

# PROSPECTS FOR ENGAGING REGIONAL GOVERNORS FORUMS/COMMISSIONS FOR WEE ADVOCACY IN NIGERIA

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# THE NIGERIA GOVERNOR'S FORUM

The Nigeria Governors' Forum, a former grantee of the Gates Foundation, is a non-partisan platform created to enhance collaboration among the Executive Governors on matters of public policy; to promote good governance, sharing of good practice, and to enhance cooperation at the state level and with other arms of government and society. The NGF has a Secretariat that provides technical and administrative arm of the Nigeria Governors' Forum, which oversees the daily operations of the Forum, giving direction and focus to the NGF by effectively engaging partners and stakeholders. As a policy hub, it also provides administrative, research and technical support to the Forum in carrying out its strategic objectives. The Secretariat's policy areas include economic research and advisory, state peer review mechanism, policy advisory, public financial management and development policy operations, polio eradication initiative/routine immunization, and knowledge management<sup>1</sup>. It is headed by Director-General. The current Director General is B. Okauru.

## REGIONAL FORUMS

The Nigeria Governor's Forum has subnational forum that is independent of the NGF. These include the Northern and Southern Governors' forums. These forums were formed to promote the interest of their specific region and not national interest.

1. **Northern Governor's Forum:-** This division has its headquarter in Kaduna State comprised of the 19 Northern state governors. The Plateau State Governor, Simon Lalong was the substantial chairman of the forum. The secretariat of the forum is coordinated by the Secretary to the Plateau State Government, Danladi Atu. The forum meets when issues of critical concern arise. There was no specific date designed for the member to meet. The last time the forum member met was on Wednesday 9th September 2020 to further discuss issues relating to the development of the region<sup>2</sup>. Three months after, on Thursday, June 18th, 2020, they held a virtual meeting on the situational review of the region<sup>3</sup>.
2. **Southern Governor's Forum:-** the forum was initiated to deliberate and work out strategies to forge stronger ties among states in the South-east, South-south, and South-western regions of the country. The first inaugural meeting of the forum was held in 2001 and the second in 2017. Both were held in Lagos State<sup>4</sup>. The forum has no permanent secretariat. The meeting is based on zoning. For instance, after the 24th October 2017 meeting, the next meeting was zoned to Rivers state. There is no evidence to show whether or not it was later held as proposed. The forum members include all the 17 governors of southern Nigeria. The current chairman is the Governor of Akwam Ibom State Emmanuel Udom.

## GEOPOLITICAL FORUMS

Like the regional forum, each geopolitical zone has its separate Governors' forum. They include the Northeast, North-Central, Northwest, Southeast, South-south, and South west Governors' forums. They were formed to promote the socio-political and economic activities of their regional entity and are not answerable to neither the region nor the national body.

### 1. Northeast Governor's Forum

The northeast governor's forum has six (6) members namely the governor of Yobe, Borno, Gombe, Bauchi, Adamawa, Taraba states. The forum is currently chaired by the Governor of Borno State, Babagana Zulum. The secretary of the forum who was elected in 2020 is the former presidential liaison officer to the National Assembly, Muhammed Abba-Aji. The role of the secretary is to coordinate the forum's affairs, head the secretariat, and provide administrative and policy assistance towards the attainment of the Forum's vision and objectives<sup>5</sup>. His tenure is renewable after two years.

### 2. Northwest Governor's Forum

The Northwest Governor's forum has seven (7) members namely the Governor of Jigawa, Sokoto, Katsina, Kebbi, Zamfara, Kano and Kaduna states. The forum is currently chaired by the Governor of Katsina State, Alhaji Aminu Bello Masari. The last meeting was held on Wednesday, March 18 2020 in Kaduna State over the issue of the Covid-19 Pandemic. The frequency of their meeting cannot be ascertained.



### **3. North-Central Governor's Forum**

The Northcentral Governor's forum has six (6) members namely the Governor of Niger, Nasarawa, Benue, Kwara, Kogi, and Plateau states. The forum is currently chaired by the Governor of Niger State, Alhaji Sani Abubakar Bello<sup>6</sup>. The forum held its first-ever and joint economic meeting in Makurdi Benue state on 21 December 2020 on farmers-herders and food security<sup>7</sup>. This shows how infrequent the forum meets and their inability to jointly address common developmental issues.

