**CONCEPT NOTE FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF INDEPENDENT PLATEAU STATE PEACE AND SECURITY TRUST FUND (PSTF)**

**BACKGROUND**

Plateau State has experienced a recurrent wave of violent conflicts lasting over two decades now. The impact and cost of violence has been vast and devastating on the socio-economic development of the state. Thousands of lives and properties worth hundreds of millions of naira were destroyed, communities have been uprooted, relationships shattered and mutual suspicion entrenched. Today the state and many of its citizens are struggling to deal with the psychosocial and economic legacies of violence.

Although the causes of conflicts were as varied and extensive, in most cases however, their manifestation have taken an ethno-religious dimension. Findings from several studies suggest that the causes of conflicts are deeply rooted in historical, social and structural factors. It would appear that relative peace has since returned to the state due largely to the policy thrust of the present administration but more so to the roles of and contributions of a wide range of non-state actors who have worked tirelessly over the years to deliver a stable and peaceful society.

While a lot of effort has been put into advancing the peace building process forward, yet the risk of a return to violent conflict remains very high on the Plateau. As a response to this reality, the present administration, in pursuance of its policy thrust for **‘Peace, Security and Good Governance’**, established the Peace Building Agency, which is the first institutional structure for conflict prevention and Peace Building in Nigeria.

However, two things still stand out. The first is that, whereas, government remains at the forefront of the peace and security efforts in the state, non-state actors have indicated interest in playing a more active role. Secondly, the major focus of government expenditure in the peace and security processes have been understandably channeled towards reactive actions post-conflict.

Consequently, the Peace and Security Fund is being proposed to:

1. Provide a platform for more active participation of the non-state actors in promoting peace and ensuring security in the state;
2. Fill in the funding gap of the Peace Building Agency, especially with respect to proactive pre-conflict initiatives;
3. Support the various security agencies to perform their functions better;
4. Provide support for victims of conflicts.

Therefore, the Peace and Security Trust Fund is expected to work closely with key stakeholders to deliver the promise of peace and security across the seventeen (17) Local Government Areas of the state.

**GOALS**

Improved funding and coordination for sustainable peacebuilding and security maintenance efforts across all peace and security-related organizations to create and maintain a peaceful environment for sustainable development in Plateau State.

**OBJECTIVES**

1. To support conflict affected peoples in their recovery and social and economic integration.

2. To mobilize and utilize donations from corporate bodies and individuals

3. Provide a sustainable source of funding for the implementation of proactive peace intervention programs in the state.

4. To provide funding for the acquisition and deployment of security resources to respond quickly and efficiently to critical conflict prevention and peace building needs in a wide range of fragile settings.

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

The establishment of an independent Peace and Security Fund will achieve the following outcomes :

1. A Plateau State Peace and Security Fund established as a Public-Private Partnership Model.
2. A steady and sustainable pool of funds derived from both state and non-state actors.
3. Speedier and more proactive response and mitigation of conflict and other pressing security related issues across the seventeen LGAs in the state.
4. Build back better lives of conflict affected persons in Plateau State.

**INNOVATIONS**

The Plateau State Peace and Security Trust Fund will support peace building and security initiatives by the use of tools that foster collaboration, transform attitudes, and give a stronger voice to communities aimed at preventing the outbreak or escalation of violent conflict. Technology will be used for the Early Warning System (EWS) for reporting peace-threatening situations, and also for funds mobilization in order to afford everybody, including school children, the opportunity to pitch in.

**METHODOLOGY**

The Trust Fund will be set up to operate different windows in solving identified problems

Window 1: Mobilisation of funds from donor agencies, private sector and public-spirited individuals.

Window 2: Support activities aimed at conflict prevention and peacebuilding through coordinated dialogue, advocacy,peace education, sensitization etc.

Window 3: Support institutional and organizational capacity building in ways that strengthen capacities for early warning, early response; coordination, advocacy and preventive diplomacy.

Window 4: Peace Support Operations that provide timely response to complex emergencies and humanitarian needs.

**SUSTAINABILITY**

There shall be a law establishing the Peace and Security Trust Fund as an independent body that shall have the power to raise money for the Fund through voluntary subscription and donations from government agencies, private organisations and individuals. The Trust Fund through its Trustees shall have the discretion to determine appropriate allocation of funds and materials among peace building and security agencies operating across the state and its accounts will be audited and published by an external auditing firm of global standing.

**BUDGET**

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| --- | --- |
| **Items** | **Cost (Naira)** |
| Legislative processes for the enactment of the Peace and Security Fund | **N12,000,000** |
| Printing of the law | **N3,000,000** |
| Office structure | **N15,000,000** |
| Office equipment | **N15,000,000** |
| Fund-raising activities | **N15,000,000** |
| BoT salaries and allowances | **N30,000,000** |
| Staff salaries and allowances | **N10,000,000** |
| **TOTAL** | **N100,000,000** |

**MILESTONES**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Milestone#** | **Describe the Output** | **StartDate** | **End Date** | **Responsible Agency** | **Contact Person** |
| 1 | Concept Note developed | September, 2021 | September, 2021 | Plateau State Peace Building Agency | DG-PPBA |
| 2 | Action Plan developed | September, 2021 | October, 2021 | PPBA and PPPN | DG-PPBA, Chairman-PPPN, Prince Charles Dickson |
| 3 | Peace and Security Fund mobilised | October, 2021 | March, 2023 | PPBA and PPPN | DG-PPBA, Chairman-PPPN, Prince Charles Dickson |
| 4 | Plateau State Peace and Security Fund Law enacted | December, 2021 | December, 2022 | Plateau State House of Assembly (PLHA) | PPBA and PPPN |
| 5 | Board of Trustees inaugurated | January, 2023 | March, 2023 | Office of the Governor | PPBA and PPPN |
| 6 | Management and Staff appointed | January, 2023 | March, 2023 | PPBA and PPPN | DG-PPBA, Chairman-PPPN, Prince Charles Dickson |
| 7 | Office Structure Commissioned | January, 2023 | March, 2023 | Office of the Governor | Plateau State OGP POC |