



AFRICA NETWORK FOR ENVIRONMENT & ECONOMIC JUSTICE (ANEEJ)



ANNUAL REPORT

20
21

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Executive Director



| **Rev. David Ugolor**

The year 2021 came with its own challenges and opportunities arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and other emerging events of international and national scale.

Notwithstanding, some of our interventions in the development work in the past years yielded tangible results which we shall highlight in this report.

Interestingly, agreement was signed between Nigeria and the UK government for the return of the £4.2 million James Ibori Loot around March 2021.

Though, there were divergent views on the destination of the fund between the Delta State government and Federal government, it was a great milestone achieved in strengthening commitments between countries as it relates to asset recovery.

Our advocacy for the passage of Proceeds of Crime Bill did not materialize in 2021, we renew our call and encourage the federal ministry of justice and the national assembly to work closely to ensure the bill becomes law in 2022.

While we await the passage of POCA, ANEEJ played a significant role as the representative of Civil society organizations in the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Disposal of Assets Forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.

This became necessary to ensure that recovered assets are not left to rot, we are confident that final sales of the forfeited assets will be concluded early in 2022, such that the proceeds will be used to finance development initiatives that will benefit poor Nigerians.

It was a good opportunity to showcase our work at the ninth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption held at Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt in December 2021, where we shared experience on the management of recovered assets.

We also maintained our role in real time information sharing on the utilization of the \$322.5m repatriated Abacha loot being used to finance National Cash Transfer Programme in Nigeria. This for us was important as the Covid-19 pandemic hampered economic livelihoods of many, keeping an eye and ensuring intended beneficiaries were paid was an important task, so, we continued to engage virtually and directly at the institution level and on the field.

Hopefully, the disbursement of \$322.5m repatriated Abacha loot will reach 100% early 2022. The passage of Petroleum Industry Bill was well received, following our long-standing advocacy for oil and gas sector reforms in Nigeria.

It was indeed a significant achievement in the legislative framework of the country and a big win to the Nigerian people especially the Niger Delta communities whose livelihoods and environment have been negatively impacted by oil exploration activities.

While the implementation of the Petroleum Industry Act has commenced, we will continue to undertake strategic interventions that will advance the needed reforms.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic led to significant cut in funding for Civil society organizations' work in Nigeria in 2021 and ANEEJ was not exempted.

This also impacted on travel especially for international engagements. Security challenges and concerns across different parts of Nigeria was a major issue as movement to some parts of the country was near impossible.

Some of these challenges are now opening up opportunities for civil society intervention which we intend to take advantage of in 2022

We are hopeful that 2022 will be more productive for countries and civil society organizations around the world in terms of favourable environment for our intervention, as the economy is gradually recovering from the impact of the pandemic.

ANEEJ will increase her work on asset recovery, social protection and migration, focusing also on tackling and preventing serious organized crimes through collaborative efforts with other stakeholders.

We have our eyes on the democracy summit and the outcome. Lastly, we intend to expand our work in the area of environment, issues of climate change, anti-corruption and procurement reform as we envisage increased funding and greater impact.

About ANEEJ

The Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ) is a non-governmental organization aiming at promoting sustainable development through research, policy dialogues, capacity building, advocacy and partnership with key stakeholders.

The goal of ANEEJ is to amplify the voice of the weak and the marginalized, in order to bring about their participation in democratic decision-making process.

As its basis, ANEEJ believes in a democratic system for managing human interest.

Over the years, ANEEJ has focused on a number of issues, including Debts and Structural Adjustments, Monitoring of the International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and their missions, Public Expenditure Management, Revenue Transparency, Budget Monitoring and Tracking, Environmental issues, including Climate Change, water, and sanitation among others.

This has led to activities such as Public Eye on oil Revenue, a secretariat for the following platform - Publish What You Pay Campaign and End Impunity Now Campaign; the publication of Oil of Poverty in the Niger Delta and the formation of the Niger Delta Budget Monitoring and Transparency Network (NDBMTN) and the formation of Society for Water and Sanitation (NEWSAN), a coalition of over 120 organizations spread across the six geo-political zones of Nigeria.

ANEEJ has consultative status with the UN and is accredited by BPP to observe public procurement processes in Nigeria.

ANEEJ advocates the support of the Nigerian national and state governments in delivering equitable economic development for all citizens.

ANEEJ is currently working with state governments in the Niger Delta to support building the capacity of government officials as well as enforcement of legislations.

