

PANDEF

Pan Niger Delta Forum National Leadership Retreat

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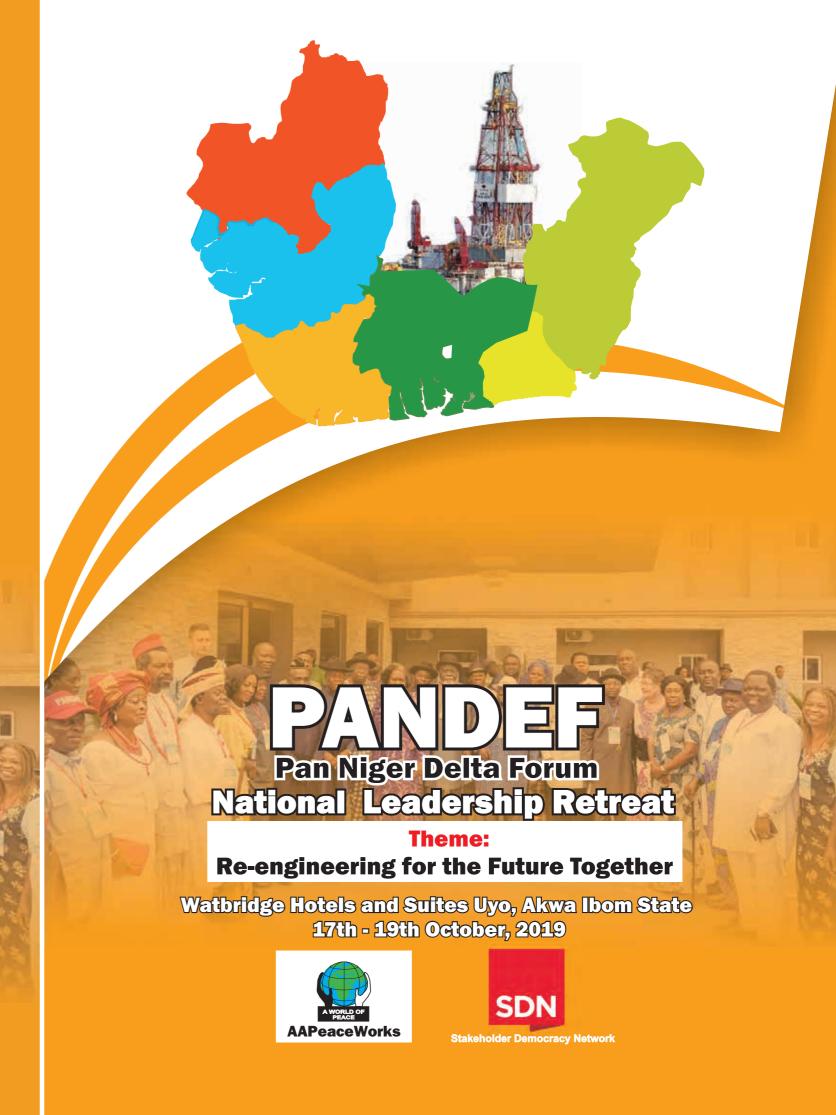


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PANDEF

Pan Niger Delta Forum National Leadership Retreat

Theme:

Re-engineering for the Future Together

Watbridge Hotels and Suites
Uyo, Akwa Ibom State
17th - 19th October, 2019











Facilitated by Niger Delta Dialogue & SDN Funded by EU & Conflict, Stability & Security Fund



Background



Cross section of participants at the PANDEF National Leadership Retreat

The Pan Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF) held its National Leadership Retreat on 17th-19th October, 2019 at the Watbridge Hotels and Suites, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State. The 3-day event was attended by 32 national and state level officers of PANDEF, as well as the Special Adviser to the President on the Niger Delta, Senator Ita Enang. The retreat was facilitated by two NGOs, Niger Delta Dialogue/Academic Associates PeaceWorks (AAPW) and Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN). The National Leader, Chief Dr. E. K. Clark sent a goodwill message to enrich deliberations at the Retreat.

The retreat availed the leadership of the forum the opportunity to appraise performance and structures, build consensus on priorities, develop strategic action plans for organizational effectiveness as well as strengthen internal and external partnerships. It also afforded the forum the opportunity to appraise the state of affairs in the region in particular and Nigeria in general, so as to help formulate and adopt best approaches in tackling identified challenges.

