



# ENVIRONMENT GOVERNANCE INSTITUTE (EGI) UGANDA

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May 5, 2026

Dr. George Elombi  
The President and Chairperson of the Board  
African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank)  
72B El Maahad El Eshteraky Street  
Heliopolis, Cairo 11341  
Egypt.

Dear Dr. Elombi,

## **RE: Civil Society Call for Afreximbank to Lead on a Just and Future-Fit Energy Transition Ahead of the 33rd Annual General Meeting**

We, the undersigned environmental and human rights civil society organisations working to promote environmental conservation, human rights protection, and a just energy transition across Africa, write to you ahead of Afreximbank's 33rd Annual General Meeting, scheduled for June 21–24, 2026, in El Alamein, Egypt. We urge you to use this important gathering to strategically align the Bank's financing priorities with Africa's long-term development, climate, and equity goals, and to decisively confront the pressing development, environmental, and human rights challenges shaping our continent's future.

As organizations working with communities affected by extractive industries, climate change, energy investments, and public finance decisions, we bring evidence-based experiences from frontline communities across the continent. For the past two decades, we have continued to witness projects presented as engines of development that, in practice, result in displacement, ecological degradation, deepening inequality, social exclusion, even human rights violations. From this lived reality, we set out the priorities we believe the Bank must place at the center of its deliberations and future direction.

We recognize and appreciate the important role [Afreximbank](#) has played over the past three decades in advancing trade, industrialization, and Africa's financial sovereignty. In a global financial system that remains structurally unequal, and at a time when African countries face persistent infrastructure deficits and [energy access gaps](#), African-led financial institutions such as Afreximbank carry not only strategic importance, but also a historic responsibility to shape development pathways that are equitable, resilient, and future-oriented.

The decisions the Bank takes at this critical juncture will have long-term consequences. They will determine whether Africa's development trajectory advances toward resilience, shared prosperity, and energy security or becomes further locked into climate vulnerability, stranded assets, social conflict, and missed economic opportunities in a rapidly transitioning global economy.

For decades, across Africa, communities living near fossil fuel developments have experienced the social costs of energy pathways often designed without their input. Families have lost land that sustained them for generations; delayed and inadequate compensation has [weakened livelihoods and deepened insecurity](#). Fishing communities have faced constant threats [to water systems and fragile ecosystems](#). Many households that were promised development, jobs, and improved living conditions instead face uncertainty, loss of productive land, [restrictions on local economic activity](#), deepening existing gender inequalities that limit economic opportunities to women and exclusion from decisions that directly affect their future, even human rights violations.

For instance, in Uganda and Tanzania, the development of the [East African Crude Oil Pipeline \(EACOP\)](#) has already [affected over 100,000 people](#) across both countries, resulting in widespread displacement and [livelihood disruption](#), inadequate [compensation](#), increased household vulnerability, and significant risks to ecosystems, water systems, and protected conservation areas.

In Mozambique, the LNG project in Cabo Delgado has been [linked](#) to widespread community disruption and loss of livelihoods, particularly [among fishing communities](#). Frontline communities have faced displacement, loss of income sources, and serious human rights violations linked to gas development. The crisis has unfolded within a broader context of insecurity that has forced thousands of people to flee their homesteads.

Further, in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), [oil exploration blocks](#) overlapping with protected areas such as Virunga National Park have raised significant environmental and social concerns. These proposed oil activities [risk damaging](#) one of the world's most important biodiversity hotspots while exposing local communities to displacement, environmental harm, and long-term ecological risks. These developments have prompted global concern over the compatibility of fossil fuel expansion with conservation and community rights in the region.

Similarly, in Angola, one of Africa's largest oil producers, decades of fossil fuel dependence have [not translated into broad-based development](#), with persistent poverty, limited economic diversification, and vulnerability to oil price shocks illustrating the structural risks of overreliance on fossil fuels. Nigeria further provides perhaps the most striking example, despite over five decades of oil production generating hundreds of billions in revenue, communities in the Niger Delta continue to face [severe environmental degradation](#), oil spills, gas flaring, and entrenched poverty. This demonstrates that fossil fuel wealth does not automatically translate into equitable or inclusive development outcomes.

The issue before Afreximbank, therefore, is not simply whether energy projects can be financed. It is whether the Bank will help shape an African energy future that is genuinely developmental, socially legitimate, and economically future-proof.

The African continent has every reason to pursue energy expansion and improve access. But Africans should not be asked to choose between energy access and justice, between development and dignity, or between economic ambition and climate resilience. The real question is what kind of energy system will best serve African people over the long term. In our view and in the lived experience of many frontline communities, continued large-scale exposure to fossil fuel expansion carries escalating financial, social, environmental, reputational and geopolitical risks. It also diverts scarce public and development finance away from clean, distributed, job-rich, and community-responsive energy systems that Africa urgently needs.

