Title of Article: Women and Youth Empowerment: An Antidote to the Niger Delta Crisis

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Outlet: Nigerian Sociological Review. Vol. 3 No. 1

Date: 2008

Abstract: The Niger Delta region for several decades has been embroiled in a series of crisis. The region produces immense wealth and has become the engine of Nigeria’s economy. However, it presents a paradox, because in the midst of immense wealth, the majority of the people, especially women and the youths are highly impoverished. This perhaps to some extent explains why youth restiveness seems to simmer endlessly in the region. Thus, social instability, poor local governance, competition for economic resources and environmental degradation has taken its toll in the region. Invariably, the Niger Delta region suffers from government neglect, crumbling social infrastructure, high unemployment, abject poverty, filth, squalor and endemic conflict. This paper therefore evaluates the problems confronting the Niger Delta region bearing in mind the abundant human and natural resources in the area and the severe poverty facing the people. It concludes that except the conditions of the people are improved upon, especially the women and the youths, conflict will continue to persist in the region.