



An Independent Task Force for the Future of Nigeria

Over the next four decades, Nigeria's population will almost double. A huge influx of young people into the society will either be an opportunity or a threat. If they are well educated and find productive employment, they could boost the country's economy and reinvigorate the social and political spheres. If not, they could be a force for instability and social breakdown.

Next Generation Nigeria: An Independent Task Force will bring together a group of leading Nigerian public figures with an outstanding international team of economists and demographers to develop solutions to some of Nigeria's most important challenges. The Task Force will draw up a plan of action for making the most of the country's burgeoning generation of young people and enlisting their support for a more prosperous future.

The project, which has the backing of the President of Nigeria, is supported by Harvard University and sponsored by the British Council. It will:

- Increase demand across Nigerian society for policies that tap the potential of the country's young people.
- Catalyse debate among senior policy makers on how to design and deliver these policies.
- Enlist the support of Nigeria's successor generation in realizing the country's goal of being among the world's top twenty economies by 2020.

The *Next Generation* Task Force will:

- Use cutting edge economic analysis to estimate the potential demographic dividend or disaster facing Nigeria depending on policy choices made by its national and state governments.
- Offer a fresh perspective on key areas of economic and social policy, including labor markets; general health; gender, fertility, and reproductive health; education; governance; and environmental policy. The analyses will also inform new approaches to issues such as urbanization, migration, and conflict prevention.
- Map different scenarios for Nigeria in 2020, showing the radical differences in future social and economic performance that will result from the interaction of demographic factors with various policy environments.

Nigeria has the potential to experience a substantial demographic dividend over the next 50 years, but only if its leaders adopt policies that make the most of their young people. *Next Generation Nigeria* is an opportunity to set the country on the right road.