



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
3 September 2019

English only

---

## Human Rights Council

Forty-second session

9–27 September 2019

Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Written statement\* submitted by African Green Foundation International, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[22 August 2019]

---

\* Issued as received, in the language(s) of submission only.

GE.19-15016(E)



\* 1 9 1 5 0 1 6 \*

Please recycle The recycling symbol, consisting of three chasing arrows forming a triangle.



## **The correlation of environment rights and Human rights**

The impact of poor environmental practices in the Oil producing states in Nigeria cannot be over-emphasized. It is high time we need to advance our knowledge regarding dealing with gas flaring menace as a way of curbing pollution resulting from gas flaring. The information available for the research was sourced through secondary data collection. Information available from both primary and secondary sources such as Google books, text books, Google Scholar, Shell, NNPC and the World Bank including cross referencing of materials from international energy journals indicates that gas flaring constitutes a great proportion of environmental problems in Nigerian oil and gas communities.

The findings in this research indicated that the menace of gas flaring in the oil and gas communities has serious impacts on the environment. These findings clearly reinforce what is already known about environmental degradation in the Niger Delta and its impacts on the economic development of the area.

### **Impact on fishing and biodiversity**

Our findings indicate the region is richly endowed with abundant natural resources which serves as the main stay of the Nigerian economy however the communities in the region are poor due to poor environmental management resulting from oil and gas exploration activities. According to findings by Aniefiok, E. Ita and Udo, J. Ibok, (2013), the impact of gas flaring in the region has deprived the region its sources of livelihood which is predominantly fishing and is causing the Nigerian economy in general about 2.5 billion dollars annually.

In addition, Ebegbulem et al (2013) further confirmed these findings and stated that the environmental impact on the region has brought poverty and devastated the economy and means of livelihood in the region due to unfriendly, uneconomical policies in the exploitation of oil and gas resources in the region. According to findings by Ebegbulum et al, the region accounts for 85% of the Nigeria's gross domestic product, 95% of the national budget and over 80% of Nigeria's wealth.

### **Impact on farming**

Our findings indicate that gas flaring has a huge impact on the land and farming activities in the oil and gas producing communities resulting to decreased productivity in the region. According to finding by Dung et al (2008) gas flaring was the main cause of poor growth and development in various crops exposed to it in the Niger Delta. Dung argued that there was spatial variability to various crops such as vegetables when exposed to gas flaring in comparison to the crops that was not exposed thus indicating that gas flaring has destructive and predictable negative impacts on the crops and food production in the region with significant impact on the economy of the region.

The World Bank (1995) findings further confirmed that the region was endowed with natural resources but there is no economic and sustainable growth due to poor government policies in dealing with the environmental challenges in the region.

### **Impact on Environment**

Our findings indicated that large quantity of gas flaring occurs in the Niger Delta during exploration of oil and gas. These activities affect the quality of air which invariably results to reduced productivity and poor economic growth of the region. According to findings by Odjugo & Osemwenkhae (2007), gas flaring destroys the natural air and the environment and also makes it uninhabitable for human, flora and fauna inhabiting in the habitat. As a result, according to Odjugo & Osemwenkhae (2007), it affects the economic survival in the region as their plants and other animals are also affected and human beings lacks to capacity to work and sustain economic development especially in the rural communities.

### **Impact on health**

Our findings indicate that flaring in the communities affects the health of the people in the region adversely. According to the findings by Otene et al, 2016, gas flaring causes environmental, health hazards and loss of revenue to nations with a global estimate of about 400 million tons of co2 which represents 1.5% of global co2 emission. This impact on the economic development of the region negatively as respiratory diseases, skin rashes, cholera and other communicable diseases are common in the region (Dung et al, 2008).

According to the findings by the US Environmental Agency, 2014, gas flaring incidents increases climate change due to emission of various greenhouse gases such as methane, co2 and water +vapour which has drastic consequences on health and the environment.

In conclusion, we hope that all hands must be on deck to solve these environmental concerns in the oil and gas producing communities.

---