

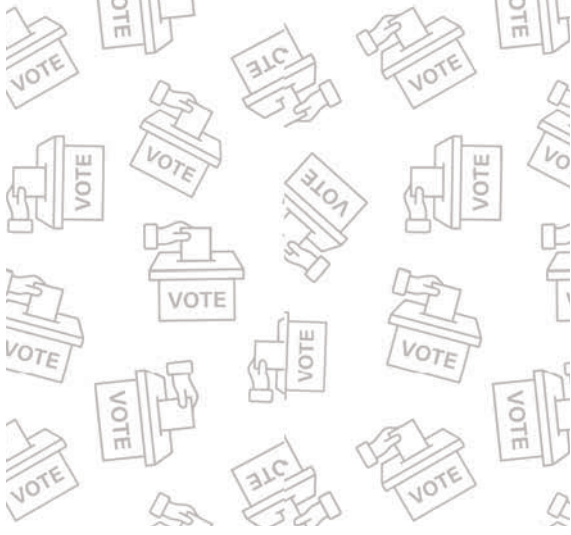


**NIGERIA CIVIL SOCIETY SITUATION ROOM**

# **CREDIBILITY THRESHOLD FOR THE 2023 GENERAL ELECTION**

**NIGERIA CIVIL SOCIETY SITUATION ROOM**

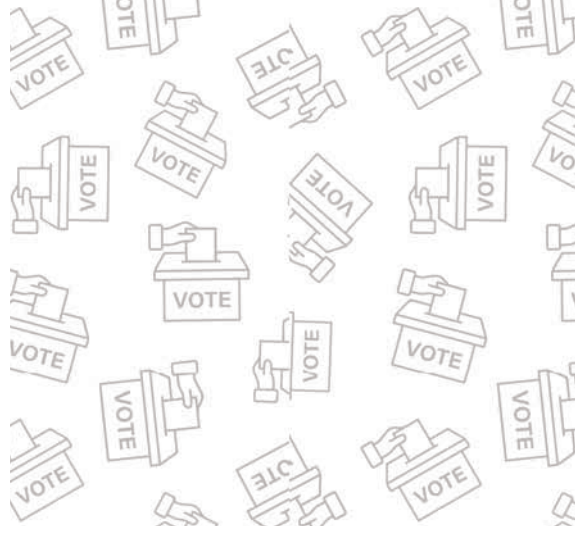
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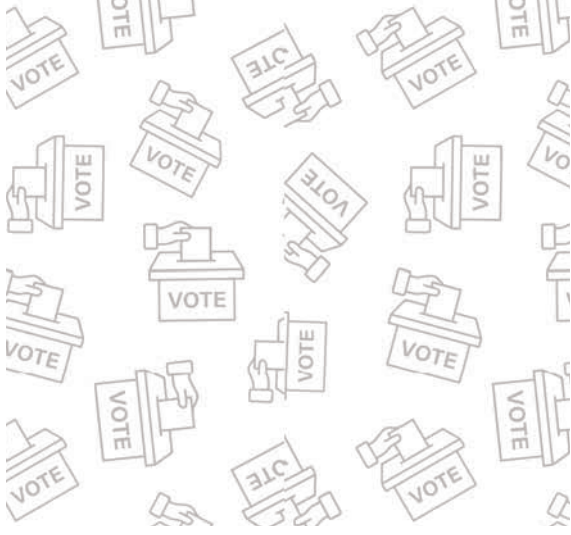




# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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# BACKGROUND

In the run up to Nigeria's last general elections held in 2019, the Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room (Situation Room) issued its Threshold Document for the elections. The document outlined basic minimum standards that the election needed to fulfill to be regarded or certified as credible. In issuing its report after the conclusion of the 2019 general elections, Situation Room, expressed disappointment at the conduct of the elections. Situation Room stated that the operations of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) fell short of its expected role and obligations as set out in Situation Room's Threshold Document. According to Situation Room, "Logistical and operational challenges" marred the credible conduct of the elections." Situation Room also identified that "military involvement in the elections outside of the limits allowed by law" further marred the elections. Situation Room's report about the military's conduct stated that troops were deployed nationwide during the elections, without any clear co-ordination with INEC. A major event just before the conduct of the elections, was the unconstitutional removal of the Chief Justice of Nigeria's Highest Court - the Supreme Court, Chief Justice Walter Onnoghen by President Muhammadu Buhari. Concluding on the 2019 general elections, the Situation Room stated that out of the eight criteria identified as minimum requirements for evaluating the credibility of elections, there was significant non-compliance with five of them. Situation Room concluded that the 2019 Nigeria general elections did not meet the credibility threshold based on the patterns of abuse of process and consequent lack of integrity observed.



