




NEW PATHWAYS TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY



 **Thursday 18th November, 2021**  **10.00am**
 **Lagos Oriental Hotel, Victoria Island | VIRTUAL**



CONTENTS

02	From the Convener's Desk
03	<i>The Avant-Garde Viewpoint</i>
05	Goodwill Messages
06	About The Convener
07	Pilar
09	2021 STs Panels
09	<i>Sustainable Job Creation For Economic Prosperity</i>
10	<i>Effective Waste Management & Pollution Control in a Circular Economy</i>
11	Summit Agenda/Programme
13	Meet Our Speakers
14	<i>Keynote Speaker</i>
24	The Earth Speaks
25	<i>Sustainability And Arts</i>
27	The Sustainability Table Monograph
28	<i>Food Security And Climate Change</i>
29	<i>Gender Equality In A Green Economy</i>
30	<i>Green Is The New Black: Sustainability And Fashion</i>
31	<i>Climate Financing: Funding Sustainable Projects</i>
32	<i>Bridging The Digital Divide: Leveraging Technology & Optimal Broadband Penetration to Achieve The Sustainable Development Goals</i>
33	Our Partners
37	Past Event
46	Appreciation

FROM THE CONVENER'S DESK

Avant-garde Limited is pleased to welcome you to the fifth edition of the Sustainability Table Discourse Series, 2021.

The Sustainability Table Discourse Series (STS) is a platform that brings together business leaders, policymakers, entrepreneurs, sustainable development experts, leading corporate organisations, and various subject matter experts to share ideas/initiatives and proffer solutions to challenges facing selected industries as it relates to the environment, climate change, sustainability. This platform focuses on achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a digital, circular, and green economy, likewise working on multilateral, regional or continental African and global issues.

The theme for this year's edition is: **"New Pathways to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in a Circular Economy"**.

The Sustainability Table Discourse 2021 is an urgent post- COVID 19 response to the intensifying need to promote eco-friendly businesses, discuss eco-innovation, sustainable job creation, climate mitigation, adaptation, and resilience strategies, all in a bid to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



THE AVANT-GARDE VIEWPOINT



AVANT GARDE

Protecting the environment is a global priority and it is as urgent in Nigeria as it is anywhere else in the world. Thriving economic growth has at often posed major detrimental effects to the fragile natural environment. The notion that economic growth and environmental degradation go hand in hand does not hold sway any longer. There is an intensifying demand for a paradigm change, wherein the environment is being protected viz-a -viz a booming economy.

We live in a world that is sieged by social and environmental crises. There is air pollution, deforestation, extinction of species, soil degradation, climate change and other disasters wrought by human economic activities, all of which poses a threat to the habitability of mother earth. As such, it has become necessary for us to be concerned with more than profit to assess how businesses affect people, the

natural environment and society at large. It has become very difficult to sensitize the populace or have discussions around Climate change or even sustainability due to the high unemployment rate; which appears to be a more pressing concern, especially young people.

Currently, in Nigeria 33.3% or 23.2 million of the about 70 million people who ought to be working are unemployed. Nigeria's unemployment rate has more than quadrupled over the last five years; an acceptable level of unemployment would be 4%-6%. We can indeed leverage the SDGs to create new sustainable jobs and even develop initiative to accelerate the achievement of these goals whilst at it.

We can only achieve the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals within the stipulated time, if we collaborate to create connecting fine lines

between businesses, processes, and products around the SDGS thus creating new jobs. One thing we must all agree on is that it is important to scale from leadership to responsibility and private companies and individuals must pick up the slack where public sector efforts has been lax.

Governments have tenure but citizens don't!

I must applaud our sponsors for still prioritize sustainability and channelling their resources to this cause despite the economic hardship in the country as the economy has been through two recessions in the last five years. The 2021 Sustainability Table Summit would not have been possible without out sponsors and partners.



As we begin what promises to be an exciting and insightful day, I leave you with an interesting proverb from Eastern Nigeria, which says He who burns down his father's house must be ready to inherit the ashes. Therefore, I hope that the combination of us all will ensure that we leave a nice, florid, and comfortable house for our children- the coming generation to inhabit and inherit.

Happy Deliberations!

..

GOODWILL MESSAGES

Congratulations on the latest edition of the Sustainability Table Discourse 2021. Investing in climate smart agriculture and clean energy efficient technologies, and encouraging apprenticeships, entrepreneurships and self-employment in green jobs, through local, state and federal employment policies and programmes can address youth unemployment, which SDG 8 particularly targets. Building towards a climate resilient circular economy based on regeneration where little is wasted, and new and innovative career opportunities for young people are created.



Kofo Adeleke

Development Consultant
Environment Ambassador
Emeritus Lagos State

I am a firm believer that knowledge is crucial in solving any problem. The Sustainability Table Discourse Series has in the past five years, worked tirelessly and impressively at bridging the knowledge gap about the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals Nigeria is lagging in.

In the spirit of nation-building, the Discourse has focused – quite remarkably on the most pressing issues in Nigeria. Last year, at a time when it was more crucial than ever, the focus was on bridging the technology gap.

Following the spike in unemployment rates as an aftereffect of the pandemic, the Discourse has chosen, this year, to deal with the elephant in the room - unemployment. I penned a blog post where I expounded on some of my ideas around unemployment and the nexus between poverty and unemployment. There have been a plethora of skill acquisition programmes, but to win, “Nigeria needs to harmonise its various youth and skills development programmes to enable, not cause, economic growth”. To contextualise, NYSC has a budget allocation of over 100 billion Naira; N-Power, another 24 billion Naira. If these funds are aggregated and streamlined into priority areas, we are on the cusp of a programme similar to India’s Skill Development Corporation.

