

## **COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT THE END OF THE TWO-DAY “NIGER DELTA PEACE CONSOLIDATION CONFERENCE”, ORGANIZED BY ROTTERDAM-BASED HOPE FOR NIGER DELTA CAMPAIGN (HNDC) AT NOVOTEL HOTEL, THE HAGUE, NETHERLANDS, BETWEEN FEBRUARY 25 & 26, 2010**

Over 100 participants drawn from various non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society groups and the media from across Europe and Nigeria as well as representatives of ethnic nationalities, the Dutch government (Parliament), the Nigerian legislature and the Nigerian Embassy in The Netherlands converged on the Novotel Hotel, The Hague, for the Niger Delta Peace Consolidation Conference.

The two-day conference was organized by Hope for Niger Delta Campaign (HNDC), a non-governmental organization based in Rotterdam, The Netherlands.

The broad objective of the conference is to find means of consolidating the post-amnesty programmes of the Nigerian government as well as the peace process in the oil-producing Niger Delta region after years of restiveness and armed struggle.

### **OBSERVATIONS**

After two days of deliberations, participants observed that genuine peace is attainable in the region if there is a synergy between the efforts of the Nigerian government, key stakeholders, local and international organizations as well as developmental agencies.

Participants noted that the status of an illustrious son of the Niger Delta, Dr Goodluck Jonathan, as Acting President of Nigeria was predicated on the ill-health of President Umaru Yar'Adua, but said the actions of a desperate cabal in the Presidency that tended to undermine the office of the Acting President created unnecessary tension in the country.

Notable participants and speakers at the conference included Chairman of the defunct Niger Delta Technical Committee and leader of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), Mr Ledum Mitee; President of the Ijaw National Congress (INC), Dr Atuboyedia Obianime; Acting Executive Director, Centre for Advanced Social Science, Dr Sofiri Joab-Peterside; Executive Director, Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, Mr Anyakwee Nsirimovu; and leader of the Niger Delta Peoples Volunteer Force (NDPVF), Alhaji Mujahid Dokubo-Asari.

Others participants include, president of the Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) Worldwide, Dr Chris Ekiyor; activist and human rights lawyer, Mr Festus Keyamo; social commentator, Mr Mike Igini; International Affairs Coordinator, Milieu Defensie/Friends of the Earth, Netherlands,

Mr Geert Ritsema; Mr Jo Croft of Stakeholder Democracy Network, London; and President/Founder, Hope for Niger Delta Campaign, Comrade Sunny Ofehe.

## **RESOLUTIONS**

Participants resolved as follows:

- i. That the Nigerian government should fully adopt and implement the Niger Delta Technical Committee (NTDC) report as the blueprint for the development of the Niger Delta region;
- ii. The amnesty process should be implemented within the context of the Niger Delta Technical Committee report;
- iii. Full implementation by the Nigerian government of the report of the Electoral Reforms Panel headed by retired Justice Muhammadu Uwais.
- iv. The international community should deny student visas to children of Nigerian public office holders; as a deterrent to the destructive tendencies of their parents to public institutions;
- v. All unexplainable assets (abroad) of political office holders, including those who assist them should be seized and repatriated;
- vi. State governments should not only be transparent in terms of fiscal responsibility but also provide access for financial monitoring of their budgets with a Fitch rating;
- vii. The international community should support and work closely with institutions that have positive bearing on the welfare of the Niger Delta people;
- viii. The global community should make it an international criminal offence to engage in crude oil theft;
- ix. The international community should support finger-printing of all oil sales from the Niger Delta and regulate the market to ensure 'blood oil' is not sold on the international market;
- x. The international community should put pressure on the oil majors to ensure that oil spill remediation measures meet international best practices on environmental issues in the Niger Delta region;
- xi. Home governments of oil majors and the international community should do all that is needed to end gas flaring in the Niger Delta by year 2011;

- xii. The international community should support and work closely with civil society groups, ethnic nationalities and non-state actors in finding lasting solution to the Niger Delta problem; and
- xiii. There should be closer collaboration, information sharing and linkages amongst civil society groups and ethnic nationalities in the Niger Delta to provide alternative platform in consensus building and synergistic action.

SIGNED:

Dr Atuboyedia Obianime  
President, Ijaw National Congress (INC)  
(For Ethnic Nationalities)

Anyakwee Nsirimovu  
Executive Director, Institute for Human Rights and Humanitarian Law  
(For Civil Society Groups)

Comrade Sunny Ofehe  
Founder/President, Hope for Niger Delta Campaign, Netherlands