



## Friends of the Earth Africa

**Friday, 21st May, 2010**

Statement by Friends of the Earth Africa at her Annual General Meeting held in Kampala, Uganda from 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> May, 2010.

Members of FoE Africa from Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda met for four days in Kampala, Uganda Africa reviewing issues that confront the African continent.

A particular focus was placed on the current climate change crisis, land grabbing and extraction and exploitation of Africa's natural resources.

FoE Africa groups note that the ongoing multiple challenges in the world today – such as climate change, land grabbing, corporate control of natural resources, promotion of false solutions to climate change such as agro-fuels, REDD, CDM, food insecurity, policies and mechanism which promote neo-liberalism – mark a new era of colonization which undermines political, social, economic and environmental justice on the continent.

FoE Africa groups further observed that:

Africa is at the front-line of climate change and that the market mechanisms that have evolved over time as solutions are false;

That CDM, REDD, and Agro-fuels being forced on African countries by MNCs and western governments including institutions and donors are examples of neo-liberal agenda designed to further subjugate as well as impoverish the continent;

That growing desertification and its impacts as exacerbated by climate change is increasingly resulting in water scarcity, loss of agriculture productivity and livelihoods and is causing the displacement of populations;

That the Copenhagen Accord does not represent the interests of the African people who are facing the impacts of climate change but that we fully endorse the Peoples Agreement

reached during the World People's Conference on Climate Change and the Rights of Mother Earth held in Cochabamba, Bolivia, attended by 35,352 people, 56 government delegates including participants from governments and social movements and other civil society groups from a total of 142 countries from the five continents;

That unacceptable push for extraction and exploitation of Africa's resources has intensified and expanded to even ecologically fragile and protected areas such as the Rift Valley;

That rapid expansion of corporate power and overwhelming influence it has on African governments, continues to breed violence and escalate conflicts in our communities and countries;

That international financial institutions have continued to invest disproportionate amounts in extractive and fossil fuel, energy sectors as evidenced by the recent World Bank loan to Eskom to finance a coal fired power plant in South Africa;

That food sovereignty on the African continent is undermined by land grabbing for industrial agriculture, and cultivation of agro-fuels and diverse backdoor ways of introducing genetically engineered crops that undermine the rich biodiversity of our continent;

That large infrastructure projects on the African continent like the Bujagali Dam on the Nile River, and the Trans-Sahara gas pipeline projects threaten Africa's energy sovereignty;

RESOLUTION: Recognizing that these are issues which affect African people's development and must be urgently addressed, FoE Africa resolved as follows:

That the rich countries have historical responsibilities of causing climate change and must take a lead in cutting their carbon emissions at source;

That they must not pass on the responsibility of taking action to tackle climate change to Africa through market mechanisms, through the so-called Clean Development Mechanism, REDD, and agro-fuels;

We reject the Copenhagen Accord. We believe that it does not provide solutions to addressing the climate change catastrophe facing Africa. By not requiring mandatory emissions reduction based on science, it allows polluting rich nations to continue exposing Africa to unacceptable temperature increases;

We endorse the Peoples Agreement of Cochabamba because we believe that it offers real solutions including keeping the two-track approach of the Kyoto Protocol as well as needed payment of climate debt and the decolonization of the atmospheric space. FoE Africa calls on African governments to retrace their steps from the endorsement of the Copenhagen Accord and whole heartedly adopt the Peoples Agreement as a key for tackling climate change;

We reject this new scramble for Africa's natural resources and we call on communities to resist the expansion of extractive activities;

We reject mega energy projects such as the Bujagali dam and the trans-Sahara gas pipeline project because they compromise Africa's energy sovereignty;

We reject the neo-liberal agenda as advanced by corporations, international finance institutions and western governments and we call on African governments to design home-grown development initiatives which responds to the needs of our people;

We demand for a recognition and protection of communities' land rights, and ownership of community resources; just as we demanded last year, we once more state clearly that Africa has been subsidising world development for a long time and this has to change and African resources must be used for African development to the benefit of local communities.

FoE Africa calls on all Africans to join hands to mobilize, resist and work for the transformation of our societies and the world.

Signed by: Friends of the Earth Groups in:

Cameroon, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda

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