



Clean Technology Hub  
energy innovation centre

# Climate, Conflict & Fragility Summit'24 Report

**Date of Summit:** July 31, 2024

**Venue:** Shehu Musa Yar' Adua Centre, Abuja, Nigeria

**Date of Report:** September 2024

Key Partners:



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## 1.0 Executive Summary

The Climate, Conflict, and Fragility Summit, held on July 31, 2024, at the Shehu Musa Yar' Adua Centre in Abuja, served as a groundbreaking platform to address the intricate and multifaceted relationship between climate change, conflict, public health, migration and fragility in Nigeria and the broader West African region. This landmark event marked the inaugural gathering of its kind, aimed at catalyzing a comprehensive and unified national dialogue around these critical challenges that threaten the nation's socio-economic stability and sustainable development.

The summit convened over 260 diverse participants, representing a cross-section of key stakeholders, including senior government officials, traditional and religious leaders, leading climate scientists, environmental activists, and representatives from civil society organizations. Additionally, international development partners and regional organizations were present, underscoring the global and regional importance of the issues being addressed.

The primary objective of the summit was to foster a cohesive and collaborative dialogue among these stakeholders, recognizing that climate change does not operate in isolation but rather as a force that exacerbates existing vulnerabilities and amplifies the risks of conflict and societal fragility. The summit aimed to break down silos and encourage integrated approaches to policy-making and implementation, drawing on diverse perspectives and expertise.

The summit provided a critical opportunity to explore the current state of climate-related challenges in Nigeria, with an emphasis on identifying hotspots of vulnerability where the impacts of climate change, such as increased frequency and severity of floods, droughts, and desertification, intersect with socio-political tensions and economic instability. Discussions aimed to understand how these dynamics contribute to patterns of migration, resource scarcity, and competition, often resulting in violent conflict.

By bringing together such a wide array of participants, the summit sought to build a shared understanding of the issues and to mobilize collective action towards sustainable solutions. This involved identifying immediate and long-term strategies for resilience and adaptation, setting the stage for future regional summits, and developing a national framework for climate resilience.

The summit's outcomes are intended to feed into national policy processes and contribute to Nigeria's commitments under international climate agreements, including the upcoming COP29,



ensuring that the insights and strategies developed are effectively communicated and implemented at both national and international levels.

### **Attendance**

About 260 participants were in attendance. Of this, 150 were young people below the age of 30 years. Others included Government entities, representatives of Civil Society Organisations, NGO, Professional bodies, Academia, Security agencies, UN agencies, Media etc.



## 2.0 Background

Clean Technology Hub (CTH) Nigeria convened a high-level summit in Abuja on July 31st, 2024, bringing together thought leaders, policymakers, civil society, and the ecological community to address the intertwined crises of climate change, conflict, and fragility. The event, hosted at the Shehu Musa Yar'Adua Center, underscored the urgent need for concerted action to mitigate the devastating impacts of these challenges on Nigeria and the world.

The Climate, Conflict, and Fragility Summit (CCFS) provided a platform for diverse stakeholders to engage in meaningful dialogue and collaboration. Participants explored the complex relationships between environmental degradation, socio-political instability, and economic fragility, emphasizing the necessity for integrated strategies to build resilience and foster sustainable development. The summit highlighted the critical role of innovative solutions and multi-sectoral partnerships in addressing these pressing issues.

By convening this summit, CTH aimed to catalyze a unified response to the climate crisis and its cascading effects on conflict and fragility. The discussions and outcomes from this event are expected to inform policy decisions and drive collective action towards a more resilient and sustainable future for Nigeria and beyond.

### 2.1 Objectives of the Summit

The Climate, Conflict, and Fragility Summit was strategically designed to address the pressing challenges posed by the intersection of climate change, conflict, and fragility in Nigeria. Through a series of targeted discussions and collaborative engagements, the summit aimed to achieve several critical objectives:

1. Begin building a cohesive national conversation around the issue of climate change, conflict and fragility.
2. Engage thought leaders to identify and define the core issues surrounding the subject.
3. Map out climate and conflict fragility hotspots across Nigeria.
4. Identify short-term and long-term actions that may be taken at the community and state levels.
5. Recommend actionable strategies for the Federal government to implement nationwide.
6. Enhance the capacity of various stakeholders to implement effective solutions.
7. Secure the support of a diverse range of stakeholders in implementing solutions to address climate vulnerability, conflict, and fragility.
8. Secure funding for grassroots climate adaptation projects involving multiple stakeholders..

## 3.0 Opening Remarks and GoodWill Messages

### 3.1 Opening Remarks

#### Ms. Ifeoma Malo (CEO & CO-Founder of Clean Technology Hub)

The opening remarks of the CEO of Clean Technology Hub highlighted the summit's theme, "From Crises to Resilience: Charting a Path Forward for Nigeria." The CEO emphasized the importance of understanding the intersection between the current developmental issues and the ongoing climate and environmental crises.



The challenges posed by climate change are

multifaceted, affecting national security, food security, public health, and social stability. These impacts are particularly acute in Nigeria, where extreme weather events, such as unprecedented flooding, have disrupted agricultural productivity, leading to food insecurity and economic instability. Furthermore, climate change exacerbates health issues, such as increased vector-borne diseases and heat-related illnesses, while resource scarcity and environmental degradation drive forced migration and conflicts over land and water.

