**REPORT OF THE TWO-DAY MEETING OF THE TECHNICAL COMMITTEE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIES ON INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION FOR QUALITY DELIVERY OF BASIC EDUCATION IN NIGERIA HELD AT HOTEL SEVENTEEN, KADUNA FROM 11TH – 12TH SEPTEMBER, 2018**

**1.0 INTRODUCTION**

Basic Education delivery is said to be the responsibility of all. In spite of this, different agencies saddled with the delivery of basic education such as UBEC, NMEC, NCNC and others have been operating in silos. Consequently, the effect of the efforts has been minimal and impactful enough to achieve the desired goals and fulfil objectives of provision of quality basic education. The effect of this is duplication of efforts, increase in Out-of-School Children and deployment of lean resources by the different agencies to same activities.

In order to foster a common front and tackle the challenges of basic education head long with a synergy of efforts, the body of Chief Executives of agencies delivering basic education in Nigeria met to collaborate in the delivery. At such meetings, it was resolved that a Technical Committee on Inter Agency collaboration to develop a strategy for collaboration should be set.

The Technical Committee, which consists of representatives at the cadre of Directors, Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors, met from the 11-12 September, 2018 in Kaduna. Present at the meeting as members of the Committee were representatives of Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN), National Teachers Institute (NTI), National Commission for Colleges of Education (NCCE), Nigeria Education, Research and Development Council (NERDC), National Institute for Education Planning and Administration (NIEPA), National Commission for Nomadic Education (NCNE), National Commission for Adult, Youth and Mass Education (NMEC) and the Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC).

The meeting was hosted by the Universal Basic Education Commission.

**2.0 OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING**

The objectives of the meeting were to;

* harmonise the submissions from agencies for Inter-agency collaboration on quality delivery of basic education;
* develop modalities for collaboration among the agencies; and
* develop a framework for implementation of the work plan.

**3.0 METHODOLOGY**

Prior to the meeting, the different agencies on the Committee had submitted their activities in line with their mandates as well as areas of necessary collaboration. In aligning with the Ministerial Strategic Plan (MSP), a document of the Federal Ministry of Education giving a roadmap to education delivery in Nigeria, the Committee adopted the MSP template using the related pillars to basic education delivery. These were;

1. Out-of-School;
2. Teacher Education, Capacity Building and Professional Development;
3. Strengthening Basic Education.

The different submissions on the MSP Pillars were also categorized into three (3) thematic areas of Access, Quality and System Strengthening.

The meeting adopted group and plenary presentations in harmonizing the submissions from the different agencies and in coming up with a work plan for collaboration.

**4.0 Opening Remark by the Director Academic Service, Mallam Wadatau Madawaki**

The meeting opened with remarks from the Director, Academic Services, Mallam Wadatau Madawaki. In his remark, emphasis was made on the objectives of the meeting. He further stressed;

* the relevance of the outcome of the meeting in informing further decisions by the Chief Executives of the represented Agencies;
* the need to establish robust and cohesive collaboration between the Agencies; and
* the need for the Technical Committee to work assiduously to achieve the operational objectives.

He concluded his remarks by reminding the participants of the implications of the objectives of the collaboration.

**5.0 Key Issues raised at the Meeting**

In the course of the deliberations, key issues that would facilitate the implementation of the programme were identified as follows;

* The need to intimate the Chief Executives of each of the Agencies to incorporate the activities of the Strategic Plan for Inter Agency Collaboration in the Agency Annual budget;
* the need to elicit the interest and commitment of the Honourable Minister of Education in the implementation of the Strategic Plan (MSP) for Inter-Agency Collaboration highlighting its role in the achievement of the MSP;
* the misconception by the members of the Technical Committee that UBEC would fund the activities in the collaboration. Clarification was made and it was stated that Agencies would fund their activities listed in the Strategic Plan but would receive support in terms of human and financial resources as part of the collaboration where necessary from other member agencies; and
* the need to sustain the technical Committee to achieve the desired goals of its establishment.

**6.0 OUTCOME OF THE MEETING**

A Strategic Work Plan was developed (*Please See Appendix I*)

**7.0 OPERATIONAL MODALITIES**

The meeting extensively deliberated on the areas of collaboration and delineated specific Agencies that would drive each of the activities listed in the Strategic Work Plan. For each of the activities, an Agency or Agencies would be responsible for its coordination and would collaborate with others. The Agencies that would steer each activity were significantly shown in the Strategic Work Plan.

**8.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

The following were also recommended;

* periodic meeting of the Technical Committee to receive inputs and update on the level of implementation of the Strategic Plan and the collaboration;
* adoption of Technical Committee as the Implementation Committee to execute the Work Plan; and
* the incorporation of the Strategic Plan for the Inter-Agency collaboration in the annual budget of the different Agencies.

**9.0 CONCLUSION**

It was the unanimous opinion of participants that the initiative of collaboration among the relevant agencies of basic education delivery was laudable. Establishing the Technical Committee was also applauded by participants. Members were advised to ensure that the collaboration is sustained and effectively executed.