



Niger Delta Dialogue

28TH FEBRUARY, 2017

“Insecurity In The Gulf Of Guinea And Implications For The Niger Delta Region”



A WORLD OF PEACE

Academic Associates PeaceWorks

Niger Delta Dialogue



28th FEBRUARY, 2017

**"Insecurity In The Gulf Of Guinea And Implications
For The Niger Delta Region"**

**ACADEMIC ASSOCIATES PEACEWORKS
WITH SUPPORT FROM**

EUROPEAN UNION



European Union



Academic Associates PeaceWorks

INTRODUCTION



The Niger Delta Dialogue with support from the European Union held its 6th Dialogue on 28th February, 2017 in the Sheraton Hotel, Abuja. The focus was **Instability in the Gulf of Guinea (GOG) and Implications for the Niger Delta region**. The meeting had in attendance, members of the Niger Delta Dialogue; dignitaries including Prof Ibrahim Gambari, Prof Bola A. Akinterinwa, Chairman of the Presidential Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, Special Adviser to the President on the Niger Delta; representatives of the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, Ministry of Petroleum Resources, National Emergency Management Agency, National Refugee Commission, Border Commission, Institute for Peace and Conflict Resolution; experts and members of the international community.

Since the submission by PANDEF of the 16-Point Agenda to the Presidency on November 1st, 2016, a new chapter has begun and the Niger Delta Dialogue has become a space for extensively and intensively interrogating the various points on the agenda. Some of the issues identified in the 16-Point Agenda were Bakassi, Internally Displaced Persons and the “over-militarization” of the Niger Delta. In order to fully address these issues, it is necessary to study in depth the linkages of the proliferation of light and small arms, rise in

cultism and armed banditry, including piracy and other maritime related crimes.

Consequently, the sixth NDD meeting discussed the nature of insecurity in the Niger Delta and the larger Gulf of Guinea. In the Gulf of Guinea, the flow of small arms/light weapons and drugs around the area is one of the factors promoting and making the Niger Delta region more insecure by the day, as new militants are emerging in response to their access to arms and the use of force. Other unresolved issues are internally displaced persons (IDPs) and stateless people resulting from the ceding of Bakassi Peninsula to Camerouns. Overlaying this is the campaign for secession by Southern Camerouns. This issue added a new dimension to the poorly resolved situation of Bakassi and the outstanding issues of resettlement and demands for compensation by the peoples of the area. In someways, these were local to the Cross River and Akwa Ibom axis of the Niger Delta but also regional due to the expectations of the people arising from the judgment of the supreme court to hand over the 76 oil wells in Cross River to Akwa Ibom. The lower revenue base and the increased social unrest have left behind complex governance issues for the state and the region as a whole. Common border areas on the sea and land means that a number of these concerns are shared, and the fluidity of the waters has allowed for the shifting nature of criminality, with implications for the Niger Delta.

OPENING REMARKS



HRM King Dandeson Jaja of Opobo, Chairman of the Occasion

Chairman's Opening Remarks

The Chairman of the Niger Delta Dialogue, His Royal Majesty, King Alfred Diète Spiff, represented by His Royal Majesty, King Dandeson Jaja of Opobo, delivered the opening remarks. He expressed happiness at the fact that the sixth meeting was well attended by government functionaries who had one thing or the other to do with the Gulf of Guinea and adduced two reasons for this development.

First, was the fact that the meeting was held in Abuja, the Federal seat of power where all the functionaries stay. Secondly, it is because the subject matter is of strategic interest to the wider Nigerian state and sovereignty. This issue goes beyond the Niger Delta as a region and touches on the foreign shores of Nigeria.

He explained that the NDD has recorded tremendous and remarkable achievements leading to the restoration of peace in the Niger Delta region and the establishment of a Pan Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF) as a common front for all ethnic nationalities in the Niger Delta region to pursue their interests. He observed further that PANDEF has benefited immensely from the various reports and activities of the NDD.

He concluded by thanking the EU and all other development partners for the support they have provided for the work of NDD so far. He specifically thanked other monarchs for showing great dedication and commitment to the activities of the Niger Delta Dialogue.



