

## RETHINKING PEACE, SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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### ABSTRACT

There is growing recognition that peace and security are fundamental for socio-political and economic development of any country in the world. Yet Violent conflicts, whether social, political, or environmental, has significantly contributed to the crisis of sustainable development and security challenges in terms of loss of human and material resources. This paper has therefore, examined the nature of peace, security and sustainable development in Nigeria. The study adopts a combination of theories like; the clash of civilization theory, the frustration-aggression theory, state fragility and failed state theory. Qualitative method, such as textbooks, journal articles, internet, among others was used as sources of data collection. The work was descriptively analyzed through the content of the information gathered. The paper explores various dimensions of the social, political, economic and other conditions that have over the years affected the indices for measuring peace, security and sustainable development in Nigeria. Consequently, the paper revealed some of the symptoms that have truncated the “God given” peace, security and sustainable development in Nigeria, which includes; corruption, unemployment, Weak institutional system, structural imbalance, human trafficking, bad leadership, among others. The paper concluded with some useful policies recommendations regarding the way forward therein and most importantly, called for the need by the Nigeria government to learn from history, as attempts been made to tackle the challenges currently upsetting the attainment of sustainable peace, security and development in the country.

**Key Words:** Peace, Security, Sustainable Development, Nigeria.

### 1. INTRODUCTION

*..... the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognizes that “sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security; and peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development. Achieving sustainable development and sustainable peace are the two sides of the same coin, representing the two pillars of the UN system. “No peace, no development”, “no peace, no justice” and “no development, no security” are commonly used slogans that illustrate the impossibility of separating one from the other. UNDP, 2016).”*

Nigeria’s varied conflicts weaken internal security and affect peace and sustainable development in the country. The continued displacement of people due to the ongoing Boko Haram insurgency in the northeast, a surge in deadly pastoralist-farmer conflicts across central Nigeria, long-running

militancy in the Niger Delta, and the re-emergence of separatist agitation in the southeast and southwest are all at the backdrop for sustainable development in Nigeria. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 25 September 2015, recognizes not only that peace and security are prerequisites for achieving sustainable development, but that sustainable development provides the pathway to peaceful societies. Lamberto Zannier (2019) argued that this new peace-centred agenda is inclusive and ambitious and could usher in a new spirit of global solidarity. With its five pillars of peace, people, planet, prosperity and partnerships, it opens a new era of development. Translating its 17 goals and 169 targets into concrete action on the ground will only be possible with the support and engagement of all major stakeholders, including Governments, civil society, business, academia, parliaments, and international organizations. According to the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE):

“as the world's largest regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) is ready to do its part to contribute to this critical global effort.

Evidently, countries that can sustain peace and mitigate the risks of conflict tend to achieve higher levels of human development, while more fragile countries tend to have lower levels. Peace and security are key, if underappreciated, pre-requisites for sustainable development. The Millennium Declaration emphasized the importance of security and stability for development, yet these elements were not explicitly included in the Millennium Development Goals' (MDG) targets or indicators (Denney, 2012). Peace and security need to feature more explicitly in the post-2020 development framework if progress is to be sustainable. Indicators to measure progress and a funding mechanism will also be needed. The negative relationship between human development and conflict is driven by mutually reinforcing underlying dynamics that can be conceptualized in a conflict-human development trap. Essentially, low levels of human development increase the risk of conflict and insecurity; in turn, conflict can destroy economic and social capital, consequently undermining human development (UNDP, 2016). It is in this spirit that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) offer a powerful architecture to address the root causes of conflict by recognizing the interdependence between the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and integrating them to foster mutually reinforcing peace and development outcomes. Indeed, countries that exhibit lower risk levels are also those that have a stronger capacity to achieve the SDGs. This is to be expected as the priorities identified in the SDGs are in strong alignment with the dimensions necessary for fostering peace.

The unique structural impediments to development that countries with special need face like Nigeria, coupled with their resource and capacity constraints, make these countries more fragile and susceptible to conflict than other developing countries. They also suffer from limited institutional and infrastructure capacities to deal with shocks. According to UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia-Pacific countries with special needs (2018) the resulting combination of these factors translates into a high level of vulnerability to shocks of socio-economic or environmental nature which ultimately makes them more susceptible to conflict and insecurity than other developing countries in the region. In recent decades, beyond the loss of lives,

development in several countries with special needs, particularly least developed countries, were impeded by devastating conflicts.

