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## **Pre-CSD 16<sup>th</sup> Stakeholders Forum on the Thematic Areas of Agriculture, Land, Rural Development, Drought and Desertification and Africa**

Organised by Women Environmental Programme (WEP)

### **REPORT OF PROCEEDINGS**

The Chancellery Hotel Abuja, 26-27 March 2008

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

<b>CSD</b>	<b>Commission for Sustainable Development</b>
<b>CSOs</b>	<b>Civil Society Organisations</b>
<b>EIA</b>	<b>Environmental Impact Assessment</b>
<b>ERA</b>	<b>Environmental Rights Action</b>
<b>FCT</b>	<b>Federal Capital Territory</b>
<b>FEDUP</b>	<b>Federation of Urban Poor</b>
<b>FMAWR</b>	<b>Federal Ministry of Agriculture &amp; Water Resources</b>
<b>FMEHUD</b>	<b>Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing &amp; Urban Development</b>
<b>GDP</b>	<b>Gross Domestic Product</b>
<b>GMOs</b>	<b>Genetically Modified Organisms</b>
<b>LPG</b>	<b>Liquefied Petroleum Gas</b>
<b>MDGs</b>	<b>Millennium Development Goals</b>
<b>NACA</b>	<b>National Action Committee on AIDS</b>
<b>NAOC</b>	<b>Nigerian Agip Oil Company</b>
<b>NEEDS</b>	<b>National Economic Empowerment Development Strategy</b>
<b>NEMA</b>	<b>National Emergency Management Authorities</b>
<b>NEPAD</b>	<b>New Partnership for Africa Development</b>
<b>NESREA</b>	<b>National Environmental Standards and Regulations Enforcement Agency</b>
<b>NES</b>	<b>Nigeria Environmental Society</b>
<b>NGOs</b>	<b>Non-Governmental Organisations</b>
<b>NIMET</b>	<b>Nigerian Meteorological Agency</b>
<b>OPEC</b>	<b>Organisation for Petroleum Exporting Countries</b>
<b>SEMA</b>	<b>State Emergency Management Authority</b>
<b>STDs</b>	<b>Sexually Transmitted Diseases</b>
<b>UBE</b>	<b>Universal Basic Education</b>
<b>UN</b>	<b>United Nations</b>
<b>UNDP</b>	<b>United Nations Development Programme</b>
<b>VCC</b>	<b>Volunteer Counseling Centers</b>
<b>WEP</b>	<b>Women Environmental Programme</b>

## **RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND**

This Stakeholders Forum on the “Thematic areas for the Sixteenth Session of the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD-16)” was organised under the auspices of Women Environmental Programme (WEP) to:

- To disseminate CSD-related information to major group’s networks
- To consult with other major groups organizations and research and analyze trends on the participation of major groups
- Make inputs into the thematic areas of CSD 16 and 17 especially into the Nigerian and African Statements
- To get all major groups that are in consultative status with the UN in Nigeria and build a network and partnerships that would effectively bridge the gap between the government and other partners
- Develop a blueprint for key recommendations and practical suggestions for CSD 16

The 16th Session of the CSD is due to be held in New York. The session will address topical developmental issues where stakeholders in governments’ and civil society circles to reiterate their commitment to develop and implement strategies for sustainable development. It is expected that various government agencies and accredited non-governmental organizations will make key presentations and recommendations for policy formulations in the respective thematic areas which, for this year, include Agriculture, Rural development, Land, Drought, Desertification, and Africa.

The Nigeria Major Groups have been proactive in infusing the CSD with new ideas, information and present challenges that enrich the discourse and debates that ensue in government circles. However, this is the first time the major groups will be presenting a clear and articulated position paper for inputs into the discussions. The Stakeholders Forum held under the auspices of WEP thus provided a basis for this. Key presentations from experts were made. Lively discussions, questions and comments have been incorporated into the presentations, and blueprint for key recommendations and practical suggestions has equally been developed.

## **STRUCTURE OF THE STAKEHOLDERS FORUM**

During the two-day forum, the programme was structured in way meant to help participants get to grips in a scientific manner with the current issues, trends and challenges inherent in each thematic cluster under consideration. In each session the technical sessions were presented on PowerPoint format by the experts selected for each session after which there were discussions in plenary involving both participants and presenters. Each presentation was aimed at developing both individual and organizational capacities for conceptualizing the issues more effectively, applying appropriate the knowledge acquired and approaches to presenting concrete recommendations and key messages for CSD-16 during the breakout sessions.

## **SESSION I: OPENING & ADDRESSES**

***Chair: Mr. Nnimmo Bassey, Executive Director Environmental Rights Action/ Friends of the Earth International Nigeria***

The chair of the First Session, Mr. Nnimmo Bassey, Executive Director of Environmental Rights Action/ Friends of the Earth International Nigeria, called the meeting to order at 10.34am. Representatives of all groups and participants were welcomed and introduced themselves. He congratulated WEP for organizing the Forum on behalf of the major groups. He expressed confidence that the next two days would produce key issues, messages and recommendations to assist governments to engage in CSD-16 and thereby reduce vulnerability and poverty and promote sustainable development. The Chair then invited Ms. Priscilla for her opening address

***Ms. Priscilla Achakpa, Executive Director Women Environmental Programme***

Ms. Achakpa briefly referred to the main reasons for organizing this Forum and the major role played by Nigerian Major Groups in articulating ideas and suggestions to beef up health inter-government debates and deliberations during the CSD. She conceded that in the past major groups in Nigeria were without position papers in previous CSD sessions and this was the first time there would be a coordinated position to be presented to CSD-16. She appreciated the collaboration that has existed between WEP and the Nigerian Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urban Development in the preparation towards CSD, and UN-HABITAT who will be supporting the WEP planned side event at CSD-16.

***Prof. Johnson Falade, Habitat Programme Manager UN-HABITAT Nigeria***

Prof. Falade appreciated WEP for its focus and determination which has manifested in its programme successes. He stated that WEP was second runner to the UN-HABITAT's Habitat Scroll of Honour award for commitment to the promotion of human settlements in the run-up to the World Habitat Day celebrations. This should not be discouraging to WEP but rather spur her to greater heights. He said the issues for discussion in the forum were paramount to promoting sustainable development. He called on participants to be agents of change especially in being custodians of the environment.