Recognizing the urgency of these challenges, Clean Technology Hub organized the summit to bring together a diverse and dedicated group of stakeholders committed to finding solutions. The CEO noted that the organization does not merely define problems but focuses on driving solutions and actions. The science of climate change is well-documented, with clear evidence, data, and policies available. The critical question posed at the summit was how to leverage these tools—data, policy, and evidence—to drive meaningful action.

Thus, the summit was aimed to foster a cohesive national conversation around the intertwined issues of climate change, conflict, and fragility. By identifying climate and conflict hotspots, the summit sought to develop actionable strategies for both short-term and long-term solutions. The focus was on crafting strategies for central and local governments to take decisive action and build resilience in affected communities.

Collaboration was emphasized as a crucial component of the summit's objectives. Clean Technology Hub has a strong tradition of partnering with like-minded organizations, and the

summit was no exception. The CEO expressed gratitude to partners such as the Yar'adua Center, Homef Foundation, Serge Foundation, and the African Policy Research Institute for their support in bringing the summit to fruition. Additionally, the Skoll Foundation's generous donation played a vital role in making the event possible.

One of the summit's key goals was to build capacity and increase stakeholder engagement, attracting funding for grassroots climate adaptation projects. The CEO expressed hope that the summit would result in increased buy-in from stakeholders and pave the way for future initiatives. By the end of the summit, a comprehensive communiqué would be published to guide governmental actions at COP 29 and beyond. Furthermore, the establishment of a Climate Action Advisory Council was announced, aimed at forging regional partnerships and implementing climate adaptation projects.

Through collaboration, innovative solutions, and stakeholder engagement, Clean Technology Hub aims to lead the charge in building resilience and forging a sustainable path forward for Nigeria. By working together, the summit participants are committed to turning crises into opportunities for resilience and charting a path forward for the nation.

## 3.2 GoodWill Messages

### 3.2.1 The Representative of the Former Minister of Information, Alhaji Lai Mohammed, Dr. Adeshola Adebayo (Member House of Rep, Apapa Federal Constituency)



According to Dr. Adeshola, representing Alhaji Lai Mohammed at the Climate, Conflict, and Fragility Summit 2024, the summit convened at a pivotal moment, addressing the crucial links between climate change, conflict, and global peace. He mentioned that the summit highlighted the urgent need to recognize how climate change contributes to global instability,

with a particular focus on Nigeria. He expressed concern that much of the world's fragility today, especially in Nigeria, can be attributed to climate change. He noted that conflicts involving Boko Haram, farmers and herders, and banditry are often misattributed to religion,





ethnicity, and politics, overshadowing the underlying environmental causes. He emphasized that nature is indifferent to race and religion and continues to challenge humanity's failure to acknowledge the impact of climate on conflicts and fragility.

Dr. Adeshola stated that experts at the summit were poised to delve deeper into these issues, linking climate change to conflict and fragility, and proposing solutions to avert potential crises. He highlighted why the summit gathered goodwill messages, including one addressing the misinformation that often obscures the true causes of these conflicts. He recounted a pertinent example when former President Muhammadu Buhari met with former U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House on April 30, 2018. During this meeting, President Trump accused President Buhari's administration of persecuting and killing Christians—an allegation fueled by political opposition and certain religious leaders who exploited such narratives to secure donations from uninformed international audiences.

Dr. Adeshola explained that these narratives incorrectly portrayed the Boko Haram insurgency, banditry, and farmers-herders clashes as battles between Christians and Muslims or ethnic rivalries between Hausa, Fulani, and other Nigerian groups. He noted that this misinformation, although known to be false by those who propagated it, was widely disseminated. As the then Minister of Information and Culture, he made significant efforts to combat these falsehoods. He focused on the dwindling water volume of Lake Chad—a critical resource for over 20 million Africans across Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, Benin, Chad, and Burkina Faso. The loss of approximately 85% of its water over 60 years forced herdsmen from neighboring countries southward in search of water and pasture, escalating farmers-herders clashes.

He lamented that some state governors exploited these tensions, framing the clashes as an agenda to Islamize Nigeria, particularly the Middle Belt. This narrative sowed seeds of enmity and distrust among ethnic and religious groups that had previously coexisted peacefully. However, a noticeable decline in clashes followed the political transitions in these states in 2023. He pointed out that this shift revealed that the root causes lie in competition over diminishing resources rather than religious or ethnic supremacy.

Dr. Adeshola further illustrated this point with the situation of banditry in Nigeria's northwest. In this region, both aggressors and victims are predominantly Muslim, undermining any claim that banditry represents a Christian-Muslim conflict. He acknowledged that while the origins of Boko Haram are rooted in religious extremism and fundamentalism, it is inaccurate to view the insurgency as a Muslim-majority effort to eliminate the Christian minority. Boko Haram's attacks have indiscriminately targeted both Muslims and Christians, bombing mosques and churches alike.

