



Sustainability
Table SERIES 2025



AVANT GARDE

THEME

SUSTAINABILITY in ACTION:

Scaling Impact For a Thriving
Future to achieve The SDGs

Launch of STS 2024 Monograph:

Insights on Navigating Challenges and Leveraging
Opportunities to advance Sustainable Growth



Thursday, 23rd
October 2025



Lagos Oriental Hotel,
Victoria Island, Lagos



10am

Register via:

<http://bit.ly/4eUpFof>



avantgarde19



avantgardeltd_19

AGENDA OVERVIEW

The Sustainability Table Discourse Series (STS) is a platform for thought leadership, advocacy, insights, innovation, and action in sustainability. Now in its ninth year, STS continues to convene policy leaders, corporate executives, sustainability experts, entrepreneurs, and impact-driven organizations to tackle the world's most pressing environmental, economic, social, and governance challenges.

As we approach COP30, and with just five years left to meet the 2030 SDG targets, STS 2025 is shifting focus from dialogue to tangible outcomes. This year's edition, themed "**Sustainability in Action: Scaling Impact for a Thriving Future to Achieve the SDGs**", will explore how we can leverage innovation, finance, and policy to accelerate actionable sustainability initiatives across sectors.

STS 2025 will address key questions critical to this global moment:

- 1 How can we mobilize domestic capital, accelerate the adoption of policy and technology to scale local solutions for climate resilience and adaptation? What have we achieved in scaling climate adaptation? How can we accelerate the adoption of policy, technology, and local solutions to protect vulnerable communities?
- 2 How can carbon capture, utilization, and storage (CCUS) evolve as a core strategy for achieving net-zero emissions?
- 3 How do we build cities and infrastructure that are not only climate-resilient but also adaptable to future environmental stresses?
- 4 What role does blended finance play in mobilizing resources for large-scale sustainability initiatives, especially in Africa and other emerging economies?
- 5 How can ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) principles drive business resilience and long-term value creation beyond risk management?

STS 2025 will provide insights, case studies, and policy recommendations to move us from where we are today toward the ambitious goals set for COP30 and the 2030 SDG targets. The event aims to catalyze collective action by engaging global leaders and innovators in high-impact discussions that push the boundaries of what is possible for a sustainable future.

KEY FOCUS AREAS AT STS 2025

STS 2025 will center around the following critical focus areas to drive actionable solutions toward achieving the **2030 SDG targets**:



Climate Resilience and Adaptation: Scaling local and global climate adaptation strategies through policy, innovation, and technology to safeguard vulnerable communities.



Carbon Capture, Storage, and Utilization (CCUS): Advancing technologies and strategies to achieve net-zero emissions, exploring the future of carbon management.



Sustainable Infrastructure and Cities: Building resilient, climate-smart cities and infrastructure capable of withstanding the impacts of climate change.



Blended Finance for Sustainability: Mobilizing public-private partnerships to unlock financing for large-scale sustainability projects, especially in emerging markets.



ESG as a Business Driver: Positioning Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) practices as a core strategy for long-term business resilience, growth, and competitive advantage.

These areas will guide high-level discussions and practical solutions aimed at accelerating progress towards global sustainability goals.



NINE YEARS OF IMPACT

THE GREEN TABLE - OPPORTUNITIES IN A GREEN ECONOMY

- Recalibration of the Economy from resource based to knowledge based

STS
2016

GREEN ECONOMY: PANACEA FOR THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- Climate change and Environmental justice
- Eco-Innovation in a Green economy
- Ethical and strategic leadership in a Green economy

STS
2018

ACHIEVING ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH LOW CARBON TRAJECTORY IN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- Food Security and Climate change
- Climate Financing
- Gender Equality

STS
2019

STS
2020

BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE:

Leveraging Broadband technology to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH IN A CIRCULAR AND DIGITAL ECONOMY

- Sustainable Job Creation
- Sustainability in Corporate Leadership
- Climate Adaptation, Resilience & Mitigation.

