

## **EDITORIAL COMMENTS**

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It is with great pleasure that I announce the publication of Volume 9 Issue 2 of the *Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy (JSDLP)*. This issue offers thoughtful analyses on how to address resource allocation problems that have stifled sustainable development across Africa. Our authors bring to light the manifestations on these problems with respect to land ownership, intersectionality of energy and economic development, enhancing local content, and integrating the perspectives of often overlooked or marginalized people, groups, and ideas into the development planning processes.

In this geographically and intellectually diverse issue, our Editorial Committee and Board have worked tirelessly over the last months to compile a set of 10 thoughtful articles that highlight regional, national and local challenges to the implementation of sustainability-minded initiatives in Africa. This Issue begins with a thoughtful analysis of the wicked problem of land allocation and community land rights in Africa. Robert Home and Faith Kabata review some of the landmark cases in Kenya that sought to illuminate the contentions and paradoxes of community land rights in the African context and how these problems stifle the attainment of sustainable development. Teferi Bekele Ayana and Wekgari Dulume Sima focus on local and national challenges that stifle the implementation of sustainability-minded initiatives in Ethiopia. In a similar vein, Desalegn Amsalu's insightful article unpacks local challenges to the protection, realization and fulfilment of environmental rights in Ethiopia. George Nwangwu expertly explores the huge potential for, and legal risks of, public private partnership initiatives in Nigeria, a currently severely underutilized framework for financing sustainability initiatives.

Omolola Olarinde and Abraham Adeniran's article then provides an in-depth Nigerian case study of the intersectionality of energy and economic development. They identify the need for an urgent diversification of the power-generation portfolio in Nigeria in order to improve energy security and economic growth. One key threat to sustainable development in Africa is the lack of transparency and accountability in the utilization of natural resource proceeds. Law Amadi and Peter Chukwuma Obutte's detailed article delivers a robust examination of whether, and how, the Treasury Single Account (TSA) initiative could help boost accountability in revenue management in Nigeria's oil and gas sector. Two insightful articles, respectively by Lola Ayotunde and

Uchenna Jerome Orji, then offer robust analyses on how to better enhance local content and integrate the perspectives of often overlooked or marginalized people, groups, and ideas into the utilization and management of oil sector revenue and benefits. Obinne Obiefuna-Oguejiofor's innovative piece demonstrates why the search for sustainable development across Africa may remain incomplete without transparent and credible electoral systems. The article reviews the promise, potential and challenges of electronic voting systems in African states.

Finally, Taofeeq N. Alatise's stimulating article explores how third party rights and interests may be better protected in arbitration proceedings in Nigeria.

As always, this Issue of the JSDLP continues to push the boundaries of sustainable development. The breadth of the contributions and the geographical spread of the authors, all allude to the complex obstacles that remain before humanity can truly realize sustainable development. It is my sincere hope that the articles we have assembled in this volume will inspire innovative and transdisciplinary solutions to current and emerging threats to sustainability-minded initiatives in Africa. We at the *Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy* restate our commitment to continue to facilitate scholarly exchange and discourse on this theme. As always, we welcome constructive feedback and look forward to your viewpoints.

With infinite gratitude to our Editorial Board, Managing Board and the President and Founder of Afe Babalola University – Aare Afe Babalola SAN, OFR, LLD – for their invaluable and continuing support, I invite you to turn the pages of this issue and enjoy the wealth of knowledge therein.

Yours truly,

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