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VIOLENCE AND DISPLACEMENT IN AFRICA**

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The Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy is a SCOPUS-indexed interdisciplinary journal published by the Institute for Oil, Gas, Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development, Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti, Nigeria. It is published in January, 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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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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EDITORIAL COMMENTS

Prof. Victor Ojakorotu
Guest Editor

I am pleased to present to you this Special Issue of the Journal of Sustainable Development Law and Policy themed '*Sustainable Development in the throes of Violence and Displacement in Africa.*' This special issue features twenty-five interdisciplinary articles on sustainable development, policy, and law, highlighting the latest trends in African discourse. The term 'Sustainable Development' has become part of Africa's developmental language, reflecting efforts by both formal and informal sectors to realize Africa's destiny—transforming from poverty and instability to prosperity and notable progress. The articles herein agree that Africa's sustainable development needs proactive governance structures, stable and tech-savvy institutions, and development-oriented policies. Although the topics differ in discipline and geography, they are unified in purpose and in their responses to current challenges in Africa: this is a needed issue capable of stimulating development in various sectors of African nations.

The first article reflected on governing external shocks from a continental perspective, and it was complemented by other works that evaluated governance policies, accountability, and the inclusiveness of locally driven approaches in sectors that ensure sustainable development in Africa. Other authors considered technology's role in sustaining Africa's drive, including digital inclusion, changing business models, neuromarketing, packaging, and consumer behavior. The impact of restrictive *locus standi* requirements on the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 16, which seeks to promote access to justice, is expertly unpacked in the final article. Drawing lessons from the comparative jurisdictions, the article proposes constitutional, legislative and judicial reforms aimed at expanding public-interest standing in Nigeria while maintaining appropriate safeguards against abuse of judicial processes. These topics and themes showcase current trends in Africa's development, covering vulnerable populations that popular media and journals often miss.

We hope that this special issue stimulates further interdisciplinary dialogue and policy engagement on the future of sustainable development in Africa. The insights presented herein provide valuable guidance for scholars, development practitioners, governments, and civil society organizations committed to building peaceful, inclusive, and resilient societies. Ultimately, the volume affirms that achieving sustainable development in Africa requires integrated approaches that address violence, displacement, inequality, and environmental change while empowering communities to shape their own developmental futures.

I appreciate the Editor-in-Chief, Editorial Board, Editorial Committee and the President and Founder of Afe Babalola University, Ado Ekiti – **Aare Afe Babalola SAN, OFR, LLD** – for the opportunity to be the editor of this special issue and their invaluable and continuing support.

I wish all our readers an insightful and rewarding time as they go through the scholarly contributions of the authors in this issue.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Victor Ojakorotu

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