The Niger Delta Dialogue serves as the Think Tank for PANDEF, and discussions from larger dialogue meetings are passed to the PANDEF leadership to guide its engagements. In January NDD helped leaders of the region develop a Road May for action and in February 2018 led on an analysis of the 2018 budget. In 2019 SDN conducted trainings for PANDEF on strategic communication first in Abuja and then in 3 states. This retreat is a continuation of capacity building for PANDEF.



Sen. Anietie Okon, Air Cdre Idongesit Nkanga (rtd) with Chief Betty Igbeyi mni



Opening Session

Air Commodore Idongesit Nkanga (rtd), National Chairman of PANDEF, stated that the retreat is a measure to consolidate the vision of PANDEF. Despite the challenges the forum has encountered, some progress has been made and hopefully, more



Air Commodore Idongesit Nkanga (rtd), PANDEF National Chairman

would happen. However, the 16 Point Agenda remains a working document between the region and the federal government and the government has not given serious attention to it. He called on government to revisit the 16 Point Agenda, saying that that peace will be sustained in the region if the issues highlighted in the agenda are given desired attention.

The Deputy National Secretary, **Hon. Ken Robinson** stated that following the various trainings conducted by SDN and the Niger Delta Dialogue, there is a need to involve key stakeholders in the process.



Hon. Ken Robinson Deputy National Secretary, PANDEF

His Highness, Anabs Sara-Igbe, National Publicity Secretary/PRO, PANDEF, said the forum is aware of where the region stands at the moment and the crisis we come from, and the crises it is exposed to. However, PANDEF had firmly stood for the region in fighting for its rights, adding that PANDEF and the people have been succeeding without arms struggle. He noted that though the forum cannot categorically state what became of SIWP, it will continue to support government to actualise it. He urged the forum to work towards effectively engaging Ministers who are from the region as well as the state governments to develop the Niger Delta.



His Highness, Anabs Sara-Igbe, National Publicity Secretary/PRO, PANDEF

Chief Mrs Betty Igbeyi mni, National Woman Leader, PANDEF, stated that women get what they want, not by fighting, but by resilience. For justice, equity and peace, always recognise that women need their 35% representation at every outing.



Chief Mrs Betty Igbeyi mni, National Woman Leader, PANDEF



Akwa Ibom State Chairman, Sen. Etang Umoyo, said PANDEF has done well in speaking for the voiceless and the downtrodden. However, the road is not going to be smooth always, but with the spirit so far cultivated, set targets will be achieved.



Sen. Etang Umoyo

SDN's Work to Date with PANDEF

Joseph Ekiye, SDN, Assistant Programmes Manager stated that SDN supports PANDEF because of their shared beliefs in dialogue and constructive engagement, rather than violence. SDN has facilitated PANDEF's development of its agenda of Security, Peace and Development. These are like the 3 legs of a stool, which will wobble if any element is missing.

SDN trained PANDEF leaders in Strategic Communication, and the NGO has analysed PANDEF's public communications over the past year, including public statements and news interviews with members.



Joseph Ekiye, SDN, Assistant Programmes Manager

Alexander Sewell, the Conflict, Security and Stabilisation Team Lead, presented a Word Cloud which illustrates how PANDEF comes across to the public and the people they claim to represent. The bigger the size of the word, the more it has been mentioned..



The analysis illustrates that:

- PANDEF is good at talking about PANDEF but this is limited to superficial identity of leaders representing the people of the Niger Delta.
- Messages and responsibility are primarily targeted to President Buhari the other key actors who are responsible for improving the Niger Delta (i.e. Minister of ND) are targeted much less.
- 3 pillars of PANDEF are mentioned sparingly Security, Development and Peace have far fewer mentions than PANDEF and the President/government. As a result, the core issues that PANDEF are advocating for are buried, and it comes across as attributing blame without presenting solutions.

