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Communiqué issued at the end of the Nigeria Resource Justice Conference organized by Social Action and Corporate Accountability and Public Participation Africa supported by Développement et Paix and Rosa Luxemburg Foundation held in Rock-view Hotel, Abuja, Nigeria on Monday, 18th December 2023.

In a strategic move to dissect what appears to be a mixed bag of texts at COP28 on conclusions relating climate finance, just transition, adaptation, loss and damage and global stock take, NRJC, SA and CAPPA assembled a pool of critical state actors, climate change advocates and experts, international development partners, civil society organizations, academics, and the media.

The convergence x-rayed the outcomes of COP28 and interrogated cross cutting issues with a view to formulating engagement strategies for civil society organizations, determine the effectiveness or otherwise of Nigeria's climate change policies and governance structure in line with emerging realities and activate the urgency for green and inclusive transitioning amidst global considerations and priorities.

After rounds of heightened deliberations participants were unanimous in the following observations:

1. Nigeria is not exempted from the escalating climate crises confronting Africa despite the insignificant contribution of the region to global emission instigating conflicts, environmental degradation, and social insecurity.
2. That impacts of climate change in Nigeria is multi-faceted hence the need for a balanced overview and policy responses that will consider peculiarities.
3. Against opinions in some quarters, the impact of climate change is noticeable, progressive, and distortive has seen by the shrinking of the Sahel, the lake Chad basin and flooding down the southern part of the country.
4. Though voluntary, historical conversations around emissions cut by nations have remained non-binding, self-determined and largely insensitive to the quest for justice as enshrined in the Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR) principle.
5. The climate crisis we are in requires urgent, pragmatic, coordinated, and a complete overhaul of the policy response mechanisms.
6. That COP28, despite its political correctness and relevance failed to deliver on pro people adoptions on Loss and Damage Fund, Just Transitioning mechanism and clear strategies to end fossil dependency and energy poverty.



7. That the outcomes of COP28 remains at variance with the plights and realities of front-line communities in Nigeria as efforts to cut emission at source were blatantly disregard of. advancement of languages that further outs them into boldly considered.
8. Processes and procedures continue to hinder access of vulnerable countries to climate finance and other funding facilities earmarked for climate actions.
9. That though financial and technical aids will address historical infractions, climate action must be broadened to prevent ongoing and imminent infractions leveraging shared expertise and experience.
10. That the wish of African leaders to demand immediate liquidity otherwise referred to as quick cash over historical liabilities and trade off natural assets including oceans and forest for carbon sinks will further induce climate crises and promote eco-capitalism.
11. That Just Transition is inevitable, but modalities, means and methods are not hence the need for concrete and inclusive policy formulation to deliver on the desired outcomes.
12. That the end of fossil fuel dependency has come hence the need for a clearly defined national transitory strategy open and transparent to all.
13. That there is a widening disconnection between government climate change policies and the supposed beneficiaries of these policies.
14. The phrase “particularly vulnerable” used in the final text of the now operationalized Loss and Damage Fund is vague and gives room for sustained manipulation.
15. That opportunities in climate finance abounds but policy environment must be tidied and broadened for maximum access and use.

Recommendations:

1. To achieve the deliverables of the Nationally Determined Contributions, the policy must be independent of foreign influences and seen to adequately convey the realities of frontline communities.
2. There is a need to create alternative convergence comprised of civil society organizations, frontline communities, the media, and academics to advance the interests of the collective.
3. Considerations and policy formulation for just transition must be expanded beyond the singular interests of organized labor, it must cover the informal, the marginalized and the often-unheard voices from the frontline communities.



4. There is a need for comprehensive, scientific, and apolitical template that will allow measurement and demand for commensurate compensation as expected in the quest for Loss and Damage Fund. Such must address both economic and non-economic losses.
5. That the conversations on climate change be extended to sub-nationals and local government levels as against the absolute emphasis accorded it by the federal government.
6. Regionally Governments and bodies such as AU and ECOWAS must invest in internal capacity and staff expertise to facilitate access to negotiations such as the United Nation's Development Program voluntary bilateral cooperation.
7. That Government should commit internal budgetary provisions for climate finance rather than absolute reliance on foreign charity and goodwill from the Global North.
8. There is need to localize adaptation strategies and accommodate women voices in our use and re use of natural assets including water, soil, environment and the general ecosystem.
9. That the civil society organizations including the media must leverage their social relevance and obligation to enforce governance ideals and amplify the concerns of the vulnerable as it relates to climate justice.
10. Civil society organizations must be abreast on the global conversations on climate change, have sustained engagement with the frontlines for adequate representation and the advancement of the position of the collective.
11. There is a need for convergence between the just transition movement, the environmental justice movement, and the political space to have a chance at rights agitation, expression and the enforcement of shared ideals and fundamentals.
12. There is a need to simplify reporting and feedback of high-level policies including the Nationally Determined Contributions NDC, Just Energy Transition and the National Climate Change Act on the premise of engagement and sustained outreach.
13. There is a need for paradigm shift and a common rallying point in CSOs reactions and responses to climate change and its corresponding impacts. Social trust is needed to answer the accompanying questions on ownership.
14. That CSOs must push for the amendment of the NEMA Act to address and ensure that development accommodates the stretch and impacts of climate change.



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15. There is a need for serious interrogation on the management and use of ecological fund.
16. There is need for specificity in the shared concerns. Peculiarities must be accommodated in the response to climate crises.
17. Local expertise and indigenous technology must be leveraged in mitigation and adaptation measures.

Signed:

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