



## OUR IMPACT 2018



## Legislative Strengthening Programme

**Supported by:** British Department for International Development (DFID)

PLAC's legislative strengthening programme is focused on ensuring that the capacity of the legislative arm of government to represent Nigerian citizens is improved. PLAC further works to promote citizens' participation in legislative activities and policymaking in general by creating awareness and disseminating relevant information on Nigeria's democracy to citizens and advocacy groups. In 2018, PLAC, via DFID support, carried out a number of activities aimed at promoting these objectives in the key areas appearing below.

### HIGHLIGHTS OF 2018

**Electoral Reform:** Through PLAC's robust engagement, technical support and advocacy, the National Assembly passed amendments to the Electoral Act, to the delight of many Nigerians in spite of some back and forth between the executive and legislature. The bill contained many far reaching innovative provisions, especially on the use of technology in elections. While the bill did not receive Presidential Assent as at the end of 2018, the effort to get the bills to this stage and produce a common National Assembly bill cannot be ignored. The Electoral Offences (Establishment) Commission Bill also witnessed progress in the House of Representatives, where it was adopted while the Senate held a public hearing on the issue. This bill is significant because it aims to ease the current burden on the electoral management body (INEC) to prosecute electoral offences.

**Successful Constitution Alteration:** This year witnessed the successful assent and coming into force of 5 new constitution amendments. These include: the Age Reduction Bill - commonly referred to as “Not Too Young to Run” Act which reduces the age for running for certain political offices; financial autonomy for State legislatures which is significant because it guarantees the independence of this arm. Others border on electoral matters and timelines for resolving pre-election issues so as to ensure that such cases are not protracted in the courts as has been the case over the years.

It is noted however, that there are still outstanding reform bills with the potential of improving Nigeria’s democracy. This indicates that additional work needs to be done by PLAC as part of its ongoing support to National Assembly. PLAC will therefore continue in its sensitisation and technical efforts to ensure that these issues do not get lost or forgotten.

**CSOs Participation in the National Budget:** A second public hearing on the budget took place this year. Working with the National Assembly Committees on Appropriations in the Senate and House of Representatives, PLAC is delighted to have supported this second National Public Hearing on the National Budget, which held in March 2018. This interaction has paved the way for the Legislature to take full cognisance of the importance of CSO participation in the budget process and PLAC will continue to work for the institutionalisation of this process.

**Resting of Contentious NGO Regulation Bill:** Through back - channel advocacy and direct engagement with relevant Committees of the National Assembly which commenced in the previous year, PLAC was able to rest an initial National Assembly push for the passage of an NGO Regulation Bill that would have created serious curtailing on ability of NGO operations in Nigeria. PLAC’S meeting with committee chairs, Members and National Assembly leadership helped to underscore the impracticability of enacting the NGO Regulation Bill as proposed. The matter is now rested.

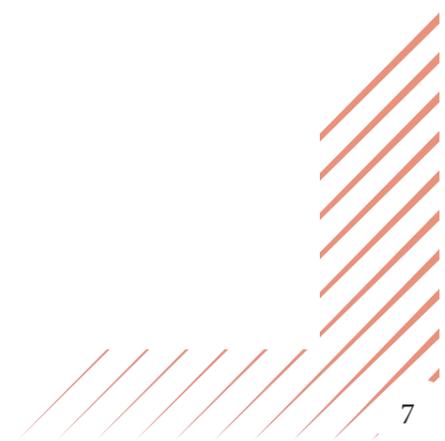
**Contributions to identified Reform Bills:** PLAC assisted the office of the Senate President to make significant progress towards the adoption of some reform Bills before the Senate bordering on health, education, economy etc. These reform Bills were stagnated at the Committee stage and in a bid to quicken their progress, PLAC worked with the office of the Senate President to review and analyse the bills and make recommendations thereto.

**Support to Committee on Public Accounts:** PLAC collaborated with the House Committee on Public Accounts to strengthen the computer skills of its members following an unprecedented complete digitalisation of the committee’s work and processes, as well as launch of a fully electronic/digitalised Committee room. PLAC’s work here also included partnership with other DFID funded projects to promote autonomy and independence for the office of the Auditor General in line with best practice via revisions to a pending Audit bill.