With platforms and conversations facilitated by STS that allow for free idea exchange; we are one step closer to finding meaningful solutions to our unemployment deficit.

I applaud the Sustainability Table Series’, its Convener and Advisory Board’s resolve in playing a crucial role in tackling the nation’s challenges and its tenacity.



**Honourable
Commissioner,
Akintunde Oyeboade**

Commissioner of Finance
and Economic Development,
Ekiti State



ABOUT THE CONVENER

Kayode Olaniyan

Convener, Sustainability Table Discourse

Kayode Olaniyan is an environmental expert, UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) advocate, public policy and eco-segment professional with experience in the construction, energy, telecommunications, environmental consultancy and sustainability fields.

Kayode has a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Wolverhampton and an MSc in Engineering Business Management from the University of Warwick, UK as well as other professional courses and certifications.

Kayode has written papers and journal articles on Environmental matters, ranging from Renewable Energy published at the International Centre for Sustainable Development of Energy, Water and Environment Systems, Croatia, 2013 to E-waste management for Green Circular

Economy (European Centre for Sustainable Development in Rome-Italy, 2019).

Kayode contributed significantly to the development of the framework for a National Climate Change Legislation in Nigeria, Nigerian Communications Commission Draft Deployment Plan for 5G Technology in Nigeria, Nigeria National Broadband Plan 2020-2025, National Environmental (Electrical and Electronic sector) Regulation and National Environmental (Battery control) Regulation.

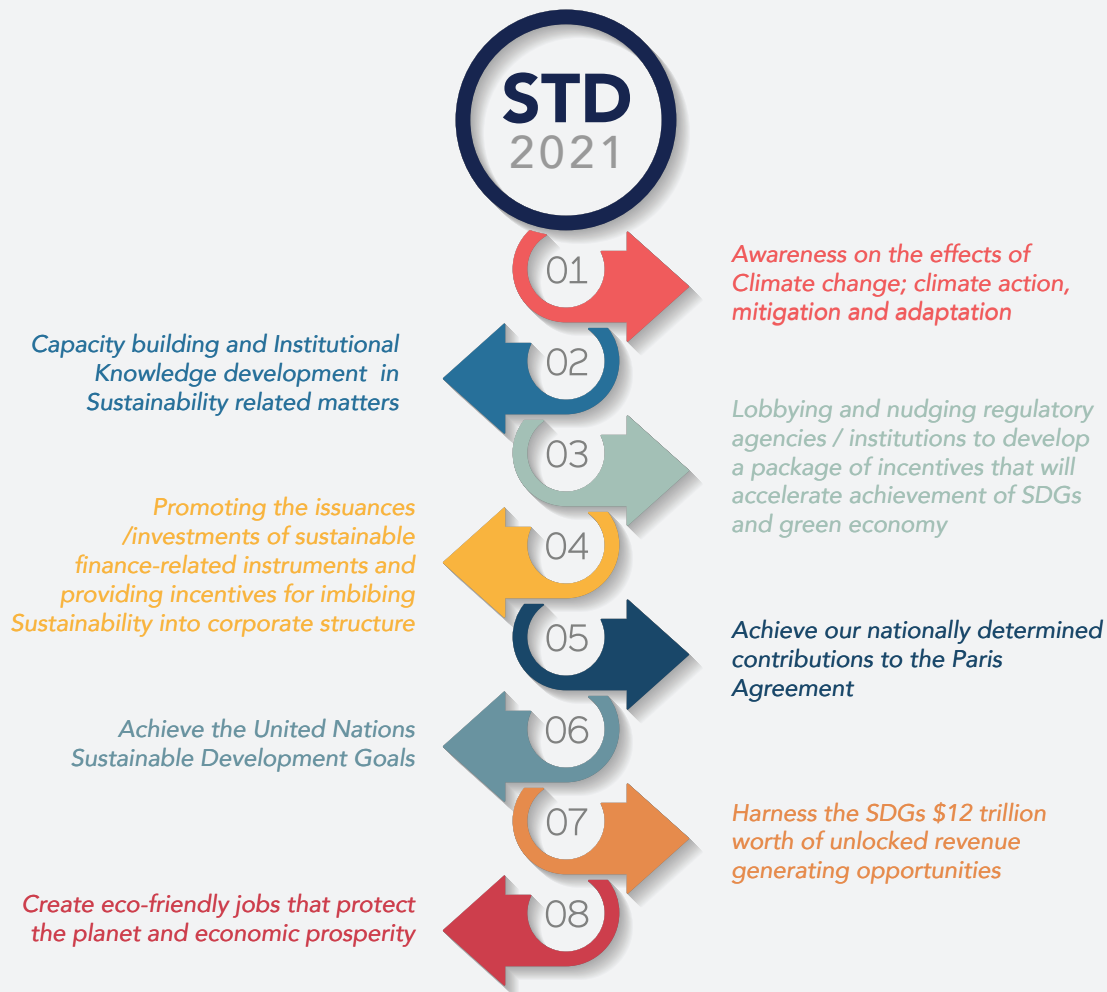
He is a member of the Recycling Association of Nigeria, International Association for Impact Assessment and sits on the board of E-waste Producer Responsibility Organisation of Nigeria (EPRON).

Kayode manages Public policy & External relations efforts at IHS Towers.

