



Climate and Sustainable Development Network (CSDevNet)



PAN-AFRICAN MEDIA ALLIANCE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE

THE ABUJA POST-2015 DECLARATION

We, the representatives of Nigerian Civil Society under the aegis of Climate and Sustainable Development Network of Nigeria (CSDevNet) with support from Heinrich Boll Stiftung, Pan-African Media Alliance for Climate Change (PAMACC) and the Journalists for Climate Change (JCC) met at HBS Hall in Ruqayyat Plaza, Jabi - Abuja at the Post-Warsaw and Post 2015 National Consultative Workshop, from 7th – 8th of March 2014 with participants drawn from Government, CSO, Media, and International Development Partners to review The Draft Common African Position (CAP) on Post 2015 Agenda: implication for Africa and Nigeria

We believe that the next two years are critically important, as processes that will potentially shape development frameworks across the globe will be concluded by 2015:

- i) Negotiations for the new Climate Change treaty under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate (UNFCCC)
- ii) Negotiations for the new development framework to succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) spearheaded by the United Nations.

We view the aforementioned processes as inter-related and dependent on each other. Sustainable Development Goals cannot be attained if the global community fails to heed the recommendations by science and act decisively on climate change. At the 2012 Rio+20 Conference, all countries agreed that climate change is a major obstacle to sustainable development and poverty eradication. This is supported by the experience of people living in poverty and vulnerability and major UN reports feeding into Post-2015.

Science further underlines the

immediate need for action in all areas including international development. The urgency for action is underpinned by climate science and the window of opportunity for avoiding dangerous climate change is rapidly closing. The Post-2015 Framework must therefore help to make climate action in all countries happen without further delay and must support poor people, particularly in Africa and Nigeria to build resilience so as to adapt to climate impacts they are experiencing already.

Time is fast running out for Africa and Nigeria. While we appreciate the progress our leaders have made in coming up with the draft Common African Position for UNFCCC, we are concerned that the Post-2015 process in Africa is experiencing needless delays. A strong Nigerian voice is needed to ensure that the next global framework truly reflects Africa's priorities and needs. UN processes to determine what will follow the Millennium Development Goals are already well underway, and will not wait for Nigeria.

While acknowledging that the draft CAP shows that Africa has come of age and ready to engage in the global stage, CSDevNet believes that focusing on development enablers is key to achieving the objectives and outcomes of the CAP and the Post-2015 Agenda. We therefore call on all stakeholders to ensure that the CAP goes beyond the issues emerging from the global Post-2015 process and be aligned to the Africa 2063 Vision, which paves way for political impetus, long-term planning and development of an implementation and reporting framework.

In recognition of the implication of leadership at regional, continental and global levels the CAP bestows on Nigeria, we demand immediate and countrywide dissemination and mobilisation on the CAP and extensive collaboration between Government and Civil society at all levels. A sufficiently ambitious Common African Position must be published and disseminated widely in Nigeria to facilitate transparent discussions and engender understanding and support of the Nigerian people.

We therefore call for civil society renewed actions on CAP, North-South Alliances for Africa and National Level Capacity Building and Advocacy to drive ownership of CAP. Concerted efforts must now be geared towards formulating strategies for advocacy, negotiation and forging of alliances at global levels, active engagement with the UN Task Team's work, Africa Group in New York, and G77 to ensure that the CAP is reflected in reports and think pieces.

Now is the time to lay strong foundations for the future and ensure that Nigerian perspectives are strongly reflected in the Post-2015 development framework. Such framework must anchor on a genuine global sustainability pathway, and must reflect the integrated link on social, economic, cultural and environmental dimensions of development. Any development agenda that fails to integrate these dimensions in a balanced way is not acceptable for addressing present and future development challenges in Nigeria.