© JUL 2025 | IRE Journals | Volume 9 Issue 1 | ISSN: 2456-8880
DOI: https://doi.org/10.64388/IREV9I1-1710043-9189

Nigeria's Strategic Alliances with International Actors and Renewable Energy Development

UGWUANYI, IKEDI JOHN PHD
Department of International Relations, Madonna University, Nigeria

Abstract- The global shift towards renewable energy has necessitated a strategic reevaluation of national energy policies, especially in resource-dependent economies like Nigeria. This study explores Nigeria's approach to negotiating the energy transition through strategic alliances in the renewable energy sector. It examines how Nigeria leverages bilateral and multilateral partnerships to attract foreign direct investment, transfer green technology, and build institutional capacity for a low-carbon future. Drawing from energy transition theories and green diplomacy frameworks, the paper analyzes collaborations with international partners such as Germany, China, and the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All initiative. It also evaluates the role of public–private partnerships and policy reforms in fostering a conducive environment for renewable energy development. The findings reveal that while Nigeria uses energy as a diplomatic tool particularly in West Africa, Renewable energy is still treated as a development or technical issue, rather than a strategic domain of soft power ostensibly due to challenges such as domestic institutional fragmentation and bargaining weakness, policy inconsistency and regulatory uncertainty and weak institutional capacity and bureaucratic inefficiencies and geopolitical interests remain critical impediments. The paper concludes by recommending institutional reforms, renewable energy laws and formal training programs and sustained diplomatic engagement as pathways for effective energy transition.

Keywords: Energy Transition, Nigeria, Renewable Energy, Strategic Alliances, Green Diplomacy, Foreign Direct Investment

I. INTRODUCTION

The global energy landscape is undergoing a profound transformation as countries strive to mitigate climate change, diversify their energy mix, and promote sustainable development. Central to this shift is the energy transition, the systematic movement from fossil fuel-based systems toward cleaner, renewable sources of energy such as solar, wind, and hydroelectric power. For developing nations like Nigeria, which is heavily reliant on crude oil for revenue and energy supply, the transition presents both challenges and opportunities. As the largest economy and most populous country in Africa, Nigeria's energy transition has far-reaching implications not only for its national development goals but also for regional energy security and environmental sustainability (International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), 2022).

In recent years, Nigeria has intensified efforts to align with global trends by forming strategic alliances with foreign governments, multinational corporations, and international organizations to support the development of its renewable energy sector. These alliances aim to facilitate access to financing, technology transfer, policy expertise, and capacity building necessary to accelerate the deployment of renewable energy infrastructure. According to Eleri & Ewah (2021), notable collaborations include the Nigeria Germany Energy Partnership, China's Belt and Road energy investments, and engagements with institutions like the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and the African Development Bank (AfDB).

However, Nigeria's path toward a green energy future is fraught with institutional, financial, and political complexities. Weak regulatory frameworks, infrastructural deficits, and governance challenges continue to hinder the effective implementation of energy transition policies. Thus, understanding how Nigeria negotiates its energy transition through strategic diplomatic and economic alliances is critical to evaluating the effectiveness of its transition agenda and its positioning in the global renewable energy landscape.

This study explores the nature, scope, and impact of Nigeria's strategic alliances in facilitating the energy transition. It seeks to assess how diplomatic bargaining, foreign direct investment, and international cooperation are shaping the renewable energy sector in Nigeria. By doing so, the research contributes to broader debates on energy diplomacy and the role of state-led alliances in navigating low-carbon development in emerging economies.

II. THEORETICAL DISCOURSE: ENERGY DIPLOMACY THEORY AND NEO-LIBERAL INSTITUTIONALISM

The concept of energy diplomacy has gained traction in international relations discourse, particularly in relation to how states manage their energy needs and strategic interests through foreign policy. Energy diplomacy theory posits that states deploy diplomatic tools and international cooperation mechanisms to access, secure, and influence energy resources and technology (Aalto et al., 2014). In the context of Nigeria, the intersection of energy diplomacy and energy policy has attracted growing scholarly attention, especially as the country navigates the global shift from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

Several scholars have examined how Nigeria's energy policy has evolved in response to both domestic challenges and international obligations. Eleri & Ewah (2021) argued that Nigeria's participation in global climate agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, has compelled a shift in its energy policy framework, emphasizing cleaner energy sources and reduced carbon emissions. The implication is that while Nigeria's energy diplomacy has led to partnerships with countries like Germany, China, and the United Arab Emirates, these relationships are often shaped by geopolitical interests and economic asymmetries. This shift has been largely rhetorical, with implementation lagging behind political commitments. According to Obi (2021) Nigeria's foreign policy in the energy sector has historically prioritized oil-related diplomacy, but recent developments show a gradual shift toward renewable engagements, particularly in solar energy. Nonetheless, these engagements are frequently top-down and driven by elite bargains, with limited input from domestic stakeholders, thus reducing their long-term sustainability.