The country has persistently found it difficult to attain the goals of sustainable development due to poor development planning, corruption, political brinkmanship and several other factors. Violent conflicts, whether social, political, or environmental, has contributed significantly to the crisis situation in terms of loss of human and material capital as well as the diversion of leaders efforts away from primary issues in sustainable human development (Albert, 2012). A lot have been said or many researches have carried out related research in previous years but were merely concern about the development without looking at some of these factors that have hindered development for several years in Nigeria. Secondly, most of the articles have always been on academic background or point of view. Therefore, attempt or efforts are made on this paper to look at some of the factors that have hindered development in Nigeria for so many years. The paper also reviews the nature of insecurity in Nigeria; and the gap in dealing with them. Some relevant policies were recommended for sustainably breaking the cycle of insecurity in the country that in turn could bring to bear or result to sustainable development.

### **Understanding Peace in the Context of Sustainable Development**

Sustaining peace requires an understanding of the underlying structural drivers of conflict beyond the immediate triggers. Thus, a clear distinction between the “absence of conflict” and “durable peace” must be underscored. An absence of conflict does not necessarily imply that a society is operating at the frontier of peaceful conditions. While conflicts may be concentrated in a few countries the underlying risk factors are widespread. The latency of conflict suggests that it is critical to address these structural drivers of conflict even in the absence of conflict. Thus, assessment of conflicts must “go beyond the dichotomy on fragility, and look for dimensions of fragility that may be present even in supposedly non-fragile countries” (UNDP, 2016).

The best way to understand State fragility is through a systems framework. Unlike a state-centric model, system thinking facilitates a deeper analysis of the linkages between the symptoms and causes of fragility, as well as the impact of various processes on one another. Fragile systems are settings where low security and low development interact to form complex challenges for both development and security.

Incorporating a gender perspective within a systems framework, helps to identify structural inequalities based on social norms. Gender analysis, for instance, can illustrate how men and women experience insecurity and fragility differently, thereby informing more effective policy. In this way, an improved understanding of the relationship between structural inequalities and security and development processes could contribute to increased peace and security. There is no universal definition of peace accepted by all. The concept of peace is defined differently by different scholars and policy makers. However, peace has been defined by most analysts, as the absence of war, fear, conflict, anxiety, suffering and violence (Francis, 2006; Igbuzor, 2011). Galtung, Johan (2011) has also attempted to offer a comprehensive and holistic conception of peace. He also links it directly to the issue of sustainable development. He defines peace as a process involving activities that are directly or indirectly linked to increasing development and reducing conflict, both within specific societies and the wider international community. Ibeanu (in Best, 2006), for example, defines “peace as the absence of war” and by logical extension, war

is the absence of peace. He went further to state that whereas this simplistic understanding of peace is attractive, it is still inadequate for appreciating the true meaning and nature of peace, thereby necessitating the need to explore other interpretations, especially those of instrumentalists, functionalists, sociologists and philosophers. The concept of peace and security essentially has to do with the sanctity of life and the absolute necessity to protect and safeguard lives and property. This simply connotes “the absence of threat to life, property and socio-economic well-being of the people Arisi, (2013). Peace is a condition in which there is no social conflict and individuals and groups are able to meet their needs, aspirations and expectations while security is broadly viewed as freedom from danger or threats to an individual or nation. The traditional notion of peace—the absence of conflict—is not enough to bring about sustainable development. If a government ends armed hostilities by issuing a ceasefire without addressing its underlying factors, conflict may resume, further disrupting business operations and exacerbating poverty, hunger and inequality.

Johan Galtung (2011) argued that there are two types of peace: negative peace and positive peace. He defined negative peace as “the absence of violence, absence of war,” and identified three major categories of violence: direct, structural and cultural. Structural violence refers to the unjust systems that marginalize certain groups. Cultural violence pertains to social norms that justify direct and structural violence. Direct violence, such as war and crime, is an outcome of structural and cultural violence. Johan Galtung listed eight factors behind positive peace—also known as the Eight Pillars of Positive Peace—are:

- Well-functioning government;
- Sound business environment;
- Equitable distribution of resources;
- Acceptance of the rights of others;
- Good relations with neighbors;
- Free flow of information;
- High levels of human capital;
- Low levels of corruption.

Galtung described positive peace as the “integration of human society.” Positive peace involves preventing or ending direct violence as well as structural and cultural violence. Unjust social structures and social norms are corrected to avert the occurrence of direct violence. The Eight Pillars of Positive Peace strengthens a society from within by creating an environment that nurtures communities and supports enterprise. A society that can support businesses is a society able to provide basic social services and livelihood opportunities, resulting in peace as well as sustainable development. In a society where positive peace prevails, all sectors help bring about the positive economic, political and social factors that lead to sustainable development. Businesses, for example, can pay their workers competitive wages use responsibly-sourced materials and not participate in bribery. With decent wages, workers can afford basic needs, allowing them to become more productive. When manufacturers use responsibly-sourced materials, they contribute to positive change. And when companies do not engage in bribery, they help discourage employees, other businesses and governments from enabling corruption. These outcomes help ensure greater profitability for enterprises in the future. Promoting peace and sustainable

development reduces poverty and prevents conflict, translating to a healthier business environment that allows for a more effective delivery of products and services.

