



**THE TEXT OF A COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF A 2-DAY
3RD NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NON-OIL EXPORT ORGANIZED
BY THE NIGERIAN EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL AT THE
STATE HOUSE BANQUET HALL ON THE
12TH – 13TH OF NOVEMBER, 2024**

INTRODUCTION:

The Nigerian Export Promotion Council (NEPC) organized the 3rd edition of the National Conference on Non-oil Export with the theme “Promoting Non-oil Export for Rapid National Economic Growth”.

The Conference drew stakeholders from non-oil export sector, and policymakers among others to discuss a pathway to the Nation’s economic development. Given the challenges encountered by the overreliance on crude oil as a major source of foreign exchange earnings, there is an urgent need for diversification of the productive base of the Nigerian economy. The Conference applauded NEPC for convening this event to address critical issues in the non-oil sector.

At the end of the 2-day National Conference, the following resolutions were adopted:

1. That value addition is critical to promoting sustainable export growth. The Council working with relevant stakeholders should create production clusters for export.
2. That the ongoing effort to optimize and harness the potential in the services export is crucial to economic diversification. To this end, the Council is desirous to collaborate with relevant stakeholders, Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) of government, multilateral institutions, foreign direct investors and the Organised Private Sector (OPS) to create an eco-system for an outsourcing initiative and talents in the country.
3. The participants reiterated the need to resuscitate and sustain the Export Development Fund (EDF) to stimulate the growth of the non-oil export sector. This will help SMEs to expand their capacity to create jobs and wealth creation.

4. That the Council should advocate for regular and prompt payment of the Export Expansion Grant (EEG) to encourage exporters and mitigate challenges in the export sector.
5. That appropriate measures should be put in place by relevant stakeholders to expedite action aimed at effective data capturing and harmonization of trade statistics, especially for export in services, solid minerals and the informal export sector.
6. That the Council in partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Federal Ministry of Industry, Trade and Investment should leverage economic diplomacy to ease technical and non-technical barriers to trade.
7. That Council should intensify advocacy geared towards streamlining operations to reduce delays in export transactions.
8. That the Council should engage the ECOWAS Commission and other relevant stakeholders to ensure that constraints encountered by exporters in the implementation of the ECOWAS Trade Liberalization Scheme (ETLS) and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) are reduced to the barest minimum.
9. That the Council will work with relevant stakeholders towards enhancing the processing of solid minerals (beneficiation), and value addition through the provision of lapidaries, laboratories, and certifications to optimize export earnings from the sector.
10. That the Council will work with the State Committees on Export Promotion (SCEP) towards the development of products under the One State One Product (OSOP) initiative.

Signed
Nonye Ayeni
Executive Director/CEO

