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THE YOUTH MANIFESTO ON CLIMATE CHANGE 2023

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Special thanks to the countless Nigerian youth that have taken the initiative to lead on issues of climate change and the environment through projects, campaigns and public engagements with local and international stakeholders to drive climate action at different scales.

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ENDORSEMENTS

The Youth Manifesto on Climate Change is endorsed by the following entities



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Nigeria is one of the countries most susceptible¹ to climate change because of its rising population, weak resilience and low adaptive capacity. This is further compounded by the dependence of Nigeria's economy on climate-sensitive ecosystems and natural resources such as agriculture and fossil fuel extraction. Since 2012, several coastal areas in Nigeria have witnessed massive floods caused by climate change. Each year, hundreds of communities are inundated by over two meters of flood water that destroy farmlands², wash away buildings, and increase poverty levels. These aggravates the rising desert encroachment crisis where an approximate 40 million people live in the areas most affected by desertification in Nigeria. Ironically, these parts also account for a significant share of the food produced in the country. The result has been a new wave of food security challenges³, and other emerging threats including conflicts over resource use, hunger, migration, and poverty. In Nigeria, as in most countries of the world, the most vulnerable communities are most affected by the numerous deprivation and resource scarcity already brought on by climate change. These deprivations exist in sectors such as agriculture, education, energy, health, finance, infrastructure, water, waste management, natural resources, and biodiversity.

Recognizing the negative effects of climate change on Nigeria, our cities, and our citizens, we therefore, urge our Government at all levels to recognize the magnitude of the climate crisis faced by Nigerians especially its impact on the younger generation and therefore, collaborate with young people, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and enterprises to mobilize, support, promote, and/or implement sustainable and impactful multi-level climate adaptation measures across the country.

Nigeria has one of the largest youth populations globally⁴; thus, as representatives of the younger generation and based on the global principle of inclusion, we firmly believe that it is critical and timely to integrate youth voices into all aspects and levels of climate change policymaking, decision-making, budgeting, and programming across the country. Due to the demographic dividend we enjoy and the power of our collective voice, we represent the next generation which stands to lose their future and the current generation of young leaders that have the power to bring about profound change. In light of this, we present this Youth Manifesto on Climate Change in Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY & STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The Youth Manifesto has the following objectives:

- Set forth a number of demands that are mission critical to ensuring structural and institutional change to addressing the climate crisis in Nigeria from a youth perspective.
- Encourage the Nigerian government to devise strategies and invest in programs and initiatives aimed at reducing the impact of the climate crisis, and steer Nigeria's economic lens towards a low-carbon development economy.
- Promote participation and inclusion of youths in government-led initiatives to bridge inclusion gaps and provide opportunities for them to influence decision-making.
- Encourage government and stakeholders to lead on climate by designing local solutions to a global threat.
- Reinforce the need to prioritize key social, environmental and economic sectors and shape youth voices through this set of demands as areas of priority that must be addressed.

This manifesto was developed through a contributory and consultative process with frontline youth climate campaigners and activists from the following states: Lagos, Kano, Edo, Benue, Borno, Kwara, Kaduna, Plateau, Rivers, Nasarawa, Imo, Sokoto, Bayelsa, Ekiti, Ondo, Kogi, Akwa Ibom, Jigawa, Adamawa, Niger and Abuja-FCT led by Surge Africa Organisation.

The Manifesto also recognised and interrogated national and international policy documents and agreements including the National Climate Change Policy for Nigeria 2021, the Revised Nigeria Nationally Determined Contribution Plan, Climate Change and Gender Action Plan, the Nigeria Energy Transition Plan (ETP), Nigeria's Top 10 Net Zero and Economic Growth Measures and the Paris Agreement. This process included peer review by several vested individuals spread across the country, as well as an expert review process to validate the quality and originality of the Manifesto.

CRUCIAL DEMAND FROM NIGERIAN YOUTH

To advance climate development and disaster risk reduction specifically as it relates to adaptation and resilience, energy, climate finance, urban sustainability, agriculture, climate education, transportation, water, health, and waste management. These action points must be integrated with Nigeria's development vision and other national and international development goals and policies.

AGRICULTURE & FOOD SECURITY

The food and agriculture sector has been declining in the past years and between 2020 to 2022 crop production was reported to have declined by 47.2%⁵ Some key reasons for this decline are socioeconomic factors like insecurity, lack of adequate extension services, inflation, and the low adaptive capacity of farmers to respond to environmental changes, among others.