***Mrs. C. A. Owolabi, Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing & Urban Development Abuja***

Mrs. Owolabi, in her speech congratulated WEP for always playing a key role in bringing up suggestions and recommendations for CSDs and for partnering with her ministry in bringing environmental issues in the front burner of government development agenda. According to her, the thematic cluster for this year's CSD is of great relevance to Nigeria and the sub-region. She called on participants to identify achievements, strengths and weaknesses, and unmet goals in the process. She stated that with the level of participation at the forum, recommendations made will move the country and Africa forward.

***Mrs. O. A. Komolafe, Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Water Resources***

Mrs. Komolafe appreciated WEP for the thoughtfulness of organizing the forum and stated that Agriculture and rural development initiatives remains key in meeting the MDGs and

Nigeria's National Economic and Empowerment Development Strategy (NEEDS). However, not enough of the CSOs are involved in this area and called on participants to bring forward realistic strategies to meet challenges in these thematic clusters for sustainable development.

***Mr. Uche Agbanusi, President Nigerian Environmental Society (NES)***

In appreciating the efforts of WEP, Mr. Agbanusi said the organization, has done so much in bringing environmental issues to the frontline of developmental agendas and would want to see WEP collaborating more with NES.

***Prof. David Ker OON, WEP Board of Trustees Member, National Universities Commission Abuja***

In declaring the Forum open, Prof. Ker opined that challenges that exist in the thematic areas for CSD-16 are inter-linked. These need to tackle their environmental, social and economic dimensions in an integrated and balanced manner, from a gender perspective. He said participants' views, comments and additional inputs would be most valuable and would contribute quality inputs from to CSD-16. Going further he said WEP has been at the forefront of developmental and environmental issues in the Nigerian society especially as it concerns women, children and youths. WEP has in the past years worked actively in promoting community sustainable development in urban and semi urban settlements in the FCT which has resulted in the formation of several networks which includes the **"Federation of Urban Poor" (FEDUP)** After over a decade of tireless work, he stated that WEP has achieved a goal in the creation of a platform where community members can identify issues of governance and sustainable development while partnering with government, civil authorities and other stakeholders in development.

## **SESSION II: LAND AND NIGERIA FOR CSD**

*Chair: Prof. David Ker OON*

The session kicked off with the first substantive presentation which was delivered by Prof. Johnson Falade of UN-HABITAT. This elaborated the framework provided earlier in order to facilitate focused dialogue and outline issues that participants should consider in their deliberations for key messages and recommendations.

### **Review of Land for Sustainable Urbanisation**

*Presenter: Prof. Johnson Falade, Habitat Programme Manager UN-HABITAT Nigeria*

Ownership and control over land are indicative of how wealth, political & economic power is shared. Availability and access to land are fundamental to the shelter process.

There is stiff competition for land in urban areas, due to population surge, resulting in high land prizes. Urbanization is changing the landscape of any country - land loss to agriculture due to rapid urbanization; conflict in land use in peri-urban areas, infiltration of urban architecture into rural areas etc

The projections in world urbanization population growth indicate a percentage growth of 66.7% by the 2050.

Factors responsible for Urban Growth include high birth rate, economic factors such as the oil boom of the early 1970s abandonment of agricultural activities, rapid rural – urban migration, creation of more States and Local Governments, location pattern of public and private investments. These invariably give rise to problems of urbanization – inadequate infrastructure, poor drainage and flooding.

The Nigerian government has made some efforts in urban development and these include Preparation of the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS), conducting of urban indicators studies for National Urban Information System, Slum upgrading, public – private partnerships in housing, waste management etc. Other strategies put in place are the establishment of Real Estate Development Association of Nigeria (REDAN and BUMPAN, modernization and computerization of Federal Land Registry, development and popularization of low-cost building materials.

Challenges that arise in issues of land ownership as well as gender issues involved have necessitated a number of coordinated responses by the UN through the years which have culminated to a programme which is UN HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME UN-HABITAT. Flowing from its strategic vision, mandate and focus, UN-HABITAT's current programmes in Nigeria are in the following domains: Water and Sanitation in urban areas, Preparation of Structure plans for cities, urban security, and Sustainable livelihood and poverty reduction.

Prof. Falade enumerated the following recommendations and best practices: Implement policies on access to land and secure tenure; Review existing laws, policies and programmes to ensure access to land; and the Adoption of CDS/Structure Planning for human



settlements. He advocated for the Adoption of the following innovative best practices: Joint titling for women, Flexible tenure options for women, Women's management of property, Granting property right for consensual unions as Peru & El Salvador, and Women as beneficiary in land redistribution.

### **Discussions & Reactions**

Reflecting on the presentation, participants made a number of observations.

That most of the cities in the country are planned without peoples input so important issues such as cemeteries are not included in the master plans.

Some participants expressed fears that if communities are allowed to take ownership of projects, they might run into the problems of transparency due to lack of capacity and management skills. In order to mitigate this problem, there is the need to ensure that projects are not controlled by one individual but by the communities and that there is a lot of capacity building for community project management.

On the issue of climate change and the measures being taken, Prof. Falade said the Human Development Report 2007/2008 of the UNDP has challenged governments to do more in the area of fighting climate change and to this end; the Nigerian government is following up the recommendations of the report. There is also a need to adopt sustainable approaches to the challenge climate change dangers posed by urbanization to avoid grave consequences.

### **Niger Delta and Environmental Degradation: Challenges & Key issues**

*Presenter: Mr. Nnimmo Bassey, Environmental Rights Action/ Friends of the Earth International Nigeria*

Tracing a historical brief of the issue of oil exploration and environmental degradation in the Niger Delta, the presenter stated that as at 1950, the Nigerian economy was dominated by agriculture. That sector contributed 72% of the total national Gross Domestic Product (GDP). At that time, mining and crude oil contributed a mere 1.1% of the GDP. By 1960 the figures were 66% from Agriculture and 1.2% from mining and crude oil. In 1970 crude oil was contributing 7.5% of the GDP. The ratio has shifted dramatically over the decades and by 2006 the contribution of crude oil to the GDP stood at 61.2%. Currently the raising price of crude oil has necessitated the expansion of the industry and impacts and footprints on the land and its people.