### **4. Southeast Governor's Forum**

The Southeast Governor's forum has five (5) members namely the Governor of Enugu, Ebonyi, Anambra, Abia, and Imo states. It was established on the 9th of July 2017 to pursue interregional cooperation for greater integration and to politically work together towards realigning as a people that shared a common heritage, culture, and affinity<sup>8</sup>. The forum is currently chaired by the Governor of Ebonyi State and Chairman, Southeast Governors' Forum, David Nweze Umahi<sup>9</sup>. The forum has a secretariat located in the **Enugu State Government House**<sup>10</sup> managed by Director-General, Prof Simon Uchenna Ortuanya. The secretariat has a Deputy Director-General, Mr. Romson Udo and three Directors, namely, Orlando Nweze (Director of Finance and Administration); Michael Udah (Director of Media and Communication) and Chibuike Amaechi (Director of Projects).

The first meeting for the year 2020 was held in February 2020 on the need to establish the southeast security outfit<sup>11</sup> and another emergency meeting was held in November 2020 over restructuring with presidential in present<sup>12</sup>. The last time the forum met was on the 2nd February 2021 over open grazing<sup>13</sup>. This is less than a month when the forum held a virtual meeting to disassociate themselves from the regional bi-partisan meeting organized by some individuals<sup>14</sup>.

### **5. South-South Governor's Forum**

The South-south Governor's forum has six (6) members namely the Governor of Edo, Delta, Bayelsa, Rivers, Akwam Ibom, and Cross River States. The forum is currently chaired by the Governor of Delta State Governor - Ifeanyi Okowa<sup>15</sup>. The forum organized economic summit 2009, 2010, and 2012. However, there were years of inaction due to political and ideological differences among the six governors in the geopolitical zone. Unlike the previous meeting, the subsequent meetings are reactive. For instance, on the 5th of March 2020, a meeting was held over regional security<sup>16</sup>, on the 14th November 2020 over Gold Mining in Northern Zamfara State<sup>17</sup>, and on the 25th November 2020 with the Presidency over restructuring resulted from the Endsars agitation by the youth. The forum has no specific timeline for meetings and there was also no evidence of the secretariat.

### **6. South-West Governor's Forum**

The southwest governor's forum has six (6) members namely the governor of Oyo, Osun, Ekiti, Ondo, Ogun, and Lagos States. The forum is currently chaired by the Governor of Mr. Rotimi Akeredolu<sup>18</sup>. The forum met in 2020 for the inauguration of the board of O'dua Investment Limited<sup>19</sup>. The last time the forum met was on the 25th of January over the Fulani herdsmen and a communique was issued. This issue would have been addressed if they have been very proactive and meet from time to time.

## **ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL/GEOPOLITICAL GOVERNORS FORUMS**

The purpose of the regional and geopolitical inclined Governor's forum provides opportunities for each region/zone to pool ideas and resources together to confront common socio-economic challenges and undertake projects that will uplift the wellbeing of the people of their respective regions. The platform would be an avenue to respond to social, political, and economic issues of their states by organizing the socioeconomic summit, meeting from time to time to review what works, what does not, and amend their strategies. However, their activities in recent times indicated that they are highly reactive to issues that affect their regions/zones. If those issues that prompted their meeting did not arise, they wouldn't have met. While some of them never met until 2020 to react to emergencies, there is no evidence that any of them met in 2018, and 2019 to discuss issues of common concern. However, with the new trend and serious calls at various quarters especially among concerned citizens, and current realities, they might change their laissez-faire attitude on common development issues affecting their respective regions.

## REGIONAL/GEOPOLITICAL GOVERNORS FORUMS POSITIONS ON WEE

A critical look at the various regional Governor's forums suggests that there is no time since the formation of some of the forums that they specifically deliberate on the women's economic empowerment issues. Most of their activities revolve around resource control, restructuring/devolution of power, security and crisis management, economic development, tourism, and health emergency.

It could be observed that most of their specific WEE-related program in the budget is based on individual interest/efforts. Mostly, their wives may be a major contributory factor to some of the WEE-related policies. A good example is the Violent Against Person Laws which has been domestic in many states including Kwara, Abia, Yobe, Bauchi, Ekiti, etc. The Governors' wife forum led by the wife of Ekiti State Governor championed the passage of the law. It was a huge success. Although this has nothing to do with WEE, it did show the potential such forum has in influencing policies across the states.

