PRIVATE SECTOR
ESG Forum
...for people and planet

ENERGY SECURITY AND DECARBONISATION

Bridging the gap for a sustainable future

MASTERCLASS PROGRAM

28 OCT. 2025 | 12PM

ZOOM(VIRTUAL)

PHYSICAL EVENT

29 OCT. 2025 | 10AM

Civic Centre, Victoria Island, Lagos

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ABOUT THE ESG FORUM

The Private Sector ESG Forum is a groundbreaking platform designed to drive transformative change across Africa by fostering sustainable, responsible business practices within the private sector. As the world faces unprecedented environmental and societal challenges, businesses are increasingly being called upon to lead the charge in creating solutions that address these pressing issues. The ESG Forum offers a unique opportunity for leaders, innovators, and decision[1]maker s to come together and collaborate on actionable strategies that contribute to a low-carbon, inclusive, and prosperous future for Africa.

Now in its third edition, the Pan-African Private Sector ESG Forum has grown from a pioneering idea into one of Africa's most influential platforms for sustainability dialogue and private sector leadership. The journey began in 2023 with the theme "Is the Private Sector Accountable? A Case for Sustainable Practice" a bold call for transparency and responsibility in business operations. In 2024, the Forum advanced the conversation with "The Carbon Market: Driving Investment for a Sustainable Africa," spotlighting the role of finance and innovation in achieving a low-carbon future.

This year, under the theme "Energy Security and Decarbonisation: Bridging the Gap for a Sustainable Future," the Forum continues to build on that momentum. What began as a space to introduce the fundamentals of Environmental, Social, and Governance principles to corporate Africa has evolved into one that ambition with action, connecting industry leaders, policymakers, and innovators committed to shaping a sustainable future.

At its core, the Private Sector ESG Forum champions the belief that sustainable development is not a choice, but a responsibility. Private sector companies have an unmatched ability to influence economies, shape markets , and drive innovation. However, accountability for sustainability, whether in environmental impact, social equity, or ethical governance, remains a key area of focus. This forum aims to spark important discussions on how businesses can take ownership of their ESG performance, ensuring that growth is achieved without compromising the health of our planet or the well-being of future generations.

Through a dynamic mix of keynote speeches, panel discussions, case studies, and networking sessions, the ESG Forum provides an environment where stakeholders can exchange ideas, learn from one another, and inspire meaningful change. Participants will engage with thought leaders and pioneers in the sustainability space, who will share best practices and insights into how ESG principles can be integrated into every facet of business operations.

The goal of the Private Sector ESG Forum is to elevate the private sector's role as a driving force in Africa's sustainable development.

2025 ESG FORUM

Energy Security & Decarbonization: Bridging the Gap for a Sustainable Future in Africa

Introduction

Africa stands at a pivotal crossroads in its journey toward sustainable development. With a rapidly growing population and increasing energy demands, the continent faces the dual challenge of ensuring reliable energy access while committing to global decarbonization efforts. A sustainable future for Africa depends on innovative strategies that bridge the gap between energy security and environmental responsibility.

Access to affordable, reliable, and modern energy is fundamental for economic growth and social well-being. Currently, more than 600 million Africans lack electricity, and many depend on traditional biomass for cooking and heating. Improving energy security involves expanding infrastructure, diversifying energy sources, and fostering regional cooperation to ensure stable supply and resilience against external shocks.

Additionally, Africa is vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, from droughts to floods, which threaten lives and livelihoods. Reducing carbon emissions in energy production and consumption is essential for mitigating these risks. While African countries contribute a relatively small share of global emissions, transitioning to cleaner energy sources can reduce environmental damage, improve public health, and open new economic opportunities.

