



# About the Nigeria Governors' Forum

The Nigeria Governors' Forum (NGF) is a non-partisan association that brings together the elected governors of the country's 36 states to promote unity, good governance, better understanding and cooperation among the states, as well as a healthy and beneficial relationship between the states and other tiers of government.

The NGF was inspired by the United States-based National Democratic Institute and the Canadian-based Forum of Federations, and is modelled on the American National Governors' Association. It was established in 1999 following a multi-party conference of all the 36 democratically elected State Governors.

## What are the objectives of the NGF?

The NGF brings together the governors to share experiences, promote cooperation among states and serve as a mechanism for conflict resolution between states, and between states and the Federal Government.

### Vision

"A strong non-partisan institution which actively and effectively promotes inclusiveness, democratic values, good governance and sustainable development."

### Mission

"To provide a platform for collaboration amongst the Executive Governors on matters of public policy; to promote good governance, sharing of good practice and to enhance cooperation at state level and with other arms of government and society."

[www.nggovernorforum.org](http://www.nggovernorforum.org)

**NIGERIA  
GOVERNORS'  
FORUM**



### What is NGF's long-term goal and how will it achieve this?

The long-term goal of the NGF is to contribute to development by implementing pro-poor policies, programmes and projects that will bring about genuine development in the states. The NGF will achieve this goal by delivering:

- Well-informed policy inputs that lead to greater understanding, coherence and improvements in governance at all levels
- Enhanced inter-governmental relations and greater collaboration between the arms of government
- Quick, effective and amicable resolution of disputes
- Improved policy implementation at all levels, supported by high-quality research documents and institutionalisation of evidence-based policymaking.

It also helps governors manage their states more effectively. One way it has done this is by developing and delivering an induction programme for newly elected and returning governors, which provides them with the knowledge and tools they need to improve governance in their states.

### Focus on inclusive development

A key objective of the Forum is inclusive development that leads to the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals and to poverty reduction. This is why the NGF encompasses a broad range of policy areas which contribute to broad-based, comprehensive development, including agriculture, economics, education, governance, health, knowledge management, legal framework, public finance, security and the State Peer Review Mechanism (SPRM).

The SPRM is modelled on the African Peer Review Mechanism developed by the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD). It has helped build a platform where states share ideas and experiences on good governance and development based on defined performance indicators or benchmarks. The SPRM is the first such approach which has been applied at the sub-national level and is providing an innovative approach to accelerating the development of Nigeria's states. To date, two states, Anambra and Ekiti, have completed State Peer Reviews, helping them identify areas of development that are proceeding well and flagging areas needing additional attention.

In the health sector, for example, the NGF is addressing such key activities as the national polio eradication campaign (in partnership with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), routine immunisation and the establishment of State Primary Health Care Development Agencies.

### The NGF Secretariat

The NGF Secretariat is the technical and administrative organ of the Forum and is responsible for formulating and articulating the objectives and policies of the Forum. Through the Secretariat, the NGF identifies priority issues which are deliberated over and dealt with collectively. The Secretariat is the policy hub for the Forum. Staffed by sound technical experts in various sectors and areas of

development, it generates key information through research and policy analysis. It facilitates capacity building and peer learning for political office holders and high ranking public officials at the state level.

The Secretariat is also the collaborative organ of the Forum. Through it, the NGF has entered into strategic relations with international development organisations, non-governmental organisations and key ministries, departments and agencies of the Federal Government. A unit of the Secretariat also handles relationships with the legislature.

### Peer learning, knowledge sharing and communications

The NGF recognises that knowledge management and communication are vital to its efforts to contribute to inclusive development in Nigeria. The NGF has developed a strong knowledge management initiative, in particular to ensure that lessons are learned from all of its activities and are shared among all stakeholders efficiently and effectively. The NGF's online knowledge platform – the Hub – links all the offices of the governors and key stakeholders in each state via the internet. Authorised users have access to:

- A document database, which holds SPRM reports, state publications and budgets and other relevant documents
- A bills and issues tracking mechanism that allows users to track the status of any bills and laws at the federal and state levels
- A shared calendar that displays NGF-related events and helps in the scheduling of events and meetings.

The NGF Secretariat is working with the states to organise knowledge 'Share Fairs' to promote knowledge management and sharing throughout the country.

### Looking to the future

The NGF has significantly increased the level of cooperation between states and has strengthened relations between the states and the Federal Government. This is manifested during deliberations at the monthly meetings of the National Executive Committee and interactions on many key national issues. Zonal groupings (regional alliances), which mirror the Forum, are increasingly effective as they discuss ways of overcoming their commonly shared development challenges. In dealing with common problems, the NGF has become a respected platform of collaboration irrespective of party differences and economic strengths.

The challenge now is for the NGF to build on these foundations and to continue to serve the people of Nigeria in their drive for inclusive development.

### Contact details

**The Secretariat**  
**Nigeria Governors' Forum**  
**1, Deng Xiaoping Street, Off AIT Junction,**  
**Asokoro Extension, Abuja**  
**Tel: +234 (0)9 8703926, 8703927, 8703928**  
**Email: [info@nggovernorsforum.org](mailto:info@nggovernorsforum.org)**