Next the core issues that PANDEF has been publically calling for action on were looked at in more detail. This highlighted the following:

- Security by far the most mentioned. As it is an objective, this is good.
- Development and Peace come in third and sixth. As core objectives, could be better.
- Herdsmen comes in third. Livestock, cattle and ranches are also prominent. It is an important issue, but it should not be mentioned more than other prominent issues in the Niger Delta.
- Fulani mentioned more times than any Niger Delta ethnic group. PANDEF needs to be talking for those it claims to represent.
 - Issues from the 16-point Agenda that were not covered included:





Alexander Sewell, Conflict, Security & Stabilisation Team Lead, SDN

- Presidential Amnesty Programme
- Nigerian Maritime University
- Pipeline surveillance
- Relocation of IOC Headquarters, modular refineries, resource governance
- Inclusive participation and ownership of oil blocks (OML25/11 etc).
- Environmental clean-up / remediation / HYPREP / Ogoni
 Other key policy issues NOT covered in 2019 included:
- Federal Government policy process for the Niger Delta
- SIWP / Niger Delta New Vision (follow ups to the 16 point agenda)
- Cultism, kidnapping, general high rate of crime
- Artisanal oil refining / bunkering

- Modular refineries / local content
- Global warming / rising sea levels / increased flooding and coastal erosion

Exercise: Prioritising Objectives

The exercise demonstrated a process to develop an implementation strategy for PANDEF.

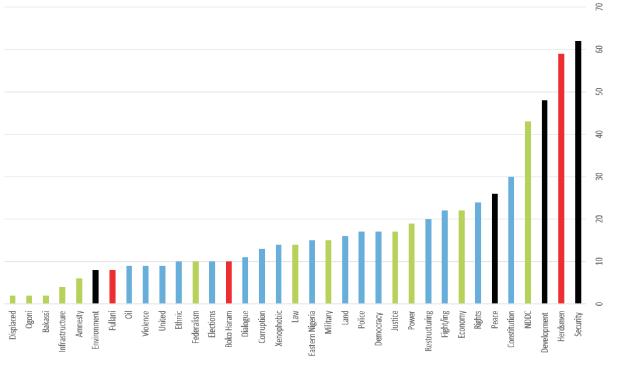
The exercised focused on selecting the priority issues that PANDEF will work towards, and encouraged executive committee members to explain exactly what PANDEF would do, and what result PANDEF's work will lead to.

This would advance PANDEF beyond the 16-Point Agenda, which is a list of targets for others, by explaining what PANDEF will do to contribute towards the achievement of these targets.

Discussions were very robust and indicated alignment behind some key issues.



Dandyson Harry Dandyson





PANDEF-Beyond Agitation.

Contextually, it was stated that PANDEF is yet to attain its full potential. Hence, there is need to strategically reposition PANDEF, using a clear and robust strategy:

- Position PANDEF at the centre of pushing solutions to issues faced in the Niger Delta
- Reach the right audiences,
- Build coalitions to bring about change,
- Use terminology that others use, and build confidence that funds will be used well
- Be more effective at achieving desired results

Vision, Mission, Values

Focus here was on the rationale for the existence of PANDEF, and whether such reasons are justified. The members of the executive committee made a number of recommendations during the discussion:

- Define the type of organisation that PANDEF is;
- PANDEF should announce its strategic focus at an International Summit that could be held in one of the member-states;
 - that PANDEF should monitor budgets in Nigeria from its drafting to the implementation stage;
- that PANDEF should be proactive;
- that PANDEF should have a lobbying section;
- that PANDEF's website should be updated regularly;
- The need for stakeholder-mapping.
- that PANDEF should consider collaborating with international donors;
- identify and scale up key issues;
- commitment to work together.



Omobolaji Oduwale, Independent Communications Consultant.

Introduction to Strategy Framework-Opara Chiekezi, Senior M+E Officer

Results were compiled and a draft strategy framework was put together and presented to PANDEF the following day.

This was mainly for illustrative purposes, and PANDEF will need to work on this more to ensure it represents the organisations strategy. PANDEF can continue to develop this strategy to include:

- The activities it will do to achieve the objectives,
- The milestones, targets and indicators it can keep track of to measure progress,
- A budget for activities and proposals for funding.
- Input from other arms of PANDEF that were not part of the exercise
- Critical questions must be raised on the changes PANDEF wants to see in the Niger Delta;
- Identify who must be engaged and/or influenced to do something differently in order for the change to occur;
- Measures to influence the key stakeholders must also be factored in.
- Make assumptions about how the expected change would happen;
- Consider the risk factors that have the potential to negatively influence the project.
- Performance must be measured;
- Stipulate clearly, and in measurable terms, the type of result expected at every stage of the project.
- Apply SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant & Time-bound) indicators;
- The participants were taken through an exercise on how to develop a log frame.



