OUR LAND WITHOUT OIL

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Goma, March 18, 2025.

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To Their Excellencies :

- **João Lourenço**, President of the Republic of Angola
- **Cyril Ramaphosa**, President of the Republic of South Africa
- **William Ruto**, President of the Republic of Kenya
- **Uhuru Kenyatta**, former President of the Republic of Kenya, DRC peace process facilitator appointed by the East African Community
- **Olusegun Obasanjo**, former President of Nigeria, DRC peace process facilitator appointed by the East African Community
- **Hailemariam Desalegn**, former Prime Minister of Ethiopia, DRC peace process facilitator appointed by the East African Community

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To His Excellency, Félix-Antoine Tshisekedi Tshilombo, President of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC).

State house - Kinshasa/Gombe

Subject: Urgent concerns regarding the resumption of oil and gas block sales in the DRC

Mr. President,

We, the undersigned members of civil society and representatives of local communities and indigenous peoples of the DRC, acknowledge the efforts made by regional, continental, and international institutions to find a lasting solution to the conflict in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We welcome the joint appointment, by the East African Community (EAC) and the Southern African Development Community (SADC), of former Presidents Uhuru Kenyatta and Olusegun Obasanjo, as well as former Prime Minister Hailemariam Desalegn, to lead the peace talks. We would also like to recognize the commitment of the region's heads of state, notably Their Excellencies João Lourenço, Cyril Ramaphosa, and William Ruto.

We are writing to you today **about the announced resumption of oil and gas block auctions**, even as the **conflict persists in the east of the country.**

For over three decades, the exploitation of natural resources in the DRC has fueled conflicts that have claimed the lives of millions of Congolese. Every time raw materials are discovered, local and foreign armed groups emerge to pillage, kill, rape, and spread terror.

Aware of the **centrality of the exploitation of natural resources to the perpetuation of conflicts in the DRC**, we fear that oil and gas drilling will aggravate the situation and compromise ongoing efforts to stabilize the Great Lakes region and establish lasting peace in the east of the country.

Therefore, we are once again urging an **immediate halt to all new oil and gas exploration and extraction projects**, as well as **the cancellation of Production Sharing Agreements already signed** for gas blocks.

In January 2025, the Russian Ambassador to the DRC presented his credentials to your government. On February 24, 2025, that Ambassador, Mr. Karl Tikhaze, met with the Minister of Hydrocarbons, Mr. Sakombi Molendo, who presented the country's oil and gas map and ongoing reforms to the sector. **We call for an immediate end to negotiations between the DRC government and representatives of the Russian government.**

Mr. President, reviving the auctions of oil blocks and the drilling of gas blocks would only **worsen the insecurity and conflict that is rattling the country**. What's more, they also threaten **the Kivu-Kinshasa green corridor project** and **go against your own commitments** to position the DRC as a "**solution-country**" in the fight against the climate crisis. By jeopardizing the country's forest assets, water resources, biodiversity, and strategic minerals, these initiatives also undermine the DRC's key role in the global energy transition.

With diplomatic efforts gaining strength under your leadership, supported by Their Excellencies Olusegun Obasanjo, Uhuru Kenyatta and Hailemariam Desalegn, it is vital to focus actions on **rebuilding trust between communities, bolstering peace, and promoting inclusive and sustainable development**.

We hope that the DRC government will choose peace, security, and sustainable development, which are in the best interest of the Congolese people and will help preserve national sovereignty.

We thank you for your attention to these concerns and look forward to concrete measures that will guide the DRC towards **sustainable peace and inclusive prosperity**.

The “Notre Terre Sans Pétrole” (Our Earth Without Oil) coalition.

The “Notre Terre Sans Pétrole” (Our Earth Without Oil) campaign member organizations

***Organizations from the Democratic Republic of Congo* :**

- 100% Jeune asbl
- Actions pour la Promotion et Protection des Peuples et Espèces Menacés en RDC
- Actions pour le développement intégral par la conservation communautaire, ADIC
- ADEPAR
- Alerte Congolaise pour l'environnement et les droits de l'homme, ACEDH
- Amani Institute ASBL - Rutshuru
- AMIS HUMANITAIRE POUR LE DÉVELOPPEMENT
- Association Congolaise pour le Relèvement Communautaires (ACRC)
- Association d'Entraide pour le Développement Intégral de la Femme (AEDIF)
- Association des Filles Mères (AFM)
- Association des Mamans pour la Lutte contre le Traumatisme, AMALUT en sigle
- Association des pêcheurs pour le Développement Communautaire
- Badilika Droits Humains
- Bureau d'Ecologistes pour Impacts Environnementaux (BEIE)
- Cadre d'Acteurs et d'Actions pour le Développement Durable (CAADD)
- Cadre de Concertation sur les Ressources Naturelles
- Cadre des acteurs de la société civile pour gouvernance des ressources naturelles dans le Kongo central (CAGRN/KC)
- CÉLÉBRONS LE COURAGE DE LA FEMME
- Centre national de développement de la femme rurale du Congo (CÉNADEFRUC)
- Centre congolais pour le droit du développement durable (CODED)
- Centre d'encadrement Intégral en approche genre CEDI -AG. En sigle
- Cercle des Jeunes Ambassadeurs du Climat (CJAC)
- Climate Clock
- Coferd bandundu
- Collectif d'intellectuels pour le Renforcement de l'Education "CIPRE asbl"
- Congo Green Solution
- Congo Nouveau
- Conseil Regional des Organisations Non Gouvernementales de développement (CRONGD) - Mbuji-Mayi
- Consortiul CBFC
- CORAP
- Corps de Volontaires pour le Développement Durable et Multi sectoriel (COVODUM)
- CRONGDKC
- Defense Environnementale et Développement Durable (DEDUR)
- DRC CLIMATE CHANGE NETWORK
- DYCOPERA "DYNAMIQUE COMMUNAUTAIRE POUR LA PROTECTION DE L'ENVIRONNEMENT DANS LE RIFT ALBERTIN"
- Dynamique des Groupes des Peuples Autochtones (DGPA)
- Dynamique pour le Droit, la Démocratie et le Développement Durable, en sigle D5
- Extinction Rebellion Université des Goma
- FECOPEiLE (Fédération des comités des pêcheurs individuels du lac Edouard)
- Fédération Congolaise des Droits de l'Homme et de Développement "FCDHD"
- Fédération des Comités des Pêcheurs du Lac Albert (FECOPELA)
- Femme en action
- FOPED