INEC has announced that Nigeria's next general elections in 2023 will commence on February 18, 2023. The first leg of the 2023 general election will hold on 18 February 2023 to elect the president and vice-president as well as senators and members of the House of Representatives.<sup>1</sup> Two weeks later, precisely on 4 March 2023, the second leg of the general election will be held to select 28 of 36 state governors and members of the State Houses of Assembly.<sup>2</sup> The election will be the seventh in the series of general elections held since Nigeria returned to civil rule in 1999.

Previous elections in Nigeria have been marked by organizational flaws, allegations of fraud, and disputes over results. The 2003 and 2007 general elections, in particular, were widely adjudged as generally flawed.<sup>3</sup> This forced the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), the government, civil society groups and Nigeria's development partners to initiate and implement far-reaching electoral reforms.<sup>4</sup> These reforms contributed largely to the success of the 2011 and 2015 elections, yet several challenges remained.<sup>5</sup> There were hopes that the 2019 general election will consolidate the gains made in 2011 and 2015. However, this expectation was dashed as several accredited election observation groups reported that the credibility of the 2019 elections was tarnished by numerous pitfalls including severe operational shortcomings, lack of transparency, and breach of electoral security.<sup>6</sup>

Besides the risk of operational lapses and irregularities, elections in Nigeria are imperilled by violence and threats of violence. The 2011 general election witnessed a scale of violence unprecedented in the country's history, with more than 800 people killed and 65,000 displaced.<sup>7</sup> As Nigeria approaches the 2023 general election, there are growing concerns that the election, like the previous ones, will be marred by

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1 Kunle Sanni, "INEC Announces date for 2023 Presidential Elections," *Premium Times*, 15 October 2020, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/top-news/421045-inec-announces-date-for-2023-presidential-elections.html>.

2 Elections for eight governorship positions are conducted outside the normal 4 years cycle of general elections. The states involved in off-cycle governorship elections include Kogi, Bayelsa, Edo, Ondo, Anambra, Osun, Ekiti, and Imo.

3 Rotimi Suberu, *Nigeria's Muddled Elections*, *Journal of Democracy*, 18(4): 95-110, 2007; see also Okechukwu Ibeanu, "Simulating Landslides: Primitive Accumulation of Votes and the Popular Mandate in Nigeria", in Isaac O. Albert, Derrick Marco and Victor Adetula eds., *Perspectives on the 2003 Elections in Nigeria*, Abuja: IDASA-Nigeria, 49-63, 2007.

4 Kehinde Bolaji, "Toward Institutionalizing Credible Elections in Nigeria: A Review of Reform Measures by the Independent National Electoral Commission," in Raul Cordenillo ed., *Improving Electoral Practices: Case Studies and Practical Approaches*, Stockholm: International IDEA, 49-82, 2014.

5 Sylvester Akhaine, "Nigeria's 2011 Elections: The 'Crippled Giant' Learns to Walk?," *African Affairs*, 110(441): 649-655, 2011; See also Nkwachukwu Orji, "The 2015 Nigerian General Elections," *Africa Spectrum*, 50(2): 73-85, 2015.

6 Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room, *Report of Nigeria's 2019 General Elections*, Abuja: Situation Room; see also Nkwachukwu Orji, "Fixing Nigerian Elections: Why Electoral Reforms are not Working," *The Round Table*, 109(6): 730-741, 2020.

7 Human Rights Watch, *Nigeria: Post-Election Violence Killed 800*, New York: Human Rights Watch, 2011.



longstanding issues such as ethnic and regional tensions, inadequate preparations, allegations of fraud, and violence.<sup>8</sup> These apprehensions are informed by the worsening security situation across the country, failure of the authorities to address the shortcomings identified in previous elections, and the increasing tendency of the political class to win political power at all cost.

A useful way of looking at the upcoming 2023 general elections is to assess the drivers of change and to juxtapose them with the factors and forces that could promote the status quo. In other words, to effectively engage or intervene in the 2023 general election, it is imperative to identify and analyse the forces of continuity and change. In this regard, it is critical that policymakers and advocacy groups understand the factors that could cause the 2023 general election to fall below, within, or beyond the standard established by previous elections. There are several potential drivers of change - forces that could define how the 2023 general election would be fought and its possible outcomes. Some of the issues that would determine the outcome of the 2023 general elections are outside the direct control of the electoral management body - INEC, yet there are others that are squarely within the powers of the Commission.

