



## PEOPLES AGM STATEMENT AT THE AFRICA CLIMATE SUMMIT

### AFRICAN GOVERNMENT MUST UNITE TO HOLD BIG POLLUTERS ACCOUNTABLE

The World will gather in Nairobi, Kenya from 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 for the Africa Climate Summit and the Africa Climate Week. Ordinarily, the Summit ought to be dominated by Africans and the outcome should reflect solutions to the peculiar challenges affecting the African continent. Already, the Summit has attracted mixed reactions from climate justice activists concerning the dominance by the Global North.

The devastating impact of oil and gas extraction is felt more by African countries. Today, the Niger Delta region and other areas where fossil fuel extraction is taking place are highly polluted, no thanks to the operations of Shell and other multinational oil companies, leaving the people with sorrow, tears and blood, as their environment and livelihood have been badly affected. Around the world, there is clear evidence of irreversible damage to the planet, the loss of homelands and the people's livelihood sources, cultures, ecosystems, and more. And it is the communities around the world that have contributed the very least to climate change that are paying the highest price. Yet this year has already seen companies and governments increasing their oil and gas production plans, and issuing new permits, against the science and the interests of humanity.

The People's AGM Platform, established in May 2022 in Lagos, Nigeria, by leaders of community-based organizations from oil-affected communities including the Niger Delta region, faith-based organizations, human rights groups, students, youths, and artisans have therefore agreed on some specific recommendations ahead of the Africa Climate Summit. The following recommendations have been agreed on in alliance with climate justice activists across Africa.

#### **We call on African governments to:**

- Reject the crave for new oil and gas in Africa to meet the gas shortage in Europe arising from the Russia invasion of Ukraine.
- Introduce and enforce laws to stop oil and gas companies from expanding as this expansion will not support the transition process to renewable energy.
- End fossil fuel subsidies, and instead tax oil and gas companies to provide money for communities' renewable driven programs.
- Reject the notion that gas is a transition fuel and call on investors from the global North to invest on Renewable energy technologies instead of dirty energy projects.
- End gas flaring and clean up the entire Niger Delta region of Nigeria.
- Enforce sanctions on all erring companies and ensure adequate compensation is paid to the people for the damaged environment.

#### **We call on the Global North to:**

- Offer significant financing for loss and damages for the people of Niger Delta and other host communities and countries affected by the negative impact of fossil fuel extraction and climate change.
- Introduce and enforce clear rules and regulations to change the behaviour of companies and investors based in your territory.

**We call on investors in oil and gas companies to,**

- Agree to participate in a fact-finding mission to the Niger Delta region of Nigeria in collaboration with civil society actors to witness the true impact on communities of oil company operations in the Niger Delta
- Stop lending moral and financial support to companies that are expanding oil and gas production in defiance of the Paris Agreement
- Stop promoting flawed “nature-based solutions” for “offsetting” carbon emissions - many of which amount to new carbon colonialism.
- Follow the noble example of the Church of England Pension Board and stop financing oil and gas companies.

**International financial institutions**

- We call on international financial institutions including African Development Bank, The World Bank and Export Credit agencies to discontinue financing fossil fuel projects in Africa.

**Signatories**

1. Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice, ANEEJ,
2. Environmental Rights Action Friends of the Earth Nigeria (ERA/FoEN)
3. Community Development Advocacy Foundation (CODAF)
4. New Apostolic Centre for Development, NCD
5. Procurement Observation and Advocacy Initiative
6. Voice of The Vulnerable
7. Green Concern for Development
8. AbibiNsroma Foundation (ANF)
9. Leadership Initiative for Transformation and Empowerment (LITE-Africa)
10. Kebetkache Women Development and Resource Centre
11. African Indigenous Foundation for Energy and Sustainable Development, AIFES
12. Ogoni Solidarity Forum
13. Oil Watch International
14. Foundation for Environmental Rights, Advocacy & Development (FENRAD) Nigeria
15. Christian Fellowship and Care Foundation
16. Socio Economic Research and Development Centre (SERDEC)
17. New Initiative for Social Development (NISD)
18. Policy Alert
19. We The People
20. Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa
21. Women Initiative for Climate Change
22. League of Queens International Empowerment
23. Gbogbia Feefeelo of K-Dere

24. Rural Health and Women Development
25. Transparency and Economic Development Initiative (TEDI)
26. Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development.
27. Action for Community Participation
28. Community Law Centre
29. Community Heritage Watch for Development initiatives
30. Civil Empowerment and Rule of Law Support Initiative, (CERLSI)
31. Bayelsa NGOs Forum
32. Josemaria Escriva Foundation
33. International Peace and Civic Responsibility Centre (IPCRC)
34. Caring Hearts Initiative for Advocacy Development and Empowerment (CHIADE)
35. Community Empowerment and Development Initiative
36. Take a Cue Development Initiative (TACDI)
37. Keep Hope Alive Community Development Initiative
38. Society for Empowered Youth Development
39. Development Initiators
40. Global initiative for Citizens Advocacy and Representation (GICAR)
41. Women Youths and Children Advancement Program
42. Oghara Centre for Social Justice
43. Dandalin Matasa Initiative for Rapid Development
44. NGO Network
45. Justice Development and Peace Centre, Benin City
46. Niger Delta Youth Council
47. Center for Peace & Environmental Justice (CEPEJ)
48. Niger Delta Alliance for Democracy
49. African Centre for Leadership, Strategy and Development
50. Indomitable Youths Organization
51. Society for Women and Youths Affairs (SWAYA)
52. Millennium Development Centre Gusau
53. Mangrove Forest Conservation Society of Nigeria (MFCSN)
54. Community Outreach for Development and Welfare Advocacy (CODWA)
55. Publish What You Pay (PWYP), Nigeria
56. Development Action for Humanity (DAH)
57. Gender and Development Action (GADA)
58. Connected Advocacy for Empowerment and Youth Development Initiative