## R/GGF CHALLENGES

Engaging with the regional forum comes with some challenges as follows.

- The regional forum is often split by party differences and egocentricity. According to a report by Vanguard newspaper: South-South was initially glued together with the same political party affiliation, but later torn apart by individualism ambition and party segregation<sup>20</sup>. None of the geopolitical governor's forum is immune to this crisis.
- Each state Governor operates within its blueprint for its state. For instance, Edo state has its economic blueprint put together by its state economic team. It also had its targets in terms of building infrastructure and exploiting our comparative advantage in the area of mineral resources. Ditto for Delta State had its own Delta Beyond Oil idea. The priority of the state is placed on the internal program rather than the regional one.
- From the online search, there is no specific or designated time of meeting by the various forum. They only meet in response to emergencies.
- On the issue of the secretariat, only Northern Governors Forum, Northeast governor's forum, and southeast governor forum have designated secretariat with a coordinator. There is no evidence that others have such.
- The regional Governors are often preoccupied with political issues during the electoral period: getting them to seat at this particular period may be very difficult.

## POLITICAL PARTY AFFILIATED GOVERNOR'S FORUMS

There are major two political party affiliated governor's forum in the country. These include the Progressive and the PDP Governors Forums.

### Progressive Governors Forum (PGF)

The PGF is a forum of governors elected on the platform of the All Progressives Congress (APC). The forum which was formed in 2013 currently has 20 elected governors across the six geopolitical zones. The current chairman the person of Abubakar Atiku Bagudu, Governor of Kebbi State was elected as Forum Chair in May 2019.

The Forum has a secretariat headed by Mallam Salihu Lukman. The secretariat helps to implement decisions reached by the governors from member states and generate programs, proposals, and recommendations for consideration by the governors. It has four departments, the Finance, and Administrative department, Media & Communications Department, and the Programs Department, which includes Governance Program Unit and the Legislative Program Unit.

Some of the activities of the forum, propagation of the APC's social democratic ideals as enshrined in the party's constitution and manifesto by undertaking policy actions which reflect these in APC-governed states. It supports the party in its leadership orientation efforts across the country, and implement initiatives which aid the development of the Nigeria Governors Forum (NGF) and enable it to take its rightful place as a democratic institution not prone to partisan influence<sup>21</sup>.

From the above, therefore, it could be observed PGF propagates and promotes the activities of the member states at various platforms but there is no identified specific WEE program designed by the forum despite the fact that it has a well-designed program structure comprising of a steering committee which provides needed leadership and direction; program team responsible for the day to day running of the program; policy expert and design panel expected to produce monthly policy briefs as major output; and the state task implementation groups who are to coordinate the implementation and monitoring of program activities in APC states<sup>22</sup>.



### **People Democratic Party Governors Forum (PDP-GF)**

The PDP Governor's forum was formed in 2013 to provide a platform for Governors to interact and exchange knowledge, ideas and experiences about how to move the party forward as well as to better coordinate programs and policies in their various states. The forum is chaired by the governor of Sokoto State, Alhaji Aminu Waziri Tambuwal, and the current the Director-General of the forum is Mr. C.I.D Maduabum<sup>23</sup>. Like the PGF, the PDP-GF has no specific designed WEE program.

### **POTENTIAL FOR INFLUENCING THE FORUMS TO DO MORE FOR WEE STRATEGY**

Although not many of the forums meet regularly except for the Southeast Governors' forum, they can still be engaged to act on WEE. A multilayer approach is needed. They need to be engaged through direct and indirect means. Engaging them one on one and through women groups such as the wife of governors' forum to draw their attention to a critical issue like WEE is significant.

For those with the secretariat, their policy research activities can be supported with a focus on WEE. In essence, the coordinators must be engaged who in-turn communicate the message to the forum for possible action.

The party affiliated governor's forum would be a good platform, but there is no identified collected program designed for WEE<sup>24</sup>. Most of the collective activities revolve around the election mobilization, joint issuance of statement on political issues, appraisal of individuals member states achievement, and propagation of the member state activities on various platforms of the forum. The secretariat also acts as propaganda platform for promoting the interest of the party and condemning the program of the opposition party whether good or bad. Indeed, each forum is consumed with accusations and counter-accusations on critical sensitive national issues<sup>25</sup>. Thereby, pay little attention to programs which could collectively be carried out for the benefit of their citizens.