ANEEJ Vision, Mission, Objectives, core values

VISION

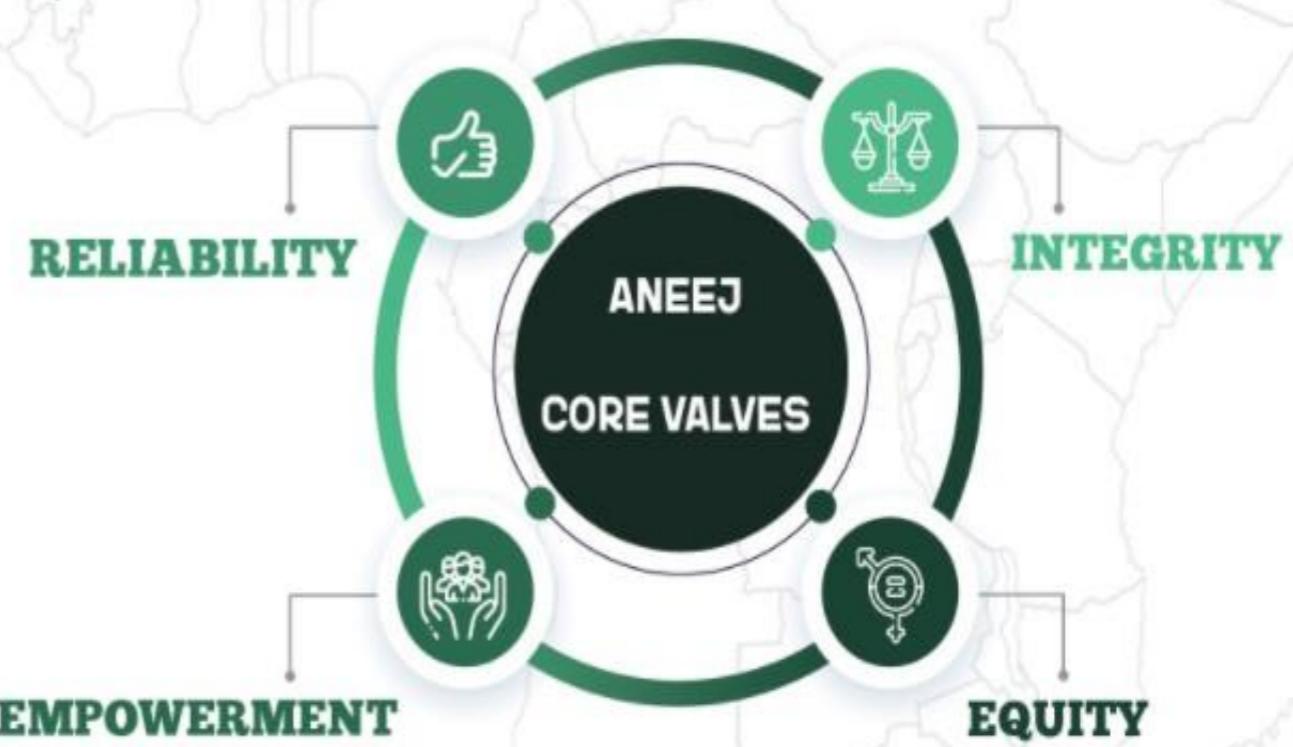


AFRICA WITHOUT POVERTY

MISSION



To contribute to the emergence of a just and equitable African society through socio-economic and environmental rights protection, institutional strengthening and people's empowerment.



OBJECTIVES



The fundamental objectives of ANEEJ are to:

- ➊ Create platforms where civil society voices connect into critical masses on key national issues and where/when necessary, advance civil society interest on socioeconomic and environmental rights protection.
- ➋ Build the capacity of civil society actors to better appreciate local, national and international economic governance issues and their connection to poverty incidence, resource conflict and the overarching people's economic rights
- ➌ Mobilize civil society groups for social action to demand socio-economic rights and good governance at all levels of society.
- ➍ Conduct research on key economic governance and environmental issue and to publicize same to inform guided interventions and actions by relevant stakeholders and public agencies.
- ➎ Undertake public interest litigation within and outside Nigeria in its core focal areas.



Prof. Milton Iyoha
Acting Chairman

Professor of Economics with a
Ph.D in Economics from the Yale
University, USA, 1970



Rev. David Ugolor
Secretary

Executive Director of Africa
Network for Environment and
Economic Justice (ANEEJ)



Augusta Akindor
Member

An Economics graduate of
Bendel State University,
Ekpoma, Edo State



Nowinta Igbotako
Member

Comrade Nowinta Igbotako is a
Pro-democracy and Human
Rights activist

**Brot
für die Welt**

**Bread for the World –
Protestant Development
Service**

Enhancing Social Protection
Programme in 5 States of
Nigeria (ESPPIN) project



**Rule of Law and Anti-
corruption Programme**

supported the Civil Society
Advocacy to Support Anti-
corruption and Rule of Law in
Nigeria (CASARN) project



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland in Nigeria

**Embassy of Switzerland in
Nigeria**

Monitoring of Recovered Assets
through Transparency and
Accountability (MANTRA II)
Project

AFRODAD

**African Forum and Network
on Debt and Development
(AFRODAD)**

ANEEJ partner on West African
Regional Debt Advocacy Issues

6 Summary of Key Milestones



ANEEJ global work on asset recovery contributed to the recovery of additional funds to Nigeria including the signing of agreement between Nigeria and the UK government on the return of £4.2 million James Ibori loot.



Tracked 76% of the \$322.5m repatriated Abacha loot being used for National Cash Transfer Programme in Nigeria. Over N8,528,950,000 (80% from Abacha loot and 20% from IDA) have been paid to beneficiaries as at November 2021 while additional payment and account reconciliations are ongoing.



Contributed to the initial process for the disposal of recovered assets through the Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Disposal of Assets Forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria.



4 CSOs in Edo State have been enlisted to observe public procurement process by Edo State Public Procurement Agency following ANEEJ engagement with the agency and training of CSOs on procurement observation and open contracting.



Improved collaboration between CSOs and Edo State government in driving reforms such as evolving the draft FOI bill, the development of Edo State Integrity and Accountability Strategy, advancing the implementation of open contracting and procurement reform, promoting budget transparency through monitoring and use of Edo monitor me portal and the open contracting data standard – OCDS portal.



Training participants apply knowledge gained to undertake comprehensive investigation of streetlights project contract in Edo State which resulted in the resumption of work on the project.



28 interventions at strengthening stakeholders capacity to Monitor the implementation of the Social Investment Programme.



Contributed to the emergence of a draft Social Protection Policy in Edo State.



SOCIAL PROTECTION WORK ESPPIN PROJECT

ESPPIN Project Inception Meeting and Launch of Social Protection Movement in Nigeria

ANEEJ held her ESPPIN project inception meeting and also launched the Social Protection Movement in March 2021. The goal is to advance social protection issues in Nigeria. One of the objectives was to harness CSOs participation in social protection activities, continue to demand for new laws to safeguard social protection in the country and at subnational levels.

The launch was followed by a rally to create awareness about the movement with different advocacy messages inscribed in banners, placards, fliers and stickers disseminated to motorists and other passersby. This came under the Enhancing Social Protection Programme in Nigeria (ESPPIN) project supported by Bread for the World Protestant Development Service.