According to Adeniran & Ebohon (2020), Nigeria's cooperation with multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the International Renewable Energy Agency have played a significant role in shaping energy governance through financing, technical support, and regulatory frameworks. Again Nigeria's energy diplomacy increasingly relies on institutional partnerships to bridge infrastructure and financing gaps in the renewable energy sector. However, donor-driven approaches may undermine national ownership if not domesticated within national policy institutions.

From a broader geopolitical lens, Okonkwo & Udeala (2022) examined how Nigeria's strategic location and energy potential position it as a regional actor in West Africa's energy diplomacy. They argue that Nigeria's involvement in the West African Power Pool (WAPP) and cross-border energy trade illustrates an outward-facing energy strategy, which aligns with energy diplomacy theory's emphasis on soft power and regional influence.

According to Keohane (1984), Neo-liberal institutionalism emphasizes the role of international institutions in facilitating cooperation between states, reducing transaction costs, and promoting policy coordination in an anarchic international system. Through institutions, states can overcome collective action problems and achieve mutual gains, particularly in areas of global concern such as climate change and sustainable energy. In the Nigerian context, this theory offers a valuable framework for analyzing how international organizations and multilateral institutions shape national energy policy and accelerate the country's energy transition through financial, technical, and institutional support.

Existing literature on Nigeria's energy policy reflects the growing influence of international institutions in shaping its renewable energy agenda. Scholars such as Akinbami et al. (2020) argued that Nigeria's participation in global platforms like the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) and alignment with initiatives like the Sustainable Energy for All have led to reforms in energy governance, including the development of the National Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Policy (NREEEP) and the Renewable Energy Master Plan (REMP). These

© JUL 2025 | IRE Journals | Volume 9 Issue 1 | ISSN: 2456-8880
DOI: https://doi.org/10.64388/IREV9I1-1710043-9189

frameworks, they contend, reflect the normative and institutional influence of global bodies in steering national energy strategies.

Similarly, Ogu & Okoro (2021) examined the role of multilateral development banks (MDBs), particularly the World Bank and African Development Bank (AfDB), in financing off-grid solar and rural electrification projects in Nigeria. Their research showed that institutional partnerships under programs such as the Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP) and the African Mini-Grids Program have provided not only financial support but also technical assistance, monitoring frameworks, and policy guidance. These interventions reflect the core assumptions of neo-liberal institutionalism where cooperation is institutionalized to promote stability, transparency, and mutual benefit among stakeholders.

Furthermore, Olasupo & Fagbenle (2019) highlighted the institutional dynamics behind Nigeria's engagement with the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other climate finance mechanisms. They noted that these partnerships have influenced the integration of climate goals into Nigeria's national energy planning, particularly under the Energy Transition Plan (ETP), launched in 2021. However, they caution that institutional engagement is sometimes undermined by domestic capacity constraints, weak inter-agency coordination, and inadequate follow-through on policy commitments. While international cooperation has contributed significantly to Nigeria's energy reforms, scholars such as Oduwole & Lawal (2022) argued that donor-driven projects risk creating a dependency dynamic, where policy coherence is externally shaped rather than domestically owned. Hence need for greater localization of institutional frameworks and stronger synergy between national energy institutions and international partners to ensure sustainability and policy alignment.