Nigeria is currently grappling with multiple security challenges of which the Islamist insurgency in the North East appears to be the most severe. The insecurity in North East is worsened by banditry in the North West, separatist tensions in the South East and South West, criminality in the South-South, and the communal/farmer-herder conflict across the country, especially in the North Central. There is also widespread kidnappings and banditry almost throughout the country. The fact that the 2023 election will likely take place in the context of a grave national security crisis implies that any minor dispute over the integrity and/or result of the elections can lead to a major bloodshed. The deep contentions that are usually associated with elections in Nigeria might further politicize and entrench the existing security challenge. There is also the question of whether the security situation will permit the conduct of elections, or its effective management, in the first place.

The general state of insecurity in Nigeria appears to be reinforcing election insecurity, which is a historically dominant feature of elections in the country. Election insecurity

<sup>8</sup> Kunle Sanni, "Zoning may create Challenge for Nigeria's 2023 Elections – U.S. Diplomat," *Premium Times*, 24 October 2019, <https://www.premiumtimesng.com/news/more-news/359252-zoning-may-create-challenge-for-nigerias-2023-elections-u-s-diplomat.html>.



in Nigeria is characterized by thuggery, multiple voting, ballot snatching, ballot stuffing, destruction of election materials, intimidation and attack of election officials, and other forms of violence. The persistence of, and even spike in, election related insecurity, despite wide-ranging measures taken to curb the phenomenon, is a cause for serious concern. In the main, it is an indication that the government, security agencies, INEC, the courts, and the political parties have not done all that is necessary to tackle the problem. Overall, the issue of insecurity, both at a general level and with specific regard to elections, will be a major consideration for INEC and other election stakeholders as Nigeria moves towards the 2023 general election.

Trends in demography and economic development,<sup>9</sup> which show widening gap between Northern and Southern Nigeria, might also have serious implications for the 2023 general election. This gap reflects in the distribution, orientation and allegiances of the electorate in the two parts of the country. There are questions surrounding the unofficial practice of power rotation between the North and the South, with voices from the North seeming to want to demur on this practice, citing regional vote numbers in their favour (see regional distribution of election delimitation data in table 1 below). The differences in voting population combined with declining voter turnout in the South might provide the North with the impetus to disregard rotation and zoning principle in 2023.<sup>10</sup>

It is well known that power sharing, which involves rotation and zoning of presidency, is a major building block of peace and stability in Nigeria's electoral process.<sup>11</sup>

*9 The World Bank estimates that 89.8 million Nigerians, that is, about 51 percent of the country's population live in extreme poverty, and that 87 percent of the poor live in the North, with North West geo-political zone hosting around 50 percent of the extreme poor. The poverty in the North contrasts growing prosperity in the South. The South is home to an emerging middle class, which has grown from 13 percent of the population in 2003 to 19 percent of the population in 2013. The newly emerging economic sectors such as Nollywood and ICT are concentrated in the South. For more information see: John Alechenu, Ihuoma Chiedozie, Success Nwogu and Godwin Isenyo, "87% Nigeria's poverty rate in North – World Bank," Punch, 11 February 2020, <https://punchng.com/87-nigerias-poverty-rate-in-north-world-bank/>; Nkwachukwu Orji, "Middle Class Activism in Nigeria: From Nationalist Struggle to Social Media Campaign," in Henning Melber ed., *The Rise of Africa's Middle Class: Myths, Realities and Critical Engagements*, London: Zed, 2016; Leke, Acha; Reinaldo Fiorini; Richard Dobbs; Fraser Thompson; Aliyu Suleiman; and David Wright, *Nigeria's Renewal: Delivering Inclusive Growth in Africa's Largest Economy*, Lagos: McKinsey & Company, 2014.*

*10 Voter turnout in Nigeria has been generally on the decline since 2007. However, the decline has been more pronounced in the South than in the North. Of all the six geo-political zones, the South East has seen the greatest decline. During the 2015 general election, for example, the voter turnout in the North was 57 percent, the South was 43 percent, while the turnout in the South East was 40 percent. For more analysis see: Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room, "Analysis of Voter's Turnout in the 2015 General Elections," Election Update, Vol. 4, No. 2, 2015, <https://situationroomng.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/situationroom-vol-4-no-2.pdf#more-1939>.*

*11 Nkwachukwu Orji, *Power-sharing in Nigeria: Conception, Implementation, Continuity*, Saarbrücken-Germany: VDM Verlag, 2009; see also Jibrin Ibrahim, "Political Transition, Ethnoregionalism, and the 'Power Shift' Debate in Nigeria," Issue: A Journal of Opinion, 27(1): 12–16, (1999).*



Considering that the incumbent president who is from the North is serving out his last term in office, the issue of zoning and rotation of office will emerge at the centre stage of negotiations and political settlement ahead of the 2023 election. Should the North decide to disregard the rotation and zoning principle, a major rift will likely develop between it and the South. Any confrontation between the North and the South over power sharing would deepen the North/South divide and make it more difficult for INEC to manage the 2023 election.

