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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
KAMPALA & DAR-ES-SALAM**

Call to Action: Cease Insuring Oil and Gas Projects in Uganda

Today, Ugandan and Tanzanian youth climate activists as well as environmental advocates have issued a compelling call to action directed towards members of the Insurance Consortium for Oil and Gas Uganda (ICOGU), which consists of 19 insurance companies that work together to provide insurance for Uganda's oil and gas projects. The projects include the Tilenga, Kingfisher and East African Crude Oil Pipeline (EACOP).

In a collective effort to safeguard their future and that of their countries against the climate, environmental as well as social risks posed by the above oil projects, the youth are urging ICOGU to immediately cease insuring projects associated with the oil and gas industry in Uganda and Tanzania.

ICOGU members provided insurance worth USD 13 million (UGX 50.4 billion) for the Tilenga, Kingfisher and EACOP oil projects in 2023 and USD 14.6 million for the same projects in 2022. The youth say that this is unacceptable considering the climate risks posed by the projects as well as the social and environmental impacts that have already been experienced by the project-affected people.

Available information indicates that if constructed and operated, the full value chain emissions for the EACOP project alone over a 25-year period are over 379 million metric tonnes of carbon. This is 25 times more than Uganda and Tanzania's annual carbon emissions.

Further, over 120,000 people including youth have been displaced to make way for the EACOP and Tilenga projects. Youth, who often are not landowners, but land users are not compensated, negatively impacting their right to shelter and to make a living, among others. In addition, compulsory land acquisitions for the oil sector are often characterised

by delayed, inadequate and unfair compensation, which affects parents' ability to pay school fees for their children, with girls being most affected.

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"It is important for ICOGU and its members to prioritize sustainability, social responsibility, and ethical investment practices. By insuring oil and gas projects, ICOGU members not only demonstrate lack of sustainability and social responsibility, they also risk their long-term goals of staying in business," Ms. Hilda Nakabuye, co-founder of Fridays for Future Uganda and a climate activist, says.

Mr. Brighton Aryampa, a youth mobiliser and environmental activist adds, "The insurance industry is not immune to the impacts of climate change. The escalating frequency and severity of natural disasters have necessitated significant payouts, placing strain on insurers worldwide. Available information indicates that insurers now have to pay out \$100 billion annually due to natural disasters. It does not make business sense for Ugandan insurers to invest in a sector that threatens their long-term survival for short-term gains."

The burning or use of fossil fuels including coal, oil and gas have been implicated as the biggest driver of climate change with available information showing that the fuels account for 75 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions and nearly 90 per cent of all carbon dioxide emissions, which are driving the climate crisis.

Baraka Machumu, a Tanzanian youth climate activist says, "Youth in East Africa are largely employed in the agriculture, fisheries, tourism and business sectors. These sectors are some of the most vulnerable to climate change. By investing in fossil fuels, ICOGU and other insurers are endangering the livelihoods of East African youth. This is not only bad for the youth but the insurers as well. By fueling the climate crisis and therefore youth unemployment, the insurers could create a restive environment that is not good for businesses."

Ireen Twongirwe, a youth gender and climate activist concludes, "We call upon ICOGU and its members to heed our call and take immediate action to cease insuring projects that perpetuate climate change and harm our communities. Together, we have the power to enact positive change and build a sustainable future for generations to come."

For media inquiries or further information, contact:

1. Hilda Nakabuye, Fridays for Future Uganda: nakabuyehildaflavia@gmail.com
2. Brighton Aryampa, Youth for Green Communities: info@ygcug.org
3. Baraka Machumu, Green Conservers: b.machumu@gco.or.tz