Despite these scholarly contributions, gaps remain in the literature. Much of the existing work focused on bilateral or donor-driven partnerships, with limited analysis of how Nigeria negotiates terms of cooperation or leverages alliances to shape global energy governance. Furthermore, the literature often overlooked the role of domestic politics such as inter-agency rivalries and policy incoherence in mediating the outcomes of energy diplomacy

III. NIGERIA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY DIPLOMACY LANDSCAPE

Nigeria's energy diplomacy is undergoing a significant transformation as global priorities shift from fossil fuels to clean energy. Traditionally anchored in petroleum-centered foreign relations, Nigeria's energy diplomacy is now increasingly oriented toward renewable energy engagement, reflecting a strategic recalibration to align with global climate goals, diversify its energy mix, and attract green investments. This transformation is closely tied to the country's national energy policies particularly the Renewable Energy Master Plan (REMP), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and Energy Transition Plan (ETP) as well as its alignment with international frameworks such as the Paris Agreement, the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and Africa's Agenda 2063. Hence evolving bilateral partnerships, multilateral agreements, and international institutional cooperation aimed at fostering technology transfer, capacity building, and sustainable energy development. One of the most notable developments is the Nigeria–Germany Hydrogen Diplomacy Initiative, under which both countries agreed to explore green hydrogen production and export using Nigeria's abundant solar resources (Federal Ministry of Power, 2023). Germany's role as a global leader in renewable technologies positions it as a valuable partner in Nigeria's energy transition efforts. Similarly, Nigeria has deepened ties with China through infrastructure-based energy agreements, including solar mini-grid and hydropower development under the Belt and Road Initiative. Also, China's involvement in mini-grid installations aligns with the plan's focus on decentralized renewable energy solutions in rural areas (Onuoha & Eke, 2022). However, implementation challenges such as weak regulatory enforcement and limited financing have constrained REMP's effectiveness. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has also emerged as a key player in Nigeria's renewable energy diplomacy. Through partnerships with companies such as Masdar, Nigeria has attracted funding and technical support for solar photovoltaic projects in northern states. These bilateral arrangements not only provide access to capital and

© JUL 2025 | IRE Journals | Volume 9 Issue 1 | ISSN: 2456-8880
DOI: https://doi.org/10.64388/IREV9I1-1710043-9189

technology but also elevate Nigeria's visibility as an emerging player in the global green energy market.

Nigeria's renewable energy diplomacy also plays out through active engagement with multilateral institutions. The country is a member of the International Renewable Energy Agency, where it participates in global dialogues and capacity-building initiatives on clean energy (IRENA, 2021). In partnership with institutions such as the African Development Bank and the World Bank, Nigeria has implemented major initiatives like the Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP), which supports off-grid solar deployment in underserved communities. These institutional relationships are aligned with the principles of neo-liberal institutionalism, wherein states cooperate through formalized institutions to achieve shared benefits. Nigeria's Energy Transition Plan (ETP), launched in 2021, is partially shaped by international cooperation and donor-backed models, including commitments under the Sustainable Energy for All framework and the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (SEforALL, 2021).

IV. RENEWABLE ENERGY AS A TOOL OF REGIONAL INFLUENCE

The geopolitics of energy in the 21st century is undergoing a profound transformation as countries shift from fossil fuels to cleaner, renewable sources. In this evolving landscape, renewable energy is no longer just an instrument of domestic development, it has emerged as a strategic tool for asserting regional influence. For countries like Nigeria, the transition to renewable energy offers an opportunity to redefine their leadership role in West Africa and shape regional integration, economic cooperation, and political stability. Through initiatives like the West African Power Pool (WAPP), countries with strong renewable energy capacity can become central suppliers of electricity to neighboring states, thereby wielding soft power in the region. By championing the ECOWAS Renewable Energy Policy (EREP), Nigeria is positioning itself as both a beneficiary and a broker of regional renewable energy initiatives. According to Okonkwo & Udeala (2022), Nigeria's potential to generate and export surplus solar and hydroelectric power positions it as a future energy anchor in West Africa. Again, by developing transnational infrastructure such as cross-border transmission lines, Nigeria can influence regional energy pricing, reliability, and access. These forms of energy diplomacy create mutual dependence, foster cooperation, and deepen Nigeria's strategic relevance in regional affairs. As demand for clean energy grows, especially for industrial zones and urban centers, countries with excess renewable generation capacity will increasingly shape the regional political economy.

Nigeria's leadership in regional platforms such as ECOWAS, the ECOWAS Centre for Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency (ECREEE), and the African Union's Agenda 2063 gives it institutional leverage to promote renewable energy as a tool for integration. Through these channels, Nigeria has supported initiatives focused on harmonizing energy policies, establishing regional regulatory standards, and mobilizing climate finance for West Africa (ECOWAS, 2021). Additionally, by hosting regional energy conferences and facilitating South–South cooperation, Nigeria strengthens its soft power. Such engagements enable Nigeria to shape narratives around energy justice, access, and climate resilience while influencing donor priorities and multilateral financing decisions. In view of this, Obi (2021) remarked that energy diplomacy is increasingly a means by which African countries assert international relevance, especially when linked to development and sustainability goals.

