

MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) OF THE NATIONAL RESEARCH AND INNOVATION COUNCIL (NRIC) HELD ON THURSDAY, 17TH MARCH, 2016 AT THE CONFERENCE ROOM, FEDERAL SECRETARIAT COMPLEX, PHASE II, ABUJA

The Ministry held the maiden meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of the National Research and Innovation Council (NRIC) on Thursday, 17th March, 2016 at the Federal Secretariat Complex, Phase II, Abuja. The meeting was presided over by the Honourable Minister of Science and Technology, Dr. Ogbonnaya Onu.

2) Present at the meeting were the; Permanent Secretary, FMST, Dr. Habiba Lawal; Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Information and Culture, Mrs. O. A. Adesugba and representatives of cognate Ministries and Agencies. Others included the Organised Private Sector represented by the Nigerian Association of Chambers of Commerce, Industry, Mines and Agriculture (NACCIMA) as well as Directors in the Federal Ministry of Science and Technology.

3) The Honourable Minister gave an overview of the formulation of the National Policy on Science, Technology and Innovation which was revised in 2012. He stated that the policy made provision for the establishment of the National Research and Innovation Council (NRIC) to serve as the driver of the policy. He expressed the confidence reposed in the Committee and enjoined members to put the interest of the nation first in their workings stating that President Muhammadu Buhari promised to support the development of Science and Technology for a secured nation, provision of jobs and upholding the rule of law. He urged TAC to come up with recommendations that will guide Research and Innovation in Nigeria in order to make the country a technological hub of Africa and serve as a model for others. The HMST thus inaugurated the Committee.

4) An update on the activities of the Inter-Ministerial Technical Working Committee (ITWC) was given by the Permanent Secretary, FMST. She gave an overview of the activities previously carried out by the ITWC which has now transformed to the TAC, the Technical arm of the NRIC to ensure successful operationalization of the Council. After exhaustive deliberations, the meeting resolved as follows:

- i. TAC was to prepare all the necessary documents as well as further improve on the reports of the ITWC for the consideration of NRIC at its next meeting scheduled for May, 2016;
- ii. The Committee should prepare short, medium and long term STI activities in line with the national priority areas of focus;

- iii. There was the need to explore other sources of funding Research and Development (R&D) activities in view of the capital intensive nature of R&D since the annual budgetary allocation will not be sufficient;
- iv. Constitution of various Sub-Committees namely:

(a) Sources of Funding/Strategies for Accessing Funds

Permanent Secretary, FMST	- Chairperson
Rep. Federal Ministry of Finance	- Member
Rep Ministry of Petroleum Resources	- Member
Rep. Ministry of Industries, Trade and Investment	- Member
Rep. Ministry of Budget and National Planning	- Member
Rep. Ministry of Power, Works & Housing	- Member
Rep. Sheda Science and Technology Complex	- Member
Rep. National Office for Technology Acquisition and Promotion	- Member
Director, Bioresources Technology	- Member
Director, Planning Research and Policy Analysis	- Member
Director, Finance and Accts, FMST	- Member/Secretary

(b) Governance Structure for NRIC and NRIF

Permanent Secretary, FMI&C	- Chairperson
Rep. Federal Min of Justice	- Member
Rep. Federal Ministry of Environment	- Member
Rep. Federal Min. of Communication	- Member
Director, Chemical Technology	- Member
Director, Technology Acquisition and Assessment	- Member
Deputy Director, (PA), Planning Research and Policy Analysis	- Member
Legal Adviser, FMST	- Member/Secretary

(c) National Priority Areas of Research and Development

Rep. Ministry of Defence	- Chairman
Rep. Federal Ministry of Water Resources	- Member
Rep. Fed Ministry of Agriculture & Rural Development	- Member
Rep. Federal Ministry of Health	- Member
Rep, Federal Ministry of Education	- Member
Rep. National Biotechnology Development Agency	- Member
Rep. National Board for Technology Incubation	- Member
Director, Science and Technology Promotion	- Member

Director, Renewable and Conventional Energy - Member
Asst. Director, (PA), Planning Research and Policy Analysis - Member
Director, Health and Biomedical Sciences - **Member/Secretary**

(d) Fast Tracking the Draft Bill to Fed. Min. Of Justice

Legal Adviser, FMST - Chairperson
Rep. Fed. Ministry Of Justice - Member

5) Finally, members were enjoined to work diligently to deliver on the confidence reposed in them. The reports of the various Sub-Committees are to be submitted at least two days before the next meeting scheduled for 7th April 2016 to enable the Secretariat collate reports from the various Sub-Committees.