



# **2021 NATIONAL MIGRATION DIALOGUE**

## **REPORT**



International Organization for Migration (IOM)  
The UN Migration Agency

**Organized by**

**International Organization for Migration**

*In collaboration with*



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR REFUGEES  
MIGRANTS AND INTERNALLY DISPLACED PERSONS  
THE PRESIDENCY

**National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally  
Displaced Persons**

**and**



**Civil Society Network on Migration Development**

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**FIIAPP**

COOPERACIÓN ESPAÑOLA



**A-TIPSOM  
NIGERIA**  
ACTION AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS  
AND SMUGGLING OF MIGRANTS IN NIGERIA





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### Abbreviations /Acronyms

<b>Abbreviation</b>	<b>Description</b>
CMS-NAU	Centre for Migration Studies – Nnamdi Azikiwe University
CSD	Civil Society Day
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
CSOnetMADE	Civil Society Network on Migration and Development
CS	Common Space
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EU	European Union
FGoN	Federal Government of Nigeria
FIIAP	Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies
FMHADMSD	Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development
FMLE	Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment
GFMD	Global Forum on Migration and Development
HFC	Honorable Federal Commissioner
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMD	International Migrants’ Day
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MAMA	Migration and Migration Alignment
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies
MIDWA	Migration Dialogue for West Africa
MRC	Migrants Resource Centre
NACTAL	Network Against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour
NAPTIP	National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons
NCFRMI	National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NMD	National Migration Dialogue
NMP	National Migration Policy
NTA	Nigerian Television Authority
NYSC	National Youth Service Corps
R&M	Refugees and Migrations
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SEYP	Society for the Empowerment of Young Persons
TWG	Technical Working Group
UBA	United Bank for Africa
WOTCLEF	Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation



## Overview

Since 2014, Nigeria has continued to celebrate the International Migrants Day using the National Migration Dialogue (NMD) platform where key stakeholders working on migration and related issues come together to discuss the gains, challenges of migration, and ways to achieve better migration governance in Nigeria.

The 2021 NMD was unique, remarkable, and demonstrated the whole-of-government, and whole-of-society approach driving the Nigeria Migration governance. The was convened by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and co-hosted by civil society organizations (CSOs) through the Civil Society Network on Migration and Development (CSOnetMADE) and the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGoN) through the National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally Displaced Persons (NCFRMI) with the support from European Union (EU) and Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Ibero-American Foundation for Administration and Public Policies (FIIAPP), Nnamdi Azikiwe University (NAU), United Bank of Africa (UBA) and the Nigeria Television Authority (NTA).

2021 NDM, for the first time, inaugurated the Civil Society Day (CSD) within the NMD. The CSD created space for CSOs to intensely discuss the various strategies for ensuring the sustainability of migration programmes in Nigeria for sustainable national development while the second day of the event provided a platform to discuss and proffer actionable and sustainable recommendations on how to improve the national migration governance in Nigeria.

The first day of the 2021 NMD featured the CSD with the theme: **Strategies for sustainability of migration Programme in Nigeria** and second day featured the Common Space (CS) with the theme: **Human Mobility in the context of sustainability National Development**.



The 2021 NMD was held on the 16 - 17<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2021 at International Conference Centre, Abuja. The event had in attendance key stakeholders including state and non-state across the 6 geopolitical zones of Nigeria, the private sector, the diaspora as well as the various international partners of Nigeria working on migration-related issues.

The hybrid platform of the event was livestreamed, and this enabled a huge online participation which was another initiative introduced at the 2021 NMD. While over three hundred persons were physically present, a significant number of others participated virtually.

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## Background

Migration, a key component of sustainable development has continually been an issue spurring discourse in terms of its management and how to harness its gains for national development. The ongoing conversations have led to the emergence of various platforms globally and regionally thus providing the stage for onward discussions on migration and its related issues. Some of such platforms include the Global Forum on Migration and Development (GFMD); the Migration Dialogue for West Africa (MIDWA) as applicable in West Africa. These platforms have yielded positive results and to a large extent - the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (GCM) and Valetta Summit and its Action Plan came about as a result of these spaces. Nigeria, a country of origin, transit, and destination for migrants, has also adopted same strategy by establishing NMD as a platform for discourse on migration governance.

The FGoN through the NCFRMI established the NMD in 2014 as a strategy to mark the annual global International Migrants Day (every 18<sup>th</sup> December). The NMD has been sustained since inception with the technical and financial support of key Nigerian migration partners including, the SDC, ILO, IOM, and EU especially within the project “EU-IOM Initiative for Migrants’ Protection and Reintegration in Nigeria”.

An interesting feature of the migration management governance discourse is the multi stakeholder’s approach which creates a widespread opportunity for diverse stakeholders’ involvement. This approach has enhanced and promoted, partnership for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria.

In partnering to achieve the goals via multi-stakeholders’ approach, CSOs are key partners in the Nigeria migration governance architecture as a result of the role they play especially at the grassroots and in enhancing policy formulation and implementation. Since the inclusion of CSOs in the Nigeria migration architecture, their impact is being felt especially in the implementation of migration activities in Nigeria.

Prior to its inclusion in 2021, CSOs, through various platforms have consistently clamored for a space within the NMD where pertinent migration issues are discussed, to collaboratively organize for a maximum and balance effect, for the furtherance of complimenting activities of government and international partners for sustainable effect. This collaborative effort extends beyond the present to the future as a result of the grassroots expertise of CSOs in ensuring sustainability, which goes a long way in maximizing the outcome of migration activities and minimizing duplication of efforts.



It was in view of this, that CSOnetMADE collaborated with the FGoN through the coordinating agency of migration governance, NCFRMI, to cohost the 2021 National Migration Dialogue. This initiative of cohosting the 2021 NMD efficiently promotes the aim of collaboration to achieve goals as posited by the SDGs and identified in the GCM Objectives.

The event of NMD 2021 is built on the overarching theme of the 2021 International Migrants’ Day (IMD) “Mobility and People on the move” especially its nexus with sustainable development and provided Nigerian actors and stakeholders the opportunity to deliberate on the way forward for migration programmes and governance in Nigeria.