Bridging the Gap

The route to a sustainable future involves integrating energy security with decarbonization through:

- **Renewable Energy Expansion:** Harnessing Africa's vast solar, wind, hydro, and geothermal resources can reduce dependence on fossil fuels and foster energy independence.
- **Technology & Innovation**: Investments in grid modernization, energy storage, and smart distribution systems to facilitate the efficient use of renewables.
- **Policy & Financing:** Supportive policies, public-private partnerships, and increased financing are needed to scale sustainable energy solutions and promote social equity.
- **Capacity Building:** Education and training initiatives will prepare the workforce for green jobs and empower communities to participate in the transition.

WELCOME NOTE

On behalf of the Organising Committee, it is my profound honour to welcome you to the **Private Sector ESG Forum 2025.** This year's Forum represents yet another defining moment in our shared commitment to driving sustainable development across Africa.

Under the theme, ***"Energy Security and Decarbonisation: Bridging the Gap for a Sustainable Future,"*** we gather with a shared purpose, to find solutions to how Africa can balance the urgent need for reliable, affordable energy with the global call to reduce carbon emissions.

Building on the success of last year's Forum, which focused on the carbon market as a tool for sustainable investment, this year's discussions take a broader and deeper approach. We now focus on the **dual challenge** that Africa's sustainability faces, ensuring energy access for growth and industrialization while strengthening the transition to cleaner, low-carbon systems. Our continent's growing energy demand is both a challenge and an opportunity — a chance to reimagine how we power our economies while protecting our planet. The Forum today provides a platform for exploring practical strategies, innovations, and partnerships that can help bridge the gap between energy security and decarbonisation.

The private sector's role in this transformation cannot be overstated. Businesses, investors, and industry leaders have the capacity to drive scalable change through cleaner technologies, responsible operations, and forward-thinking investments that secure long-term resilience. By working together, we can create pathways where sustainability and profitability not only coexist but reinforce each other.

Today's sessions will unpack these themes through **keynotes and panel discussions** featuring thought leaders who are shaping Africa's energy and climate agenda. Their insights will help us understand how collaboration, policy alignment, and innovation can accelerate progress toward a sustainable and inclusive energy future.

As we begin this day of learning and collaboration, I encourage every participant to engage with curiosity and purpose. It is through open dialogue and shared commitment that we can unlock meaningful progress. Thank you for being part of this journey.

Yarub Al-Bahrani
Managing Director,
BAT West &
Central Africa

AGENDA

Date	**29th October 2025**	
FORUM COMPERE		
SCHEDULES	**ACTIVITIES**	**SPEAKERS**
9:00am – 10:00am	Registration and Networking	**All**
10:00am – 10:05am	National Anthem	**All**
10:05am – 10:10am	Welcome Address - Acknowledgement of partners, panelists etc. - Brief introduction/summary of the objectives of the events	**Host**
10:10am – 10:30am	Goodwill Messages	- **Yarub Al-Bahrani -** MD BAT West & Central Africa - **Biodun Ogunleye** - Hon Commissioner, Lagos State Ministry of Energy and National Resources - **Ajayi Kadiri -** Director General, Manufacturers Association of Nigeria - **His Excellency Babajide Sanwolu -** Executive Governor, Lagos State
10:30am – 10:40am	**Keynote Address:** Africa's Dual Challenge – Energy Security & Decarbonization Pathways	**Teni Majekodunmi** DG, National Council on Climate Changes
10:40am – 10:55am	Coffee Break & Networking	**All**
10:55am – 11:45am	**Plenary 1:** Building Resilient and Sustainable Energy Value Chains – Gas as a Catalyst in Africa's Energy Mix	**- Afolabi Akinrogunde** **- Abbas Agbaje** **- Rafiat Gawat (Moderator)**
11:45am – 12:15pm	**Case Studies:** Corporate Decarbonization in Action	**Partners**
12:15pm – 1:05pm	**Plenary 2:** Financing Africa's Energy Transition – Unlocking Capital for Gas and Renewables in a Balanced Energy Future	**- Tosin Leye- Odeyemi** **- Lolade Awogbade** **- Dr Eugene Itua** **- Paul Osho (Moderator)**
1:05pm – 1:25pm	Youth as Catalysts for a Sustainable Future	**Engineer Jamiu Badmos** Founder, QHSES Leadership Academy
1:25pm – 1:30pm	YPF Presentation/Introduction	**Sylvia Tejiri Sefia**
1:30pm – 1:40pm	Key Takeaway	**Halimat Shuaibu**
1:40pm – 2:00pm	Closing Remarks & Way Forward	**Odiri Erewa-Meggison, FCIS** Chairman, ESG Forum Technical Committee
2:00pm	Lunch	**All**