2008 marked 50 years of oil extraction in Nigeria. In 2007 alone, Nigeria earned a total of US\$55 billion. This ranked Nigeria at number 4 in terms of earnings among members of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) for 2007 Nigeria's crude oil reserve is put at 36 billion barrels while there is an estimated reserve of 100 -170 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. A question was posed: Are they exaggerated to shore up share holder confidence and increase production quotas? In 2004 Shell was faulted on this..and fined. 2008 Shell reviews its reserves by 200 million barrels

The challenges are enormous: social, environmental, political and economic. The oil industry is arguably the most polluting industry in the world today. In Nigeria, a total of 764 incidents of oil spills were reported in the period of 2006-2007. Nigerian Agip Oil

Company, NAOC, topped the chart with 264 incidents and 22,095.62 barrels spilled into the environment. ExxonMobil reportedly spilled crude oil in 257 incidents and 544.75 barrels while Chevron came in third with 125 spills. Shell recorded 78 spills in the same period. Other environmental impacts arise from drilling and gas flaring.

Actions taken by affected communities in the past include litigations for the stoppage of gas flaring and the ordering that Shell to stop gas flaring in one of the communities (the judge ruled that gas flaring “is a gross violation of their (plaintiff) fundamental right to life (including healthy environment and dignity of human person), and as at December 2007, over 1000 petitions sent to the Federal Government to stop gas flaring

The way forward as championed by the presenter lies in the area of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) in Participatory environmental and socio-economic impact assessments, in EIA as a document to determine if a project should go on or not, and EIAs should contain clear clauses on actions that must be taken in case of accidents. In this sense, Mr. Bassey recommended that communities should not ask for compensation from corporations in the event of oil spills but rather for cleaning of the spills. Another way forward would be that more binding and actionable agreements should be signed at not MoUs or GMoUs.

### **Discussions & Reactions**

Observations made included the following:

Participants wanted to know who represents communities in negotiations with multinational corporations. And where does the arms and ammunition that are used in the region by restive youths come from? Others wanted to know if there are laws on gas flaring in the country.

In responding, the facilitator stated that the influx of illegal arms in the Niger Delta is tricky. However, there are public reports of arms and ammunition loss in military arms depots. On who represents communities in negotiations, the participants were informed that there are communities development councils in the region who represent the communities, however in the recent past people have lost faith in their leaders due to a lack of transparency and accountability. Participants were informed that there was a decree set up in 1984 but is yet to be reviewed, however there is an agency set up by government last year to regulate and enforce all government policies on environment called NOSTRIL, the impact of this agency is yet to be felt.

Participants suggested that with the advent of democratic rule in Nigeria, NGOs working on environmental issues in Nigeria should initiate a Democracy Outreach Programme to engage legislators on environmental issues. It was noted that engaging legislators was a herculean task however, ERA, NES and WEP should take the lead as most of them are ignorant of their oversight functions. Synergy should be built among government agencies and parastatals for instance, between the Federal Ministry of Environment, Hosing & Urban Development and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture. The current practice now is that most of the government agencies are working without linkages to others even though most of the works are interrelated.

## **Gender, Urbanisation & Land Rights**

*Presenter: Arch. Rita O. Afejuku-Egbe, REOAE Associates Abuja*

In Nigeria, many urban centers have experienced phenomenon growth from migration from rural settings. This has brought about antecedent problems for urban dwellers: Lack of housing, infrastructural services, and lack of property rights. Access to land is a central issue as land is a crucial asset and a key factor for shelter and development. It is a scarce asset that is immovable, not expandable and not transferable from place to place.

The Land Use Act of 1978 is the current land law in the country, and it vests control of all land on the government. Prior to the Act, there was a Customary right for local government lands and lands occupied by local communities and families. However the Act has its challenges chief among which are discretionary powers for allocation vested on government agents, bureaucracy of land allocation process, and security of tenure.

With respect to gender issues in land, women have limited or no access to land in spite of being responsible for food production. In Africa, women produce 80% of basic food stuff. Lack of rights to land ownership in Nigeria poses a great challenge to women.

Recommendations posed include the following: a review of the Land Use Act and processes of land allocation, continuum of rights, security of tenure, gender inclusiveness and participation in decision making, and transparency in land administration among others. Also, access to land must be enforceable and secure against seizure and law, it must be equitable and effective by including access to credit, market. Legal, customary & family institutions must be transformed to improve access to land.

### **Discussions & Reactions**

Participants argued that though the term gender refers to both men and women, most discussion on gender are always tilted towards women. This is because of the negative effects and challenges prone towards the womenfolk. There were some questions by participants as to what options are for women in the acquisition of land since they are often economically handicapped. Also, if the Land Use Act is repealed, how would this affect women's right to land under the Customary Land Right?, Is information available indicating where one should settle in Nigeria's Federal Capital Territory and are there some people who are allowed to stay in the FCT and others who may not?

In responding the facilitator stated that if the review of the Land Use Act is done and there is proper implementation, then it will cut across customary deeds. On information about land issues, on where to settle in the FCT, it was informed that this can be obtained from the Department of Development Control in the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) and from the Abuja Geographic Information Systems (AGIS).

### **SESSION III: DROUGHT & DESERTIFICATION FOR CSD**

*Chair: Prof. Johnson Falade, UN-HABITAT Nigeria*

#### **Review of Drought and Desertification in Nigeria**

*Huzi Mshelia, CLEAN ENERGY*

With time more people will lack access to water; this is justified through the five different pictorial representation of the status of Lake Chad presented as an example, from 1963, 1973, 1987, 1997 and 2001 respectively. This shows great changes in terms of size and depth. It means that, the current situation will be become more deplorable in the very near future.

Nigeria is a country with abundant human and natural resources (e.g. crude oil, tin, coal etc.), but is faced with the huge challenges of realising its full development potentials. The consequence therefore, reflected in our environmental conditions, all of which could obstruct the nation's attempt to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the important goal of the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development.

Environmental sustainability is a major pre-requisite for sustainable development. This makes the need to incorporate environmental issues into poverty reduction efforts imperative.