### **OBJECTIVES**

The key objectives of the events include

- To organize a CSOs platform in order to enrich the Nigerian National Migration Dialogue by engaging and interrogating the sustainability of migration programmes in Nigeria
- To collaboratively promote innovation, efficiency and improvement in actualizing a better and sustainable migration governance in Nigeria.

### **Specific Objectives**

- To facilitate a constructive dialogue during the NMD
- To plan for the migration year 2022
- To map out sustainability plans for migration activities in Nigeria
- To promote resilient and integrated migration stakeholders

### **METHODOLOGY /ACTIVITIES**

The 2021 NMD was a 2-day event which featured the (i) CSD and (ii) CS, with three major activities: Speeches, Panel sessions and Group discussions.

## **NMD DAY 1**

### **CIVIL SOCIETY DAY OF THE NMD**

#### **A. Opening session of the CSD**

The opening session of the CSD featured the welcome address by CSOnetMADE national coordinator, welcome remark by the Honorable Federal commissioner, NCFRMI, goodwill messages from both international and local partners such as the EU, SDC, IOM, FIIAP, Vice Chancellor CMS-NAU, address by the Chairperson of the CSD and the opening address by the Honorable Minister, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHADMSD).

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### **Welcome Address – National Coordinator, CSOnetMADE**



**Dr. Emeka Xris Obiezu, OSA  
CSOnetMADE Nat. Coordinator**

The National Coordinator of CSOnetMADE, Dr. Emeka Xris Obiezu, OSA in his remarks noted that the 2021 NMD in its process and substance featured a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach which shapes the narrative and promotion of partnership to achieve SDGs and the GCM and underlines the Nigerian migration governance system. He informed that the event is monumental with the support of international organizations and the private sector noting that the private sector’s involvement depicts a glimpse of hope of Nigeria’s ownership of migration governance in the nearest future.

While recognizing the CSD as a rare privilege which has provided CSOs a self-organizing space within an institutional framework, he enjoined participants to seize the opportunity provided by this NMD to engage critically in the issue of discussion viz-a-viz sustainability of migration programmes/activities with a view to improving the conditions of migrants and maximizing migration for the benefit of all. He concluded with the quote, *“As CSOs on migration, we are united for the voluntary, safe and dignified migration until every human person is able to exercise their right without pressure or fear”*.

### **Welcome remark by the Hon. Fed Commissioner (HFC), National Commission for Refugees, Migrants, and Internally displaced persons (NCFRMI)**

In her welcome remark, the HFC of NCFRMI, Imaan Sulaiman – Ibrahim represented by the acting Deputy Director of Refugees and Migration (R&M), NCFRMI, Mr. Titus Mudakai, expressed her joy over the hosting of the 2021 NMD which is a multi-stakeholder approach established in 2014. She appreciated the invaluable financial and technical support of stakeholders including international partners, private sector, and the media partners to the event over the years.



**Mr. Titus Mudakai  
Ag. Dep. Dir R&M  
NCFRMI**

She recognized CSOs as critical partners in the Nigeria migration governance framework due to their grassroots participation, support for the migration policy development and its execution, and the impact they have made in the implementation of migration activities.

In conclusion, she applauded and reaffirmed NCFRMI’s support to the activities of CSOs especially with regards to return and reintegration, noting that the outcome of the CSD dialogue of 2022 will fashion out next steps in line with the SDGs as well as capture migration in its 2022 plan.





**Eleni Zerzelidou  
International  
aid/cooperation  
officer, EU  
delegation to Nigeria  
and ECOWAS**

**Head of Delegation, European Union Delegation to Nigeria and the Economic Communities of West African States (ECOWAS) Goodwill message delivered by the Project Officer, Migration and Drugs, European Union Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS – Ms. Eleni Zerzelidou**

*“The EU is willing to play its part by strengthening migration governance in Nigeria” – Eleni Zerzelidou.*

With the above words the EU representative, Ms. Eleni Zerzelidou reiterated the EU’s commitment to supporting migration governance in Nigeria.

She noted that migration and mobility are important parts of human nature and crucial to achieving the agenda 2030, but the unprecedented halt in mobility as imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic has brought about emerging challenges such as poor access to healthcare services by migrants.

In welcoming the initiative of NCFRMI and CSOnetMADE collaborative effort to dedicate the 2021 NMD to exploring strategies and actions to deepen the understanding of the implication of the pandemic on human mobility and sustainable way forward, the EU hoped the NMD will guide the way forward towards a better migration management and protection of migrants.

She thanked everyone who have supported in the implementation of migration activities in Nigeria as well as recognized the Late Jennifer Ero, the former Executive Director, Society for the Empowerment of Young Person (SEYP), Edo State for her immerse contribution in addressing some of the migration challenges in Nigeria. In conclusion, she reaffirmed the EU’s commitment to support migration governance in Nigeria.



**Ojoma Ali  
Swiss Embassy**

**Goodwill Message of the Ambassador of Switzerland to Nigeria, Niger, Libya and Chad – Georg Steiner and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) delivered by Ojoma Ali of the Swiss Embassy**

The highlight of the goodwill message delivered by Ms. Ojoma Ali on behalf of the Swiss Embassy and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) was the reaffirmation of the partnership between Switzerland and the Nigerian government evident in the 10 years Swiss-Nigeria migration partnership which have borne qualitative and quantitative progress.

This partnership she noted extends beyond the government to non-state actors. Over the years, Switzerland has progressively strengthened its involvement in Nigeria through contributions to the development project and continuous show of interest in the work of migration actors.

CSOnetMADE is one of the migration actors supported by the Swiss that have recorded quantitative and qualitative successes. The expansion of the Network across the 6 geopolitical Zones of Nigeria is a real success the partnership is delighted about because it facilitates an inclusive dialogue even at the local level.



The growth and maturity of CSOnetMADE is also evident in the welcomed initiative of the CSD with a view to possibly influence migration governance at the federal level.

Switzerland invites technical and financial partners to support the actions of the Network so that the voice of CSOs can be heard and taken into account in migration dialogues in Nigeria. This sort of engagement will positively count towards the sustainability of migration programmes for National development.