Opara Chiekezi, Senior M+E Officer, SDN



Drafted with contributions from the executive committee during 'prioritising objectives and goals' session Draft Strategy Framework for PANDEF-

| | _ | | |
|----------------|--|--|--|
| Mission | To dialogue with stakeholders and lobby for i policies by the Government of Nigeria. | To dialogue with stakeholders and lobby for increased attention and implementation of restructuring, development and security policies by the Government of Nigeria. | ucturing, development and security |
| Vision | A restructured Nigeria that gives all states mo | A restructured Nigeria that gives all states more autonomy over resources and desion-making, leading to a more peaceful, secure and | g, leading to a more peaceful, secure and |
| | developed Niger Delta. | | |
| Pillars | 1. Peace | 2. Security | 3. Development |
| Objectives | 1.1. Restructuring | 2.1. Cultism | 3.1 Infrastructure |
| | Sensitise the public and engage politicians | Sensitise and re-orientate the public on the | Promote implementation of key |
| | on the benefits and need for restructuring, | perils of cultism, and urge state and federal | infrastructure projects identified in the 16 |
| | until it is achieved. | government to enact anti-cultism legislation, | Point Agenda. |
| | 1.2. Rights and Justice | and chour imprementation. | 3.2 Resource Control |
| | Publicise violations, and advocate for the | 2.2 Pipeline Surveillance | Advocacy and strategic engagements to |
| | protection of human rights, and reform laws | Promote community-led pipeline | ensure commitment to increased |
| | detrimental to the people of the Niger Delta. | surveillance and asset integrity assessments | participation and ownership of oil blocks by |
| | | with the IOCs and Federal Government. | indigenes, and relocate IOCs HQs to the |
| | 1.3. Dialogue | | Niger Delta. |
| | Facilitate dialogue with stakeholders on | 2.3 Bakassi and IDPs | |
| | sustaining peace and defining progress for | Push for the establishment of a special | 3.3 Electricity |
| | the Niger Delta. | commission to intervene in the issues arising | Advocacy and engagements with IOCs and |
| | | from the ceding of Bakassi. | the FG to turn gas flares into power. |
| Outcomes | 1.1 Increased public understanding of | 2.1 Increased public understanding on the | 3.1 Increase attention to the delivery of key |
| | federalism and popular support for national | impacts of cultism, and reduce the rate of | infrastructure projects, leading to ease of |
| | restructuring. | proliferation. | movement and improved business |
| | , | | environment. |
| | 1.2 Increased attention of the Nigerian and | 2.2 Increased participation of communities | |
| | international governments to violations of | to improve the protection of oil and gas | 3.2 Increased participation and ownership |
| | human rights in the Niger Delta. | infrastructure. | for indigenes in the oil and gas industry |
| | 1.3 Sustained ceasefire by militants so that | 2.3 Federal Government investigation and | 3.3 Increased action by IOCs to implement |
| | further discussions on development and | action on the Bakassi issue. | projects that reduce gas flaring and improve |
| | security can progress. | | access to electricity. |
| | | | |



The Roadmap Developed with Leaders of the region in January 2018 by Niger Delta Dialogue - Chief Dr. Judith Burdin Asuni

The Niger Delta Dialogue facilitated a roadmap, developed by a group of leaders from the region (many of whom became key PANDEF members) and representatives of relevant MDAs in January 2018.

Looking at the roadmap and the key priorities and resolutions taken 1 3/4 years ago, what has PANDEF done since then? Has the forum been able to secure an entry point into government?

• PANDEF has gained entry point into government as six of its members were part of the interministerial committee set up by the Vice President Prof. Yemi Osinbajo. They were also part of the team that designed the SIWP.



Chief Dr. Judith Burdin Asuni

- PANDEF had an interesting closed door meeting with the Nigerian Senate President
- PANDEF has been able to associate with other ethnic groups who share common goals with it.
- It has established its state organs effectively as well as hold discussions on various issues in the region.
- The forum is now more proactive in approach to regional issues.