### **Does Security Matters to sustainable Development?**

Conflict seems an ever-present fact of human existence, and nearly always at the expense of societal development. There is a logical interdependence between development and conflict. Conflict and insecurity inhibits development and diverts resources to military purposes that could be better used for human development. Successful development of education, health, governance and infrastructure, meanwhile, are key attributes that make conflict and insecurity markedly less likely. During the Cold War the relationship between development and conflict was effectively subordinated to the competition between the superpowers. Developed countries and the superpowers were assumed to have far too much to lose in any direct conflict. Their antagonisms were played out by proxy among other countries across the world. In these circumstances, development was highly politicized, skewed towards military and security spending, and frequently had the effect of creating and bolstering autocratic dictatorships of both capitalist and socialist persuasions.

It is not surprising, therefore, that at the end of the Cold War in 1991 – and after some 30 years of learning the effects of organized international development across the world – there should be a desire to put development aid on a new basis. The UN's Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were the most eloquent and important expression of this aspiration that have long be replaced by sustainable development agenda.

Then, what is Security/insecurity? Security is any internal or external threat to challenging the authority of the State in monopolizing violence was considered as a security threat (Monsuru, 2014). A layman definition of security is the protection of life and property of a person. The concept of security has undergone a transition from traditional conceptualization to a non-traditional meaning, traditionally. it is not a mischief to say that there are various definitions of the term (security) without any consensus among scholars in their conceptualization. And thus, to some, security can be defined as:

an all-encompassing condition in which individual citizens live in freedom, peace and safety; participate fully in the process of governance; Enjoy the protection of fundamental rights; have Access to resources and the basic necessities of life; And inhabit an environment which is not detrimental to their health and wellbeing (see South Africa White Paper on Defence, 1996).

Not only in terms of the internal security of the State, but also in terms of secure systems of Food health, money and trade. To begin with, it is worth defining what is actually meant by the term 'security'. Neither security – nor its opposite, insecurity – are objective or measurable feelings; they are, as Wood and Shearing (2007) argue, 'imagined'. 'Security' is used to cover a much wider range of conditions than the most salient examples relating to crime. It is used in international relations, and in relation to welfare payments. In French, *sécurité* is used even more broadly, indicating safety as well as security in the English sense. Security is also a 'natural' process. There are many examples in the natural world of animals, plants and even viruses developing security tactics by pursuing certain behaviours or even by building security structures Robert & Gion

(2004). Possibly the best capture of the essence of security is by Zedner (2003b: 155, cited in Wood and Shearing, 2007: 4). Security is both a state of being and a means to that end. As a state of being, security suggests two quite distinct objective and subjective conditions. And as an objective condition, it takes a number of possible forms. First, it is the condition of being without threat: the hypothetical state of absolute security. Secondly, it is defined by the neutralization of threats: the state of 'being protected from'. Thirdly, it is a form of avoidance or non-exposure to danger. As a subjective condition, security again suggests both the positive condition of feeling safe, and freedom from anxiety or apprehension defined negatively by reference to insecurity. Security implies a stable, relatively predictable environment in which an individual or group may pursue its ends without disruption or harm and without fear of disturbance or injury Robert & Gion (2004). It is also important to recognize the growing body of work that sees security in a much broader framework, as 'human security' (Commission on Human Security, 2003). The UN Commission examined a wide range of insecurities based in legal, environmental, economic, educational and health contexts as well as in 'traditional' security areas and explored their links to one another. As Kofi Annan argue that:

...human security in its broadest sense embraces far more than the absence of violent conflict. It encompasses human rights, good governance, and access to good education and healthcare and ensuring each individual has opportunities and choices to fulfill his or her own potential. Every step in this direction is also a step towards reducing poverty, achieving economic growth and preventing conflict. Freedom from want, freedom from fear and the freedom of future generations to inherit a healthy natural environment – these are the interrelated building blocks of human, and therefore national, security. (Commission on Human Security, 2003: 4)

The sheer immediacy of security problems has been striking in many countries rendered vulnerable by internal conflict, or conflict driven from the outside that plays on internal tensions. In these situations the essential needs of basic security appear to be paramount before sustainable development has any chance of success. Development had to be sustainable, not politicized for the short term, and should concentrate more on governance, security sector reform and the empowerment of civil society. These would be the keys to unlocking economic potential in developing countries. In effect, it was frequently argued, the right sort of sustainable development was a higher priority for societies – and for everyone – than security, since it created security in and of itself.