Nigeria is confronted with a number of serious environmental problems including land degradation, flooding, drought, desertification (land degradation in dry-lands), sheet, gully and coastal erosion (land degradation in the humid and wetlands) and loss of bio-diversity. Others are poor environmental health and safety, urban waste, pollution, climate change and ozone depletion

Reserve forest in Nigeria occupied approximately 10 per cent of total landmass of 924,000 km<sup>2</sup> by 1997, and it has been estimated that the remaining forest is likely to disappear by 2020 if the current rate of forest depletion continues unabated.

Deforestation due to agriculture and infrastructure development, excessive wood extraction for construction and poverty, which, among others, lead to cultivation of marginal lands, are exacerbating the rate of land degradation in the country.

Just as drought and desertification have become major environmental problems in the northern part of the country, persistent flood, particularly along the banks of River Niger in the central part of the country, has become a serious environmental hazard. Yet the flood plains could become major means of sustainable livelihoods for the rural poor if properly managed.

Desertification in Nigeria is overwhelmingly visible only to some states. The sand dunes, the windstorm, and the rains that showered only three or four times in a year throughout the raining season, the poverty and the degradation of the soil and environment is a reason why if something drastic and urgent is not done now to stop the menacing advance of this

monstrous process, about 30 million Nigerians in one of the most populated countries in Africa will be at risk of dying or dependent on international food aid. Environmental sustainability is a major pre-requisite for sustainable development. This makes the need to incorporate environmental issues into poverty reduction efforts imperative.

The presenter highlighted some of the issues that can help reduce effect of drought and desertification as follows: Fuel substitution helps alleviate land degradation; access to clean energy is an essential component of sustainable development, and a renewable energy master plan.

Programmes to help encourage the substitution of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for biomass energy (e.g. firewood and charcoal) through a series of energy sector reforms and subsidy, government helped increase LPG consumption by averaging 11% since 1974 and the result is marked reduction in deforestation.

Need to integrate some strategies into National Development Plans was emphasized by the presenter.

In 2006 the World Bank stated that over 40% of its projects are under threat of Climate change, therefore, climate proofing is required for all future projects under ODA.

Climate proofing - a risk based approach to adaptation and the goal of the risk based approach to climate change adaptation is to manage both current and future risks associated with full spectrum of atmospheric and oceanic hazards.

- climate change as security risk (German Advisory Council on Global Change WBGU Report) that climate change amplifies mechanisms which lead to insecurity and conflicts:
- Political instability and conflicts
- Weak governance structure and conflicts
- Demographic and conflicts
- Economic performance and tendency to violence
- Spillover in conflict regions.

There is a need for innovative funding in view of scarcity of resources.

### **Discussions & Reactions**

- That climate change is a developmental issues which must be carefully tackled by establishing a legal institution that will take charge of matters of desertification
- Massive awareness at international, regional, national and local levels on the dangers of drought and desertification to attract assistance same as in the area of HIV/AIDs

- National Environmental Standard Regulatory and Enforcement Agency (NESREA) should rise up to their responsibilities of ensuring that all company adheres to standards as well as responding to their corporate social responsibility
- The National policy on drought and desertification should be review
- NGOs should monitor to ensure that ecological funds distributed to states are judiciously used for it purpose
- There should be serious effort and incentive created for sustainable afforestation rather than the yearly carnival by Government on tree planting without sustaining it

## **Gender and Natural Disasters: Its link to drought and desertification**

*Ms. Maureen Onyia, Nigeria Labour Congress*

Natural disasters including environmental catastrophes and violent conflicts have affected millions of people globally, Nigeria inclusive. The Asian tsunami of December 2004 and Hurricane Katrina Of 2005 brought to limelight the challenges of emergency response in humanitarian crises.

About 23 Nigerian states were devastated by flood last year as a result of torrential rainfall. The floods started in July ended in September 2007.

The analysis of the affected people and properties were frightening as in Plateau state (north- central), 22 deaths were recorded, 750 houses were washed away and 13 villages swept away, leaving 9000 homeless in almost all the local government areas (LGAs); even as the death toll rose to 47

March 2008, in FCT, over 200 houses in Abaji were affected by the second rainstorm and majority of the affected were women and children.

Natural disasters usually arise out of environmental hazards which are defined as “physical or human-made events that can potentially trigger a disaster”. Examples include earthquakes, floods, drought, desertification, economic collapse and violent conflicts.

Drought and desertification are at the core of serious challenges and threats facing sustainable development and livelihood in Nigeria.

Desert encroachment is at the rate of 2 kilometers per annum and it is estimated that Nigeria may be losing 1,355 square miles (1mile=1.6km) of rangeland and cropland to desertification each year. It is also estimated that about 35 million people in 10 states; Yobe, Bauchi, Borno, Adamawa, Gombe, Kebbi, Sokoto, Zamfara, Jigawa, Katsina) in Northern Nigeria are affected by droughts and desertification. The affected states are suffering from ailments such as human health, food insecurity, loss of economic activities, physical infrastructures, forced migration, loss of natural resources and environmental degradation which threatens national and global security.

A 6 km-long shoreline protection is being planned by the Federal Government but that will not alleviate the rural social effects that have been exacerbated by this hazard as hundreds of farmlands have been lost and villagers have been displaced from their lands by ocean encroachment.

Government effort toward mitigate Desert Encroachment: National Forestry Action Plan (1995); National Action Plan to combat drought and desertification; Nigeria is part of various initiatives viz: the Green Wall for the Sahara Initiative, the NEPAD Environment Initiative and the Nigerian Green Belt Project.

### Non-State Actors effort

The non-state actors (NGOs) have been actively involved in the followings ways in order to mitigate the impact of desert encroachment:

- Environmental Education
- Sensitization and awareness creation
- Advocacy has been facilitated
- Campaign for aforestation and
- Tree planting programmes
- Emergency response (NIGERIA RED CROSS, WANEP, WEP)

### Gender, drought and desertification: Its link

The burden of the effects of droughts and desertification disproportionately lies more on the women. This include displacement, forced migrations, income and employment, housing, dependent care, violence amongst others.