Impacts of droughts, flooding and post-harvest losses have led to large deficits between supply and demand for major food items⁶ in the country. According to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), about 14.4 million Nigerians are facing a food crisis⁷. According to the Nigerian Bureau of Statistics (NBS), the food inflation rate in March 2023 was 24.45 per cent on a year-on-year basis; which was 7.25% points higher compared to the rate recorded in March 2022 (17.20%).⁸ Therefore, Nigeria must re-evaluate its food systems and value chains to attain food security in a fragile ecosystem that is threatened by climate change.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Key institutions such as the Federal Ministry of Agriculture must work with intersecting agencies like Finance and Environment Ministries to fund and support more vulnerable small-scale farmers to adapt their farming practices and increase food distribution across the country.
2. Governments at all levels must put agriculture and food security at the heart of their agenda to secure a safe food system that provides healthy, nutritious food and increase investment in agriculture in line with the international benchmark (Maputo/Malabo Declaration) for budgetary allocation to the agriculture sector to 10% of total annual budget.
3. Must address the linkages of insecurity to agriculture and implement effective measures to reduce the farmers-herders clashes that have impeded food security in Nigeria.
4. Work with youth-led organisations to localise climate change education and potential impacts for farmers, specifically for the Nigerian Meteorological Agency to send early, timely and localized weather forecasts and reports to aid farmers in decision-making and managing the risks.
5. Promote sustainable farm systems and practices that sustain food production and biodiversity restoration like agroecology, organic farm systems, multiple cropping, integrated farming, etc.
6. Create systems and infrastructure that caters for the reduction of postharvest loss and enhances food exportation through investments in efficient and effective storage and processing facilities, and transportation and distribution systems of agricultural produce.
7. Government must involve young people in policy dialogues and discussions at the local and national levels either as part of local development meetings, advisory groups, or on the board of committees as young people are known for their innovation and constitute the larger population and should be involved in decisions that impact their lives and wellbeing.
8. Relevant authorities and key stakeholders must deliberately upscale and integrate climate adaptation and mitigation systems into existing traditional agriculture practices across the value chains
9. Subsidise farm inputs and other farming-related items to improve resilience in this space by ensuring that farmers can get their inputs at affordable prices

ENERGY ACCESS

Nigeria is extremely energy poor because of its high demand and lack of a well-established energy supply chain. The Rural Electrification Agency (REA) estimated that nearly 90 million Nigerians did not have access to grid electricity in 2020,⁹ which is about 49% of Nigeria's population, while millions of those connected to the grid have less than 12 hours of power per day. Nigeria has enormous renewable resources sufficient to cover all its energy needs. However, the lack of infrastructure and economic development has led it to be the country with the greatest energy deficit in 2021.

There is a need to decentralise and diversify the nation's energy mix to meet present and future needs by investing in alternative sources of energy including solar, wind, hydropower and biomass with less environmental and climatic impacts. Studies show that Nigeria has tremendous solar power potential which when effectively harnessed¹⁰ can provide sufficient energy for the Nation.¹¹ Renewable energy has the potential to enhance the productivity of the vast economic sectors of the Nigerian economy and improve the social livelihoods of communities. Investment in alternative energy will also reduce Nigeria's age-long dependence on natural gas and its attendant environmental issues.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Ensure youth inclusion in policy planning and decision-making processes, including consultation for the implementation of Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan.
2. Repurpose current fuel subsidies for investment in renewable energies and subsidise the cost of solar panels to ensure their affordability and accessibility to the masses.
3. Launch investment programs and schemes that aid capacity building and training for youths and women to increase manpower in the renewable energy sector, support local entrepreneurs to build green businesses and solutions, and scale off-grid energy access to communities, homes and businesses - especially in remote parts of the country.
4. Address the issue of overbilling/excess billing generated by estimated billing methods used by PHCN for households/customers who do not have access and cannot use pre-paid meters for complex reasons.
5. Initiate strategic transition of high-emission sectors such as electricity, transport, urban mobility, and other high-emitting industries while striving to improve research, innovation and resilience in the energy sector.
6. Collaborate with governments at all levels to build infrastructure that enables the technology transfer of clean energy and the adoption of new energy systems.
7. Promote the scale-up of locally incubated clean cooking solutions in grassroots communities to reduce risks of forests burning for charcoal exportation.
8. Remove high import duties, excess levies, and Value Added Tax (VAT) on renewable energy technologies to encourage the private sector to enhance energy access throughout the country.
9. Create a framework that enables phase out of oil and gas production, taking into account the complexity of Nigeria's economy to devise pathways that ensure a stable, sustainable and credible renewable energy infrastructure will replace the current energy system.
10. Encourage the adoption of energy management systems that enables real-time monitoring of energy consumption to help identify energy-saving opportunities, track progress and promote energy-conscious behaviour among individuals and organisations.
11. Establish a centralised data management framework to track energy projects and assess power development.