V. NIGERIA'S RENEWABLE ENERGY POLICY FRAMEWORKS

The Renewable Energy Master Plan (REMP), initially formulated in 2005 and revised thereafter, outlines ambitious targets to raise Nigeria's renewable electricity share from 13 % in 2015 to 23 % by 2025, and 36 % by 2030, including defined capacity goals across solar, wind, small hydro, and biomass (International Energy Agency, 2011). The revised National Energy Policy (NEP) and National Energy Master Plan (NEMP), approved in April 2022, further embeds renewable energy as a core sector focus, enabling private-sector participation and sustainable supply diversification (Energy Commission of Nigeria, 2022). Additionally, Nigeria's Climate Change Act of 2021 mandates the creation of a National Climate Change Action Plan and five-year

© JUL 2025 | IRE Journals | Volume 9 Issue 1 | ISSN: 2456-8880
DOI: https://doi.org/10.64388/IREV9I1-1710043-9189

carbon budgets, and establishes the National Council on Climate Change (NCCC) to mobilize climate action, including renewable energy integration (Nigeria's Climate Change Act, 2021). A Renewable Energy Roadmap (REMap) 2023, released via the Energy Commission of Nigeria, tracks progress and aligns national planning with institutional strategies (ECN, 2023)

VI. NEGOTIATION DYNAMICS AND BARGAINING POWER

Negotiation dynamics and bargaining power play a critical role in shaping the outcomes of Nigeria's renewable energy diplomacy. As the country transitions from a fossil-fuel-dominated economy toward cleaner energy, it must engage international actors, governments, multilateral institutions, development banks, and private investors to secure funding, technology, and technical expertise. These negotiations are not merely transactional; they are influenced by complex power relations, institutional constraints, and strategic national interests. Understanding Nigeria's negotiation behavior within this framework reveals the extent of its influence, vulnerabilities, and capacity to shape energy outcomes in its favor.

Bargaining power in international energy negotiations is shaped by several structural factors, including a state's resource endowment, economic leverage, policy coherence, and institutional capacity. Nigeria holds significant strategic value as Africa's most populous country, largest economy, and a potential leader in off-grid renewable energy markets (Adeniran & Ebohon, 2020). This demographic and energy market potential grants Nigeria considerable leverage in attracting foreign partners interested in large-scale clean energy deployment and rural electrification projects.

However, Nigeria's bargaining position is often constrained by weak infrastructure, governance challenges, and fiscal instability. As a result, the country often adopts a dependent bargaining position in negotiations with major donors like the World Bank, Germany, or China, wherein funding is conditional upon adherence to external policy models or environmental safeguards (Oduwole & Lawal, 2022).

VII. ISSUE-LINKAGE AND STRATEGIC FRAMING

One of Nigeria's emerging negotiation strategies is issue-linkage. This entails connecting renewable energy investment to broader developmental and diplomatic objectives such as poverty reduction, job creation, and regional energy security. For instance, during high-level bilateral engagements with Germany and the UAE, Nigerian negotiators positioned the energy transition as a platform for green industrialization, export opportunities (e.g., green hydrogen), and youth employment (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2021). This framing allows Nigeria to extract broader benefits beyond mere technical assistance or project funding.

VIII. REGIONAL INFLUENCE AS A BARGAINING ASSET

Nigeria's leadership role in West Africa especially within ECOWAS and the West African Power Pool (WAPP) also enhances its bargaining power. By positioning itself as a renewable energy hub and anchor for regional electricity integration, Nigeria attracts investments with cross-border implications, thus increasing its leverage in both donor and commercial negotiations (Okonkwo & Udeala, 2022). This regional diplomacy gives Nigeria additional negotiating currency, allowing it to secure better terms in initiatives that target regional development and energy trade.

