

Financing Nigeria's Sustainable Future: *Turning Sustainability Ambitions into Economic Value*



Mr. Emmanuel Etaderhi
Divisional Head, Government Affairs
FMDQ Group PLC

Sustainability is increasingly shaping how economies grow, businesses operate and investors allocate capital. For Nigeria, however, the conversation must move beyond sustainability as an aspiration to recognising it as an economic and financing imperative. Our development priorities are significant. We need infrastructure that can support long-term growth, businesses that can remain competitive, industries that can operate efficiently and communities that can benefit from economic progress. Delivering these outcomes will require substantial investment.

The question, therefore, is not simply whether sustainability matters. It is whether we are building the financial pathways capable of turning our sustainability ambitions into economic value.

Sustainability Requires Capital

Sustainable development does not happen without investment. Improving energy efficiency, strengthening infrastructure, adopting cleaner technologies and supporting sustainable production all require capital. Businesses need funding to modernise operations, develop new solutions and respond to changing environmental and economic realities.

This places financial markets at an important intersection between sustainability ambition and economic execution. Capital markets can connect investors seeking long-term opportunities with businesses and projects capable of creating lasting value. The opportunity before us is to increasingly direct capital towards activities that can generate economic returns

while contributing to more sustainable outcomes.

The objective is not to replace financial discipline with sustainability considerations. It is to recognise that, increasingly, the two can reinforce each other. Investments that improve resource efficiency, strengthen resilience or support new technologies can create both measurable economic value and longer-term sustainability benefits.

From Responsibility to Strategy

Sustainability has traditionally been viewed primarily through the lens of corporate responsibility. While that responsibility remains important, its commercial and strategic implications are becoming increasingly difficult to ignore. Resource efficiency can reduce operating costs, resilient infrastructure can strengthen business continuity, and investment in technology and innovation can improve competitiveness. Responsible business practices can also strengthen stakeholder confidence and support long-term value creation. The strategic question is therefore no longer whether sustainability represents an additional cost, but how it can strengthen the resilience, competitiveness and relevance of business models over time. This is particularly important for long-term

decisions around infrastructure, technology, supply chains and production capacity, where choices made today can shape business outcomes for decades.

Building Confidence in Sustainable Finance

As sustainable finance develops, credibility will become increasingly important.

Investors need confidence that sustainability claims are supported by meaningful actions and reliable

information. Businesses need appropriate frameworks for communicating their objectives and progress. Market participants need sufficient transparency to distinguish genuine commitments from superficial positioning.

Sustainable finance cannot be built on broad statements alone. It requires credible information, measurable objectives and accountability. Without these, investors may find it difficult to

properly assess opportunities or determine whether sustainability-related commitments are translating into tangible outcomes.

Financing the Transition

The transition towards a more sustainable economy will not happen overnight. Different sectors will move at different speeds, and businesses will face different starting points and constraints. What matters is creating the conditions for meaningful and sustained progress.

Sustainability becomes economically transformative when it moves into capital allocation, with investment decisions considering not only what creates value today, but what preserves and strengthens that value over time. Nigeria can approach sustainability not simply as an obligation arising from changing global expectations, but as an opportunity to strengthen the competitiveness, resilience and long-term productive capacity of the economy. That will require capital, but it will also require better decisions about where that capital goes.

Turning Ambition into Economic Value

The future of sustainable finance will ultimately be determined

by its ability to translate principles into outcomes. We need businesses that can incorporate sustainability into their long-term strategy, investors capable of assessing both financial and sustainability-related considerations, and market structures that provide confidence in the information underpinning investment decisions.

We must also recognise that sustainability is not a destination. It is an ongoing process of adapting how we produce, invest, finance and grow.

For Nigeria, the opportunity is significant. The capital required to build a more sustainable future can in line with Goal 9 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, build industries,

support innovation, strengthen infrastructure and create economic opportunities that enhance long-term competitiveness. The task, therefore, is not simply to mobilise capital, but to ensure that the financial system can direct it towards opportunities capable of creating enduring economic value.

That is how sustainability moves from aspiration to strategy, and from strategy to measurable economic progress.

“Sustainable finance cannot be built on broad statements alone. It requires credible information, measurable objectives and accountability.”

Investing with Impact

Green Bonds support sustainability while creating long-term value for investors and communities.

Scan Here

To see how we do it with FMDQ Green Exchange



<https://fmdqgroup.com/greenexchange/>

FMDQ
GREEN EXCHANGE

