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# Promoting accountability and transparency in the governance of renewable energy transition in developing nations.

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## Introduction

COP28 concluded with the need for an enhanced Transparency framework to ensure progress towards achieving Countries' Nationally Determined Contributions to be Paris Agreement compliant. However, developing countries, especially in the global south, are faced with governance challenges, with the Worldwide Governance Indicators (WRI 2022) showing that there is a need for more proactive steps to enhance the current levels. Using Nigeria as a case study, the electricity sector governance and strategic planning have not been spared from this, with the grid renewable energy governance being highlighted as requiring an accountability and transparency check and urgent attention as they will enable a conducive environment for the acceleration of renewable energy deployment in Nigerian cities. However, there is a lack of studies exploring the accountability and transparency challenges and opportunities in governance for energy transition and how to improve them is critical.



To critically explore the governance configuration, particularly concerning the accountability and transparency of the strategic planning process for Nigeria's on-grid Renewable Energy (RE) deployment.



Assess the level of accountability and transparency in governance and strategic planning process in the grid RE sector.



Evaluate the role of transparency in facilitating grid RE development.



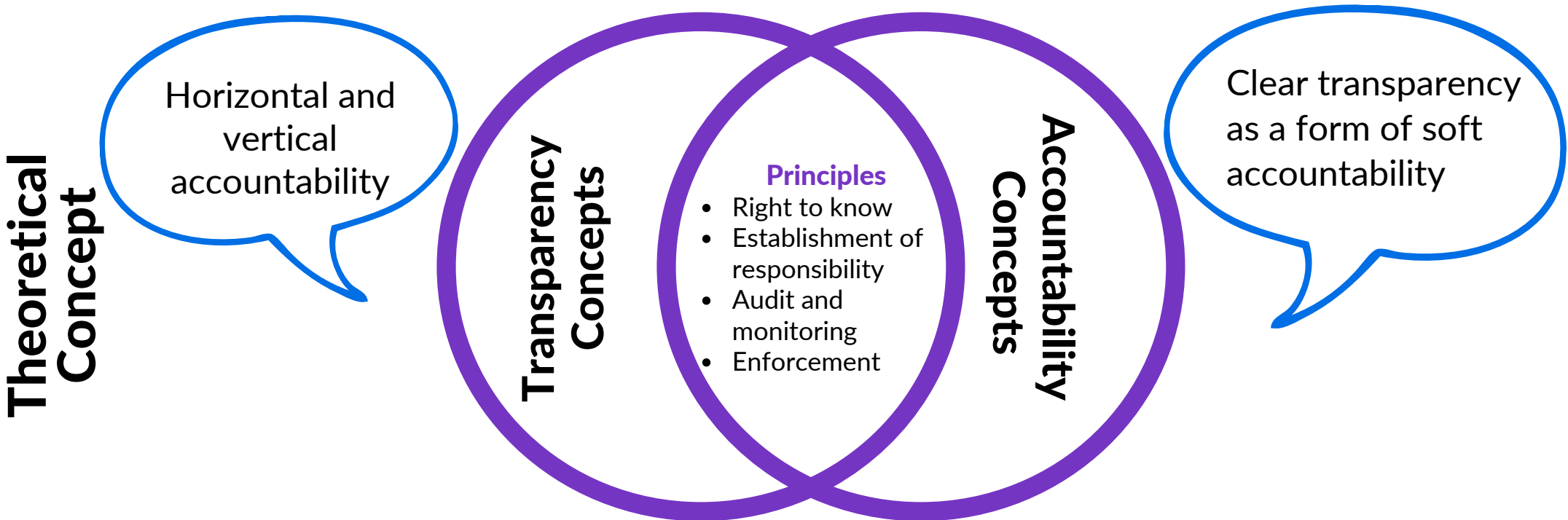
To investigate transparency mechanisms to accelerate grid RE development.



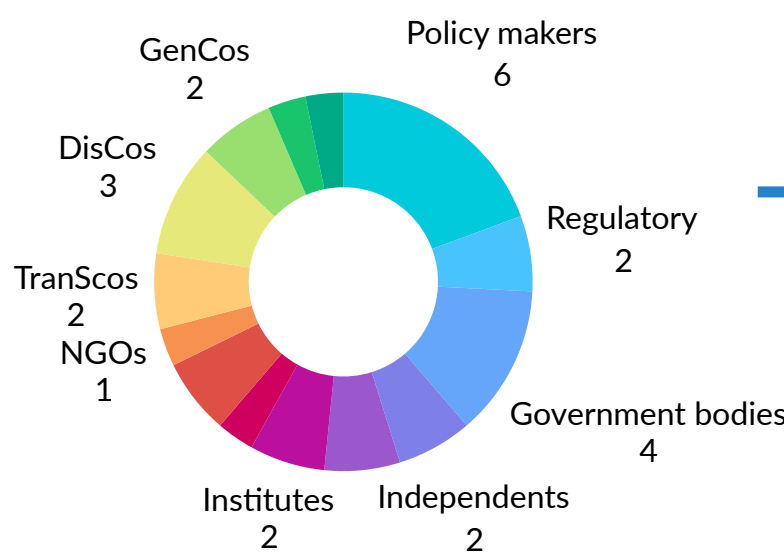
To investigate which actor should be held accountable for grid RE development.