Table 1: Election Delimitation Data by Geo-Political Zone

S/N	Zone	No. of States	No. of LGAs	No. of RAs	No. of Reg. Voters	No. of PVCs Collected
1	North-West	7	186	2,003	20,158,100	18,231,193
2	South-West	6	137	1,544	16,292,212	12,814,246
3	North-Central	6	121	1,398	13,366,070	11,567,813
4	South-South	6	123	1,408	12,841,279	11,733,862
5	North-East	6	112	1,210	11,289,293	10,456,852
6	South-East	5	95	1,246	10,057,130	8,590,420
	Total	36	774	8,809	84,004,084	73,394,386

*Source: Independent National Electoral Commission, Report of the 2019 General Election, Abuja: INEC, 2020, p.142. The number of PUs before the expansion of polling units exercise carried out by INEC was 119,973. The new figure is 176,846*

On a positive note, if the voter registration data is anything to go by, reliance on ethno-regional alliances and elite political settlement as means of securing electoral support may decline in 2023. Available data indicate that the Nigerian electorate is becoming younger, more urban, and more educated. This implies that there is possibility of shift in the orientation and allegiance of the electorate. INEC's voter registration figures in 2019 (see table 2 below) shows that approximately 51 percent of the registered voters were under 35 years, 30 percent 36-50 years, 15 percent 51-70 years, and only 4 percent older than 70 years.<sup>12</sup> While 43 percent of the registered voters resided in the urban areas in 2010, the proportion of registered voters in urban areas increased to 51 in 2019. With increasing rural-urban drift, it is likely that the proportion of registered voters who reside in the urban areas will continue to grow. There is also a strong

<sup>12</sup> Comparable figures for 2011 and 2015 are not available.



probability that the proportion of registered voters that are educated will increase in 2023. The 2019 voter registration data (see table 3 below) shows that approximately 27 percent of the registered voters were students, 16 percent were engaged in farming and fishing, 14 percent were housewives, 13 percent were in the business sector, 9 percent were traders, 6 percent were civil servants, 5 were artisans, and 3 were percent public servants. These figures suggest that the proportion of registered voters that are educated and middle class appears to be higher than their share of the population. In all, what can be deduced from the foregoing is that there is a possibility that the younger, more urban and more educated electorate may depart from the traditional ethnic and regional voting, which reinforces sectionalism, electoral irregularities and violence. The capacity of young people to mobilise nationally and to create new movements, such as #EndSARS, under which they engaged in popular protest against the government, buttresses the point.

Table 2: Age Distribution of Registered Voters

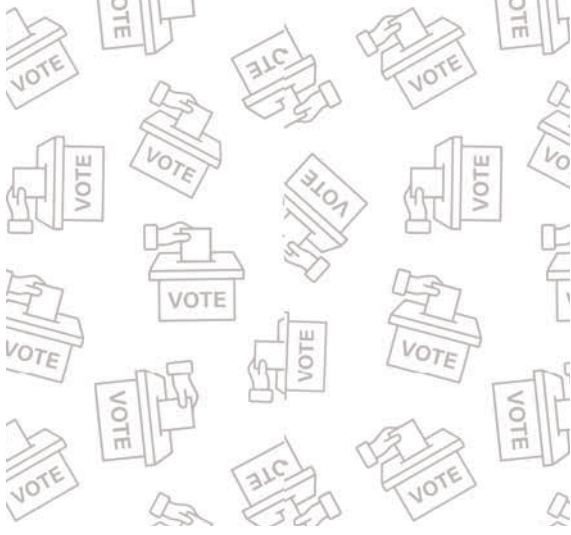
S/N	Age Group	Registered Voters	% of Registered Voters
1	Youth (18-35)	42,938,458	51.11
2	Middle Aged (36-50)	25,176,144	29.97
3	Elderly (51-70)	12,788,511	15.22
4	Old (70+)	3,100,971	3.69
	TOTAL	84,004,084	100

Source: Independent National Electoral Commission, Report of the 2019 General Election, Abuja: INEC, 2020, p.80.