STS
2021

ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) IN THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (4IR): OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH IN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).
- Effective Electrical Electronic Waste Management.
- Flooding, Climate change and Environmental justice

STS
2022

STS
2023

SUSTAINABILITY TO PROSPERITY: MOBILISING FINANCE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

- The significance of expanding Green Finance in times of a global crisis.
- Mobilizing Finance for SDGs.
- Decarbonization Strategies.

STS
2024

NAVIGATING CHALLENGES, LEVERAGING OPPORTUNITIES IN A REFORMING ECONOMY TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS)

- Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Economic Reforms
- Circular Economy powered by Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) technologies.
- Effective Management of E-Waste and Resources
- The Orange Economy as a Driver of Sustainability
- Youth and Gender Inclusion in Sustainability

STS
2025

SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION: SCALING IMPACT FOR A THRIVING FUTURE TO ACHIEVE THE SDGS

- **Innovating for Climate Resilience:** Policies, Technologies, and Local Solutions
- **Beyond Net Zero:** The Future of Carbon Capture, Storage, and Utilization
- **Sustainable Infrastructure:** Building Climate-Resilient Cities and Communities
- **Blended Finance for Sustainability:** Public-Private Partnerships for Impact
- **The Business Case for Sustainability:** ESG as a Driver of Competitive Advantage

STRATEGIC FOCUS

The strategic focus of **STS 2025** is to bridge the gap between discussion and impactful action by providing a platform for collaboration among global leaders, innovators, and stakeholders across sectors. With only five years left to achieve the **2030 SDGs** and the **COP30** summit on the horizon, STS 2025 is positioned as a pivotal event to catalyze the necessary shift towards scalable sustainability solutions.

Key strategic goals include:



Accelerating Policy and Technological Innovation: Identifying and promoting policies and technologies that enable large-scale climate adaptation, resilient infrastructure, and circular economy solutions, with an emphasis on local contexts and global cooperation.



Financing Sustainability at Scale: Unlocking new avenues for financing through blended public-private partnerships, ensuring that climate-smart projects, especially in emerging markets, have the capital needed to thrive.



Driving the Net-Zero Transition: Mobilizing investment in carbon management technologies such as CCUS, while financing climate resilience through integrated economic and urban planning



Empowering Business Transformation through ESG: Helping businesses integrate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into their core strategies to drive competitive advantage, enhance resilience, and foster long-term value creation.

STS 2025 is committed to shaping a sustainable future by aligning innovation, finance, and policy to create impactful, measurable results. The discussions and outcomes from this edition will play a critical role in setting the stage for COP30 and the years leading up to the **2030 SDG targets**, ensuring that the global community is not just prepared but equipped to take decisive, collective action.

POLICY ISSUES TO ADDRESS

STS 2025 will address the following critical policy issues that are pivotal to advancing sustainability and achieving the **2030 SDGs goals**:



Climate Adaptation and Resilience Policies: Financing and scaling policies that ensure vulnerable communities and businesses are prepared for the impacts of climate change, with a focus on local, region-specific solutions and cross-sector collaboration.



Carbon Pricing and Net-Zero Legislation: Advancing the development of policies that incentivize carbon reduction efforts and support carbon capture, storage, and utilization (CCUS) technologies to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.



Sustainable Infrastructure and Urban Planning: Promoting policies that encourage the development of climate-resilient infrastructure and cities, integrating climate-smart design into urban development to withstand future climate shocks.



Financing for Sustainability and Blended Finance Mechanisms: Shaping policy frameworks that enable blended finance models, creating investment incentives for public-private partnerships, and ensuring that capital flows into sustainable projects, especially in emerging economies.



ESG Standards and Business Regulation: Establishing clear and actionable regulations for businesses to integrate Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles into their strategies, ensuring that sustainability is a driver of growth, resilience, and competitiveness.



Circular Economy and Waste Management: Formulating policies that promote circular economy principles, encouraging waste reduction, resource efficiency, and the reuse of materials, while addressing the challenges of waste management in a rapidly urbanizing world.

These policy issues will be central to the discussions, aiming to create the right regulatory and governance frameworks to accelerate global sustainability efforts.

