

THE GREEN ROOM

COVID-19 AND THE EXTRACTIVE INDUSTRY

Is the Extractive industry a burden or an opportunity for sustainable development?

Session Language: English

DATE: May 15, 2020

TIME: 6:00pm GMT

Join us on Facebook, Instagram & Twitter
@thegreenHQ



SPEAKER

**Prof. Damilola
Olawuyi**

Deputy Vice Chancellor
Afe Babalola University,
Nigeria.



MODERATOR

**Dr. Jason
McSparren**

Global Governance &
Human Security
University of
Massachusetts, Boston.

TRANSCRIPT

QUESTION AND ANSWER SESSION

Dr. Jason McSparren: Okay. Thank you very much, really appreciate that. That was very insightful. I'm sure the audience enjoyed that one of the things I want to thank you for saying is the fact that you explain to the audience many of us realize this but maybe not always, how important the extractive industries are to society, right? Well, it's usually very much villainized in the media for you know poor human rights incidences or environmental degradation these sorts of things. But modern society is dependent and very much reliant on the extractive industries. So we will always have to live with them and it is, you know it's up to us to have these conversations and talk about how better to go with these the EPPs as you mentioned Environmentally Preferred Products, cleaner technologies in these sort of things. So, and I think and this kind of goes into my next question. I think that a lot of extractive sectors industry professionals are looking at

sustainability and trying to make mining in a drilling Etc more environmentally friendly and these sorts of things. And you also mentioned the sustainable development goals, which is also extremely important and there's a lot of talk about how the extractive industries can contribute there's a paper that I often cite a white paper from the Columbia Center of Sustainable Development from 2016 that talks about how the mining sector can positively influence all of the SDGs. So with that statement, my question to you is since sustainability in the extractive industries has been a long-standing discussion, could you kind of enlighten us about some of the trends that were promoting sustainability in extractive industries before the COVID-19 disruption?

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: Yes, thank you very much, Jason. I think the biggest trend is there is the UN SDG like we've talked about because it was meant to build on the momentum generated with the Millennium development goals, which you know went on and by 2015 the SDGs came to sort of being you know to build on the foundation laid by the MDGs. So I would say very clearly for sure that the UN SDGs created the impetus and the urgency for countries to begin to promote some of these Green Initiatives and the goals in that document have become ever so important. That is number one. The number two driver of this whole agenda has to be the growth in population in many countries of the world. You've seen that the growth in population has led to an increasing demand for energy more than

ever. You know you look at for example Qatar where I do a lot of work on these issues as moved from a country of about 300,000 citizens to about 2 million, you know, not in terms of its citizens, but at least about 1.7 million people who are workers who have come into work, so making the country go from about 300,000 to about 2 points something over the few years. So that raises the question “How do you generate enough energy for those people now that you have grown due to economic growth” and this is a challenge in many countries. You know, for example in Nigeria the population has exploded as well, you know in Nigeria for a while. So you see that with a country with new Prosperity coming from the extractive industry. The economy is growing and with new growth, there is a need to meet the increasing energy demand and that again has raised, has led some countries to start seeing or trying their hands on anything they can do to generate more electricity. For example in Nigeria, you know there is the Mambila hydropower projected; there are a number of projects trying to meet this increasing demand for energy. So I would say the increase in population the population grows witnessed in many parts of the world has been a driver for this whole question of generating energy, modern energy, and meeting energy demands. Another thing that is a trend or a driver of some of this discussion is what we see as a rise in, I'll call it a progressive demand or rise in the need for technology-driven economies and you'll see that over the last years if we have a number of countries that are releasing National Visions. I don't want to talk about the national Visions released in Nigeria because

they've not been met over the years, you have National vision 2010, 2020, and 20, but you see that a lot of countries, Nigeria is not the only country that has released. For example in Kenya, we have the National Vision 2030, in Qatar, we have the Qatar National Vision 2030. You have the Kuwait National Vision 2035. You have the UAE National Vision 2030, we have the Saudi Arabian National Vision 2030. So countries are releasing this National visions and that is because every country has realized there is the world is moving towards a Green economy and these National Visions are meant to cement the Green economic concept and move the country towards a Green economy. But what we've seen is that some countries have made progress, some have never met their Visions. For example, the Nigerian National Vision 2010 was never realized, it was a fraudulent document for some reason. Now the country has raised New Visions. We hope that the Visions will be met. But again National Visions will become mere dreams if they are not followed up if you do not want it to just be a malaria dream. Then the national Vision has to be robustly implemented. Otherwise, it's going to remain in the realm of a vision rather than becoming a reality. So these are some of the trends: the need to realize National Visions are moved towards a Green economy has led to this whole talk about renewable and you'll see that the last government in Nigeria released a document on renewable energy, you know, you know, and I think there was a talk about having a renewable energy law, then the climate change law, then due to this whole green economy thing, but they get all those efforts were sort of, you know, I've been stuck somewhere.

We've not had much about them for some time now and you begin to see that there is a need to ensure continuity in this effort. So that National Visions can be robustly realized.

Dr. Jason McSparren: Excellent, Excellent. Thank you very much. It's a great answer. You brought out some really fine points. Damilola I also you mentioned the National Visions and you're talking about how countries are trying to see the future in look at their resources, realize that you know, there is this need to transition at the same time there is this need to provide energy and other aspects of to a growth in the largely younger population in the world. So with that said, I'd like to bring our attention to the continent-wide initiative. You're probably very well aware of the Africa Mining Vision.

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: Sure right.

Dr. Jason McSparren: It's a plan that places the continents long term in Broad development objectives at the center of mineral extraction policy development. The Africa Mining Vision, otherwise known as the AMV was adopted by all African Union member states in 2009 and an actual plan was agreed upon and produced in 2011. So essentially the Africa Mining Vision offers a policy roadmap for individual countries to design what they term country mining Visions, okay, and within the extractive industries, I'm sorry within the African mining Vision, there are two elements: there is the

designing of this country mining vision and then medium to long-term sort of strategy in which they start to look at Regional development based on the extractive Industries with neighboring countries. So I've got three questions for you about Africa Mining Vision, and I wonder if you could share your insights. Thank you.

The first question “What is your opinion about the content or progress regarding the Africa mining Vision”?

The second question “Are there National and Regional highlights that you can point to”?