PILLARS



The Sustainability Table Discourse 2021 is an urgent post- COVID 19 response to the intensifying need to promote eco-friendly businesses in a bid to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The success of this unpopular sector would not only promote entrepreneurship and create new jobs but would also help us;



2021 STS PANELS

SUSTAINABLE JOB CREATION FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY



The “2019 Poverty and Inequality in Nigeria” report released by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) **highlights 40 per cent of the total population- almost 83 million people- live below the country’s N137, 430 (\$381.75) poverty line.**

According to a report published by the National Bureau of Statistics, **the rate of joblessness in Nigeria rose from 27.1% to 33.3% in the three months through December, 2020.**

Nigeria’s jobless rate has more than quadrupled over the last five years as the economy went through two recessions

Activities of various government and non-governmental agencies alike are being executed within the frameworks of job creation. While there is an ongoing trend of charging the unemployed class in the country to become job

creators, many of the prospective entrepreneurs face the common challenge of inability to secure capital to start up their businesses. It often boils down to financial aid agencies and loan schemes to support the ideas of these budding entrepreneurs.

This panel discussion would elucidate on sustainable job creation and the impacts of state government employment trust funds and job creation agencies in tackling the menace of unemployment in tandem with SDGs (8)(9) & (17).

The discourse would also assess the impacts of vocational training programs and a holistic paradigm shift from a resource-based economy to a knowledge-based economy using innovation.

How can the development of Employment Trust Funds and stand-alone job/wealth creation agencies bolster the creation of numerous jobs hence, significantly boost the Nominal GDP of the States through the increase in state revenue and domestic resource flow, collectively contribute to the reduction in the level of unemployment and poverty in the country, and in turn steer towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

EFFECTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT & POLLUTION CONTROL IN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY



In this panel discussion, effective waste management would be proffered as an enabling tool to growing Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for harnessing waste to wealth and a green, circular economy.

Technological innovation has led to a rapid shortening and obsolescence of Electrical Electronic Equipment which in-turn causes an increase in the amount of Waste Electrical Electronic Equipment (WEEE). This panel discussion would further explicate on how effective waste management can be used as a strategic

tool for mitigating the effects of climate change and achieving a circular economy in tandem with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Furthermore, the discussion would also aim to address the role of Producer Responsibility Organisations (PRO), regulatory agencies, stakeholders, individuals, public and private sector in reducing the menace of haphazard management of waste through an all-inclusive approach to achieve a circular economy in tandem with the Extended Producer Responsibility programmes.

SUMMIT AGENDA /PROGRAMME

10:00 - 11:00

Registration

11:00 - 11:10

Welcome and Introduction

- Mr Kayode Olaniyan

(Convener, Sustainability Table Discourse)



11:15 - 11:30

Company Presentation/Partner's remarks

11:30 - 11:50

Keynote Address:

**NEW PATHWAYS TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS IN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY**

Cecilia Akintomide

(Chairperson, The Sanitation & Hygiene Fund

Africa, Development Finance & Corporate Governance Expert)



11:50 - 12:00

Launch of The Sustainability Table Monograph
by Mr. Beulah Adeoye (Partner, Deloitte)



12:00 - 13:00

Panel Discussion - **SUSTAINABLE JOB CREATION FOR ECONOMIC PROSPERITY IN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY**



Ifeoma Adeoye
CEO, Business Nest Investments



Babatomiwa Adesida
Head, External and Community Relations, Sahara Group



Teju Abisoye
Executive Secretary, Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF)



Adenike Adeyemi
Executive Director, Fate Foundation



Idris Olorunnimbe
Chief Executive, Temple Management Company/Digital Studio



Temitayo Ade-Peters
Founder, WeforGood International

13:00 - 13:15

Goodwill Messages and Special Guests remarks

13:15 - 13:30

Sustainability and Arts Curatorial Brief

13:30 - 14:30

Panel Discussion - **EFFECTIVE WASTE MANAGEMENT AND POLLUTION CONTROL IN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY**



Dr. Dolapo Fasawe
General Manager, Lagos State Environmental Protection Agency (LASEPA)



Oladimeji Oresanya
Special Adviser (Environment), Ogun State



Wunmi Ogunde
Co-Founder/COO, Xrubicon Solutions Limited/ P&QM Technology



Adrian Clews
Managing Director, Hincley Limited



Tolulope Falola
Renewable Energy Expert



Ifeanyi Ochonogor
CEO, Eterra Technologies

14:30 - 14:45

Company Presentation and Goodwill Message

14:45 - 15:00

Vote of Thanks and Closing Remarks

MEET OUR SPEAK- ERS





KEYNOTE SPEAKER

**Cecilia
Akintomide**

Chairperson, The Sanitation & Hygiene Fund
Africa, Development Finance &
Corporate Governance Expert

Cecilia is an executive with seasoned management experience. With over 30 years legal experience, spanning corporate governance, institutional affairs, business reorganisations, strategy and financing, she has overseen the closing and management of projects and policy-based financing transactions all over Africa as well as the formulation of operations policies and compliance monitoring.

Until recently, she served as the Vice President Secretary-General of the @afdb, where she was responsible for coordinating the Secretariat as well as shareholder relations involving over 80 member states.

Prior to her role as VPSG, she headed both public and private sector financing legal

teams, and also served as Chief Counsel Institutional Affairs and Finance Counsel.

Cecilia is a member of the Nigerian Bar and the New York Bar and a member of the United Nations election monitoring team for the 1994 presidential elections in South Africa, won by Nelson Mandela. She was awarded Officer of the Order of the Niger (OON) by the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria in 2014 for her contributions to International Development.

Cecilia currently serves as an Independent Director on the Boards of FBN Holdings Plc, CcHUB Growth Capital, SWAgCo Limited, and Ondo State Development and Investment Promotion Agency (ONDIPA).



Ifeoma Adeoye

CEO, Business Nest Investments

Ifeoma is the CEO, Business Nest Investments.