**International Organization for Migration (IOM) good will message delivered by the chief of mission- Frantz Celestine, represented by the National Programme Officer, Labour migration and Diaspora– Elizabeth Poage**



**Elizabeth Poage  
National Programme  
Officer, Labour  
migration and diaspora–**

In aligning with the assertion already made in other addresses, IOM, through the Chief of Mission representative, Ms Elizabeth Poage, restated that migration has been and will continue to be an important feature in the world, promoting development with migrants’ impactful contributions. She informed that IOM is committed to the principle that humane and dignified migration benefits the migrants and the entire society and has been supporting the efforts of the Government of Nigeria to manage migration through capacity-building, advisory services, and technical assistance on migration matters, including migration health and information, assisted voluntary returns, and counter-trafficking since the year 2001. IOM interventions, she noted, focus on protection and support services for migrants and their families by fostering the synergies between migration and development, while promoting legal avenues for regular migration as an alternative to irregular migration.

She emphasized that CSOs have a huge role to play in ensuring the compliance of migration policies, promoting, and ensuring that national migration agenda reflects existing international standard for the protection of migrants, refugees and Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). She therefore called on CSOs to advocate and push for the establishment of effective mechanisms for the protection of migrants in Nigeria and Nigerian citizens living abroad irrespective of their migratory status in line with international policies and conventions as recommended by the National Migration Policy and the National Policy on Labour Migration. The institutionalization of these instruments she noted will help in reinforcing the current paradigm shift in migrants’ well-being which is a necessary condition in sustaining the much-desired migration-development nexus which is in line with the theme of the 2021 International migrants’ day, “Human Mobility in the context of sustainable national development”.

In the spirit of solidarity, she concluded by thanking other partners for their cooperation and commitment towards achieving a better migration governance in Nigeria and pledged IOM’s continuous support.

IOM will continue to dedicate the IMD to remember all migrants that have departed the world while seeking a better future for themselves, and raise awareness for stakeholders to know that much can and needs to be done to avoid tragedies associated with migration

IOM, 2021



**FIIAPP good will message delivered by the Team lead -Rafael Rios, represented by the Head of Programmes, FIIAPP ATIPSOM – Joseph Segun Sanwo**



**Joseph Segun Sanwo  
Head of Programmes,  
FIIAPP ATIPSOM**

The representative of FIIAP Mr. Joseph Segun Sanwo saluted the Network for making the 2021 dialogue possible, noting that the level of collaboration among all partners especially Network Against Child Trafficking, Abuse and Labour (NACTAL) and the Nigerian Police force in supporting the implementation of its activities was highly appreciated. He concluded by stating that FIIAPP is committed to giving its full support to addressing migration issues in Nigeria.

**Nnamdi Azikiwe University (NAU) good will message delivered by the Vice Chancellor Prof. Charles Okechukwu Esimone, represented by the Director, CMS-NAU – Prof. Ike Odimegwu**

The representative of NAU’s VC, Prof. Ike Odimegwu commended the effort of the FGoN and migration stakeholders in bringing the academia into the migration governance space in Nigeria.



**Prof. Ike Odimegwu  
Director, CMS-NAU**

He informed that the Centre for Migration Studies was borne out of the NMD in 2017 with the following mandates: research, teaching and advocacy, and it has grown through collaboration with CSOnetMADE, NCFRMI and other numerous partners including IOM and the Swiss Embassy.

He emphasized that the CSD is the beginning of greater management of migration in Nigeria. He concluded by soliciting all stakeholders’ commitment and support in ensuring the sustainability of Migration Programmes in Nigeria.

**CSD chairperson’s speech**

The chairperson of the CSD, Osato Mary Igbinosun Esq. in her speech reminded the CSO participants of the importance of the day and highlighted crucial points in commemoration of the first CSD of the NMD in Nigeria. The points are as follows



**Osato Mary Igbinosun, Esq.  
-Chairperson, 2021 CSD  
-Programme Officer,  
CSOnetMADE**

- ❖ Participating in the 2021 CSD is an opportunity to transform field experiences into actionable strategies to sustain migration activities which CSOs have a full grasp of especially with their grassroots experience.
- ❖ CSOs on migration are ready to take up the duty of proffering recommendations for the sustainability of migration activities in Nigeria because of their desire to complement the activities of the government and international partners for sustainable effect.
- ❖ Now is the time to promote innovation, efficiency, and improvement in actualizing a better and sustainable migration governance in Nigeria.

On behalf of CSOs, the chairperson thanked the FGoN for the opportunity to cohost the 2021 NMD hoping that the journey of the CSD which began in 2021 would bring about sustainable development which is the hope and desire of migration stakeholders.

In appreciating the choice of a youth as the chairperson of the first CSD with focus on sustainability, she stated “What is sustainability, without the involvement of young persons – the hope of the future”.



**Dr. Fatima Waziri**  
**Director General, NAP TIP**

**Opening Address by the Hon. Minister, Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development (FMHADMSD)- Haj. Sadiya Umar Farouq, represented by the Director General of National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP) - Dr. Fatima Waziri**  
The representative of the Hon. Minister, FMHADMSD, Dr. Fatima Waziri appreciated the Development partners and supporters of the 2021 NMD – SDC, EU, IOM, FILAPP, NTA, UBA and CMS-NAU for their contributions to the success of the dialogue. She noted that this year’s NMD is unique in two dimensions; CSD and CS has presented an

opportunity for stakeholders to express solidarity to migrants as well as made CSOs participation in migration governance visible and effective. She noted that CSOs remains one of the key stakeholders in the development and implementation migration governance programmes in Nigeria and have proven to be a force to reckon with, hence the CSD provides an opportunity for CSOs to make actionable contribution to the dialogue from the perspective of national development. She thereafter declared the event opened.

The opening session concluded with a brief video clip overview of the activities of the CSOs in the Nigerian migration governance and a short video clip of the life and activities of late Jennifer Ero, a seasoned, passionate, committed, and formidable member of the Nigeria migration CSO community that died in August 2021. The high point of the closing of the session was the drama dance by the troupe from Centre for Migration Studies Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka which captured the flashpoints of the Nigerian migration dynamics in line with the theme of the 2021 NMD.