Ambassador Emmanuel Imohe, Brig Gen LYN Hassan,
Chief Dr. Judith Burdin Asuni

Welcome Address by Chief Dr. Judith BurdinAsuni

In her welcome address, Chief Dr. Judith Burdin Asuni chronicled the activities that had taken place since the formation of the NDD. The need for the Niger Delta Dialogues came out of the resurgence of militancy in early 2016 that had resulted in the massive decline in oil production, yet government was not actively engaging with the situation. The Dialogues were created to fill the gap by bringing key parties, government and civil society, to work together to restore peace and security to the Niger Delta region. The European Union (EU) and Nigeria Stability and Reconciliation Programme (NSRP) provided funding for the first NDD meeting, which was held in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State in June 2016. Dr. Asuni said that since the Uyo meeting, the EU has continued to provide funding for all the meetings. After the inaugural meeting of the group, five other Niger Delta Dialogues were held: in Warri, Delta State; Yenagoa, Bayelsa State; two meetings in Port Harcourt, Rivers State and now in Abuja. The July and September meetings focused on militancy, particularly in the western delta. Following meetings have focused on a particular issue of the region. The November meeting in Yenagoa looked at amnesty programmes at the federal and state levels, including what lessons can be learned from the Presidential Amnesty Programme for new efforts starting at the state level. The second Port Harcourt Dialogue discussed the Niger Delta Development Commission and a new Development Agenda for the Niger Delta. The current meeting is looking at maritime insecurity through discussing the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) and its implications for stability of the Niger Delta region.

PRESENTATIONS



Ambassador Haliru Shuaibu, Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Presentation by Hon. Minister of Foreign Affairs - The Niger Delta, Insecurity and the Gulf of Guinea.

Ambassador Haliru Shuaibu, Director of African Sub-regional Organisations represented the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He stated that the area called the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) comprises twenty-three countries and basically covers three economic blocs i.e. the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Economic Community of Central African states (ECCAS) and Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) out of which eight countries are members of the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC).

He noted that drug trafficking, sea piracy, illegal bunkering, arms trafficking, illegal migration and issues of demarcation of borders among States in the region, are potential causes of insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea. Ambassador Shuaibu further noted that crimes perpetrated in the Gulf of Guinea are fast spreading to the hinterland and coastal areas of the Niger Delta region due to shared maritime space while saying that the dangerous spread of small arms and light weapons in civil hands results in crime, is becoming more prevalent in the Niger Delta which has therefore fueled instability which hinders development of the region as investors

no longer feel safe to come to the area. He concluded by making the following recommendations:

1. Effective collaboration among relevant government MDAs dealing with the issues of the Niger Delta such as Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs (MNDA), Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He noted that this will enable free flow of information between these MDAs and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for improved Niger Delta regional stability.
2. The Niger Delta ethnic nationalities should provide a common front/leadership in their proposed dialogue with the federal government.
3. Both federal government and agitators should show sincerity and trust in them during the conduct of negotiation and dialogue.
4. Government should implement the decisions reached during negotiation as soon as possible to prevent breakdown of peace.
5. Violence must end in the Niger Delta region for any meaningful development to take place.
6. Political authorities and development agencies must address governance issues and proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the region.

Presentation by Ambassador Emmanuel Imohe, Chairman Presidential Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

Ambassador Emmanuel Imohe noted that any attempt to fight insecurity in the GoG and the Niger Delta that does not focus on reducing access to small arms and light weapons will fail as access to SALWs will create an unstable environment. He identified the various dimensions of insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea as:

1. Illegal Oil Bunkering which is usually facilitated by international vessels at the high sea shipped through the GoG to the international markets.
2. Piracy and armed sea robbery.
3. Terrorism.
4. Kidnapping and hostage taking.
5. Illegal exploitation of marine resources by international trawlers.
6. Unsecured international waters, which created porous maritime environment amenable to drugs and human trafficking, arms proliferation.

The drivers of insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea identified were:

1. Economic Deprivation and the politics of exclusion which often promote social inequality, unemployment, food insecurity, absence of human security and inability to meet basic needs of the people.
2. Legitimacy deficit, poor governance and pervasive corruption.
3. National resources mismanagement.
4. Pollution leading to degraded environment.
5. International influences, especially contacts with the Sahel and global Jihad movement and Islamism.

AmbImohe observed that the porous nature of the maritime environment of the Gulf of Guinea often allows different kinds of illicit weapons into the region. Once these weapons are in circulation, they intensify conflict and create obstacles to early resolution of the conflict, as the conflict protagonists usually want to use these weapons to define their own space. These weapons, he noted, usually come into the Gulf through the following means:

1. Weapons recycled from previous theatres of war and violent conflicts in the region.
2. Weapons recycled from other theatres of conflict such as Horn of Africa
3. Weapons from the Libyan Conflict and the

Arab Spring Revolution, which began in 2011.

4. Weapons from international arms traffickers.
5. Weapons stolen from government stock in places where the state lacks effective physical security.
6. Local craft productions.

The consequences of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons is that it instigates violent conflicts, which often motivates government to divert money that could have been used on developmental projects for the purchase of arms to counter insecurity. Secondly, insecurity promoted by proliferated small arms and light weapons often caused loss of lives and properties. For the Niger Delta region, the implication is obvious. Easy access to small arms and light weapons from the GoG will always create an unstable environment in the Niger Delta region where strife is rife and development cannot take place.