**PLAC’s website and Placbillstrack platform:** PLAC continues to use its website and Placbillstrack platform, to disseminate information on the progress of bills and legislations, as well as legislators’ efforts in this regard. Demand on PLAC for analysis of bills from legislators and citizens continues to rise.

**National Assembly Performance Assessment:** Following the assessment carried out in 2016, a follow up performance assessment was conducted. It saw National Assembly’s Performance improve marginally by 2.8%, from 38.5% to 41.3%.

**Continued Capacity Building for National Assembly Staff:** Capacity Building for National Assembly Staff is an integral part of PLAC programming. In the year under review, a number of capacity building activities were organised.





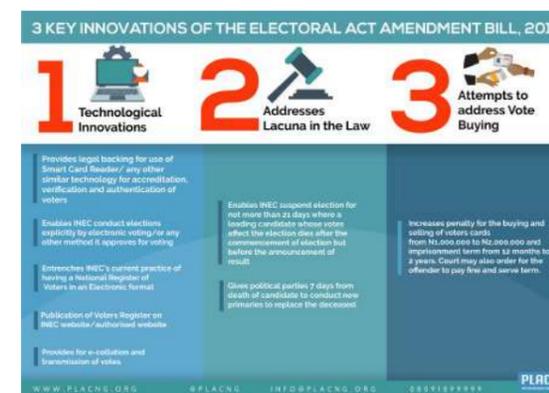
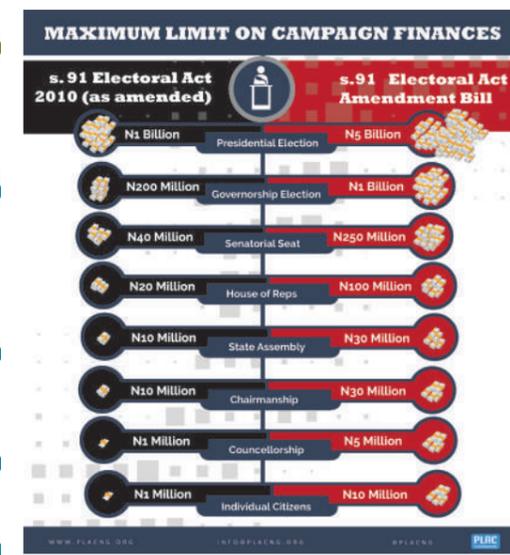
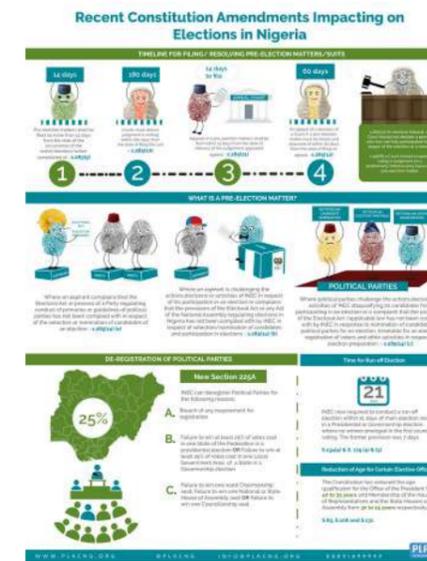
### List of Key Activities Implemented in the Year