Cross-border electricity trade in West Africa is not only a developmental imperative but also a diplomatic instrument. Nigeria's energy export partnerships with countries such as Niger and Benin represent how electricity especially from renewable sources can strengthen bilateral relations, foster economic interdependence, and project regional influence. Nigeria has supplied electricity to Niger since the 1970s, primarily under agreements between the Transmission Company of Nigeria (TCN) and Niger's state utility. This trade is facilitated through the North Core Regional Interconnection Project, part of the ECOWAS regional integration strategy (ECOWAS, 2021). Similar to Niger, Benin receives electricity from Nigeria under bilateral energy trade agreements. The Nigerian government, through TCN and the

© JUL 2025 | IRE Journals | Volume 9 Issue 1 | ISSN: 2456-8880
DOI: https://doi.org/10.64388/IREV9I1-1710043-9189

Beninese Société Béninoise d'Énergie Électrique (SBEE), facilitates this relationship. Both cases present opportunities for Nigeria to integrate renewable energy, especially solar, into its export framework, enhancing its climate diplomacy credentials.

IX. CHALLENGES OF NIGERIA'S STRATEGIC ALLIANCES IN RENEWABLE ENERGY DEVELOPMENT

Nigeria's strategic alliances in renewable energy whether through bilateral agreements, public-private partnerships, or multilateral cooperation hold promise for accelerating its energy transition. However, several systemic, institutional, and geopolitical challenges continue to undermine the effectiveness of these alliances. These include

1. Domestic Institutional Fragmentation and Bargaining Weakness

Internal challenges remain a significant barrier to effective negotiation. Institutional fragmentation, overlapping agency roles, and weak technical capacity within government bodies hinder unified negotiation fronts. When different agencies pursue separate energy agreements or have conflicting mandates, Nigeria's bargaining coherence is undermined (Akinbami et al., 2020). This fragmentation limits the ability to negotiate favorable financing terms or defend national interests in multilateral energy agreements. Moreover, the lack of sustained political will and follow-through on past agreements weakens Nigeria's trustworthiness in the eyes of international stakeholders. Some MoUs signed with global partners have either stalled or failed to progress due to implementation delays, weak legal frameworks, or changing political priorities (Obi, 2021). Again, asymmetric power relations often disadvantage Nigeria in negotiations. Major donors and multilateral institutions such as the World Bank, the African Development Bank (AfDB), and the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA) typically dominate the terms of engagement, including project design, monitoring standards, and repayment conditions (Obi, 2021). This is evident in agreements like the Nigeria Electrification Project (NEP), where disbursements are milestone-based and heavily monitored, and leaving limited room for domestic policy experimentation. Moreover, the proliferation of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with foreign partners often reflects soft power diplomacy by donor countries rather than balanced strategic partnerships. Nigeria's dependence on external capital and technology limits its ability to negotiate favorable terms, especially when local institutions lack the technical expertise or legal frameworks to hold partners accountable.

2. Policy Inconsistency and Regulatory Uncertainty

One of the most persistent challenges is the inconsistency of Nigeria's energy policy environment. Although strategic documents such as the Renewable Energy Master Plan (REMP), National Energy Policy, and the Electricity Act 2023 signal progress, implementation is often fragmented across multiple institutions with overlapping mandates. According to Akinbami, et. al (2020), the lack of policy harmonization between federal and state governments creates confusion for foreign investors and development partners. Regulatory agencies such as the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) and the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) often face capacity constraints, which delay project execution and undermine confidence in long-term investment commitments.

3. Weak Institutional Capacity and Bureaucratic Inefficiencies

Strategic alliances in renewable energy often depend on strong institutions capable of negotiation, implementation, and monitoring. Unfortunately, Nigeria's bureaucratic bottlenecks and inter-agency conflicts frequently stall project development. Key government agencies may lack the technical or diplomatic expertise required to engage effectively with global energy investors. Obi (2021) argued that many renewable energy MoUs signed with foreign partners lack follow-through due to poor coordination and institutional inertia. This weakens Nigeria's credibility and reduces the trust necessary for sustained partnerships.

4. Financing Barriers and Currency Instability

Renewable energy projects are capital-intensive and require long-term financial commitments. However, Nigeria's macroeconomic instability particularly exchange rate volatility, inflation, and limited access to foreign currency creates significant risks for foreign direct investment (FDI). Adeniran and Ebohon (2020) note that many international financiers are reluctant to commit to long-term renewable energy investments in Nigeria due to fears over currency devaluation and repatriation restrictions. Even when concessional loans or blended finance options are available, delays in project approval and disbursement often affect financial close.

5. Domestic Energy Access Gaps and Public Perception

While Nigeria engages in strategic alliances to export renewable energy or attract external investors, millions of its citizens especially in rural areas still lack basic electricity access. This contradiction sometimes sparks public resentment and political opposition to foreign-facing energy initiatives. SEforALL (2022) noted that over 85 million Nigerians are underserved or unserved by the national grid. Without strong domestic outcomes, renewable energy partnerships are perceived as externally driven and disconnected from the realities of ordinary citizens.

