

MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE ON FRILIA HELD ON 24TH MAY 2024 AT THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS, GOVERNMENT HOUSE, MINNA

Opening Remarks

The meeting commenced at approximately 10:00 am with opening remarks by the Secretary of the Committee / Director General of the Niger State Agricultural Mechanization Development Agency (NAMDA). He welcomed His Excellency, the Executive Governor, and all Honourable Commissioners and Chief Executives present to the high-level committee responsible for driving agricultural investment reforms in the State.

Attendance

- i. **Rt. Hon. Umaru Mohammed Bago** – Executive Governor of Niger State (Chairman)
- ii. **Musa Salihu Bawa Bosso** – Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Agriculture
- iii. **Umar Halilu (Rep.)** – Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Justice
- iv. **Maikano Lawal** – Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Finance
- v. **Mustapha Ndajiwo** – Hon. Commissioner, Planning Commission / Budget and Planning
- vi. **Barr. Maurice B. Magaji** – Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Lands and Survey
- vii. **Isah Mohammed (Rep.)** – Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
- viii. **QS. Musa Usman Jemaku (Rep.)** – Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs
- ix. **Emmanuel O. Nwogwugwu (Rep.)** – CEO, Niger State Investment Promotion Agency (NSIPA)
- x. **Aliyu Ndayagi (Rep.)** – Executive Chairman, Niger State Internal Revenue Service (NGSIRS)
- xi. **Dr. Adenrele Adeleke** – Director General, NAMDA (Secretary)

Absence with Apologies:

- i. Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Industries, Trade and Investment
- ii. Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Nomadic and Pastoral Affairs
- iii. Hon. Commissioner, Ministry of Housing and Urban Renewal

Brief Remarks by His Excellency, the Executive Governor / Chairman FRILIA Steering Committee

The Chairman, His Excellency, Rt. Hon. Umaru Mohammed Bago, welcomed members to the inaugural meeting. He emphasized that the adoption of the Framework for Responsible and Inclusive Land-Intensive Agricultural Investments (FRILIA) is central to the "New Niger Vision". He stated that the State is fully committed to diversifying from a mono-product economy by fostering a win-win approach that protects the land rights of host communities while building a highly predictable, world-class operating environment for large-scale agribusiness investors.

Inauguration of the Steering Committee

At this juncture, the Executive Governor formally declared the high-level FRILIA Steering Committee inaugurated to oversee the overall coordination, adoption, and implementation of the framework in Niger State. He charged the members to provide strategic policy direction and ensure strict adherence to international best practices.

The membership of the Steering Committee, as established by Executive Order No. 5 of 2023, comprises:

1. The Executive Governor of the State (Chairman)
2. Ministry of Agriculture
3. Ministry of Justice
4. Ministry of Industries, Trade and Investment
5. Ministry of Finance
6. Ministry of Budget and Planning
7. Ministry of Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs
8. Ministry of Nomadic and Pastoral Affairs
9. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
10. Ministry of Lands and Survey
11. Ministry of Housing and Urban Renewal
12. Niger State Investment Promotion Agency (NSIPA)
13. Niger State Internal Revenue Service (NGSIRS)
14. Niger State Agricultural Mechanization Development Agency (NAMDA) (Secretary)

Terms of Reference and Responsibilities for the Committee

The functions and powers of the Steering Committee were outlined as follows:

- i. Ensure that agri-business investments in the State are consistent with the FRILIA principles and international best practices.
- ii. Promote transparency in agri-business investment across the State.
- iii. Promote the application of inclusive production models.
- iv. Promote safeguard measures against the dispossession of tenure rights holders.
- v. Monitor the impact of agri-business investment, including the application of fair compensation standards.
- vi. Promote environmental sustainability and social responsibility.
- vii. Promote gender equality and the economic empowerment of women and youth.
- viii. Review land allocations made to investors based on the recommendations of the Technical Committee.
- ix. Approve for adoption a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) and review regular GRM reports.
- x. Approve for adoption and implementation the main FRILIA framework.
- xi. Approve for adoption and dissemination toolkits, guidelines, or policies designed to guide investors throughout project lifecycles.
- xii. Co-opt persons or create sub-committees on the recommendation of the Technical Committee as necessary.
- xiii. Meet quarterly or as deemed expedient to review project progress, investments, and specific directives from the Executive Governor.

Closing

The meeting concluded at about 11:45 am following a vote of thanks by the Honourable Commissioner of Finance. The session was subsequently adjourned, with the date of the next quarterly review meeting to be communicated electronically to all members.



Rt. Hon. Umaru Mohammed Bago
Executive Governor, Niger State
(Chairman)



Dr. Adenrele Adeleke
Director General, NAMDA
(Secretary)