1. Capacity Development for Members of the House of Representatives Press Corps held at the Bafra International Hotel, Kaduna from Thursday, 19th – Sunday, 21st January 2018;
2. CSO Meeting on Electoral Reform Held on Wednesday, 21st February 2018
3. CSO Pre Public Hearing meeting on a Bill seeking to Establish the National Electoral Offences Commission held on Sunday, 11th March 2018;
4. Public Hearing by the Senate Committees on INEC and Judiciary on a Bill seeking to Establish the National Electoral Offences Commission (SB 469) held on Monday 12th March 2018;
5. Retreat for Members and Staff of the House of Representatives Public Accounts Committee at the Ibom Hotel and Golf Resort, Uyo from Thursday 8th –Sunday 11th March 2018;
6. House Committee on CSO and Development Partners Retreat, held at the Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Lagos from Thursday, 22nd – Sunday, 25th March 2018;
7. Retreat for Clerks of the House of Representatives Committees held from Thursday, 22nd - Sunday 25th March 2018 at Four Points by Sheraton Hotel, Victoria Island, Lagos State;
8. CSO Pre-public Hearing Strategy Meeting and Discussion on the 2018 National Budget held at Treasure Hall, Ibeto Hotel, Abuja on Sunday, 25th March 2018
9. Workshop for the Staff of the National Assembly Budget & Research Office (NABRO) on 26th March 2018 at Ibeto Hotel, Abuja;
10. Second Joint Public Hearing on the National Budget held between 27th & 28th March 2018 at the National Assembly Complex;
11. Capacity Building Workshop for the Staff of National Assembly Department of Monitoring, Evaluation and Compliance held at the Ibeto Hotel Abuja on Monday 7th and Monday 14th May 2018;
12. Capacity Building Workshop for the Staff of Journals Department, House of Representatives on Monday 28th May 2018 in Abuja;
13. Retreat for Committee on Basic Education in Collaboration with Malala Fund on the Amendment of the UBEC Act on Wednesday, 9th May to Friday, 11th May 2018 at the Lagos Continental Hotel, Lagos;
14. Retreat for Members and Staff of the House of Representatives Committee on Justice held at the Four Points by Sheraton Lagos between Wednesday, 20th June to Saturday 23rd June 2018;
15. Dialogue Session with the House Committee on Civil Society and Development Partners held on 19th July 2018 at Ibeto Hotel, Abuja;
16. House Committee on Rules and Business Retreat held from Tuesday 7th Friday 10th August 2018 at the Transcorp Metropolitan Hotel, Calabar;
17. Technical Expert Meeting on Electoral Matters held on 12th September 2018 at Fraser Suites Abuja;

18. Retreat for the National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO) held from 13th to 16th September 2018 at the Four Points by Sheraton, Lagos;
19. Retreat for Staff of Speaker's Office held from Thursday 13th to Sunday 16th September 2018;
20. Retreat for Staff of Clerks of the House of Representatives Office held from Thursday 13th to Sunday 16th September 2018;
21. Capacity Building Workshop for the Staff of the House of Representatives Committee on Public Accounts held at the Ibeto Hotel Abuja from Monday 17th to Friday 21st September 2018;
22. Strategy Session with Management Staff of the House of Representatives held from Thursday 13th to Sunday 16th September 2018;
23. Capacity Building Workshop for Clerks of Committees of the House of Representatives on Tuesday 18th September 2018 at Ibeto Hotel, Abuja;
24. Strategy Session for the Assistant Clerks of Committees of the House of Representatives held from 27th to 30th September 2018;
25. Retreat for Chambers Clerk of the House of Representatives held from 27th to 30th September 2018;
26. Senate Clerks of Committees Retreat held at the Four Points by Sheraton, Lagos from 4th to 7th October 2018;
27. Public Accounts Committee Retreat held at the Four Points by Sheraton, Lagos from 23rd to 28th October 2018;
28. Public Accounts Committee Capacity Building at the Envoy Hotel, Abuja held between 30th and 31st October 2018;
29. Capacity Building Workshop for the Staff of the House of Representatives Information and Communication Technology Department held at the Corinthia Villa Hotel Abuja from 14th – 16th November 2018;
30. Technical Committee Meetings on the Reform Bills before the National Assembly held at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel, Abuja on 13th December 2018;
31. Capacity Building Session for Staff of Bills and Legislative Scrutiny Department held at the Chelsea Hotel between 14th and 15th November 2018;
32. Capacity Building Workshop for the joint Staff of the Senate Committee on INEC and the House of Representatives Committee on Electoral Matters held at the Ibeto Hotel between 12th and 13th December 2018.

## Some Bills Analyses and Infographs Done

- 1) 2018 Appropriations Bill Analysis (Info graph & Analysis)
- 2) States Votes on Constitution Review Bill (Info graph and Analysis)
- 3) Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit Bill (Analysis only)
- 4) Electoral Offences Commission Bill (Analysis only)
- 5) Constitution Amendment Bills (Info graph & Analysis)
- 6) Bill for an Act to amend the Nigerian Law Reform Act
- 7) Sexual Offences Registration Bill, 2017
- 8) Electoral Amendment Bill (Info graph & Analysis)
- 9) Constitution Amendment Bill and the impact on Elections in Nigeria - Info graph
- 10) Electoral Act (Amendment) Bills
- 11) Election Campaign Finances (Maximum Limit on Election Expenses) - Info graph
- 12) 5 Key Innovation of the Electoral Act - Info graph



NB: The Recommendations in the Report of the National Assembly Committees on Appropriation must be approved by Lawmakers in the Senate and the House of Representatives respectively before final passage.