Table 3: Occupational Distribution of Registered Voters

S/N	Occupation	Registered Voters	% of Registered Voters
1	Student	22,320,990	26.57
2	Farming/Fishing	13,630,216	16.23
3	Housewife	11,844,079	14.10
4	Business	10,810,006	12.87
5	Trading	7,568,012	9.01
6	Other	6,021,741	7.17
7	Civil Servant	5,038,671	6
8	Artisan	4,478,202	5.33
9	Public Servant	2,292,167	2.73
	Total	84,004,084	100

Source: Independent National Electoral Commission, Report of the 2019 General Election, Abuja: INEC, 2020, p.80.



# CREDIBILITY THRESHOLD FOR THE 2023 ELECTIONS

The analysis given above has helped the Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room to engage with election stakeholders, especially the election management body – INEC, and to push for improvements in the electoral process. In advocating for reforms, the Situation Room is mindful of some inherent challenges that can limit its efforts.

To harmonize the way its members perceive and assess the electoral process and to minimize the risk of being accused of bias in its election observation duties, the Situation Room presents a threshold for assessing the credibility of the 2023 general election. This set of criterion will guide members of the group in their assessment of and advocacy on elections. This Threshold Document provides Situation Room members with a common focus and a tool for advocacy and engagement with duty bearers and stakeholders involved in the electoral process. It identifies and articulates the key issues that election observers and the public should look out as Nigeria prepares for the 2023 general election. Furthermore, the document constitutes a basis for evaluating the findings and conclusions reached by the Situation Room. Overall, the Threshold Document offers a predetermined framework for objective assessment of elections, a tool for mitigating risks to the credibility of elections, and a guide for effective engagement with election stakeholders.

As Nigeria prepares for the 2023 general election, the Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room submits that the following constitute key risks to the credibility of the election, and that the minimum threshold of actions required to mitigate the risks are as follows:



## 1. Reform of the Electoral Legal Framework

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The Situation Room expects that the new Electoral Bill, 2021 will be passed and assented to by President Muhammadu Buhari in good time to allow for preparations for the elections.

- That the Electoral Bill passed by the National Assembly which contains innovative and new provisions will be implemented to allow for use of technology in voting, collation of votes and transmission of results.
- INEC will initiate clear, well defined and uncomplicated process for implementation of the new Electoral Law.

## 2. Efficient and Accountable Election management

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The Situation Room has the following minimum expectations regarding management of the 2023 general elections:

- INEC will ensure that new provisions regarding use of technology for improved election management are applied and used nationwide.
- INEC will commence the procurement and distribution of electoral materials early enough to avoid last-minute rush.
- INEC will ensure that its logistics plans including transportation of personnel and materials, as well as distribution of materials are put in place and tested well before election dates.
- INEC will provide improved facilities for the organisation, storage and distribution of electoral materials at all levels.
- INEC will review its ad hoc staff recruitment and training procedures in view of failures to consistently adhere to election procedures.
- INEC will generate, analyse, and apply data on People With Disabilities (PWDs) in the production, procurement, and distribution of assistive materials during elections.
- INEC will produce and publish framework for the participation of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) before the commencement of any voter registration or election exercise and ensure its full and consistent implementation.



- INEC will produce and publish disaggregated data of registered voters, voters with Permanent Voters Cards (PVCs), and voters that casted their votes in all elections.

### 3. Improved Access to Polling Units

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The Situation Room has the following minimum expectations regarding improving access to polling units:

- INEC will improve access to polling units and recently created units will be activated to reduce overcrowding at polling units.
- INEC will ensure that polling units are more accessible for PWDs - accreditation desks and voting cubicles will be placed on level ground in order to allow persons with low mobility or those on wheelchairs to access the polling process.
- INEC will ensure that all polling units have sufficient space and a layout that will protect secrecy of vote and discourage vote buying at polling units.
- INEC will relocate controversial polling units such as those situated within private residences, political parties' offices, markets, and those that do not provide adequate latitude for secrecy of vote to more appropriate locations.