HEALTH

Nigeria is in a state of poor health systems and services coupled with a lack of flow of financial revenue to remediate urgent issues affecting health systems whether at a local or national level. Health infrastructures such as hospitals, research centres, and health practitioners lack resources, innovation and the readiness to respond to the rapid environmental and social threats prompted by the climate crises through disasters like flooding, drought, heat waves and so on.¹²

With a massive brain drain in the healthcare workforce and the Covid-19 pandemic, service delivery and expertise in our public healthcare system are at an all-time low.¹³ More worrisome are the health and environmental impacts of the extractive industries that pose tremendous and almost irrecoverable impacts on the Youth and Communities. To achieve the health-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), governments at all levels must expand their health budgets to effectively cater to the welfare of healthcare personnel and provide functional healthcare facilities that incorporate efficient decentralised and renewable energy solutions.

CALL TO ACTION

- 1.Reduce health-related carbon footprint by increasing the capacity to manufacture essential drugs, vaccines and consumables locally by pooling funds for such measures and investing in local ideas by designing a framework to support innovative thinking.
- 2.Revive, prioritise and resource primary healthcare services through rapid scale-up and investments, and conduct capacity building on integrating climate change into the health sector for health sector agencies.
- 3.Build and strengthen health services and its systemic infrastructure to become an entity where health issues are effectively addressed with urgency and efficiency.
- 4.Promote low-carbon procurement policies for pharmaceuticals and medical equipment to advance energy access and technology use in the health sector, and provide clean and reliable water sources and green energy for healthcare centres.
- 5.Constitute health vanguards that would champion health, safety and environmental consciousness to advance disaster risk reduction against outbreaks and pandemics including climate change-related diseases.
- 6.Prioritise conducting Environmental Impact Assessments before administering extractive licences and permits for artisanal mining, and ensure effective monitoring of extraction activities to comply with the necessary extractive and environmental regulations.
- 7.A national medical emergency response plan should be developed and decentralised to states and local governments in Nigeria.
- 8.Initiate public-private partnerships agreement to provide healthcare infrastructures and services, as well as investments to improve the working conditions, boost training and deployment and retention of health workers in public healthcare systems.
- 9.Follow through with the African Union's commitment to allocate a 15% annual budget to the health sector and the WHO's threshold density of 4.45 health workers per 1000 people to deliver essential health services and achieve universal health coverage.
- 10.Ensure timely and complete disbursement of funds such as the Basic Healthcare Provision Fund for health services such as immunisation, health security, essential drugs, ambulance services and healthcare workforce salaries and gratuity.

TRANSPORTATION

The transportation system in Nigeria poses a huge challenge to safety and mobility, with few cities having modern highways and advanced traffic management systems. There's a high crime rate on roads and a very inefficient and expensive alternative means of transportation.¹⁴ Nigerian vehicles emitted 1.49 trillion tons of CO2 between 2000 and 2016. Under a business-as-usual (BAU) scenario, with an almost universal reliance on the road network for the transportation of passengers and freight in the country, greenhouse gas emissions from the transport sector could increase by up to 50% by 2035 and almost double by 2050.¹⁵

Railway networks across the country are scanty and mostly nonfunctional, widening the margin of inter-state travel and affordable transport. Considering mobility needs, economic growth, rapid urbanisation and population increase, there's a great need to invest in transportation infrastructure, make public services affordable and safe, and regulate alternative industries like the aviation sector for its inefficacy.

