

DECLARATION OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE 1ST EDITION OF THE AFRICAN CONTINENTAL FORUM ON MEGA-DAMS AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS HELD IN KINSHASA FROM 25-27 JUNE 2025

We are social movements, members of local communities and indigenous peoples, civil society organizations, fishermen, farmers, lawyers, academics, human rights defenders, energy experts, campaigners, public and political institutions, from the different provinces of the Democratic Republic of Congo (Kongo Central, Haut-Katanga, Lualaba, South Kivu and Kinshasa), and from African countries including Kenya, Guinea, Ghana, Togo, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Mozambique, the Republic of Congo, Cameroon, Niger, Uganda, Senegal, South Africa, Madagascar, Namibia, and from Latin America- (Brazil and Cuba).

We met **at the first edition of the African Continental Forum on Mega-Dams and the Climate Crisis**, which took place in Kinshasa from 25 - 27 June, 2025, and was organized by the Coalition des organisations de la société civile sur le suivi des réformes et de l'action publique (CORAP), in collaboration with several organizations and movements including Justice Ambiantal, Biovision Africa, the latin american movement of dams victims (MAR) and International Rivers.

We recognize that access to electricity and development are imperative for our African countries. However, this development must not compromise the natural balance of resources, the livelihoods of local communities and indigenous peoples. We believe that more sustainable alternatives to mega-hydroelectric dams exist, and we support an energy model based on coherent planning, decentralization, and sustainability, focused on the well-being and dignity of local communities and indigenous peoples.

We observe and denounce the neocolonial character of international and regional financial institutions, in particular the World Bank and the African Development Bank, which promise mega-hydroelectric dam projects and other so-called development projects, which have enormous impacts on local populations and the environment, and only benefit transnational corporations and political and economic elites.

We recognize that the negative impacts of mega-dams have repercussions on gender and human rights. Women are not only excluded from compensation and reparation processes, but they are also particularly affected by the loss of fertile land, difficulties accessing water, and traditional livelihoods.

We reaffirm our solidarity with our sisters and brothers who have been forcibly displaced or forced to accept insignificant compensation, as well as with those still awaiting reparations.

We believe that the energy transition cannot be defined by a single, dominant model that promotes extractivism in our countries and acts as a factor aggravating the climate crisis. Any energy transition must be just, progressive, and based on the real needs of countries and the realities of local communities and indigenous peoples.

We note that energy infrastructure projects, particularly hydropower dam projects in Africa and elsewhere generate risks and impacts on the environment, the economy, and communities, and that this situation presents numerous challenges for all stakeholders involved (decision-makers, CSOs, communities):

- Dams contribute to the destruction of river ecosystems and change how a river should naturally flow, leading to the extinction of many fish and other aquatic species, and a huge loss of forest and farmland
- There is a general lack of transparency and limited access to information on mega-dams, particularly regarding their impacts. Available data is scarce and often presented in foreign languages, making it inaccessible to communities and civil society actors. We note that, across the continent, companies and governments supporting these projects systematically violate the right of access to information of affected communities and refuse to provide information or make available studies in the public interest, as required by law.
- Very limited public and civil society participation in the development of visions, policies, and implementation of energy projects leads to initiatives that benefit multinational corporations more than local communities. The positions and demands of local communities regarding these projects are often deliberately excluded or ignored in public consultation processes.
- Communities and civil society organizations frequently face violence and intimidation and harassment when they express concerns about the devastating impacts of these projects on their lives and futures.
- There is also a lack of awareness of the mechanisms for accountability and responsibility of foreign investors and these mechanisms are too complex and exclusive to allow local communities to access them.
- Contrary to the dam industry's claims that dams produce clean or green energy, most reservoirs emit greenhouse gases. Hydropower causes environmental harm and adds to the planet's climate change crisis. They emit Methane which is one of the strongest and most dangerous greenhouse gases, and is one of the biggest causes of climate change along with CO₂.
- Big dams are extremely expensive to build and pay for and take a long time to complete. It is common to have long delays which cause a rise in the original estimated cost.