THROWBACK IMAGES OF 2023 ESG FORUM

THEME:

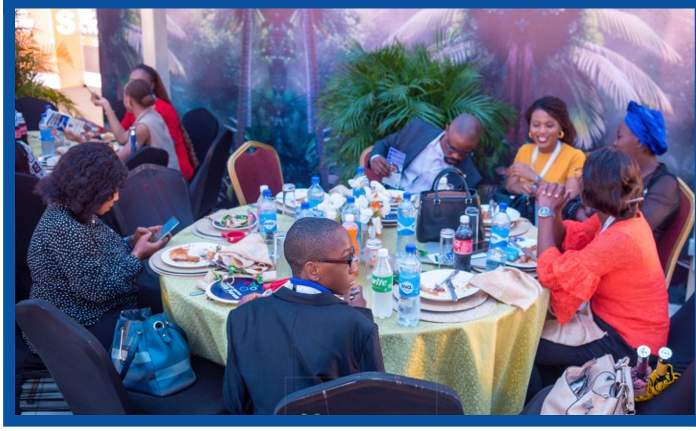
Is the Private Sector Accountable:
A case for Sustainable Practices




THROWBACK IMAGES OF 2024 ESG FORUM

THEME:

The Carbon Market:
Driving Investment for Sustainable Africa



SPEAKERS

Teni Majekodunmi

Director General, NCCC

Teni Majekodunmi is a highly skilled climate finance expert and environmental lawyer with 17 years of experience in the clean energy and climate change sector. As the Chief Executive Officer of EcoXchange Limited, a green energy consultancy, Teni has demonstrated her expertise in structuring complex transactions and utilizing various financing instruments, including green bonds and climate funds, to foster the growth of the renewable energy sector.

Engr. Jamiu Badmos

Founder,
QHSES Leadership Academy

Engr. Jamiu Badmos is a renowned QHSES speaker, sustainability executive, and enterprise risk expert with over 24 years of experience. A Fellow of ten international professional bodies, including the IIRSM (UK), he is celebrated for pioneering Nigeria's first IMS Certification in the power sector and Sub-Saharan Africa's first for a government parastatal.As Founder of the QHSES Leadership Academy, a tuition-free, ISO-certified social innovation hub, he mentors purpose-driven leaders for sustainable impact.

A multi-award winner, he has received honors such as AfriSAFE Personality of the Year (2022) and IIRSM Mentor of the Year (2023). He has also attended executive programs at Harvard, Lagos Business School, and UCT, and is pursuing doctoral research in Occupational Health, Safety, and Environmental Sustainability.

Afolabi Akinrogunde

Senior Deal Lead &
Business Manager at
Shell Energy Nigeria

Folabi is a commercial professional with almost 25 years of proven & practical experience in the renewables, investment, gas & power & stakeholder management experience.

His areas of expertise include deal delivery & governance in renewables, venture capital, investment management, program management, oil, gas and power infrastructure.

Abbas Agbaje

Managing Consultant,
Impact Crest

Abbas Agbaje is an ESG and Impact professional with over 10 years of experience supporting the integration of environmental and social (climate, gender, and impact)lens in investment advisory and operations for multimillion-dollar projects in sub-Saharan Africa.

He holds a bachelor's degree in Botany with first class from the University of Lagos, MSc Sustainable Environmental Management from the Natural Resources Institute, University of Greenwich, United Kingdom.

