

UGANDAN & SWEDISH YOUTH CLIMATE CHANGE COALITION

#STOPEACOP

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

UGANDAN AND SWEDISH YOUTH DEMAND ACTION ON EACOP RESOLUTION

Kampala & Stockholm -Ugandan and Swedish youth today petitioned the Swedish government calling for implementation of the [resolution](#) on Uganda's Lake Albert oil Development project. The resolution was adopted by the European Union (EU) Parliament in September 2022.

Sweden currently holds the [Presidency](#) of the Council of the EU and some of its [roles](#) as president include, in cooperation with the EU Commission, setting the EU's general direction and priorities as well as representing the EU externally on foreign and security issues.

Implementation of the EU Parliament's resolution on the Lake Albert Development oil project should be a priority for the EU, the Ugandan and Swedish youth say.

The Lake Albert oil Development project consists of the Tilenga, East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP) and other oil projects. TotalEnergies, a French or EU-based company, is the main operator of the Tilenga and EACOP oil projects in Uganda and Tanzania.

On September 14, 2022, EU lawmakers passed a [resolution](#) on violations of human rights in Uganda and Tanzania linked to investments in fossil fuels projects.

The resolution was moved and adopted following EU lawmakers visiting Uganda on a fact-finding mission. During the mission, they engaged with oil-affected communities, civil society organisations (CSOs), religious leaders, women, youth, private sector leaders working in Uganda's major economic sectors and the Ugandan government among others.

Through the resolution which recognised the land rights violations, criminalisation of environmental and human rights defenders and the risks posed by the Lake Albert oil

Development project to Uganda's major economic activities including agriculture, tourism and clean energy among others, the EU lawmakers noted or made the following recommendations:

- Urged that oil-affected communities that were evicted or denied access to their land be compensated promptly, fairly, and adequately, as provided for in the Ugandan Constitution and as promised by the companies;
- Called for the EU and the international community to exert maximum pressure on Ugandan and Tanzanian authorities, as well as the project promoters and stakeholders, to protect the environment and to put an end to the extractive activities in protected and sensitive ecosystems, including the shores of Lake Albert; and
- Instructed their President to forward the resolution to the Council, Commission, Vice-President of the Commission/High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, the European Union Special Representative for Human Rights, the President of the Republic of Uganda, the President of the Republic of Tanzania and the Speakers of the Ugandan and Tanzanian parliaments.

Since the resolution was passed however, no action has been taken and implementation of the Tilenga as well as EACOP oil projects is ongoing. In fact, drilling of the Tilenga oil wells is expected to take [place](#) in April, May and July 2023. The drilling will not constitute the commencement of commercial oil production, which is expected in [2025](#).

Compulsory land acquisitions amidst human rights violations for the EACOP projects are also ongoing. The youth want these stopped.

“It is a shame that Total and the Ugandan as well as Tanzanian government are ignoring the resolution. Youth in Uganda and Tanzania stand to be most affected by the environmental and climate change crises that stand to be worsened by the Tilenga and EACOP projects. We want to protect the present and our future. We are therefore calling on the Swedish government to work with the EU Commission for implementation of the EU Parliament’s resolution on the EACOP and related oil projects,” Mr. Bob Barigye a Ugandan youth says.

“We have given the Swedish government until April 30, 2023 to have informed us of the actions they have taken to ensure that the EACOP resolution is implemented. We are hopeful that the government will act. Rich nations such as Sweden that are historical emitters have a higher responsibility in addressing the climate crisis that they caused. They must pay climate reparations to countries such as Uganda while also supporting them to invest in sustainable economic alternatives that meet the needs of today and tomorrow,” Agnes Hjortsberg, a Swedish youth says.

“We are determined to protect ourselves and we hope that the EU Commission together with the Swedish government stand with us by ensuring that the EACOP resolution, including the sections that called for stopping the project for one year while Total finds an alternative route with a smaller environmental footprint, is implemented,” Maktum Kajubi, a Ugandan youth, says.

The youth are also calling on the Ugandan government to stop arresting youth who protest against the EACOP project in Uganda.

“A protest is being held by Swedish youth against the EACOP project today. It is difficult to do the same in Uganda because of the harassment and arrest of those who peacefully protest against the project. Ugandan youth should be left to exercise their right to peaceful protest,” Phillipa Ayabera, a Ugandan youth, says.

ENDS

Note to editors

The EACOP is a planned [1,443km](#) pipeline that is set to be constructed between Uganda and Tanzania. Together with the Tilenga oil project, the EACOP is economically or physically displacing over [100,000](#) people in Uganda and Tanzania. The the full value chain carbon emissions for the pipeline are over [379](#) million metric tonnes over 25 years. The pipeline is also affecting nearly [2,000sq.km](#) of protected areas, a quarter of which are a habitat to endangered species such as chimpanzees and elephants.

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