CALL TO ACTION

- 1.State governments to develop a comprehensive transportation structure that integrates bus rapid transit, light rails and waterways freight, and other non-motorised transportation like safe walking, cycling and parking infrastructures.
- 2.Make transportation systems inclusive, accessible and safe with information, communication, measures and equipment that aid usage for vulnerable groups like persons with disabilities and the elderly.
- 3.Promote the use of sustainable transportation options that are accessible to persons with disabilities. This includes investing in accessible public transit systems, promoting the use of low-emission vehicles such as EV and CNG-powered vehicles with accessibility features, and expanding networks of accessible pedestrian and cycling paths (for wheelchair users).
- 4.The Federal Ministry of Transportation must work with State governments and other stakeholders to coordinate risk assessment and response plans to aid the development of climate-resilient transportation infrastructure.
- 5.Develop and implement active policies on vehicle importation and emission standards, and place a ban on imports of high-emitting vehicles and those that have exceeded their economic lifespan
- 6.Revitalise the steel and manufacturing industry and invest in training young Nigerians to build, assemble and repair vehicles.
- 7.Governments at all levels must invest in the transportation sector and create a conducive business environment to attract investments in the sector, this could take the form of public-private partnerships to finance, build and operate projects.
- 8.Work with city and urban planners to develop and implement urban plans that ensure a modal shift toward public transit and non-motorized transportation modes while avoiding new construction in flood-prone zones.
- 9.Follow through with the Energy Transition Plan for deep decarbonization strategy to decrease transportation emissions by 97% due to the uptake of Electric vehicles (EV) in the passenger car segment.
- 10.Invest in infrastructure and technology that promotes green-powered transportation and renewable energy, and move away from a fossil-fueled transportation system.

URBAN SUSTAINABILITY

Urban growth in Nigeria has risen consistently above 2% per annum, whereby in 2019 an estimated 51.16% of Nigeria's total population lived in urban areas.¹⁶ The disproportionate growth of population and built-up areas in metropolitan regions has led to an unprecedented urban expansion leading to the need for robust landscape planning and efficient urban management. Many cities in Nigeria struggle with the urban heat island effect,¹⁷ over-pollution of air, land and water, price hiking,¹⁸ increased social stress and economic competition, and inadequate infrastructure and housing.¹⁹ This extends to erratic sprawl of economic activities on public spaces, urban violence, waste management problems, poor access to basic infrastructure and services, and a decrease in the overall quality of life in urban households.²⁰ As the population increases at a rapid scale, the urban population will triple in the coming decade, thereby posing serious social, economic, and environmental challenges. Without appropriate planning, design, and investment in the development of urban sustainability, a growing number of people will continue to face unprecedented negative impacts, not only of climate change but also of reduced economic growth, quality of life, and increased social instability.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Build and strengthen the capacity of MDAs responsible for urban planning and development on promoting climate resilient cities, extending to establishing green spaces in urban centres to mitigate the impact of urban heat island.
2. Implement affordable and climate-smart mass housing schemes for middle and low-income classes that have all necessary social infrastructures such as good networks of roads, centralised water systems, rain-harvesting roofs, solar panel street lights and power distribution.
3. Sub-national governments must make cities smarter and more resilient to natural disasters and extreme weather events by developing climate action plans that address sectoral and cross-sectoral issues, especially in the areas of waste management, mobility, building, city management, health and safety, energy, and production among others.
4. Invest and promote urban and peri-urban agriculture programs to ensure food sufficiency and sustainability in urban areas as well as provide job opportunities for the Youth.
5. Work with financial institutions to design and provide financial protection for people and businesses at risk of climate change.
6. Sub-national governments must invest in developing rural areas and provide essential services and economic opportunities for the youth to reduce the scourge of urbanisation.
7. Work with the National and State Disaster Management Agencies to roll out community-based participatory Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) management programs, followed by conducting disaster and risk assessments to identify danger spots susceptible to flooding; working with the youths to conduct awareness campaigns to sensitise residents on the dangers of building in flood-prone areas, as well as enforcement of policies to curb such development.
8. Introduce a nationwide adoption and integration of geoinformation system technology into urban planning, and disaster management to promote urban climate resilience and sustainability
9. Increase surveillance for safety and security measures, and provide safe spaces for women and children, and other vulnerable groups to seek refuge.
10. Execute viable spatial planning to control the construction of homes and infrastructures on flood-prone areas such as river banks, wetlands and low-lying areas, and ensure the construction of efficient stormwater and drainage systems.
11. Development partners should support governments at all levels to provide technical assistance in developing viable Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) management programs including implementing risk analytics, the development of financial strategy, instrument design and policy advice.