Ambassador Imohe made the following recommendations:

1. Countries in the GoG should endeavour to fix those governance and political issues which give rise to schism in the system. There should be readiness on the part of all stakeholders to embrace dialogue.
2. Constant re-evaluation of maritime security policy and strategy by GoG countries, aimed at addressing emerging maritime security threats as well as their root causes.
3. Strengthening maritime law enforcement by governments in the Gulf of Guinea countries.
4. Maintaining regular maritime patrols not only in their respective coasts but also on the high seas.
5. Signing bilateral agreements to facilitate extradition of criminals operating within the Gulf of Guinea region.
6. Organising joint naval surveillance operations in the hot spots.
7. Strengthening inter-regional and international cooperation and collaboration on maritime security.
8. Tackling weapons proliferation in the region through the instrumentality of the ECOWAS Convention on small Arms and Lights Weapons (Applicable to ECOWAS Countries) or the Nairobi Protocol (Applicable to East, Central and Southern African countries) and the Arms Trade Treaty g (ATT). With the exception of the Nairobi Protocol, these are legally binding instruments. Encouraging GoG countries that have not yet joined the ATT to come on board.

STRATEGIC REMARKS



Ambassador Boladele Godknows Igall, Facilitator,
and HE Ambassador Michel Arrion, Head of EU Delegation

Remarks by the Hon. Minister of Defence

The Hon. Minister of Defence was represented by Brig. Gen. LYN Hassan, who is the coordinator of Peace Support Operation in the Ministry of Defence. He conveyed the happiness of the Hon. Minister of Defence on the organisation of the event and for extending an invitation to the Ministry. He explained that unlike the early days of the Amnesty programme where foreign militants were included among the beneficiaries, the Ministry of Defence has now prevented foreign fighters from infiltrating the militant groups by appointing indigenes of the Niger Delta as senior commanders in military deployment to the Niger Delta. He ended with a promise that the Ministry of Defence was ready to give all the necessary assistance to the Presidential Amnesty Programme to make sure that it succeeds.

Remarks by the Chair of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs- Rt. Hon. Nnenna Elendu-Ukeje

In her intervention, Rt. Hon. Nnenna Elendu-Ukeje, the Chairman, House Committee on Foreign Affairs, noted that the Niger Delta is essential to the survival of the Nigerian nation because of the enormous oil deposit of the region, which continues to serve as a substantial source of foreign exchange and finance for the Nigerian state. However, the proximity of the region to the GoG and the

security concerns emanating from the region meant that it must continue to be kept under focus as restiveness in the region persists. She expressed that the visit of President Muhammadu Buhari to Malabo highlighted the need for greater engagement among countries around the GoG for collaboration to curb insecurity and crimes around the area. She expressed that the House of Representatives played a very significant role in the period preceding the ceding of Bakassi and one of the key concerns of the House was to ensure strict adherence to the provisions of the Green Tree Agreement and the plight of the stateless people living in the region. These same concerns were also on the front burner of the discourse of the Niger Delta Dialogue.

Remarks by Special Adviser to the President on Niger Delta and Coordinator, Presidential Amnesty Programme Brig. Gen. Paul Boroh

Brig. Gen. Paul Boroh, a regular participant at the NDDs, observed that the leading issues that often pose challenges in the Bakassi Peninsula and Gulf of Guinea are poor governance, lack of effective legitimacy due to poor demarcation of maritime borders. He emphasized that the key issue in the instability of region remains the contention between Nigeria and Cameroon over Bakassi and demarcation of Nigeria/Cameroon border, which is yet to be concluded. He therefore recommended that:

1. The issue of demarcation of Nigeria/Cameroon border should be jointly resolved by the contending states as soon as possible.
2. States along the GoG should embark on strategic partnership to end piracy.
3. Nigeria's Ministry of Foreign Affairs should have a representative in the Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs for better information on the Niger Delta region.



Hon. Nrienna Ewendu-Ukeje, Ambassador Michel Arrion, Brig Gen Paul T Boroh, King Dandeson Jaja

Remarks by Amb. Michel Arrion, Head of EU Delegation

In his address, Ambassador Michel Arrion, the Head of EU Delegation, expressed the opinion that the theme of the discourse is both timely and relevant. He noted that the GoG is a common heritage of many countries in Africa and the entire global community because of its rich natural resources and the strategic highway for the maritime industry. He expressed that the security of the GoG is very high in EU policy agenda. Drawing from the success of the reduction of maritime piracy in the Indian Ocean, he suggested the following as the best ways to curb maritime insecurity in the GoG:

1. Piracy and other forms of criminality taking place in the GoG should be tackled from the onshore because the activities of the groups carrying out the nefarious acts on the high sea of the GoG are planned onshore.
2. Fighting insecurity and criminality in the GoG should not only be military as military solution is necessary but not sufficient to curbing the crimes. There is a need to also

apply other solutions, especially the criminal justice system.