## KEY FIGURES

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Targeted Committees of the National Assembly are achieving their Work Plan

18

Oversight actions taken by target committees

1

Performance Survey

4,090,238

Social Media Impressions

## Working Towards Credible Elections Through the Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room Platform

**Supported by:** The British Department for International Development (DFID)

Situation Room has continued to take the lead in advocacy for electoral reform, demand for good governance and the push for increased accountability and transparency. With the 2019 elections imminent, the Situation Room organised the following activities:

**Strategy Meeting:** Situation Room held a strategy meeting on 24th January 2018 to discuss two issues - the State of the Nation and beginning of Situation Room activities for the 2019 general election, following from rising insecurity in the country and the current state of the polity.

**Training on Issue-Based Manifestoes/Campaigns:** As part of efforts to promote issue based campaigns, Situation Room organised a training on issued based manifestoes and campaigns that held in Lagos on 7th and 8th February 2018. This was organised through the Inter Party Advisory Committee (IPAC) and had a good representation of National Chairmen or Secretaries of the political parties. The major objective was to strengthen the capacity of members of political parties to undertake an issue-based approach to its manifestoes/campaigns and to include citizens' priorities.

**Quarterly Dialogue Session With INEC Chair:** The institutionalised quarterly meetings with the INEC Chair continued with the first quarterly Dialogue Session holding on 21st March 2018. At this gathering, the Chairman of INEC afforded CSOs the opportunity



of learning from INEC, the work the Commission is doing in preparation for the Nigeria general elections in 2019 as well as the upcoming Governorship elections in Ekiti and Osun States that was due in the second half of the year. Prof. Okey Ibeanu, INEC National Commissioner represented the Commission. This meeting also allowed the Situation Room partners- EiE Nigeria and Election Monitor- to share with INEC, experiences from the field from the on-going Continuous Voter Registration exercise.

The second quarterly meeting with the INEC Chair held on 17th October 2018.

**Situation Room Annual Retreat:** Situation Room held its annual general meeting and retreat from 15th April to 18th April 2018 to review and strengthen collaboration in order to harness efforts to advocate for changes in elections and governance in the country. It also reviewed programme activities and strategic engagement plan on how to engage with the 2019 general election and beyond. In addition, the Situation Room also elected a new steering committee as the tenure of the current steering committee ran out in February.

A second Situation Room Retreat held between 4th December 2018 to 6th December 2018.

**Observation of the Ekiti State Governorship Election:** A number of activities were organised in the build up to the 2018 Ekiti State Governorship Election. These included:

- o Town Hall meeting in Ekiti State for Peaceful Elections on 3rd July 2018;
- o Training of Observers in Ekiti Election; and
- o The actual observation exercise, which took place between 10th and 15th July 2018

The Situation Communication Room was set up in Ado-Ekiti.

**Observation of Osun Governorship election:** A number of activities were organised in the build up to the 2018 Osun State Governorship Election. These include:

- o Dialogue Session with Osun State REC on 3rd September 2018
- o Training of Observers for the Osun State Election on 11th September 2018
- o Observation of Osun State Governorship Election, which took place from 20th September 2018 to 23rd September 2018. The Situation Room set up its communication room in Osogbo.
- o Observation of Osun State Re-run Governorship Election on Thursday, 27th September 2018

**Post-Election Survey of INEC Performance:** Following the Ekiti and Osun Governorship elections, Situation Room conducted a post-election survey to assessment INEC's performance.

**Geo-Political meetings:** In the build up to the 2019 General election, Situation Room convened a series of geo-political meetings, covering all six geo-political zones the purpose of these meetings were to identify trending issues in the polity especially those that are peculiar to the geo-political zone and for coordination and collaboration for civil society organisations.

