



December 8, 2023

PRESS RELEASE AT COP28 IN UAE-DUBAI

THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENTALISTS (NAPE) AND PARTNERS INDICATED ABOVE AND OTHERS CALL UPON WORLD LEADERS AND UGANDA GOVERNMENT IN PARTICULAR TO PAY DUE ATTENTION TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE.

As world leaders, ministers, scientists, negotiators gather in Dubai for COP 28 to agree on how to address climate change which continues to be felt hard by mostly women and girls globally and is mainly caused by corporate induced land grabbing, investment in fossil fuels, wetlands and forests destruction among other factors. Climate change has significantly led to unprecedented droughts, floods, wildfires, storms, associated women and girls' rights abuses and other human rights abuses. Amidst all these, Climate financing remains one of the solutions to tackle the issues mentioned above.

Delegates at COP28 in Dubai have agreed to launch the long-awaited climate fund to pay for loss and damage which we welcome for developing countries that suffer devastating impacts of climate change. Whereas, this is a milestone for countries affected by climate crisis including Uganda, the fund in the current state has no firm and clear targets set for how much money the fund will disburse especially for women and girls, the scope, access modalities and funding sources. This leaves a lot to question as to whether the fund will soon or later materialize and trickle down to those most facing adverse effects of climate change that are women and girls or will be the usual promises and only passing the money through usual government channels only.

The Latest Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative (ND-GAIN 2021) ranked Uganda as the 10th vulnerable country to the impacts of climate change and 35th least prepared in terms of preparedness for the climate change effects. While climate change affects everyone, it does not affect them equally.

According to Joan Akiiza, the legal and Gender Officer at NAPE, currently at COP28, women and girls often face higher risks and greater burdens from the impacts of climate change in situations of poverty due to existing roles, responsibilities and cultural norms. She says, in Uganda women are responsible for household energy, food, water and care for the families. This means the consequences of climate change can increase the burden for women and girls like causing them to travel long distances to obtain daily supplies leaving less time for paid work and potentially exposing them to greater risk for their personal safety.

“Gender disparities in ownership and access to resources such as land, credit and technology coupled with social cultural barriers impoverish women and girls, lower their adaptive capacity and increase their exposure to climate risk”, said Natasha Kusiima, the Executive Director of Simma Africa.

It should however be noted that, women's unique knowledge of community dynamics and skills in the use and management of resources add value to climate effort by enhancing efficiency and sustainability of climate response efforts.

Joanita Babirye, the Executive Director of Girls for Climate Action, noted that with Uganda's heavy investment in dirty energy-fossil fuels and false climate solutions, climate change impacts will even be felt more and that unfortunately, women and girls will bear the biggest brunt.

Therefore, as World leaders, financiers of the climate fund and Uganda Government prepare to operationalize the loss and damage climate fund, they should be mindful that investing in gender equality and women and girl's empowerment has far-reaching benefits including environmental conservation, poverty reduction and achieving sustainable development goals. Women should be seen as active promoters of adaptation and mitigation.

We therefore, demand the following from World leaders, financiers and particularly Uganda Government:

- a. The distribution of resources from the Loss and damage fund should be gender focused and should be administered through Civil society Organisations, Women and Youth groups and not only through government channels.
- b. Grassroots women should be supported financially with renewable energy options if just transition is to be realised.
- c. Gender issues associated with climate change adaptation such as inequalities in access to resources should be taken into consideration.
- d. Stop financing fossil fuels and invest more in renewable, democratic and people centred energy options.
- e. Stop corporate induced land grabbing that has pushed project Affected persons to abject poverty and starvation in the face of climate crisis.
- f. Ensure grant based financing and improved access to climate finance through harmonised, simplified and direct access procedures so that the most vulnerable who are women especially at the grass root can easily access the funds.
- g. The Uganda government should protect women and girls' rights and other rights of her citizens so that they can freely engage and participate in climate change conversations and actions at all levels.
- h. Reject false solutions such as carbon trading and offsetting, and nature-based solutions for the climate and biodiversity crisis that commodify nature, greenwash bad practices, license forest destruction and violate human rights.

Signed by:



Frank Muramuzi , Executive Director – NAPE

For further information please contact

Akiiza Joan NAPE akiizajoanne@gmail.com
Nakabuye Flavia FFU nakabuyehildaflavia@gmail.com
Natasha Kusiima – SAF Natasha@simmafrica.org
Joanita Babirye – G4CA j.babiry@g4ca.org