



## **PRESS STATEMENT**

### **ISSUES SURROUNDING THE NOMINATIONS TO THE NATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE COUNCIL (NCCC)**

On February 20th, 2023, it was brought to the country's attention that the High Court in Milimani, Nairobi has suspended President William Ruto's nomination of Ms.Emily Mwendu Waita, Mr. John Kioli, Ms. Umar Omar and Dr. George Odera Outa for appointment to the National Climate Change Council (NCCC).

Climate Change is an existential threat that is affecting the country and the world alike. Presently, Kenya is experiencing one of the worst drought conditions in decades, causing crop failure, loss of livestock, wildlife, biodiversity, and malnutrition. This is a clear indication that climate change has grave consequences for vulnerable people, their livelihoods, and the environment.

For years now, Civil Society Actors have been advocating for action on climate change in the country. This resulted in the assenting into law of the National Climate Change Act in May of 2016. This was a win for the CSOs and the country as this meant that there was political goodwill in the fight against climate change.

This law gives directives on the establishment of various bodies within the government that would spearhead climate change action. One such body is the National Climate Change Council (NCCC) which is tasked to approve and oversee the mainstreaming of the National Climate Change Action Plan(NCCAP), ensure mainstreaming of the climate change function by the national and the county governments and the administration of the Climate Change Fund among other functions.

Ever since this council was established by the Act in 2016, no meeting has been held with its members to discuss the status of the country with regard to climate action. One of the key reasons behind this was the contestation of the CSOs and the Marginalized groups representatives nominated to the council. The Court case was eventually thrown out by the courts, but the commissioning of this council never took off.

Just when the dust was settling after wasting a total of 6 years and the hopes of many CSOs and Vulnerable communities raised again by the recent nominations of the above persons by the President to be appointed to the Council, two groups by the names of Mt. Kenya Network Forum and Indigenous People National Steering Committee on climate change (IPNSCCC) filed a petition to suspend the President's decision. This



petition sets us back as a country and affects the momentum already set for climate action. We cannot be fighting for climate justice while jeopardizing the internal processes.

We the Sustainable Environmental Development Watch (Suswatch Kenya) network would like to express our utmost disappointment with the action taken by the two groups and any other group that may be behind this and calls for unity among CSO actors on climate change matters. The citizens of Kenya are already living through the consequences of climate change and URGENT ACTION needs to be taken by all in ensuring that the most vulnerable are cushioned from the worst impacts of climate change.

There is no time to meander in the corridors of the courts as we continue to lose lives, animals and livelihoods. This is a time to put aside self-interests and focus on working together for the achievement of this. We, therefore, URGE the president to relook at the issue and expedite the appointments of the nominees to the Council.

**ITS TIME TO ACT AND SAVE OUR COUNTRY FROM THE ADVERSE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE CSOs MUST FORGE A UNITED FRONT TO ENSURE THIS IS DONE..!**

End of statement