- o South-South Geopolitical Meeting with CSOs and RECs on 25th October 2018
- o South-East Geopolitical Meeting with CSOs and RECs on 26th October 2018
- o North-East Geo-political Meeting on 23rd November 2018
- o North-Central Geopolitical Meeting with CSOs and RECs on 22nd November 2018
- o North-West Geopolitical Zonal Meeting with CSOs and RECs on 25th November 2018
- o South West Geopolitical Zonal Meeting with CSOs and RECs on 3rd December 2018

**Voter Education activities:** As part of its voter education activities in the run up to elections, Situation Room embarked on a series of campaigns to sensitise voters. These campaigns addressed the issue of Fake News, Continuous Voters Registration, electoral offences and modalities of voting.

**Stakeholders Forum on Elections:** Situation Room convened a Stakeholders Forum on 10th December 2018. The purpose of this Forum was to bring stakeholders to ascertain their preparation for the 2019 elections and communicate Situation Room's plan for engagement during the 2019 elections.

**Vice-Presidential Debate:** As part of its activities to the build up to the 2019 Elections, PLAC provided support to the Nigeria Election Debate Group/ Broadcasting Organisation of Nigeria and Channels TV to host and hold the Vice-Presidential Debate. This debate held at the Transcorp Hilton Hotel in December 2018.



## OTHER ELECTION RELATED PROGRAMS



## Consolidating the improvements of the 2015 General Elections

**Supported by:** MacArthur Foundation

PLAC continues receiving support from MacArthur Foundation under a project titled consolidating the improvements of the 2015 general elections. In this period, PLAC organised two retreats comprising of election management officials and experts to deliberate and recommend improvements on election administration. These meetings were preceded by monthly meetings that were held at the MacArthur Foundation office. In addition, PLAC organised a meeting on electoral laws.

## Electoral Accountability

**Supported by:** MacArthur Foundation

PLAC started a new project with the Foundation to infuse anti-corruption and accountability into the 2019 elections and beyond as well as ignite and amplify conversations on accountability. The project entails PLAC leading and coordinating a Leadership Cluster group of four other CSOs; the Centre for Value and Leadership, Savannah Centre, Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD) and Kadaria Ahmed (Daria Media Ltd) – TV media personality. The project aims to support engagements with politicians and candidates and organize public debates.



Two town hall meetings have held with Kingsley Moghalu, YPP Candidate and his Vice-President, Umar Getso and President Buhari, APC Candidate and his Vice-President, Yemi Osinbajo.

## Open Society Initiative For West Africa (OSIWA)

Situation Room Roundtable on Election Petitions with National Bar Association Election Working Group: The roundtable held on 30th April 2018 in Abuja and served as an interactive session with the Nigerian Bar Association-EWG to present the compendium on the election petitions arising from the 2015 general election and to receive their input from a practical perspective on the issues raised in the compendium.



### KEY FIGURES

124

CSOs Coordinated

85

CSOs Trained

85

CSOs Supported to Observe Elections

16

Statements

4,872,727

Social Media Impressions



## Improving Security Sector Oversight

**Supported by:** UK Conflict, Security and Stability Fund

In furtherance of its project seeking to support oversight of security sector and in continuation of the second phase of the project, PLAC carried out the following activities:

**Technical Session on Terrorism Bills:** PLAC organised a retreat for the House Committee on National Security and Intelligence in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State which took place between 1st and 4th March 2018. The aim of the retreat was to review existing terrorism legislations and pending bills on Terrorism issues taking into consideration the global trend, to better understand the challenges of Terrorism in Nigeria and in the West-Africa region; and to discuss best practices on drafting counter terrorism legislation. This retreat was a success as it had members of the Senate in attendance as well as a range of ministries, departments and agencies.

**Study Mission to Accra:** PLAC and DCAF successfully implemented a regional experience-sharing workshop on legislative oversight good practices in Accra, Ghana between members of the Nigerian and Ghanaian Parliaments. This involved a study mission of eight Nigerian parliamentarians to the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Ghana, to discuss challenges and good practices for legislative oversight of the security sector with legislators from the Ghana parliament, former legislators and parliamentary experts. This activity spanned four days and was facilitated by parliamentary

and SSR/G experts. It enabled participants to discuss challenges with international and regional good practices, as well as appropriate and available tools for effective oversight.

