

## DIRECTOR-GENERAL SPEECH

### **NIPSS In Strategic Regional Partnership for Good Governance, Peace and Security**

Protocol:

One of our core mandates as a Think Tank is to facilitate research and dialogue from different sectors of our national life. It's also our role to set the agenda particularly as it relates to Nigeria and Africa in the context and dynamics of a constantly changing world.

You will recall that when President Muhammadu Buhari appointed me one year ago (August 6, 2019), he was clear about his vision for the National Institute: to reposition it as a valuable national asset and resource centre in an increasingly complex and interconnected global system.

The leadership of the National Institute on my watch has taken up this challenge and what we're witnessing here today is a major step forward towards the realisation of the President's charge.

With the insurgency in the Sahel impacting parts of Nigeria and a number of other countries in the region; political tensions, often related to elections; disputes over trade and regional protocols; significant climate changes affecting the largely agrarian economies of the region; not to mention the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and its ramifications for public policy, particularly public health, safety and the economy, the world is indeed going through a period that tasks the creative energy, innovative spirit and imagination of institutions such as NIPSS.

But these challenging times also provide their own opportunities.

We can't keep doing things the old way, especially if they are not working. We must dig deep within ourselves and reach beyond our comfort zones for useful, practical and beneficial solutions.

It is in light of this that the National Institute has spent the last few months, putting together a partnership that promises to stretch our imagination, deepen our search for solutions, and forge a collaboration that has made National Institute a solution provider and thought leader in the public policy space over the years.

It is my pleasure, today, ladies and gentlemen to unveil the Memorandum of Understanding between the National Institute and the following parties:

- a). The Dantiye Centre for Good Leadership and Journalism (DCLJ) and;
- b). The JS & Associates Centre for Governance and Security Policy (CGSP)

The Dantiye Centre based in Kano, Nigeria, brings to the table some of the most versatile and illustrious experts in public policy and management, including Emeritus Professor Munzali Jibril (Chairman), former Executive Secretary of the National Universities Commission (NUC), and former Provost of the Nigerian Defence Academy; and Dr. Shamsuddeen Usman, former Minister of National Planning, who has just been appointed honorary regional adviser to DCLJ on Economic Affairs, among others.

The Centre for Governance and Security Policy with headquarters in Freetown, Sierra Leone, is a regional consortium accredited to the African Union Economic, Social and Cultural Council (AU-ECOSOCC) and is headed by Dr. Jonathan Sandy, a former national security adviser in his country and a widely sought-after expert in political and economic governance, stabilization, peace safety, security and leadership.

The focal objective of this partnership is to promote, establish and maintain cooperation and mutual assistance in the provision of training and strategic policy research and advisory support in the field of regional (Africa) and global issues.

We are confident that this partnership will also assist Nigeria and other countries in the sub-region in the quest to promote collaborative politics; the ECOWAS protocols on good governance; the African Union Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (ACDEG) and the African Union Agenda 2063; the United Nations Agenda 2030; and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

This partnership calls to our deepest instinct as Nigeria's leading research and strategic human resource training centre to shine the path and serve as a beacon of hope not just for Nigeria alone, but also for Africa amidst the despair and challenges of our present situation.

We extend our hands of fellowship and invite you, distinguished ladies and gentlemen, to join us in what promises to be a momentous journey.

Thank you for your kind attention.