6. Geo-Strategic and Security Concerns

Nigeria's regional energy diplomacy such as electricity exports to Niger or Benin is often affected by political instability and cross-border insecurity. In northern Nigeria, where solar projects are strategically located, threats from insurgent groups have hampered construction and maintenance efforts. According to Okonkwo & Udeala (2022), insecurity across the Sahel and Nigeria's northern corridor deters potential investment partners and complicates energy integration efforts. These risks reduce the feasibility of cross-border renewable energy corridors, despite their theoretical appeal.

X. DISCUSSION AND FINDINGS

The strategic engagement of Nigeria in renewable energy alliances reflects its evolving role as both a regional leader in energy diplomacy and a nation striving to meet domestic energy and climate goals. While Nigeria has entered numerous Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) and bilateral energy deals such as with Germany (Siemens), China (Gurara Hydro II), and the United Arab Emirates (solar investments) many of these agreements lack sustained implementation or evaluation mechanisms. These partnerships often emerge from high-level diplomatic engagements but fall short of becoming long-term investment frameworks (Adeniran & Ebohon, 2020). This suggests a need for more strategic alignment between foreign policy, domestic renewable energy plans, and implementation institutions.

Electricity exports to Niger and Benin have positioned Nigeria as a regional power broker, but this diplomatic capital is vulnerable to domestic contradictions. While Nigeria exports power, it still ranks among the world's most energy-poor countries in terms of access. This paradox raises questions about whether renewable energy diplomacy is meeting domestic development goals or prioritizing external visibility

Though Nigeria uses energy as a diplomatic tool particularly in West Africa, renewable energy is still treated as a development or technical issue, rather than a strategic domain of soft power. Nigeria's international green diplomacy remains relatively weak, lacking visibility in forums like the UN Climate Summits or regional green energy corridors. Also noteworthy is that while Nigeria has articulated clear targets in the Renewable Energy Master Plan, National Determined Contributions (NDCs), and the Electricity Act 2023, several implementing bodies such as the Rural Electrification Agency (REA) and Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) remain underfunded or misaligned. Although global investors express interest particularly in solar mini-grids, hydroelectric, and battery storage the financial ecosystem in Nigeria remains risky. Many projects depend heavily on development finance institutions rather than commercial investors. This limits scalability and signals the need for institutional de-risking mechanisms, such as sovereign guarantees and blended financing frameworks. Another key finding is that Nigeria's strategic alliances often overlook the development of local supply chains, skilled labor, and technology transfer mechanisms. As noted by Oduwole & Lawal (2022), foreign-dominated projects sometimes lack provisions for domestic capacity-building. This undermines the long-term sustainability and national ownership of renewable infrastructure and keeps Nigeria dependent on external technical know-how.

XI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Nigeria's position in renewable energy diplomacy can be significantly improved by addressing internal inefficiencies, building institutional capacity, and leveraging its regional and strategic strengths. The following recommendations are aimed at enhancing Nigeria's bargaining power in energy negotiations and securing more equitable and sustainable outcomes.

1. Nigerian government must embrace institutional reforms that harmonize Energy Policy Frameworks at all levels of government, align policies on renewable energy to eliminate contradictions that confuse investors and partners, emphasize transparency, accountability, and stakeholder inclusion, ensuring that civil society, private sector actors, and subnational governments are part of the policy formulation and bargaining process.

2. The Nigerian government should enact renewable energy laws that mitigate policy inconsistency and regulatory uncertainty, it is imperative for governments to institutionalize long-term policy frameworks through legislation, ensuring they are not easily altered by shifting political interests or administrative changes. Equally important is the establishment of independent regulatory bodies with the autonomy to oversee implementation, monitor compliance, and provide transparent updates on regulatory changes.

3. Introduce formal training programs for government officials on climate finance, contract negotiation, and energy diplomacy, possibly in collaboration with institutions like UNEP, SEforALL, and the African Legal Support Facility. Mandate the registration of all MoUs and contracts through the Federal Ministry of Justice and require periodic reviews to assess progress. Public disclosure of contract terms and implementation status should also be encouraged.