**Advocacy Visit:** PLAC, DCAF and a few other CSOs met with the Speaker, Hon. Yakubu Dogara on 5th June 2018, to discuss bills to curb the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW). The advocacy visit was to enable CSO partners working in this area to convey expectations on the bill, to communicate the urgency of passing the bill as well as other key bills before NASS and to discuss other security sector reform issues. The bill is co-sponsored by the Speaker and the Chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Hon. Nnenna Elendu-Ukeje and seeks to give legal backing to the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons of which Nigeria is signatory to. The major outcome from this engagement is that PLAC's informal/back channel advocacy led to the bill being read a second time and committed to a committee for further legislative action.

**Capacity Building:** A significant component of the project is to build the capacity of CSOs working in the sector to better engage with the legislature on security issues and security sector reform and for staff of the National Assembly.

#### **CSOs**

PLAC organised a two-day workshop from 26th June to 29th June 2018 for a number of selected CSOs from the Security & Justice Reform Programme (SJRP) network on Strengthening civil society's influence on SSR through enhanced engagement & advocacy with the National Assembly. The main objective of this activity was to improve the advocacy skills of the participants and to identify relevant strategies to foster their engagement with the National Assembly of Nigeria. Ultimately, the objective of this capacity-building session was to increase the impact of CSOs involved in security issues on parliamentary oversight and, as a result, key security reforms. The workshop involved very experienced resource persons such as Dr. Benjamin Kunbuor, former member of the Ghanaian Parliament, who spoke on the role of civil society in strengthening the effectiveness of parliamentary oversight. There was a spotlight on specific bills, particularly a bill to establish a national commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

The second workshop held on 18th September 2018 for a number of selected CSOs from the Security & Justice Reform Programme (SJRP) network on Contribution of Civil Society to Improved Accountability of Police Forces via Legislative Engagement. The main objectives of this activity were: to discuss how CSOs can promote police accountability via better engagement with the Legislature (NASS) and to identify joint advocacy strategies to promote the review of the Police Act. Ultimately, the purpose of this capacity-building session was to launch a debate on the Police Act and identify joint advocacy strategies to

engage NASS on police reform. The workshop was positively received by the participants and encouraged them to further promote the adoption of the Police Bill and the alignment of the Police Act with international standards. The main outcome of this meeting was to enable CSOs to jointly discuss practical advocacy strategies to engage NASS on a review of the Police Bill before the end of their tenure. Commitments were made by some groups to take up advocacy on the bill using their existing networks and resources.

#### **National Assembly Staff**

A workshop for Clerks and staff of the Security Sector Committees was organised by PLAC and DCAF on 17 September 2018 at Fraser Suites, Abuja. This activity focused on strengthening the effectiveness of the committee secretariat in supporting the oversight function of the committees. This was the second workshop organised for committee staff under the project, the first being organised in November 2017. This workshop was a success with 100% participation, which included clerks, assistant clerks and one staff of each of the Senate and House committees on Police, Army, Defence, National Security & Intelligence, Interior, Airforce, and Navy.

**Analysis of Selected Security Sector Bills:** Research on this project commenced in 2017 and in 2018, PLAC and DCAF organised a consultative meeting with a number of local CSOs from the Security and Justice Reform Programme (SJRP) on 7 June 2018. This meeting aimed to present a number of key bills analysed in the report, to review and discuss benefits and gaps identified by PLAC and DCAF and make further recommendations for future engagement with the National Assembly. Following input received during this meeting, the analyses were compiled, presented as a publication titled, Improving Security Sector Governance and Effectiveness: An Analysis of Selected Security Sector Reform Bills before the Nigerian National Assembly.

**Police Bill Advocacy:** A major achievement for PLAC has been the significant role in advocating for the passage of the Police Bill. PLAC's efforts were novel and multi-dimensional, providing technical support while raising awareness on the need to pass the Bill.

**Technical Advisory Committee on Police Bill:** Leveraging on PLAC's longstanding relationship with the National Assembly (NASS) and its two chambers, PLAC & DCAF supported the Office of the Senate President to revise provisions of a Police Bill that was introduced in the chamber in May 2018 and sponsored by the Deputy Majority Leader, Senator Ibn Na'Allah. The bill was read for the second time in July and committed to the Committee on Police Affairs. PLAC successfully convened a Technical Advisory Committee who took into consideration prior recommendations of several committees and reform

panels on police reform and submitted its recommendations on the bill within a two-week time limit given by the Office of the Senate President.