From left: Rep. of NASSCO, Ms. Ruth Adzege, Min. of State, FBNP, Prince Clem Agba, ANEEJ ED, David Ugolor and other participants at the events

PROCUREMENT REPORT & PROJECT MONITORING ROLAC-CASARN PROJECT

Training of 45 CSOs/Journalists at a Stakeholder Meeting on Revised Edo State Procurement Agency Law, March 18, 2021

One major activity implemented under the CASARN Project in 2021 was the training of 45 CSOs/Journalists drawn from the 3 senatorial districts of Edo State at a stakeholders meeting on the revised Edo State Procurement Agency law, on March 18, 2021.

Prior to this activity, there were other trainings and initiatives conducted to advance governance and anti-corruption in Edo State and in Nigeria at large in line with project goal and objectives such as public procurement observation and contract monitoring in Edo State, FOI issues and advocacy, budgeting and budget/project monitoring trainings.

One major result of the trainings was the showcasing of a comprehensive project monitoring investigative report published by one of the participants at ANEEJ previous workshop on budget monitoring and contract monitoring. The project is current on going with some part already completed.



Group photo of Participants at the Event

Asset Recovery & Management MANTRA II Project

1. ANEEJ Engagement with National Cash Transfer Office (NCTO)

ANEEJ continued monitoring of the \$322.5 million repatriated fund being used for Cash transfer and series of engagement meetings with the National Cash Transfer Office (NCTO) contributed to updated information on the utilization of the fund. The Last major payment cycle as at December 2021 was May/June 2021 payment. The total amount paid as at November 2021 was N8,528,950,000 (80% from Abacha loot and 20% from IDA) and total unpaid N2,329,020,000 (with payment and reconciliation ongoing). The 4 States namely; Edo, Enugu, Ondo and Kebbi with ICPC/PSP issues that was last paid in December 2019 have been resolved, beneficiaries are set to receive payment soon. All 36 States & Abuja are already on the cash transfer programme.

Total fund received
from Swiss

\$322.5M

The Last major payment cycle as at December 2021
was May/June 2021 payment



- Paid Beneficiaries (80% from Abacha loot and 20% from IDA) = N8,528,950,000 (78.55%)
- Unpaid Beneficiaries = N2,329,020,000 (21.45%)

2. Spot Checks in Abia, Yobe and Rivers States Conducted between November and December 2021

ANEEJ conducted spot check in Abia State which was done in two local government areas namely Ohafia and Isiala Ngwa North LGAs from the 2nd to 6th of November 2021. A total of N92,950,000.00 was disbursed to 9295 beneficiaries in the State covering backlogs for the period of January to June 2021.



Photos of beneficiaries receiving payments in Abia State

In Rivers State, the spot check took place in Tai and Gokhanna Local government areas in the from 21st – 24th December 2021. A total amount of 91,750,000 was disbursed to 9,175 beneficiaries in six local government areas.



Photos of beneficiaries receiving payments in Rivers State

That of Yobe State was conducted in Fika Local Government Secretariat, Gadaka Central and in NANGERE LGA within a 5-day period from on the 15th-21, December 2021. A total of amount of 247790000 was disbursed to 24,779 beneficiaries in the State covering November-December 2020 payment cycle disbursed by Janmos Mobile Ventures, the payment service operator (PSP) assigned to the State. All the spot checks in the States were coupled with advocacy visits to the State office where the total payment details were cross checked.



Photos of beneficiaries receiving payments of \$322.5m Abacha Loot in Yobe State

State	Amount (N)	Beneficiaries Paid	Payment Period	LGAs
Abia	92,950,000	9,295	Jan - June 2021	Ohafia and Isiala Ngwa North
Rivers	91,750,000	9,175	Sept - Oct 2020	Tai and Gokhanna
Yobe	247,790,000	24,779	Nov - Dec 2020	Fika, Gadaka Central and Nangere

Tabular representation of payments of \$322.5m Abacha Loot in Abia, Rivers and Yobe State

African Regional Debt Advocacy

West Africa Region - Debt Advocacy and Training Sessions

ANEEJ in partnership with AFRODAD hosted a West African Region Debt Advocacy session in Abuja, Nigeria in May 2021. Key government and CSOs delegation were at the meeting including the Hon. Minister of State, Finance, Budget and National Planning, Prince Clem Agba, representatives of the Director General, Debt Management Office, Mr. Monday Usiade, Senate Committee on Local and Foreign Debts, National Assembly, Hon. Dr. Abubakar Ahmed, Representatives of various Development partners, Executive Director, AFRODAD, Jason Braganza and CEOs of Various CSOs and Media Organisations.

The meeting was centered on Sharing Experiences and Galvanising a Common Debt Advocacy Position in the West Africa Region”, building on experiences in previous work that ANEEJ and AFRODAD have done in the region, with the intention to reiterate policy recommendations geared towards measures of dealing with debt and sustainable development financing options in the current COVID-19 context that threatens to roll back hard-earned development gains of recent years.

