



CALL FOR PAPERS



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*Institute of African & Diaspora studies in collaboration with
Glotan Research Services presents its annual conference*

International Conference

Theme: Sustainable Futures: Technology, Policy, and
Culture in the Global South

Venue: University of Lagos, Lagos, Nigeria

Date: Wednesday-Sunday, December 2-6, 2026

Introduction

The defining challenge of the 21st century is not merely the existence of climate change, environmental degradation, or stark inequality, but the complex entanglement of these crises. This reality is felt most acutely across the Global South, a region bearing the disproportionate brunt of climate impacts while navigating the urgent pressures of development, urbanization, and technological transformation. The quest for a sustainable future here cannot be a linear path; it demands a radical and integrative approach. "Sustainable Futures: Bridging Technology, Policy, and Culture in the Global South" emerges from the conviction that siloed solutions are destined to fail. True resilience and progress will be forged at the critical intersection of technological innovation, visionary policy, and deep-rooted cultural wisdom.

Traditionally, the discourse has been fragmented. Technocentric models, often imported without adaptation, overlook local contexts and governance capacities. Policy frameworks, drafted in isolation, can remain unimplemented without the enabling force of appropriate technology or community buy-in. Meanwhile, invaluable indigenous knowledge and cultural practices regarding land, water, and conservation are frequently sidelined as archaic, rather than seen as essential pillars of systemic sustainability. This disconnect is a luxury the world can no longer afford. The Global South, with its dynamism, demographic youth, and urgent needs, presents a unique laboratory not for imitation, but for the co-creation of new, integrated models of development.

This exploration is organized around three indispensable, interwoven pillars. Technology serves as a catalyst, from decentralized renewable energy grids and precision agriculture to digital platforms for disaster resilience and environmental monitoring. Yet, innovation must be contextual leveraging mobile penetration to leapfrog legacy systems, while managing new challenges like e-waste. Policy provides the necessary scaffolding, directing innovation toward the public good through frameworks for green finance, inclusive urbanization, and equitable energy access. Policy shapes markets, protects rights, and builds the infrastructure for a circular economy. Finally, Culture is the foundational bedrock. It encompasses the community practices, indigenous knowledge systems, and cultural values that determine a solution's adoption and longevity. Sustainable solutions that ignore local identity, heritage, and social structures are unsustainable by definition.

This journey is about bridging: connecting the lab to the legislature, the startup to the village elder, the global climate goal to the local livelihood. By engaging in dialogue with one another, we aim to chart a course for a future that is not only sustainable in environmental terms but also equitable, resilient, and rooted in the rich cultural tapestry of the Global South. This is the essential, integrated work of our time. Hence, the urgent need to develop initiatives and solutions that will enhance sustainable futures in global south by convening a gathering of academics, researchers, civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations, governments, international organisations, and other stakeholders to contribute to the discourse through, but not limited to, the following subthemes:

Sub-themes

1. Renewable energy adoption in emerging economies
2. Digital innovation for climate resilience
3. Policy frameworks for sustainable urbanization
4. Cultural perspectives on environmental conservation
5. Tech-enabled sustainable agriculture
6. Inclusive governance for sustainable development
7. Impact of climate change on livelihoods
8. Sustainable water management practices
9. Green finance and investment strategies
10. Role of indigenous knowledge in sustainability
11. Smart cities and sustainable infrastructure
12. E-waste management and circular economy
13. Climate-smart healthcare systems
14. Digital platforms for environmental advocacy
15. Sustainable transportation systems
16. Policy innovations for energy access
17. Community-led sustainability initiatives
18. Impact of digitalization on environmental sustainability
19. Sustainable tourism and cultural heritage
20. Education and skills for sustainable development
21. Climate change and human rights
22. Technology transfer and innovation ecosystems
23. Urban resilience and disaster risk reduction
24. Inclusive and sustainable industrialization
25. Linguistic Equity in the Digital Green Transition
26. Religious Institutions as Hubs for Sustainability

Submission Guidelines:

Contributions may take the form of an abstract of no more than 250 words with a short bio of 100 words to glotanresearchservices@gmail.com, stating the appropriate subtheme that best suits their submission. Upon acceptance of abstracts, presenters are expected to send 10-page slides and a well-researched manuscript of between 6,000 and 8,000 words.

Post-Conference Opportunity

Authors whose papers were presented at the conference opportunity to submit their corrected papers for peer review and publishing in any of the four journals listed below, or in an edited book to be authored by Prof. Victor Ojatorotu, Dr. Bamidele Olajide, and Dr. Samuel Agunyai

- **Journal of Contemporary Society And Education (JCSE)**
- **AYIKA: Journal of Environment and Politics in Africa**
- **Africa and Global Issues Quarterly**
- **African Renaissance**
- **Journal of South African Democratic Teachers Union**

Important Dates

Submission of abstract deadline: 30 June 2026
Announcement of the decision on abstracts: 15 July 2026
Full paper submission: 30 September 2026
Registration fees: USD 450
Online participation or students: USD 250
Conference Date: 2-6 December 2026

CONFERENCE CONVENERS

Prof Mudau T. J. Head, Institute of Gender & Youth Studies, University of Venda, South Africa:
Prof Kayode Eesuola, Institute of African & Diaspora Studies, University of Lagos, Nigeria
Prof Innocent Simphiwe Nojiyeza, Durban University of Technology, South Africa
Prof Phemelo Marumo, North West University, Mafikeng, South Africa
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