WATER

More than 60 million people in Nigeria do not have access to basic clean water supply and climate change is increasing pressure on water resources that are already overstretched due to inadequate infrastructures, poor water management, and insufficient government funding.²¹ Climate change impacts water availability for household use, agricultural and energy production as well as biodiversity. The projected global warming-induced change in air temperature over Nigeria could bring about a 20% reduction in annual rainfall in the country. Groundwater recharge could also be reduced by up to 20% due to climate change. Water bodies in arid and semi-arid parts of the country that provide fresh water for consumption and other socio-economic activities will be severely affected.²²

A decline in water availability will result in increasing aridity in drylands,²³ frequent flooding already contaminates freshwater sources, destroying livelihoods and essential Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Infrastructure (WASH), and leading to disease outbreaks. According to reports, more than 7.7 million people in 32 of the 36 states were impacted in the last 10 years.²⁴ While millions of Nigerians are struggling to survive in the face of increased pressure on diminishing natural resources including a huge decline in fish production, and the reduction in livestock. Ensuring water security and protecting our water sources, rivers and oceans from plastic pollution and the ravages of climate change is paramount to achieving universal health, reducing poverty and increasing economic prosperity while preserving marine ecosystems and protecting water bodies.

CALL TO ACTION

1. The Government should Follow through with the implementation of the National Action Plan for the Revitalisation of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene sector (NAP).
2. Embark on hard infrastructural solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation to hold excess water, riverbank protection, construction of levees and spillways, appropriate drainage systems and stormwater management regimes, and dredging of some of the major rivers in Nigeria.
3. The Government should strengthen regulatory, governance and institutional capacity in the area of spatial planning, regional cooperation on transboundary water resources management, emergency response time, flood prediction, and enforcement of environmental and spatial planning laws.
4. The Government should initiate schemes and programs to increase investment in the provision of decentralised, renewable-energy powered and climate-resilient water infrastructures that provide clean and affordable water access to Nigerians.
5. Conduct risk assessments and develop comprehensive flood action plans for mitigating and adapting to the impacts of flooding and provide shelter and other assistance to communities impacted by the flood and for relocation and resettlements.
6. Encourage the use of climate-smart irrigation systems, smart metering and multipurpose water supply ducts to manage water resources and help communities monitor water levels so they can prepare for shortages.

7. Ensure that extractive industries, artisanal miners and other industries comply with relevant policies and regulations in the access and use of water supply, mandating that they desist from dumping and releasing hazardous chemicals and materials into water bodies and the environment.

8. Put measures in place to curb plastic pollution, end open defecation, stop illegal fishing, and put an end to oil spillage. Laws and regulations should be formulated to protect businesses across the plastics recycling value chain and ease their transition into more sustainable production practices.

9. Scale up regional and international cooperation in the governance of river basins in the country and create awareness of the importance of doing so to inspire similar actions. Sub-national governments must create marine and other water bodies protected areas to reduce biodiversity loss and health problems from consuming polluted water.

10. Invest in local anticipatory actions, emergency preparedness and camp coordination, a people-centred approach and improved access to financing for communities and local stakeholders who are at the forefront of climate change.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Waste management practices in Nigeria have a significant impact on the country's climate, with over 32 million MT of annual waste generation, waste management accounts for 5% of global greenhouse gases.²⁵ Poor waste management releases greenhouse gasses, such as methane and carbon dioxide, from decomposing waste in landfills. This contributes to global warming and climate change. Additionally, the burning of waste, which is a common practice in Nigeria, releases harmful pollutants into the air that can have negative impacts on air quality and human health.

Some key reasons for improper waste management in Nigeria include a lack of awareness of proper sanitation, poor funding and investment, weak legislation and coordination, and a lack of personnel and infrastructure. To address this challenge, Nigeria must have an effective waste management structure that will ensure the protection of humans and the ecosystem, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, as well as recover valuable resources and provide job opportunities.²⁶