SPEAKERS

Sarah
Ajose-Adeogun

Managing Partner,
Teasoo Consulting Limited.

Sarah Ajose-Adeogun is a C-suite executive and ESG strategist with over 30 years of experience across corporate, public, and social impact sectors. As Managing Partner at Teasoo Consulting, she leads ESG transformation and advisory initiatives, including the 6,000-hectare Tree4Life Reforestation Project and Africa's first Africentric ESG Ranking System.

A former Social Performance Technical Authority at Shell, she has driven large-scale sustainability and change programs globally. Certified in Project and Change Management, Business Analysis, and Mediation, Sarah combines strategic insight with human-centred leadership to advance responsible growth.

Rafiat
Gawat

Head of Corporate Communications,
TGI Group

Rafiat Gawat is a seasoned corporate communications and public affairs leader with over 15 years of experience. She holds a First-Class degree from Crescent University, a Distinction from Robert Gordon University, UK, and is pursuing a Doctorate at Rome Business School.An Associate Member of NIPR and CIPR (UK), she heads Corporate Communication at TGI Group, overseeing 20 subsidiaries across 13 countries.

Rafiat has represented the Group in global forums like Harvard and Oxford and advocates strongly for sustainability, rural inclusion, and business continuity.

Eugene
Itua

CEO,
Natural Eco Capital

Dr. Eugene O. Itua is an accomplished sustainability expert with extensive experience spanning over 25 years. Eugene has Ph.D. in Environmental Management and has been demonstrating expertise and commitment to sustainable development.

He is the CEO of Natural Eco Capital (www.ecopital.com). His work has had a significant impact across various sectors of the economy, often in support of or collaboration with development partners such as the AfDB, World Bank, IFC, and UN.

Lolade
Awogbade

Assistant Vice President &
Sustainability Specialist at the
Development Bank of Nigeria

Lolade Awogbade is a seasoned sustainability professional with over 16 years of multinational experience spanning management consulting, sustainability, and corporate citizenship. She has held strategic roles at Accenture, Chams Plc, and Union Bank Plc, and currently leads Sustainability at the Development Bank of Nigeria. With deep expertise in sustainability, green, and net-zero strategy, she actively serves on several ESG committees locally and internationally.

A 2026 Yale Climate Fellow and co-author of Management and Leadership for a Successful Africa (Vol. 2), Lolade is also a respected thought leader and public speaker on global sustainability platforms.

SPEAKERS

Tosin **Leye - Odeyemi**

Head, Sustainability, Risk and Capital Management, Stanbic IBTC Holdings Plc

Tosin Leye-Odeyemi is the Head, HoldCo Risk, Capital Management and Sustainability at Stanbic IBTC Holding Plc. She is also a Non-Executive Director on the Board of Stanbic IBTC Trustees Limited.

She joined the Stanbic IBTC Group in December 2002, over the last 20 years, she has held various leadership roles in the Internal Control Unit, Compliance Unit, Investment Management Division and Finance Department.

Paul **Osho**

Sustainability Manager at United Capital Plc

As a distinguished sustainability professional with over 8 years of experience in the financial sector, I specialize in ESG, CSR, project management, and risk management. I design and implement sustainable strategies that build ethical, climate-resilient, and socially responsible businesses. My expertise covers environmental and social impact assessments, sustainable finance, and compliance with global frameworks such as GRI, TCFD, and ISSB. Passionate about driving a just transition and sustainable development, I am committed to advancing a green economy that fosters growth while reducing environmental and social impact.