## **NIGERIA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION**

As was noted in the preceding paragraphs, Nigeria has six geopolitical zones, as of the time of preparing this report only one of the zones "North East geopolitical zone" has a Commission. Other regions have also transmitted bills to the National Assembly for the establishment of the Commission in their respective regions.

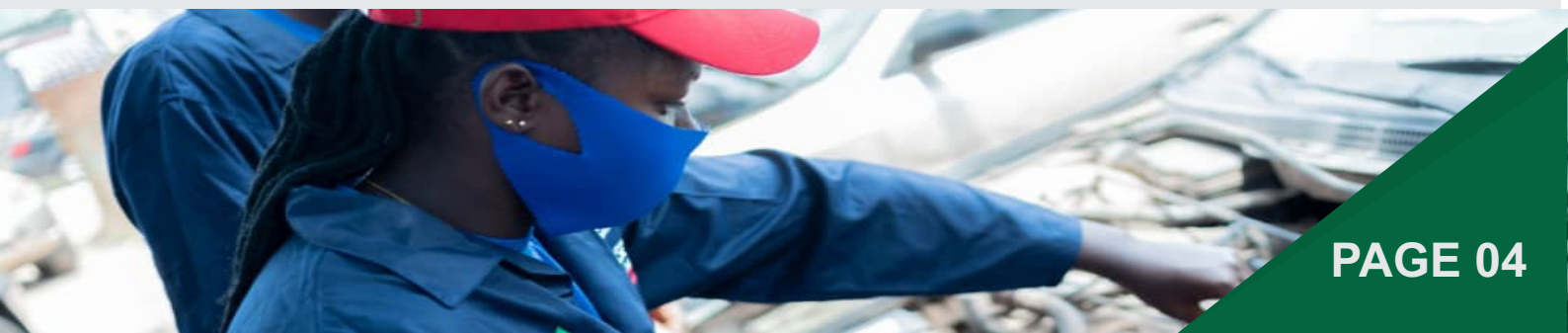
### **NORTH-EAST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NEDC)**

The Commission was established by an Act of the National Assembly in 2017. The commission was charged with the responsibility to assess, coordinate, harmonize and report on all intervention programs, and initiatives by the Federal Government or any of its Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), States; and other Development Partners and for the implementation of all programs and initiatives for the North East states; Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, Yobe, respectively. In the 2021 fiscal year, about N1 billion was allocated for the WEE related programs in Borno State alone<sup>26</sup>.

The current management of the Commission includes Mohammed Alkali, Managing Director; Musa Yashi, Executive Director, Humanitarian Affair; Muhammed Jawa, Executive Director, Administration and Finance; and Omar Mohammed, Executive Director, Operations. It is only this Commission that has been established and in full operation.

### **NORTH CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NCDC)**

The Bill which was sponsored by Senator Abba Moro and first introduced at the floor of the Senate in November 2019 has passed second reading in 2020. The bill seeks to establish a Commission that will be responsible for receiving and managing funds allocated by the Federal Government and Donors (International and Local Donors), for the resettlement, rehabilitation, integration, and reconstruction of roads, houses, farmlands, and business premises affected by floods, erosion as well as farmer/herder clashes, among others<sup>27</sup> in the north central zone.



# NIGERIA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (contd)

## NORTH-WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NWDC)

The Bill for the establishment of the Commission was sponsored by Kano senator, Barau Jibrin. It was first introduced in the Senate in November 2019 and has passed second reading in 2020. Some of the proposed functions of the Commission include the formulation of policies and setting guidelines for the development of the northwest geopolitical zone, conceive, plan and implement projects and programs for the sustainable development of the North West.

## SOUTH-EAST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (SEDC)

The southeast development Commission Bill was first passed into law by the 8th Assembly but was not assented by Mr. President. It was re-introduced in the 9th assembly in November 2019<sup>28</sup>. It has now passed second reading as of March 2020<sup>29</sup>. It was sponsored by Senator Stella Adaeze Oduah.

## SOUTH-SOUTH DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (SSDC)

There is also an ongoing move to establish South-South Development Commission (SSDC). The bill for its establishment was sponsored by Honorable Awaji-Inombek Abiante on the floor of the House Representative. The bill has passed through second reading<sup>30</sup>. The bill if passed into law will address the issue of issues of militancy, communal crises as well as the ecological problems and any other related environmental or developmental challenges in the region<sup>31</sup>.