She currently manages a number of Microfinance and Asset management Institutions, and is the Chairman of IMSE Energy Resources, and indigenous marine logistics firm

She studied Economics at the University of Manchester and graduated with a First Class Honours Degree. She also holds a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Warwick

Ifeoma has over 10 years of experience with starting, building and managing businesses to profitability Having worked with KPMG, The Royal Bank of Scotland and FBN Merchant Bank and NAHCO, she has acquired broad work experience within the financial services industry, consumermarkets, Aviation, Oil Gas industry and public sector

She has extensive experience in advisory services covering financial advisory, business improvement, corporate strategy articulation, organizational diagnostics transformation, market study and industry analysis She has been involved in multiple corporate strategy execution projects, feasibility studies, business plan development, and organization transformation projects with notable track record in strategy articulation, project management, financial analysis, financial modelling and relationship management



Babatomiwa Adesida

Head, External and Community Relations, Sahara Group

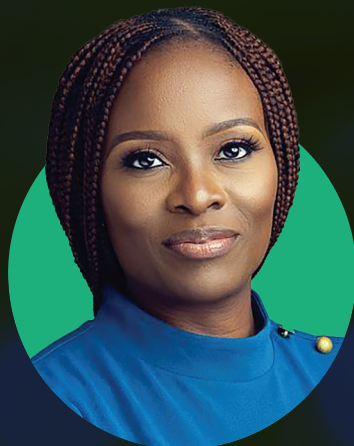
Babatomiwa Adesida drives partnerships between Sahara Group and international organisations such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in New York and Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in Paris.

Following the recently signed MoU between Sahara and UNDP, his role is geared towards creating awareness of the private sector's role in providing access to clean & affordable energy while exploring collaborative ways to scale up initiatives in selected countries towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He has over 14 years of Private Sector experience and has been involved in the development, implementation and monitoring of projects and policies through the private sector in partnership with numerous governments in different countries, some of which include Nigeria, Ghana, Cote

d'Ivoire, Tanzania, Zambia, Switzerland, Singapore and U.A.E.

Babatomiwa received a B.Sc with honours in Sociology from the University of Ibadan in Nigeria and an MSc. in Public Policy from the University of Bristol, U.K, where he won a partial scholarship for international students. He is extremely passionate about Social Reconstruction, particularly in developing nations and plays an integral role in promoting the welfare of the underprivileged in society through partnerships with various organisations and like-minded individuals. He has been nominated for and also received several CSR awards, some of which include the Future Awards Nigeria, the Nigeria CSR awards, the 100 most impactful CSR leaders (Global listing) in India and the 2019 Most Influential People of African Descent (MIPAD) in recognition of his contribution to humanitarian work and promotion of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Teju Abisoye

Executive Secretary, Lagos State
Employment Trust Fund (LSETF)

Teju Abisoye is the Executive Secretary of Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF), an agency that has supported 34,772 MSMEs by creating Programmes structured to

provide financing and leverage for MSMEs; skills development for youths; and promote technology innovations in enterprises.

Before her role as the Executive Secretary, Teju was the Director of Programmes and Co-ordination- also under LSETF.

She has garnered experience across various sectors including development finance, project planning and execution, monitoring and evaluation of humanitarian projects, government interventions and investment opportunities.

She is an Alumnae of Yale's Women Leadership Programme, a 2021 Amujae Leader, a flagship programme by the Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf (EJS) Centre. She is a Lawyer and has received expert training in Social and Development finance from Oxford and Stellenbosch Business school.

Teju is committed to the development of MSMEs as the engine of growth in African Economies.



Adenike Adeyemi

Executive Director, Fate Foundation

Adenike Adeyemi is the Chief Executive Officer, FATE Foundation. Since joining the FATE in 2015, she has deepened the organisation's strategic footprint in the Nigerian entrepreneurship ecosystem through business incubation programmes; sector-focused accelerator programmes; and financial and non-financial linkage programs for the organisation's over 6,000 Alumni members.

Under her leadership, FATE has raised funding of over \$4,000,000 to date through partnerships with the Youth Business International, the Netherlands Enterprise Agency, Facebook, Citi Foundation, Accenture, Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition, Ford Foundation, the African Capital Alliance Foundation and the Mitsubishi Corporation.

She has acquired 19 years of experience in non-profit management, enterprise development, education and youth enablement strategies.

Adenike serves on a number of Boards including Trustee of the Youth Business International; Council Member, Lagos Chamber of Commerce & Industries; non-Executive Director, VDT Bitflux Communications; Director, Oxbridge Tutorial College Foundation; and Advisory Board Member, BudgIT. She is also a 2020 Eisenhower Global Women Leaders Fellow and the lead facilitator for the Nigerian Economic Summit Group (NESG) MSME Community of Practice and has served on the National MSME Council Committee on Improving the Business Environment.



Idris Olorunnimbe

Chief Executive, Temple Management
Company/Ogidi Studio

Idris Olorunnimbe is the Group Chief Executive of The Temple Management Company (TMC) and a member of the company's board of directors. He founded TMC in 2016, bringing more than 15 years of industry leadership, entertainment expertise and executive management experience.

In its 5 years since inception, Temple has quickly established itself as an innovative organisation in African sports and entertainment. In his capacity as head of corporate direction and strategy at Temple, Idris has facilitated the creation of a record label, film and TV production company, digital and gaming arm, live entertainment and a sports division.

Temple has recently solidified its position as an industry leader by launching Ogidi Studios, West Africa's foremost creative production

complex. Ogidi has already yielded several movies, TV shows, documentaries and award-winning music.

Idris is a member of the board of the Lagos State Employment Trust Fund (LSETF) and is the Chairman of the Stakeholder Committee.



Temitayo Ade-Peters

Founder, WeforGood International

Temitayo Ade-Peters is an award-winning impact designer with over 15 years of experience under her belt, spanning communications, sustainability and development. She is the CEO of WeForGood International, a sustainable impact and innovation design firm based in Lagos, Nigeria, which works with people, institutions and governments to design human-centred solutions to Africa's most pressing challenges.

