

INEC DIALOGUES WITH NIGERIAN WOMEN AHEAD OF 2023 GENERAL ELECTIONS

The Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) in collaboration with International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), on Wednesday 18th January, 2023, organized a Dialogue with Nigerian Women ahead of 2023 General Election at Abuja Continental Hotel. The aim of the engagement is to forge strategic partnership with Gender-based Civil Society Organisations and select women groups for enlightened participation in the 2023 general election.

The Commission recognizes the need to interact with Nigerian women, who form a critical mass of registered voters with the powers, through informed participation, to influence the outcome of an election due to their significant number. This interaction also provided a platform for confidence building and to garner the support and cooperation from women groups in mobilization and sensitization of the womenfolk to vote right and do right. This is because the actions and inaction of Nigerian women have implication for the entire electoral process especially considering their numerical strength.

The dialogue had in attendance, Gender scholars and activists comprising professional women groups, grassroots women, gender-based Civil Society organisations; faith-based women groups; market women, organisations of Persons with Disabilities, Student Union groups, female candidates, etc.



Barrister Festus Okoye, National Commissioner and Chairman Information and Voter Education Committee, set the tone for the Dialogue as he highlighted the processes and procedures for the general election vis-à-vis women participation. Thematic issues thrown up for discussion

revolved around PVC collection; women involvement in the elections as voters; candidates; poll agents and election observers. Reputable women were invited as discussants in the two sessions.



Prof. Kunle Ajayi, National Commissioner and Chairman Outreach and Partnership Committee, represented the Chairman INEC at the event and declared the meeting open. Also present at the meeting were Dr. Baba Bila, National Commissioner and Chairman, Electoral Operations and Logistics Committee (EOLC); and Lakunuya Dorothy Bello, Acting Director, Gender and Inclusivity Department, and other staff of the Commission.