HOST

Oludare **Odusanya**

General Manager, BATN Foundation

Oludare Afolabi Odusanya is the General Manager of BATN Foundation. He holds a Bachelor's degree in Plant Physiology and Crop Production and an MBA in Agribusiness from the Federal University of Agriculture, Abeokuta (FUNAAB). With a strong passion for agribusiness and youth empowerment, he has led impactful projects supporting smallholder farmers and agribusiness start-ups across Nigeria. Before joining BATN Foundation, he worked at the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture (IITA), where he managed production teams, guided young entrepreneurs in business development, and contributed to several agricultural value chains. Oludare has also represented Nigeria on notable platforms including AfDB, IFAD, and CGIAR, and served as Country Ambassador for REJEUFEA Africa, promoting youth and women participation in agribusiness.

PLENARY 1 - 10:00am - 11:30am

From Production to Consumption: Building Resilient and Sustainable Energy Value Chains

Africa's energy landscape is undergoing a transformative shift, driven by the need for sustainable and resilient energy systems. From harnessing renewable energy sources like solar and wind to improving energy storage and distribution, the continent is making strides towards a greener future.

Building resilient energy value chains involves not only technological advancements but also policy frameworks, investment in infrastructure, and community engagement.

By focusing on the entire energy value chain—from production to consumption Africa can ensure energy security, reduce carbon emissions, and foster economic growth.

PANELISTS

Sarah Ajose-Adeogun
Managing Partner,
Teasoo Consulting Limited

Afolabi Akinrogunde
Senior Deal Lead & Business Manager at
Shell Energy Nigeria

Dr Abass Agbaje
Environmental & Social Safeguards Consultant at the African Development Bank and Managing Director of Impact Crest

MODERATOR

Rafiat Gawat
Head of Corporate Communications, TGI Group

Empowering the Next Generation of Sustainability Leaders

Launched at the 2024 ESG Private Sector Forum, the Young Professionals Mentorship Forum was created to inspire, guide, and equip emerging talents with the knowledge and networks needed to drive sustainable change.

The initiative reflects our ongoing commitment to empowering young professionals, fostering innovation, and building a strong pipeline of future ESG leaders across various sectors.

Following a thorough selection process, 20 exceptional mentees were chosen from a diverse pool of applicants to participate in the 2025 Mentorship Program, which began in April 2025.

Since its launch, the program has provided mentees with:

- Direct mentorship from seasoned sustainability experts and business leaders.
- Interactive learning experiences focused on leadership, ESG integration, and innovation.
- Practical exposure through projects and discussions that connect theory to real-world impact.
- Networking opportunities with professionals and organizations advancing sustainability across West and Central Africa.

The mentorship journey continues to be a transformative experience — one that empowers young minds to become catalysts for positive change and sustainable growth.

WHAT OUR MENTEES ARE SAYING

The Young Professionals Mentorship Forum has been an invaluable experience, contributing not only to my professional growth but also to my personal development. It helped me clearly define my niche while providing the opportunity to engage and build meaningful relationships with seasoned professionals and experts in the industry. I am especially grateful to my mentor, Afiegbe Otome, whose guidance and support have been instrumental in this journey.

— **Ebeniyi Micheal Patrick**

The Initiative is good and timely. Exposing young minds to the many opportunities and possibilities in the financial sector

— **Joy Rademene Asonye**

I think it's been great so far.
I have had access to resources and my mentor is usually available to assist.
It's still an ongoing journey and it's far from the end. , I don't think 6 months has fully enabled me to maximize my learning.
I hope to keep the relationship and keep learning as much as I can.

— **Ayoola Oluwafunmilayo Agbi**

I can definitely say that this mentorship forum has been worthwhile. My mentor has walked with me every step of the way and has been my biggest supporter. My experience throughout has shown me how critical it is to have a guide as a young professional starting in the corporate world.

— **Sylvia Tejiri SEFIA**

I've been able to learn how policies and regulations guiding Environment, Sustainability, and Governance (ESG) are affected in companies and industry standards. Engaging in an X (formerly Twitter) space hosted by my Mentor on the review of a particular company and its product gave me an inside view of ESG relevance. It has been an engaging and resourceful moment.