EVENT SCHEDULE

Arrival & Registration

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Welcome & Opening Remarks

Host: Gloria Babarinde

10:30 AM – 10:40 AM



Convener’s Address and Overview of STS 2025

Ms Labake Ajboye-Richard

10:40 AM – 10:50 AM



Sponsor’s Remarks

IHS (Nigeria) Limited

10:50 AM – 11:00 AM

ADD LOGO

Goodwill Messages

11:00 AM - 11:30 AM



**H.E Governor Babajide
Olusola Sanwo-Olu**
Governor Lagos State



Dr. Olasupo Olusi
Managing Director
/CEO of the Bank of
Industry (BOI)



Ms. Kofo Adeleke
Board Trustee- Legacy, the
Historical and Environmental
Interest Group of Nigeria

Keynote Address:

**Sustainability in Action: Scaling
Impact for a Thriving Future to
Achieve the SDG’s**

10:40 AM – 10:50 AM



Ms Rachel Moré-Oshodi
Chief Executive Officer, ARM-Harith
Infrastructure Investments

Tea and Coffee || Voices of STS

12:00 PM - 12:30 PM

High-Level Diplomatic Roundtable:

Sprint to 2030: Lessons, Gaps, and Opportunities

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM

Moderator



H.E Michel Deelen

Consul General of the Kingdom
of the Netherlands in Lagos



Ms. Jette Bjerrum

Consul General of Denmark
in Lagos



**H.E Carlos José Areias
Moreno Garcete**

Ambassador of Brazil to Nigeria



Mrs Omowunmi Sanni

Partner at Duale,
Ovia & Alex-Adedipe

Q and A

1:00 PM - 1:30 PM

Sponsors Highlight/ STS over the years

1:30 PM - 1:40 PM

Launch of the Monograph

1:40 PM - 1:50 PM

Panel Discussion:

The Business of Resilience: Mobilising Capital for Africa's Climate Innovation

12:30 PM – 1:00 PM

Moderator



Mr. Tokunbo Philip Wahab

Lagos State Commissioner
for the Environment and
Water Resources



Ms. Ayaan Adam

Senior Director, Africa
Finance Corporation (AFC)
& CEO Africa Finance
Corporation (AFC) Capital Partners.



Mr. Olamide Fagbuji

Senior Special Assistant to
the President on Climate
Technology and Operations



**Mr Oluwatoyin
Emmanuel-Olubake**

Chief Investment Officer,
Catalyst Fund



Gloria Babarinde

Q&A Session

2:20 PM- 2:30 PM

Closing Remarks & Call to Action

Ms Labake Ajboye-Richard

2:30 PM – 2:40 PM






ABOUT AVANT-GARDE SUSTAINABILITY FOUNDATION

Avant-Garde Sustainability Foundation advocates for sustainable development and environmental stewardship in Nigeria and beyond. As the convener of the Sustainability Table Discourse Series (STS), the foundation provides a vital platform for learning, collaboration, and innovation aimed at achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With a rich legacy spanning eight years, Avant-Garde Sustainability Foundation has brought together a diverse array of stakeholders, including policymakers, entrepreneurs, sustainable development experts, leading corporate organizations, and subject matter experts.

Through the STS, these stakeholders engage in meaningful discussions and share impactful ideas and initiatives focused on addressing pressing global challenges. The foundation's commitment to fostering dialogue and action around environmental sustainability, climate change, and the transition to a green economy is evident in its continuous efforts to facilitate knowledge exchange and drive actionable solutions. Avant-Garde Sustainability Foundation remains at the forefront of driving positive change and shaping a more sustainable future for generations to come.



OUR PARTNER



40,075

towers across
11 countries

2,988

employees
across the globe

788m

people served across
3 regions

\$2,126m

revenue

\$7m

sustainability spend

22

transactions completed
since 2001

\$29m

invested in our local
communities since 2017

The four pillars of our sustainability strategy



Ethics and governance

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

5



8



16



Environment and climate change

Working to reduce the environmental 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.