- Countries sign up for huge loans to finance both the dam construction and the extensive transmission lines. The transmission lines typically provide electricity to mines and other industries, and large cities. The loans are a big debt trap resulting in governments prioritizing paying interest on debts instead of education, health care and other essential services for its citizens.

We are continually building, step by step, the vision of the world we aspire to live in. **We envision a world where all people of the Global South fully exercise their rights: the right to be informed and to decide on the future of their livelihoods, their lands, and their waters.**

In accordance with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, we uphold collective and individual human rights to a dignified life and to development that respects cultural and social realities.

As women, men, youth, persons with reduced mobility, and older persons, we are committed to the full realization of these rights. We recognize the essential role of women as guardians and visionaries of society, and we affirm their right to participate fully in shaping the collective future we are building together.

It is with this vision that we put forward the following demands:

To African governments

- Develop socio-economic and environmental development visions that respond to the needs of local populations, rather than serving the interests of politicians or multinational corporations.
- Ensure the full and effective participation of populations by involving local communities, indigenous peoples, and civil society at all stages of energy projects. Your position and requirements in relation to any development project must be at the heart of all phases of project planning, execution and implementation.
- Guarantee transparency and accountability by ensuring that all information related to the projects including financing, debt, funders, project sponsors, socio-environmental, economic, and climate impacts, as well as Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) reports, Environmental and Social Management Plans (ESMPs), etc. — **are made accessible**. Any feasibility study must be carried out by independent and impartial consultants or actors, with no links to the project promoters, following a scientifically valid methodology.

Strengthen legal frameworks to protect community rights, including:

Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) principles; which must necessarily admit and Respect the right to say no Fair and prior compensation; Resettlement and restoration of livelihoods.

- Apply restorative justice and provide reparations for communities whose rights have historically been violated during the development of mega-dam projects.

- Immediately halt large dam projects with irreversible impacts, taking into account their environmental, social, climatic and economic impacts, and promote an open, inclusive and in-depth dialogue around clean, equitable and accessible energy solutions for all.
- Promote decentralized access to renewable energy (solar, wind, small hydro for countries like the DRC with strong hydroelectric potential, biomass and any other suitable solutions) for fair local development and an effective fight against climate change.
- Honor, monitor, and implement international commitments (Sustainable Development Goals, Convention on Biological Diversity, Paris Agreement, etc.).
- Promote the endogenous management of community forests and landscapes, as well as the development of agroecology.

To local communities:

- Do not hesitate to defend your rights and to make your voice heard — the spirit of your ancestors and the strength of future generations are with you.
- Strengthen capacities on all issues related to mega-dams: human rights, impacts, risks, and alternatives to large dams.
- Inform other communities and local organizations at the earliest opportunity about mega-dam projects in their territories.
- Foster local cohesion and build community alliances and networks.
- Strengthen the participation of women at all levels.
- Consider and utilize the accountability mechanisms of International Financial Institutions as avenues to assert their rights.
- Establish inclusive mechanisms for local consultation from the earliest stages of projects.

To Civil Society Organizations (CSOs)

1. Advocacy and Community Mobilization

- Develop and implement advocacy plans to support affected communities.
- Document human rights violations and climate impacts.
- Demand accountability from International Financial Institutions (IFIs). Transnational corporations and governments are held accountable for the impacts of the projects they finance or promote..

2. Legal Analysis and Reforms

- Analyze national legislative frameworks and propose reforms favorable to the rights of local communities and hold companies and financial institutions accountable for the impacts of the projects they promote.

- Identify reform opportunities and promote CSO participation.

3. Protection of Defenders

- Establish early warning mechanisms to protect civil society actors and community leaders.
- Strengthen and practice active solidarity with communities facing intimidation, persecution and threats due to their resistance to mega-development projects.

4. Participation in Decision-Making Spaces

- Actively participate in international bodies to advance the rights of local communities and Indigenous Peoples, end the climate crisis and protect the environment
- Ensure that the voices of affected communities are heard and their rights are respected.

5. Production and sharing of knowledge

- Produce accessible, multilingual analytical documents and information tools.
- Capitalize on and share members' experiences.