## **B. Technical session of the CSD**

### **B.1 CSOs review of the NMD**

The technical session began with an evaluation report on the NMD undertaken by members of CSOnetMADE presented by Doom Torhee, a member of the review committee. The report focused on reviewing the NMD to establish if the dialogue has mainstreamed migration discourse into national development, and ultimately provided an opportunity for stocktaking on the impact of the NMD on migration governance in Nigeria.

Identifiable achievements and gaps were discussed, key gaps to note are; over reliance on partners and donors’ support for funding which is not sustainable, poor CSOs and the Private Sector engagement in migration discourse. Recommendations were made in the areas of localization of

migration governance and dialogue, improvement in CSOs and private sector engagement in migration governance.

## **B.2 Plenary session: The migration CSOs in Nigeria: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow**



The panel session moderated by the Co-chair of the CSD, Osita Osemene had on the panel representatives from FMHADMSD – Mr. Charles Nwanelo Anaelo; NCFRMI – Alex Oturu; IOM – Elizabeth Poage; Migration and Migration Alignment (MAMA) Italy – Pearl Odigwe; and CSOs: Humanity Foundation – Paul Nwankwo and Women Trafficking and Child Labour Eradication Foundation (WOTCLEF) – Imaobong Ladipo Sanusi.

The focus of discussion for the plenary session was to ascertain the efficiency of the participation of CSOs working on migration in Nigeria over the years, their effectiveness and current happenings in present times and prospects for the better future of CSOs in migration management.

### **Highlights of the plenary discussion**

#### **Migration CSOs in Nigeria**

##### **Yesterday**

- Initially there was no interface between FGoN and CSOs on migration discourse
- In 2014, most CSOs did not have background or sufficient capacity in migration governance
- There were lots of IOM and internationally funded projects that could have been implemented by CSOs, but CSOs lacked the prerequisite capacity to write quality proposals and thus unable to access funding for the implementation of projects.
- Sensitization and advocacy were low-key as CSOs were not engaging the government on migration issues
- There was no clear coordination among CSOs in migration sector both at the national and state level



- The scope of migration was limited and most CSOs were not conversant with migration related issues

### **Today**

- Today, the FGoN has supervising agency which is the FMHADMSD and NCFRMI as the National coordinating office where all migration issues, MDAs, partners, and stakeholders are managed.
- Sensitization and awareness about migration and its issues have been intensified by the FGoN, development agencies and CSOs. Migration Resource Centres (MRCs) developed with the support of IOM and the EU and overseen by the Federal Ministry of Labour and Employment (FMLE) serve as a one-stop-shop for relevant information on migration as well as interface between intending migrants and service providers.
- Collaboration and partnership with government agencies, CSOs, international partners, media, religious and traditional stakeholders are evolving and have increased over the years.
- The technical and financial supports from international partners have strengthened government and CSOs' capacity on migration governance.
- Today, stakeholders leverage and depend heavily on international donors to facilitate most of its projects.
- IOM is committed to ensuring that migration benefits migrants and their rights are protected. Since it commenced operation in Nigeria in 2001, it has been strengthening the capacity of stakeholders through policy development and implementation and has amongst many supported in the establishment of the Technical Working Group on migration and Development, Technical Working Committee on Labour Migration, Standing Committee on Diaspora Matters, Data Management Working Group, Stakeholders Forum on Border Management and Working Group on Return, Readmission and Reintegration to oversee the various, thematic areas of migration as recommended by the National Migration Policy.
- There is need to establish labour attachés in principal countries of Nigerian migrant workers as well as strengthen partnership with the private sector.
- There is need to advocate for the ratification and domestication of relevant international and regional conventions for the protection of migrant workers and Nigerian migrant workers in destination countries.
- Networking is a big strength that has been leveraged on. Currently, a dossier of CSOs working on migration sector has been created. However, there is need to leverage on the available platforms for effective partnership to ensure sustainability of migration projects and programmes in Nigeria.
- The 2021 NMD shows that years of capacity building is reaping results. However, there is need for more trainings to enhance specialization and ownership of migration management process.
- Government and CSOs need to do more at the grassroots engagement, carrying out research and analysis, archiving and disseminating data, to foster national development
- EU is more interested in funding projects on in Return, Readmission and Reintegration because that is where their countries will not be affected. This has defined most projects being implemented by the FGoN and CSOs. It is important that CSOs question migration projects and programmes in Nigeria, understand the objective behind International and government funding and defend and ensure what is best for migrants and the country.
- There is need to increase the number of MRCs in Nigeria. The three existing centres are not insufficient to manage the large number of returned and intending migrants. MRCs should also be set up in local community for maximum accessibility.



### Tomorrow

- In future, there is need to strengthen partnership with the diaspora for policy implementation and sustainability of migration projects and programmes in Nigeria.
- Nigeria is expected to take ownership of its migration process, focus on its agenda, re-strategize and move away from donor focus supports.
- Migration purpose in Nigeria should be defined. CSOs should define, and direct EU funded projects being implemented in Nigeria.
- CSO contribution has been crosscutting. They should be able to influence policies and conversations on migration. Improved systems where CSOs can play more active roles in migration governance in Nigeria is needed.
- CSOs should take advantage of the existing platform to engage and work with government to ensure sustainable reintegration.

### B.3 Breakout session to develop strategies for the sustainability of migration programmes in Nigeria

The breakout session which formed the crux of the CSD witnessed CSOs readiness to proffer recommendations for the sustainability of migration programmes. Participants were divided into 6 breakout session on issues centred on: Diaspora; Labour migration and management; Border management; Data management; Return, Readmission and Reintegration; and emerging migration issues with focus on –the recurring issues, emerging issues, priority issues, challenges, and strategies.

Experienced and experts in specific migration thematic areas from among the CSOs were assigned to lead each group.