Reflection on PANDEF's Key Priorities and Resolutions: Road Map 2018-2019. Amb. Nkoyo Toyo

Ambassador Nkoyo Toyo noted that in reengineering for the future, it is important to reflect on how well the forum had fared in the last one year and appraise its performance. She took participants through some of the resolutions reached.

- It was resolved that PANDEF will engage the national assembly caucus on issues affecting the region. However, participants agreed that not much was done in that regard. Much was not also done in the area of critical engagements with state governments in the region as agreed upon.
- Ensure that every state in the region provides subvention for the smooth running of PANDEF. Again, that has not happened.



Amb. Nkoyo Toyo

Some of the states have not formally inaugurated their executives, how then can they push for assistance from the state?

- Advocate for the full budgetary allocation to NDDC and Amnesty Office-Done
- Leverage on the media strength in the region and devise a media engagement strategy to place regional issues on national agenda- *Achieved*
- Restructuring of the current PANDEF to be more effective and efficient to speak for common interests- Ongoing
- PANDEF setting a common agenda for the state and federal governments to run with for the 2019 general elections- *Happening in some states*



- PANDEF be more proactive and have a common statement on key identified national or regional issues-*Well done*
- Intervene in the call for support for the Presidential Committee on SALW on disarmament in the states-*Not very well done*
- The NDD secretariat as the "think tank" does the needed research and analysis for PANDEF to engage in higher level discussion with government and other regional blocs- Well done
- Complete the 2018 budget analysis for deliberations at the PANDEF meeting-*Done*

Ambassador Nkoyo stated that PANDEF has done tremendously well in the area of pushing for Restructuring of the country. However, PANDEF should critically examine itself if it is currently fit for purpose. But if not, what can the forum do to make it fit?

She expressed hope that the reflection will help PANDEF to re-examine its purpose and to strategically position itself to engage with government at all levels in the interest of the region. Responding to the reflection on PANDEF's resolutions reached in 2018, Chief Dr. Judith Burdin Asuni, said it is imperative to evaluate what has changed since the roadmap was designed in 2018. She asked a penitent question "is the document (ROADMAP for 2018-2019) still relevant and what needs to happen differently?"

In response to Dr. Judith's questions, Chief Mrs. Betty Igbeyi mni, national woman leader of PANDEF, noted that the document remains relevant. Nevertheless, PANDEF needs to critically study the document, analyze the details, and enhance areas which have not been given adequate consideration. Speaking further, Ambassador Nkoyo stated that not

Speaking further, Ambassador Nkoyo stated that not much has changed with regards to issues highlighted in the region in the last three years. The region must continue to engage with relevant bodies to change that current narrative, regardless.



Barr. Tariere Gita, Hon. Chief T.K.O. Okorotie, Air Cdre Idongesit Nkanga with Engr. Donyegha Ben

Update on the Region

The session commenced with recap of the previous day discussion. She reminded participants that the thrust of the previous day discussion was - what kind of organization is PANDEF and where is it headed? She said PANDEF often sees itself as one of the several other groups in other regions of the country such as the Western group – Afenifere or the Northern Arewa Consultative Forum, saying that the forum should consider whether it wants to be exactly like the other groups or better than them in terms of its structure and operation. There are several perceptions on what PANDEF stands for in the region. It is crucial to clearly define the forum: whether it is an organization, assembly, pressure group or representative of the region. In thinking about the future, there is need to review the mission and vision of PANDEF which according to her, is not a one-off activity.

To clearly ascertain what has changed in the region in the last three years, Ambassador Nkoyo shared a documentary of the current situation in the region. She noted that many of the challenges highlighted in the documentary were discussed when she was secretary of the Technical Committee on the Niger Delta during late President Yar'adua's administration. It is frustrating to know that the context has not changed, as these challenges still stare the region in the face. The Niger Delta is still very much degraded as issues, such as the following are still debated upon:

- Gas flaring
- Abject poverty
- Militancy
- Crude oil theft
- Unemployment
- Cultism and organized crime
- Poor state of infrastructure
- Underdevelopment

Apart from lack of opportunities in the region, there is also the breakdown of communities. Communities often fight over who gets what when development opportunities arise as seen in some communities in Ogoni with regards to the cleanup. Such fights can scare investors away and the region will continue to suffer underdevelopment. People of the region are becoming more intolerable and lack the willingness to build communities founded on equity and justice as a result of lack of opportunities. Importantly, Ambassador Nkoyo urged PANDEF to raise necessary discussions around the poor performance of the several interventionist agencies in the region, noting that infrastructural development is declining rapidly even with the presence of NDDC. This she said, is worrisome and deserves to be given urgent attention.