As peasant farmers, women are mostly hit by drought and desertification, as their farms are continuously washed away either due to excessive flooding or gully/coastal erosion.

Physical/sexual violence is widely reported by women in disaster situations as they are used by men as an avenue to release stress and tension.

Though the issue of sexual assault during disasters are well known by relief organisations very little is done to deter its reoccurrence thus negative effects arise such as mental instability, illness, STDs and sometimes, suicide.

Recommendations outlined by the presenter included:

- Build capacity of women on disaster management and emergency response strategies
- Need for mitigation and adaptation strategies
- NEMA and State Emergency Management Authorities (SEMA) should be made actively responsive to their mandate
- There should be collaboration between Red Cross Society, SEMA, NEMA and civil society organizations particularly women focused groups
- At the global level, there is a need for gender specific policies on emergency response and disaster preparedness. And adequate funds should be channel towards prevention, mitigation and adaptation strategies
- Women should be educated on how to avoid and deal with violence and provided with safe evacuation centres in the event of such occurrence
- Relief organisations are ignorant of the fact that working mothers need available childcare to earn much needed income in this situation and unskilled women would lose out thus there needs to be general/specific training workshops to build their educational capacities
- There should be strict implementation of existing laws and policies
- Government should partner with civil society organizations in the implementation of all laws and policies



- Strengthen the information base on drought and desertification and enhance knowledge application through identification, documentation and sharing of experiences on best practices

### **Discussions & Reactions**

Red Cross Society of Nigeria stated that in disaster management culture and religious issues are considered with particular interest to women and children. He also informed participants of the existence of women focal group in the Red Cross Society who handles matters of urgent attention that has to do with women.

It was generally agreed that the issue of gender disasters and emergency response has received less attention by many local and international relief agencies and that there was the need for CSOs especially women focus organizations working in the environment to focus its attention on this area.

## **SESSION IV: AGRICULTURE & RURAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CSD**

*Chair: Mrs. C. A. Owolabi, Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing & Urban Development*

### **Agriculture and Rural Development in Nigeria: Key Challenges and Issues**

*Comrade Mr. Waheed Sikiru*

Agriculture had been the backbone of Nigeria's economy with about 70% of Nigerians is involved in one form of agricultural activity or the other. Eighty percent of the countries poor live in rural areas and depend mainly of agriculture for their livelihood. The sector account for about 40 percent of Nigeria GDP, over 90 percent of rural populations in Africa depend on agriculture as their main source of income. Despite rapid urbanization proceeding at the annual rate of 4.9% over the past decades, the sector remains one of the highest employers of labour in the country.

Agricultural development played a key role in the achievement of broad based economic growth and sustainable development and this has placed Nigeria on course to pursue with vigor the exploitation of her natural endowment. Monitoring the interaction of rural areas is important in national developmental effort for sustainable agricultural development. The effort of WEP and Nigeria Environmental Society in creating awareness of the need to use land judiciously was appreciated. However this is not adequate particularly in ensuring a widespread knowledge especially among farmers of the relationship between use of environment and its effect on agriculture and rural development.

Some of the challenges highlighted were Deforestation and soil erosion, insufficient land and profitable crops and livestock Production

Some of the key issues are:

- Adequate attention is not often given to the proper use of the environment in order to realize maximum benefits
- The desire to obtain mineral resources in the shortest possible time in order to realize adequate financial gains has resulted in to harmful practices in the exploitation of mineral resources leaving the environment at the mercy of the Creator
- Lack of government policies compelling exploiting and extracting industries to reinvest and revamp soil
- Soil and Water pollution as a result of mismanagement of the environment.
- Finance and Technical ability to invest in revamping the environment.

A way forward highlighted by the presenter included the following:

- Formulation of Agricultural development plans and policies, which will take cognizance of Nigerian farmers and environments.
- Survey of Agricultural areas susceptible to environmental hazards should be periodically undertaken.
- Exchange of information and experiences should be based on similar ecological conditions especially with respect to climate and soil.
- More training should be taken for resources user's in Nigeria

- Government should provide grants, incentives and assistance to agricultural sub-sectors
- More emphasis/priority should be given to the agricultural sector

### **Discussions & Reactions**

Mrs. Komolafe (Federal Ministry of Agriculture & Water Resources) informed participants that Nigeria has an agricultural policy that integrates rural development, but the major problem in the sector is that of capacity building, even this is on-going in areas such as extension services especially at the state agricultural development projects, there is the need for its continuity particularly for the female gender.

A concern on the issue of gender and transportation which is a challenge which link their products to markets was raised. It leaves women farmers especially at the mercy of middlemen who in return take advantage to de-value products to unjustifiable minimum prices. It was noted that this should be a concern to all as it affect the productivity of women in agriculture. Participants observed that the importation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) such as rice from the USA for food was a challenge and should be checked.

Participants also stated that technology important in agricultural production; however, in view of capital intensity of technology, the poor rarely have access to it. Land for instance in most cases commercialized which has made it difficult for women to acquire large farm lands for agriculture such as the mechanized farming. It noted that the use of chemical fertilizer should not be encouraged because it is injurious to human health but rather the use of natural and organic manure should be promoted as it is environmental friendly.

### **Gender and Agriculture**

*Ms. Esther Cookey Timothy, AAEUN Abuja*

Gender imbalance has continued to linger around all fields of life and it this has profound effects on sustainable development. This calls for concerted efforts to address the situation.

Gender does not only focus on women as it implies, but on the roles and needs of both men and women. Given that women are usually in a disadvantaged position in the work-place and society as a whole as compared to their male counterparts. Therefore, the promotion of gender equality implies an explicit attention to women's needs, interest at perspectives.

The presenter acknowledged the role women play in the agricultural sector which constitutes bulk of activities shoulder upon them. Women are often regarded as having stronger links with environment than men, yet do not control land. Land inheritance is reserved strictly in to men who are entitled to it and this places them in a disadvantaged position as they remain subordinate within male-centered structures.

In overcoming the biases women face, strategic measures and policies must be put in place such as:

- Addressing gender issues
- Involving women at policy/institutional level

- Involving equity gender balance at project planning/implementation level.
- Addressing gender awareness issues in poverty assessment.
- Gender awareness in projects Designs.