And the third question is “Will the Africa mining Vision have more or less relevance in the post-COVID-19 era”? Thank you very much.

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: Thank you, Jason. Those are Fantastic questions and you know, we could talk about the African Mining Vision the whole day because it's a very important document, and again it fits into what I said earlier on about ensuring that Visions are progressively implemented and pursuit. Otherwise, they remain in the realm of vision and they never become a reality and I remember I wrote a paper, you know some you know when the AMV was released and I think I said shifting from Vision to reality or something the legal framework for building on the visions. You know to answer those three questions; I would, first of all, say we must understand that the African mining Vision aimed to achieve policy coherence in terms of ensuring that you know, we balance the social, economic, and environmental

goals of mining to achieve mutually reinforcing outcomes. Of course, that is all about sustainable development when you balance the three pillars the Social, Economic, and Environment to ensure that the pursuit of economic gains from mining does not undermine social progress or environmental progress. And that was what the AMV was designed to address. So it talks about things like, number one; mineral sector diversification that is bringing countries to begin to look at the mining sector as a viable sector rather than treat it the way that has been treated in Nigeria whereby mining solid minerals is seen as oh, yeah, you know talk about that later. So diversifying and ensuring that we maximize the full range of resources in the extractive industry was one of the goals in the AMV. The AMV also talked about local content development, some of these issues of technology development at home, creating jobs and employment for locals, and ensuring that there is you know Nigerian content across the extractive industry. That was one of the key focus of that document as well. Ensuring that people in local communities can have improved lifestyles, improved welfare as a result of the extractive Industry. It also focused a lot on ASM Artisanal and Small-scale Mining and we were chatting about that earlier on, you know in Nigeria for example, you have a lot of Undocumented workers who just go casually in Enugu and Plateau and in Nassarawa and pick Gold and just work in the mines, you know, they undocumented because they are not known they are not registered and we call those Artisanal and Small-scale Miners and the AMV recognizes that there is a huge problem across Africa when it comes to

ASM. We have a number of undocumented Artisanal and Small-scale Miners who deriving comes from Mining but are not you know registered and they are not licensed. They are not given any license. Some countries have gone as far as labeling it as a crime or making it, you know, acting criminal penalties for ASM, but I don't think ASM is a crime, ASM is good. We need to have small-scale miners, but we must formalize them. You must register them. We must license them. They should be part of the economy and this was one of the goals of the AMV trying to ensure that African countries begin to formally integrate ASM miners into the economic scheme. By integrating them, you will be able to understand their problems and you'll be able to understand their contributions and be able to educate them. Because ASM miners suffer a lot of problems from being unrecognized as well. You know, then some of them don't have the knowledge, they don't have the technology, and so they do a lot of manual things that lead to significant deaths in ASM communities. So there is a need to, the AMV document tries to say, how can we integrate ASM miners and help them to achieve sustainable outcomes. Again the AMV focuses a lot on promoting human rights in extractive Industries, and you'll see that you know there are a lot of human rights issues that are and the reason why the extractive industry has gotten a bad name over the years is because of those unaddressed human rights issues, and I have talked a lot about the need I call them the panel principles: P standing for Participation, A standing for the need for Accountability and the N standing for the need for Non-discrimination and

you know and Equity, E is standing for Empowerment's access to information and L standing for the need for Legality and access to Justice. You know, when there is a wrong there should be a remedy. And the African mining Vision focuses on this as well, you know, trying to promote human rights and even as a follow-up to the AMV, you know in 2012 the African Union had another, you know, the resolution that was released on the need for the human right best approach in natural resource governance across Africa. So these are the fundamental pillars of AMV. Now to say what is my opinion whether they have been achieved. I believe that you know, there is still a lot to be done. I believe that a lot of progress at least has been made in terms of creating this awareness. Before now, these issues were not you know addressed in a coherent manner. I think the AMV recreated a four-step in having a document that you know shows that there is a need, you know to be much more human right conscious in the extractive industry. So that you can say well the AMV is based on solid international best practices which recognize the need to address the side effects of the extractive industry, but in terms of implementation, as we know no matter how good a document is, the implementation determines the result. I think many African countries have struggled to domesticate and Implement some of those declaratory items in the AMV. For example, the issue of mainstreaming Human Rights into the extractive industry is yet to gain traction. The other day I was asked to I was asked as part of a huge project which I'm I've been appointed as a consultant to look into in terms of Nigeria. We saw that the Nigerian

Petroleum Act does not have any mention of human rights, the Mining Act as well has no mention of human rights. So where do human rights then come in, then you know when the laws in this key sector do not recognize the human right, I did another search and I found out that of course when you search gender, there is no mention of gender issues in the Petroleum Act, there's no mention of gender in the Mining Act. And this is why the BBC did the documentary recently in which they identified that the Nigerian Oil and Gas Industry is a men's club in which fewer opportunities are provided for women, so issues of gender justice in which you know, women have not been given significant roles. It is difficult for women to become leaders of the Oil and Gas Industry. It is difficult for women to become leaders in the Mining Industry. You know and that was what that documentary was identifying. So these are all issues that the AMV tries to address. But we see that at the domestic level until we begin to integrate these principles into our laws they will remain abstract. But in terms of the number two, are there National or Regional highlights that I think make some progress? Yes. We have, for example, I think Equatorial Guinea Mozambique is coming up, you know in terms of implementing some of these principles, having new laws, and putting in place the regulatory framework. The good news is that the World Bank has created a project in Nigeria as well called the Mineral Sector Diversification Project (MINDIVER), which is looking at these issues from Nigeria, and I'm part of the Consultants working on that project trying to develop a framework for Nigeria to begin to make progress as well. So I think

some of the efforts and the supports provided by the World Bank have been very useful in getting us there. Will the AMV has more or less relevance in the post-COVID-19 era. Well I think the AMV will, whenever you think of the AMV, think of the face mask, okay, think of the facemask think of how people have become so creative knowing that you can't, you know, if you even if you want to wait to import the face mask, it will take a lot of time for you to import it. You better start creating yours. The face mask analogy shows you the real need for local content, you know, we cannot continue to rely on imported Solutions. There will be some challenges that have to be locally addressed such as the face mask. And that is why we must, you know, the AMV has provided will become more relevant post COVID because local content will be you know if we're not taking it seriously before we now know the importance of local content. We now know that our progress and prosperity as a nation will be driven by the amount of investment and opportunities to provide for our people. So local content is very important. And I think COVID has highlighted the need to empower our local population to be part of the solution. We need more entrepreneurs, more energy entrepreneurs, we need more women entrepreneurs as well. And when you think of the facemask think of the fact that local content will become so important after COVID.