CALL TO ACTION

1. Prioritise proper sanitation by allocating more funds to relevant ministries, departments and agencies responsible for waste management to train and equip its personnel and acquire the much-needed facilities such as waste resource sites and Geo-information systems for improved waste management that will reduce carbon emissions.
2. Decentralise the current waste management structures and institutions to recognise and incorporate the existing network of informal waste workers for better collection and handling of waste, especially from hard-to-reach areas and informal settlements. As well as ease and remove entry barriers for private sector investment in the waste sector to allow for more players at various levels in the waste sector.
3. Must design and initiate viable waste management frameworks that target segregation at source, provide waste and recycling bins with regular collection in public areas and mandate public and private institutions to incorporate recycling schemes in their business and spaces.
4. Mandate local and foreign manufacturers to key into the Extended Producer Responsibility Act to reduce indiscriminate production, incentivize recycling firms to aid recovery of waste, and support green businesses and relevant government agencies in the drive for a circular economy.
5. Urgently transform the current linear landfill system to a circular economy system that provides structures and encourages changes in consumers' behavioural patterns to reduce, reuse and recycle wastes.
6. Provide technical and financial support in the design and construction of engineered landfill systems and invest in waste management initiatives aimed at waste reduction and recovery through recycling, upcycling, waste-to-energy, and other green businesses.
7. Sponsor Nigerian educational institutions and CSOs to conduct research and build innovations and technologies for effective management and conversion of waste to energy, including software applications that monitor waste build-up and pick-up.
8. Collaborate with CSOs and government at all levels to embark on sustained nationwide campaigns to promote sanitation culture, and improve communication mechanisms for citizens to report cases of littering, uncollected wastes, blocked drainages, open dumps etc.
9. The Federal and State Ministries of Environment through its agencies responsible for environmental assessments must monitor and promptly announce air quality levels especially when these levels will adversely impact the health of citizens.
10. Continuously check local industries both in the rural and urban areas that emit pollutants and GreenHouse Gases and ensure that they comply with the stated emission guidelines.

ADAPATATION & RESILEINCE

Nigeria has developed several policies, strategies, plans and actions to key into the global adaptation goal to enhance adaptive capacity, strengthen resilience and reduce vulnerabilities associated with climate change, despite being the 6th least-ready country on adapting to climate change.²⁷

According to the UNFCCC,²⁸ successful adaptation not only depends on governments but also on the active and sustained engagement of stakeholders, including local communities, national, regional, multilateral and international organisations, public and private sectors, civil society and other relevant actors, as well as effective management of knowledge.²⁹ Thus, the Nigerian government must develop and implement adaptation and resilience strategies that are comprehensive and articulated in a way that recognises the varying needs and vulnerability of all sections of society.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Local and state governments should establish focal points to coordinate and mainstream climate change adaptation into all existing and new development policies, plans and programs.
2. Implement adaptive social protection mechanisms such as cash transfer programs to scale up responses of poor and vulnerable households to extreme weather events such as floods, and droughts.
3. Support governments at all levels to ensure that high-vulnerability populations have the financial, technical, and institutional resources they need to adapt to climate change.
4. Fund research institutions to uncover locally-driven practices to aid climate adaptation efforts while improving locally-led policies that reduce vulnerability and increase the resilience and adaptation capacity of all economic sectors and all people, especially vulnerable groups such as children, women and Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).
5. Create a seat for young people in the sectoral governance of NAP for Nigeria and constitute an Adaptation Youth working group to strengthen the capacity of young people to champion and support adaptation projects and aid the implementation of national policies - applying gender and social perspectives to the issues.
6. Initiate measures to channel investment and finance towards, addressing the youth-led adaptation priorities, and losses and damages being witnessed across the country.
7. Private sectors must transition to green supply chains, logistics, and equipment of real sector companies as well as reduce their waste and energy consumption.
8. Collaborate with all levels of government to plan and implement a national disaster risk finance strategy to promote proactive disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and timely and fiscally prudent recovery from climate-related disasters.

CLIMATE EDUCATION

Increasing knowledge about Climate Change remains the pillar for all actions. Therefore, stakeholders and governments should recognize the adverse impact of climate change is a serious threat that needs strategic knowledge and skill to solve the ripple effects it triggers. However, Nigeria's educational policies are yet to integrate climate education³⁰ as a prerequisite to building climate-conscious citizens³¹ and a climate-smart future for all.