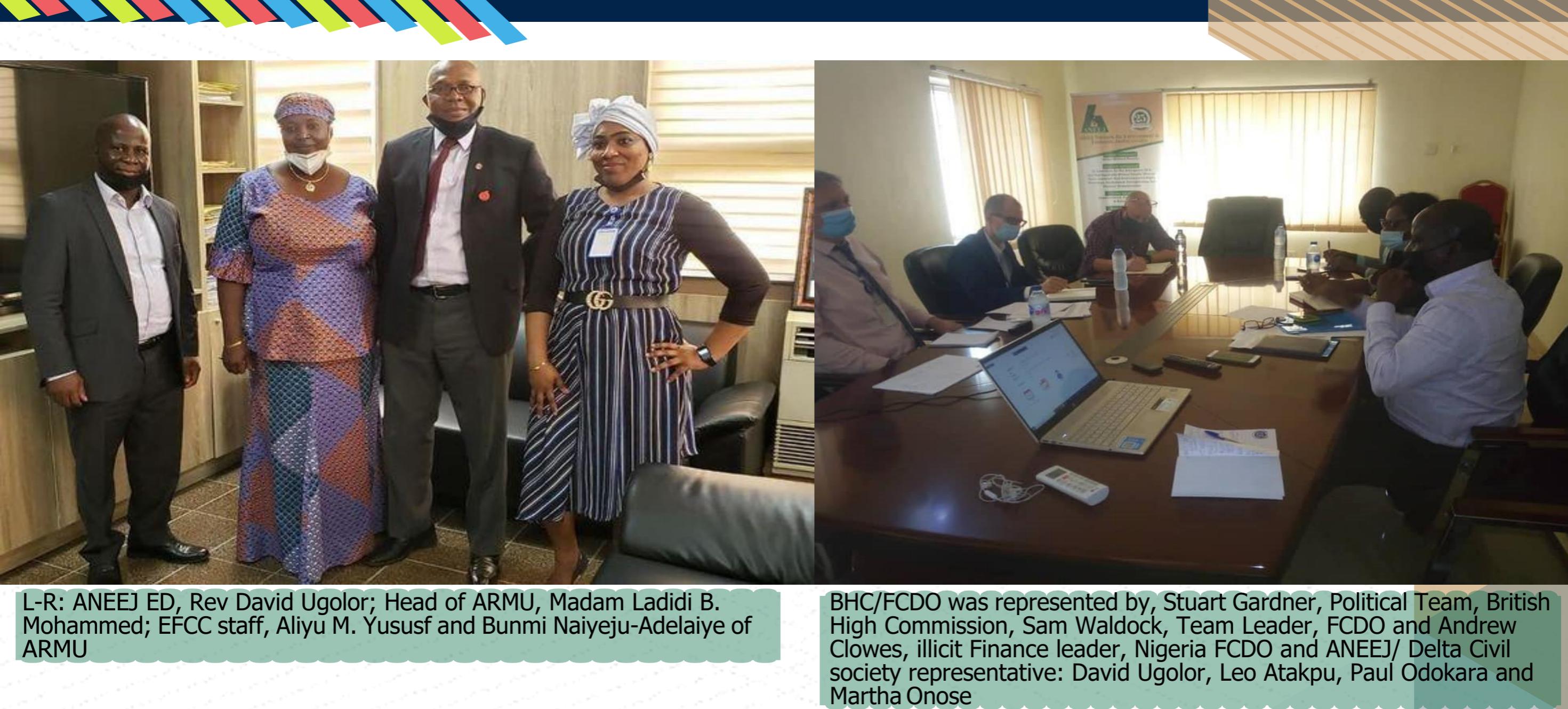


Group photo of participants at the meeting

High Level Engagement with Stakeholders and Consultation of Asset Recovery

There was high-level Consultation with British High Commission and Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) in Abuja to discuss Ibori Loot and the best practice in Asset Return. At the meeting, BHC/FCDO was represented by, Stuart Gardner, Political Team, British High Commission, Sam Waldock, Team Leader, FCDO and Andrew Clowes, illicit Finance leader, Nigeria FCDO and ANEEJ/ Delta Civil society representative: David Ugolor, Leo Atakpu, Paul Odokara and Martha Onose

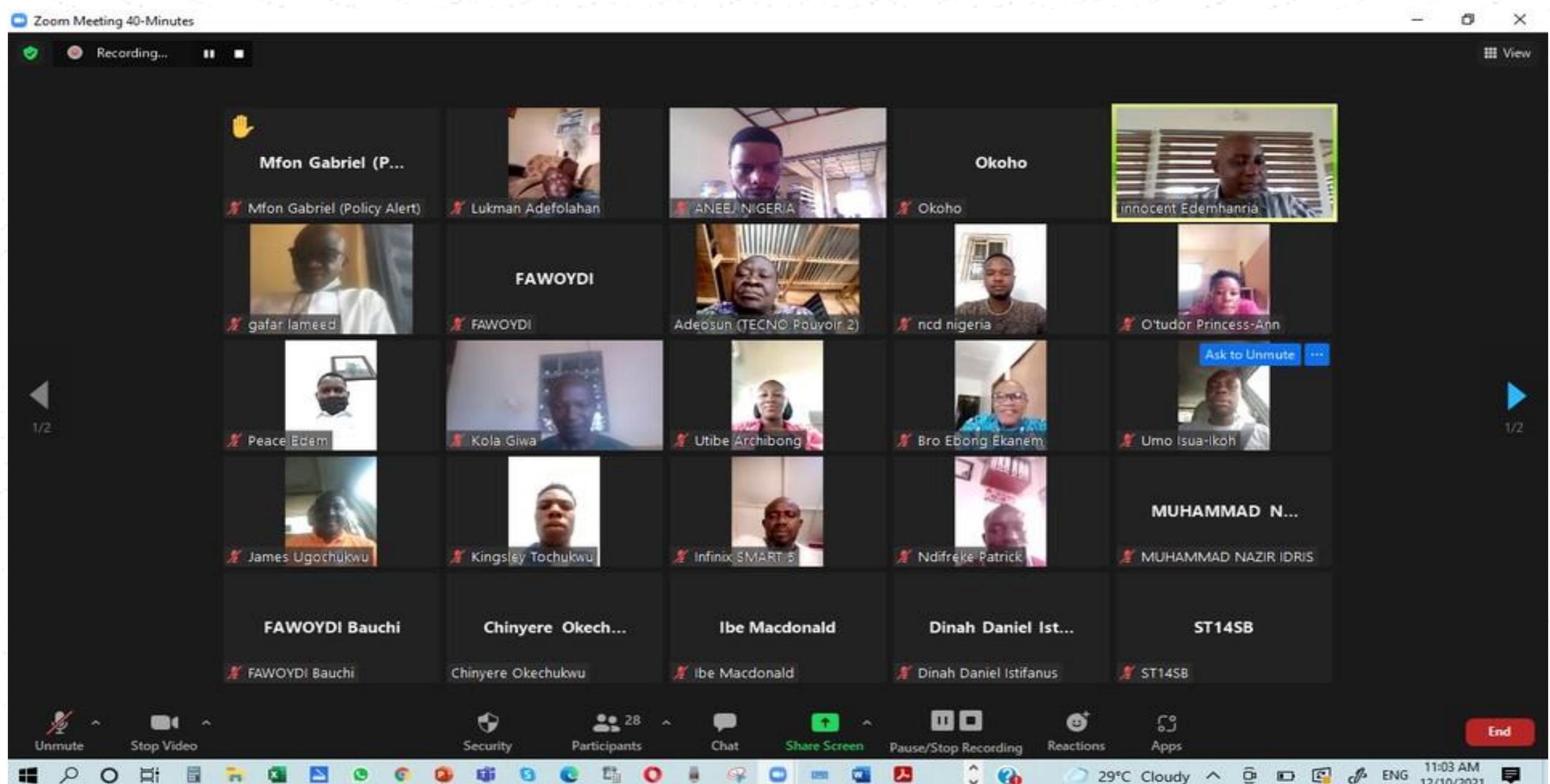
There was another interface with the Federal Ministry of Justice as part of High-Level Advocacy on Ibori loot and the passage of Proceeds of Crime bill. The Director of Asset Recovery and Management Unit (ARMU), Madam Ladidi B. Mohammed, EFCC staff, Aliyu M. Yusuf and Bunmi Naiyeju- Adelaiye of ARMU were at the meeting.