**Multi-Stakeholder Dialogue Session on Police Bill:** PLAC also convened an expansive dialogue session between the National Assembly (NASS) via Senate Majority leader and Sponsor of the Police Bill, Senator Bala Ibn NaAllah, Chairman of the Police Affairs Committee in the House of Representatives, the representative of the Inspector General of Police (IGP), members of the media and civil society on the Police Bill on Monday, 19 November 2018. This activity gave the participants the opportunity to share their views on the various challenges pertaining to the revision of the Police Act and to identify common priorities to foster the development of professional police forces that are more responsive to the security needs of the local populations. Ultimately, this activity contributed to fostering strategic partnerships between civil society and legislators on police reform in the context of the Police Bill. The dialogue session was followed by a meeting of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) working on police reform and governance issues across Nigeria held on Tuesday, 20th November 2018 to enable the CSOs better understand the content and implications of the Police Bill and to identify joint advocacy strategies for maintaining engagement with both chambers of the National Assembly.

**Police Bill Public Hearing:** With significant traction gained on the Police Bill, PLAC supported the first ever Public Hearing on a bill seeking to holistically review the Police Act. This public hearing held in the Senate on 5 December 2018. PLAC was able to lead a coalition of CSOs that resulted in the submission of coordinated memos and coordinated presentations at the hearing. The public hearing was a huge success and saw the attendance of key security institutions such as the Nigeria Police Force led by the Inspector General of Police (IGP), leadership of the Police Service Commission, the Department of State Security, the Nigeria Prisons Service, as well as other stakeholders participated and made presentations at the hearing.



## Expanding the Political Participation of Women

**Supported by:** Ford Foundation

Building on the success of its documentary, *UnderRepresented*, PLAC continued to raise awareness and advocate for improved participation of women in the political space.

**#PressforProgress:** Keying into the commemoration of International Women's Day, PLAC screened its documentary "Underrepresented" to students of the University of Abuja on 7th March 2018 at the main campus of the university. A panel discussion with the theme "#PressforProgress: Advancing Representation" also took place at the end of the screening. The aim was to bring the issues of women representation to students/a younger audience. A major outcome from the event was further independent screening of the documentary by a number of participating students.

**Women's Roundtable:** Building on discussions from its 2017 Roundtable discussion, PLAC organised a second meeting themed "2019 Elections and Policymaking: Making Women Issues Matter". The aim of the meeting was to disseminate its research study titled *Women's Political Representation in Nigeria: Why Progress is Slow* and what can be done to Fast-track it and to have discussions with policymakers, political leaders, women in governance and CSOs on steps that can be taken to improve issues concerning women. It was argued that the introduction of affirmative action policies such as electoral gender quotas as done in other countries has the potential of improving women's representation and moving Nigeria from an incremental track towards improved representation to a fast-track.

**Study Visit to Senegal:** PLAC successfully took six policymakers and one women civil society organisation (CSO) leader on a study visit to Senegal to learn practices and strategies for successful inclusion of women in politics as Senegal has successfully done. The visit took place between 30th July and 3rd August 2018. The main objective of the visit was to learn, document and disseminate lessons learned and best practices on improving women's political participation.

**Awareness Materials:** In order to raise awareness on issues affecting political participation of women, PLAC produced and disseminated two video adverts/public service announcements (PSA). The objective of the first video was to spotlight the prevalence of violence against women and girls and how it impacts gender representation. Thus, it specifically addressed the issue of violence against women in politics and was disseminated on International Human Rights Day (December 10th) i.e. the end of the international 16 days of activism against gender-based violence. The second video encourages citizens to educate themselves on decision makers' stance on issues affecting women so as to make informed choices.



## Supporting Democratic Governance in Nigeria

**Supported by:** European Union

PLAC began implementing a programme supported by the European Union (EU). The programme titled "EU Support to Democratic Governance in Nigeria" is part of the EU's priority to continue supporting the process of electoral and democratic reforms that would enhance the capacity of Nigeria's national institutions to discharge their statutory duties in an efficient, unbiased and non-partisan manner, through specialised CSOs such as PLAC. PLAC, under the programme provides technical support of two key National Assembly Committees (i.e. Senate Committee on Ethics, Privilege and Public Petitions & House of Representatives Committee on Public Petitions) and organises activities aimed at improving the participation of Marginalised Groups in the Legislative and Political Process. Engagements with Public Petitions Committees: In engaging the National Assembly, PLAC has worked directly with the respective Public Petitions Committees of the National Assembly. The Public Petitions committees are critical to the effective execution of the National Assembly's legislative duties as the public can directly petition through their representatives and seek redress against administrative injustice and breaches by government agencies/officials.