She recommended the following:

- Support and promote women efforts and initiatives to secure equitable access to land tenure and to further clarify resources rights and responsibilities.
- Promote and encourage the role of women in all activities especially in Agriculture
- Capacity building for gender mainstreaming especially in the Agricultural sector
- Evaluate and monitor the inputs and impacts of gender in the overall process.

**Discussions & Reactions from Participants:**

Participants called for the review of Land Act to accommodate women as regards ownership and inheritance. Participants also noted that the problem of HIV/AIDS which affects women more was not mention in the presentation. The campaign against the disease should be intensified as it is capable of reducing productivity in the agricultural sector.

## DAY II: 27 March 2008

### **Recap of Previous Day's Work**

*Rappoteurs*

This was done in plenary. Participants demonstrated an informed understanding of the previous day's deliberation.

### **Breakout Sessions**

*Chair: Mrs. O. A. Komolafe*

Five groups were formed and they were given the following guidelines to focus the discussion and attain the objectives of the meeting.

Tasks of the groups identified were: discuss highlighted themes in the context of sustainable development

Group 1. **Land for Sustainable Urbanisation**; Group 2. **Gender, Natural Disasters and Land Rights**; Group 3. **Drought & Desertification** Group 4. **Agriculture & Rural Development**; and Group 5, **Water & Sanitation**.

Participants from the groups were to draw from the concept note, speeches, presentations and own expert knowledge and experience. They were also requested to draft messages using the CSD format: concrete actions and progress; challenges and constraints; lessons learned and recommendations that are clear specific, concise and concrete.

## **REPORTING BACK**

### **Group 1: Land for Sustainable Urbanisation**

#### **Introduction**

It is a known fact that one of the factors of production is land which is critical to development and also fundamental to shelter and agriculture. Before the enactment of the Land Use Act in Nigeria, land was held under customary rights but with the Act, all land is vested in the hands of the Government. In recent times, there has been a drift from rural to urban centers owing to a number of reasons which has resulted to stiff competition for the available land due to population growth making land prices to go up.

#### **Concrete Action & Progress made**

- Formulation of housing policies (National Housing Scheme, National Housing Fund, Federal Housing Authority & Federal Mortgage Bank)
- Construction of houses by developers

#### **Challenges & Constraints**

1. High cost of land
2. Unaffordable of houses due to high cost of houses
3. High cost of building materials
4. Preference to slum dwelling as a result of high rents on available houses

#### **Lessons Learnt**

- Internalising best practices on slum upgrading strategy (for example the South African model)

#### **Recommended Approaches & Action**

1. Increased research towards improvement on local building materials
2. Participatory and transparency in land administration
3. Provision of low cost building plans
4. Increased private sector participation in housing delivery

#### **Challenges**

- Growth of Urban Slums
- Inadequate basic social services
- Lack of clear cut processes of land administration
- Tenure insecurity
- Limited rights of women to land
- Lack of sufficient infrastructure for development
- Inadequate financial mechanism for land and housing

- Indigenous people not having title deeds to land (FCT – Nigeria)

### **Implications**

- Raising urban poverty
- Lack of good urban governance
- Rise in crime rate
- High cost and low affordability for land and housing
- Lack of land for other purposes
- Forceful acquisition of land by government without due compensation
- Low percentage of female land ownership
- Over-population
- Proliferation of Slums

### **Key Message for CSD-16**

Reform in land administration should be pursued as a viable strategy for sustainable development. Nigeria should be encouraged to reform its current land laws and supported in the implementation mechanism

### **Recommendations**

To Member States:

- a. Implement policies on access to land and secure tenure
- b. Increase professionalism of land administration institutions and capacity building

To UN Agencies:

- a. Diversification of development projects funding from urban to rural settings
- b. Increased funding for CSOs working on land tenure programmes
- c. Capacity building and technical expertise to CSOs
- d. Intensify supervision of projects for funds released

To CSOs/ NGOs

- a. Develop guidelines in benchmarking of good practices for land policies, land reforms and the performance of land institutions
- b. Capacity building for gender inclusive adjudication on innovative affordable and flexible land tenure systems

### **Group Members**

Barr. Betty Ayaka

Surv. A. T Dura, JP

Mrs. Edith Tonye Ibine

Mr. Uche Agbanusi

Hadiza Aminu  
George Akor



## **Group 2: Gender, Natural Disasters and Land Rights**

### **Concrete Actions Taken By Government**

#### Natural Disasters

- Providing food at subsidized rates in drought affected areas in Jigawa, Kano, and Katsina
- Establishment of NEMA as the coordinating agency for disaster management.
- HIV/AIDS - NACA done a lot in the area
- Food security agency SDR strategic grains department to monitor productions and release grains during emergency situation.

#### Gender Issues

- Girl child education
- No tuition/ free education, Universal Basic Education. (UBE)
- Political power - more appointment of women into key government positions, like minister, Permanent Secretaries, Directors, etc..
- Freedom of Information. Bill in the National Assembly (need to pass into law for women).

#### Land Rights

- Land Use Act 1978 – The Nigerian Government enacted this law to give equal access to land for its entire citizen

### **Challenges / Constraints**

#### Land Rights

1. Land Use Act needs to be revisited, reviewed and revised to take into account current trends and changes law reform.
2. Government acquisition vis-à-vis compensation which very minimal in most cases. Example Kwara state
3. Access to land. Highly discriminating against women both traditional, customary laws, statutory law.
4. Affordability and cost of acquisition.
5. Security of tenure.

#### Gender

- Capacity building issues. Training.
- Women not carried along, not part of the decision making process
- Involve women in policy decisions making and implementation.
- Strict compliance with the 30% stipulated by the Beijing Convention of female appointments in government and all spheres of employment.
- Participation in decision making process in projects. Monitoring of the situations.
- Mechanised farming, women excluded. Issues of transportation of goods that gives room for men exploring them.
- Skill acquisition and women empowerment scheme. So they can be self employed and generate self income.
- Ability of government and agencies to respond to emergency and disaster situations.