2021 International Anti-corruption Day Event

To mark the International Anti-corruption Day 2021, ANEEJ held a virtual meeting to discuss the year's theme: **"Your right, your role: Say no to Corruption."** It was also a good opportunity to reviewed President Buhari's Anti-corruption effort with reference to his commitments at the Global Forum on Asset Recovery (GFAR).

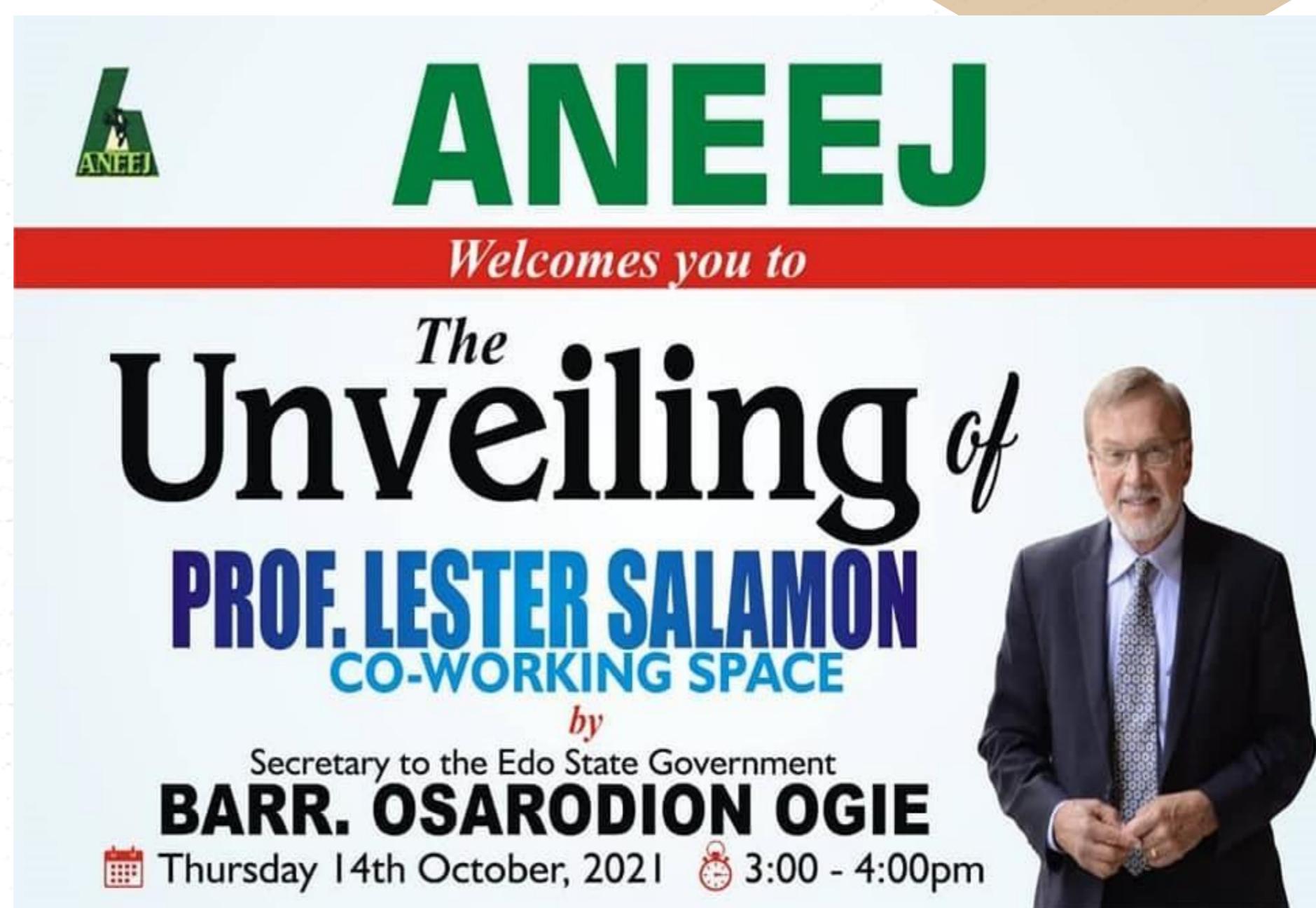
The meeting was facilitated by ANEEJ programme manager, Mr. Innocent Edemhanria who gave a background into the purpose of the meeting. Participants score the government high in certain areas including the implementation of the national Anti-corruption strategy (NAC), asset recovery effort, autonomy of NFIU, NEITI's work around beneficial ownership among other areas. Participants then encouraged Nigerian government to ensure that POCA bill becomes law, increase funding to anti-corruption agencies, partner with state government to address corruption issues and mobilize citizens to take part in anti-corruption initiatives to own the process.



