Expectations of Nigeria Civil Society Organisations at the Global Forum on Assets Recovery
A. Nigerian government

1. Accelerate action on the passage of pending bills – including, inter alia, the Proceeds of Crime Act (POCA) Bill – into laws in order to strengthen asset recovery framework in Nigeria. The POCA Bill would actualize the key commitment made during the London Anti-Corruption Summit in 2016 to pass legislation for, amongst other things, non-conviction based asset recovery and transparent management of repatriated assets. A national data base of all recovered assets should also be incorporated in the bill to engender transparency and accountability in the entire process.

2. Strengthen, through legislative action, the powers and autonomy of the Nigerian Financial Intelligence Unit (NFIU) so that the Unit can operate in consonance with the standards of FATF and the EGMONT group.

3. Channel all recovered assets to compensate victims of corruption so as to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

4. Work closely with CSOs to monitor the use of recovered assets through a transparent and accountable framework.

B. International Community

1. Ensure effective implementation of the commitments made to fight corruption and recover the proceeds therefrom at the: Third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, Accra (2008); Accra Agenda for Action; Fourth High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness; Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in Busan (2011) and the London Anti-Corruption Summit 2016.

2. Facilitate international cooperation to ensure full compliance with the provisions of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) 2003, particularly chapter 5 (which deals with asset recovery). Poor data availability on recovered assets at the global
level should also be addressed to provide a framework for measuring the effectiveness of assets recovery globally.

3. Enhance the capacity of CSOs to initiate the process of recovering assets in circumstances where the victim state cannot initiate such process by reason of the culpability of the incumbent government in the underlying corrupt conduct or the government’s unwillingness to act faithfully on behalf of the victim state in this regard.

C. Civil Society Organisations

1. Identify specific niche areas for advocacy within the asset recovery value chain and build capacity of non-state actors to engage in asset recovery efforts.

2. Scale up campaigns for sanctions against safe havens and illicit financial flows, including highlighting the illicit roles of banks, investment agencies, real estate agents and other third parties.

Signed by the following Nigerian CSOs participating at the Washington DC Summit

Rev David Ugolor, the Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ).
Eze Onyekpere, Centre for Social Justice (CSJ).
Auwal Ibrahim Musa, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC).
Timothy Adewole, Socio-Economic Rights & Accountability Project (SERAP).
Yusuf Shamsudeen Centre for Democracy and Development (CDD).
Olanrewaju Suraju, Human and Environmental Development Agenda (HEDA).
Blessing Ogu, Nigeria Network on Stolen Assets (NNSA).
Tijah Bolton, Policy Alert (PA).
Dr. Otiveh Igbuzor, African Centre for Leadership and Strategic Development (Centre-LSD).