Dr. Jason McSparren: Excellent. Okay, that's great. That's a really interesting thought. Okay, before we talk more about, I have a couple

questions about you know the extractive industries in the post COVID era or if we ever do get post COVID living with COVID but before that, I like to kind of ask you a few questions on behalf of a few people in our audience. I'm seeing that we're getting some interesting questions coming up. And where I take the first question is from Chibuike Jigo Junior and he writes "As an upcoming Nigerian sustainability Pioneer, I noticed vested interests on Oil and Gas primarily because of its economic viability. How can we as a nation re-orientate the Next Generation on the imperative of harmonizing economic, equity environmental well-being even in pursuit of careers in the extractive industries"? Okay, so he's asking on your thoughts on the next generation of people who are more aware in really, you know, really want to see you know, is environmental justice human rights connected to the EI. So what could you say to this young man?

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: Very well, that's a good question by Chibuike. Okay, I think we need to all begin to diversify our mindset as well. Just as we are calling on the government to diversify and focus less on oil and gas and think of other creative sectors in the extractive industry. We all rather citizens must diversify our minds and look beyond oil and gas because oil and gas are not going to be around forever. Mining is a very fantastic sector that has in that has not been explored. There are several mining companies as a matter of fact when I started working on the World Bank projects that was when I discovered how much mining is even going on in Ado Ekiti. Yeah.

Yeah and in now Osun State and the likes so there are a lot of sectors untapped that people don't even pay attention to, mining is one of them. So I think there is a need to diversify our mind, there is a need to look at renewable energy as well, you know the wind, solar, Nigeria has a strong comparative advantage when it comes to solar. So there is a need to begin to diversify and look at those opportunities beyond just the very extremely competitive, every Nigerian wants to work with an NNPC, you know. Meanwhile, there is the Nigerian Coal Company, a National Company as well. There are other companies, there are other mining big companies that people don't even know about. I also think, you know apart from mining renewable energy. I think we need to begin to see ourselves as energy entrepreneurs and energy citizens as well. We need to move beyond being energy consumers, energy jobbers to become energy entrepreneurs, you know, and how can we do that? We can start small. One of the people that are well, you know, we all know we've all heard about recyclers and the role, you know, that company has played, the awards they want and they started small and now they are a very formidable entity in Nigeria. I think I always encourage my students that you know, generally that, you know, we may need to begin to see themselves as part of the solution by creating new technologies, new ideas, innovations such as the Green Institute, you know, that can play a very significant role whether, in terms of Energy Technology, Waste Management, Water Solutions and then they can become employers as well rather than waiting to work for NNPC.

Dr. Jason McSparren: I think we're going to try to do. Okay, here we are. I think I'm going to try and kick some questions from the audience at this point. Alex, please go right ahead.

Alex: Yes, if you can hear me. My question is “Why are some solid minerals left largely untapped in Nigeria, bearing in mind that can help to address energy deficiency issues and also diversify the economy, research Uranium, Gold, and some other solid minerals up North Nigeria. Why are they left untapped”?

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: Yes, thank you, Alex, that is a very fantastic question from a place of knowledge and I think the truth is that we've had as I mentioned we've had and you know an onyx, someone something like an inexplicable dependence on oil, you know, like, you know, almost like an addiction to oil and gas for many years and it was only recently that people started talking about the mineral sector, you know, the solid mineral sector. I think this does is one of the positive achievement of this current government because was the current governor of Ekiti state governor Fayemi, when he was Minister for solid minerals just recently, you know in the last, you know in the first term of the current government was when they began to accentuate this need for solid mineral diversification, and you see that the progress they've made just by talking about it so much over the last four

years, now everyone is aware that we have so much you mentioned Gold, You mentioned Copper, you know, we have Uranium and we have all of that. So I think the awareness had already been created by the Fayemi led ministry of solid minerals and the next step is to build on that awareness and ensure that we continue along that path.

Why is it that you know, they didn't do this in the past. Like I said because oil and gas were providing a lot of money and everyone just thought what else do we need? Now everyone knows that the oil and gas money is about to end, so this is the right atmosphere. I think COVID has also played the right stump because it has created the perfect crisis. After all, no one cares about oil and gas right now. I joked with someone that a barrel of oil is so cheap that you know, it's cheaper than table water you know, so again, which means if you have another commodity like Gold another, you better start looking at them because you know oil is no longer the golden child that it used to be. So I think, so those are some of the reasons why historically we've not focused on them. Again, because we've not focused on them we've not been able to appreciate the full issues. People have raised concerns when we talked about Uranium in the past, that oh you want to kill the whole country with environmental Uranium, which can lead to death and the likes. Yeah, but a lot of countries are producing Uranium because they have spent time studying it perfecting it. So I think if we begin to study it as well who will be ready to produce it and will be ready to use it. Lithium, you know is another one you know, which the Lithium is like a very expensive

commodity because there is a huge demand for Lithium. Everyone that has a laptop uses a Lithium battery every form relies on and you know, so Nigeria can produce its Lithium and raise a lot of money from all of these things. So I think we are about to see a transformation and already I am beginning to say, I'm not an oil and gas lawyer, I'm an energy lawyer so that I can be part of the opportunities coming in the mining sector.

Alex: Fantastic. Thank you very much.

Dr. Jason McSparren: Thank you very much for the question. That was a great question.

Alex: Great thinking.

Dr. Jason McSparren: Okay. I think we may be taking a question from Facebook, Are we going to go live to that or should I just read it? How about if I read this next question right here. We have a question here from here we see Ebenezer, and the question, Is the issue that the media are painting the extractive industries as a fundamental human rights violator is the truth. The local communities are the most felt and nothing is being done about it by the industries up to date. Since the extractor here is the question since the extractive industries are key to a country's development what has to be done to change this narrative?

