

**WELCOME ADDRESS ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT BY THE RESEARCH TEAM OF BOSTON UNIVERSITY
CENTER FOR GLOBAL HEALTH & DEVELOPMENT, USA PRESENTED BY THE CHAIRMAN/CEO, AFRICAN
CENTRE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT & ENVIRONMENT (ACERDEN), PROF. DANIEL S. UGWU ON 14TH
JULY, 2015.**

The Team Leader, Boston University Research Team,
All Research Team Members,
ACERDEN Board members here present
ACERDEN Staff
Ladies & Gentlemen

We are delighted to have you in our office today as scheduled. We are happy that you had a safe travel to Enugu, Nigeria. It was on 8th June, 2015 that we received an e-mail from the Boston University Centre for Global Health & Development seeking collaborate with our organization, the African Centre for Rural Development & Environment (ACERDEN). We understand that your initial visit is to undertake a study of organizational development to be conducted by the Measuring Organization Development and Effectiveness (MODE) research team which you are representing. We are grateful to the Center for Global Health & Development for including us in the sample of NGOs in Nigeria for this important study.

The African Centre for Rural Development & Environment (ACERDEN) is a non-profit, non-governmental and non-political organization with headquarter in Enugu. Nigeria. The organization was established in 1996 and got formally registered as a legal entity with the Corporate Affairs Commission in 1996. ACERDEN envisions an egalitarian society without poverty, hunger, disease and all forms of social and human deprivations. The programme focus include agriculture, nutrition and food security, poverty reduction, environment, water and sanitation, community development, healthcare and HIV/AIDS, woman and youth development, child protection and welfare, education/literacy as well as governance and democracy. ACERDEN essentially target the poor, woman and children especially orphans and vulnerable children (OVC) and other marginalized groups in our society. We have operated effectively for about eighteen (18) years in Nigeria with a good number of donor supports in pursuit of our goals.

However, I wish to state the despite our achievement in the past years, we have our areas of weakness and limitations. Thus this capacity assessment study by your team is, quite apt and we stand to gain so much from it and we need it. We strongly believe that this study will help us to know where we are in the performance scale as well as where we are going. It will also help us to identify the factors that limit and/or hinder our growth linkage between us and our development partners. With your technical assistance to our organization and linkage with a number of development partners such as UNICEF, pact Nigeria, etc, we will be well positioned to achieve our mandate and goals.

Once more accept our warm welcome to our office environment and enjoy your working hours with us as you interact with our staff.

Thanks a million for listening!