

## **Initiative for Educational Awareness and Economic Development (INEAED)**

### **Statement for the**

### **29<sup>th</sup> Session of the Conference of the States Parties (CSP-29) of the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)**

Since its inception, the Initiative for Educational Awareness and Economic Development (INEAED) has served as an indigenous Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) that undertakes educational advocacy and programs while also providing humanitarian support and protection for vulnerable members of society through collaboration with international donors, stakeholders, government ministries and agencies, other local NGOs and CBOs, and others working on the same thematic areas.

Founded in 2015, INEAED was registered with Corporate Affairs on March 26, 2016. It is a non-governmental organization whose primary goal is to develop educationally conscious and socioeconomically self-sufficient parents, women, and youth in the North-East region and Nigeria as a whole by raising quality educational awareness.

The outbreak of the Boko Haram crisis in Nigeria's northeast prompted the establishment of INEAED in Borno State to raise awareness among citizens about the importance of emergency education, to increase student enrolment in schools, to empower vulnerable girls and youth, including people with disabilities, for economic resilience, and to advocate for and facilitate the establishment of Temporary Learning Centers (TLC) for IDPs, host communities, and hard-to-reach areas.

INEAED has participated in the implementation of numerous educational programs in Borno State, including the International Rescue Committees' (IRC) Opportunity to Learn (OTL) and United Nations Mine Action Services' (UNMAS) Explosive Ordinance Risk Education (EORE) project, where it has reached many communities in some Local Government Areas (LGs) in Borno State,

Nigeria. During the EORE project, communities were educated on the dangers of remnants of unexploded ordinance (UXO) and improvised explosive devices (IEDs) left over from the Boko Haram war. INEAED has made significant progress in its mission to improve the safety and security of the most vulnerable people through these programs, creating an atmosphere of awareness and strength.

INEAED and the OPCW share the goal of ensuring everyone's safety and well-being, regardless of human barriers. The OPCW has implemented policies that promote global peace, security, and the rule of law. The principles that underpin the OPCW's mission are strongly aligned with the goals of INEAED, particularly in contexts influenced by conflict-related violence. However, one of the main principles of the OPCW's mission is to promote international cooperation in the areas of education and outreach regarding the use of chemical weapons.

While the EORE program at INEAED is critical for educating communities about dangerous war remnants, this project also emphasizes the dangers of UXOs and IEDs. This allows INEAED to empower people with knowledge and a sense of community involvement in safe practices, both of which the OPCW strives to promote through education.

We strongly urge the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and other international partners to strengthen (and broaden) their support for civil society organizations like INEAED. This is critical because communities in Borno State require the ability to rebuild their lives and, despite the challenges, create a peaceful future for future generations. However, without adequate support, these efforts may fail.

Thank you.

**Comrade Bulama Abiso**  
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*NECSOB is a coalition of all the Non-Governmental Organizations, Unions, Clubs and Associations and other Trade Associations in Borno state, Nigeria.*