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: Yes that is a very fantastic question by Oluwaseyi and I think you're very correct. You know with the extractive industry has been heavily almost like demonize like, oh you know, you know, if you walk in the Oil and Gas sector you are the bad person. Meanwhile, this is the sector that is powering the entire economy of the country. You know this is a sector that provides almost everything we are all using as we speak right now is from that sector, you know. And we realize this problem, last year we did a major what we call the extractive media pally like, you know in Abuja in which we try to secure the commitment, you know, I was part of that with another fantastic agency entity in Abuja, we try to secure the awareness and say look, we're not the bad guys we are your friends, actually we are stakeholders to just change that narrative, and I think more of that has to happen. We have to educate people, we have to sensitize people to know that the extractive industry is the bedrock of many of the modern economies of the world. That's number one. Number two is that we need to also address these human rights issues because no matter how well you create awareness and next week there is another spillage or there is another gas flaring or there is another acid mine drainage then they will say look at them, they've come again. So I think we need to revamp some of our laws. We have a lot of laws that are archaic and do not address these problems and because they are archaic they are not up to date then, you know, a lot of companies get away with human rights violations. And when those things come to light

people say you see you see this is it this is what we've been saying, so I think we need to strategically revamp our laws to address gender issues, human rights issues, pollution issues. And when we do that and we add that with the awareness that I talked about earlier. I think over time people will begin to see the value of this very important industry.

Oluwaseyi: Thank you.

Dr. Jason McSparren: One moment, please we have another live question coming up, we are just going to bring this person to the forefront.

Chibuike Jigo: Good evening Professor Damilola, my name is Chibuike. I will like to appreciate your presentation on this program because I must confess I have been among those who have vienized the extractive industries due to excessive pollution but having you on this show have shed more light on the importance of extractive industries, so I would like to say you really made an emphasis that Nigeria as a country cannot continue to run on a monoculture economy. It's already evident that ever since the discovery of oil and gas in Nigeria, we've shifted from agriculture and other resources just to live on Oil and Gas. And what efforts are the extractive industries putting towards letting the government know that this is where we are, this is where we stand, that natural resources will soon be over by 2048 or 2050. So what

policies had been geared towards making the government realized that this is where we stand?

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: Well, thank you very much Chibuike. That's a fantastic question. I know that even when we talk about agriculture in Nigeria, no one is interested, well at Afe Babalola how many people are studying agriculture, you know, even though I know very well that the founder provided a lot of incentives and said if you study agriculture, you know, it is cheaper, just study agriculture, but you know, the truth is that the agriculture sector has just remained less attractive to a lot of people and you know, and I think it all starts with this whole idea of you know, the emphasizing oil and gas, you know, everyone wants to work in the oil and gas industry. As a matter of fact, no matter what you do in the oil and gas industry, you are well respected. I think that has to change, you know, there is a need to make the other sectors equally, you know important and equally attractive to everyone so that to change that narrative and extreme focus on oil and gas, that's number one. Number two is that I agree with what Afe Babalola University is doing in terms of spearheading this whole poll education approach, you know, which you know empowering students to think about agriculture, to think about sustainability as a whole and I think every institution every University in Nigeria should learn from Afe Babalola University and see how they can also promote that sort of, you know, for example, I know that ABUAD students can learn about farming and can try

and become entrepreneurs on their own. We have seen a number of people leave the University to become entrepreneurs and start Innovative ventures and I think those are some of the ways in which you can view the new generation that is less dependent on this whole oil and gas promoting sustainability education, promoting whole education, promoting agriculture, you know, promoting Innovation and an Enterprise development is exactly the way to go and I think if we can do more of that we will make progress.

Dr. Jason McSparren: Great, great. Okay, do we have any more questions lined up or should I ask another one of my own questions?

Alex: Yes. I have a question.

Dr. Jason McSparren: Oh! Please go right ahead

Alex: For Damilola. Okay, so there's no how you can talk about sustainable development and extractive industries and not consider climate change and the effect it has on developing Nations and developed Nations. So I would like to know what efforts are being made, practical efforts are being made to you know, transfer sustainable technologies bearing in mind that in Nigeria today, we still see Toyota being imported. We do not have manufacturing plants in Nigeria yet we still have international treaties that talk about technology transfer and assist from developed Nations to developing nations

in the form of technology transfer. I know that there are proponents of sustainable technology transfer. So what efforts, what practical efforts are being made to tackle this issue?

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: Very well, it's a fantastic question because you can't talk about low carbon transition if you do not have the right technology then it to be difficult to achieve low-carbon transition, and that's why we've written a lot on technology transfer. For example under the Kyoto Protocol and the private agreement, the developed countries are supposed to take the lead. In sending technology and finance and supporting developing countries to be part of the solution. They are meant to take the lead based on the CBDR principle: The Common But Differentiated Responsibility Principle of those agreements and I think a lot has been done in all fairness, you know, you know the United Nations created the technology transfer mechanism, which is meant to provide a platform to assist countries to transfer technology. But I wrote a piece lately published, which I argued that African countries now need to move beyond technology transfer and start thinking about technology absorption.

In that article, I argued very seriously that the amount of the volume of technology that has been transferred to Africa over the last 10 years is so significant, but you cannot see the result and the reason is that there are a lot of local barriers that make it difficult when those technologies come here; they either not work well or they work well and after five years they are

dead. They are gone, you know a lot of under a lot of reasons. Some of them are legal barriers, some of them lack now know-how, you bring in new technology and when it's time for maintenance you have to ship in people from Spain or England to come and fix it, you know, so there are a lot of issues and I have argued that African countries themselves need to now begin to think of technology absorption in terms of putting the place the right laws. Very shortly number one; that they can use and leverage imported technologies, number two; to now begin to develop their own homegrown solutions that are less dependent on technology transfer. So I think technology absorption is the way to go. For example, we are relying so much on our streamyard and Zoom and the likes why can't we create an African Zoom that can work better with our own technology and with our own internet data situation, you know, so this is innovative ideas and I tell students that the era of just having a degree is gone. Really this is now an era of innovation in which you see your degree as a platform to be part of the solution, you know, I want to see more people thinking of how they can create waste management ventures, recycling ventures and things like that that can be part of the homegrown technology that will change that cycle of dependence on technology transfer and begin to focus more on technology absorption and homegrown solutions.

Alex: Thank you very much.

Dr. Jason McSparren: Okay, Damilola I think we have another person who is interested in asking you a question. Mr. Byron price will like to ask a question.