- HIV/AIDS, Child trafficking, Sex trade

#### Natural Disasters

- Quick response, preparedness. We want government to be pro-active
- Consultative Forum. Town hall meetings, share ideas, dialogue. People participation especially in Relocation Schemes..
- Finance. Ecological fund.
- Bureaucracy of the process. NEMA, the Director General has a limit on the amount he can approve for any disaster. Depending on the magnitude of the disasters, The Vice President's approval must be received

#### Lessons Learnt

1. Government should still control land in the country.
2. Strengthen institutions that will enforce the land administration process.
3. Need to review the land registration process. Remove the bureaucracy and cumbersome procedures in the registration system.
4. Government still needs to do more in the area of HIV/AIDS and Child trafficking.
5. Government needs to be more proactive. Structures to minimize the effects predict and be ready for disasters.

#### **Recommended Approaches and Actions**

- Setup and establish more job training and skill acquisition centres
- Ensure strict compliance and monitoring of women representation.
- Remove bureaucracy in NEMA and allocate more funds for the agency.
- Increase and provide security at all border posts to monitor cross border Child trade.
- Establish more Voluntary Counseling Centres VCC especially in rural areas.
- More funding.
- Immediate land reform policies in the country

#### **Group Members**

1. Sule Maikudi
2. Esther Timothy
3. Meg Abangma
4. Rita Afejuku-Egbe

### **Group 3: Agriculture & Rural Development**

#### **Policy**

There exist a policy thrust on agriculture and integrated rural development. This indicates the roles of the three different tiers of government and programme focus for each sub – sector

#### **Challenge and Constraints**

- Inconsistencies in programme implementation
- Delays in execution of policies e.g late distribution of fertilizer
- Lack of effective monitoring/evaluation and coordination

#### **Lessons Learnt**

-The agricultural production system is grossly ineffective  
-Some contents of the policy are no more desirable e.g use of harmful agrochemicals and genetically modified predators.

#### **Recommendations**

- Review of the current policy thrust
- Strict implementation of the reviewed policy

#### **A. Crop Production**

The policy to guarantee food sovereignty calls for reconsideration of governments withdrawal from direct production.

The level of crop production in the country falls short of demand

#### **Challenge/Constraints**

- crop production without government assistance is not profitable
- timeliness of fertilizer distribution and channel of distribution
- use of artificial fertilizers
- climate change
- Agrofuel production- agrofuels will not meet energy needs, but will rather take up land needed for food production.
- Rural Infrastructure

#### **Lessons Learnt / Recommendations**

- There is urgent need for assistance to farmers and proper education.

#### **Recommendations**

- There must be serious involvement of government in agriculture.
- Use of chemical fertilizers should be discouraged. There should be awareness on and promotion of use of organic fertilizer.
- Take cognizance of the fact that agrofuels are not cost effective, take up food crops land and would not meet energy demand.

- To ensure food sovereignty, GMOs should not be permitted and a strict Biosafety law should be put in place and the Biosafety Protocol strictly observed.

## **B. Extensive Services**

- These are very crucial for farmers to be updated on and keep abreast of current developments in agric. The services are no more functional in most states, though the mechanism is in place.

### Challenges/Constraints

- Absence of the Extension Agents
- Those available are not effective
- Farmers do not expert advise

### Lessons Learnt

- Lack of extension services has negatively affected productivity.
- More people are staying away from agriculture
- Recommendations
- The Fed Ministry of Agric and Water Resources should review current state of extension service and make the system functional

## **C. Gender & Agric**

- Women are marginalised in policy making processes especially with regard to agric production

### Challenges/Constraints

- Difficulty in access to land.
- Use of proceeds from eneterprise controlled by husbands

### Lessons Learned:

Women are highly involved in subsistence agriculture

### Recommendations

Women should be more appreciated ad should be involved in policy development and implementation.

## **D. Fisheries**

- Water bodies are shrinking thus implying reduction in available aquatic habitat

### Challenges/Constraints

- Available fisheries are harvested without control/survellance
- Large scale importation of iced fish with health implications
- Encouraging more people to go into fish breeding
- Illegal trawlers

#### Lessons Learnt

- The potential of the fisheries sub-sector is at risk

#### Recommendations

- Halt dumping of toxic wastes in our water ways
- Re-stocking of our rivers
- control of shrimp farming as these destroy mangroves
- Sustainable harvesting

#### **E. Pastoralists**

- This is an age-long culture. Pastoral routes have been demarcated by govt to avoid conflicts/clashes with farmers. Nomadic education services are also available.

#### Challenges/Constraints

- Inability to convince pastoralists to stick to demarcated routes
- Exposure to various risks and loss of weight and reduced size of cattle

#### **F. Lessons Learnt**

- Cattle and pastoralists will fare better if they settle in a place

#### Recommendations

- Provision of service Centres to provide water, fodder and other conveniences for pastoralists. This will impact on animal size and thus enhance their marketability.
- Provision of veterinary services

#### **G. Rural Development**

- The rural areas have been made a focus of dev proposals but not much have been achieved

#### Constraints

- Inadequate infrastructure
- Predominance of old and very young persons

#### Lessons Learned

Provision of infrastructure is pivotal to rural dev

#### Recommendations

- Growth centres should be established in rural areas to attract investment and using such as areas of comparative advantage
- Provision of functional infrastructural facilities
- NGOs should monitor LG chairmen to ensure strict budget implementation.

- Land Use Act (The Land Use Act should be reviewed & Land Use Plan to ensure availability of Agricultural land)

### **Group Members**

O. A. Komolafe (Mrs.)

Charles Ayede (Mr.)

Tina Huzi (Mrs.)

Hadiza Uyot (Mrs.)

Abagma Solution (Mr.)