### **Concepts of Development:**

The concept of development is also difficult to define, as there are differences in opinion and conceptualization of it. Development means "improvement in country's economic and social conditions". More specially, it refers to improvements in way of managing an area's natural and human resources, in order to create wealth and improve people's lives.

Dudley Seers while elaborating on the meaning of development suggests that while there can be value judgments on what is development and what is not, it should be a universally acceptable aim of development to make for conditions that lead to a realization of the potentials of human personality.

Seers (1969) outlined several conditions that can make for achievement of this aim:

- The capacity to obtain physical necessities, particularly food;
- A job (not necessarily paid employment) but including studying, working on a family farm or keeping house;
- Equality, which should be considered an objective in its own right;
- Participation in government;
- Belonging to a nation that is truly independent, both economically and politically; and
- Adequate educational levels (especially literacy).

The people are held to be the principal actors in human scale development. Respecting the diversity of the people as well as the autonomy of the spaces in which they must act converts the present day object, person to a subject person in the human scale development. Development of the variety that we have experienced has largely been a top-down approach where there is little possibility of popular participation and decision making.

### **Theorizing Peace, Security and Development**

Thus, the study of peace and conflict can be based on theoretical and conceptual frameworks that touch the underling nature of human beings and their political, social and economic organizations. The underling and proximate causes of conflicts are also related to structural, political and cultural factors. Therefore the chances of conflict are small, if groups have their own resources respectively and perform entirely different roles directed towards completing of separated goals. Several theories can be extrapolated to explain the conflicts and insecurity in Nigeria. Prominent among such theories are the clash of civilization theory, the frustration-aggression theory, state fragility theory and failed state theory. The clash of civilization thesis of Samuel P. Huntington provides a very importantly theoretic basis for any meaningful scholarly engagement with the phenomenon of global terrorism in the 21st century. Huntington towards the end of the 20th century postulated that people's cultural and religious identities will be the primary source of conflict in the post-Cold War world.

According to Huntington, a civilization is a cultural entity, perhaps villages, regions, ethnic groups, nationalities, religious groups whose different levels of cultural heterogeneity determine their relationship with others and permit them to pursue what they think is fulfilling to their existence. Huntington argues that civilizational conflict is particularly common between Muslim and non-Muslims, the western (Christian) civilization and the Islamic civilization. He noted that as long as the values of western universalism continues to provoke Islamic fundamentalism, terrorism and other forms of violent conflict will remain a constant feature of the global system (Huntington, 1993). To this end, the catastrophic terrorism orchestrated by Islamic extremist in Nigeria can be seen essentially as a clash of civilization between the two religions, Islam and Christianity. The driving force behind insecurity is religion which Huntington identified as the most fundamental factor in the clash of civilization (see Onyebuchi and Chigozie, 2013). Unarguably, the sect's name, ideology and avowed mission to impose Shari'a on Nigeria are pointers to the religious dimension of the insurgency. On the other hand, the frustration-aggression theory as associated with works of John Dullard et al. (1939) submits that "aggression is always a consequence of frustration." Iwu and Oko (2013) argued that the theory in political science discourse links violence to problems

associated with development. When development does not satisfy the expectations of the people it tends to produce conflict, especially within the Nigerian logic of federalism where the state is in charge of the distribution of resources and failure to meet the developmental needs of the people always serve as exacerbating factor for conflict. Most parts of country have always made claims of marginalization and structural impoverishment by the Nigerian state necessitating the conflicts and insecurity. Frustration-Aggression is closely related to human need theory which indicates the idea that relative deprivation of human need can be enough reason for conflict (Berkowitz, 1962; Yale, 1962; Davies, 1962; Feierabands & Nesvold, 1969). According to John Dollard (1939) “he explained that it seems to be that most common explanation for violent behaviour stemmed from inability to fulfill needs. In attempts to explain aggression and conflict, scholars points to the difference between what people feel they want or deserve to what they actually gets the want get-ratio (Feierabands & Nesvold, 1969) and difference between expected need satisfaction and actual need satisfaction. Also development choices individuals, communities and country make can generate new conflicts whether resource- based, political social, religious, identity or ethnic, and their root cause can be linked to the context and the stage of development (UN/World Bank, 2018). Most often, when expectation does not meet attainment the tendency, the option left is for people to confront those held responsible for frustrating their ambitions. Therefore, frustration aggression provides that aggression is not just undertaken as a natural reaction or instinct as realist and biological theorist assumes but that is the outcome of frustration and that in a situation where the desire of an individual is denied either directly or by the indirect consequence of the way the society is structured, the feeling of disappointment may lead such a person to express his anger through violence that will be directed to those he holds responsible or people who are directly or indirectly related to them.

