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The Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy is a peer-reviewed interdisciplinary journal published by the Institute for Oil, Gas, Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development, Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria. It is published in June and October by the Afe Babalola University Press, Nigeria.

The Journal promotes the dissemination of research results and scholarly papers by teaching and research scholars in Africa and across the world in broad areas of sustainable development law and policy. The thematic focus of the journal spans across broad areas of sustainable development law and policy ranging from the economic, social, and environmental dimensions. As such papers that explore broad themes of sustainable development such environment, natural resources, green economy, international trade, banking, taxation, public policy, public private partnerships, alternative dispute resolution, human rights, peace, and conflict studies are normally given top consideration.

The Editorial Board of the Journal comprises international development scholars and experts from Italy, United Kingdom, Indonesia, Nigeria, Canada and the United States that provide leadership and lend their expertise to promote and enhance the scholarly relevance of the journal internationally.

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The Editorial Committee of the Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy (JSDLP), Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti welcomes the submission of unsolicited manuscripts. We welcome submissions that focus on any aspect of sustainable development law and policy ranging from the economic, social, and environmental dimensions. Consequently, papers that explore broad themes of sustainable development such as agriculture, banking, e-commerce, environment, natural resources, public private partnerships, alternative dispute resolutions, human rights, peace, and conflict studies would be most welcome. We also welcome book reviews, case comments and public lectures.

Selected articles would be published in hard copy and prominently displayed on the institutional website as a resource for scholars and practitioners worldwide.

Papers must be based on original research, conform to the usual standard of academic publishing, be fully referenced, and presented in the standard format employed by the series. Papers will be evaluated based on their contemporary relevance, contribution to their selected fields of research, structure and analytical vigor. Please refer to the submission guide below.

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- 2) Articles should include an abstract of approximately 250 words that is not an extract from the article itself.
- 3) Details of the author should be supplied as the first footnote, attached by an asterisk to the author's name.

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- 6) In terms of punctuation, where a quotation is made directly within the author's own sentences, only punctuation forming part of it should fall within the quotation marks. For example, the author's text is "followed by a relevant quotation". All footnotes should follow the final punctuation mark of the sentence except where that mark is a colon or semi-colon.

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- headings are not underlined;
- paragraphs are not separated by a full blank line, but only by an indent at the beginning of the new paragraph;
- footnotes are consecutively numbered by way of automatic numbering;
- footnotes are not separated by a full blank line;
- footnotes appear at the end of each page of the manuscript and not at the end of the manuscript;
- quotations have been checked for accuracy; and
- references comply with the style requirements

Deadlines

We review articles on a rolling basis, for publication in any of our two editions published in a year. Authors should take note for the following deadlines:

Spring Edition: Only articles submitted on or before 12 noon on **31st March** would be considered for publication in the spring edition.

Fall Edition: Only articles submitted on or before 12 noon on **31st August** would be considered for publication in the Fall edition.

Deadlines are firm, articles submitted after the deadline may not be published. All papers should be submitted by email.

Evaluation

- 8) Contributions are submitted to at least two referees and the identities of the contributors and referees are kept confidential.
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SPECIAL ISSUE: STEERING AFRICA TOWARDS 21ST CENTURY SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

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EDITORIAL COMMENTS

Dr. Eghosa Ekhator

Deputy Editor in Chief

I am pleased to present this Issue of the Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy. We received numerous submissions from different parts of the world focusing on diverse areas of sustainable development law and policy. After a rigorous peer-review process, eleven articles were accepted for publication.

This issue starts with Uche Val Obi, and he considers the various ways of mainstreaming distributive justice in the resources management in Nigeria. Obi discusses whether the recently enacted Petroleum Industry Act (PIA) 2021 has embedded distributive justice with respect to petroleum resources management in Nigeria. The second submission is by S.O Omoijuanfo Ihase, Michael U. Ukponu and Zacchaeus O. Opafunso. They consider the various regulatory conflicts afflicting the Nigerian Mining Industry. Their analysis is premised on a 2019 – 2020 study undertaken by the Ministry of Mines and Steel Development which exposed mining sector-related regulatory conflicts amongst the Federal, State and Local Governments and their ministries, departments, and agencies (MDAs) in the Federal Capital Territory and 17 out of the 36 States of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The third submission is by Leroy C Edozien who analysed Healthcare Waste Management Policy (HCWM) in Nigeria. Edozien conceptualises the RADICAL framework as a tool or strategy that could be applied in developing, implementing, and monitoring the national HCWM policy in a lower-middle-income country such as Nigeria. The fourth submission is by Yared Hailemariam. Yared Hailemariam undertakes a critical appraisal of the legal and policy framework for sustainable mining in Ethiopia. The article provides a comprehensive analysis of how the Ethiopian legal framework incorporates the principles of sustainable mining.

The fifth submission is by Nahom M. Kebede, and the article focuses on challenges and prospects of Intellectual Property Protection (IPR) in Ethiopia. This contribution also discusses several challenges militating against the successful protection of agricultural technologies in the intellectual protection regime in Ethiopia. The sixth submission is by Takunda Gumbu and this contribution focus on transaction cost economics approach to construction contracts in public-private partnerships. This contribution draws on empirical studies from six countries to identify several factors that affect transaction costs in construction contracts. The seventh submission is by Nkiruka Chidia Maduekwe. This contribution focuses on the protection of patient's data in the healthcare system in Africa. The article examines existing data protection legal frameworks in Africa to ascertain whether they provide effective remedy mechanisms patients can access should a breach occur.

The eight submissions is by Marie-Louise Fehun Aren who analyses how indirect digital economy taxation can used as a strategy to enhance

revenue mobilisation in Africa in Post-COVID-19 era. The contribution undertakes review of some economic and fiscal policies and laws to ensure a faster recovery from the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The ninth submission is a joint article by Onibokun and Sodipo on the opportunities and challenges of third party funding (TPF) of commercial arbitration in Nigeria. They discuss how TPF could assist in widening access to justice in accordance with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16. The tenth submission is by Mary Olawuyi who expertly unpacks the opportunities and barriers to the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) in Nigeria, and how business enterprises can align their environmental risk management programs in line with the UNGPs. The eleventh submission is by Mohammad Danish and Rima J. Isaifan and they analyse the various strategies or plans to enhance climate action in the Arab countries in the Middle East Region. This contribution focuses on the effects of climate change in the Middle East (ME) region and the strategies suggested to combat its impacts.

With infinite gratitude to our Editorial Board, Editorial Committee and the President and Founder of Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti – Aare Afe Babalola SAN, OFR, LLD – for their invaluable and continuing support, I wish all our readers a rewarding study and application of the scholarly work presented in this Issue.

Truly yours,

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