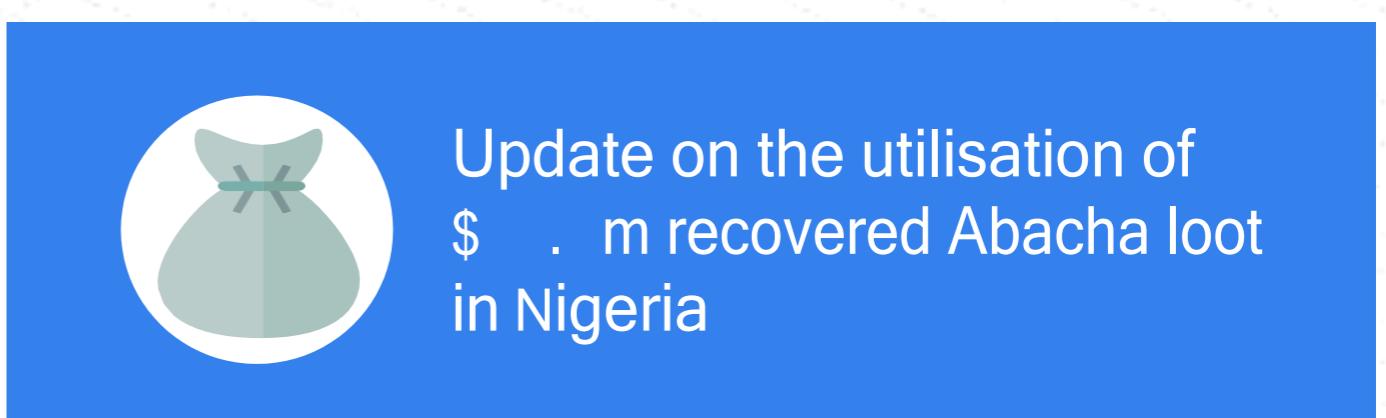
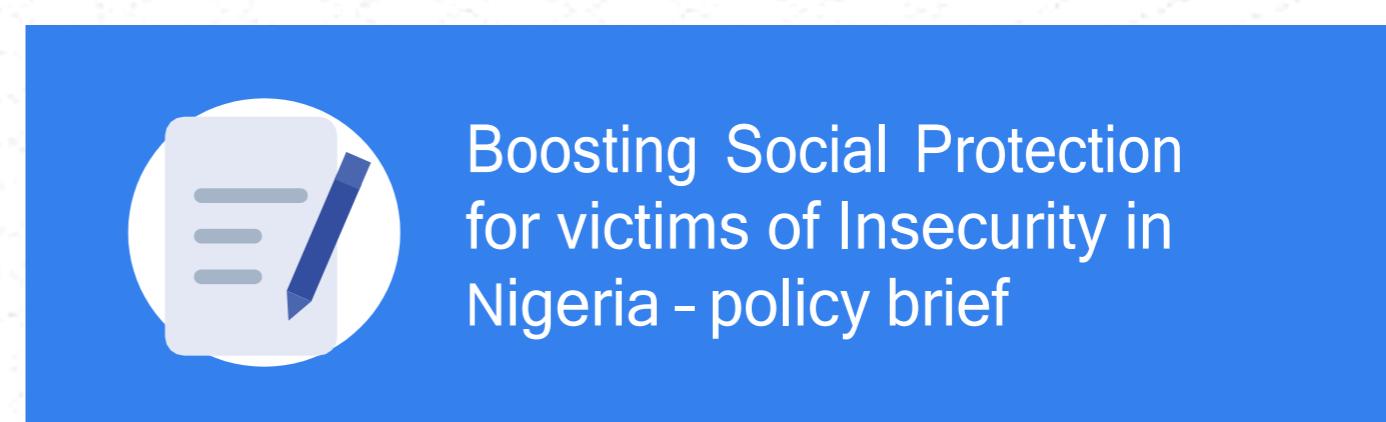
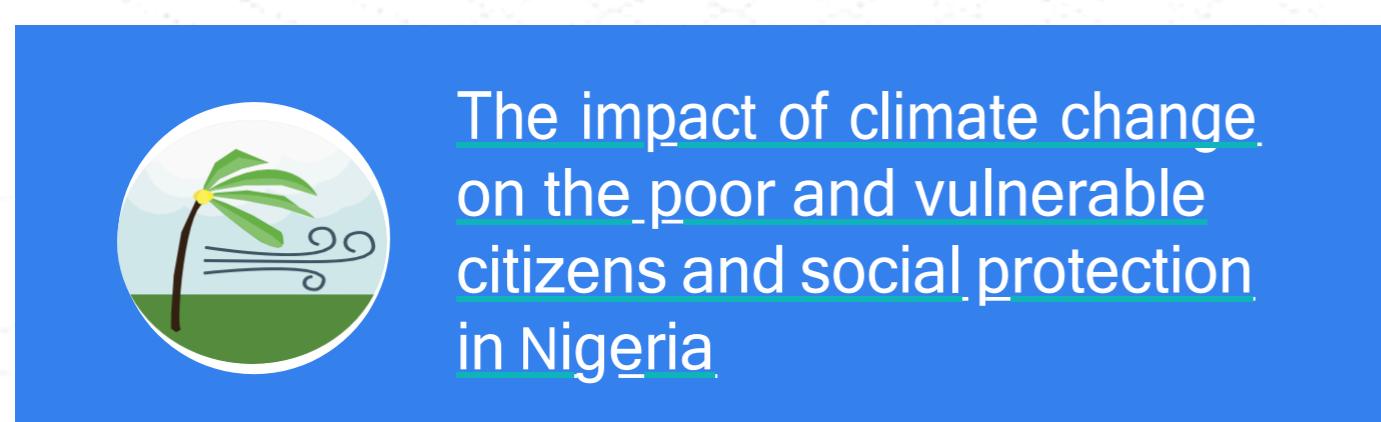
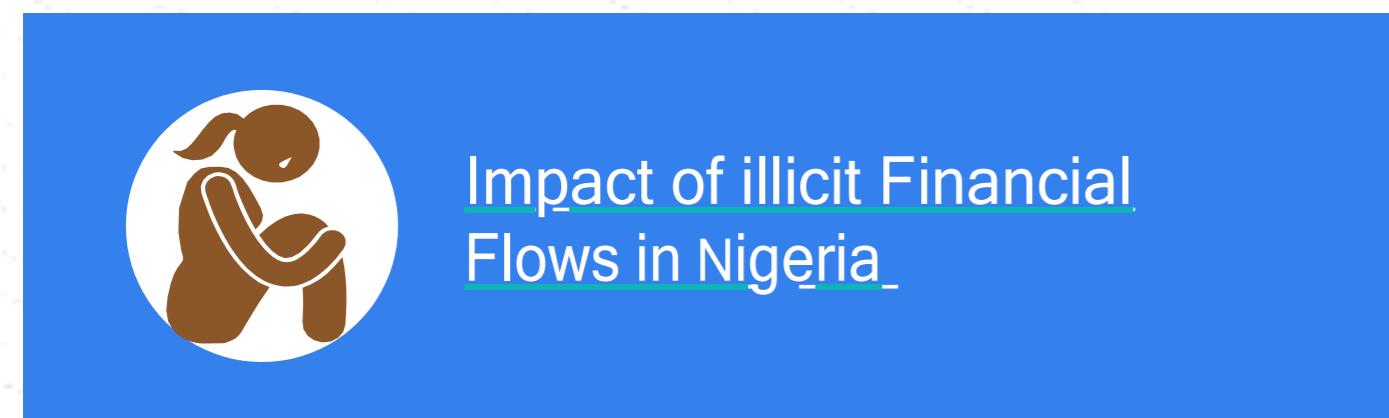
Screenshot of the virtual meeting to mark International Anti-corruption Day 2021