Lastly, the theory of state fragility tries to explain the condition whereby state failure or weakness of its institutions gives room to violent non-state actors manipulating the machineries of the state to their interest resulting in conflict. The theory gained prominence following the “failed states” discourse in the 1990s which were believed to be heavily ideologically laden, thus “fragile states” emerged on the development agenda. Since the September 11, 2001 attack on World Trade Centre state fragility has emerged strongly in the theorization of the problem of development and security .States are said to be fragile when governments and state structures lack capacity – or in some cases, political will – to deliver public safety and security, good governance and poverty reduction to their citizens (OECD DAC, 2005). According to World Bank (2013) fragile states is the term used for countries facing particularly severe development challenges such as weak institutional capacity, poor governance, political instability, and frequently on-going violence or the legacy effects of past severe conflict (cited in Putzel, 2011).

Most post-colonial African states are faced with the problem of government mismanagement of resources, loss of social cohesion and political instability arising from inconclusive elections and tenure elongation crisis with their ripple effects on the de-legitimization of the state. The further inability of government to effectively provide social control lead to an increase in civil violence and the tendency of political contenders utilizing force and brutality to gain control of power (Iwu and Oko, 2013). The dangerous trend in the Boko Haram insurgency shows it is a calculated attempt by some vicious elements to take advantage of the weakness of institutions to gain control of government. The obvious inability of state to uncover the sponsors of the group, their source of



fund and further allegation of complicity among high-ranking security personnel point to the fragility of the Nigerian state and why the terrorist threat has become a perennial problem.

According to Anyanwu (2005) the term “failed state” is often used to describe a state perceived as having failed at some of basic conditions and responsibilities of a sovereign government. A failed state is one that has shattered social and political structures. It is characterized by social, political and economic failure. Common characteristics of a failing state is when a central government is so weak or ineffective that it has little practical control over much of its territory, non-provision of public utilities or services, widespread corruption and criminality; refugees and involuntary movement of populations, and sharp economic decline. Anyanwu (2005) further notes that failing states are invariably the product of a collapse of the power structures providing political supports for law and order, a process generally triggered and accompanied by anarchic forms of internal violence. It is the collapse of state institutions, especially the police and judiciary with resulting paralysis of governance, a breakdown of law and order, and general banditry and chaos. Not only are the functions of government suspended, but its assets are destroyed or looted; and experienced officials are killed or flee the country. From the socialist states of the former Soviet bloc to Africa and Asia, we have witnessed the outbreak of ethnic, religious, racial, linguistic and other forms of communal strife and the melting away of social norms and government structures that would otherwise contain the violence (Jeffrey, and Michael, 1998). Adding to the disorder, in many instances, has been a significant upsurge in armed banditry and criminal violence in all parts of African states.

The importance of this "failed state syndrome" during this decade according to Jeffrey Boutwell, a director of international security studies at the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in Cambridge, can hardly be overstated. The very nature of conflict has been transformed from traditional combat between nation-states to inter-communal conflict within states. Such strife typically involves a wide variety of actors, including governments, rebel movements, armed political militias, ethnic and religious groups, tribes and clans, expatriate and diaspora groups, criminal gangs and mercenaries. A common distinguishing characteristic of this type of intra-state conflict include multiple warring parties, blurred lines of conflict, greater involvement of civilians, and the fact that the conflict itself is not fought on traditional battlegrounds but in local communities. To this end, it will be insincerity of the authors of this paper not to regard Nigeria as one of the failing states, as all the indices or parameters of failed states are all embedded in Nigeria according to the theory.