**Diaspora group led by INTACOM Africa, Anambra state**



**Return Readmission and Reintegration group led by Idia Renaissance, Edo state**



**Data management group led by Humanity foundation, Ebonyi state**



**Labour migration management group led by PEP, Abia state**



**Emerging migration issues group led by KAF care, Kano state**



**Border management group led by STCI, Sokoto state**



#### **B.4 Outcome of the breakout session to develop strategies for the sustainability of migration programmes in Nigeria: CSOs resolution**

*The outcome of the breakout session is the CSO resolution for the NMD*

The outcome of the breakout session formed the CSOs' resolution at the 2021 NMD – a ten-point action guide for the sustainability of migration programmes in Nigeria are as follows:

- 1. Budgetary allocation:** The constant call by migration stakeholders for government to take ownership of migration activities is a major step in the actualization of sustainability. Taking ownership entails a deliberate action on allocating of budget for relevant MDAs with migration mandate.
- 2. Sharing data templates/tools on CSOs platforms:** The availability of accurate and disaggregated data responds to many issues inhibiting sustainable development. Agencies responsible for data collection with templates/tools can share with CSOs. These templates can be used for data collection at the grassroots across project areas.
- 3. Border management in collaboration with the government:** Central to achieving goals is collaboration. An involvement of CSOs in the process of border management would complement the activities of the border security and management agencies. This also entails building the capacities of CSOs on border management.
- 4. Protecting Nigeria nationals abroad:** There is no question whether Nigeria nationals abroad can exercise their basic rights. To achieve the protection of the rights of Nigerian nationals abroad, trust building among these countries is necessary. This can be achieved with improved consular activities.
- 5. MRCs in Nigeria:** One key factor of irregular migration is the existence of misinformation and ignorance on the subject matter. This has often led to irregular migration. Thus, the establishment of more MRCs would not only save lives but sustain activities relating to awareness creation.
- 6. Return Readmission and Reintegration:** Reintegration of Children is often not given much attention in the reintegration process. Children especially the unaccompanied minor could have been exposed to vulnerabilities, thus require a strategic reintegration. Relevant stakeholders should be engaged in exploring alternate to the prevalent reintegration programmes to ensure the sustainability of the programme in Nigeria as well as ensure that the returned and reintegrated do not re-migrate irregularly.
- 7. The existing platforms of migration governance architecture:** The existing platforms should be retained as they cover sufficiently the Nigeria migration dynamics. However, for sustainability, more responsibilities should be given to non-state actors.
- 8. Agenda setting for migration:** The agenda setting for migration programmes should be homegrown and development focus.
- 9. Inclusion of private sector in migration management:** Intentional and strategic engagement of the private sector in migration programmes should be given urgent attention. Active engagement of the private sector would help to address some critical aspects of the root causes of irregular migration, ensure sustainability of reintegration programmes and ownership of the migration process through funding of migration programmes. To implement this, there is need to setup a private sector engagement committee within the TWG.
- 10. Increase collaboration between MDAs and CSOs:** Effective collaboration in achieving goals cannot be overemphasized. It will promote unity, increase productivity, as well as accelerate the achievement of sustainable development.



With the 10-point strategic framework, CSOs reaffirmed their commitment to support the effort of FGoN continually and maximally towards effective and sustainable migration governance. CSOs recommended that the FGoN, take the above issues seriously by adopting a 10-point agenda strategy that captures each point and a scorecard to assess progress made in addressing them.

## NMD DAY 2 COMMON SPACE

### C1. Opening session

The Common space of the NMD which held on day 2 started with speeches and welcome addresses. Some of the speeches delivered at the event are as below.

The Honourable Federal Commissioner, NCFRMI, Hajiya Imaan Sulaiman Ibrahim, welcomed the participants to the Common Space (CS) and appreciated the knowledge and ideas shared by CSOs on day one of the event. She noted that the event will proffer recommendations towards migration discourse and plans for the year 2022. She stressed on the need to strengthen migration governance, as Nigerians in the Diaspora have contributed immensely to the country through remittances, transfer of skills, technology, and job creation. Finally, she appreciated SDC, IOM, EU, FIAP and other international partners, CSOnetMADE, technical teams and committee for their support in ensuring a successful hosting of the 2021 National Migration Dialogue.



**HFC of NCFRMI,  
Hajiya Imaan Sulaiman  
Ibrahim**



**Cecile Tassin-Pelzer**

Head of Cooperation, EU Delegation  
to Nigeria and ECOWAS

Cecile Tassin-Pelzer, Head of Cooperation, **EU Delegation to Nigeria and ECOWAS** appreciated FGoN through the efforts of NCFRMI in managing migration architecture especially in convening the annual NMD. She acknowledged that the pandemic has affected and made migrants more vulnerable than ever before, making the identification of migrants and victims of trafficking in persons and smuggling of migrants more critical. She also highlighted that the pandemic has negatively impacted the capacity and collaboration of state institutions and CSOs in implementing the National Referral Mechanism. She acknowledged the uniqueness of the 2021 NMD and appreciated CSOnetMADE for their contribution so far in migration governance in Nigeria and the success of the CSD.

**Ambassador of Switzerland to Nigeria, Niger, Libya, and Chad – Georg Steiner and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)** represented by Ojoma Ali, Programme Officer, Swiss Embassy went down the memory lane of the relationship between SDC and Nigeria for over 10 years in shaping migration architecture in Nigeria. She mentioned that the embassy has handed over 50 projects across different thematic areas on migration management.

- Elizabeth Poage, the representative of the **IOM Chief of Mission, Frantz Celestin** in her speech noted that IOM will continue to dedicate the International Migrant Day to remember all migrants who departed the world while seeking a better future for themselves and to raise awareness among all stakeholders that much can be done to avoid tragedies associated with migration as migration can be made a story of hope, future, and improvement rather than tragedy and death.

She reiterated the fundamental right to freedom of movement as enshrined in Article 13 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights noting that the contribution of migrants to both countries of origin and destination depends crucially on whether their human rights are safeguarded and protected from discrimination.

She concluded by reiterating IOM's commitment to promoting regular migration, implementing migration policies, and hoping that FGoN amongst other things, establishes labour attachés in high destination countries of Nigeria Migrant Workers, as well as enter into bilateral labour agreement for the protection of Nigerian migrant workers.

- Osato Mary Igbinosun, **Chair of the CSD** presented the outcome of the CSD resolved during the breakout session on the CSD, the Day one of the 2021 NMD event.



