

## **Communiqué**

## ISSUED AT THE END OF THE 34<sup>TH</sup> TELECONFERENCE MEETING (11<sup>TH</sup> IN 2021) OF THE NIGERIA GOVERNORS' FORUM HELD ON THURSDAY 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER, 2021

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

- 1. On the suspended strike by the National Association of Resident Doctors of Nigeria (NARD), the Forum noted that there were still unresolved issues in five states: Abia, Imo, Ondo, Kaduna and Ekiti, and advised that State Governors appoint either the Deputy Governor or another high-ranking official such as the Commissioner of Health to take up the discussion with the Association at the State level.
- 2. Following a presentation by Mr. Babatunde Raji Fashola, SAN, Chairman of the Board of Trustees to the Nigerian Institute of Medical Research Foundation, on a national fundraising initiative that seeks to mobilize resources for the establishment of an Endowment for medical research in the country, the Forum resolved to make a collective pledge to support research in priority medical fields in the country, and called on all State governments to individually advance support for this initiative at the State level.
- 3. Members also received a presentation from Mark Giambrone, MPP the Country Coordinator for PEPFAR in Nigeria, on the status of state engagement that is paving the way towards HIV epidemic control in the country. With the country on the verge of reaching control status by the end of 2022, Governors pledged to continue to facilitate access to HIV testing and treatment for more Nigerians and committed to supporting campaigns and initiatives that will reduce stigmatization among people living with HIV/AIDS.
- 4. Following a briefing from the representative of the Nigeria-Arabian Gulf Chamber of Commerce on a memorandum signed with the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment to attract foreign direct investment into the country via the ongoing Dubai Expo 2020, the Forum consented to the representation of state governments and the presentation of a set of bankable projects selected from 12 participating states, 2 per geopolitical zone in the country in areas such as energy, technology, fintech, transportation, manufacturing and agriculture.

Governor Kayode Fayemi Chairman, Nigeria Governors' Forum 17<sup>th</sup> October, 2021