3. More countries and economic blocs should be constructively engaged.

He stated that the EU has financed many projects collectively and individually but regrets that these projects have either been abandoned or are non-functioning probably due to non-alignment with the real needs of the people of the benefiting communities, or there is no ownership or effective monitoring of these projects by relevant stakeholders and authorities. He therefore suggested that there is a need to rethink how development projects of the international partners are complemented and managed by the relevant government authorities. He recounted the progress of the Niger Delta Dialogue so far saying while much progress has been made in readiness for dialogue by the citizens, meaningful readiness has not been shown by the federal government. He ended by thanking all participants and assured the conveners of continued support from the EU.

PANEL



Professor Ibrahim Gambari and HRM King Owong Dr. Effong Bassey Archlanga

Chairman's Opening Remarks

Professor (Amb) Ibrahim Gambari, former Under-Secretary-General on Africa at the United Nations, chaired the four-man panel. He began his opening remarks by observing that the topic of discourse is "timely and important" due to the strategic importance of GoG to the global community. He observed that insecurity in the GoG is widespread and has multifaceted dimensions, ranging from piracy and maritime insecurity which are attributed to economic deprivation, poor governance in human and natural resources management, environmental pollution, widespread small arms and light weapons and spread of violent crimes. While the Gulf of Guinea has immense potential for maritime commerce, resource extraction, shipping and development, it has also overtaken the Gulf of Aden as having the highest number of reported piracy attacks in the world. Nigeria loses between 40,000 and 100,000 barrels a day to oil theft. Forty per cent of the region's fishing catch is illegal, unregulated or unreported. Because of the limited maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea, South American narcotics traffickers use it as a transit route to Europe.

Professor Gambari observed that while the Nigerian Navy is doing its best fighting crimes in the GoG, it cannot be left to them alone; countering criminality in the GoG requires a holistic approach and global plan of action that should involve prevention, good governance, implementation of Madrid Agenda and application of all-government approach that enable us see the Niger Delta instability as not solely Niger Delta problem but as a problem of Nigeria manifested in Niger Delta which must be addressed by all.

Presentations from Panel Session

A four-man panel discussed various sub-themes in the topic of discourse. The first presentation of the panel was made by, **Architect Bassey Ndem**, on *Militancy and Implications for the Gulf of Guinea and the Niger Delta region*. The presentation addressed the new threat of militancy that is gradually evolving and may severely compromise peace, security and social fabric in Cross River State. He observed that until November 2016, two local governments were taken over by a group of militants called the Bakassi Strike Force (BSF) on the grouse that Nigeria handed over Bakassi to Cameroon. Their taking-over of the local governments led to the



Arch Bassey Ndem, Mr. Umeize Emenike, Ambassador Haliru Shuaibu, Professor Ibrahim Gambari

setting up of parallel governments in the two local governments and the administration of jungle justice on the people. This involved killing people by slitting their throats or burying them alive. They also imposed taxes and ruled through the barrel of the gun and decapitation of the traditional rulers and also involved in kidnapping, piracy, robbery and other criminal activities on the sea. He noted that, since the kidnapping of an Australian, the army has been deployed to the area but the soldiers are now moving from "army of liberation to army of occupation" as they have closed down social and economic activities, and people can no longer go to school, church, farm or even markets while many are detained without trial.

He explained that besides the running of parallel governments and the involvement of army, the militant groups are receiving magnificent overtures from the Amazonians (Southern Cameroonians) who have been craving for secession from the Cameroonian State, the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in Nigeria and many other similar groups from the GoG. He noted that the place is made vulnerable due to so many factors such as:

1. Closeness to borderland which makes it easy for the militants to commit crimes in a place within a country and run to another place in another country.
2. Existence of armed non-state international actors involved in gun running business from which the militant groups benefitted.
3. Presence of world superpowers because of the resources of the area.

Mr Umeize Emenike of NEMA presented on Emergency Response and the Gulf of Guinea. The main message of his presentation is that Nigeria's lack of adequate emergency response contributes significantly to the emergence of new security threats in Nigeria, including Niger Delta. He drove his point home with the explanation that between 2008 and 2012, over 2000 unaccompanied children came from Bakassi into different areas of Cross River State. These children who were never taken care of have now grown up to become adults and constitute a new security threat as they have formed new militant groups called "the Scolombo Boys". He equally pointed at the case of the Northeast where Boko Haram insurgency has led to the displacement of unaccompanied children who are living in IDP camps unattended-to.

His position is that our emergency responses to crisis should be accompanied by prior planning that takes into cognizance risk assessment and profile.