**His Excellency Ambassador BOLAJI Akinremi**

**His Excellency Amb. Bolaji Akinremi** of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in his speech acknowledged the energy exhibited by CSOs community during the CSD noting that the outcome 10-points proposed by the CSOs is an indicative of better days ahead for migrants and migration dialogue in Nigeria.

He invited all to rise and in one voice, as a testimony of solidarity with migrants, launch and declare open the 2021 NMD with a three-**pillar invocation namely: SAFETY** for all migrants who wish to migrate to any part of the world' **DEVELOPMENT** to our nation Nigeria; **COLLABORATION** to all agencies, CSOs and Individuals!!! He thereafter declared the event opened.

## **C.2 Award session**

2021 NMD recorded another feat by honoring principal stakeholders and partners in Nigeria migration management field. Awards were presented to the numerous partners, local and international, who have contributed to managing migration governance in Nigeria. The presentation of the Award was led by HFC of NCFRMI and supported by Amb. Akinremi Alade Bolaji of Migration and Consular Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA). The awardees were the SDC, IOM, EU, ICMPD, ECOWAS, ILO, UNHCR, FMHADMSD, Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS) and CSOnetMADE.


The award ceremony was spiced with dance-drama interlude performed by the CMS-NAU troupe. The performers graphically highlighted dimensions of the Nigerian migration dynamics.



## C2. Technical session



The technical session of the Common Space (CS) featured two panel discussions that focused on the Nigeria Migration and National Development - Strides, Challenges and Prospect. The first panel which focused on the strides and challenges featured representatives from the NCFRMI – Alex Otoru, CSOs: Human Mobility for Development Initiative (HUMDEV) Adiniyi Adeyemo, Mrs. Gloria – National Open University of Nigeria and Engr Emeka Ezike – Diaspora and private sector. The second panel which dealt on the prospects featured, Mr. Charles Nwanelo Anaelo – FMHADMSD, Mr. Titus Mudakai – NCFRMI, Dr. Adebanke Ogun – IOM, Osato Mary Igbinosun – CSOnetMADE and Dr. Sufi Ahmad – Ventura Consultancy.



Highlights of the discussion are as follows

### **Strides**

- Federal Executive Council has adopted the National Migration Policy, National Policy on Labour Migration, and the National Diaspora Policy.
- CSOs were actively represented at the adoption of the GCM in Ecuador and Marrakesh
- Collaboration between Government through MDAs and CSOs in migration dialogue has considerably improved.
- National Migration Governance has been strengthened.
- Sensitization and Advocacy on migration has increased over the years.
- There is a network of CSOs working in the thematic areas of migration. The network serves as platform for development and advocacy, coordinated by CSOnetMADE.
- CSOs have successfully conducted their first Civil Society Day, where they collectively came up with resolutions for 2022 migration programme.

### **Challenges identified**


- National Migration Governance structure in Nigeria need to be strengthened
- Despite the existence of policies on migration in Nigeria, many Nigerians still embark on irregular migration. Nigerians in diaspora have not benefitted maximally from the Migration policies due to inadequate implementation.
- There is inadequate funding by the FGoN for migration. It is important to integrate and mainstream the NMP into the Nigeria budgetary allocation.
- Lack of enabling environment and legal framework for businesses to thrive in Nigeria.
- Inadequate succession plan for newly employed MDA staff in order to retain capacity
- Lack of zonal migration platforms to discuss and deliberate on with the challenges of irregular migration affecting the states.
- Media platforms including social media portray non-factual information on migration to the public.
- Ministerial level of Nigeria migration governance recommended by the NMP is not adequately has not be active.
- CSOs have inadequate capacity for proposal development, hence have not been able to access funds/grants for the implementation of migration projects.

### **Sustainability**

- Government and CSOs should collaborate with academia in reviewing, identifying, and to support in bridging the gaps in migration policies.
- Government should make available, funding for migration research and grassroots interventions to address incidences of irregular migration.
- The world is global market and information is cheap; therefore, digital documentation and information should be placed on a web or/and media platform for easy dissemination and accessibility.
- Engaging international partners to prioritize programmes on migration issues that are of priority to Nigeria and not focusing on only projects and programmes that are of interest to the international communities.
- CSOs should focus on labour migration rather than return and reintegration as promoted by international partners.

### **Recommendations**

- Government should invest in youth especially through education

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- Localization of migration governance and dialogue
  - Improvement of government, CSOs and international agencies engagement
  - Engagement of private sector in migration governance
  - A paradigm shift is required by adopting best practices in migration management which requires partnership with government and relevant stakeholders
  - Adequate preparation of Nigerian migrants before traveling to countries of destination as most migrants are not aware of specific country requirements and their rights of protection.
  - Migration data and issues should be checked by government and CSOs using balanced score cards for determination of progress
  - Availability of long-and-short-term opportunities to help manage brain-drain phenomenon.
  - Representation the media in migration discourse is important
  - Ensuring that CSOs contribute their quota in bilateral and multilateral negotiation is encouraged
  - Involvement and active engagement of the different levels of governance in the especially the ministerial committee in migration polices’ implementation.
  - Human resources which can only be enhanced by education, improved knowledge and skill industry is important.
  - Harmonization of migration data is imperative
  - Deliberate involvement of the youths in all migration processes for sustainability is encouraged.

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## E. Conclusion

The 2021 NMD achieved its objectives. The introduction of the CSD initiative further shaped the discussions of the event. As rightly noted by the representative of NCFRMI during the closing remarks of the CSD, the 2021 NMD “seems to be the best NMD convened by FGoN since its inauguration in 2014”.

The new narrative of pulling together all CSOs working on migration proved effective and well-coordinated, and a right step towards better management of migration governance as evident in collaboration between the CSOs and FGoN at the 2021 NMD.

Hence, it is recommended that the recorded success of the 2021 NMD should serve as a new beginning for subsequent NMD. The 10-point agenda delivered to the government and stakeholders by CSOs on the day of the Common Space served as a guide for stakeholders to plan for the migration year 2022 as it was received with kin interest and commitments to forge ahead.