ANEEJ Tribute Session in Honour of Late Prof. Lester Salamon

A day of tribute and naming of ANEEJ Co-working Space in honour of late Prof. Lester Salamon (a John Hospkin University don) was organized by ANEEJ in October 2021 in virtual meeting at ANEEJ secretariat, Benin City. The unveiling of ANEEJ the co-working space in honour of Prof. Lester M. Salamon was done by the Secretary to Edo State Government Barr. Osarodion Ogie who was represented by the permanent secretary, SSG's Office, Mr. Chris Abode. CSOs, journalists, Family members, friends and associates of late Prof. Lester M. Salamon were part of the event.



⑧ Key Research Reports and other Knowledge Products Published





1 National Level

Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Disposal of Assets Forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria

1. ANEEJ Executive Director, a member of the in Inter-Ministerial Committee on the Disposal of Assets Forfeited to the Federal Government of Nigeria with other members completed the tasks assigned to them and submitted the report to the Federal Government on the list of forfeited Assets and the bidding process of companies that have capacity to commence the process.



Inter-ministerial Committee on Disposal of Forfeited Assets

2. ANEEJ engaged Nigeria and UK Government on the Return of **£4.2million** James Ibori Loot from UK to Nigeria, May 25, 2021. This engagement was made through physical meetings which were followed with release of press statements, TV discussions and informal engagements.



Former Governor of Delta State Chief James Ibori

2 State Level



ANEEJ ED, Rev David Ugolor,
a Panelist at Edo Alaghodaro 2021 Summit



L-R: ANEEJ ED, Rev. David Ugolor; EDHA Speaker, Rt. Hon. Marcus Onobun; 4th Left: Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki; Edo State Deputy Governor, Comrade Philip Shaibu and other panelists.

◆ ANEEJ Participated and made intervention at the Edo state transition committee stakeholder's engagement with the State Government held June 1, 2021. This was an important meeting in Edo State as the re-elected government provided a background on their terms of reference and reform agenda of the administration reflected in the six pillars namely: institutional reform, Social Welfare Enhancement, Infrastructure development, Environment and Sustainability, Culture and Tourism and Economic Revolution. ANEEJ key interventions and recommendations was centered around 4 areas namely: implementation of the State Action Plan of OGP, implementation of State Asset Registry, Develop Fund for Innovation and access to broadband/internet, particularly for the poor neighborhood like Upper Sakponba and step up State investment on alternative power.

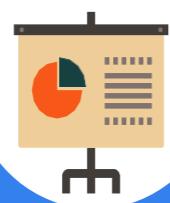
◆ ANEEJ Executive Director, Rev David Ugolor engaged as one of the panelists made intervention on Open Government Partnership (OGP) at the Edo State Alaghodaro 2021 summit held November 12, 2021. Alaghodaro 2021: The Edo Summit Plenary II "Reinventing Governance: The Bottom-Top Approach. The state government committed to sign the Edo state Action Plan

3

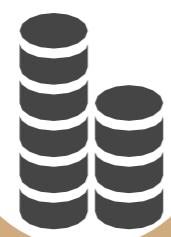
Collaboration with CSOs



ANEEJ worked with CIRDDOC on the Sub-National Budget Transparency Survey (SNBTS) 2020/2021 as Edo State researcher. The research report has been published and used for engagement with key stakeholders in Nigeria.