This is not abstract, the renewable energy pathways emerging across Africa are already demonstrating more resilient, cost-effective, and inclusive models of development that respond to both energy access and climate realities. Ethiopia's large-scale public investment in renewable energy, alongside expanding wind and solar capacity, has positioned the country as a regional energy exporter while maintaining one of the lowest per capita emissions profiles globally.

Similarly, Morocco's [Tarfaya Wind Farm](#) stands out as one of the clearest proof points of bankable, utility-scale renewable energy in Africa. With 300 MW installed capacity, built at about \$700 million, and generating power for hundreds of thousands while avoiding over 900,000 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> annually, it demonstrates both scale and impact. Crucially, Egypt's [Benban Solar Park](#) has rapidly scaled up clean energy generation through large-scale public private investment models.

Importantly, distributed renewable energy solutions, including mini-grids and solar home systems across countries such as [Kenya](#) and [Rwanda](#), are rapidly expanding energy access in rural and underserved communities without the social and environmental costs associated with large-scale extractive infrastructure.

Across the continent, decentralized energy models including pay-as-you-go solar and mini-grid systems are enabling millions of households and small businesses to access [affordable electricity](#) which has not only offered cleaner energy, but also created opportunities for local job creation, energy sovereignty, and long-term economic resilience among the local communities.

We therefore urge Afreximbank to prioritize the following at the forthcoming AGM:

- 1. Adopt a clear leadership position on financing Africa's just energy transition**

Afreximbank has the opportunity to lead not by retreating from development, but by redefining it in African people's terms. We urge the Bank to set out a credible pathway for progressively

aligning its energy portfolio with [the Paris Agreement](#), climate resilience, and Africa's long-term structural transformation goals.

This transformation should include a commitment to scale up investment in renewable energy, decentralized energy access, resilient infrastructure, green industrialization, and productive use systems that directly support livelihoods, local enterprise, and equitable growth. It should also include a deliberate plan to reduce long-term exposure to fossil fuel projects whose viability is increasingly uncertain in a rapidly changing global economy.

## **2. Institutionalize structured engagement with civil society and affected communities**

A just transition cannot be designed from boardrooms alone. It must be informed by those living with the consequences of energy finance decisions. We therefore urge Afreximbank to establish a formal and continuous engagement platform with civil society, affected communities, and independent experts, anchored within the Bank's governance structures.

This should go beyond just consultation but create a predictable channel through which concerns can be raised early, evidence can be shared, and emerging risks can be addressed before they escalate into conflict, harm, or reputational damage. Such engagement would improve project quality, strengthen accountability, and enhance the Bank's legitimacy as a people-centred African institution.

## **3. Strengthen safeguards, transparency, and accountability for high-risk investments**

Afreximbank has an opportunity to offer credible leadership, however it must ensure that communities do not bear the hidden cost of development finance. We urge the Bank to strengthen disclosure standards, due diligence expectations, and accountability systems for projects with significant environmental, social, and human rights risks.

This should include improved access to project information, stronger standards for community consultation and consent, and accessible grievance mechanisms that communities can use without fear or unnecessary barriers. It should also mean taking seriously the reputational implications of financing projects that generate repeated allegations of harm, displacement, or exclusion.

## **4. Reorient finance toward energy systems that respond to community realities**

Across Africa, the greatest energy challenge is not solely generation at scale. It must be affordable, accessible, reliable, and productive for ordinary people. Large fossil fuel projects may generate export earnings in some cases, but they often do little to solve the daily energy needs facing rural households, women-led enterprises, smallholder farmers, schools and health centers.

Afreximbank can distinguish itself by championing investments that close this gap such as decentralized renewable systems, mini-grids, clean cooking transitions, local manufacturing, agro-processing energy solutions, and infrastructure that supports African jobs and value addition. These are the kinds of investments that communities can feel in daily life and that economies can build on over time. This can ensure that just transition alone is not a slogan but rather a practical economic agenda felt by the common person.

## 5. Position Afreximbank as a continental standard-setter

Africa needs financial institutions that are not merely reacting to global change, but actively shaping it. Afreximbank can help define what an African approach to just energy transition looks like. The one grounded in sovereignty, fairness, development ambition, and accountability to people.

That leadership would send an important signal across the continent and beyond. It would show that African finance can be bold without being extractive, strategic without being short-sighted, and developmental without reproducing the very injustices that have historically marginalized African communities.

This AGM comes at a time when many institutions are being judged not only by how much they finance, but by what kind of future they are financing. For Afreximbank, this is a moment to demonstrate that African-led development finance can rise to the challenge of our time, expanding opportunity while reducing harm, enabling growth while protecting dignity, and financing progress without sacrificing justice.