Mr. Bryon: Well, I was wondering with the sort of the challenges that you had I know you talk about technology, exhaustion when I think about something energy challenges that you have is skills challenges. Are you talking about sustainability? So maybe I don't know if this question has been asked, but how do we sort of like create you know, I'm in the US in New York City our economy has a sink. So how do we sort of create innovation without money and resources right now?

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: Yes, you're very correct. You know, money is still required, and I saw of course even though the prime minister of Canada received a lot of flak for this but what the prime minister of Canada did recently was to say in terms of providing stimulus for the Alberta economy that is oil-dependent, rather than giving them money to reopen the oil and gas sector, he gave them money to recycle and reclaim old wells and abandoned Wells, you know and some people say well, what are you doing? You know and I'm sure you know that decision was framed by an environmental consciousness that now that the oil and gas business is on a downtime, why can't you quickly do some cleanup and I think he injected several billion into that. Well why I will not go into the demerits of that

decision, I think governments have to do similar things, in terms of injecting money into Innovation. This is downtime. It's a downtime for the whole world. Why can't we inject some money into Innovation? Why can't we create, some venture funds from investment, some amount that can help small and medium scale enterprises to begin to grow in this downtime? I think that is the sort of thinking we need at this time. The sort of billion-dollar investment by the government of Canada in environmentally-related Ventures. I think is a good way to go and I think governments across the world should begin to think about this because I remember the last recession, you know, everyone was advised you don't even try to look for a job just go to school because there's no job right now and also that is what a recession can do, but the Governments of the world can create that environmentally related stimulus package which will allow people to become productive in terms of clean technology development.

Mr. Bryon: Reacquainted though is interested in maybe even come in on it and I won't ask any more questions. And I am going to say something but I read an article about Rwanda where the president of Rwanda said African city has print money. You know, I don't know if you saw that article so I thought it was an interesting strategy. What are your thoughts related to what he says? See it is sort of your explanation about the government investing in innovation and I don't know if you're familiar with that particular

article where the president of Rwanda said about African should just print money African countries.

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: Well, you know, I've read a number of funny and interesting suggestions in this time, and I agree with you Byron that's a very funny one because to me that is like a knee-jerk reaction that will not lead to anything, you know, and some African countries have done this in the past, you know, which they printed a lot of money. I think Ghana did that in the past, you know when they were battling economic problems, and they did not really yield anything so we should learn from history. I do not think we can print our way out of a global pandemic, you know, rather than making the printing machine to break down incurring another expense, we should rather, you know, think about to use, you know, the amount of money. For example, Nigeria has a lot of money in the sovereign wealth fund which is sitting down there. Now is the time to tap into that sovereign wealth fund for the right reason. Really, you know, I'm not talking about corrupt manipulation of the fund rather I'm talking about withdrawing from the fund to support Innovation to support, you know, entrepreneurial Ventures at this time. I'm also not talking about, you know, distributing palliatives and distributing \$2 worth of rice to people, that would not be to anything really. There is a need to create a call for the application of entrepreneurs who have ideas and the Government can fund from those ideas rather than printing more money.

Dr. Jason McSparren: Thank you. Better suggestion. Okay, Damilola we also have another question from a gentleman named Tosin. Tosin, Please ask your question. You have the chance.

Tosin: I decided to ask this question especially because Byron Prices is here. I assume Byron is African-American, and I do understand that as you know, post COVID or with COVID however it happens in the future, a lot of various countries, societies might decide to look inward and not do a lot externally I can understand that but I can also guess that it would also still be important for certain companies, businesses, societies to also diversify outside and I'll explain what I mean; We have noticed that COVID-19 has disproportionately affected various parts of the world, of course, Africa cannot speak too soon knock on wood, but there is a chance that certain parts of Africa and certain parts of the world will not be as hard hit as other parts, but then again we don't know for sure. But what do we do know for certain is that there are certain parts of the world that will not be as hard to hit as the harder-hit parts of the world. So where I'm going with this is about collaborations between the Diaspora and Africa, especially in terms of the extractive industries. We do understand that there's quite a lot of opportunity now as the Prof. has underscored and we also know that even though yes, the U.S. is going is still a more financially capable country. Now to wrap it up I'll say that the U.S. hasn't been going very well with investing much in Africa. We can

see that. Perhaps there's an opportunity for the Diaspora to take the lead in pushing the US into invest in Africa, perhaps through extractive Industries. Just wondering what your comment is on that.

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: Well Fantastic question Tosin and I agree that these are transformational periods really and this era will lead to a lot of disruptions and shift in the way we've been doing things. You know, I know that the United States has provided a lot of supports for African countries in the past; some of those supports have not gone far because they end up in the wrong hands and they've not been properly managed. That is the reality. Now should the US do more? of course, if we were to be legalistic and focus on climate change, you know that there is an obligation on developed countries to continue to assist and based on the historical contribution to climate change. But then, what can African countries themselves do? I agree that there is a need to win, in my discussion while I was living in Boston; I realized that a lot of American Ventures, entrepreneurs' even citizens want to come to Africa and do business. They want to come and invest; they want to be part of the solution. But when the investment climate is not suitable then you know, they just go back. And we've seen that in Nigeria, we've seen a number of viable just close and leave the country even in the oil and gas sector. I can mention about you know, 60 companies that have left Nigeria over the last decade because of weak investment climate, insecurity, and the likes. So before we invite our friends and well-wishers in the Diaspora to

come back and be part of the solution, we have to create the right investment climate first. And when we talk about investment climates, we mean having a legal framework, a robust legal framework to protect the investment, to ensure that they don't come and then you know some when you look at what has happened in terms of some ventures being closed down arbitrarily in Lagos It creates a lot of concern that is this what I want to go to?

Number two, when I talk of investment climate, includes security, you know ensuring that people do not lose their lives and limbs just because they want to do business, you know and they don't up to being kidnapped as well. Those are some of the issues that honestly we need to look at deeply and begin to create National dialogue on how to improve our investment climate. You see that Rwanda is making a lot of progress, in the next 10 years, one Rwanda will be a good case study I must say because they've improved their investment climate significantly, even when you go to the airport, from the airport you see why a lot of entities are going there to do Green business. Are we ready for Green business in Nigeria? We need to be better prepared.