In thinking towards working with other regions in the country, PANDEF should consciously seek alternative means to revamp "Restructuring" of the country, as the struggle to reorganize the country has not yielded any positive outcome.

She advised PANDEF to be more strategic and objective in its engagement with the federal government, adding that if PANDEF is overwhelmed with the issues in the region, smaller groups can be created within its operation to handle minor issues while the parent body oversees complex issues.



Senator Ita Enang

Senator Ita Enang- Special Adviser to the President on Niger Delta Affairs - Beyond Oil.

The Senator began by commending members of the forum for their selfless sacrifice to their father land in working for the development of the Niger Delta Region, even after retiring from public service.

"My job is to create programmes and develop projects to sustain Niger Delta and Nigeria beyond oil. The aim is to engage citizens in making them productive outside oil. I have come at your invitation, to share these ideas with you". Senator Ita Enang further stated that his job also entails working with state governments, formal and informal organizations, irrespective of political leanings.

The price of oil is drastically dropping as green and solar energy gain more ground. Between 2008 - 2011, oil was sold at USD140 per barrel. Now oil

oscillates between USD 50-70 per barrel as a result of low demand. Consequently, there is need to look out for alternatives to oil. "I will work with PANDEF to create good relationship between the Niger Delta states, communities and the federal government. We will collate the needs of the region and present same to the federal government for implementation".

He concluded by thanking PANDEF for its effort in ensuring that the region is given the attention it deserves by the federal government. He promised to always make himself available for discussions to better the fate of the Niger Delta people, saying that the essence of representation is to take the bullet meant for the people.



PANDEF National Leadership

PANDEF and the Way Forward

Several issues were discussed during the retreat which bear emphasizing. **Some original concerns** of PANDEF which have not yet been adequately addressed include:

- 1. Efforts to reduce gas flaring
- 2. Continuing work to protect the environment
- 3. Discussion of what happens to the Niger Delta after oil
- 4. Implications of the siting of the Dangote refinery in Lagos, outside of the region that actually produces the oil
- 5. Interface with the South/South Caucus of the National Assembly. E.g. on budgets. It is too late to influence the 2020 budget but other issues can be addressed
- 6. Advocacy to fix the terrible state of the roads in the Niger Delta
- 7. Forensic audit not only of NDDC but of all government parastatals. E.g. river basin authorities, NPA, etc.



8. Inclusion of non-North Eastern indigenes on the board of that commission, as non-indigenes are on the NDDC board.

New issues should also be addressed:

PANDEF should call for adequate funding of NDDC. If the commission is sufficiently funded according to law, it can play a major role in the development of the region as it is the only agency in Nigeria with a suitable recurrent versus capital expenditure ratio.

- 1. The instability in the NDDC Board contributes to the non-effectiveness of the commission. Board members are in most cases, removed even before they understand how the commission functions. They should be allowed enough time to work to improve performance. Managing Directors and EDs should rise from within the commission and not some persons from elsewhere who hardly have knowledge of the day to day running of the commission.
- 2. PANDEF should push for the amendment of the law that restrict northerners from being part of NDDC Board. Niger Deltans are not on the board for the North East, so why should northerners be on the NDDC board?
- 3. PANDEF should clearly identify what projects should be awarded and completed within a certain period in a concerted voice. Discourage individuals from pushing for the construction of roads in their immediate environment.
- 4. PANDEF should insist on forensic audit of PTDF and others, as NDDC audit is perceived to be a ploy to expunge it from the region. PANDEF will also insist on knowing who the beneficiaries are, how the projects were awarded including the amount remitted.