6. Capacity Building

- Organize training tailored to community needs.
- Promote community leadership, especially among women.
- Develop awareness of Independent Accountability Mechanisms applicable to foreign investors.
- Develop strategic, methodological, technical, and financial capacities for effective advocacy.

To International Financial Institutions:

- Disengage from all large dam projects, as they cause irreversible harm to host countries, biodiversity, local communities, and Indigenous peoples; they undermine sustainable development and contribute to the impoverishment of affected populations.
- Ensure strict adherence to environmental and social safeguard policies, as well as to human rights, throughout the life-cycle of projects
- Redirect investments toward sustainable and renewable sources of energy;
- Involve Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and communities — particularly women — in the development of country strategies, and ensure that their concerns are duly considered ;

- Ensure the dissemination of, and effective access to, information for local communities, indigenous peoples, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) regarding large dam investment projects..

Done in Kinshasa, June 27, 2025

Participants in the African Continental Workshop on Mega Dams and the Climate Crisis

PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONTINENTAL FORUM ON DAMS AND THE CLIMATE CRISIS

N°	NAMES	ORGANIZATIONS	COUNTRY
1	MIAFUNGA GERARD CLAUDE	CORAP	KINSHASA/RDC
2	BAWAWANA LUKAYISA THOMA	CORAP	LUOZI/RDC
3	MUZITA WA MUZITA	CORAP	LUOZI/RDC
4	ZONGWE FRANK	KILALOPRESS	KINSHASA/RDC
5	OKONDA RAPHAEL	EIENE	RDC
6	BIYUNGA LOTI	API	RDC
7	LUAMBA NZITA	CODICLI	INGA/RDC
8	NYAMIRIRI CHRISTILLA	RDF/BASE	KINSHASA/RDC
9	ITHALO YAPALY DANIEL	RDF/BASE	KINSHASA/RDC
10	IRENGE LYAHAMISI PACIFIQUE	CORAP	KINSHASA/RDC
11	KALONDA ALI	CORAP	KINSHASA/RDC
12	EYOBI VICTOIRE	ACTEDD	KINSHASA/RDC
13	BOBIA JOSEPH	BVGRN	KINSHASA/RDC
14	MAKIESE KAMBALE PA- TIANCE	ACEPD	KINSHASA/RDC
15	OTSHUDEMA POMELA AU- GUY	MCDC	KINSHASA/RDC
16	MILABYO CAMILE	ITINERANTS	KINSHASA/RDC
17	EFONGO CLAUDE	ADICO	KINSHASA/RDC
18	MUSAMBI NESTOR	MEDD	KINSHASA/RDC
19	NDAYE BERNARD	CERERK	KINSHASA/RDC
20	LINGBELU ISSA	GTCRR	KINSHASA/RDC
21	MBANGISA OLIVIER	CODIC	KINSHASA/RDC
22	NGUMA DIANE	FACID	KINSHASA/RDC
23	BOTOKO ALAIN	SOCIETE CIVILE/ENV	KINSHASA/RDC
24	LUSILAO DELIVRANCE	ITINERANTS	KINSHASA/RDC
25	BISOKA AYMAR	UNIVERSITE DE MONS	Belgique
26	NGUWA BOFUMBO	ASS. PACTE SOCIAL/ CENCO	KINSHASA/RDC