The open and inclusive participation of numerous and varied actors especially the private sector and the diaspora on the Common Space was very productive and enriching. It set the tone for the future of discourse on migration and set the space for the mainstreaming of migration into the national development plan. The active participation the HFC, NCFRMI from the beginning to the end of the Common Space is recommendable and will go a long in inspiring and motivating relevant migration management actors in the country.

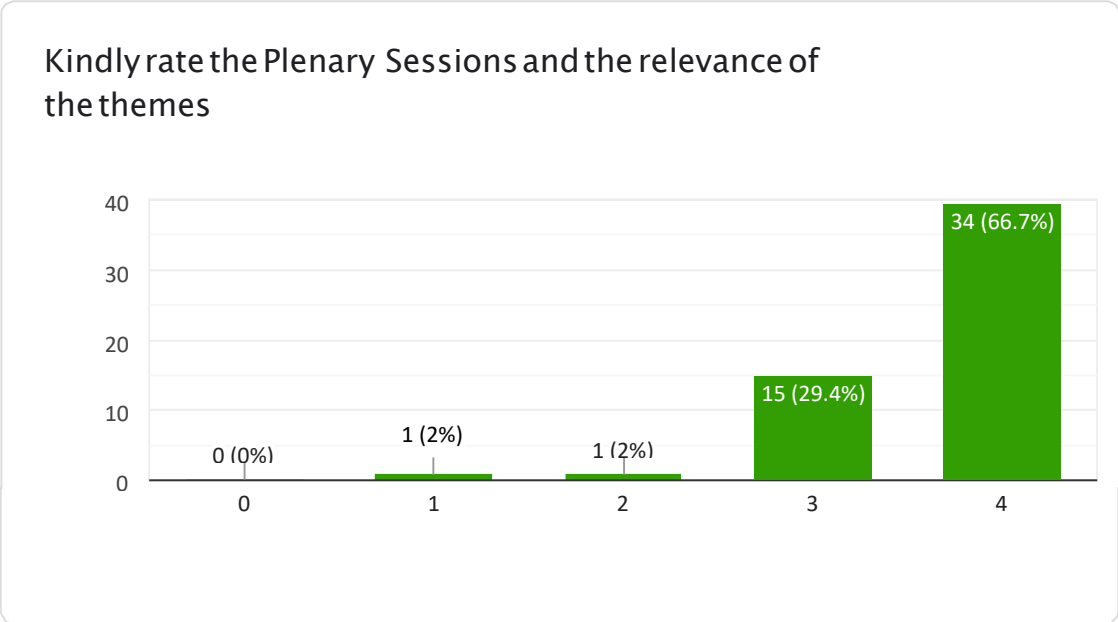
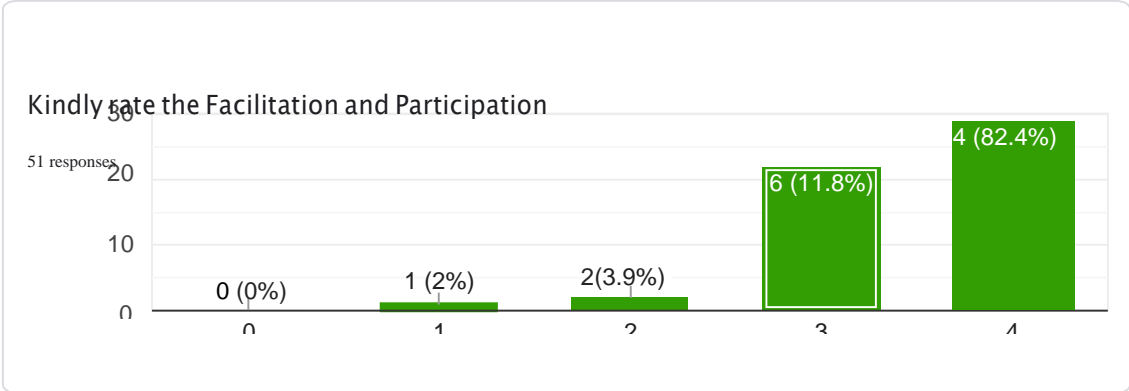
The technical assistance and funding from IOM, EU, SDC, FIIAPP and other development partners cannot be overemphasized. The support of the Nnamdi Azikiwe University, United Bank for Africa

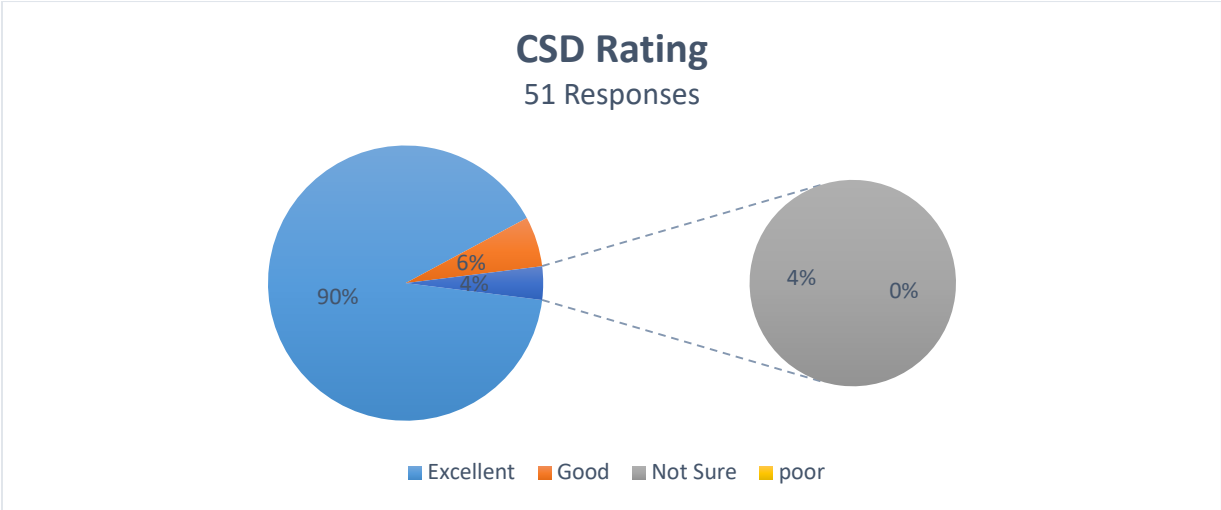


and Nigeria Television Authority was indeed a breakthrough in harnessing of local funding support for the event.

