFTAS) Programme-for-Results from Samer Matta, Senior Economist and Co-Tax Team Leader of the World Bank. The update which was part of measures taken to improve public financial management outcomes in the country covered ongoing State-level reforms to promote the adoption of e-procurement and open contracting data standards, records for state property taxation, and the publication of audit laws and audited financial statements. The NGF Secretariat will be positioned to coordinate a series of sustainability projects to maintain the positive outcomes achieved under the SFTAS programme.
3. The Forum also received a presentation on *Improving Health Financing and Universal Health Coverage* from Eduardo Gonzalez-Pier, Senior Technical Advisor for Palladium, an implementing partner for USAID's Integrated Health Programme, where it shared its vision to achieve Universal Health Coverage by 2030 (SDG3). Among the set of actions pushed forward and adopted, was the continued release of equity fund to cover the vulnerable population in all States of the federation, onboarding of civil servants not yet covered under any health insurance scheme and preserving health sector spending amidst the current contraction in fiscal space for governments. The Forum believes these changes will help stem the country's declining labour productivity caused by illness.
4. Finally, a health briefing from the Forum's Senior Health Advisor, Dr. Ahmad Abdulwahab, highlighted actions taken by State Governors over the last month, including participation at the PHC Summit where the NGF committed to intensify collaboration with the National Primary Health Care Development Agency (NPHCDA) to implement the Primary Health Care Leadership Challenge Fund for the actualization of the Seattle Declaration. He also gave updates on health security issues highlighting outbreaks of lassa fever, measles, and cases of meningitis in some parts of the country and the ongoing immunization campaigns by the NPHCDA against these diseases and the need for the States to release the requisite counterpart fund and strengthen their respective Epidemic Preparedness and Response.



Governor Kayode Fayemi
Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum
20th April 2022