ANEEJ and AFRODAD organized the inaugural African Conference on Debt and Development (AfCoDD) on the 26th of August 2021 in Abuja



ANEEJ and other CSOs side event on Managing recovered assets was held in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt, December 13th- 17th, 2021 during the CoSP 9- meeting organized by UNODC. ANEEJ shared its experience on monitoring the utilization of \$322.5 million Abacha loot, presenting best practice and sharing real time information on the utilization of the recovered funds.



Joint US-Nigeria CSO press statement on the Democracy Summit, Dec 15, 2021. ANEEJ in partnership with CDD and YIAGA in Nigeria and US released a letter outlining key action areas during the Democracy Summit held in Dec 15, 2021. The virtual press conference organized by the Washington-based Nigeria Working Group, signatories elaborated on the critical state of democracy. The message was focused on What can the Biden and Buhari administrations do to live up to the ambitions of the Democracy Summit?

ANEEJ provided technical support to New Apostolic Church Centre for Development (NCD) to get their new grant within the period of August to September 2021.



ANEEJ facilitated CSOs statement on SHELL Carbon Reduction Plan urging the Archbishop of Canterbury to reconsider the Church of England's Position and to Vote Against SHELL's Plan to End Carbon Emission In 2050 which eventually led to response from the Archbishop of Canterbury demanding for joint meeting with the Nigerian CSOs.



Joint proposal bid: Torchlight organization in the UK partnered with ANEEJ, CLEEN & NEEM to jointly submit a proposal bid on preventing Serious Organized Crimes in Nigeria. The bid was successful and the project is to be implemented in four states Bayelsa, Edo, Lagos & Zamfara).



Successful Reforms through Sustained Advocacy by ANEEJ and other CSOs

- Return of £4.2million James Ibori Loot from UK to Nigeria, May 25, 2021
- Passage of Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) into Law by the National Assembly July 1, 2021 and signing of the Petroleum Industry Bill (PIB) into Law by President Muhammadu Buhari on August 17, 2021.
- Setting up a National Task force on Aid and Development Effectiveness in Nigeria by the Honourable Minister of Budget and National Planning on 7th July 2021 at the Ministry's Office. ANEEJ Executive Director, Rev David Ugolor is a Co-Chair (Non-State Actors) of the task force.
- President Muhammadu Buhari on November 18, 2021, signed into law the Climate Change Bill passed by the National Assembly on the 8th of July 2021 by House of Reps and by the Senate on October 13, 2021. This is a significant milestone in pursuing the nation's commitment to the Paris Declaration.



Nominations into key International and National Positions

- ANEEJ Executive Director nominated as co-chair of the National Task force on Aid and Development Effectiveness 7th July 2021
- ANEEJ ED, Rev David Ugolor emerges Sub-Saharan African regional Representatives in UNCAC Coalition Board, 8th July 2021

⑨ Financial Summary Report

Income:

Unexpended Grant B/F N 33,671,186

Grant received in the year:

AFRODAD	11,924,358
RoLAC (Civil Society Advocacy to Support Anti-Corruption and Rule of Law in Nigeria)	16,613,805
SWISS Embassy (MANTRA Project)	16,440,000
Bread for the World (Enhancing Social Protection)	65,783,003
Other Donation	3,961,918

114,723,084

148,394,270

Expenditure:

Personnel Cost	56,744,222
Programmatic Cost	71,536,680
Investment Cost	1,222,000
Administrative Cost	17,557,670

147,060,572

Unexpected Grant C/F

1,333,716

10



CHALLENGES

As an organization, there were a few challenges that affected ANEEJ work in 2021, some of them are;

- Significant loss of funds to Civil Society Organizations including ANEEJ as a result of Covid-19 pandemic.
- There was also travel restrictions resulting in the inability of the organization to undertake international engagements as it used to in time past.
- Insecurity crisis in different parts of Nigeria

11

ENDNOTES (Press Releases and MANTRA Newsreel

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- *ANEEJ Backs ECOWAS On Cleaner Fuels, Urges FG To Commence Regulation- January 28, 2021.* <https://www.aneej.org/aneej-backs-ecowas-on-cleaner-fuels-urges-fg-to-commence-regulation/>
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- *ActionAid Country Director Mulls Greater Collaboration with ANEEJ- February 25, 2021.* <https://www.aneej.org/actionaid-country-director-mulls-greater-collaboration-with-aneej/>
- *Deploy ICT, Preventive Measures In Tackling Corruption, ANEEJ Urges Bawa - February 25, 2021.* <https://www.aneej.org/deploy-ict-preventive-measures-in-tackling-corruption-aneej-urges-bawa/>
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- ANEEJ Urges Obaseki to present FOI Bill to Edo Assembly. [ANEEJ Urges Obaseki To Present FOI Bill To Edo Assembly](https://www.aneej.org/anneej-urges-obaseki-to-present-foi-bill-to-edo-assembly)- April 29, 2021
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- Nigeria CSOs Renew Calls On Church Of England To Vote Against SHELL’s Plan To End Carbon Emission In 2050 Today- May 18, 2021
- [Cumbersome Mutual Legal Assistance Process, Hampering Asset Recovery—Rev David Ugolor](https://www.aneej.org/cumbersome-mutual-legal-assistance-process-hampering-asset-recovery-rev-david-ugolor)- May 19, 2021
- Discontinuation Of Ease Of Doing Business Report: ANEEJ Calls For Sweeping Policy Reforms And Total Overhaul Of World Bank’s Operational Systems, September 27, 2021. <https://www.aneej.org/discontinuation-of-ease-of-doing-business-report-aneej-calls-for-sweeping-policy-reforms-and-total-overhaul-of-world-banks-operational-systems/>
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