Another presentation on the panel was made by Professor Bola A. Akinterinwa, the former Director General of the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs. His presentation interrogated the contradictions on the ownership of the Bakassi land and the Bakassi people stemming from the ICJ judgment. He raised two critical issues on the ICJ judgment and its effect on the aboriginal occupants of the land –the Bakassi people. These issues he put in interrogatory form thus:

1. Who has sovereignty over Bakassi Land (not Bakassi Peninsula)?
2. Who has sovereignty over the people who occupy Bakassi Land?

He explained that the ICJ used the controversial Anglo German Treaty of 1913 as the basis for awarding Bakassi to Cameroon. However according to the memoirs of Prince Karl Max Lichnowsky, one of the co-authors of the treaty, the treaty was never signed. This throws into doubt the basis for the ICJ judgment. The occupants of the land- the Bakassi people claim inheritance to the land from their forefathers and since the ICJ ruled that Cameroon has sovereignty over Bakassi Peninsula and not Nigeria, the implication is that the land and the



Professor Bola Akinterenwa

people are subject to the rule and law of Cameroon. However the problem is that the occupants have argued that they are Nigerians and not Cameroonians and will never be Cameroonians. This has created a problem where the land belongs to Cameroon but the people inhabiting the land are Nigerians. How can the aboriginal inhabitants be separated from their land? The message of the eminent Professor is that the ICJ judgment has created confusion that is further worsened by Cameroon's inability to respect agreement.

The last presentation on the panel, was made by Eric Shu. The topic was IDPs and External Threats within the Gulf of Guinea. There are two basic issues. These were IDPs and external threats to stability of the Niger Delta, which basically come from the Gulf of Guinea. The presentation began by examining some of the causes of displacements in the Niger Delta. The identified causes were:

1. Internal communal conflicts (over land & resources)
2. Environmental disasters including oil spillage
3. Forced and arbitrary displacement due to government projects (e.g. Demolition of coastal areas by Rivers State which displaced several communities, Calabar seaport, will likely displace communities in Ikingi and Bakassi LGA
4. State Succession – Ceding of Bakassi to Cameroon in 2002 by ICJ

It was equally noted in the presentation that enormous challenges are faced in the management of IDP issues in the Niger Delta and the Gulf of Guinea. These challenges include:

1. Weak Institutional Capacity & Framework for coordination

2. Low Political will by respective governments in preventing displacement and protecting IDPs
3. Weak/Lack of Legal/Policy Framework for Protection and Assistance of IDPs- Non-Domestication of Kampala Convention (adopted in October 2009 and came into force on December 6, 2012
4. Lack of Data and Profiling of IDPs in countries in the Gulf of Guinea

On external threat from the GoG and implication for the Niger Delta, he noted that the Southern Cameroon crisis, which started in the 1990s is already generating refugees that are trooping into Nigeria. According to him, the Southern Cameroon crisis is caused by the following factors

1. Constitutional Crises
2. Loss of Identity of British Southern Cameroons within the Cameroonian Union
3. 1996 constitution and 2004 Decentralisation laws
4. Legal Crises in Bi-jural system (Common Vs Civil law controversies)
5. Crisis in the Education Sector
6. Interests, conspiracy and Influence of France

This crisis, he noted, has several security implications for the Niger Delta region. The implications include:

1. Conflict could escalate and transform into armed violence.
2. Nigeria could be burdened with refugees.
3. Oil installations in Bakassi could be targets.
4. Bakassi people & militants could collaborate and cause grievous harm to life and property
5. Increased aggression of Cameroonian armed forces towards Bakassi indigenes and mass refolement.



Niger Delta Dialogue Members
Pamela Braide, Nimmo Bassey, Ku'ubra Uya and Michael Ekpo

BREAKOUT SESSIONS



Group 1 Senator Bassey Henshaw, Chairman, flanked by Nnimmo Bassey and Legboral Pyagbara, with Hon. Ani Esin, Resource Person

In order to discuss issues in depth, the participants were broken into three syndicate groups. Group one chaired by Senator Bassey Ewa Henshaw with Hon. Ani Esin as resource person examined the current issues in the Niger Delta region and the adequacy of responses to them. The second group chaired by Nella Andem-Rabana SAN, with Prof. Bola A. Akinterenwa as resource person, discussed the international nature of the threat to the Niger Delta region and the role of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The third group chaired by Charles Achodo, with resource person, His Highness Anabs Sara Igbe, discussed the recommendations for action to attain the 16-Point Agenda.