4. Nigeria should strengthen its engagement with multilateral financial institutions to secure concessional financing, guarantees, and technical assistance for large-scale projects

5. The Nigerian government, in collaboration with development partners and private investors, should scale up community-based renewable energy programs that are tailored to local needs and promote inclusive participation. By demonstrating visible, localized benefits of renewable energy projects, public support and trust in energy partnerships can be significantly improved.

6. Nigeria should establish a Renewable Energy Security and Intelligence Task Force, composed of energy planners, security agencies, and diplomatic actors. This unit would monitor threats, assess geopolitical risks, and provide early warning signals to both domestic and international partners.

REFERENCES

[1] Aalto, P., Dusseault, D., Kennedy, M. D., & Kivinen, M. (2014). Russia's energy relations in Europe and the Far East: Towards a social structurationist approach to energy policy formation. *Journal of International Relations and Development, 17*(1), 1–29. https://doi.org/10.1057/jird.2012.30

[2] Adeniran, A. I., & Ebohon, O. J. (2020). Renewable energy policy and institutional frameworks in Nigeria: The role of international cooperation. *Energy Research & Social Science, 65*, 101465. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.erss.2020.101465

[3] Akinbami, J. F. K., Ilori, M. O., & Adegbulugbe, A. O. (2020). Institutional frameworks and policy development for renewable energy in Nigeria. *Renewable Energy, 145*, 1235–1245. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.renene.2019.06.088

[4] Akinbami, J. F. K., Ilori, M. O., & Adegbulugbe, A. O. (2020). Institutional frameworks and policy development for renewable energy in Nigeria. *Renewable Energy, 145*, 1235–1245. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.renene.2019.06.088

[5] ECOWAS. (2021). *ECOWAS regional renewable energy policy progress report*. ECREEE. https://ecreee.org

[6] Eleri, E., & Ewah, O. (2021). Strengthening Nigeria's energy transition governance: Strategic partnerships and policy coherence. *Clean Energy Institute Working Paper Series*, 7(2), 45–61.

[7] Energy Commission of Nigeria. (2014). *Renewable Energy Master Plan (REMP): Revised Edition*. Abuja:

[8] Federal Government of Nigeria. (2021). *Nigeria Energy Transition Plan*. Abuja: Energy Transition Office. https://www.energytransition.gov.ng

[9] Federal Ministry of Power. (2023). *Nigeria–Germany Green Hydrogen Roadmap*. Abuja: Government Press.

[10] International Energy Agency. (2011). Nigeria Renewable Energy Master Plan. IEA+1Wikipedia+1

[11] International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). (2022). *Renewable energy market analysis: Africa and its regions*. https://www.irena.org

[12] Keohane, R. O. (1984). *After hegemony: Cooperation and discord in the world political economy*. Princeton University Press.

[13] Nigeria's Climate Change Act, 2021. *National Assembly of Nigeria*.

[14] Obi, C. (2021). Energy transition and foreign policy in Nigeria: Green diplomacy or political rhetoric? *Energy Policy, 152*, 112248. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2021.112248

[15] Obi, C. (2021). Energy transition and foreign policy in Nigeria: Green diplomacy or political rhetoric? *Energy Policy, 152*, 112248. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2021.112248

[16] Oduwole, T. A., & Lawal, S. A. (2022). International partnerships and energy transition in Nigeria: A policy coherence analysis. *Journal of African Energy and Development, 8*(1), 52–68.

[17] Ogu, M. I., & Okoro, E. A. (2021). Multilateral financial institutions and Nigeria's renewable energy strategy: An institutional perspective. *Energy Policy Research Review, 5*(2), 101–117.

[18] Ogunleye, J. O. (2020). Nigeria's energy diplomacy and the renewable energy shift: Pathways and policy implications. *African Journal of Energy Policy and Development*, *5*(1), 33–48.

[19] Okonkwo, C., & Udeala, H. (2022). Nigeria and regional energy diplomacy in West Africa: Opportunities and limits of soft power. *African Journal of International Affairs and Development, 29*(1), 89–105.

[20] Olasupo, A. R., & Fagbenle, R. O. (2019). Climate finance and renewable energy policy integration in Nigeria. *Journal of Sustainable Development in Africa, 21*(4), 77–89

[21] Onuoha, F. C., & Eke, S. J. (2022). China's energy diplomacy in Africa: Examining Nigeria's strategic engagement. *Journal of Global Energy Studies, 6*(2), 51–66.

[22] SEforALL. (2022). *Financing Nigeria's Energy Transition*. Sustainable Energy for All. https://www.seforall.org