



# **REPORT - PIND at the 5th National Council on Niger Delta**



**September 2022**

## Background

The 5th meeting of the National Council on Niger Delta (NCND) was held at Ibom Icon Hotel and Golf Resort, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State on Thursday, 15th September, 2022. The Meeting was declared open by His Excellency, President Muhammadu Buhari, ably represented by the Honourable Minister of the Federal Ministry of Environment, Mohammed H. Abdullahi. The theme of the Meeting was “Harnessing 21st Century Development Initiatives and Strategies for Greater Development Impacts in the Niger Delta Region”. In attendance were Members of Council drawn from the Nine (9) States of the Niger Delta Region, relevant Federal and States Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Representatives of Development Partners, Traditional Rulers, Host Communities of Oil and Gas, Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and International Oil Companies (IOCs). The Council meeting was preceded by a 2-day Technical Committee meeting where memos submitted by various development stakeholders in the region were presented and discussed.

The National Council on Niger Delta is a statutory body approved by the Federal Executive Council. It was inaugurated by President Goodluck Jonathan in April 2013 as a body for experts, technocrats including serving governors, traditional rulers, and civil society members to deliberate on pertinent development issues in the region. The Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs (MNDA) serves as Secretariat for the Council. The 1st Council on Niger Delta held in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State in 2013 and the 2nd Council meeting was in Akure, Ondo State in 2017. The 3rd Council meeting was held in Umuahia, Abia State in 2018 while the 4th Council meeting was held in Port Harcourt, Rivers State in 2020.

Being a major stakeholder in the development landscape in the region, PIND has historically been invited by the MNDA to participate in the Technical Committee and National Council meetings since inception. PIND was represented at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting by Dr Effiong Essien, Program Director; Dr David Udofia, Peacebuilding Program Manager; and Chuks Ofulue, Advocacy Manager.



*Cross section of participants at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Council on Niger Delta*

## Key Resolutions from the 5<sup>th</sup> NCND

- The Council resolved that to harness the 21st Century Development Initiatives in the Niger Delta region, there's a need to make a change to the current approaches employed in the region.
- The MNDA shall propose an Executive bill to the Federal Executive Council (FEC) to amend Section 103 and 104 of the Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) to facilitate the remittance of Gas Flare Penalty into a Trust Fund, for ease of administration
- Council approved the development of a regional policy to address the menace of black soot and other air pollution induced activities in the region
- The Council also approved the establishment of pilot programmes for water hyacinth/evasive water weeds by the MNDA and NDDC in collaboration with Private sector in selected communities impacted by its proliferation
- Nine State governments in the region to prioritize investments and support for agriculture to encourage dry season farming through irrigation, modern farming methods, and access of arable lands to avert threats to food security
- MNDA and the Nine (9) States in the region to initiate a platform to facilitate the Organized Private Sector to establish modular refinery using the model of the Presidential Artisanal Gold Mining initiative



*PIND team networking during the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Council on Niger Delta*

- Council approved the establishment of Private sector driven Ferry Services in the riverine states to complement road transport
- Council approved the establishment of Medical Waste Incinerators and Thermal Desorption Units (TDU) by the Nine (9) States to facilitate treatments of hazardous medical and industrial wastes
- **Council urged the MNDA, PIND and other relevant stakeholders to collaborate and develop a peacebuilding framework for participatory incident reporting to strengthen rural-urban security in the Niger Delta Region**
- The next meeting of Council shall be held in January 2023, at Delta State

## Memorandum of Understanding



*PIND & MNDA sign MoU to develop regional peacebuilding framework for the Niger Delta*

As part of activities at the Council meeting, PIND and the MNDA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) formalizing its partnership to develop a regional peacebuilding framework for the Niger Delta on Thursday, September 15, 2022.

Signed by Engr. Olufunso Adebisi, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Niger Delta Affairs, and Dr Effiong Essien, Program Director, PIND Foundation, the MoU is a culmination of several months of engagement between PIND and MNDA dating back to December 2021 when MNDA officials visited PIND's Economic Development Centre in Port Harcourt to discuss a proposed collaboration with PIND.

To develop the framework, MNDA and PIND shall be inaugurating a Technical Working Group (TWG) comprising of International development partners, civil society organizations, community leaders, state governments representatives, and the security agencies to drive the process.



## Closing

PIND had a successful outing at the 5<sup>th</sup> meeting of the National Council on Niger Delta. The meeting didn't only provide an opportunity to network with key stakeholders, it also helped PIND secure the all-important buy-in of state, regional and federal government in the development of a regional peacebuilding framework for the Niger Delta.