### **The nexus between peace, Security and sustainable development**

As earlier quoted: “No peace, no development”, “no peace, no justice” and “no development, no security” are commonly used slogans that illustrate the impossibility of separating one from the other. UNDP, (2016).” The United Nations (2018) submits that insecurity and conflict was the largest obstacles to attainment Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Therefore, the broad definition of the concepts; peace-security-development relationship underscores the interconnections between peace, security, development, governance and human rights, as crucial for the achievement of inclusive and sustainable development in Nigeria. Security and development have traditionally formed distinct discourses in international studies. Development has in the past been defined as economic growth and well-being, and recently it has expanded to

include capabilities, opportunities and choice. Meanwhile, within the international relations discourse, security has been interpreted in a variety of ways: as individual, human and state security. These policy domains concern different actors and focus on different threats—internal and external, existential and otherwise. The focus of each threat often differs in time horizon: development threats are a generational endeavour, while security threats are often immediate. To achieve any meaningful development, peace and security in the nation's network, the government has to provide the template for good governance to thrive. This will in turn enhance peace and security in the society. Conversely, conflict can unravel development gains by destroying physical capital and infrastructure, thereby impeding social progress and raising transaction costs for businesses. In fact, the severe destruction of infrastructure could, in the long term, induce as many indirect deaths, since health care depends highly on a good infrastructure and smoothly running supply chains Siyan Chen et al. (2008). On the fiscal front, declining economic activity and in formalization of employment narrows the taxable base. This can lead to deterioration in fiscal positions as well as lower investment in socio-economic development in conflict afflicted countries. Additionally, the likelihood of marginalization in fragile settings is higher; and the consequent rise in socioeconomic vulnerabilities may increase the propensity for civilians to engage in further conflict resulting in a vicious cycle. More so, a healthy business environment is important for development, and in conflict-ridden communities, business operations are disrupted due to the unreliable social services and the prevalence of social problems such as poverty, hunger and inequality. In order to escape direct, structural and/or cultural violence, businesses may be forced to close down and move to safer locations, even as the people remaining in these conflict-ridden areas experience poverty, hunger and decreased opportunities.

### **Challenges to Sustainable Peace and Development in Nigeria**

The consistence allocation of resources to military spending by the government and the selling and purchasing of arms, rather than fulfilling their obligation to use the maximum available resources for the progressive realization of economic and social rights – remain at the centre of widening and deepening inequalities, thus a core challenge to achieving sustainable development, in the country. However, more spending on defense induces fewer resources for sustainable development and thus has negative consequences for sustaining peace. Moreover, more 'securitization' of the political discourse and international relations, including the focus on cyber warfare, become a threat to peace. Instead, the transformative aspirations of the 2030 Agenda ought to lead to a shift towards the demilitarization of public budgets and the allocation of the additional resources to addressing inequalities, poverty and other development challenges. The United Nations (2018) lay emphasis on fundamental values such as peace, security, disarmament, poverty eradication, human right, democracy and good governance as these would aid an all-round development in the society. In this regard, there is an urgent need to address as well the increasing international arms trade as a main obstacle to sustaining peace in Africa and Nigeria in particular. The arms industry is considered a highly profitable sector – but only for those who produce and sell arms, at the expense of hampering peace, contributing to human rights violations, and exacerbating insecurity and instability. Access to arms plays a crucial role in sustaining wars, and in contexts where instability is sustained, repression and exclusion are systematic, and conflicts are fueled; and with the ongoing arms trade, criminal economies also flourish more easily.

### **International Response to peace, Security and Sustainable Development in Nigeria**

The UN's post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals point the way and show how thinking has evolved since the seminal MDGs. In essence, what is now required is a separate but complementary exercise that establishes both the principles and some practical ideas to create new UN 'Sustainable Security Goals' for the next two decades. Worryingly, in recent years, international donors and African governments have often been too quick to look to security responses as a means of addressing instability. Many of the international development agencies working in Nigeria have taken up the responsibility of having to build the capacity of Nigerian on joint problem solving strategies. These organizations including the British Council, DFID, USAID, the EU, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, IDASA, UNDP, NORAD, World Bank, etc... Albert, (2012). Each of these funds are used out for conflict management training programmes aimed at empowering Nigerians to respond positively to the conflicts in the country. The World Bank recently struggled with the moral hazard problem as it revised its financing modalities to make them more responsive to the needs of fragile states. This includes modifications to its latest financing regime, known as IDA17. The global coalition of developed and developing countries which fund the International Development Association (IDA) have committed a record USD 52 billion for IDA17, agreeing that increased funding was needed to tackle the toughest issues in fragile and conflict-affected states and help those countries tip the balance toward stability. Two important steps in that direction according to World Bank (2013) are:

Reducing the weighting on institutions; previously the World Bank's annual assessment of institutions in its performance-based allocation system resulted in lower per capita allocations to fragile states than other developing countries; reducing this weighting levels the playing field for access to financing and; Introducing the so-called "turn-around" mechanism, which expands exceptional financing beyond post-conflict and re-engaging situations to include cases where a significant opportunity exists to support a transition. This new mechanism is a much more flexible approach than previous mechanisms as it is founded on a qualitative assessment prepared by the country team, which identifies windows of opportunity for peaceful development.