While it is pertinent to promote environmental sustainability and build more resilient communities across the country for the general public and the next generation, Climate Education should be integrated into the Nigerian culture and educational system to give room for more research-based innovation, create more institutional capacity and strengthen existing agencies or institutions to achieve the NDC mandates. Most importantly, it will help to strengthen ESG concerns to lead corporations as well as government MDAs to draft climate education policies across the federation.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Strengthen existing partnerships between the Ministry of Environment and the Ministry of Education to prioritise the development of climate-focused curricula to meet the current demands at all levels of the education system.
2. Commit to assessing and fully integrating climate education in primary schools with an emphasis on building civic skills, entrepreneurship and jobs into the national curricula
3. State and local governments must invest in school-based programs aimed at equipping students to respond to climate change risks and threats. This should include national/state essay and innovation competitions as well as community-based initiatives like tree planting, food composting and recycling.
4. Governments at all levels must embark on massive and sustained public awareness campaigns and education on climate change risks and adaptation options. This should include broadcast and programming on TV, radio and print media.
5. Create more climate-driven research institutes or strengthen existing ones including tertiary institutions to produce leading academic research in partnership with international institutions to address climate change.
6. Enhance educator capacity-building and provide accessible, relevant and transparent science-based climate change information, facts and data that are connected to the specific needs and concerns of people.
7. Dissemination and explanation of scientific results, climate policies, climate programs and projects, ensuring that information is fact-based, engaging and accessible to all including rural communities and Persons with Disabilities.
8. Fund tertiary institutions to develop research and innovations to aid government efforts to address climate change and adaptation measures.
9. Fund and create climate-related academic exchange programmes for academics to give room for more innovation and partnership through learning.
10. Document and harmonise all climate education programmes through an easy-to-access database to track climate education progress from national to sub-national level.
11. Collaborate with Organisations of persons with disabilities to develop inclusive and accessible climate change educational resources, and engage in partnerships that leverage their expertise and knowledge in disability inclusion, ensuring that the unique perspectives and needs of persons with disabilities are addressed in climate change education initiatives.

CLIMATE FINANCE

The investment needed to accelerate Nigeria's climate-resilient development and meet the country's climate commitments appears more daunting than ever before. The estimated cost of implementing the country's Nationally Determined Contribution alone, which would lower Nigeria's emissions by up to 47% compared to the business-as-usual scenario by 2030, is USD177 billion (approximately 82 trillion Naira).³² This cost does not consider the damage and loss induced by the growing impact of severe weather events that are becoming more frequent due to climate change. Nor does it include the cost of restructuring Nigeria's economy away from the oil and gas sector. Estimates in various documents outline financial needs that far exceed the resources of the Federal Government of Nigeria to finance programs and projects that will address climate change.

As of 2022, Nigeria has only been able to access USD 119 million from global climate commitments.³³ Other challenges associated with accessing climate finance include the knowledge gap and the availability of a limited pool of foreign verifiers to conduct an assessment on projects, assets, and instrument eligibility.

Since the biggest contributors to emissions in the country are Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) (60%) and Energy (34%),³⁴ it is logical to harness local, national, or transnational funding opportunities to these two sectors as Nigeria progress with its industrialisation by ensuring growth in its low-carbon development frameworks. Transitioning into a green economy can unlock new economic opportunities and jobs in Nigeria and for all.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Set a national target of at least 1% of the nation's GDP (N525b) to fund climate-related projects and investments such as a special intervention fund for climate finance with low interest rate and longer payment tenure.
2. Enhance the provision of technical support to subnational governments (States) to build the institutional capacity to access funding opportunities.
3. Advance the integration of climate diplomacy and foreign policy goals and engagement to attract foreign capital and grants for climate projects through national plans such as the NDCs, Energy Transition Plan, Climate Change and Gender Action Plan et al.
4. Promote the provision of incentives and support to local banks and commercial institutions to encourage them to provide climate financing for projects.
5. Adaptation finance must be consistent with Nigeria's vulnerability to climate change, therefore the government must inject funds into financing key social and economic sectors to fill transition gaps.
6. Support the integration of climate finance tools in economic policies of government financial institutions especially regulators to encourage the adoption of green industries as well as the provision of insurance coverage.
7. Adaptation and mitigation finance must be prioritised alongside public and private sector investment scale-up for climate finance.
8. Improving the accessibility to climate finance for youth-led initiatives through de-risking and deregulating, including blended finance and crowding in impact investments; and through creating a separate channel for youth-led climate initiatives to access finance directly, and not solely through formal government channels

9. Implementation of mandatory audits on allocated climate finance, including allocations to adaptation, mitigation, loss and damage.