WeForGood has been listed in the Forbes Africa December 2019/ January 2020 edition as one of 'Top 50 Brands Making a Difference in Nigeria'.

As the Founder of ThriveTribe, a community that provides mentorship, coaching, training and advisory to help mission-driven folks experience exponential transformation that

empowers them to thrive in career, business and life.

Before her current role, she led the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and sustainability efforts at the Nigerian Stock Exchange, and prior to that, she was Head, CSR at First City Monument Bank. Her immediate pursuit after joining the bank was to bring improved structure to its sustainability efforts and elevate its profile amongst stakeholders through impact-focused initiatives.

In 2018, in recognition of TEA's contribution to helping businesses create sustainable value and lasting impact, she was honoured with the prestigious "GLOBAL CSR LEADERSHIP AWARD" at the World CSR Day at Taj Lands End, Mumbai, India.



Oladimeji Oresanya

Special Adviser (Environment),
Ogun State

Ola Oresanya is a recognised authority in Waste Management and Environmental development in Africa.

A BSc degree holder in Geology from University of Ibadan and MSc in Environmental Management & Ecology from Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife. An Alumnus of Harvard Kennedy School, Harvard University, Massachusetts U.S.A.

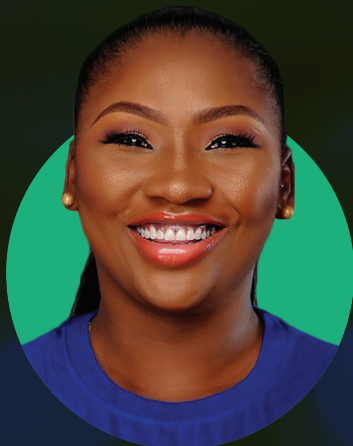
He had a successful tenure as Managing Director/CEO of Lagos Waste Management Authority, (LAWMA) from May 2005 to August 2015. He is the Managing Director and Co-founder of Globetech Remedial Limited. He is a Lead Consultant to the UN-Habitat/UNEP, Federal and several State Governments on Waste Management issues.

He is presently the Special Adviser to the Governor of Ogun State on Environment matters.

He served as member of the design review team of Keele Valley Landfill Site, Ontario

Canada and supervised World Bank sponsored Lagos Landfill Site Design & Construction, Lagos. A part-time lecturer in Waste Management and Toxicology of the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta. He holds post-graduate diploma in Business Management from Merseyside Polytechnic, Liverpool, U.K and has over 35 years post graduate working experience in Solid Waste Management with extensive specialisation in project development and financing.

He has been elected to several scientific academies including Nigerian Mining and Geo-science Society (MNMGS), Nigerian Environmental Society (MNES), Waste Management Society of Nigeria (WAMASON) among others. He served as the West African Regional Coordinator for Technical Working Committee on Medical Waste Management in ECOWAS sub-region, Board Chairman, Extended Producers Responsibility Organisation of Nigeria (EPRON), Board Member, Recycling Association of Nigeria (RAN) etc.



Wunmi Ogunde

Co-Founder/COO
Xrubicon Solutions Limited/
PAKAM Technology

Wunmi Ogunde is a Manufacturing Engineer and the COO of Xrubicon Solutions Limited where she manages the PAKAM technology a waste management application that enables a cleaner city by connecting waste recyclers to waste generators(users) using a reward system that enhances waste recycling culture in Nigeria.

Wunmi has over 10 years' experience in the recycling and manufacturing industry. She is passionate about creating a pollution-free environment using technology to ensure a sustainable ecosystem,

She is also the convener of the international pollution control conference (POLCON), POLCON is a catalyst connecting all stakeholders in the industry to finding a lasting solution to the years of pollution in Africa.

Wunmi is an active member of the Recyclers Association of Nigeria (RAN), Associate Member of the "Women in management, Business and Public Sector, A John Maxwell certified personal and leadership coach and A YALI Mandela Washington 2019 Fellow.



Tolulope Falola

Renewable Energy Expert

Tolulope Falola is an accomplished techno-commercial business executive with over 16 years of delivering strong financial results with proven success in managing P&L, business and strategy development, investment structuring, project development and management. She has led cross-functional teams in oil, gas, utilities, and renewables sectors of the African economy, and served as the Managing Director of a Pan-African Renewables company, overseeing operations and projects in 9 African countries — Benin, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda Senegal, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

As Regional Business Development Manager, Sterling & Wilson: Hybrid/Renewables and Energy Storage she was responsible for major deals within the West African market.

Tolulope is a certified Management Consultant and fellow, IMC (International Institute of Management Consultant- Nigerian Chapter). She received an MBA in International Oil and Gas from the University of Dundee, Scotland.

She is an advocate of 24/7 endless impossibilities with Solar. Nurturing this passion, she seeks to be a part of the solution, transforming lives in Africa and accelerating businesses by developing simple, reliable, efficient and affordable energy solutions that can easily be deployed and installed.

She was recently appointed Board advisor for Bricks and Mortar Investment company, UK.



Sustainability
Table SERIES

ANTHEA EPELLE
KAINEBI OSAHENYE
STEVE EKPENISI
OLANREWAJU TEJUOSO
UCHAY JOEL CHIMA

THE EARTH SPEAKS

A sustainability and art exhibition

- FAVOUR RITARO

PREFACE

As efforts are being made globally towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we must begin to find innovative ways to communicate issues of sustainability, especially as it pertains to the environment.

While there are several campaigns about climate change, global warming and rising sea levels, we must ensure that we are telling the stories in relatable and creative forms.

The Earth Speaks is an Art Exhibition that is targeted to serve as a visual and artistic expression of the 2021 Sustainability Discourse Series (STS).

