



COP29 AND THE IMPLICATIONS FOR NIGERIA

29th November 2024

PREAMBLE



From November 11 to 24, 2024 delegates and concerned stakeholders from around the World gathered at Baku, Azerbaijan, at the COP29, the United Nations Climate Change Conference to discuss critical climate issues.

Discussions by government officials, heads of UN organizations, climate experts and leaders of civil society organisations focused on new financial commitments, the phase-out of fossil fuels, and mechanisms to assist vulnerable nations in addressing climate impacts.

[Activists attend a protest action at the COP29 United Nations climate change conference, in Baku, Azerbaijan, Nov. 23, 2024.](#)
Photo by Maxim Shemetov/Reuters

Discussions focused on the urgent need to cut emissions, adapt to a changing climate, lessen the effects of the crisis, and shield people from catastrophic weather events. Other key topics that were discussed include renewable energy transition and equity in climate action.

The conference provided a platform for leaders from developing nations including African to demand for more significant global commitments to address the continent's unique vulnerabilities

to climate change. The key outcomes of the conference include climate finance and debt with the establishment of the New Collective Quantified Goal, the operationalisation of the Loss and Damage Fund, investments in renewable energy and green technologies by establishing the African Carbon Market, and instituting climate displacement and human rights by tasking wealthier nations, responsible for higher emissions to finance adaptation and compensate for losses in developing countries.

However, developing nations including Nigeria and Cuba have criticized the outcome of the discussions as falling short of expectations for climate financing for developing countries that bear the brunt of the negative impact of climate change. The COP29 presidency has been accused of pushing the climate finance deal through without their proper consent, following chaotic last-minute negotiations. Nigeria, a member of the least developing countries (LDCs) group, said the deal fell short of meeting the ambitious and much-needed annual climate finance commitment expected from richer nations responsible for the most damage to the climate. Nkiruka Maduekwe, Nigeria's focal person and Director-General of the National Council on Climate Change (NCCC), described the deal as "unrealistic" and an insult to the spirit and letters of the UN framework convention on climate change.

IMPLICATIONS FOR NIGERIA

Climate change is a snare and a cankerworm that is eating deeply into the ecosystem, atmospheric conditions and homes, spreading its effects everywhere. With the constant occurrence of flood and drought, smog, melting ice and rising sea levels, extreme weather conditions leading to hurricanes, typhoons, cyclones and heatwaves, climate change in all its manifestations is altering life and living.

Notably, global temperature have steadily increased, with the last decade being the hottest on record which is driven by an increase in greenhouse gas emissions. It is pertinent to note that fossil fuels are the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, which drive climate change. Their extraction and use also lead to air



and water pollution, habitat destruction, and other ecological impacts.

Nigeria is not left out from the scourge of climate change, as its devastating effect is felt in different spheres including economic, social and security, and affecting the lives and livelihoods of the people. This is evidenced by the extreme weather variations, shrinking of the Lake Chad Basin, severe drought, rainfall, and massive flood experienced in several parts of the country, particularly the northern region. Northern Nigeria is characterized by arid and semi-arid zones and that makes it naturally highly susceptible to the effects of climate change. Pitiably, declining rainfall in the region leads to shorter planting seasons thereby affecting agricultural yields leading to food shortages. Nigeria's Niger Delta also bears a huge brunt as one of the most polluted regions in the world, and the highest emitter of greenhouse gases in Africa. The drive to phase out fossil fuels could result in a downward global demand for Nigerian oil, thereby negatively affecting government revenue and foreign exchange earnings. In the Niger Delta and some other parts of Nigeria, there have been rising sea levels and coastal erosion causing flooding and destruction of agricultural and marine resources. A situation that has significantly contributed to the rising food insecurity in the country.

ACTIONABLE STEPS

With the new call against the prolonged, continued exploration of fossil fuel, Nigeria needs to increase its economic diversification effort. This is because the resolve to tune down on fossil fuel production would pose a big challenge to Nigeria since crude oil is her economic mainstay. Addressing climate change in the Niger Delta should include reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and switching to low-carbon energy sources, investing in advanced technology, implementing water management reform and policy, and opting for alternatives in renewable energy sources such as wind, solar and hydro-power. In other parts of Nigeria that are flood-prone, early warning and early response systems have to be activated and concrete steps taken to relocate human and livestock against impending destruction. The government should as a matter of urgency construct proper and stable internally displaced persons (IDPs) camps in lieu of the use of makeshift structures like schools and other inhabitable facilities to house persons displaced by flood.

Agricultural research institutes should look into designing ways in which crops can be grown round the year and formulae that can enrich and expand agricultural produce in order to maximize planting seasons. They can also partner with countries with success stories of innovative technologies especially in food production and water supply for arid farmlands. Food banks should be reinforced to cushion the impact of food insecurity as a result of famine and drought. Adopting climate-smart agricultural practices such as inter-cropping, rain water harvesting, strategic dam channeling and drip irrigation are panacea for survival in dire times. Stricter environmental regulations should be enacted in the oil and gas industry and other sectors that are culpable. It is hoped that Nigeria, being a developing country and a prospective

beneficiary of the funds to be pooled by the rich countries of the world, summing up to at least \$300 billion a year by 2035, would be able to maximize their quota and upgrade to the heights expected in renewable energy and other infrastructure that can salvage the effects of climate change.

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