10. Follow through with long-term strategies and sectoral pathways and commitments for adaptation and mitigation such as the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), Energy Transition Plan, 2050 Long Term Vision for Nigeria, Climate Change and Gender Action Plan et al to unlock international funding for climate change.

11. Should repurpose subsidies that sustain carbon-intensive activities into resources to support climate action while mitigating potential distributional impacts from such reforms.

12. National and subnational governments must shape appropriate policy reforms and investment plans to minimise the costs of mitigation and adaptation and enable public and private financing of climate action.

CLIMATE GOVERNANCE

Lack of political will to drive Nigeria's transition into a low-carbon economy, inadequate governance structures to implement adaptation frameworks and misalignment of economic and social priorities are many of the governance issues preventing Nigeria from instituting ambitious climate adaptation and resilience programs that will transform how we respond to climate risks and security.³⁵

While the federal government have made efforts to develop agencies and programs such as the Department of Climate Change (DCC), National Council on Climate Change (NCCC), passed the Climate Change Act, 2021 and signed international treaties like the Paris Agreement - this is hardly enough to protect our very fragile ecosystem, revive hydrocarbon polluted lands of the Niger Delta, and restore biodiversity in rainforests that are being cut down illegally. To scale progressive change from an environmental, social and economic perspective, a new governance system must emerge that subscribes to the urgency of the climate crisis, one that caters for the long-term prosperity of its people.

CALL TO ACTION

1. Propose integrated and participative governance, the involvement of all sectors as well as of civil society, in consultation and accountability processes recognizing the value of their experiences, and perspectives, and encouraging socio-environmental paradigm shift while preparing the urban and rural areas for effective risk response
2. Create an enabling environment for youth to engage in climate action through environmental organisations, community programs and climate negotiations, by providing adequate and inclusive capacity-building and mentorship from a young age while engaging with decision-makers and scientific experts; and removing barriers to youth active participation by institutionalising the role of youth in the climate-decision-making processes.
3. Prioritise participation and inclusion of non-state actors in government-related activities and initiatives to bridge the access, capacity and coordination gaps between government and civil society organisations. This should include programs aimed to train young people to assist in documenting the impacts of resource exploration and climate change and creating a climate risk disaster register/index for proper documentation of environmental disasters and degradation in Nigeria.
4. Remove all legal, institutional, and regulatory barriers to technology transfer, particularly digital technologies that will aid Nigeria's energy transition, increase incentives and encourage youth access.
5. Enhance transparency and accountability tools to block fiscal leakages, and discourage corruption, misappropriation and abuse of climate finance resources.
6. Governments at all levels should institute policies that put people before profits, and impacted communities should be put in perspective before adopting any policy that has the potential of impacting them. This includes the drive-by IOCs to divest without compensation and remediation is checked and halted.
7. Create firm legal provisions on liability for pre-divestment ecological destructions, and community participation in asset sales and divestment, and recognise the Rights of Nature in the legal system, and criminalise ecocide.
8. Sub-national governments and State Ministries of Environment should establish departments or focal points responsible for addressing climate change and all related issues, and should fund and resource institutions, programs, and initiatives aimed at providing solutions to the climate crisis.
9. Align adaptation and resilience programs with social and development needs taking into account the complexity of Nigeria's political economy and diversity to ensure no one is left behind.
10. Provide opportunities for consensus and alliance building between communities, state, non-state actors and international philanthropic bodies.

ESSENTIAL CALL TO ACTION TO THE NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT

Immediately streamline resources and manpower into addressing emerging social, environmental and economic issues that intersect climate change and development, to place Nigeria on a low-carbon economy pathway that eradicates growing threats of the climate crisis, and ensures social security, and sustainable development for all.

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ACRONYMS

AU	African Union
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use
BHCPF	Basic Healthcare Provision Fund
CNG	Compressed Natural Gas
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
DCC	Department of Climate Change
NCCC	National Council on Climate Change
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessments
EPR	Extended Producer Responsibility
ESG	Environmental, Social, and Governance
ETP	Nigeria Energy Transition Plan
EV	Electric Vehicle
FMT	Federal Ministry of Transportation
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IOC	International Oil Companies
MDA	Ministries, Departments, and Agencies
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NBC	Nigerian Bureau of Statistics
NAP	National Action Plan
PHCN	Power Holding Company of Nigeria
PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
REA	Rural Electrification Agency
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VAT	Value Added Tax
WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Infrastructure
WHO	World Health Organization