The Sustainability Table Discourse Series (STS) is a platform that brings together policy makers, entrepreneurs, sustainable development experts, leading corporate organisations and various subject matter experts to share ideas/initiatives and proffer solutions to challenges facing selected industries as it relates to the environment, climate change, sustainability. The platform, which is now in its fifth-year, focuses on achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a digital, circular and green economy, likewise working on

multilateral, regional or continental African and global issues.

Among the objectives of this year's edition is to stir conversations and have genuine arguments in the direction of sustainability to achieve the SDGs.

The art exhibition explores the relationship between earth and her inhabitants as well as the many ways the earth communicates with us. We have identified that art is as much a powerful storytelling tool as it provides a creative channel to effective waste management. Hence, the exhibition brings together prolific artists who are passionate about sustainability and employ waste materials to create beautiful works of art.

We hope that each artwork, just like the earth, would speak to the mind of the viewers, inspiring a sense of sustainability and spurring ideas and initiatives that proffer solutions to issues of sustainable development in our nation towards a sustainable future.

— **Kayode Olaniyan**

Convener, Sustainability Table Discourse



EXHIBITING ARTISTS

**Kainebi
Osahenye**



**Steve
Ekpenisi**



**Anthea
Epelle**



**Olanrewaju
Tejuoso**



**Uchay
Joel Chima**

THE SUSTAIN- ABILITY TABLE MONOGRAPH



FOOD SECURITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

To be food secure, we need to be climate resilient

The ongoing conflict between agriculture and climate has put the earth in a quagmire. Agricultural processes have had noticeable effects on the ecosystem, these effects have backfired and have begun to threaten the nation's food security.

Reports show that agricultural processes contribute to 30% of global greenhouse emissions and 70% of global freshwater withdrawals. Due to this, Lake Chad which once boasted enough capacity to cater to a significant amount of cattle has shrunk considerably over the past 7 years till it can only handle 10 % of its previous capacity, displacing hundreds of cattle as a result. Likewise, the changes in climate have caused erratic rainfalls, temperature drops and increase in rainfall that all affect crop production. The continuation of this cycle will lead the nation to a point where food insecurity is at an all-time high. To prevent this from happening, several agricultural processes must be modified with thought to the environmental effect.

Download our white paper on
Food security and climate change here

(<https://www.avantgardeltd.org/product/food-security-climate-change>) to learn how these issues can be resolved and get insight into controversial topics like precision farming, climate adaptation and mitigation.



GENDER EQUALITY IN A GREEN ECONOMY

The connection between gender equality and climate change may be hard to see upon a cursory glance. Women dictate many things about households including what kind of waste is produced and how that waste is disposed of. Sidelining women from important conversations and decisions regarding climate change and climate action is to the detriment of the global populace.

Seeing the importance of the role women play, it is pertinent to tackle the root cause of their agelong marginalization- gender inequality. For far too long, the prevalent cultures in Nigeria have outlined certain functions and processes based on gender. This outlook has done nothing more than cripple the environment and the economy.

To learn how this situation can be turned around, read our white paper on achieving Gender equality in a green economy.

Available for download at

(<https://www.avantgardeltd.org/product/gender-equality-in-a-green-economy>)



GREEN IS THE NEW BLACK: SUSTAINABILITY AND FASHION

In recent years, many manufacturers have switched to fast fashion- they produce in great quantities but, at the tremendous detriment of the environment. Studies have shown that it takes 1,500 gallons of water to produce a single pair of jeans, and billions of these are produced annually. Worse still, the materials used in production are not usually environmentally friendly. This is done year-in-year-out without thought to the effect in the long run. To change this pattern, consumers must become more conscious of what they purchase and why they purchase it. This will drive manufacturers to be more accountable with the raw materials used during production and the quantity produced.

From the fireside chat with Mimi Onalaja (Temple Management Company) and Zara Odu (Designers Consociate), we saw how the cycle of influence from the consumer to the manufacturer and vice versa can be advantageously harnessed and what the best materials for clothing production are. Also, they shared insight on how the fashion industry can contribute to the protection of the ecosystem.

Download our white paper on
Green is the new black: sustainability and fashion at
<https://www.avantgardeltd.org/product/green-is-the-new-black-sustainability-and-fashion>
to learn more.



CLIMATE FINANCING: FUNDING SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS

Money may or may not make the world go around but, it is certainly needed if laudable strides will be made with the 17 SDGs. To this end, financial institutions have roles to play in ensuring the funding of the SDGs and the stifling of projects that harm the environment. The willingness of these institutions to offer green bonds, investment opportunities, credits and adopt Sustainable Banking principles go a long way in determining the feasibility of the SDGs. Thankfully, many forward-thinking institutions have made funding sustainable projects and integrating sustainable principles a corporate responsibility.

However, for maximum impact to be made, the central financial bodies need to deepen opportunities for green investments to attract global investors. While the central bodies catch up, what can be done?

To find out, download our white paper
Climate financing: funding sustainable projects at
<https://www.avantgardeltd.org/product/climate-financing-funding-sustainable-projects>



BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE: LEVERAGING TECHNOLOGY & OPTIMAL BROADBAND PENETRATION TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Nigeria's need for intensive digitization was never as greatly felt as when the pandemic hit and the world was sent into reboot. Many businesses went into a coma and many households were left struggling. For Nigeria to become resilient and, more importantly, for its economy to become self-sustainable the current digital gap has to be narrowed. Currently, Nigeria has a deficit in broadband penetration and telecommunications infrastructure which is a crucial tool in narrowing the wide digital gap. With the digital divide narrowed, Nigeria is in a better position to attain the SDGs that have seemed so farfetched.