### 4. Reliable Voter Register

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The Situation Room remains concerned about the quality and integrity of Nigeria's voter roll. The ideal will be for a brand-new voter roll to be created. Conscious however of the timelines for the next elections and the challenge this will pose, Situation Room has the following minimum expectations with regards to improving the integrity of the voter register:

- INEC will conduct a thorough audit of the voter register to remove multiple registrations, deceased and underaged voters.
- INEC will resume Continuous Voter Registration (CVR) early enough to register those that turn 18 years since the last registration, those who have not registered



- before, and to attend to request for transfer and update of registration data.
- INEC will improve the voter registration system by enhancing fingerprint recording and recognition, and by introducing other measures including facial recognition technology.
  - INEC will adopt measures to ensure that eligible voters who are amputees and those affected by leprosy are able to register as voters and to vote.
  - INEC will ensure strict adherence to regulations on display of the voters register in order to give the public opportunity to verify the Register.
  - INEC will improve the system of collection of Permanent Voter Cards (PVCs) by establishing more local distribution points and ensuring stricter adherence to collection procedures.

## **5. Effective Monitoring of Political Parties and the Campaign Process**

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In the light of changes to the electoral law and the requirement for INEC to observe the primaries of political parties, Situation Room has the following minimum expectations with regard to effective monitoring of political parties and the campaign process:

- INEC will outline clear schedules and requirements for the conduct of political party primaries for parties contesting the various phases of the elections.
- A process to strictly monitor the election expenses of candidates and parties and produce and disseminate a report at the end of the monitoring exercise.
- INEC will work with other stakeholders to address any complaint of abuse of state resources by candidates and political parties during elections.
- INEC will ensure that party agents are properly accredited and fully trained on electoral procedures and regulations.
- Incumbent State governments, the Federal Governments and its agencies do not inhibit or prevent campaigns and movement of candidates and party officials ahead of and during elections.
- Incumbent State governments, the Federal Governments and its agencies will not unfairly restrict or deny access to use of public facilities against opposing political parties.



- State institutions will not be used nor be involved in the intimidation and/or harassment of candidates such as the arbitrary withdrawal of security personnel for elected officials.

## 6. Political Parties

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As key stakeholders in the electoral process, it is imperative that Nigeria's political parties preparing to participate in the 2023 general elections are held to the following expectations:

- Commit to respect internal democracy within their parties.
- Conduct open, transparent and fair primaries to select their candidates for elections.
- Political parties will clearly outline support for the emergence of women and young persons as candidates for elections.
- Carry out their campaigns devoid of hate, mudslinging and violence.
- Take part in Election day activities without perpetrating electoral fraud, malpractice, rigging or vote buying.
- Train and deploy polling agents to represent their political parties at every stage of the elections.
- Commit to respecting the outcome of elections.

## 7. Improved Voter Education and Stakeholder Engagement

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The Situation Room has the following minimum expectations regarding improved voter education and stakeholder engagement:

- INEC will work with stakeholders such as the National Orientation Agency (NOA), political parties and civil Society groups to extend its civic and voter education programmes in terms of content and reach.
- INEC will improve strategic communication on incidents and crises through early press conferences and statements on the issues.
- INEC will upgrade and regularly update its website, making it a central platform where information relating to elections can be obtained.



## 8. Hitch-free Accreditation and Voting

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The Situation Room has the following minimum expectations regarding hitch-free accreditation and voting:

- INEC will procure and distribute sufficient number of electronic accreditation device to ensure that faulty devices are quickly replaced, if they cannot be repaired.
- INEC will recruit, train and mobilize sufficient number of Registration Area Technical Assistants (RATECHs) to deal with complaints of malfunctioning of device on election day.
- INEC will ensure that the voter register is displayed in a manner that gives access to persons with mobility challenge on election day.
- INEC will introduce priority voting for vulnerable population such as the elderly, pregnant women, nursing mothers and PWDs.

## 9. Accurate and Transparent Results Collation

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The Situation Room has the following minimum expectations regarding accurate and transparent collation of results:

- INEC will publish the collation process and ensure that accredited election observers and party agents have unfettered access to collation centres at all levels.
- INEC will publish in the INEC Results Viewing Portal (IREV) results from all the polling units across the country.
- INEC will ensure the tabulation of the number of voters with disabilities at the different levels of collation of results, so that the information would not be lost.
- INEC will ensure speedy completion of the collation process and prompt announcement of results in order to reduce tension in the post-election environment.





## **10. Effective Monitoring of Complaints and Petitions Process**

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The Situation Room has the following minimum expectations with regards to effective monitoring of complaints and petitions process:

- INEC will publish its complaints redress procedure to enable aggrieved persons to take full advantage of the process.
- Civil society organizations and media organizations will establish mechanisms for monitoring and observing the handling of election petitions by courts.