He highlighted the impact of climate change on Boko Haram in the film "Eagle's Wing," produced by Papel Productions in collaboration with the Nigerian Air Force. Despite widespread misinformation, efforts were made to address these falsehoods comprehensively. Town hall meetings were organized in Gusau, Zamfara State; Katsina, Katsina State; Kaduna, Kaduna State; and Maiduguri, Borno State. These meetings brought together experts from academia, retired officials from the Northern Nigerian Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock, and civil society organizations to discuss the link between climate change and various conflicts, including Boko Haram, insurgency, farmers-herders clashes, and banditry.

As the Minister of Information and Culture, Dr. Adeshola recounted that numerous radio and television appearances, interviews, and press conferences were conducted to establish the connection between climate change and these conflicts. Efforts were not limited to Nigeria; they extended to the United Kingdom and the United States. In these countries, interviews were granted to media outlets and think tanks such as Reuters, BBC, Voice of America, Bloomberg, Washington Post, Associated Press, Foreign Policy Magazine, Politico, The Economist, Guardian, African Confidential, African Report, and Al Jazeera. Think tanks engaged included the Atlantic Council, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Royal Institute of International Affairs at Chatham House, the Royal African Institute, Commonwealth Office officials, the All-Party Parliamentary Group in the UK, the United Institute of Peace, and the Hudson Institute.

After nearly a decade of advocacy, Dr. Adeshola expressed gratification to see Clean Technology Hub elevating this campaign to new heights. He concluded that the summit serves as a testament to the critical need for awareness and action at the intersection of climate change, conflict, and fragility, driving efforts to foster peace and resilience in Nigeria and beyond.

### 3.2.2 Rukaiya El Rufai (Special Adviser to the President on National Economic Council and Climate Change, resident at the Vice President's office)



The Special Adviser to the President on the National Economic Council and Climate Change extended her heartfelt greetings and best wishes to all participants of the Climate, Conflict, and Fragility Summit in Nigeria. She re-affirmed that the summit convened at a critical juncture in the global journey, confronting the intertwined challenges of climate change, conflict, and fragility that threaten the well-being and future of societies. She emphasized that these issues are interconnected in a global narrative and recounted how the world recently experienced its three hottest days on record, prompting the UN Secretary-General to stress the urgency of keeping climate change at the forefront of global agendas. Despite numerous challenges, she stated that policymakers and business leaders must balance immediate needs with long-term sustainability goals to ensure the well-being of current and future generations.

El-Rufai maintained that the summit's theme resonated deeply with the urgency and complexity of current times, noting that climate change is not merely an environmental issue but a catalyst for conflict and a magnifier of fragility. She pointed out that in Nigeria, the impacts of climate variability and extremes are felt most acutely by those already vulnerable, with issues such as poverty and food insecurity being exacerbated by climate vulnerabilities, which intensify existing challenges and hinder efforts toward peace and development.

She recounted the stark and multifaceted challenges faced in Nigeria, mentioning devastating floods like those experienced in 2022 that inundated communities. She noted that at the National Economic Council, led by Vice President Kashim Shettima, efforts have been made to address these issues, with an ad hoc committee on floods bringing together MDAs and state





governments to monitor flood risks. Despite predictions of less flooding last year, this year has been marked by high alerts, emphasizing the importance of preparedness in light of food insecurity. The committee has extended its mandate to include disaster risks, prioritizing issues such as coastal erosion and droughts.

She highlighted that coastal erosion poses a significant threat to homes and infrastructure, especially in areas like Lagos facing the risk of rising sea levels. She also noted that farmer-herder conflicts, often driven by competition for diminishing resources, highlight the complex interplay between environmental stress and social unrest. She observed that globally, there is a re-engineering of economies and businesses toward concepts like the circular economy, where resource efficiency is prioritized.

Food insecurity, driven by environmental and social pressures, remains a pressing concern that demands urgent attention. She remarked that the nation's resilience is being tested by the impacts of climate change on the socioeconomic fabric and national security. She recounted seeing news reports about protests highlighting security concerns related to agriculture upon arriving at the summit, underscoring the need for unified action to address these challenges.

She stressed that the themes of the summit—exploring the nexus of climate, conflict, and fragility, and strategizing for local resilience and adaptation—are crucial to charting a sustainable path forward. She affirmed that the National Economic Council recognizes the importance of local climate action, emphasizing that while local resilience and adaptation are essential, mitigation must also be prioritized. She noted that there are significant opportunities for leapfrogging solutions to address these challenges effectively and that mitigation offers substantial financial resources that can complement adaptation efforts.

She concluded by reminding everyone of the vital importance of collaborative action and innovative solutions, stating that Nigeria, with its rich diversity and resilience, stands as both a beacon of hope and a microcosm of the global challenges faced. She commended the efforts to address these challenges at national and regional levels, noting that they offer valuable lessons for the international community. She stressed that discussions and deliberations must be driven by a commitment to inclusivity, sustainability, and resilience, listening to the voices of those most affected, particularly women, youth, and marginalized communities, to ensure their perspectives shape policies and interventions.



El-Rufai recalled her past work auditing CSR projects across Africa, including Nigeria, and frequently found disconnects and expectation gaps even in simple solutions like providing water pumps, often stemming from a need for proper engagement with affected communities. She highlighted the importance of involving communities in defining sustainable solutions.