- Forum des Engagés pour le Développement Durable (FORED)
- Groupe d'Actions pour le Développement (GRAD) en sigle
- Héritier du Développement du Congo (HDC)
- Héritiers de la Justice - Bukavu
- Idel
- Initiative Bonne Gouvernance des Ressources Naturelles au Kivu
- Initiative des Femmes pour le Développement Durable "IFEDD"
- Initiative pour le Développement Local (IDEL)
- Innovation pour le Développement et la Protection de l'Environnement
- Insititut pour la gouvernance et education electorale
- Ligue des associations des jeunes (Liaje)
- Mouvement citoyen debout congolais (MCDC)
- Mouvement citoyen Filimbi
- Mouvement de jeunes pour la protection de l'environnement en RDC (MJPE-RDC)
- Mouvement des jeunes en actions pour le changement en RDC (MOJAC-RDC)
- ONG Créativité & Développement
- ONG IGED
- PARLEMENT DES JEUNES DE LA RDC
- Parlement des jeunes du Kongo Central
- Plateformes des organisations des femmes des quartiers populaires "POFQ"
- Programme d'appui au Développement Communautaire (PADC) RD Congo - Bunia
- Rassemblement des Personnes handicapées pour le Développement Intégral (RPDI) - Bunia
- Regroupement des unions des associations des pêcheurs Inga Isangila et Lufu
- REJOSSA RDC
- Réseau CREF
- Réseau des journalistes engagés pour environnement et climat dans la province du Kongo central (RJEC-KC)
- Réseau des Organisations pour la Conservation et la Protection de l'Environnement (REOCOPE)
- SAVE MY WORLD
- Save Virunga
- Seconde Chance - Bunia
- Solidarité Paysanne (SP)
- Solidarité pour la Protection des Droits de l'Enfant (SOPRODE)
- Synergie des Jeunes pour le Développement et les Droits Humains "SJDDH"
- Talitha koumi
- TRAFFED-ProgramGreenfaithRDC
- Trans Girls Can (TGC)
- Union Congolaise pour la Conservation de la Nature et le Développement durable (UCCND ASBL)
- Wonderfull Business
- Young Congo Farmers Alliance
- Acteurs pour le Développement Durable et Préservation des Forêts en Afrique en sigle ADDPFA Asbl
- Association des jeunes pour l'avenir du Congo AJARC en sigle
- Association des Jeunes visionnaires pour le développement du Congo AJVDC

Supporting international organizations :

- Advocates for Community Alternatives
- Association des Jeunes Arc-en-ciel pour la Stabilité Sociale en Afrique (AJASSA)
- CRADESC
- Rainforest Foundation UK
- GreenFaith France
- BankTrack
- Tasha Research Institute Africa (TASHA)
- groundWork, Friends of the Earth, South Africa
- Africa Institute for Energy Governance
- Green Rwanda Initiative
- WoMin African Alliance
- Amis de la Terre France
- RSCDA-IO/CRAAD-OI
- Hawkmoth
- Inclusive Development International
- 350Africa.org
- Laudato Si' Movement
- Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment & Management (CECIC)
- Quest For Growth and Development Foundation
- Fridays for Future Uganda
- Umo Isua-Ikoh
- Save Virunga
- Rainforest Rescue
- International Rivers
- The Oakland Institute
- Vostile Creatives Trust
- Africa Institute for Energy Governance
- Youth for Green Communities (YGC)
- Society for Women and Youths Affairs (SWAYA)
- Climate Rights International
- Serapeng sa Ditlhare and Environment npc
- Women on Environment Mission
- Fridays for Future Sierra Leone
- Buliisa Youth Circle
- East African Crude Oil Pipeline Host Communities
- Africa Just Transition Network/Africa Coal Network
- Environment Governance Institute
- Peace Point Development Foundation-PPDF
- Renewable Energy Coalition
- GCEC Cameroun
- Citizens Network for Community Development Zambia
- GREENLEAF ADVOCACY AND EMPOWERMENT CENTER
- Care For Environment
- African Centre for Biodiversity
- Center for Environmental Research and Agriculture Innovations (CERAI)

- Youth For Environmental Justice and Climate Action (YECA)
- Strategic Response on Environmental Conservation (STREC)
- Youth for Nature Conservancy
- Women for Green Nature
- Center for Conservation and Ecoenergy Initiative (CCEI)
- Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria
- Environment Governance Institute Uganda
- African Initiative on Food Security and Environment (AIFE)
- Center for Transnational Environmental Accountability (CTEA)
- Oil Change International
- Jamaa Resource Initiatives
- Publish What You Pay Madagascar
- Global Justice Clinic, NYU School of Law
- Save Lamu Organization
- Extinction Rebellion Global
- Tanzania Wote Equality Alliance
- Jamaa Resource Initiatives
- Congo Basin Alliance