Dr. Jason McSparren: Okay, Damilola we have another question here, this is coming directly from the green Institute. Are there existing current political or economic tensions within Nigeria, in terms of having to choose between choosing to work with the competing powers? For example, working with the

US and the EU versus China and Russia. And this question comes from Chris working at the green Institute.

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: Well, that's a very good question Chris that is part of international diplomacy for sure. You know, there is always going to be an alignment and even when we go for UN negotiations, you see that there are negotiating blocks. You know, you have the G something, G-34, G-5, G this and G that and at this point, you have to choose which G you want to align with and that is basically part of diplomacy and those alignments to change, you know based on different topics. For example, Nigeria has a very solid relationship with the US, has a solid relationship with the EU, has a solid relationship with Russia even with China as well, with China Investing a lot in Nigeria lately. So the relationships are there, those relationships make the country sweet in terms of the policy. Yes, they do because if the country is going to pursue an agenda that would frustrate for example Chinese investment, then you'll be setting the country up for losing its friendship with China. So those relationships who do those questions will always be there but every responsible government will manage them very well and we've seen that in many countries, in which they have been able to manage and ensure you keep every party happy, and ensure that you know, the tensions are well managed. And that's why you need people that are well skilled in foreign policy International Affairs to ensure that we are not sidelining our partners while trying to satisfy one we're not hurting the interest of another. But I

wouldn't describe it as making a choice really it's more of managing and juggling, you know, there is an analogy in real life that you know, maybe think of someone that has multiple friends and trying to ensure that those friends are all satisfied and not alginate one.

Dr. Jason McSparren: Okay, Great. I don't see that we have another question lined up. I do have another question for you; give you a second to take your breath you've to talk quite a bit. But yeah this I'm going to ask you based on your expertise and your insights kind of take a brief look into the future, right? For instance, You know, I'm referring to a recent article by David Victor saying that the pandemic won't save the climate. He tells us don't expect clear skies to last. This is in foreign affairs magazine. However, there's a lot of talks looking at the other direction saying that the disruption is going to lead to opportunities for more clean renewable signal, renewable energies in more environmentally sound activities in policies from governments and corporations in terms of the extractive industries. Do you think that the disruption is going to have any significant impacts on their attempts to be more environmentally friendly and also I guess we can include human rights into this as well?

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: You know, I lost you for a few minutes and I'm sure a lot of our audience lost you as well. Okay, but I know you concluded with human rights.

Dr. Jason McSparren: I'll ask the question again, and I'll be more succinct. Okay, the world is going through this COVID-19 crisis and it's a huge disruption. As you know, there's a new glut, that is a glut of oil and natural gas around the world, the prices have dropped, and this is a huge disruption. So there are some people who are saying that this disruption is going to create opportunities, you know for a transition to Greener economies. However, there's also the other idea that saying, you know, even when things start to get up again, those who had the power, those with the political and economic power, the corporations in the politicians will still be there so that there will not be much of a change in the extractive sectors in terms of environmental and human rights protections. Would you like to give us any of your thoughts on you know, what do you see for the extractive industries in the future? Is the COVID a disruption that is going to possibly change the Paradigm toward the Renewables?

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: Yes. It's a fantastic question. I think the extractive industry especially oil and gas has been written off many times and it keeps bouncing back and that is mainly because of what I said at the beginning which is that we're so dependent on extractive industry in everything we do in our day-to-day life that you know, the oil and gas industry, the extractive industry will continue to be relevant for many years to come. And even as we try to transition to renewable energy despite when are all Africans have

electric cars, that's when we can say yes oil and gas is truly dead, you know, so and that's not good to happen very soon. So we know that there is still a role for the oil and gas industry going forward and it will remain like that from my experience, it should remain like that till up until the year 2040 really, for the oil and gas to remain relevant. But also there will be a time in which the global economy would all become ready to be totally Green and any country that is left behind at that time will become an abnormal situation. So we need to remember that, and that is why COVID has provided a practical reflection period and it would be foolish for any country to go back. And when in my in discussions about the number of them and I always say that we should never talk about going back to normal because this is now the new normal is no longer what we used to do in the past. But do you think there will be any interest in jet-setting and traveling all over the world as he used to be when we are all realized now that we could actually achieve more by staying where we are and use modern technology? So this is going to be the new normal. A technology-driven world and I think all countries will need to know that relapsing or trying to go back to the old normal will not be relevant, will be counterproductive. So on this, you know relates to everything whether we are talking about the need to build infrastructure and ensure that every citizen is able to assess modern technology with our talking about the need to begin to promote Green entrepreneurship, clean technology entrepreneurship, to ensure we create a new generation of Ecopreneurs and Green entrepreneurs. That is the new normal, that is what a

progressive economy should be thinking of because in the next few years any economy that is still stuck in the extractive hydrocarbon Dependable era will be facing a lot of challenges in the post COVID era. And again, you know, I've mentioned local content as well, our response to COVID shows that we need a robust and productive local economy. And I think the last part of that will be to create Disaster Response You know, there is the Sendai framework that was released some years back talking about how some countries in some regions will address disaster such as this, to have a coherent system that can respond to climate disasters, that can respond to pandemic disasters as well. That is something that we now need to take seriously, you know, building an equivalent of the Sendai framework in Africa that we can use to respond to disasters such as climate change or pandemic related disasters. I think that is the new normal, we must be prepared for that.

Dr. Jason McSparren: Excellent. Thanks for answering that question. We have another question coming back, Tosin wanted to piggyback on that question there.

Tosin: Yes. Yes indeed. So I think my concern is really around the fact, that in reality Nigeria's human rights history and reputation, you know, gives a little bit more to me, and I'm sure we can do much better one and in regards to our eco-sustainability and be eco-friendly in general, the frank reality is we still have a long way to go with that, there is the reality the extractive

industries can be excess full of violates in the environment as well in human right. Now my question to you professor is really whose responsibility would you say it is to become in some sense maybe a watchdog and not just a watchdog a leader in trying to ensure that as Nigeria goes into a more robust Venture into extractive industries that we Leapfrog some of the problems and some of the violations to humanity and to the environment that some of the western worlds has committed in the past because the frank reality is we are wiser, we are brighter, we can get things done, you know in the best ways and still come out economically positive. So whose job is it and I'm just going to assume that first of all that we can't leave it to the government. So whose job is, who would you encourage to lead the way in getting us a right.