The qualitative assessment by World Bank staff is the effective equivalent of a letter of recommendation and endorsement of a government's approach to avoiding crisis. It would be a light-touch, short overview of the current situation and the government's plan for transition and could, conceivably, be approved in a matter of months or years—significantly faster than the slow-moving rate of change in the World Bank's normal allocation system. In the right hands, this more agile mechanism could provide the necessary latitude to ensure additional financing for proactive development actors in complex and fragile situations; it would also provide a model that other development actors could apply. Nonetheless, if World Bank country managers in fragile situations are paralyzed by bureaucratic constraints, or if they cannot properly assess fragility or transition preparedness and/or are risk averse, then this new mechanism will be no more effective than the current practice. This type of innovation in responding to situations of conflict and fragility will be necessary if the World Bank is to meet the goals of its former President, Jim Yong Kim, for increasing financing for fragile situations by 50% over the next years (Kim, 2013). Also, the AU's 2018 regional stabilization strategy, which aims to improve services and create new livelihoods in conflict-affected areas, serves as parts of international role in conflict intervention.

### **Sources of Conflict and Insecurity in Nigeria**

If the circumstances that lead to such insecurity are vastly different as they inevitably are, spanning different zones in the country, histories and cultures, and the dynamics of such conflicts and insecurity are nevertheless all too depressingly familiar. George Ibenegbu (2019) believes that insecurity in Nigeria is caused by multiple factors and these factors have significantly contributed to the problems of growth and development in the country. Even though the country is blessed, getting a lasting solution to this problem is still a major concern to the government and its citizens. Some of the factors include:

- i. Unemployment. The overwhelming unemployment rate in the country is capable of causing panic (Ibenegbu, 2019). The issue is especially obvious when it comes to Nigerian youths. According to the statistics, every tenth young citizen of the country is officially unemployed. Another statistic provided by the NBS as of 2019 showed that the unemployment rate in the country has risen to 23.1%. If we consider unemployment in Nigeria causes effects and solutions, it is evident that rapid growth in population is a significant cause of this menace.
- ii. Corruption. In 2019, Transparency International placed Nigeria on 146th position out of 198 countries in the Corruption Perceptions Index with a score of 26 out of 100. Corrupt Nigerian politicians have become a turn off for international investors. Corruption has already become a part of life in the country. Unfortunately, it forms part of the economic problems in Nigeria today and solution can only come when we have selfless leaders who will go the extra mile to effect change in different tiers of government.
- iii. Structural Imbalance. Different parts of the country have different speeds of development. Due to this, the country's oil-rich regions feel disturbed when the Federal Government use their oil and does not develop their society. People of these regions feel cheated because of that. They want to take justice into their hands. That is why they vandalize oil pipelines. The Federal Government should deal with this problem, and a significant way is to balance the development of all regions of the country.
- iv. Weak institutional system. The weak judicial system causes insecurity in Nigeria. People feel insecure when criminals and terrorists go free. Many evil-minded people think that money can buy freedom in the country, and unfortunately, the corrupt system proves this line of thought.
- v. Porous borders. The country has borders that are poorly guarded. Insurgents from other countries can infiltrate the country with no problem. This situation is especially dangerous in the North East. The Federal Government cannot provide enough troops to secure the borders. Porous coastal borders are the main cause of terrorism in the country. The Federal Government should increase the number of troops that guard borders. It should also train people to protect their regions from insurgents. According to Ibenegbu, (2019) that smugglers use porous coastal borders of the country to sell arms. The corruption and weak judicial systems only help smugglers to sell even more guns. They provide pistols, shotguns, rifles, assault rifles, grenades, and explosives used against the people and military forces. The Federal Government understands this situation and tries to find a solution. Still, it is a complex problem. The government may need to ask help from residents of affected areas to patrol the borders together.

