

Call for Papers
Deadline: February 15, 2026



Global Affairs and Sustainable
Development Institute,
Osun State University, Osogbo, Nigeria



6th ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE (ISDD)

▶ ISDD 2026 - THEME

The Problem with 'Solutions': SDGs, and Global South Development Challenges

SPECIAL ROUNDTABLE: SHAPING THE FUTURE - WHAT NEXT? AFTER AGENDA 2030?

ROSA LUXEMBURG STIFTUNG, UNIOSUN,
UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK, AND
UNITED NATIONS ACADEMIC IMPACT (UNAI)
SDG HUB NETWORK SCHOLARS



9TH - 11TH
JUNE, 2026



OLAGUNSOYE OYINLOLA AUDITORIUM,
OSUN STATE UNIVERSITY, OSOGBO, NIGERIA

Submission Guidelines

Abstract length

250 - 300 words

Send submission to:

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Participation Fee

International participants: \$100

Local participants: ₦30,000

Bank Account details

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► Conference Overview

Across much of the Global South, *development* remains framed as a sequence of technical problems: poverty to be solved by industrialization, hunger by GMOs, and climate crisis by “green growth.” Yet, these so-called solutions often entrench rather than alleviate inequality. They depoliticize questions of justice, transforming struggles over power and resources into technical or managerial issues (Ferguson, 1990; Escobar, 1995).

Recent scholarship highlights that this “solutionist” logic reproduces colonial hierarchies of knowledge and authority. Interventions promoted as progress, including “climate-smart” agriculture, digital infrastructure, or carbon-offset markets, frequently reinforce extractivism and dependency (Mehta et al., 2025). Under banners such as *green growth* or *just energy transition*, Africa’s mineral and ecological wealth is again being converted into new frontiers of exploitation—a phenomenon aptly described as *green colonialism* (Radical Ecological Democracy, 2025).

Parallel patterns are visible in digital economies, where data capture, algorithmic governance, and platform dependency mirror older resource extraction, now extended to information itself (Couldry & Mejias, 2025). Likewise, “resilience” rhetoric shifts the burden of adaptation onto local communities while leaving global structures of inequality intact (*Against Climate Resilience*, 2025).

African and Global South thinkers are articulating alternatives grounded in relational ecologies, indigenous cosmologies, and epistemic justice. These alternative frameworks center reciprocity, repair, and collective well-being (Terry, 2024). As calls to *decolonise sustainability* grow, this conference asks not merely how to solve “Third World challenges,” but how the very language of *solutions* legitimizes new forms of domination.



► Conference Objectives

1. Critically interrogate dominant development “solutions” and their political underpinnings.
2. Examine the reproduction of inequality through technocratic, donor-driven interventions.
3. Highlight indigenous, feminist, ecological, and community-based alternatives.
4. Foster South-South dialogue on decolonising sustainability, sovereignty, and repair.

► Indicative Sub-Themes

1. **The GMO / Climate-Smart / Food Security Fix**/Seed sovereignty, digital agriculture, and the politics of “resilience.” Agro-industrial interventions and smallholder dispossession.
2. **Green Transitions, Same Extraction**/Critical minerals, carbon markets, and green colonialism. Climate finance, debt, and energy sovereignty.
3. **Industrialization and Inequality**“Leapfrogging,” AfCFTA corridors, and the new green division of labour. Industrial enclaves, labour precarity, and spatial injustice.
4. **Digital Infrastructures and Data Colonialism**/Big Tech’s expansion into African markets. Information sovereignty, surveillance, and platform dependency.
5. **Indigenous Knowledge and Decolonial Praxis**/Ritual ecology, cosmology, and African ways of knowing nature. Pluriversal ethics and the politics of epistemic justice.
6. **Rethinking Repair and Solidarity**/Degrowth, post-development imaginaries, and pluriversal futures. Collective care, ecological restoration, and social transformation.
7. **Youth**/Mining, conflict, banditry, terrorism, drug trafficking, migration, political violence.
8. **Agenda 2030 and its disquiets.**
9. **Neglected Tropical Diseases.**
10. **Mining and Illegal Refineries**
11. **Gendered Vulnerabilities** /Access to healthcare, markets, and political participation
12. **Resilience’, ‘Empowerment’, ‘Community Ownership’**/Depoliticisation of development
13. **Reparations**/ Reversing North-South resource transfers, creating universal basic services in spaces of chattel slavery and colonialism.
14. **Africa and Industrial Capital**/FDI, China, and Russia in North-South relations

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