Legborsi Saro Pyagbara
Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), Nigeria

Indigenous Peoples’ observer:
- Strategic Climate Fund (SCF) Trust Fund Committee
- Scaling Up Renewable Energy Program (SREP) Sub-Committee

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Legborsi Saro Pyagbara is the current President of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), representing the interests of the Indigenous Ogoni People in Nigeria’s Niger Delta. Before assuming his present role, Mr. Pyagbara had been the International Advocacy Officer for the Movement during which he led the organization’s robust engagement since 2004 with negotiations on the Rio Conventions particularly the CBD and the UNFCCC. He had been involved in designing and implementing policies and programs focused on restoring biodiversity and mitigating the impacts of climate change and had been working with government institutions, civil society organizations and Indigenous communities on capacity building, adaptation and mitigation.

He is the Indigenous Peoples’ Observer for Africa on the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF) Trust Fund Committee and on the Scaling-up Renewable Energy Program (SREP) Sub-committee of the Climate Investment Fund. His mandate as an observer includes coordinating a network of Indigenous Peoples organizations and communities active in Africa and engaging with the Climate Investment Fund particularly from Kenya, Burkina Faso, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Botswana, South Africa etc.

Mr. Pyagbara has about fifteen years of experience in advocacy and lobbying both nationally and internationally, and currently serves on the boards of several organizations active in the field of climate change, biodiversity and human rights of Indigenous peoples including immediate past EXCO member of the Indigenous Peoples of Africa Coordinating Committee (IPACC), International Indigenous Forum on Biodiversity (IIFB), Indigenous Peoples Focal Point for Africa on the GEFNGO Network, the GEF Indigenous Peoples Advisory Group (IPAG) and serves as member of boards of the International Network on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples.

He believes that the observers play a meaningful role in the workings of the CIF: “Having done some comparative analysis with other financing mechanisms, we feel strongly that the CIF have been quite open in getting us involved at the entry level of the decision-making process, where we are making interventions, making comments, and also offering our own ideas on some of the issues.” He also believes in the urgency of the work. “Climate change is not waiting for us,” he says. “There is something happening every day.”