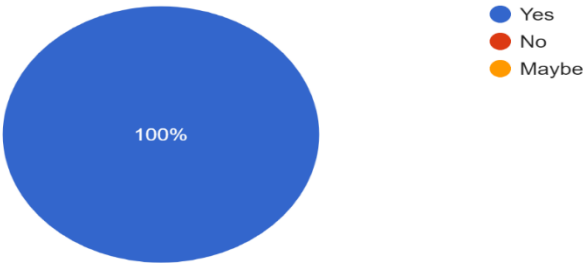
Despite all the success story, the 2021 NMD, like every other human, endeavour encountered some challenges especially in the area of logistics that made it difficult for many stakeholders from outside Abuja to attend the event physically as planned. A good number of those who traveled encountered different levels of travel stress due to logistics challenges. Also, the logistic challenges hindered the welfare of the two days, particular in managing the feeding and some event materials. To mitigate this, partners and organizers should begin preparations early enough and work out more efficient implementation modality.

Above all, the 2021 NMD remained a huge success as can be gleaned from the feedback from the participants' post event evaluation below.

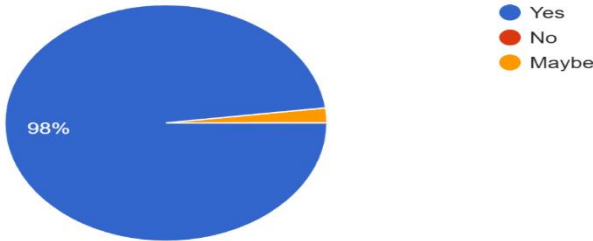


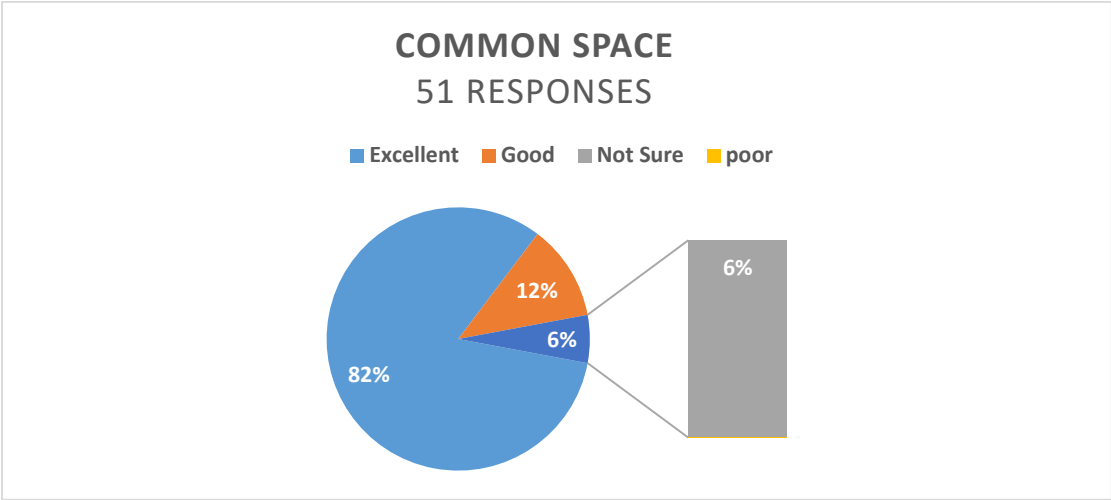


Do you want the CSO day to be featured in next year NMD(2022)?  
49 responses

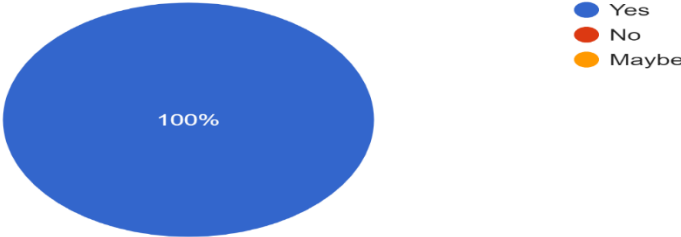


Will you recommend the Civil Society Organization's day to someone?  
49 responses

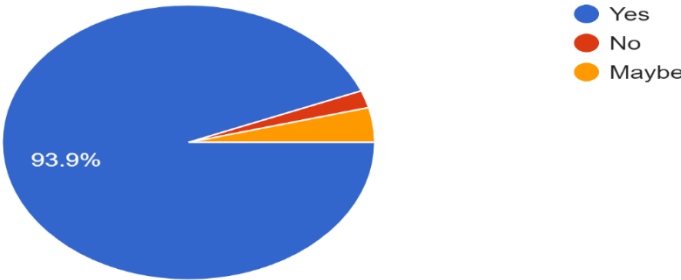




Do you want the Common Space to be featured in next year NMD(2022)  
49 responses



Will you recommend the Common Space to someone?  
49 responses





## SIDE EVENTS OF THE CSD

- CSD marketplace
- CSD gala night

### CSD marketplace

CSOs on migration, have carried out various activities via their organizations. These activities with numerous impacts are sometimes unknown to other stakeholders, or other stakeholders may be unaware of the existence of such organizations. Thus, the CSD marketplace was set up for interested organizations to showcase their organizations and the work they have been carrying out. Numerous organizations such as NACTAL, CSOnetMADE, ACTIONAID, UBA, CMS-NAU, TRIOS Foundation etc. utilized the marketplace opportunity. Below are some pictures from the marketplace.



## CSD gala night

The CSD gala night which was sponsored by the SDC was held in the evening of December 16, 2021. It was a glamorous all-white cocktail party of splendor for migration stakeholders to relax after a great achievement in the migration year of 2021. It was a night to reminisce the work done so far, network with colleagues, partners, government stakeholders and migration stakeholders in an informally and relaxing setting. Below are some of the pictures and highlight of the event.