 5. Contractors of abandoned projects across the
- 5. Contractors of abandoned projects across the region should be interrogated as part of the forensic audit.
- 6. Set up a committee to monitor the quality of work done by NDDC.
- 7. Engage state governments in the region on the need to play their role as stated in the NDDC act.

Issues specific to PANDEF which should be addressed:

- 1. While restructuring remains a priority, PANDEF is a multi-issue organization.
- 2. Committees should be constituted, with members of particular expertise working on separate issues.

- Finish developing the strategy documents for PANDEF
- a. Expand the strategy framework compiled by SDN, adding other relevant issues
- Wording of mission, vision, objectives and outcomes
- c. Add activities that PANDEF will carry out to achieve objectives/outcomes
- d. Add timeframe, milestones and measurable indicators
- e. Nominate a committee to work on this
- 4. Pursue funding from international donors
- a. Finish the strategy as a pre-requisite
- b. Register PANDEF as an NGO or corporate entity
- c. Use the strategy as the basis of a proposal (narrative) and budget
- d. Receive funds and implement report on activities and achievements
- Commit to make the strategic retreat an annual event
- a. Meet in one year's time
- b. Review and revise the strategy
- c. Increase time for discussions on deliberations
- 6. Establish a working team/office
- a. Staff needed to develop strategy and track progress
- b. Write proposals for funding
- c. Research on issues and write briefing notes for the executive.
- 7. The word cloud presented by SDN shows that the words PANDEF and Niger Delta appear frequently in the media but there is little systematic discussion of the issues of the region. Therefore, PANDEF'S Strategic Communications need to be sharpened to raise awareness and seek solutions for the problems that plague the Niger Delta.



AAPW/SDN Staff



Communique Issued At The End of a National Leadership Retreat Of Pan Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF), Held at Uyo, Akwa Ibom State From Thursday, 17th to Saturday, 19th October, 2019

Pan Niger Delta Forum (PANDEF), held a 3-day National Leadership Retreat at Uyo, Akwa Ibom State from Thursday, October 17 to Saturday, October 19, 2019. The Retreat which had the theme, Reengineering for the Future Together was attended by National officers, Elders, State chairmen, secretaries as well as State women and youth leaders of PANDEF.

The retreat objectives included to enable leadership evaluate performance and structures, build consensus on priorities, develop strategic action plans for organizational effectiveness, and strengthen internal and external partnerships. As well as to appraise the state of affairs in the region, and formulate and adopt best approaches.

PANDEF also used the opportunity of the retreat to interact with critical stakeholders and key NGOs working in the region, including the Special Adviser to the President on Niger Delta, Senator Ita Enang. The National Leader, Chief Dr. E. K. Clark sent goodwill message to enrich deliberations at the Retreat. Declared opened by PANDEF National Chairman, Air Commodore Idongesit Nkanga Rtd. Presentations were made by Resource Persons on areas germane to the core objectives of the Forum, which elicited useful and robust contributions from participants.

Rising from the retreat, PANDEF made the following resolutions:

- 1. Restates its commitment to engage with all critical stakeholders of the region in its work, irrespective of political inclination, for the betterment of the region;
- 2. Commends the federal government for the peaceful resolution of the contentious issue concerning the license/operation of OML 25 located in Belema, Offoinama & Ngrjr Communities in Kula kingdom of Akuku Toru Local Government area, Rivers State. And implores the federal government to deploy same approach to other host communities in the Niger Delta where there are disputes over Oil Marginal License/operation;
- 3. Applauds the people of Kula Kingdom for their steadfastness and resilience, and for remaining peaceful throughout the period of the dispute.

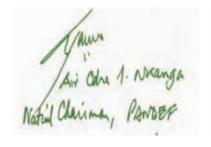
Similarly commends the Nigerian Military for their professional conduct in handling the matter;