In closing, she extended her deepest gratitude to the organizers, speakers, and participants for their dedication and contributions to the vital cause, praying that the summit would mark a significant step forward in the quest for climate resilience, conflict resolution, and stability of fragile regions. She wished that their efforts be guided by wisdom and a shared vision for a better world for all, and concluded with, May God bless the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

### 3.2.3 Representative of Etsu Nupe, Alhaji Muhammadu Kudu Abubakar (Dan Masanin Rabbah)



In a significant address at the Climate, Conflict, and Fragility Summit, His Royal Highness, The Etsu Nupe, Alhaji Yahaya Abubakar emphasized the timeliness and necessity of the event, aptly themed "From Crisis to Resilience: Charting a Path Forward for Nigeria." His Royal Highness highlighted the importance of the summit in addressing the profound environmental and social challenges facing Nigeria, which pose serious

threats to the stability and well-being of its communities.

His Royal Highness described the summit as a critical step in the right direction, aligning with the organizers' program that acknowledges the pressing need for resilience amidst crisis. He noted that Nigeria is grappling with severe environmental challenges, and as custodians of tradition and culture, traditional rulers, often referred to as Royal Fathers or traditional monarchs, play a pivotal role in the country's socio-political landscape, especially in the development of their respective domains.

His Royal Highness expressed the awareness among traditional institutions of the devastating consequences of climate change across various regions in Nigeria. In the northern part of the country, climate change effects manifest as desertification, flooding, and erosion, while the southern regions face challenges such as gully erosion, landslides, flooding, water contamination, and fish depletion. These issues underscore the urgent need for coordinated efforts to mitigate these impacts.

While commending the federal and state governments' efforts and interventions to address climate change, His Royal Highness highlighted the National Council of Traditional Rulers of Nigeria's appreciation for the summit's key objectives. He expressed support for the proposed establishment of a Climate, Conflict, and Fragility Advisory Council and suggested that similar councils be established at state and local government levels to enhance grassroots effectiveness. Furthermore, His Royal Highness conveyed the traditional rulers' commitment to supporting stakeholders and institutions in achieving two key outcomes: raising awareness among communities and building resilience to reduce vulnerabilities to climate impacts and conflicts.



This commitment reflects the traditional institution's readiness to collaborate and contribute to national efforts toward climate resilience.

In conclusion, the National Council of Traditional Rulers of Nigeria expressed gratitude for the opportunity to deliver a goodwill message at the summit. His Royal Highness commended Clean Technology Hub for their pioneering research and development efforts, as well as the sponsors and stakeholders involved in the summit. The Council extended its best wishes for successful deliberations and fruitful implementation of the suggested outcomes, emphasizing the importance of collective action in addressing these critical challenges.

His Royal Highness's remarks underscored the vital role of traditional institutions in fostering resilience and adaptability in the face of climate change, conflict, and fragility, and he reaffirmed the Council's commitment to supporting these endeavors.



## 4.0 Sessions

### 4.1 Session I: Keynote Speakers

#### 4.1.1 Sheik Nurudeen Lemu OON (Director of Research and Training at Dawah Institute of Nigeria)

*Topic: Climate, Migration, and Conflict in Nigerian and Global Context*



Sheikh Nurudeen Lemu began his address by expressing gratitude to the Clean Technology Hub and their collaborators for prioritizing the critical and often misunderstood relationship between climate and conflict. He shared a personal story about his late mother, an avid tree planter, and his pledge to continue her legacy by planting at least 1000 trees annually. He emphasized that trees are sophisticated environmental protectors and cited historical examples of civilizations that vanished due to deforestation.

Sheikh Lemu introduced the concept of "wicked problems," complex issues that defy simple solutions and often become more complicated as one attempts to resolve them. He noted that climate problems unfold gradually, affecting different regions at different times, and often remain ignored until they become severe. He referenced Simon Sinek's idea of "infinite games," arguing that solving environmental and climate challenges is an ongoing effort that requires continual action and the passing of the baton to future generations.

He highlighted the importance of prevention over cure, noting that the costs of addressing environmental issues after they have become severe are far greater than addressing them proactively. He stressed that the environment is the foundation upon which all future plans are built and questioned how economic and political goals could be realized without a healthy planet. He illustrated the consequences of deforestation, noting that the Sahara Desert is encroaching southward at a rate of 3 to 5 kilometers per year, leading to resource conflicts between farmers and herders.

Sheikh Lemu used historical and contemporary examples to illustrate the interconnectedness of ecosystems. He recounted the story of Yellowstone Park, where the removal of wolves led to ecological imbalance and eventual desertification, and the subsequent reintroduction of wolves restored balance. He warned that humans are even more destructive than the herbivores unchecked by predators like wolves and lions and urged for human behavior to be regulated to protect the environment.

He called for creative and sustainable use of resources, such as using natural gas to benefit local populations and not just for export. He emphasized the importance of equitable resource distribution and addressing grievances that lead to conflicts disguised as religious or ethnic issues. Sheikh Lemu concluded by urging religious leaders and civil society organizations to work together to guide people towards environmental stewardship and prevent society from devolving into chaos due to unchecked consumption and destruction of natural resources.

The address closed with a call to action for organizations like Clean Technology Hub to act as protectors and regulators, ensuring that society manages its needs while preserving resources for future generations.