Waheed Sikiru

Kamar-Deen Sikiru

## **Group 4: Drought & Desertification**

### **Concrete Action Taken**

- NEEDS Document: Set a regulatory agency about 92, 000 hectares of land has been lost to drought and desertification
- Aims to reverse this blaming situation by setting up a regulatory agency to address the situation
- Establishment of Nigerian Environmental Regulatory Agency
- Ministry of Environment to formulate National Desertification Policy on Drought Management Plan forwarded to the Federal Executive Council for approval . These 2 are aimed at addressing the issue of drought and desertification
- As part of government initiative, the following agencies have been introduced: A. GREEN SAHARA PROJECT, NIGERIA/ NIGER INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT BASE, THE NORTHERN 11 FRONTLINE STATES
- The National Action Plan for Drought Reduction
- National Environmental Policy
- Nigerian Greenbelt
- NEPAD Environmental Initiative
- Millennium Development Goal 7

### **Progress Made So Far**

- NEEDS 2: Formulating environmental sustainability is being mainstreamed into National Development Plan
- Climate Change
- Mitigation/ Adaptation of Climate Change Impact are being factors in national planning
- Establishment of NESREA in 2007 with clear mandate of drought and desertification
- Strategic Food Reserves
- Nigeria. Niger Integrated Project is on-going
- National Desertification Project is awaiting the approval of the Federal Executive Council
- All the 11 frontline states are participating in the GREENWORLD SAHARA and are pursuing separate initiatives at the various drought and densification committees
- Private initiative

- Desert to Food
- Afforestation programme

### **Challenges & Constraints**

1. Weak institutional frameworks
2. NESREA has given the responsibility of the former FEPA except oil spill aging which they lack capacity in doing so
3. Absence of early warning systems from Nigeria Metrological Management Agency
4. Lack of Public Education
5. Too many policies without enforcement and proper coordination
6. Unsustainable land and ecosystem use
7. Insufficient soil conservation techniques (water harvesting techniques)
8. Funding
9. Improper use of limited funds
10. Difficulties in assessing overseas assistance

### **Lessons Learnt**

- In Kenya there is a National Desertification Fund. In Senegal there is a range of government reforms and subsidies of requisite petroleum gaps
- Private/ major groups initiatives
- Promoting capacity building
- Energy efficiency is cheaper
- Production can be localized and reducing indoor pollution thereby promoting good health to women and children.

### **Recommended & Approaches**

- NESREA and NIMET should be strengthened and empowered.
- Proper Coordination among the agencies with related responsibilities on drought and desertification e.g Federal Ministry of Environment, Agric, Health, Finance and National Planning.
- Strong private sector involvement
- Interventions to be designed by strong local community involvement.
- All strategies to combat drought and desertification must be mainstream gender and other vulnerable groups
- National development plans and poverty reduction strategies to be used as vehicles for sourcing funding to address drought and desertification (MDAs)
- Drought and desertification is an emergency issue and must be treated as such. Urgent and prompt funding must be solicited from donor agencies and development partners.



- All strategies to combat drought and desertification must be mainstream gender and other vulnerable groups
- The farmers in dry land need access to market and reasonable prices for the products.
- Access to improve wood stoves and other renewable energy resources to reduce over reliance on wood
- Need for commitment in terms of implementation and funding of existing strategy at all levels including government

### **Group Members**

T. S Yakubu

Priscilla Achakpa

Huzi Mshelia

Dr. Hauwa Imam

Comfort A. Owolabi

## **Group 5: Water & Sanitation**

### **Concrete action taken and progress made to address water and sanitation**

#### Water

1. There is a draft policy, which have been adopted by the national council of water resources
2. Some states have also taken steps to draft state water policy e.g Benue State
3. Dam construction by some states and the Federal Government

#### Sanitation

- a. A national task group on sanitation, that coordinate national efforts for sanitation and hygiene programmes
- b. There is a draft national water and sanitation policy.
- c. There's also a draft national strategy for scaling up rural sanitation and hygiene.

### **Challenges & Constraints**

#### Water

1. The Federal Executive Council has not endorsed the national water policy
2. Not all the states have taken the step to draft the water policy
3. Lack of proper Environmental Impact Assessment before Dam construction.

#### Sanitation

- a. Lack of replication of national task group at the states level
- b. Lack of funding
- c. Lack of dedicated department for water and sanitation at local government level

### **Lessons Learnt**

1. Combating drought and assists countries in managing hydrological imbalance
2. Combating lack of access to water and sanitation and assisting countries to manage their water resources
3. Access to water and sanitation integrated approach to achieve meaningful and durable results

### **Approaches**

Strengthen institutional arrangement and human resources capacity to provide effective leadership for coordination, planning, monitoring and championing water and sanitation programme at regional and national levels

### **Recommendations & Actions**

1. Scaling up the capacities of all stakeholders to engage the legislative processes involved in water and sanitation
2. There's need to develop the capacity of relevant stakeholders for water resource management
3. There is a need for technological support for waste recycling and management at regional and national level

### **Where would Nigeria like to be supported?**

1. Capacity Building support for sustainable water supply and sanitation strategies, plans for investment and development
2. Technological support for waste recycling and management

### **Key Challenges**

1. Policy issue
2. Funding

### **Implications**

1. High mortality
2. Poverty
3. Low literacy level

### **Key Message**

- More and better funding for water and sanitation.
- Provision of safe water and basic sanitation for poverty reduction

### **Recommendations**

1. Invest more on water and sanitation (member states)
2. Technological support for waste recycling (UN)
3. Build capacity of all stakeholders to engage the legislative processes involved in water and sanitation. (CSOs)

### **Group Members**

1. Mr. Emmanuel Alexander
2. Mr. Bankole Ebisemiju
3. Mrs. Odey Eneyi
4. Mr. Desmond Chieshe
5. Miss. Blessing Emmanuel
6. Mrs. Ann Dura (JP)

### **Closing Remarks**

Ms. Priscilla Achakpa, Executive Director of WEP, thanked all the participants for coming and participating actively. She said all the key submissions and recommendations would be incorporated into the final report and would form the basis of a coordinated position which would be presented to CSD-16. She was particularly contented with the full participation in the Forum by UN-HABITAT (Nigeria); representatives of some state ministries – the Ministry of Lands and Survey of Benue state in particular; the Federal Ministry of Environment, Housing and Urban Development; and the Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Water Resources. With their attendance and quality deliberations, she said, the proceedings would feed into the larger report of the Major Groups across the globe to speak with one voice during CSD-16. She hoped that this was the beginning of a long-term relationship. She appealed that the ministries concerned should support some CSOs representatives to attend the forthcoming CSD in New York.

Ms. Achakpa was full of encomiums for members of the Nigerian Major Groups for their commitment to the CSD's ideals and wished them a safe journey back to their respective destinations.