We remain available for further engagement and would welcome the opportunity to contribute to this conversation.

Yours sincerely,



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For and on behalf of the undersigned signatories

Cc:

Board of Directors  
Senior Management  
Shareholders and Member States

egiuganda.org

## Annex 1. Partner CSOs

No.	Name of Organization	Country
1.	Environment Governance Institute	Uganda
2.	Green Conservers	Tanzania
3.	Climate Action Network Zimbabwe (CANZIM)	Zimbabwe
4.	Centre for Citizens Conserving Environment & Management (CECIC)	Uganda
5.	Dream Hunt	Ghana
6.	Community Climate and Energy Shield Initiative (CCESI)	Uganda
7.	Quest For Growth and Development Foundation	Nigeria
8.	AbibiNsroma Foundation	Ghana
9.	Profundo	Global
10.	Green Totos Forum	Uganda
11.	Coal Action Network	UK
12.	Renel Ghana Foundation	Ghana
13.	Don't Gas Africa	Kenya
14.	Power Shift Africa	Kenya
15.	Africa Finance Watch Coalition	Africa
16.	Women On Environment Mission	Uganda
17.	Foundation for Earth Rights Assembly (FERA)	Nigeria
18.	East African Crude Oil Pipeline Host Communities	Uganda
19.	Youth For Green communities (YGC)	Uganda
20.	Africa Coal Network	Africa
21.	Don't Gas Africa	Africa
22.	Ensemble pour la Justice climatique et la Protection des défenseurs de l'Environnement	Africa

23.	Laudato Si' Movement Africa	Africa
24.	New Apostolic Centre for Development (NCD)	Africa
25.	Synergie des Jeunes pour le Développement et les Droits Humains	Africa
26.	Care for Environment	Cameroon
27.	Alerte congolaise pour l'environnement et les droits de l'homme (ACEDH)	DRC
28.	Cadre de Concertation de la société civile de l'Ituri sur les Ressources Naturelles (CdC/RN)	DRC
29.	Conseil pour la Terre des Ancêtres (CTA)	DRC
30.	Innovation pour le Développement et la Protection de l'Environnement	DRC
31.	AbibiNsroma Foundation (ANF)	Ghana
32.	Alliance for Empowering Rural Communities (AERC)	Ghana
33.	Center for Climate and Sustainability Empowerment (CCSE)	Ghana
34.	Dream Hunt Ghana	Ghana
35.	Network For Health and Relief Foundation (NHRF)	Ghana
36.	The STEMinist Foundation, Ghana	Ghana
37.	Union for development and Cooperation (UDEC)	Guinea
38.	Kishoka Youth Organization	Kenya
39.	Natural Resource Women Platform	Liberia
40.	União Provincial de Camponeses (UPC) de Cabo Delgado	Mozambique
41.	Africa Network for Environment and Economic Justice (ANEEJ)	Nigeria
42.	Connected Advocacy for Empowerment and Youth Development Initiative	Nigeria
43.	Voice of The Vulnerable	Nigeria
44.	Les Amis de la Terre-Togo	Togo
45.	Africa Institute for Energy Governance (AFIEGO)	Uganda
46.	Center For Environmental Research and Agricultural Innovations (CERAI)	Uganda

47.	Community Transformation Foundation Network (COTFONE)	Uganda
48.	Friends with Environment in Development (FED)	Uganda
49.	Gestion Des Ressources Naturelles Et Environnement Sain (Gernes)	DRC
50.	Innovation Pour Le Developpement Et La Protection De L'environnement (Idpe )	DRC
51.	Synergie Des Jeunes Pour Le Developpement Et Les Droits De L'homme (Sjddh)	DRC
52.	Centre De Recherche Pour L'environnement, Democratie Et Les Droits De L'homme (Creddho)	DRC
53.	Programme D'integration Et Developpement Des Peuples Pygmee, (Idp )	DRC
54.	Bureau D'ecologistes Impacts Environnementaux, (Beie)	DRC
55.	Federation Des Comites De Pecheurs Individuels Du Lac Edourd (Fecopeile)	DRC
56.	Forum Des Amis De La Terre (Fat)	DRC
57.	Dynamique Des Femmes Juriste (Dfj)	DRC
58.	Centre D'education Pour La Protection De L'environnement Et Le Developpement Durable (Ceped)	DRC
59.	Synergie Ukingo Wetu (Suwe)	DRC
60.	Aide Action Pour La Paix (Aap)	DRC
61.	Groupe D'appuia La Tracabilite Et A La Transparence Des Ressources Naturelles (Gatt-Rn)	DRC
62.	Cooperative Des Pecheries De Virunga	DRC