## SOUTH WEST DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (SWDC)

The bill which was introduced by Senator Ibikunle Amosun, in November 2019 has also passed second reading in the year 2020<sup>32</sup>. The bill is expected to act as a catalyst to develop the commercial and industrial potential of the Southwest, receive and manage funds from allocation from the federation for the agricultural and industrial development of the region and address any other related security and development challenges and other connected matters<sup>33</sup>.

## NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NDDC)

Established by an Act of the National Assembly in 2000 to replace the Oil Mineral Producing Areas Development Commission (OMPADECO). It was for the development of oil-producing areas which includes areas and communities from states in the southeast (Abia & Imo), South West (Ondo), and most recently Lagos (where oil was discovered in 2016). The Commission aims at Micro Small and Medium Scale Enterprises (MSME) enhancement in all ramifications and to also facilitate sustainable development and rapid growth of the Niger Delta region while transforming it into socially stable, economically prosperous, ecologically regenerative, and most importantly, a politically peaceful region.

Although the commission has about N63 billion budget allocation 2021, this was not disaggregated as to know<sup>34</sup> what the Commission has for the women economic empowerment in the region. Its supervising Ministry of Niger Delta has the sum of N1.04 billion in 2019, N775 million and N355 in 2021 appropriation Acts on women economic empowerments.

**Evidently, in march 2016**, the Commission conducted the NDDC Building Skills Technology Training Program at King Amachree Academy in Cotonou, Republic of Benin where about 270 youths and women benefitted<sup>35</sup>. **In April same year, it awarded scholarships worth N5 million each for the tertiary education of five female students from Ondo, Rivers, Akwa Ibom and Cross River state** on its Engineering, Mathematics and Science (GEMS) competition **as part of the means to encourage girl's child in the field**. *In October of the same, the Commission distributed deep freezers, generators and grinding machines to different women groups in Rivers State to assist them in setting up gainful economic ventures*<sup>36</sup>.

In 2019, the Commission partnered with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) on a 12 years Livelihood Improvement Family Enterprises Program in the Niger Delta (LIFE-ND) at the cost of \$129.17 million. The project which commenced in 2019 is being driven by the Commission<sup>37</sup>. It targeted at creating 38,250 jobs in the agricultural sector. Overall, the project is expected to target 50 percent male and 50 percent female.



# NIGERIA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (contd)

## NIGER DELTA DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (NDDC) (contd)

Similarly, in March 2020, an Empowerment and Community Development Program targeted at youth and women were organized. Under the program, the women beneficiaries were provided empowerment materials namely sewing machines and other accessories for fashion designers, equipping of ICT centers, hospitals, schools amongst other<sup>38</sup>. Apart from the equipment they were also promised a starter capital, to ease their start-up.

## JUSTIFICATIONS FOR THE REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS

The Nigeria First Republic was created along three major regions namely the Eastern, Southern and Northern regions. Each region has its respective strong institutions that drove its agenda. These institutions consolidated the available resources driving major spectacular development witnessed between the periods. Since the emergence of the current political structure where huge power is concentrated in the hand of the federal government at the expense of the State and the local government, development has become a major issue at the grassroots. In this regard, calls for power devolution was imminent. However, with years of insurgency in the northeast (one of the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria) the leadership of the region thought within themselves that the easiest way to rebuild the already terrorist devastated region is for the six states in the region to Ernest resources together. This brought about the idea of the Northeast development commission in 2015. The Bill was introduced by the 35 members of the House of Representatives led by the then speaker, Honourable Yakubu Dogara. All of whom represented the Adamawa, Bauchi, Borno, Gombe, Taraba, Yobe states which were made up of the region. After serious consideration by both chambers, it was finally passed into law in 2017. This brought about the current Northeast Development Commission.

The speed at which the Commission is working in terms of influencing policy issues in the six states that made up of the region, rapid reconstruction efforts, coordination, empowerment of the youth and women, as well as various opportunities and supports both within and outside the country marveled other regions to establishing the same commission in the region. According to Senator Ibikunle Amosun, while debating in the support and passage of the bill on 4th March 2020 on the floor of the upper chamber noted that:

*... in the pre independent period up into the early port independent era, Nigeria was made up of three regions northern, eastern, and western regions... In the western region, the founding father has a development ideology which focused on the empowerment of the people. A policy mix in such core areas as health, education, agriculture, employment, infrastructural development, and a functional and efficient public service defined their agenda for the region...*<sup>39</sup>

Senator Amosun observed that this regional policy led to the transformation of the Southwest into an infrastructural paradise as experienced up to the most remote of location across the region.

