



## Press statement

Abuja 21<sup>st</sup> March, 2019: **The Education in Emergencies Working Group Nigeria (EiEWGN) is pleased to thank the Federal Executive Council (FEC) led by His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, GCFR for ratifying the Safe Schools Declaration (SSD).**

The ratification, which took place yesterday March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 during the weekly FEC meeting, has now opened the door for the Nigerian government to put in place a national policy to guide the implementation of the SSD nationwide.

The Safe Schools Declaration is an intergovernmental political commitment that provides countries with the opportunity to express support for protecting students, teachers, schools, and universities from attack during times of armed conflict.

It highlights the importance of the continuation of education during armed conflict and the implementation of concrete measures to deter the military use of schools.

The Safe Schools Declaration was opened for endorsement by countries at an international conference held in Oslo, Norway, on May 28 to May 29, 2015.

We call on the federal government to follow through on this milestone approval and issue a policy statement that would guide implementation of the declaration to protect children from attacks in schools and ensure their education continues without hindrance at all times.

The EiEWGN also urges the National Assembly to put in place a law to support implementation of the policy.

The Nigerian government had expressed commitment to implement the declaration a year ago when it was signed by the Honourable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu on March 8<sup>th</sup> 2018.

Our sincere appreciations go to Honourable Minister of Education, Malam Adamu Adamu, staff of the federal ministry of education, members of the SSD subcommittee of EiEWGN and every other stakeholder who supported us thus far.

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## About Education in Emergencies Working Group Nigeria

*The Education in Emergencies Working Group (EiEWG) Nigeria brings together NGOs, UN agencies, academics, and other partners under the shared goal of ensuring predictable, well-coordinated and equitable provision of education for populations affected by humanitarian crises.*



*The EiEWG Nigeria is chaired by the Federal Ministry of Education (FMoE) or by the State Ministry of Education (SMoE) at the state levels and co-chaired by United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and Save the Children. EiEWG is a coordination forum functioning within the principles and guidelines of Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and country sectoral coordination mechanisms. It seeks to ensure that all children affected by emergencies in Nigeria receive timely, quality and at appropriate scale response to their education needs.*

*Some members of the Education in Emergencies Working Group Nigeria include Federal Ministry of Education, Save The Children, Plan International, DFID, Ministry of Defence, UNICEF, IRC, Riplington Education Initiative, Talent in Children Promotion etc.*