7



8



13



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.

4



8



9



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.

3



5



10



THE SUSTAINABILITY TABLE MONOGRAPH

MOBILISING FINANCE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs): THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EXPANDING GREEN FINANCE IN TIMES OF A GLOBAL CRISIS.

Understanding the interplay between sustainable finance and climate action is crucial in driving global prosperity. The mobilization of green finance amidst global challenges emphasizes the need for innovative strategies. This shift towards sustainable financial practices not only addresses environmental concerns but also paves the way for economic growth and resilience.

Exploring avenues to unlock sustainable prosperity requires a multifaceted approach. Leveraging diverse financing tools such as blended finance, bonds, and debt facilities can facilitate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa. These strategies not only attract capital but also reduce the cost of financing for impactful projects.

Moreover, integrating sustainability into financial institutions' operations, including banks and fintech organizations, plays a pivotal role in driving climate finance. Aligning with Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) principles and incorporating green propositions into financial strategies fosters a more sustainable and resilient economy.

As we navigate through global crises, the significance of expanding green finance becomes more pronounced. It is through strategic collaborations, innovative financing mechanisms, and a collective commitment to sustainability that we can unlock the pathway to sustainable prosperity in Africa and beyond.



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

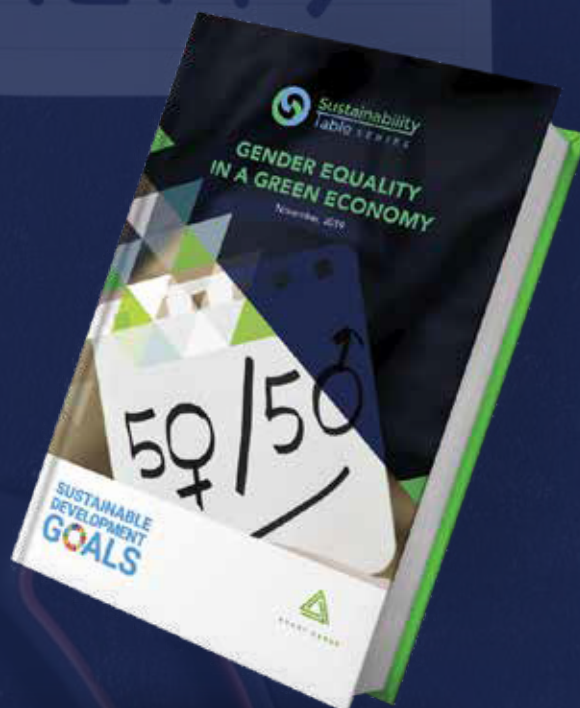
The connection between gender equality and climate change may be hard to see upon a cursory glance. Women dictate many things about households including what kind of waste is produced and how that waste is disposed of.

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>).

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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.avantgardeitd.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.avantgardeitd.org/product/the-sts-monograph-series-2020>)



PAST EVENTS



MOBILIZING FINANCE FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs): THE SIGNIFICANCE OF EXPANDING GREEN FINANCE IN TIMES OF A GLOBAL CRISIS

The 2023 Sustainability Table Discourse Series (STS), themed "Mobilizing Finance for the Sustainable Development Goals," convened leaders to discuss the essential role of finance in advancing the UN SDGs amid global economic and environmental challenges. The event spotlighted sustainable finance as a driver for economic growth and climate action, underscoring the need to build a green finance ecosystem that unlocks new economic opportunities, job creation, and innovations in climate adaptation. The discussions aligned with the Paris Agreement and the SDGs, highlighting a potential \$12 trillion economic opportunity and stressing sustainable growth as both environmentally responsible and economically beneficial.

The keynote address on "From Sustainability to Prosperity: Mobilizing Finance for the SDGs" addressed the \$2.5 trillion annual funding gap in developing countries, exploring solutions such as improved tax systems, stronger partnerships, and expanded Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in renewable energy and sustainable agriculture. Discussions also encouraged private sector investments in green and social impact bonds to drive SDG progress.

