

## Editorial

The special volume on *The Political Economy of Oil, Clean Energy and Environmental Transitions: Perspectives from Sub-Sahara Africa* aims to stimulate debates on perspectives on the political economy of Oil, clean energy and environmental issues in Sub-Sahara Africa. It is expected that contributions to this issue will comprise both conceptual approaches and empirical accounts of its political economy. Two imperatives drive this:

1. Sustainable Energy Transitions involve the shift of resources between competing industrial sectors and political constituencies. Stakeholders in this process in Sub-Sahara Africa have varying degrees of political and economic power. Understanding how political economic factors influence clean energy transitions is crucial to effective policy formulation and facilitating transitions to sustainable energy systems. The provision of sustainable clean energy with environmental and socio-economic integrity has been a challenge in Sub-Sahara Africa. The countries here are characterised by poor energy generation with a huge negative implications for the continent's economic growth. Energy generation and natural resource access brings to fore political economic contentions particularly on how to promote this in a sustainable fashion. In most cases in Sub-Sahara Africa, the lack of standard energy policy continue to breed restiveness among host communities where natural resource is harvested particularly since the economic trickle-down effect of this activity is at a minimal level. Also, the idea of sustainable development is concerned with development that addresses the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Discussions on sustainable development emphasize ecolog-

ical integrity, social equity, economic efficiency, and inclusive decision-making processes. This volume/edition therefore promotes novel analytical frameworks for understanding energy production systems and consumption patterns that enhance socio-economic well-being, energy efficiency, environmental protection, and equitable access in Sub-Sahara.

2. In most independence African countries, the provision of energy has been the responsibility of the state. To meet these demands, countries have invested heavily in infrastructure for the generation, transmission and distribution of energy to the citizens. The inefficiencies, corruption and unhealthy bureaucratic challenges that undermined the ability of these state owned companies have resulted in the privatisation of a number of state-owned energy companies across the continent. Despite this transition, most African countries are characterised by poor energy generation with a huge negative implications for the continent's economic growth. Added to this is the fact that most energy generation in Africa are carbon-based with the implication that they contribute to polluting the environment through the greenhouse gas and other chemical compounds generated in the process. Various models have predicted that Africa will be one of the hardest hit regions by the negative effects of global warming. In addition, pollutants from carbon-based energy results in illness which has huge economic implications. Despite these negative effects of carbon based energy, the adoption of clean energy options has been quite slow on the continent. It is therefore considered opportune to compile this volume which will provide different perspectives on the political economy of clean energy transition in Africa.

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