Group One- Current Issues for the Niger Delta and Adequacy of Response

Issues identified as current in the Niger Delta region were refugees, statelessness and environmental degradation. The recommendations submitted by the group include the following:

1. The need for government to quickly address and reverse the statelessness of the people because there is a real danger of collaboration between them and Southern Cameroonians and other emerging agitating groups, and this can complicate the security situation.
2. Government should choose a specific date to stop gas flaring without option of fine.
3. Government should clean up the whole

4. Recognize one body/voice to speak for Niger Delta at all times.
5. Mass re-orientation of the people of the Niger Delta towards positive appreciation of self and communal advancement.
6. Greater cooperation among governments of Niger Delta states towards infrastructural development.
7. All states to address climate change agenda
8. Effective disaster preparedness and management.
9. Discouragement of militancy at the community level.



Group 2 Nella Andan-Rabana, SAN Chairperson; with Prof. Bola Akinterenwa, Resource Person. Eric Shu, Panellist, walking behind

Group Two- International Nature of the Threats to the Niger Delta Region's Stability

The group engaged the international nature of the problem, including threat to Niger Delta stability. It first identified the causes of the problem from the Gulf of Guinea as follows:

1. Abundance of economic resources within the region.
2. Geo-political location of the GoG, which makes the need to control the resources of the region attractive.
3. Statelessness of the people of Bakassi.
4. Criminal activities within the GoG

The International nature identified was:

1. GoG is the leading sub-Saharan African oil-producing region. Thus, the big powers such as US, China, Ukraine and Japan have many



Group 3 Charles Achodo, Chairman seated in middle, with His Highness Anabs Sara Igbe, Resource person standing.

conflicting interests.

2. Many efforts have been made bilaterally and regionally to ensure security in the GoG. All efforts have been in vain because no serious political commitment has been shown by states along the region.

The solutions recommended by the group are as follows:

1. PANDEF to advise government to accept the proposal by Bakassi Strike Force to disarm and partake in the amnesty programme.
2. Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) should explore making collaboration in the region stronger than already existing administrative and maritime security structures of ECOWAS, ECCAS and SADC.
3. Internal land boundary crises among states should be resolved while the ongoing boundary demarcation between Nigerian and Cameroon should be hastened up.
4. There should be greater synergy

between MFA, NDDC and the Ministry of Niger Delta (MNDA) to ensure coordinated policy.

5. Full implementation of the Green Tree Agreement.
6. Nigerian government should take up the continuous killing of Nigerians by Cameroonian Gendarmes.

Group Three- 16-Point Agenda: Recommendations for Action

The group identified three focal points of the 16-Point Agenda, which are: political, development and security. The group recommended the following:

1. Engagement of youths.
2. Responding comprehensively to infrastructural development challenges
3. A good faith dialogue process.
4. Direct community engagement in coming up with solution relating to their specific needs
5. A programme-based need assessment of IDPs

CONCLUSION



Amb. Hon. Nikeyo Toyo, Facilitator

The dialogue directed a number of persons to take up the issues raised during the group discussion and sought ways of addressing them within the context of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The issue of light arms is a vital link with the security organizations and their activities. Similarly, the 3 points of the 16-point agenda presented to Mr. President by PANDEF, which were addressed in the 6th Niger Delta Dialogue are part of working to resolve some fundamental issues of the Niger Delta. As the Cross River State team at the Dialogue anticipates the visit of the Vice President to the state, it hopes to present a unique set of issues arising from this meeting, including presenting him with a copy of the report of the meeting.

Overall, the Niger Delta Dialogue on Insecurity in the GOG provided a basis for other perspectives to the character of the crisis in the region. It took on the issue of disarmament, for instance, and dissociated it from its common links with DRR, dealing more with the international perspectives of arms trade and supply with particular attention to arms proliferation. This also accounted for the attention given by Ambassador Imohe to the UN as an ally to draw the attention of different policy actors (without

getting invested in the larger arms work) to the poor monitoring of arms movement and trade in arms in the GOG. Undoubtedly, there is huge opportunity for getting the Niger Delta to pay attention to programmes aimed at action to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Consequently, the meeting believes that a summit to address the issue of the Niger Delta and arms proliferation is key to demilitarization of the region and even successful completion of the amnesty programme. If the harmful impact of light weapons proliferation is viewed as a violation of humanitarian law, there is some scope for an international convention to curb their misuse. A summit could focus on the excessively harmful and injurious results of the wrongful use of small arms and light weapons, and commit governments in state and national levels to, among other things, collect and destroy weapons, ensure safe storage, restrain transfers and prohibit trade in arms.

The major message from the 6th Niger Delta Dialogue is that insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea is one of the major drivers of instability in the Niger Delta region, as small arms and light weapons and drugs used by militants are trafficked into the Niger Delta from the GOG routes. New insecurity is also brewing from the lacuna created by inconclusive nature of issues relating to the rights of affected population following the ceding of Bakassi Peninsula to Cameroon in compliance with the ICJ judgment and the Green Tree Agreement. IDPs and stateless persons around the common border area with Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, and Gabon are potential sources of insecurity that must be quickly addressed by government as part of the effort to engineer a new and stable Niger Delta.