However, today, the social and infrastructural facilities in the region are overstressed just as the living standards continue to be plummet. Amosun further stressed that,

*The push for the southwest development commission is an attempt to address the dwindling fortunes of the southwest region by implementing a regional development plan, taking into consideration the region's unique endowment, natural advantage, and capabilities.*

Also, Senator Barau I. Jibrin who led the debate on the establishment of the North West Development Commission (Establishment) Bill on 11th March 2020 observed that the north west has been immensely destroyed by the activities of the Boko Haram insurgents, armed bandits, and kidnappers across the region leading to exodus of investors, businessmen, managers of companies and employees. To him, the region is witnessing severe food shortages and youth unemployment, desertification creating more poverty in the zone. He, however, noted that the creation of the zone will address development issues in the zone. He noted that the Bill will:

*...help to identify factors inhibiting the development of the region and assist the member states in the formulation and implementation of policies to ensure sound and efficient management of resources of the North West zone.*





## NIGERIA REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (contd)

On the other hand, Senator Aba Moro, who led the debate on the North Central Development Commission (Establishment) Bill, on 12th March 2020 observed that the North Central Zone of Nigeria has been devastated and left in bollix by the noxious antics of terrorists, incidents of flooding and erosion, insurgency, herder/farmer clashes, poverty, high rate of illiteracy, to mention but a few. Similarly, Senator Opeyemi Bamidele noted that there are two major reasons why regional development should be established. The first is to take care of a peculiar crisis as of rehabilitation in the region and the second is to deliberately take a step to develop by having a commission that will focus on the peculiarity of each region<sup>40</sup>. To Senator Aliyu Sabi, the establishment of the development commission will offer an opportunity to deal with various realities in the country such as bad roads, poor healthcare systems, high unemployment among others. This will give enable a resource allocation, target project implementation which will bring about rapid development in various regions.

On her remark, Senator Stella Oduah while expressing her position on the establishment of the South East Development Commission noted that the commission if established will help to tackle ecological and environmental problems arising from the soil erosion problems and related environmental challenges in the South-East<sup>41</sup>. Although no argument is canvassed for the South-South Development Commission other than the fact that it will aid development, resolution of infrastructural deficit, militancy, communal crisis as well and tackle ecological and environmental problems<sup>42</sup>.

### POSSIBLE EXISTENCE OF THE SIX ZONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS BEFORE 2023

Given the current attention and trend on zonal development commissions (Establishment) bills, there is a possibility of their passage by both chambers of the National Assembly before the year 2023. The considerable attention is unique and strategic. The passage of the bill and the possible assent by the present administration may likely be used as a political achievement and campaign slogan by the ruling party. As a form of direct intervention by the federal government on the regional development, the agitation that the federal government is not paying enough attention to the development issues in the grassroots may also reduce.

Table 1 below shows the current stage of the bills at first consideration. The south-south and south-west development commission bills have gone through the public hearing, while the north-central, northwest, and the south-east though, currently at the committee stage have not gone through the public hearing.

**TABLE 1: REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION BILL PROCESS**

ZONAL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONS	FIRST READING	SECOND READING	COMMITTEE STATE/PUBLIC HEARING	REPORT STAGE	THIRD READING
North Central Development Commission	27 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	N.A	-	-
North West Development Commission	26 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	11 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	N.A	-	-
South East Development Commission	13 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	12 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	N.A	-	-
South-South Development Commission	19 <sup>th</sup> December 2019	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	-	-
South West Development Commission	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2019	4 <sup>th</sup> March 2020	4 <sup>th</sup> December 2020	-	-



## CONCLUSION

From the above discussion it is clear that there are regional Governors' Forums established by Governors of various geographies to promote a collective socioeconomic interest and coordinated policy responses. To the extent that their meetings continue to be irregular and reactive and Governors are oftentimes divided along Party lines suggest that these platforms may not have much value as advocacy targets. Nonetheless, they are significant, influential and can be brought to life for action and policy responses, once the right access points are found.