The panel session titled "Leveraging Financing Options to Accelerate SDG Progress" explored strategies like patient capital, local currency funding, and ESG-aligned finance from banks and insurers. Blended finance and Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) were recognized for de-risking projects, making them more appealing to investors, while green bonds and Nigeria's capital markets were highlighted as vehicles for SDG-aligned investments.

The series concluded with a call to leverage pension funds, promote federal policies for climate action, and create frameworks for private investment. By embracing innovative financial solutions and fostering a culture of sustainable development, STS 2023 laid the groundwork for Nigeria's transition



ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) IN THE FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (4IR): OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH IN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The 2022 Sustainability Table Discourse Series (STS) centered on "Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR): Opportunities for Growth in a Circular Economy," focusing on the transformative role of technology and digital infrastructure in driving sustainable development and circular economy principles. The event highlighted the immense potential of broadband and digital technology to bridge the digital divide and accelerate economic growth across Nigeria, Africa, and globally.

Key discussions stressed the need for digital skills development, robust infrastructure, and regulatory support to enable broader participation in the digital economy. Stakeholders emphasized initiatives for digital literacy, particularly through partnerships between governments, educational institutions, and the private sector, aiming to equip individuals with skills to thrive in the 4IR landscape.



Panel discussions explored the importance of expanding broadband coverage, especially in underserved regions, with investment in infrastructure such as fiber optics, mobile broadband, and satellite connectivity. Public-private partnerships were seen as essential to drive these initiatives, foster innovation, and ensure sustainable digital infrastructure. Participants also underscored the need for clear regulatory frameworks to support broadband technology's growth, covering areas like spectrum management, competition, and consumer protection.

Closing thoughts from the discourse emphasized broadband technology as a powerful enabler for economic inclusion, access to essential services, and entrepreneurial innovation. Discussions concluded that adopting supportive finance and regulatory policies, such as digital economy reforms, critical infrastructure protections, and rural connectivity concessions, can unlock the full potential of broadband for sustainable growth.

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

The 2021 Sustainability Table Discourse Series (STS) was themed "New Pathways to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in a Circular Economy," focusing on strategies for sustainable job creation and waste management within a circular economy framework. This year's discussions emphasized the importance of aligning Nigeria's economic growth with sustainability practices that foster environmental stewardship, resource efficiency, and long-term prosperity. The event featured two central panel discussions, each exploring a critical aspect of the circular economy's role in sustainable development.

The first panel, "Sustainable Job Creation for Economic Prosperity in a Circular Economy," examined how circular economy practices can drive economic growth through job creation. Panelists discussed the importance of skill development, policy incentives, and private-sector involvement to create stable and meaningful employment opportunities that align with sustainability goals.

The second panel, "Effective Waste Management and Pollution Control in a Circular Economy," tackled the pressing need for responsible waste management solutions. The discussion emphasized the role of government regulations, private-sector partnerships, and community engagement in transforming waste management into an economic asset rather than an environmental burden.

Throughout the event, panelists drew from their diverse backgrounds, sharing practical insights and stressing the urgency of adopting circular economy principles to address Nigeria's environmental and economic challenges. The thought-provoking discourse resonated with attendees, who expressed appreciation for the depth and relevance of the discussions.



BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE TO ACHIEVE THE SDGs: Leveraging Technology to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)



The 2020 Sustainability Table Discourse Series, themed “Bridging the Digital Divide: Leveraging Technology and Optimal Broadband Penetration to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs),” convened policymakers, corporate leaders, and development experts to explore how digital technology can propel Nigeria's socioeconomic growth and aid in meeting the UN's 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Emphasizing technology's role in advancing the SDGs, the event highlighted broadband penetration as vital for unlocking economic opportunities, especially in sectors like agriculture, healthcare, and education. With Nigeria's broadband penetration at 43.3% in 2020, the digital divide remains a major barrier to sustainable growth. Discussions centered on public-private partnerships to expand broadband access, optimize existing infrastructure, and align with Nigeria's National Broadband Plan (2020-2025).