### Key Takeaways

- Sheikh Nurudeen Lemu painted a grim picture of a world grappling with a geometrically increasing climate crisis, warning that current solutions are growing at an arithmetic pace.
- He emphasized the pivotal role of trees in environmental protection, highlighting their capacity to mitigate the escalating impacts of climate change.



#### 4.1.2 Bishop Matthew Kukah (Bishop Catholic Diocese of Sokoto)



*Topic: Conflict, Fragility and Development in the Nigerian and Global Context*

In his keynote address at the Climate, Conflict, and Fragility Summit, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah delivered a compelling analysis of the intertwined issues of fragility and conflict, particularly within the Nigerian context. His insights challenged prevailing narratives and offered a nuanced perspective on the root causes and potential solutions to these complex challenges.

Bishop Mathew Hassan Kukah emphasized the need for informed leadership in addressing Nigeria's environmental and political challenges. He highlighted a cultural contrast, noting that in the United States, even injuring a squirrel can lead to jail time because of the value Americans place on the environment. This anecdote underscored the importance of being mindful about ecological sustainability.

He criticized the Nigerian leadership for its lack of proper understanding and misrepresentation of conflicts, which has exacerbated the country's problems. Kukah lamented that politics is the only profession in Nigeria that does not require qualifications, leading to uninformed leaders who contribute to the country's fragility.

The Bishop recounted how, in 1999, when President Obasanjo established the Ministry of Environment, it was initially seen as insignificant. This perception has led to the neglect of

environmental issues, as exemplified by the misuse of the ecological fund by governors for personal gain rather than addressing ecological challenges like desertification.

He described how funds intended for environmental projects, such as the Green Wall initiative, were misappropriated, leaving the projects uncompleted. Kukah expressed frustration that governance in Nigeria has become a tool for self-enrichment rather than serving the public good.

Bishop Kukah also discussed how appointments to ministries are often based on political connections rather than expertise, which hinders effective governance. He pointed out that despite years of warnings about environmental issues, the government has remained uninterested, leading to preventable disasters.

He also added why reforms consistently fail in Nigeria, attributing this to a systemic failure where governance is not focused on delivering positive outcomes but rather on maintaining power and wealth for a select few. Kukah's address highlighted the urgent need for informed, accountable leadership to address Nigeria's challenges of climate, conflict, and fragility.

Bishop Kukah also contested the notion that conflict is the primary cause of fragility. Instead, he argued that fragility itself is a significant precursor to conflict. Drawing a parallel to the COVID-19 pandemic, he noted that individuals with underlying health conditions were more susceptible to severe outcomes. Similarly, Nigeria's structural weaknesses, such as poor governance, corruption, and unequal resource distribution, predispose the country to conflict. This analogy underscored the importance of addressing foundational issues to prevent further instability.

The bishop highlighted the critical structural deformities within the Nigerian state, which he believes are at the heart of its fragility. He described how the unequal distribution of resources and the absence of effective governance mechanisms have created an environment ripe for conflict. Using the metaphor of blocked arteries in the human body, he illustrated how systemic issues impede the nation's ability to function effectively, leading to a state of fragility that invites conflict.

A significant portion of Bishop Kukah's address focused on the distinction between authority and power. He observed that many individuals in positions of power in Nigeria lack the moral authority necessary to command genuine respect and loyalty. Authority, he argued, is not merely about holding power but also about possessing the character and integrity that inspire trust and allegiance. This distinction is crucial in understanding why Nigeria struggles with issues of governance and law enforcement.

Bishop Kukah emphasized the importance of legitimacy, which he defined as the state's ability to enforce its will and achieve consensus on critical issues. He suggested that legitimacy is built on the state's moral authority and its capacity to govern effectively. The lack of legitimacy, he argued, is evident in the widespread disregard for laws and the prevalence of corruption, which are symptoms of a deeper crisis within the Nigerian state.

Addressing cultural and systemic problems, Bishop Kukah highlighted how the state's inability to enforce laws and command respect exacerbates issues such as corruption and lawlessness. He pointed out that these challenges are not merely the result of individual failings but are indicative of a broader systemic crisis. The absence of a moral and authoritative state leads to a survival-of-the-fittest mentality, where individuals prioritize personal gain over collective well-being.



To illustrate his points, Bishop Kukah drew comparisons with governance systems in other countries, such as Singapore. He highlighted how seamless leadership transitions and rigorous vetting processes contribute to effective governance and stability. In contrast, Nigeria's political system often suffers from a lack of authority and legitimacy, leading to convoluted and ineffective governance.





In conclusion, Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah's keynote address provided a thought-provoking examination of the issues of fragility and conflict. His insights emphasized the need for Nigeria to address its structural and governance challenges to mitigate fragility and prevent conflict. By focusing on moral authority, legitimacy, and effective governance, Bishop Kukah suggested that Nigeria could move toward a more stable and prosperous future. His address served as a call to action for leaders and policymakers to prioritize foundational reforms and foster an environment conducive to peace and development.

### Key Takeaways

- Bishop Matthew Hassan Kukah offered a scathing critique of the political class, accusing them of turning governance into a vehicle for personal enrichment.
- He highlighted the state's failure to address ecological challenges and enforce policies to mitigate degradation.
- Bishop Kukah underscored the urgent need for a merit-based system of governance to address the root causes of conflict and fragility.