Professor Damilola Olawuyi: Well, thank you Tosin. You know, I know that the responsibility will be at multiple levels, international law is increasingly talking about the responsibilities of State actors and non-state actors. State actors are typical government must do this, the government has to that. Yes, the government has a lot to do in addressing human rights issues in the extractive sector and I've mentioned some of the roles that government should play which is by you know, infusing our laws with Human Rights Provisions, there is no reason why the Petroleum Act and you know, the Mining Act should not have Human Right Provisions or Human Right guidelines or have provisions on gender justice and the likes. So we need that the role of government is to infuse our licensing processes and Laws and

the guidelines in the industries with human rights framework. Now, what about the role of non-state actors? Non-state actors are companies themselves multinationals, IOCs, they have a role to play and their role is no longer, you know in doubts because as you might be aware the United Nations released what they call the guiding principles on business and human rights, which was led by John Ruggie, a professor at Harvard University who submitted the report and led to the adoption of those guidelines by the UN. Now the UN guideline on business and human rights shows clearly that all business enterprises must prevent human rights violations in the operations and that includes the Shell and the Chevron and the multinationals of this world. So they now have is a significant responsibility and the other day I was having this dialogue with the National Human Rights Commission in Abuja to say what are they doing to begin to implement the UN guidelines in Nigeria? And there's a lot of effort going on right now by the National Merit Commissioned to create a document that will be Nigerian based document that implements the John Ruggie framework on business and human rights. Because no longer must we begin to look at only the government as the party to ensure that stakeholders respect human rights in their operations. We need to ensure that business enterprises themselves take human rights seriously, and if they don't they should be a backlash whether in terms of losing their licenses or in terms of having to pay some sort of compensation. Human right is now part of the international legal order and we must implement it with all the figure in Nigeria.

Dr. Jason McSparren: Nice, very nice. Okay, do we have a follow-up question prepared? This moment no, okay. All right at that point, let's see, take a look at our Facebook page.

Prof Damilola Olawuyi: I see a question from Titi Adeeko: What role can extractive industry play in the sustainable development of developing countries?

Yes, and I think we've talked about some of those and we can you know, emphasize again that the extractive industries can now begin to see how we can leverage existing income and revenue from the extractive sector to create a sustainable low-carbon future. And I think that that is where all stakeholders both the state actors and the non-state actors have a significant role to play in terms of financing and providing opportunities for Green Growth. For example, there is a part of the obligations of non-state actors is to integrate Green ideas, Green principles into their operation. For example, recently HP in the US introduced Green Principles as part of their procurement, Green Supply, Green Procurement in which they said anyone that is supplying anything for us as a company must follow these Green principles. They must ensure that it is energy efficient the most, you know, so, you know integrating Green procurement into part of the company's strategy is part of the roles, the merging roles of non-state actors. No longer should you as a company be satisfied and comfortable with a supplier that is

supplying you polluting items when there is a cleaner environmentally preferable alternative. So the world is moving very rapidly towards this whole idea of Green Supply Chain Management, Green procurement, Green due diligence, and I want to see and I hope that entities in Nigeria would begin to adopt that, you know. For many years, we have even had Universities developing Green sustainability documents to say this is the role we will play in sustainable development. So I think it's high time for companies and business operators in Nigeria to begin to adopt some of these and when you go online and you see the Green procurement document by HP, it's very robust and it says if you don't respect sustainability and you don't address climate change, we are going to remove you from our supplier, you are not going to be our supplier anymore. That here can play significant roles in this regard.

Dr. Jason McSparren: Okay. Thank you. Okay, we have one more question from Oluwaseyi, please. Oluwaseyi your volume, can you turn your volume up?

There's a little bit. Even with all of our modern technology, they're still going to be some issues.

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: I can hear you.

Oluwaseyi Ebenezer: So I want to ask about artisanal mining, okay. So you said we should promote our local content and all over Africa the revenue artisanal miners generate is a lot, and all these miners, they are not professional, most of them are no registered. So I just want to ask what is being done to improve artisanal miners all over Africa and also train them as regards the impact they do on the environment as much as in the community where the mine. So I want to ask, what can be done, maybe trained them or register them so that all those revenues can also be pulled to develop African countries. Thank you.

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: Fantastic question. Thank you Oluwaseyi. I think what can be done is what we've been talking about in terms of formalizing them, their roles, you know. Artisanal miner in Nigeria, there are so many of them and the way it is that they function just like farmers that would liken it in which they just see a plot of land and you start growing crops, you know, as you know those in the formal sectors of mining, they go through a licensing process in which you apply for a license and you get a license and because you get a license, of course, you are in the record of the government and you're supposed to be paying a royalty, and as a result, the government would also be visiting you and ensuring that everything is going well. That is good because if you violate your environmental standards, they can shut you down and that protects the environment, protect people around you from being you know, but when you have artisanal miners, it simply

means they are just operating on their own without a license without anything and the result is that when they finish mining they leave the mine site and go away and those in that area they suffer a lot of environmental contamination, mine drainage, and the likes. So in addition to the environmental danger in having so many artisanal miners, we also have the economic, I'll call it economic senselessness and lives because which means there are some people generating income from the resource of the country and you're not getting anything from them. They're just doing their own thing. So that's why the AMV and many of these documents have been saying when you look at it from an economic standpoint, it does not make sense. When you look at it from an environmental standpoint, it does not make sense. When you look at it from a social standpoint, it does not make sense as well. Because they are not equipped with the tools, they are not educated enough in terms of when I mean training, they are not exposed to training, they don't have the facilities, and they don't have the modern-day technology. So it doesn't make sure social sense for them in terms of access to technology, access to training, access to infrastructure. So it's yeah, that's why the AMV is saying why don't we formalize them in terms of you know, absorb them into the system, creates a database of ASM miners in a country, number two, begin a licensing process for them as well. Even though it is not as robust as the normal commercial miners, at least I have a licensing process for them that will make sure they are in the record because when they are in the record, they will benefit, it will benefit them, benefit the

government which would benefit the community. But I think I have written extensively and I'm part of the consulting that I'm doing for the World Bank in this area. I have said a recommended that they should be a database in Nigeria for ASM miners, in which we can begin to capture their data and provide them the necessary tools and resources that will make them much more viable also recognized for the important roles that they are playing.