— **Blessing Ben**

PLENARY 2 - 12:45pm - 14:15pm

Financing Energy Transition: Unlocking Capital for Decarbonization in Emerging Markets in Africa

The transition to a low-carbon economy in Africa's emerging markets requires significant financial investment. Unlocking capital for decarbonization involves mobilizing both public and private sector funding to support renewable energy projects, energy efficiency initiatives, and sustainable infrastructure development. Innovative financing mechanisms, such as green bonds and blended finance, are essential to bridge the funding gap. By attracting investment and fostering partnerships, Africa can accelerate its energy transition, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and promote sustainable economic growth.

Conclusion

Achieving energy security and decarbonization in Africa is not only vital for the continent's prosperity but also for global climate goals. By bridging the gap with bold policies, innovative technologies, and inclusive approaches, Africa can lead the way toward a resilient and sustainable future for generations to come.

PANELISTS

Dr. Eugene Itua
CEO, Natural Eco Capital

Lolade Awogbade
Assistant Vice President & Sustainability Specialist at the Development Bank of Nigeria

Tosin Leye-Odeyemi
Head, Sustainability Risk and Capital Management, Stanbic IBTC Holdings Plc

MODERATOR

Paul Osho
Sustainability Manager at United Capital Plc

Meet the ESG Forum Technical Committee

Odiri Erewa-Meggison, FCIS
Chairman, ESG Forum Technical Committee/External Affairs Director, BAT WCA

Tosin Leye-Odeyemi
Head, Sustainability, Risk & Capital Management, Stanbic IBTC

Otome Afiegbe
Executive Director Commercial, Nesgas Producing Limited.

Halimat Shuaibu
Business Communications and Sustainability Manager, BAT WCA

Ebenezer Nwogu
Internal Communications and Sustainability Manager, BAT WCA

Oludare Odusanya
General Manager, British American Tobacco Nigeria Foundation

Rafiat Gawat
Head of Corporate Communications TGI Group

Ogechi Francis
Internal Communications & Sustainability Executive, BAT

Favour Obiomah
Sustainability Risk and Performance Manager, BAT WCA

Ugo Ebeniro
Managing Partner, Clipse Management Limited

Emmanuel Ante
Chief Operating Officer, QVT Media Limited

Femi Bello
Project Brigadier General, Abelinis Limited

Adeola Adesuyi
Sustainability Manager , Operations BAT WCA

Favour Nwoko
Internal Communications & Sustainability Executive, BAT

Thank You

Dear Attendees,

As we conclude the PRIVATE SECTOR ESG FORUM 2025, I extend my deepest appreciation to each of you for your presence, your insights, and your commitment to advancing sustainability. This event's success is truly a collective achievement, and it reflects the dedication, passion, and leadership shown by every participant, speaker, and partner involved.

Over the course of this forum, we have explored the complexities of the Carbon Market and the vital role the private sector plays in driving sustainable development. The discussions held, the knowledge shared, and the connections made will undoubtedly inspire meaningful actions in the months and years to come. We hope the insights gained will spark tangible change across your organisations and industries as we strive together toward a more sustainable and equitable future.

I would like to offer my profound thanks to the organising committee, our partners, and all those who contributed to making this event a success. Your tireless efforts and unwavering support have made this forum a space for thought-provoking dialogue and impactful collaboration.

As we leave today, I encourage all of us to carry forward the energy and momentum of the PRIVATE SECTOR ESG FORUM 2025. Let us integrate the lessons learned into our strategies, align our practices with sustainable goals, and remain committed to the transformation that we know is both necessary and possible. Together, we can continue to lead the way toward a low-carbon, responsible, and resilient future, not just for Nigeria but for Africa and the global community.

Thank you for being a part of this journey. We wish you safe travels back to your respective destinations and look forward to the positive impact you will create.

Until we meet again, thank you, and farewell.

Odiri Erewa-Meggison, FCIS
Chairman, ESG Forum Technical
Committee/External Affairs Director, BAT WCA