- vi. Influx of Small Arms and Light Weapons. Proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) has had, and will continue to have devastating consequences in the country except with good measures. The numbers of state-based conflicts have increased in Nigeria over the years. The wake of insecurity in the country continues to threaten democracy and stability thereby impacting negatively on development. In spite of the endowment with many natural resources, the country has some of the poorest people in the world. Poor governance and insecurity, coupled with corruption, has also contributed to inability in the country (Ibenegbu, 2019). Premised on this reality, most people, however, have acknowledged the need for initiatives and policies to arrest the problem of Proliferation of SALW and its negative drawback on the economic development in the country.
- vii. Human and Drug trafficking is one of the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. Criminal groups are involved in the smuggling of illegal substances to Europe, Asia, South Africa, and North America. Nigerian gangs are one of the largest distributors of opium in the world. Citizens should fight this criminal trafficking, which is not affecting just the country but the entire world. The Federal Government should initiate cooperation with other countries to fight criminals. Opening an international investigation on the matter, and creating groups responsible for this will help.
- viii. Slavery. The Walk Free Foundation of Global Slavery reports that about 875,500 citizens in the country are trapped in human trafficking. For instance, women in the country can be tricked into migrating to other regions in the country. They hope to find good jobs, but, instead of promised jobs, they are forced to sell their bodies for money. Some of them are even sold to foreign brothels. The situation with human trafficking and forced labour in the country is horrible. Citizens should fight these crimes. You must report cases of human trafficking or slavery. Do not be indifferent to this problem. People are born free and must live free.
- ix. Criminal situation. For the last few years, citizens have been victims of robberies, which sometimes happen in daylight. Organized criminal gangs take over the streets of the country. People do not feel safe when walking on the roads. Corrupt government officials cannot provide help to Nigerians to fight with these criminals. The Federal Government should pay attention to this problem.
- x. Terrorist threat. Terrorism in the country is not a new problem. Boko Haram and Niger Delta Avengers are two prominent terrorist organizations that cause the most damage to the country. The Federal Government keeps fighting with terrorists. Nigerian soldiers die every day for their country. Now, it is a matter of time before the terrorists will be eliminated

## 2. CONCLUSION

The quest for sustaining peace is highly challenged by diverse factors, as is the achievement of sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development also acknowledges the interdependence between development, peace and security. It recognizes that 'there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development'. The 2030 Agenda is the paramount goal of the United Nation and Nigeria government must key into it, and it also happens to be the best defence against the risks of violent conflict. The SDGs are a bold commitment to address, and tackle some of the more pressing challenges facing the world today. All 17 Goals interconnect, meaning success in one affects success for others. Dealing with the

threat of climate change impacts how we manage our fragile natural resources, achieving gender equality or better health helps eradicate poverty, and fostering peace and inclusive societies will reduce inequalities and help economies prosper. In short, this is the greatest chance we have to improve life for future generations. Stable and conducive societies tend to attract more capital, particularly longer-term investment, thereby creating jobs and allowing for long-term productivity growth. In such economies, the opportunity cost of conflict tends to be higher. Similarly, improved social outcomes, such as greater education attainment, better health and more poverty alleviation, and provision of basic services, also mitigate the risks of conflict through multiple channels. Environmental development in the form of inclusive access policies, disaster preparedness and conservation efforts can also minimize the risks of conflict by ensuring fairness, sustainability and resilience. When such outcomes are achieved, countries can witness a virtuous cycle of peace and sustainable development.

Another aspect of sustaining peace is the approach adopted for conflict resolution, focused on countering violence, extremism and peace-building initiatives. Positive peace acknowledges that ending conflict is not enough and that true peace requires a more holistic approach. Human rights norms should be well integrated into each of these, such as by empowering women to take pro-active roles, considering that militarization policies are most often male-dominated, silencing gender concerns while the consequences of wars and conflicts are felt harder by women and children. In order to be sustainable, peace processes should go hand in hand with revising policies at economic, social, cultural and political levels, adopting gender and human-rights-based approaches

Reducing violence and insecurity is intricately linked to providing justice. Rich people can buy their freedom in the country, which the poor masses do not feel secure about. The judicial system in the country should be changed. There may be only one answer to that – transparency.

More so, providing security is not always a task for the security forces. Given how intricately peace and development are linked in so many, yet poorly understood, ways, we must recognize that much security derives from the process of development itself. In that sense, there are huge security dividends to be earned from good development policies – just as good security policies also greatly facilitate socio-economic development. Non-traditional security actors can also be found in the traditional development communities. If anything, scholarship and policy have underestimated these externalities, thereby potentially underproviding the levels of security and development assistance required for sustainable development. In addition, other key points of note are:

- It must be ensured that peace and security feature in every government agenda or goals; local, state and national level.
- The UN should try as much as possible to establish a global system of security accounts and task other international organizations with collecting and publishing global information on security.
- The government at all level should create and update specific indicators to measure public goods in the area of peace and security.

- Government should focus action on preventing conflict rather than trying to resolve existing wars, which is the most costly and risky form of intervention.
- There is need to involve traditional development actors in the provision of peace and security.
- There is also the need to put in place innovative solutions to fund peace and security, such as national taxes or peace bonds.
- International government should establish and fund global networks for diplomacy and justice to strengthen peace-building.
- Civil Society must also cooperate with the state towards ensuring that Nigeria becomes more peaceful for living and its only then, that we can continue to sat that Nigerian is on the right path for sustainable development.

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