Two other issues gained attraction from the meeting. One is the question of making the external context a component part of the local. The rising criminal trends are linked to maritime safety and security. There is need to revisit the



International and Nigerian Participants at 6th Niger Delta Dialogue

rise in violent behavior and the contributory role of maritime insecurity and criminal activities. Our role within the region is to get the government of the region to address security from beyond the confines of their boundaries. What will a Niger Delta insecurity prevention framework for action look like?

Lastly, the unresolved issues arising from the ceding of Bakassi have left the people in a situation of statelessness; they do not know where exactly their fate is best served. In terms of business, they continue to use the Naira and interact with their kith and kin in Nigeria but at very high personal and financial cost. They are exposed to multiple taxations on both sides and those living in Nigeria are far from settled 15 years after the ICJ judgment ceding the area. With the increased call for secession by Southern Cameroons, the issue is far from resolved. One of the quickest ways of addressing the problem is the re-negotiation of the Green Tree Agreement to include the provision of dual citizenship to indigenes of the Peninsula, such that the

movement of goods and property between Bakassi in Nigeria and Bakassi in Cameroons is seamless. This is also true of currencies and taxation.

On the Nigerian side, there is need to integrate the economy of Bakassi into the GoG and so create a regional business hub for the area. Such transformation of the area will bring a new vision and obliterate the loss associated with the ceding of Bakassi. Over a set number of years, the value of resources arising from the 67 wells ceded to Akwalbom should be addressed and used to directly develop Bakassi related communities in Cross River and Akwalbom States. Through a Bight of Biafra accord to be negotiated by the FG, a coordinated sub regional pact is needed and should govern security and other aspects of action within the area. This will take away the impression that the region has become a den of criminal and violence repression of the peoples by agents of government and often times the foot soldiers of criminal and militant gangs

**ATTENDANCE LIST FOR THE 6TH NIGER DELTA DIALOGUE MEETING
HELD ON THE 28th FEBRUARY 2017 SHERATON HOTEL ABUJA**

S/N	Names	Address	Organisation
1	H.M. King Dandeson Douglas Jaja	Opobo	Chairman, Rivers State Council of Traditional Rulers
2	HRM King Owong Dr. Effong B. Archianga	Akwa Ibom	Traditional Ruler
3	Barr. Samuel Ebiwanno	Ondo	Chairman Host Community
4	Hon. Morris Idiovwa	Warri	Chairman OML 30 CDB
5	Pamela Braide	Abuja	Independent
6	Anthony Ubani	Abuja	Abia
7	Prince Yemi Emiko	Warri	Itsekiri Nation
8	Chief Ani Eric Esin	Calabar	Opinion Leader
9	Micheal U. Ekpo	Lagos	Opinion Leader
10	HH Chief Anabs Sara Igbe	Warri	Activist
11	Legborsi Saro Pyagbara	Rivers	MOSOP
12	Arc Bassey Ndem	Calabar	Croos River Government
13	Dr Ku'ubra Uya	Uyo	Civil Society
14	Rt. Hon. Oroh Duke	Calabar	Rep. Obong of Calabar
15	Cletus Obun	Calabar	ALIMSA
16	Eric Shu	Port Harcourt	Rhema Care Integrated Dev't Centre, PH.
17	Ken Henshaw	Port Harcourt	Activist
18	Rosemary Ikuloh	Ondo	Ijaw Arobo
19	Nnimmo Bassey	Benin	Environmentalist
20	Prof. Bola A. Akinterinwa	Lagos	Retired head NIIA
21	Dr Judith Burdin Asuni	Warri	Facilitator, AA PeaceWorks
22	Amb. Dr. Godknows Boladei Igali	Abuja	Facilitator
23	Amb. Hon. Nkoyo Toyo	Abuja	Facilitator
24	Arrion Michel	Abuja	European Union
25	Peyredievan Charlat	Abuja	European Union
26	Eno Moma	Abuja	European Union
27	Louise Edwards	Abuja	British High Commission
28	Berrand De Seissan	Abuja	French Embassy
29	Angelique Vander Made	Abuja	Netherland Embassy
30	Sophia Sabrow	Abuja	German Embassy
31	Hauwa Yusuf	Abuja	FOSTER
32	Nelba Akinyemi	Abuja	FOSTER
33	Steven Freeman	Abuja	UK Foreign Office
34	Deepali Kulkarni	Abuja	UK Foreign Office
35	Maria Dauydenko	Abuja	US Consulate
36	Stella N. Ezeh	Abuja	
37	Brig. Gen. PT Boroh	Abuja	Presidential Adviser on Niger Delta/Head Amnesty Programme
38	Brig. Gen. Lyn Hassan	Abuja	Rep. Hon. Minister of Defence
39	Maj. Matti Abdul	Abuja	Amnesty Office
40	Maj. G. Bernard	Abuja	Amnesty Office
41	LT. Col. OOO Kungbrue	Abuja	Amnesty Office
42	Beggi Erepattei	Abuja	Amnesty Office
43	Olua I. D.	Abuja	Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs
44	Ojubuyi Bright	Abuja	Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs
45	Musa M. K.	Abuja	NCFRMI