## 4.2 Session 2: Fire-Side Chat: Conflict, Fragility and Development in the Nigerian and Global Context



**Moderator:** Rev. Fr. George Ehusani (Executive Director, Lux Terra Leadership Foundation) (Middle)

**Keynote speakers:** Bishop Matthew Kukah (Left) and Sheikh Nurudeen Lemu OON (Right)

The discussion opened with the alarming state of the environment, characterized by declining water resources, desertification, and pollution. It was emphasized that humanity is on a destructive path, depleting the very resources that sustain life. This crisis is not just a theoretical concern but a tangible reality with profound implications for human survival. Between 1960 and now, Nigeria has lost 90% of its environmental resources, a metaphor for the environmental crisis at hand.

Both speakers highlighted the failure of governance at various levels—local, state, and national. The absence of competent and authoritative leadership has led to a lack of effective environmental policies and enforcement. Despite Nigeria's commitments to international

environmental treaties, the lack of governance has rendered these commitments ineffective. The discussion also touched on the role of technology, noting that while it can be a powerful tool for good, it can also be destructive if not properly managed.

Sheikh Nurudden Lemu pointed out that religious traditions emphasize the importance of internal change as a precursor to societal transformation. However, he acknowledged that moral agency alone is insufficient; there must be systems in place to ensure that good governance and ethical behavior are upheld even when individual leaders fail.

Bishop Kukah shared his experiences in the Niger Delta, highlighting how multinational corporations, particularly Shell, have engaged in practices that pacify the local elite while neglecting the broader community. This has led to widespread environmental degradation and social unrest. He noted the complicity of the local elite in this process, who often benefit from the exploitation at the expense of their communities.

The discussion underscored the role of education in addressing environmental challenges. It was pointed out that both the educated elite and religious leaders often lack awareness of the environmental impact of their actions. This ignorance contributes to the perpetuation of harmful practices, such as the improper disposal of industrial waste and the use of toxic pesticides like carbofuran, which have devastating effects on wildlife and human health.

The discussants emphasized the need for systemic change, starting at the individual and community levels. They advocated for the establishment of think tanks to develop and implement sound environmental policies. The importance of raising awareness about the interconnectedness of environmental issues with health, governance, and societal well-being was also highlighted.

In the latter part of the fireside chat, the speakers reflected on the disconnect between education and environmental consciousness, particularly in Nigeria. They noted that despite having advanced degrees, many people still fail to understand the importance of preserving the environment, as evidenced by the lack of trees and green spaces in residential estates.

The conversation also touched on the need for strict enforcement of environmental laws, drawing parallels with Singapore's approach to public discipline. The role of religious and community leaders in educating and guiding people toward sustainable practices was emphasized. Additionally, there was concern about the lack of involvement from government officials in discussions like these, which limits the effectiveness of such conversations in driving policy changes.





Generally, the fireside discussion called for a multifaceted approach to tackling the environmental crisis, one that combines moral leadership, effective governance, technological innovation, and grassroots education. The discussion provided a sobering reflection on the state of the environment and a call to action for all stakeholders to work together to address these pressing challenges.

### Key Takeaways

- This chat delved deeper into the complexities of conflict, fragility, and development in Nigeria.
- The session provided a platform for participants to share insights and experiences, fostering a collaborative approach to addressing these challenges.

### 4.3 Panel Discussion I: The Nexus of Climate, Conflict and Migration in Nigeria



**Moderator:** Abiodun Baiyewu (third from Right)

**Panelists/speakers:** From L-R Ms Ifeoma Malo, Pastor James Movel Wuye, Adaku Ufere, Abiodun Baiyewu (moderator), Dr Amina Dorayi.

#### Key Takeaways: Summary of Panel Session:

The panelists discussed the vital role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in addressing climate issues, emphasizing that instead of focusing on how to involve the government, it is the government's responsibility to involve CSOs. CSOs are seen as thought leaders and facilitators, and the government must recognize this, actively identifying and working with them. A notable issue raised was the absence of several key government ministries at the summit, including the Ministries of Environment, Agriculture, Youth, and Women's Affairs. The panel highlighted the need for government accountability, with the Reverend's earlier comment about internal communication between stakeholders serving as a poignant reminder of the disconnect.

A call for intentionality was made, urging that climate change considerations be embedded into every aspect of life—from the home to the workplace. Panelists stressed the importance of making activities "climate-centered" or, at the very least, "climate-responsive." It was noted that climate issues are directly related to most of the challenges faced, and the risks are only expected to increase over the next 20 years. Participants pointed to Rwanda as an example of basic, effective environmental policies, such as banning nylon bags, that could be adopted in Nigeria. The discussion further emphasized the importance of involving women and young people in climate leadership roles to truly tackle Nigeria's climate challenges.

The conversation then shifted to the importance of rebuilding trust between citizens and the government. Panelists called for prioritizing participatory budgeting, public-private partnerships, community mobilization, and capacity building. The approach should focus on involving local communities as partners rather than mere recipients of aid, allowing them to participate in solving the problems they face.

