JUST ENERGY
TRANSITION
FOR NIGERIA

a MANIFESTO
This is a call to action to all for a just energy transition in Nigeria that is in line with meeting also the sustainable development goal 7 on energy access for all. A global response to climate change culminated in the Paris Agreement in 2015 to reduce carbon and situate development to 1.5 degrees and well below 2 degrees development pathway to reduce and avoid catastrophic events. Africa’s response to climate change has been a robust African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) to leapfrog the continent away from fossil fuel carbon economy to renewable energy sources. Given the level of support from the industrialised countries, AREI plans to generate 10 GW of renewable energy by 2020 and 30 GW by 2030 if the finance and technology that is required is provided by the rich countries.

At least, on paper, Nigeria has shown some ambitions to reduce its carbon emissions by 20% unconditionally and 45% conditionally by 2030. However, one fundamental challenge facing the country is its oil-dependency hence the country lacks a blueprint to transit from fossil fuel driven economy to renewable energy alternatives. Therefore, it must start by recognising that oil economy needs to end and to orient the economy by envisioning a post petroleum economy in its natural resource management.

The manifesto launches Nigeria forward on the pathway to Just Energy Transition. This understanding is currently lacking in government operations and citizen sensitization in this regard has been lacking.

The future we want is energy access that is clean, reliable and affordable, a healthy environment and decent green jobs. Hence, there is need for divestment from fossil fuel development to pave the way for decentralized energy systems in mini-grids, off-grids and non-grid systems in ways that individuals and communities participate as Prosumers (producers and consumers) in the energy production, and supply chain as well as share in the benefits.

A Just Energy Transition in which climate and energy solutions become available to everyone, in which climate costs and benefits are shared in a fair way, between rich and poor, citizens and firms.

For Nigeria, some thousands of jobs to be affected should be replaced by at least two green jobs generated. Nigerians need to engage and discuss issues such as who will pay for the just transition and how will it be paid for?

This manifesto innovatively kick-start the debate towards the elements of the transition as a process and the need to engage with citizens on the subject.

This policy brief on Just Energy Transition is written by Godwin Uyi Ojo, Executive Director, Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria. Thanks to the Coalition on Just Energy Transition that has provided support for this publication. * 2018.
JUST ENERGY TRANSITION PRINCIPLES:

The Nigeria government needs to urgently:

· Put in place a renewable energy policy framework backed by an Act of Parliament that recognises the state and non-state actors' roles and responsibilities in renewable energy development.

· Divest investment from fossil fuels such as public finance, loans and subsidies and invest in renewable energy development to immediately prioritize efforts and financing to scale and accelerate clean energy solutions for energy access to all;

· Set policy targets for national energy access and decentralized renewable energy and task the federal, state, and local governments with responsibility and annual budgetary allocations.

· Proactively engage stakeholders from government, private sector and civil society organisations in decentralized renewable energy policy design.

· Provide zero percent tariffs and VAT on a full range of decentralized renewable energy products and components.

STRATEGIES

· Stop any new fossil fuel extraction and reducing current activities at the rates required to meet the 'Paris' climate targets.

· Democratize energy solutions by the use of people power, citizens and villagers, to shape local renewable energy solutions.

· Support local communities and workers in the transition from fossil fuels to green economy using grants, loans and subsidies beyond the enterprise models.

A just energy transition: the need for climate solutions, equality and decent jobs for all.
Environmental Rights Action (ERA)/Friends of the Earth Nigeria is a Nigerian advocacy group dedicated to the non-violent defence of the human ecosystem in terms of human rights. It was founded in January 1993. ERA/FoEN is the Nigerian chapter of Friends of the Earth International (FoEI). ERA is also the coordinating NGO for the Oilwatch International as well as the host of the secretariat of the Africa Tobacco Control regional initiative. ERA is also the coordinating NGO for the Nigerian Tobacco Control Alliance. The organization’s committed struggles for environmental human rights has won it recognition through awards such as the Sophie Prize (1998) for excellence and courage in the struggle for environmental justice and the Bloomberg Award for Tobacco control activism (2009)

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