Download our white paper on
Bridging the digital divide to learn more on how this can be achieved here
<https://www.avantgardeltd.org/product/the-sts-monograph-series-2020>

OUR PARTNERS



standard
chartered

We manage our company responsibly by promoting the right values and behaviours, investing in people, managing our environmental impact and supporting the fight against financial crime.

We are focused on building a business consistent with our values. In 2020, 99% of staff completed financial crime training and we held 18 correspondent banking academies.

We advanced our commitments to reduce the environmental impact of our operations, including progressing our journey to achieve net zero emissions from our operations and only use renewable energy sources by 2030. In 2020, we achieved a 19 per cent energy reduction of Scope 1 and 2 emissions across our portfolio. Paper use decreased by 34 per cent and waste by 35 per cent per full time employee. We reduced our overall carbon footprint by 37%. COVID-19 restricted our travel and as a result business travel fell by 64%.

2020 Sustainability highlights

Sustainability Aspirations on track or achieved

78.4%

Delivering the Sustainability Aspirations %



Credit approved to help clients fight COVID-19

\$579m

Mobilised funding for clean technology

\$18.4bn

Reduction in our carbon footprint

37%

Women in senior roles

29.5%

Donated towards COVID-19 emergency relief

\$27.8m

Supported young people through Futuremakers

168,000



Towers of strength

IHS- Our Sustainability Footprint at a glance

IHS Towers (Nigeria) Limited is one of the world's largest independent owners, operators, and developers of shared telecommunications infrastructure. Over the years, the company has leveraged resources and platforms to impact the communities it services.

Pertaining its global goals, IHS Towers (Nigeria) Limited has made commendable contributions towards the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under four strategic pillars geared to the fulfilment of different segments of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The four pillars — Ethics and governance, People and communities, Education and economic growth, Environment and climate change, are captured under SDGs 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 16.



Under Ethics and governance, IHS has promoted high standards of governance and ethical conduct across borders. More specifically, about this pillar, IHS (Nigeria) Limited has launched the 'Do it right' portal on its intranet site to provide its employees with learning materials on ethical issues. Additionally, the company has designed an anti-bribery and corruption course that it assigns to staff and contractors annually. Beyond the assignments, the course is made available all year long for self-enrollment. In 2020, there were 1,866 completions of the module. Through its efforts in this

regard, IHS has raised awareness on bribery and corruption risks and other related issues, thus maintaining a high level of ethical conduct among employees, vendors, contractors and business partners.

Working with initiatives attuned to Environment and Climate Change, IHS has reduced carbon emissions by approximately 345,229 tonnes. The company has achieved this by replacing diesel generators with solar energy and hybrid battery technology. So far, IHS has installed solar power in 42 per cent of its sites within the continent.

IHS' initiatives concerned with education and economic growth include the launch of its rural telephony programme in Nigeria, which has led to increased mobile connectivity in several rural areas in Nigeria. The uptick in mobile connectivity has, in turn, led to better access to learning opportunities and wider markets for traders, fishermen, farmers and other local entrepreneurs. As it relates to technology, IHS has provided funding for 30 tech-based social enterprises and entered strategic partnerships to deliver quality education- with a special focus on STEM subjects- to children in rural areas.

Improving more than education, IHS has launched initiatives such as its Women in IHS Networks — a female mentorship programme aimed at improving inclusivity and gender balance. Under this mentorship programme, the company has recorded over 220 career-boosting mentorship pairings.

As proof of the impact of IHS (Nigeria) Limited's sustainability footprints, the company has been the recipient of multiple national and global awards including, Best Company in Partnership for Development; The Sustainability, Entrepreneurship and Responsibility Awards (The SERAS CSR), and Most Impactful Intervention, The Sustainability, Entrepreneurship and Responsibility Awards (The SERAS CSR).

The four pillars of our sustainability strategy

Our sustainability strategy is structured around four pillars:



Ethics and governance

Striving to be a best-in-class responsible business and promoting the highest standards everywhere we operate, with a focus on conducting business fairly and highlighting the sustainability agenda whenever we can.

Material topics

- Compliance
- Anti-competitive behavior
- Anti-corruption
- Customer privacy
- Supply chain management
- Child, forced or compulsory labor



Link to UN Global Compact

Principles 1, 2, 4, 5, 10



Environment and climate change

Seeking to minimize the impact of our operations and protect the environment by investing in more renewable energy sources such as solar and hybrid power systems, with a focus on leading-edge engineering and operational excellence while raising awareness of environmental issues.

Material topics

- Emissions
- Energy



Link to UN Global Compact

Principles 7, 8, 9



Education and economic growth

Aiming to enable greater access to mobile communications and help increase the number of people benefiting from connectivity, with a focus on strengthening education opportunities and supporting the development of business and enterprise.

Material topics

- Local communities
- Indirect economic impacts
- Economic performance



Link to UN Global Compact

Principle 3



Our people and communities

Building a diverse and inclusive workforce and contributing to the success of the communities in which they live, with a focus on helping our employees and communities thrive.

Material topics

- Training and education
- Non-discrimination, diversity and equal opportunity
- Market presence
- Individual economic prosperity
- Health and Safety
- Human rights
- Employment



Link to UN Global Compact

Principles 1, 2, 6

PAST EVENTS



SUSTAINABILITY TABLE SERIES 2020



BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE TO ACHIEVE THE SDGs:

Leveraging Technology to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



With a view of achieving the United Nation's 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs); 17 SDGs, 102 targets and 200 indicators, there is a burning need to leverage on technology as a strategic tool and accelerator, for collaboration, leapfrogging and establishing connections.

The SDGs has a revenue-generating potential of at least \$12 trillion worth of unlocked opportunities by 2030 across numerous sectors spanning agriculture, health, creative industry, education and mobility sectors and largely from emerging economies. The panel breakout session explicate on how to achieve these aided by technology.

