Unitar Online Catalogue

CIFAL Nigeria - The Politics of Power: Energy Security, Resource Wealth and the Global Energy Transition

People

Deadline: 14 May 2026

Type:	Webinar
Location:	Web-based
Date:	15 May 2026 to 29 May 2026
Duration:	5 Hours
Thematic Area:	Decentralize Cooperation Programme
Website:	https://cifal-global-network.org/
Price:	$0.00
Event Focal Point Email:	cifalnetwork@unitar.org
Partnership:	CIFAL Nigeria, , CIFAL Surrey, , CIFAL Newcastle

BACKGROUND

As global climate policies intensify and nations accelerate the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy, resource-rich developing countries face complex policy dilemmas. Nigeria, Africa’s largest oil and gas producer, remains heavily dependent on hydrocarbons while grappling with poverty, infrastructure deficits, environmental degradation, and governance challenges.

The second edition of the global webinar series “The Politics of Power: Energy Security, Resource Wealth and the Global Energy Transition” examined Nigeria’s strategic position in this evolving global energy landscape.

The session brought together international scholars and policy experts to debate whether Nigeria should prioritize converting oil and gas wealth into sustainable national prosperity before aggressively pursuing renewable energy transition.

Discussions highlighted historical exploitation of the Niger Delta, environmental devastation, weak institutions, inequality, and the urgent need for inclusive economic transformation.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

- Examine the political economy of energy security and resource wealth in Nigeria;
- Assess the implications of the global energy transition for fossil fuel–dependent economies;
- Analyze governance, institutional, and environmental challenges in oil-producing regions;
- Explore pathways for converting fossil fuel revenues into sustainable national development;
- Strengthen African representation in global energy transition debates.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the webinar, participants were able to:

- Understand the structural link between resource wealth and underdevelopment (“resource curse” dynamics);
- Identify governance gaps and environmental impacts in oil-producing regions such as the Niger Delta;
- Evaluate policy trade-offs between fossil fuel dependency and renewable energy transition;
- Recognize the need for industrial and institutional readiness before large-scale renewable transition;
- Engage in evidence-based dialogue on climate justice and energy equity.

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

1. **Historical Context of Resource Exploitation**
    - Slave trade to crude oil extraction
    - Niger Delta as a long-standing resource base
2. **Resource Wealth and Underdevelopment**
    - Environmental degradation and oil spills
    - Weak infrastructure and unreliable domestic energy supply
    - Poverty and social unrest in oil-producing communities
3. **Environmental and Public Health Impacts**
    - Toxic contamination and ecosystem destruction
    - Gas flaring and oil spill statistics
    - Health risks and reduced life expectancy
4. **Governance and Institutional Challenges**
    - Petroleum Industry Act and host community provisions
    - Derivation formula debates
    - Elite capture and rent-seeking
5. **Energy Transition and Industrial Capacity**
    - Solar potential vs. industrial readiness
    - Import dependency for renewable technology
    - Strategic sequencing of economic transformation
6. **Global Energy Politics & African Voice**
    - Climate justice considerations
    - Ensuring African participation in global policy discourse

METHODOLOGY

- Expert presentations
- Policy dialogue and debate
- Comparative international analysis
- Evidence-based discussion
- Interactive Q&A session

The webinar combined academic research, policy critique, and strategic development insights.

TARGETED AUDIENCE

- Policymakers
- Academics and researchers
- Energy sector professionals
- Civil society organizations
- Development practitioners
- Students and scholars of environmental governance