Joint Communiqué
to
National Council on Climate Change

Introduction

The Climate, Conflict, and Fragility Summit convened by Clean Technology Hub on the 31st July 2024 to address the urgent and escalating issues related to climate change, ongoing conflicts, and their combined impacts on fragile communities in Nigeria. This communiqué reflects the consolidated views and resolutions reached by the summit participants, including experts, policymakers, and community leaders.

Assessment of the Situation

Nigeria is currently facing an unprecedented crisis marked by severe climate change effects and persistent conflicts. As of 2024, over 3 million people have been displaced within the country, with children making up a significant portion of this vulnerable group (UNHCR, 2024). The dual pressures of climate-induced disasters, such as severe flooding and droughts, and ongoing conflicts—particularly in the northeast—have heightened the displacement crisis. The 2022 flooding alone resulted in an estimated $1 billion in economic losses (World Bank, 2023). The Boko Haram insurgency has further intensified the crisis, displacing approximately 1.8 million people, including many children (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, 2024).

Observed Defected and Problems

Nigeria is facing a severe crisis driven by the multifaceted impacts of climate change, profoundly affecting public health, migration patterns, conflicts, and societal stability.

Public Health:

The increasing frequency of extreme weather events such as flooding and droughts has intensified public health challenges. Floods contribute to outbreaks of waterborne diseases, while droughts and desertification disrupt access to clean water and food, leading to malnutrition and health vulnerabilities.

Forced Migration and Displacement:

Environmental degradation, including flooding and erosion, has led to significant internal displacement, with over 3 million Nigerians forced to migrate. This displacement results in overcrowded and underserved settlements, heightening health risks and social instability

Conflicts and Fragile Communities:

Scarcity of resources such as water and arable land has exacerbated conflicts between communities. These conflicts, driven by environmental stressors, destabilize already fragile areas and contribute to broader regional and national insecurity .

Agricultural Productivity and Food Insecurity:

Climate-induced changes have stressed agricultural productivity, leading to reduced crop yields and increased food insecurity. This decline in food availability impacts livelihoods and exacerbates malnutrition.

Human Insecurity:

The cumulative effects of displacement, resource conflicts, and food shortages contribute to human insecurity, with displaced populations facing increased risks of violence and social instability.

Overall, these interconnected issues highlight the urgent need for comprehensive policies and interventions to address the complex challenges posed by climate change in Nigeria.

Reaction of Clean Technology Hub and Partners

Clean Technology Hub and its partners, through its Climate, Conflict, and Fragility Summit, gathered industry experts and participants who voiced concerns over the inadequacies in the current response framework to climate-induced issues. There is a consensus that the existing approaches fail to adequately address forced migration, internal displacements, health disruptions, livelihood disruptions, resource scarcity and competition, violence and conflicts, insecurity, and fragile communities. The summit underscored the necessity of addressing these gaps to enhance recovery and resilience, ensuring that support aligns with the comprehensive needs of affected populations.

Recommendations for improvement

To address the identified gaps and enhance the effectiveness of interventions, the summit makes the following recommendations:

1. **Enhancement of Climate Resilience Infrastructure**

   The summit resolved to prioritize the development and implementation of resilient infrastructure to mitigate the effects of climate-induced disasters such as floods, droughts, and desert encroachment. This includes:

   - **Investing in Green Infrastructure:** Adoption of nature-based solutions, such as wetlands restoration and sustainable urban drainage systems, to manage flood risks and control erosion.
   - **Promotion of Sustainable Land Use Practices:** Integration of land use planning with climate resilience strategies to prevent desertification and manage soil degradation.

2. **Strengthening Public Health Systems**

   Addressing the public health impacts of climate change is crucial. The summit resolved to
   - **Implement Early Warning Systems:** Develop and deploy early warning systems for climate-related health risks.
   - **Enhance Climate-Resilient Health Services:** Strengthen health systems to be more adaptable to climate impacts, ensuring that health facilities are prepared to deal with climate-induced health crises.

3. Support for Displaced Populations

Forced migration and displacement due to climate impacts require immediate and effective responses. Resolutions include

- **Developing Climate-Resilient Housing:** Construct and retrofit shelters to withstand extreme weather conditions and support displaced populations with sustainable housing solutions.
- **Supporting Livelihood Restoration:** Provide displaced communities with access to sustainable livelihood opportunities, including training and resources to adapt to new environments.

4. Conflict Prevention and Resolution

The nexus between climate change and conflict necessitates a proactive approach. The summit resolved to:

- **Promote Peacebuilding Initiatives:** Support initiatives that address resource-based conflicts exacerbated by climate change, such as disputes over water and arable land.
- **Enhance Community-Based Conflict Resolution:** Strengthen local conflict resolution mechanisms that involve community stakeholders in managing and mitigating climate-induced conflicts.

5. Agricultural Productivity and Food Security

Ensuring food security amidst climate challenges is a priority. Resolutions focus on:

- **Adopting Climate-Smart Agriculture:** Promote agricultural practices that increase resilience to climate variability, such as precision farming, crop diversification, and soil conservation techniques.
- **Investing in Food Security Programs:** Supporting programs aimed at improving food storage, distribution, and access to reduce the impacts of climate-induced food insecurity.

6. Building Community Resilience

Fragile communities must be supported to withstand climate impacts. The summit resolved to:

- **Empower Local Communities:** Enhance local capacity for climate adaptation through community-based programs and participatory planning.
- **Utilize Technology for Resilience Building:** Leverage technological solutions, such as mobile applications for climate data and early warnings, to empower communities in managing climate risks.

7. Fostering Collaboration and Resource Mobilization

Effective climate action requires collective effort and resources. Resolutions include:

- ○ **Strengthening Partnerships:** Foster collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, faith-based organizations, traditional institutions and the private sector to implement and scale climate adaptation initiatives.
- ○ **Securing Funding:** Mobilize financial resources to support climate resilience projects, including international aid, public-private partnerships, and climate financing mechanisms.

Resolution

The Climate, Conflict, and Fragility Summit calls for immediate and sustained action and also resolved to enhance climate resilience through the development of sustainable infrastructure, support for displaced populations, and promotion of climate-smart agriculture. Additionally, the summit emphasized strengthening public health systems, fostering conflict resolution, and mobilizing resources and partnerships to address the multifaceted impacts of climate change on Nigerian communities.

This communiqué serves as an official stand on the pressing issues of climate-induced challenges and national security threats, with the aim of fostering a comprehensive and competent response to these critical challenges.