27	NYEMBA KASONGA SU-ZANNE	ASS. PACTE SOCIAL/CENCO	KINSHASA/RDC
28	MANUL GHUQU	JA	MOZAMBIQUE
29	LALIFO PATHEQUE	JA	MOZAMBIQUE
30	FATIMA BICUANI	JA	MOZAMBIQUE
31	NSAKA MANASSE	ANDH	KINSHASA/RDC
32	MASUDI WAKILONGO	CTN/PA IFSI	KINSHASA/RDC
33	NYEMBO CHRISTIAN	CBCS	KINSHASA/RDC
34	NDAY EDITH	INDEPENDANT	KINSHASA/RDC
35	MUSUMARI KUDI MEDI	CODED	KINSHASA/RDC
36	KABOLONGO KONGUNDE CRISPIN	ACVDP	KINSHASA/RDC
37	NSUNDA MANTEZOLO	ACVDP	KINSHASA/RDC
38	METIKUIZA KABALAY	ACVDP	KINSHASA/RDC
39	NZUZI MABONGA	CODICLI	INGA/RDC
40	KATOLO KIOKA MOISE	LAFOCODI	INGA/RDC
41	MVIBUDULU NGOMA EMILE	LAFOCODI	INGA/RDC
42	MAKUALA MARCO ANDRE	LAFOCODI	INGA/RDC
43	MVUZOLO ALBERTINE	LAFOCODI	INGA/RDC
44	MVUEZOLO ANGELIQUE	FEMMES DU FLEUVE	INGA/RDC
45	KIHONDA JEAN FILS	CODICLI	INGA/RDC
46	ESAMBEYA MWALELE	SONGOLOLO MAKOLE	SONGOLOLO MAKOLE
47	NGINADIO VUKULU	SONGOLOLO MAKOLE	SONGOLOLO MAKOLE
48	DIALLO MAMADOU LAMARANA	AMINES	GUINEE
49	BAMBA IBRAHIMA KALIL	CECIDE	GUINEE
50	ADETO KOSSIVI CHARLES	CJE-TOGO	TOGO
51	BENGA NDOMPETOLO JULES	SOCIETE CIVILE/KC	KC/RDC
52	MBAMBI MBADU GERMAIN	D5	KC/RDC
53	PHAMBU KUKAMBU FABIEN	D5	KC/RDC
54	MANARA JOSEPH	DEDUR	HAUT-KATANGA/RDC
55	KOUASSI AMOCH	WOMIN	COTE D'IVOIRE

56	POKOU MARIE-France	WOMIN	COTE D'IVOIRE
57	FADONO BAIMEY REINE	WOMIN	COTE D'IVOIRE
58	MAKOBO NDJIMIMA LEON- NIE	BUSANGA	LUALABA/RDC
59	KAMBOLA LENGE DONAT	IBGDH	LUALABA/RDC
60	RAMANGAMIHANTE REBEKA	11th HOUR	MADAGASCAR
61	NGELINKOTO PATIENCE	UPN	KINSHASA/RDC
62	KASSONGO ERICK	CODED	KINSHASA/RDC
63	MALONDA PHOLO PAULIN	CNE	KINSHASA/RDC
64	OKENDA JEAN PIERRE	LA SENTINELLE	KINSHASA/RDC
65	UMPULA EMMANUEL	11th HOUR	KINSHASA/RDC
66	NZOBO ROCH EULOGE	CDHD	CONGO BRAZZA- VILLE
67	GQUALA KOKO	CDHD	CONGO BRAZZA- VILLE
68	KORUHAMA ALPHONS	KEDF	NAMIBIE
69	KARIPETUA UARIJE	KEDF	NAMIBIE
70	MBENDURA NGAEKARE	KEDF	NAMIBIE
71	GENNY NGENDE	IR	SOUTH AFRICA
72	JUAN FRANCISCO SANTOS	MAR	CUBA
73	MBALA BATOBA ENOCK	KEDF	KINSHASA/RDC
74	OLIUALES LETICIA	MAR	BRESIL
75	YEFFE HENRI JOEL CHAN- FORT	JVE-COTE D'IVOIRE	COTE D'IVOIRE
76	EUCABETH AWUONDA	WMN	KENYA
77	SYLLA DAMAYE	CECIDE	GUINEE
78	FOFANA MOHAMED	CECIDE	GUINEE
79	SOUMAH FOULEMATOU	CECIDE	GUINEE
80	MATAMBA GEORGES ALAIN	ANEC	KINSHASA/RDC
81	KUMBIKUMBI CHRISTOPHE	ANEC	KINSHASA/RDC
82	MANTEKE KABAY JEAN	DRE/MEDD	KINSHASA/RDC
83	ILUNGA SAMY	DYJEDD	KINSHASA/RDC
84	ARUNA JOSUE	CBCS	KINSHASA/RDC
85	ZINGA MUPEPE	CULTUVATEUR	KINSHASA/RDC
86	TSHIOMBELA JONAS	NSCC	KINSHASA/RDC
87	KAKINDA JOSEPH	BVGRN	KINSHASA/RDC