The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the urgency of closing digital gaps, particularly for continuity in education and healthcare. The discourse called for proactive private-sector engagement in infrastructure investment, digital literacy, and skill-building to foster a digitally inclusive society.

A key outcome was the recommendation to reduce provider costs and designate telecommunications as critical national infrastructure, aiming for 70% broadband penetration by 2025. This move, coupled with reskilling programs to adapt to automation's impact on jobs, was seen as essential for workforce readiness in a digital future.

The series concluded with actionable steps to ensure universal broadband access, promote digital literacy, and implement policy reforms to position broadband as a national asset. By enhancing digital inclusion and aligning strategies with SDG goals, Nigeria can harness the digital economy for sustainable growth, supporting progress across all 17 SDGs.



THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: ACHIEVING ECONOMIC GROWTH WITH A LOW CARBON TRAJECTORY IN A CIRCULAR ECONOMY.

The 2019 Sustainability Table Discourse Series (STS) focused on “The Future of Sustainable Development in Nigeria: Achieving Economic Growth with a Low Carbon Trajectory in a Circular Economy.” The event featured several thought-provoking discussions, addressing key issues related to sustainability, climate change, and economic growth in Nigeria.

One of the central discussions was the Food Security and Climate Change panel, which explored the impact of climate change on food security in Nigeria. Panelists shared strategies to mitigate the environmental and agricultural challenges posed by climate change, emphasizing the need for sustainable practices in farming and food systems to safeguard Nigeria’s food supply in a changing climate.

Another key panel, Climate Financing, centered on the financing opportunities available for sustainable projects. It explored various financing models and highlighted the potential for renewable energy financing, energy storage solutions, and power optimization as viable solutions to energy poverty, particularly for low-income communities in Nigeria.

The Gender Equality panel addressed the intersection of gender equality and sustainability. Discussions focused on the importance of empowering women in sustainable development, emphasizing that gender-inclusive approaches are essential for mitigating the impacts of climate change and achieving a green economy.

The event also featured a Fireside Chat on Sustainability & Fashion, titled Green is the New Black. This conversation explored the role of the fashion industry in environmental sustainability, discussing the need for ethical production practices, sustainable consumption patterns, and behavior changes in individual attitudes toward fashion.

Overall, STS 2019 provided a comprehensive platform for discussing the intersection of sustainable development, climate action, and economic growth.



THE FUTURE OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA: OPPORTUNITIES FOR GROWTH IN A GREEN ECONOMY.

The 2018 Sustainability Table Discourse Series (STS) focused on The Future of Sustainable Development in Nigeria: Opportunities for Growth in a Green Economy. The event highlighted key strategies for driving economic growth through sustainability, with a particular emphasis on waste management and the green economy.

One of the central discussions was on Effective Waste Management, where panelists explored how waste management could be leveraged as a tool for boosting Nigeria's Gross Domestic Product (GDP). The conversation centered on turning waste into wealth, with waste management seen as a key enabler for a green economy, fostering both economic and environmental benefits.

The panel on Green Economy in Nigeria delved into how adopting a green economy could be a panacea for Nigeria's future sustainability. Discussions the importance of educating the public and stakeholders at different levels about the long-term benefits of a green economy and its role in achieving sustainable development.



The keynote address, delivered by Professor Aliyu Jauro, the Director General of NESREA, focused on the Green Economy as a strategic tool for Nigeria's sustainable development, emphasizing the role of education and awareness in driving green initiatives across the country.

Finally, the panel on Corporate Governance, Ethical & Strategic Leadership addressed the importance of leadership in ensuring social, economic, and environmental sustainability. It highlighted the role of ethical and strategic leadership in guiding organizations toward sustainable practices, with an emphasis on corporate governance as a key factor in achieving long-term sustainability goals.

Overall, STS 2018 provided a platform for discussing the opportunities and challenges of integrating sustainability into Nigeria's growth strategy, with a strong focus on waste management, the green economy, and leadership in driving ethical and sustainable development.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



AVANT GARDE



Sustainability
Table SERIES

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Avant-Garde Sustainability Foundation

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