## Approach

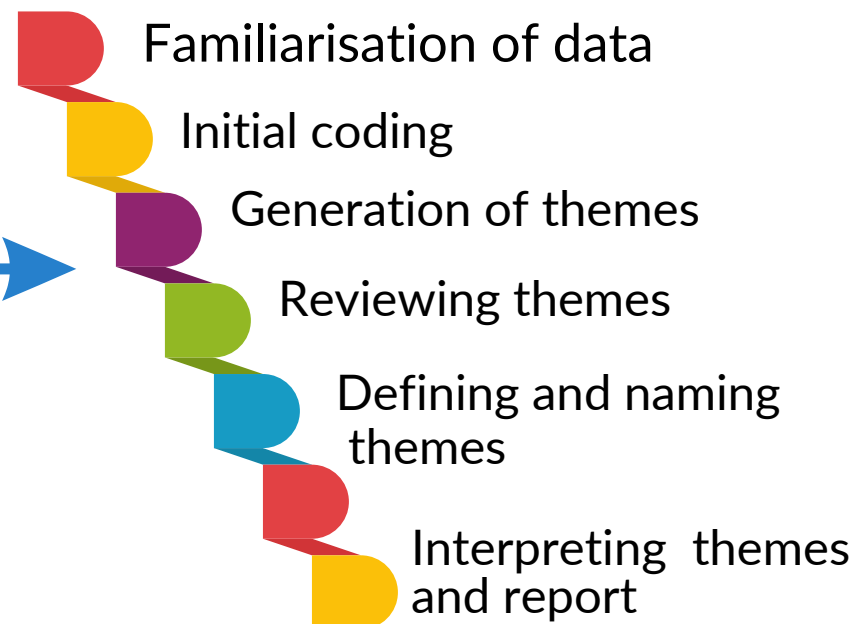
Building on the debate of accountability design that factors in the specificities of the context of accountability by applying this study to the context of the Nigerian electricity sector.



**An interpretive approach**  
Participants' categories for Semi-Structured in-depth Interview



**Braun Clarke's 2006 thematic data analysis process**



Method

## Results

**Result 1: The perception of the energy and non-energy actors on the level of accountability and transparency in the grid-RE space in Nigeria.**

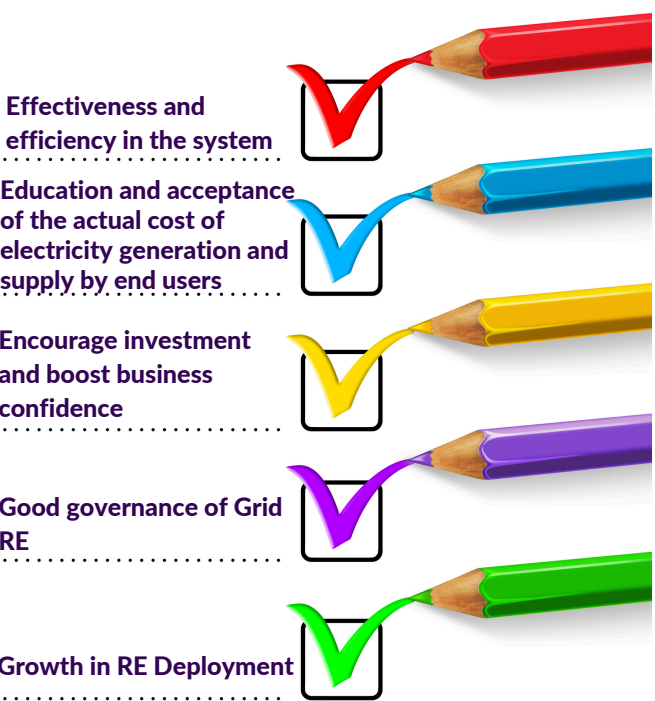
No/Low transparency/accountability

Relative transparency/accountability

Affirmative transparency/accountability

Key finding: Transparency and accountability are below expected levels

**Result 2: The role of transparency in facilitating Grid RE development.**



Key finding: Transparency plays an important role in Grid RE deployment

**Result 3: Transparency mechanisms by actors that would accelerate grid renewable energy development.**



Key finding: Leadership and societal participation is key for fostering transparency to accelerate transition

**Result 4: Perception of the actors on who should be held accountable for Grid RE Development.**



Key finding: Multiple stakeholders are accountable with no specific institutional leadership

## Policy and Practical implication

### Recommendation

- Establishing a singular agency responsible for grid renewable energy projects and initiatives.
- A hybrid accountability mechanism should be implemented to foster accountability through an open process that includes all necessary stakeholders. Information on the participants' selection process, meetings, and outcomes should be disseminated.
- Also, the current legal frameworks should be enforced.
- There should be an introduction to accountability and transparency measures through a competitive bidding system for project execution.
- Regularly publish information about the status and state of the projects and disseminate it to the public.
- Learnings should be made publicly available and accessible, and better monitoring and audit processes and robust societal engagements should be implemented.

### Conclusion

The study provides insights into the need for a governance system and management structure needed to transition in developing countries, specifically in a global south context. This could be explained as the unique context as sub-optimal institutional maturity requires more deliberate transparency and accountability measures to accelerate transitions.

### References

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WRI 2024. World governance indicators. Available from: <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/worldwide-governance-indicators#:~:text=The%20WGI%20feature%20six%20aggregate%20governance%20indicators%20for,Regulatory%20Quality%20Rule%20of%20Law%20Control%20of%20Corruption> [Accessed on 12th February 2024].

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