## **11. Violence Mitigation, Conduct of Security Agents and Electoral Accountability**

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The Situation Room has the following minimum expectations regarding violence mitigation and electoral accountability:

- Deployment of security agents whether by the Army, the Police or other security agencies for electoral activities will be under the operational directive of INEC.
- The Nigeria Police will investigate all cases of electoral violence and bring all perpetrators of violence to account.
- The Nigeria Police, Army and other security agencies will investigate any allegation of misconduct by their officers, and those found culpable will be punished.
- INEC will investigate and discipline all permanent and ad hoc staff alleged to have been involved in election malpractices.
- INEC will develop a standard Protocol on Engagement of Security Agencies in Election Duties to clearly delineate the duties of all security agents involved in elections, define the perimeter of their deployment, and provide a framework for the payment of their entitlements.
- INEC will work with relevant security agencies to sustain and strengthen the interagency collaboration under the platform of the Interagency Consultative Committee on Election Security (ICCES).



- The federal government will disburse, fully and on time, the funds required for provision of security during electoral activities.
- Civil society organisations will work with security agencies and INEC to review the Code of Conduct for Security Agents on Election Day. The reviewed Code of Conduct will be published widely and strictly enforced.

## 12. Equal Access to Media

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- National Broadcasting Commission (NBC) will implement clear measures to further promote equal access to publicly owned electronic media.
- NBC will enforce reporting requirements for media outlets, advertising agencies and social network platforms, on prices charged and income received from political advertising.
- NBC will establish a framework for effective monitoring and response to media use — print, broadcast and social media platforms — to proactively prevent and counter hate speech before, during and after elections.
- To counter fake news, fact-checking initiatives of civil society organizations and investigative journalism capacity of media organisations will be supported and developed further by NBC and other government agencies.

## 13. Expectation from Civil Society Organisations

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The Situation Room as a major platform of civil society work and collaboration on elections expects that CSOs will be held to the following:

- Nonpartisan observation and reporting of the electoral process.
- The issuing of honest and verified reports and observations.
- Ensuring unbiased implementation of civic education and awareness programme.

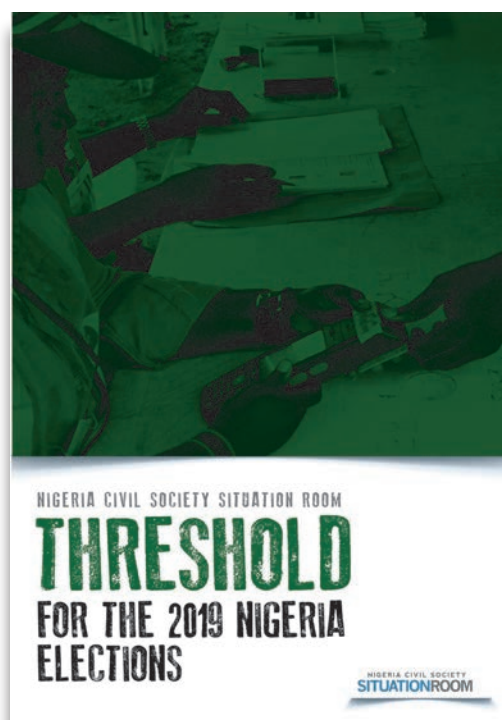


## 14. Situation Room Development of Operational Framework

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The Situation Room will develop an operational guide that will articulate several of the aspects of the threshold document and outline modalities to track and verify responsibilities and tasks identified. The operational guide will also define timelines needed to be met to achieve stakeholder's adherence to identify activities and their implementation.

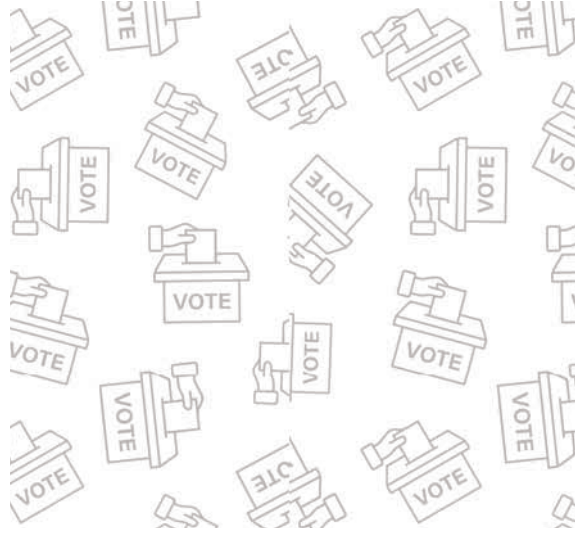
To view the Situation Room's Threshold for the 2019 Nigeria's General Elections, use the link below:



Link

<https://situationroomng.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Situation-Room-Threshold-for-the-2019-Nigeria-Elections.pdf>

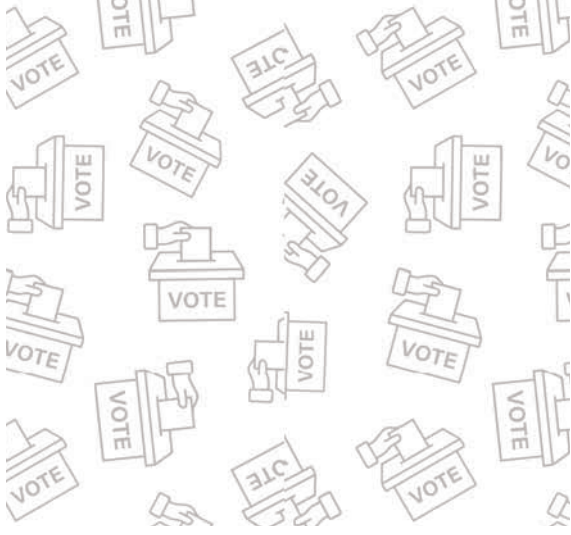




# CONCLUSION

In outlining the threshold for achieving credible general election in 2023, the Situation Room has taken into account Nigeria's realities and circumstances, international election standards as well as the experience it has gained from observing elections since 2011. The Situation Room will hold stakeholders accountable for delivery on the expectations outlined above and will make statements on the level of credibility of the 2023 general election on the basis of the threshold it has established. The people of Nigeria deserve free, fair and credible elections and all stakeholders must be prepared to deliver on this.





# ABOUT SITUATION ROOM

The Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room (Situation Room) comprising more than 70 civic groups provides a coordinating platform for civil society engagement on governance issues. It is also a platform for information sharing amongst civil society groups working on elections and topical national issues. It intervenes in the electoral process by promoting collaboration, proactive advocacy and rapid response to crisis in the electoral process.

The Situation Room was set up in 2010, ahead of the 2011 General Elections to harness and coordinate civil society groups' resources in response to persistent democratic challenges and ensure constructive and proactive engagement of the electoral process. Since after 2011 General Elections, the Situation Room has continued to evolve, contributing to the improvement of electoral and governance process in the country through information sharing and peer collaboration amongst CSOs, periodic dialogue with election stakeholders as well as policy analysis and reform advisories to government institutions. The benefit is that CSOs can work in synergy in support of good governance and credible elections.

The Situation Room works to achieve the following:

- Improve the quality of the electoral process;
- Strengthen the role of civil society to engage and monitor the electoral process;



- Undertake regular analysis and dissemination of information on major developments and events in the preparations and conduct of elections in Nigeria;
- Support coordination and synergy amongst election stakeholders and
- Foster collective action by civil society to promote advocacy for transparency and accountability of public institutions.

Situation Room Convener is Ene Obi, Country Director of Action Aid Nigeria while the Secretariat is hosted by Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC), and is governed by a Steering Committee made up of the representatives of the following organisations:

- Action Aid Nigeria;
- African Centre for Entrepreneurship and Information Development (ACEIDEV);
- ASPILO Foundation;
- Centre for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD);
- Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD);
- Centre for Women and Adolescent Empowerment (CWAE);
- CLEEN Foundation;
- Democratic Action Group (DAG);
- EDO CSOs;
- Justice Development and Peace Commission (JDPC) Nnewi;
- Kimpact Development Initiative (KDI);
- Mac-Jim Foundation;
- New Initiative for Social Development;
- Policy and Legal Advocacy Centre (PLAC);
- Rule of Law and Accountability Advocacy Centre (RULAAC); and
- Women's Right to Education Programme (WREP);
- Young Innovators and Vocational Training Initiative.



## About

PLAC hosts the secretariat of the Nigeria Civil Society Situation Room and is a member of its steering committee. The Situation Room provides a co-ordinating platform for civil society engagement on governance issues. It is also a platform form for information sharing among civil society groups working on elections and topical national issues. It intervenes in the electoral process by promoting collaboration, proactive advocacy and rapid response to crisis in the electoral process. The Situation Room provides a forum of advance planning, scenario building, evidence based analysis, constructive engagement with various stakeholders in the electoral process and observation of elections.

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