

**COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 54<sup>TH</sup> SURVEY COORDINATION AND ADVISORY BOARD ON SURVEY TRAINING CONFERENCE HOSTED VIRTUALLY FROM REIZ CONTINENTAL HOTEL ABUJA, FROM TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> TO THURSDAY 3<sup>RD</sup> SEPTEMBER, 2020.**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

The Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation (OSGOF) organized the 54<sup>th</sup> Survey Coordination and Advisory Board on Survey Training Conference with the theme **“Geospatial Information: Achievement of SDGs and Good Governance** Hosted Virtually from Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> September to Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2020 at Reiz Continental Hotel, Central Business District, Abuja , FCT.

The Conference was declared open virtually by the Honourable Minister of Works and Housing His Excellency Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN), the Chief Host. Also connected through Zoom application were the United Nation Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria, Mr. Edward Kallon represented by Dr. Takwa Zebulon, his Special Assistant on Peace and Development, the Special Guest of Honor is the Senate President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Distinguished Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan PhD. CON, FGEOSON. The virtual conference is well attended by delegates, participants from Federal, States, Academia, Oil and Gas industry, students from tertiary institutions and stakeholders from the Diasporas.

In his address, the Surveyor General of the Federation (SGoF), Surv. Samuel A. Taiwo fnca, mnis, the convener of the Conference, expressed his gratitude to all participants especially the invited guests who, despite short notice, honoured the invitation. He equally expressed his appreciation to God and the Federal Government for their support in making this year's conference a reality. The SGoF highlighted the importance of Geospatial Information in the achievement of SDGs and Good Governance. He gave reasons for the virtual Conference which is due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Goodwill messages were delivered from various stakeholders. The Vote of thanks was delivered by the Director, Survey Coordination, Surv. A. G Uzoma. The opening ceremony was followed by the presentation of papers and reports from various stakeholders.

## **2.0 OBSERVATIONS:**

The Conference observes that:

- I. Government Agencies saddled with the responsibility of Data collection are inadequately funded;
- II. Survey reports from State Surveyor Generals and Security Agencies are still not been submitted to the Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation (OSGOF) as required by the Survey Co-ordination Act of 1962 as amended;
- III. The issue of curriculum for Hydrographic Surveying at the Training Institutions has not yet been resolved;

- IV. Some State Surveyors General are not abreast with necessary needs and products of Government to solve contemporary socioeconomic challenges;
- V. Surveyors are not much involved in research to identify challenges in their environment;
- VI. The participation of Oil & Gas Industry and other Stakeholders at the Conference is not encouraging;
- VII. That the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) cannot be achieved without necessary Geospatial information;
- VIII. The ratio of lecturers to students in Institutions training Surveyors is inadequate;
- IX. Not all CORS are up and running;
- X. The Offices of the State Surveyors General yet to be upgraded to Extra-Ministerial status are to liaise with the ones that are already Extra-Ministerial and the OSGOF for directives on how to go about it.

### **3.0 RESOLUTIONS:**

- I. Government Agencies saddled with the responsibility of data collection should be adequately funded and the proceeds from the products be used for development by Government.
- II. The Office of the Surveyor General of the Federation (OSGOF) should provide the standards of the metadata to be submitted by State Surveyor Generals and Security Agencies.

- III. The Surveyors Council of Nigeria (SURCON) should liaise with National University Commission (NUC) and National Board for Technical Education (NBTE) for the Curriculum (Content and Instrumentation) on Hydrographic Surveying and other specialized courses including Cartography & GIS, Photogrammetry & Remote Sensing.
- IV. Surveyors should keep themselves abreast of the necessary needs and products of Government to solve contemporary socioeconomic challenges.
- V. Surveyors should be deeply involved in research in order to identify challenges within their environment to evolve Geospatial inputs that could help mitigate such challenges.
- VI. OSGOF should liaise more with Oil & Gas Industry and other Stakeholders to improve their participation in the Conference.
- VII. OSGOF and Office of State Surveyors General should provide information and products that will aid the achievement of the SDGs.
- VIII. The Government and relevant authorities should encourage Institutions offering Surveying & Geoinformatics to employ more lecturers to meet the required ration of lecturers to students.
- IX. All CORS including State owned should be up and running and State CORS should be streaming into OSGOF Database.
- X. Urged Offices of the States Surveyors General yet to be upgraded to Extra-Ministerial departments to seek the advice of OSGOF and other States already upgraded on how to fast track their upgrade to extra ministerial departments.

#### **4.0 APPRECIATION**

The Conference participants and organizers hereby express their gratitude to the Special Guest of Honor, Senate President, Federal Republic of Nigeria, Distinguished Senator Ahmad Ibrahim Lawan PhD. CON, FGEOSON, the Chief Host, Honourable Minister of Works and Housing His Excellency Babatunde Raji Fashola (SAN) and the United Nations, Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator in Nigeria the Special Guest Speaker, The Office of the Surveyor-General of the Federation (OSGOF), Surveyors Council of Nigeria (SURCON), Nigerian Institution of Surveyors (NIS), Tertiary Institutions, Armed Forces and the Management of Reiz Continental Hotel for making the Conference a success. Also, the Conference Organizers wish to thank the Local Organizing Committee, the Security Agencies and the Press for adequate security and publicity.

**Surv. Samuel Adeniran Taiwo** *fnca, mnis*

Surveyor General of the Federation & Chairman

**DONE THIS 3<sup>RD</sup> DAY OF SEPTEMBER AT ABUJA, F.C.T.**