- 4. Thanks Belema Oil for proofing beyond reasonable doubt that indigenous Oil & Gas Producing Companies can do better in developing the human and infrastructural development in the oil & gas bearing communities;
- 5. Urges international and indigenous oil companies (IOCs) operating the region to respect and honour Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Global Memorandum of Understanding entered with host communities in the interest of peace in the region;
- 6. PANDEF decries the poor state of critical infrastructure in the Niger Delta region, particularly roads, and thus calls on the federal government, and relevant MDAs to give immediate and urgent attention to roads in the region, particularly the following roads:
- a. The East West Road, from Benin to Calabar
- b. Calabar Itu Ikot Ekpene Aba Road
- c. Ogoja Ikom Calabar Road
- d. Port Harcourt Aba section, etc.
- 7. Condemns the increasing rate of criminal and cult related crisis in the region and urge youths of the region to eschew all acts and behaviors that would jeopardize their future, and the security and peace of the region;
- 8. Further encourages Governors of the region and all political office holders, elected and appointed, to give greater attention to issues like job creation, rural women and youth development, healthcare and education, to check the growing rate of youth delinquency;
- 9. Urges the Federal Government to set up a Special Commission as has been done in the North East to address all issues arising from the illegal ceding of Bakassi including the proper resettlement of those displaced and providing assistance to the refugees pouring into Cross River from South West Cameroon. This would help reduce the insecurity festering in the Gulf of Guinea region;
- 10. Resolves to continue to work with other Regional bodies in the Country, in the efforts to enthrone an egalitarian nation that would be run on the fundamental principles of equity, fairness and justice;
- 11. Restates its position on RESTRUCTURING and calls on the federal government to as a matter of urgency begin a constructive dialogue process in the restructuring of the country;

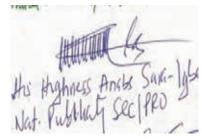


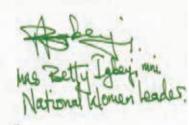
- 12. Welcomes the order of President Muhammad Buhari of a forensic audit of the NDDC accounts from 2001 to 2019. However demands that names of beneficiaries of contracts of the Commission over the period under review should be made public. In addition, insists that for NDDC to function effectively there must be adequate funding and less political interference; PANDEF further urges Mr. President to extend the order of audit to other national interventionist organizations like the Petroleum Technology Development Fund (PDTDF);
- 13. Extols two Non-Governmental Organizations operating in the Niger Delta region, Academic Associates PeaceWorks Niger Delta Dialogue and Stakeholder Democracy Network for facilitating the Retreat;
- 14. PANDEF further commits itself to the steadfast pursuit of shared interests along with promoting understanding and peaceful co-existence amongst the various ethnic nationalities of the region.

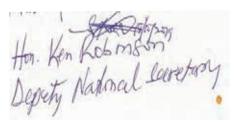
Issued and adopted at the end of Retreat at Uyo, Akwa Ibom State on this 19th Day of October, 2019.













Chief Betty Igbeyi mni, National Woman Leader,
His Highness Anabs Sara-Igbe, National Publicity Secretary/PRO,
Air Cdre Idongesit Nkanga, National Chairman,
Chief Francis Doukpola, Deputy National Chairman with
Hon. Ken Robinson, Deputy National Secretary during the Press Conference



Attendance List for PANDEF National Leadership Retreat held 17h-19th October, 2019 at Watbridge Hotels and Suites, Uyo

| S/N | Name | Organization/position | Email Address | Phone Number |
|-----|--|---|---|---------------|
| 1 | Air Cdre. Idongesit Nkanga | National Chairman PANDEF | idongesitn@yahoo.com | 0802 302 4980 |
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PANDEF

STATE EXECUTIVE INAUGURATION CEREMONIES



DELTA (31st October, 2019)



EDO (1st November, 2019)





Nella Andem-Rabana SAN



Princess Lovinah Kakpoilo Enyekit-Itan



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Engr. Donyegha Ben



Engr. Sunday Umoh



Hon. Chief T.K.O. Okorotie





Orusoso DonPedro



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Rev. Jonathan Dike



Olorogun Vincent Oyibode (JP)



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Dr. Sir Chief Ominimini Obiuwevbi (Ph.D)





Comr. Victor Philip with Comr. Etifit Nkereuwem



Obonganwan Grace Ekong



Dr. Emmanuel Akpanobong with Dr. Monday Okonny



Sen. Bassey Ewa Henshaw



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Hon. Agbiji M. Agbiji



Chief Francis Doukpola MFR



Group Photo (PANDEF)



Sen. Inatimi Spiff



Cross Section of Participants



Pan Niger Delta Forum National Leadership Retreat

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