88	MODJAKA BIBICHE	SDV	KINSHASA/RDC
89	AMBA ESPERANCE	SDV	KINSHASA/RDC
90	MONENE EVELYNE	ADPI	KINSHASA/RDC
91	BAYEKULA JOLY	LAFIKODI	KC/RDC
92	UMBA ILUNGA DESIRE	BUSANGA	LUALABA/RDC
93	LUKOMBO MAKUALA	NOTABLE	INGA/RDC
94	LUAKU NSIMBA	CODICLI	INGA/RDC
95	KABEDI LAURETTE	APEM	RDC
96	MBUMBA LELO GERMAINE	CODICLI	INGA/RDC
97	MOENGA MANAKA FISTON	MANIEMA LIBERTE ONGD/H	RDC
98	KEBA JEAN	AFUEWOTCH	KINSHASA/RDC
99	NGIMBISERGE	IDEL/ASBL	BOMA/RDC
100	NSOKA APOLLINAIRE	IDEL/ASBL	BOMA/RDC
101	UFUNGWAS ALBERT	CORAP	KINSHASA/RDC
102	NGOBO MINOS	INIDEV	KINSHASA/RDC
103	MATUTILA WANUNGA YVON	RDF/BASE	KINSHASA/RDC
104	ISOGO FRANCIS	GRADI/ASBL	KINSHASA/RDC
105	MBOMBO MIGNONNE	TOGETHER	KINSHASA/RDC
106	MAKENGO LANGA IDRIS	FACID/CFLEDD	KINSHASA/RDC
107	BASEA HORTENSE	ACP	KINSHASA/RDC
108	KAKOKO HENDRICK	RRN	KINSHASA/RDC
109	FADO NGOY CYPRIEN	ITINERANTS	KINSHASA/RDC
110	NKPEEBO AMOS	FIDEP	GHANA
111	BONDJEMBO ITAMBA	CTIDD	KINSHASA/RDC
112	KAMWAKA ROLAND	UPN	KINSHASA/RDC
113	ABANDA JEANNE-MARIE	CERN-CENCO	KINSHASA/RDC
114	KAYEYE FREDDY	CNPAV	KINSHASA/RDC
115	KIBEKE FRANCINE	CONAPAC	KINSHASA/RDC
116	FWAMBA NENETTE	COJEC	KINSHASA/RDC
117	SIZIWE META	INTERNATIONAL RIVERS	RSA
118	KUNDA WA KUNDA	MJPE	KINSHASA/RDC
119	COLEEN SCOTT	IDI	USA/KENYA
120	NDOKO JEAN WILLY	GIZ	KINSHASA/RDC
121	BASHIGE EMMANUEL	CPEDD/SK	KINSHASA/RDC

122	BANGARE YAHAYA	WOMIN	NIGER
123	GARBA RAKIA IBRAHIM	WOMIN	NIGER
124	MOLO ETOGAEPSSANO		CAMEROUN
125	NDZIE AGNES SYLVIE	GDA	CAMEROUN
126	KAMUANYA MBIOCI	TOGETHER	KINSHASA/RDC
127	META GERTRUDE	MOJAC	KINSHASA/RDC
128	MBWITI MA LWAMBA FLOR- ENCE	RDF/BASE	KINSHASA/RDC
129	EBWASA BELA JEAN LAM- BERT	GVRN	KINSHASA/RDC
130	BUENDE PATRICK	CODED	KINSHASA/RDC
131	FOFOLO KAZIKA ORVILLE	CODED	KINSHASA/RDC
132	EKUMO BOFENDA GENIAL	CODED	KINSHASA/RDC
133	ISASA MANOU	RDF/BASE	KINSHASA/RDC
134	KIZA BIRUNGI GRACE	FOPED	KINSHASA/RDC
135	MBA MBIA DANIELLE	GDA	CAMEROUN



FORUM CONTINENTAL AFRICAIN

**SUR LES MÉGA-BARRAGES
ET LA CRISE CLIMATIQUE**

**1^{RE} ÉDITION
À KINSHASA**

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