A critical cultural challenge discussed was Nigeria's general lack of preparedness for climate impacts. Despite experiencing heavy rains, there is a widespread unpreparedness among citizens, as seen in the lack of basic items such as umbrellas and Wellington boots. The panelists encouraged citizens to take small, proactive steps, like reducing plastic use and preparing for known climate issues in their personal lives, while simultaneously demanding more from elected officials.

Religious leaders were also identified as crucial actors in responding to climate challenges. They are often the first responders, providing not only spiritual guidance but also a platform to educate communities. The panel stressed the need for deliberate engagement with religious



institutions, as their weekly sermons reach large audiences, including policymakers. Early education on climate resilience in schools was also highlighted as a key strategy for building a climate-conscious generation.

Lastly, the panel acknowledged the political complexities within government that often hinder meaningful participation and intervention. Civil society was described as stepping in where the government is absent, which further deepens the trust deficit between citizens and the state. The panelists shared personal stories illustrating the human toll of displacement due to climate change and conflict, reinforcing the urgency of addressing these issues holistically.

The session closed with a prayer, echoing the need for hope and faith as the country confronts the profound challenges of climate change and fragility.



#### 4.4 Panel Discussion 2: Strategies for Local Resilience and Adaptation



**Moderator:** Amara Nwankpa (Third from left)

**Panelists/speakers:** From L-R, Imam Muhammad Ashafa, Chris Ngwodo, Amara Nwankpa (moderator), Dr Priscilla Achakpa, Dr Saleh Momale, Aishatu Jahun.

#### Key Takeaways

The panelists emphasized the importance of transitioning leadership to the younger generation, citing that many organizations are now led by young people. They stressed the need for mentorship, encouraging older leaders to pass on knowledge and responsibilities to the youth to drive progress. The lack of young people in government was criticized, with a call to build their capacity and integrate them into leadership roles. The speakers highlighted that many Nigerian leaders are "recycled" and expressed a need for fresh, youthful talent to move the country forward.

Regarding climate change, the Climate Change Act was mentioned, specifically Section 34, which mandates penalties for entities, including government bodies, that fail to meet climate obligations. A government official challenged the panelist to take the government to court if they do not comply with climate change policies.

Education, capacity building, and inclusivity were identified as fundamental to environmental protection and societal advancement. The panelist reiterated the need to engage women, youth, and vulnerable groups in climate discussions, calling for a collaborative approach to policy-making and implementation.

In terms of engagement with government, the panelist advised working closely with state governments rather than focusing solely on the federal level. This was particularly important for projects in regions like Sokoto and Katsina where questions were raised during the session. The importance of tailoring advocacy efforts to specific government jurisdictions was also emphasized, as well as the need for familiarity with existing policies like the National Climate Change Policy and the Climate Change Act.

The session touched on the importance of community involvement in environmental projects. For example, tree planting initiatives should consider the local community's needs and motivations, such as planting economically beneficial trees like cashew, which communities in Abuja and environment readily support.

The panel ended with a discussion of resilience as a counterpoint to fragility, emphasizing the importance of inclusive institutions, basic services, and the ability to absorb shocks. Resilient societies must accept that challenges will occur and focus on how to respond to them effectively to maintain stability.

This panel reinforced the importance of youth empowerment, government accountability, and strategic engagement in the fight against climate change and societal fragility.



## 5.0 Key Takeaways and Conclusions

Key outcomes of the summit include the following:

### 1. **Build a National Conversation:**

The summit served as a vital platform for initiating a comprehensive national dialogue on the multifaceted impact of climate change on national security, food security, and human development. By bringing together a diverse array of stakeholders, the summit fostered an inclusive conversation aimed at bridging gaps in understanding and fostering collaborative solutions.

### 2. **Identify Hotspots:**

One of the summit's key outcomes was the mapping of climate and conflict fragility hotspots across Nigeria. This effort was instrumental in providing a data-driven basis for informed policy-making and strategic responses, highlighting areas where the effects of climate change are most acutely felt and where the risk of conflict and societal disruption is highest.

### 3. **Define Core Issues:**

By engaging with thought leaders and experts from various fields, the summit succeeded in identifying and defining the core issues that underpin the complex relationship between climate change, conflict, and fragility. These discussions were crucial in pinpointing the underlying drivers of vulnerability and instability, setting the stage for effective intervention strategies.

### 4. **Actionable Strategies:**

A major focus of the summit was the development of both short-term and long-term strategies for resilience and adaptation. These strategies are designed to be implemented at the community and state levels, empowering local actors to take proactive measures to build resilience against climate-induced challenges and foster sustainable development.

### 5. **Stakeholder Engagement:**

The summit effectively gained the support and commitment of a broad range of stakeholders, including policymakers, community leaders, and international partners. This engagement is essential for the collaborative implementation of the strategies discussed, ensuring that efforts to address climate change, conflict, and fragility are coordinated and impactful.

### 6. **Launch Initiatives:**

The summit marked the initiation of a key initiative, the establishment of the Climate Action Advisory Council (CAAC) and the Climate, Conflict, and Fragility Campaign. This initiative is designed to drive ongoing advocacy and action, ensuring that the momentum generated by the summit translates into tangible outcomes and sustainable progress.