This Technical Note also found that out of the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria, only one zone “North East” has a zonal Development Commission established by an Act of National Assembly in 2017 and was in full operation. Other regions have no such commission at present. The Bills for their establishment are currently being debated on the floor of the National Assembly, with various reasons put forward by the members, for and against their passage into law. It is anticipated that they will be passed into law before the year 2023. In moving forward in the WEE project, it is recommended that the dRPC monitors these platforms closely to access strategic openings during scheduled meetings for project CSO coalitions can be invited to advocate on the advocacy issue.





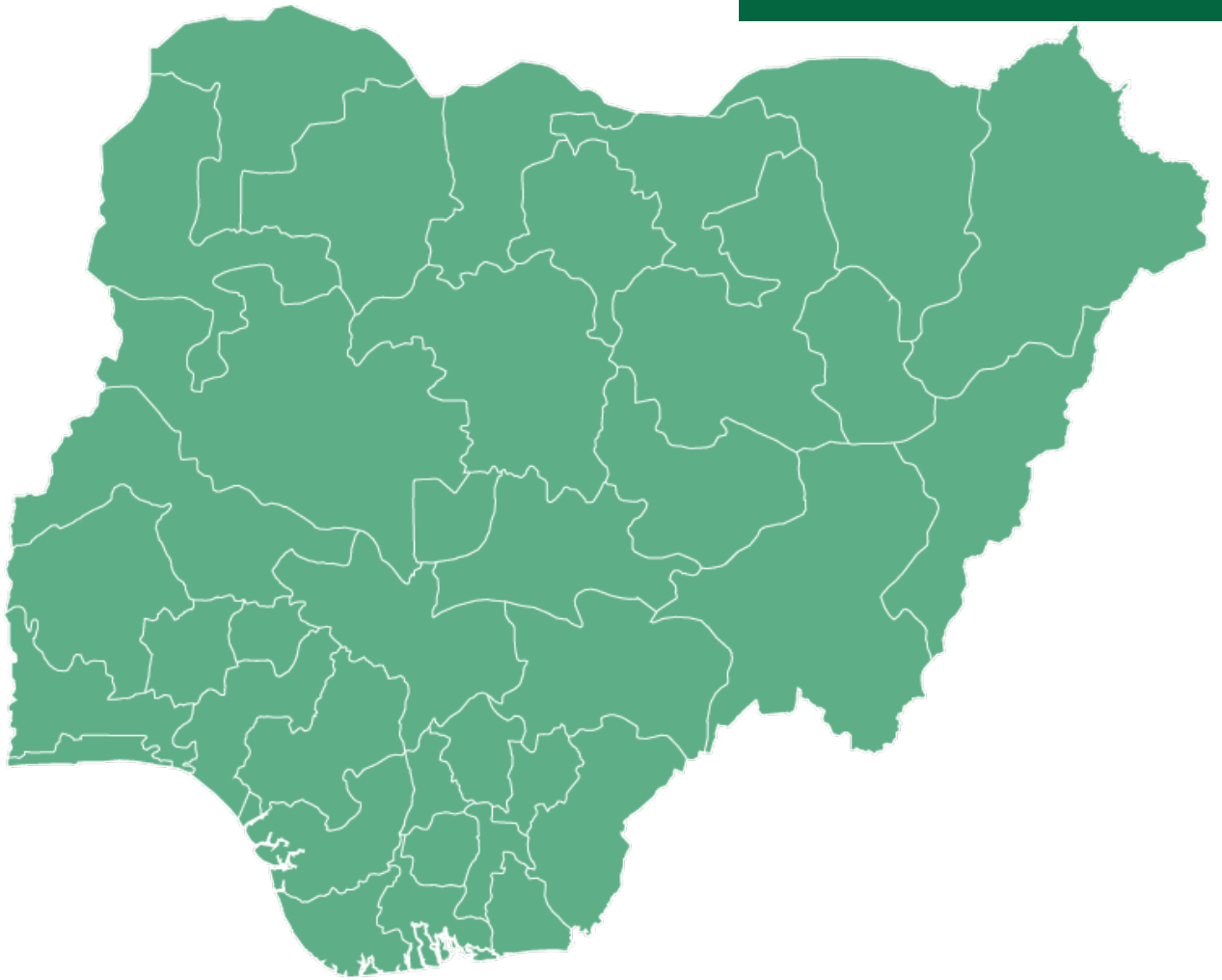
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