The importance of embracing broadband penetration completely and see the internet as a strategic tool and realise that the digital economy is going exist.



Our focus this year was to collectively bridge the digital divide to accelerate the achievement of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This was done by elucidating on best methods and strategies to bolster; One, impact knowledge on how to scale from leadership to responsibility; Two, reducing inequalities – leveraging technology and broadband penetration for economic development.



The Sustainability Table Discourse Series 2020 focused on opportunities available to bring the SDGs to scale through investments in telecommunications infrastructure that will enable recalibration of the Nigerian Economy to a digital and circular one. This will create economic development opportunities for improved healthcare (telemedicine), banking and finance (e-commerce and electronic solutions) for financial inclusion, education (virtual learning, machine learning), security (bio-security and cyber-security), internet of things (IoT), technology for crisis and natural disaster management, as well as a general spiral growth towards achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



SUSTAINABILITY TABLE SERIES 2019



The Future of Sustainable Development in Nigeria: **Achieving Economic Growth with Low Carbon Trajectory in a Circular Economy**



Food Security and Climate Change Panel

This panel discussion focused on the impact of climate change on food security in Nigeria with a view to proffering solutions on strategies to mitigate the impact of climate change on the environment generally and food security in particular.

Climate Financing Panel

This panel discussion focused on the opportunities available for financing sustainable projects.

Renewable Energy Financing. Appropriate financing options for renewable energy installations and energy storage/ power optimization might be a solution to energy poverty in low income livelihoods.





Gender Equality Panel

This panel discussion focused on the importance of gender equality as it relates to sustainability; climate resilience and adaptation.

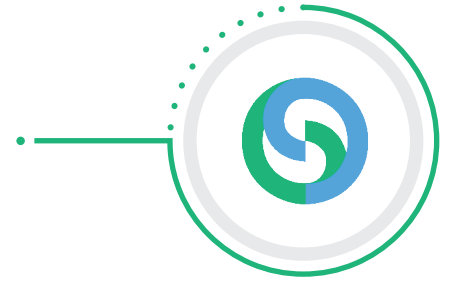
In this panel discussion, the importance of gender equality in achieving a green economy and mitigating the effects of climate change was addressed amongst more.

FireSide Chat: Sustainability & Fashion Green is the new black

Producing clothes, shoes and accessories in environmentally and socio-economically sustainable manners, but also about more sustainable patterns of consumption and use ethical purchasing, which necessitate shifts in individual attitudes and behaviour.

The fireside chat with Zara would explore use new technology and business models to design products that can be recycled or reengineered into new styles with minimal use of virgin materials, water, energy and chemicals for the fashion industry.





SUSTAINABILITY TABLE SERIES 2018

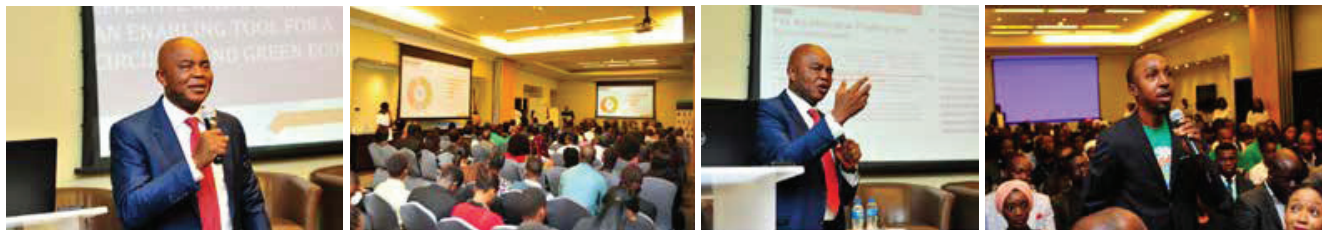


The Future of Sustainable Development in Nigeria: **Opportunities for Growth in a Green Economy.**



Effective Waste Management

In this panel discussion, effective waste management was proffered as an enabling tool to growing Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for harnessing waste to wealth and a green economy.



Green Economy In Nigeria

This panel discussion focused on entrepreneurial opportunities available using innovation for startups to build sustainable businesses. It also aimed to address the role of Fintechs, banking, and insurance in achieving a green economy amongst other areas.





GREEN ECONOMY: A panacea for the future of Sustainable Development in Nigeria - Opportunities for Growth.

Climate Change, Environmental Justice
And Green Economy.

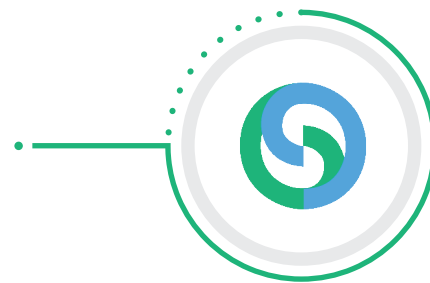
This panel discussion elucidated on how green economy can be used as strategic tool for mitigating the effects of climate change. The importance and benefits of education at various levels and targeted at different stakeholders and awareness campaigns was discussed.



CORPORATE GOVERNANCE, ETHICAL & STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP

This aspect of the discourse focused on the role of corporate governance, ethical and strategic leadership in ensuring social, economic and environmental sustainability.





thank you
FOR YOUR
SUPPORT



standard
chartered



Towers of strength





**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS**

Convener:

Avant-Garde Innovation and Technology Services.

An innovative frontier for advocacy on environmental protection and sustainable development in Nigeria.

Email: contact@avantgardeltd.org

Contact Number: +234 (0)90 9999 0146

For information regarding sponsorship and participation; contact

sustainabilitytable@avantgardeltd.org