## 6.0 Recommendations and Action Items

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.

## 7.0 Closing Remarks



As the Climate, Conflict, and Fragility Summit concluded, Ibrahim Wambai, the lead of the initiative, delivered his closing remarks. He expressed deep appreciation for the collaborative efforts demonstrated during the summit and emphasized its significance as a platform for addressing some of the most pressing challenges facing

the nation and the world. Wambai highlighted the summit's role in transforming insights into action. He noted that the event had provided a unique opportunity to explore the complex interactions between climate change, conflict, and fragility. By engaging with experts from diverse fields such as climate science, security, health, and migration, the summit generated invaluable insights that would inform the development of national resilience strategies to be presented at COP29.

He emphasized the formulation of comprehensive national resilience strategies as a key outcome of the summit. These strategies are designed to enhance local resilience, establish early warning systems, and promote adaptation to mitigate the impacts of climate change. Wambai stressed the importance of integrating the recommendations gathered during the summit into these strategies to address the multifaceted challenges effectively.

Collaboration emerged as a central theme in Wambai's remarks. He underscored the necessity of uniting stakeholders from government, civil society, and international partners to implement sustainable and effective solutions. The summit reinforced the idea that collective efforts are crucial to achieving the shared goals of addressing climate change and its associated impacts.

Wambai expressed the summit's significance as the initial step in a five-part series aimed at advancing the understanding and response to climate, conflict, and fragility issues. He reiterated the commitment to maintaining an ongoing dialogue and building upon the momentum



generated at the summit. This series would provide opportunities to refine strategies and continue making meaningful progress.

Community engagement was highlighted as a critical component of the initiative's success. Wambai acknowledged the importance of community-led initiatives in building resilience and adapting to the challenges posed by climate change and conflict. He emphasized the focus on empowering communities and providing them with the necessary resources to implement effective solutions at the local level.

In conclusion, he extended his heartfelt gratitude to all participants, speakers, panelists, and organizers for their unwavering dedication and passion. He acknowledged their instrumental contributions in shaping the initiatives and expressed confidence in achieving meaningful progress in the years to come, encouraging everyone to carry the momentum of the summit into their daily work, ensuring the effective implementation of the strategies and solutions discussed. He closed by thanking all attendees for their commitment to making a difference in the face of climate, conflict, and fragility challenges.



## Feedback from Participants

“

The CCFS was a wonderful conference. The stakeholders handled key discussions with expertise. I am well equipped to positively contribute to building resilience in Nigeria.

**Misheal Nungnaan**

“

The summit was insightful. The array of speakers and panelists was a brilliant choice. The event was also pro-tech with the innovative e-tag a major highlight.

**Bilkisu aliyu**

“

This was an Excellent Summit! Thank you very much.

**Aishatu, Baba Azimi Foundation**

“

A huge thanks to Mr. Ibrahim for masterminding the CCFS; it was a massive learning experience. To the CEO of Clean Tech Hub, thanks for granting me and the Little Acre Range Crew the opportunity to grace the Summit. I look forward to another gathering of this nature.

**Amuda Khallilulah**

## CCFS FACTS SHEET



10  
Panelists



2  
Keynote Addresses



260  
Attendees



57%  
Young Adult  
Attendees



1  
Fireside Chat



2  
Panel Sessions



1  
Policy Brief  
Published



1  
Joint Communique  
Issued



1  
Climate Action  
Advisory Council  
Launched

## Key Impacts of the Climate, Conflict, and Fragility Summit

The Climate, Conflict, and Fragility Summit had several significant impacts including:

### 1. Increased Awareness and Understanding:

The summit deepened participants' understanding of the complex interplay between climate change, conflict, and fragility in Nigeria. Additionally, participants shared insights and experiences, fostering a more informed and holistic understanding of the challenges.

### 2. Policy-Oriented Dialogue:

The summit fostered a collaborative dialogue among key stakeholders, leading to policy-oriented discussions and recommendations. Furthermore, the summit contributed to the development of a national framework for climate resilience, guiding future policy decisions.

### 3. Enhanced Stakeholder Collaboration:

The summit facilitated networking and collaboration among government officials, civil society, and international organizations, researchers, climate enthusiasts, peace building experts, students, and young professionals. Participants explored synergies between their work and identified opportunities for joint action. Moreover, the summit opened doors for collaboration with international partners on climate resilience and sustainable development.

### 4. Advocacy and Action:

The summit empowered participants to advocate for climate-resilient policies and practices at both national and international levels. The summit generated actionable recommendations for addressing the challenges of climate change, conflict, and fragility, including a joint communique to the National Council on Climate Change.

### 5. Policy Influence:

The summit's outcomes are expected to inform national policy processes and contribute to Nigeria's commitments under international climate agreements. Additionally, the summit has the potential to drive sustainable development by addressing the root causes of conflict and fragility.



Conclusively, the Climate, Conflict, and Fragility Summit marked a significant milestone in our shared vision and efforts to build resilience and address the interconnected challenges posed by climate change, conflict, and fragility in Nigeria. The impact of the CCFS is expected to have long-lasting effects on policy development, stakeholder collaboration, and the country's ability to build a more resilient and sustainable future.

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Speakers Profile



Photo Speaks



Video



Event Highlight