### Strategy Meetings

**Strategy Meeting for Senate Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions – Strategy Meeting (February 2018):** PLAC organised a strategy meeting for the Senate Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions. This meeting was to enable the Committee devise a more efficient and effective way to continue to represent the aggrieved

constituencies, as well as identify various challenges it faces in the course of justice. A total of 19 Senators and staff of the Committee attended the meeting – 7 women and 12 men.

**House Committee on Public Petitions – Strategy Meeting (February 2018):** The strategy meeting was attended by 20 members and staff of the Committee (12 men and 8 women), with the aim of identifying the challenges hindering the effective representation and improving awareness and responsiveness of aggrieved constituents.

**Strategy Meeting of the Members and Staff of the House of Representatives Committee on Public Petitions:** Members and Staff of the Committee on Public Petitions convened in Lagos for a strategy meeting on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Committee. The meeting held from November 22 – 25, 2018 and had 32 members and staff of the Committee in attendance. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Committee to assess their performance so far, and as they approach the end of an Assembly, and chart a path of operation going forward.

**Technical/Policy Assistance to Public Petitions Committees (June 2018):** PLAC recruited and placed two technical experts in the Senate Committee on Ethics, Privileges and Public Petitions and House of Representatives Committee on Public Petitions respectively. Each technical expert reports on the processes followed in addressing complaints of citizens and uploads periodic reports on the website (upgraded and maintained under this project).

**Training of Members and Staff of the House of Representatives Committee on Public Petitions (July 2018):** Members and staff of the House of Representatives Committee on Public Petitions were trained on achieving improved awareness and responsiveness of citizens on July 19, 2018. In attendance were 11 members and 23 staff as well as representative of the Ministry of Budget and National Planning. Experts took the Committee through various ways of creating awareness among citizens, modern methods of documenting received petitions and how best to work together with their counterparts at the Senate in order to serve citizens better.

**Legislative Internship for Young Nigerian Professionals (February – April 2018):** PLAC commenced its Legislative Internship Programme (LIP) in February 2018. This involved the selection of young Nigerian professionals who were deployed to various Committees of the Senate, House of Representatives, National Assembly Budget and Research Office (NABRO) and National Secretariat for Nigerian Legislatures (NSNL). The interns were 37 (18 female and 19 male) in number and were selected from the 6 (six) geopolitical zones in Nigeria.

### **Legislative Guidance Tool for Effective Legislative Oversight on Inclusivity Development (September 24, 2018):**

PLAC convened an expert panel to develop, review and validate the Guidance Tool/Best Practice Guide on Effective Legislative Oversight of Inclusivity. This tool was then disseminated and stakeholders trained on the tool. The dissemination/training programme was attended by representatives of INEC; Ministry of Budget & National Planning; staff of National Assembly Committees responsible for oversight of INEC & electoral matters and other relevant Committees.

### **Roundtable on Women’s Political Participation and Inclusion:**

PLAC convened a Roundtable on Women’s Political Participation and Inclusion. This event was attended by 91 persons (80 women and 11 men), which include members and staff of the House of Representatives Committee on Women in Parliament, women leaders, female faith leaders, the media, donor partners and other stakeholders with the aim of identifying the challenges hindering women’s political participation and recommending ways to tackle the challenges. The Roundtable was organized in collaboration with the House of Representatives Committee on Women in Parliament.

### **List of publications**

- PLAC Legislative Internship Guide
- 2018 Legislative Internship Programme Report
- Model Legislative Assembly





2018 IN PICTURES



2018 in Pictures



# 2018 in Pictures cont.



**Address:**  
Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC)  
Plot 451, Gambo Jimeta Crescent, Guzape,  
Abuja.



**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/placng](http://www.facebook.com/placng)  
**Twitter:** @placng  
**Website:** [www.placng.org](http://www.placng.org)  
**Email:** [info@placng.org](mailto:info@placng.org)  
**Phone:** +2348091899999