46	Moses T.	Abuja	Amnesty Office
47	Winter Edet	Abuja	Amnesty Office
48	George Esiri	Abuja	Amnesty Office
49	Owei L.	Abuja	Amnesty Office
50	Dafe C.	Abuja	Amnesty Office
51	Engr. Markson Dakoru	Abuja	Amnesty Office
52	Stella Inametti	Abuja	Amnesty Office
53	Prisca Chinonso N.	Abuja	Amnesty Office
54	Blaise Sevidzem	Abuja	SCINGA
55	Amina Arong	Abuja	C.R.S.G.
56	Sen. Bassey Ewa Henshaw	Abuja	Government
57	Umesi Emenike	Abuja	NEMA
58	Ben. O. Oghenah	Abuja	NEMA
59	Aro-Lambo Amina	Abuja	NEMA
60	Comfort Odumu	Abuja	NEMA
61	Seuriza Agabu	Abuja	NEMA
62	Haliru S. Shuaibu	Abuja	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
63	Charles Achodo	Abuja	Ministry of Petroleum Resources
64	Olabisi Ogungbemi	Abuja	Presidential Villa
65	Zainab Calalius	Abuja	Presidential Villa
66	Amb. Imohe	Abuja	PRESCOM
67	E.N. Stanley	Abuja	M.F.A
68	Nnenna Eluchi	Abuja	NASS
69	Chief Barbara Etim James	Abuja	Business Woman
70	Margaret Essien	Abuja	National Commission for Refugees
71	Abimbola Ogunnubi	Abuja	National Commission for Refugees
72	Engr. Numoipre Wills	Abuja	Border Comm. Dev. Agency
73	Ajayi Yemi	Abuja	Border Comm. Dev. Agency
74	Nella Andem Rabana (SAN)	Abuja	Lexglobal
75	Victor Akpamka	Abuja	Port Notel Ltd
76	Prof. I.A. Gambari	Abuja	Savannah Centre
77	Ohaegbuchi Moses	Abuja	Savannah Centre
78	Andy Nkemneme	Abuja	Inst. For Peace & Conflict Resolution
79	Mathew Dadiya	Abuja	Daily Times
80	Balogun Temitope	Abuja	Daily Times
81	Konyefa Jennifer	Abuja	SCIB Command
82	Thompson Usong	Abuja	
83	A.U. Sambo	Abuja	MFA
84	Bankung Obi	Abuja	ALIMS
85	Ozinko O. O.	Abuja	Ozinko O. Ozinko Associates
86	Prof. Steve Azaiki	Abuja	National Think Tank
87	Danjuma Dawop	Abuja	Mercy Corps Nigeria
88	Ofugara Silva	Warri	Ekpan Community Development
89	Maxwell Oko	Abuja	AAPW
90	Mbafan Akula	Abuja	GADA
91	Tem Martin	Abuja	Rhema Care
92	Edwin Ngaag	Abuja	SCACUF - Southern Cameroun Ambazoria
93	Michael Ufot	Abuja	PAP
94	Ashu Kingsley	Abuja	Youth Front Southern Cameroun
95	Ajayi Olowo Esq.	Abuja	Ajayi Olowo & Co.
96	Uche Ifukor	Warri	AA PeaceWorks
97	Okekpola Ogochuku	Warri	AA PeaceWorks
98	Akor Christiana	Warri	AA PeaceWorks
99	Eruotor Friday	Warri	AA PeaceWorks
100	Ebivnie Emuobo	Warri	AA PeaceWorks
101	Jide Owonikoko	Warri	AA PeaceWorks
102	Iyama Stephen	Warri	AA PeaceWorks
103	Worahu Stanley	Warri	AA PeaceWorks



Niger Delta Dialogue

A World of Peace

The Contents of this publication are the sole responsibility of Academic Associates PeaceWorks and cannot in anyway be taken to reflect the views of the European Union.

Academic Associates PeaceWorks
12 Friday Ani St, Effurun GRA, Delta State.
aapeaceworksng@gmail.com
www.aapeaceworks.org.ng



BMAN PRINTS @ 08036622030 & 08052757446