Dr. Jason McSparren: Okay, Oluwaseyi thank you very much for that question. Damilola, we have one more question coming up from Alex. Alex should be joining us in a second. This is such a dynamic conversation. I really appreciate you sharing your advice. You can see we have more than 200 people online listening to us right now. It's really good news. Okay, and here we are. We have Alex to ask this question.

Alex: Okay. I'm glad though. So my question is: I just want to know if there is extractive in biodiversity habitats and at the same time tackling the level of exposure to the human environment, bearing in mind linkages between zoonotic diseases and biodiversity habitat?

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: So you're asking for the role of extractive industry in protecting biodiversity. Right?

Alex: Yes, and at the same time protecting the human environment too.

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: So, you know, it's a fantastic question Alex, and the truth is that the extractive industry and part of the reason why we end up with a bad name is that every extractive project has a significant adverse effect on biodiversity. As you know, when we talk about diversity, we mean the diversity of plants, animals, and all other forms of life that make up the ecosystem. And so when you have for example you have a mining project in which you do surface mining and you remove the soil, you know, I mean clearing the site, you've already pursued some wildlife that has been living there all their years, you know, when you have whether it's oil and gas as well, loss of wildlife, loss of rare species of plants and all of that. So the extractive industry can contribute adversely to loss of biodiversity if nothing is done to prevent it. And that is why the law in Nigeria really says before you start any extractive project, you should conduct an environmental impact assessment and it is through that impact assessment that will be able to say if you go on the way you're planning this project it will lead to too much loss or significant loss in biodiversity. So why don't you do it this way, but the problem we've had in Nigeria is that due to the economic interest, oh, we need to make money from this oil and gas, a lot of times we've seen irregularities in the EIAs, whether they are not conducted at all or they are conducted after they've already gotten the license, you know after the fact or the reports are not accurate or are not transparent, you know, and there are a lot of steps that a valid EIA should go through like scoping, public

engagement, the public having a real dialogue. We've seen that because a lot of entities don't follow these procedures, the EIA doesn't end up doing what they should ideally do which is to prevent loss of biodiversity and I have continued to Advocate that our EIA processing need to be more transparent. They need to be more accountable, while every Nigerian should be able to go on the website of the Ministries and find an EIA report and say, okay this is it. You know, if you're going to do mining in Ado Ekiti, people in the community should know the impact of that project on their health, short and long term. So I think if we can, you know begin to implement some of these laws. The laws are there that is the reality, the EIA laws have been there for many years as you know, the laws are there, but we need to implement them with greater transparency and accountability and I think some of these impacts will be minimized.

Alex: Thank you very much, Professor.

Dr. Jason McSparren: Damilola, we have another question here from Bayon Netewil. Okay and what they're asking is that what would you suggest is the role of the creative Industries in creating the Green Environment or you know the transition to a more Green and a Sustainable future in terms of energy.

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: The creative industry, it's a fantastic question and we can already see some of it at play here. I know the Green Institute has

been doing a lot in terms of creating awareness and you know creating tools that could easily be used by people, you don't have to be so technical, you know, and creating jingles and some songs and posters and flyers that people can read and be informed. I think that is very important in many countries that have made progress on these issues whether you're talking of Germany or Norway or some other countries that are seen as frontrunners in sustainability. We see that the creative industry has a significant role to play because they are the tools, the skills, and the experience to communicate sustainability issues in an easily accessible manner. And I think that role has not been appreciated enough and you know, we've not really appreciated, we've not put a lot of emphasis on that and that's why you know, we continue to have reports that are huge and technical and nobody understands them. So I think the creative industry should be supported to play these roles. I personally would like to see a lot more songs and jingles adverts released on green issues. I personally would like to see more dialogue on Twitter, on Facebook, and the likes on Green issues. and you know for us to move these ideas forward and hopefully, you know I mentioned that we had a dialogue with the media in the past, hopefully, we would have another dialogue with the creative industry as well. And I would love to be part of that to see how we can work together to move this forward will be fantastic.

Dr. Jason McSparren: Right, yes. I think it's important for people to realize you know in our modern technological lifestyle, everyone is always saying, oh there's an app for that, right? So we're always looking to the computer or some sort of an app, which certainly there is a lot of positivity there and we are making a lot of strides but being creative doesn't necessarily have to be technological right? We're thinking about Green economies and we're thinking about extractive sectors even being creative in terms of planting new trees, Green rooftops, new ways of producing vegetables in agriculture may be indoors or in containers, right? We're seeing all of these different things. So yeah, I would agree with you there's a big role for creative thinkers, it doesn't have to just be technological and app-based, creativity can come from the arts, can come from, you know, different ways of saving water when you're irrigating crops things along those lines. So yeah, there's a lot of opportunity for people who are thinking creatively to have an impact on the EI sector. Yeah, that would be great.

Okay, let's see, do we have any other questions? People are thanking us online very much. They are enjoying this, very enriching. Yes. A lot of people are mentioning how well-educated, how well you know your stuff, right? So very good. Yes, Yes, It's okay. All right, so people are thanking us for our time today the Green Institute thanks us for this wonderful presentation. Okay, a million thanks to you Dr. Damilola Olawuyi. No, excuse me. I apologize Damilola Olawuyi, okay and I'm Jason McSparren and I'd like to thank everybody who has tuned in and participated today. We apologize if we did

not get around to your questions, but please stay in contact with the Green Institute. You can find us @theGreenHQ, the Green headquarters on Facebook, on Instagram and Twitter. Thank you very much. It's been a pleasure talking with you today, and I do hope that we can have additional conversations in the future, any last words?

Prof. Damilola Olawuyi: Thank you. Thank you, Jason and I look forward to continuing the discussion as well. I want to thank the Green Institute for this innovative session and for spearheading this change in this area and being the leaders in the foresight which they have organized this, is highly commendable. And I hope that we can continue this discussion going forward. You know, I look forward to continuing if people have questions. I'm available on Twitter myself and on LinkedIn and on all the platforms, so feel free to join me there, and we can see how we can work together. Thank you, Jason, for being a wonderful anchor, I think you've done a fantastic job, and I look forward to working with you going forward.

Dr. Jason McSparren: I appreciate that very much. Thanks.