

# GLOBAL SECURITY CHALLENGES AND NIGERIA'S DEVELOPMENT: AN APPRAISAL

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## **Abstract**

The seeming intractable security and other developmental challenges globally has made the state to become the subject of security rather than the means of providing security for its citizens. It is necessary to point out that the current security challenges and risks in the global security environment are of a military and non-military nature, even though most of them are of a non-military nature. These challenges go a long way in affecting how nations develop and the level of contributions of leaders to development of the society is primarily hinged on the security of the society they preside over. These security challenges and risks are closely interconnected where the situation in one area can seriously affect the situation in other areas. Fears over further increasing the security challenges and the radicalization of nationals are exacerbated by the danger that societies will be incapable of integrating the 1.2 million refugees, asylum seekers, and economic migrants who fled poverty and violence in various parts of the globe. The global security challenges have had devastating effects on Nigeria. This became visible after the Arab Spring which let many Arab nations into serious security challenges. At the end of these uprisings, many of those involved in the fighting found their ways to other nations, Nigeria inclusive. This, it is believed further exacerbated the security challenges that eventually slowed down development in Nigeria. Theories and perspectives such as idealism, realism, neoliberalism and constructivism, functional as well as game theory have viewed the meaning of security differently. The Game Theory seeks to explain the role of different actors or players as being key to the attainment of the objectives of a society or organisation. Generally, its proponents posit that game theory is the formal study of decision-making where several players must make choices that potentially affect the interests of the other player. Discourse on security now includes such issues as economic security, environmental security, food security and human security, national development among others. This paper, through secondary data revealed that security challenges confronting nations today are mutating hence the need for new policies and approaches towards combating them. It therefore recommends that nation states should cooperate and synergise towards the elimination of the new security challenges bedevilling the globe.

**Keywords:** Global Security, Challenges, National Development, Synergy, Appraisal

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## **Introduction**

Peace and security are twin sacred values desired by every individual, group, nation and the global community because without them, nothing else will be really meaningful (Nwolise, 2010). Security has traditionally been related more to states than to people or planet Earth and since the seventeenth century, when the current system of states began to emerge, security has been most commonly understood and practiced with reference to the needs and interests of states. Often than not, the state itself came to be treated as the subject of security rather than the means of providing security for its inhabitants (Bilgin and Williams, nd). In the post-World War II era, the focus on the well-being of states was reflected in the dominance of approaches seeking “national security” and notwithstanding alternative understandings and practices of security that have always existed, it was this state-focused and externally-directed approach that prevailed throughout the Cold War era. The challenges of security became manifest since after the world wars fought where it was tragically demonstrated by the unprecedented attacks on New York and Washington on September 11, 2001. Not only did this show the terrorists’ ability and willingness to use new methods of killing and destruction but also that the nature security and that of terrorism is changing in terms of organization and operational approach.

It should be noted that the strategic objective of any democratic state or international organization is to prevent and manage any process or phenomenon that, by its evolution, could affect its own security or the citizen, thus becoming a crisis. According to Răducanu and Anastasiei (2017), in the context of globalization, other dimensions of security: economic, political, informational, technical, administrative, ecological, cultural, are becoming increasingly clear. In the same vein, it is the global security environment that is currently dominated by complex trends of major importance for the reconfiguration of regional and global geostrategic games, the reaffirmation of the military force as a factor of power in international politics as well as the development of information technology. It also includes the resurgence of nationalism and extremism, ethnic-religious fragmentation and ideological radicalization, with implications in the amplification of the terrorist phenomenon and adapting critical infrastructure to current needs. The world is witnessing the repositioning of the traditional actors, each asserting the hierarchy of power in the new global political order with implications in the global security environment. It is also the reason why global security has become the main concern of international political organizations, even if traditional state actors are trying to direct their actions to promote their own interests and until recently, military threats were considered the most dangerous for security.

Global security includes but not limited to military and diplomatic measures that nations and international organisations such as the United Nations and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) takes to ensure mutual safety and security and since the emergence of the modern state system in the seventeenth century, it has been common for security to be understood and practiced with reference to the needs and interests of the states. War and instability have been endemic throughout most of history and even the peace

that seem to have reigned across the European continent in the post-World War II era, from 1945 to 1990, was purchased with the price of one of the most elaborate and expensive military stand-offs known to man, involving over one million troops arrayed on either side of the Iron Curtain, on high readiness and backed by an escalatory ladder of nuclear weapons (Niblett, 2016). It is necessary to point out that the current security challenges and risks in the global security environment are of a military and non-military nature; however, most of them are of a non-military nature. These security challenges and risks are closely interconnected; consequently, the situation in one area can seriously affect the situation in other areas (Ivanèík, Jurèák & Neèas, 2015).

Suicide and other terrorist attacks have struck France, Germany, and the United Kingdom, while returning fighters from Syria constitute a 'fifth column' in many European cities (Niblett, 2016). Fears over further radicalization of European nationals are exacerbated by the danger that European societies will be incapable of integrating the 1.2 million refugees, asylum seekers, and economic migrants who fled poverty and violence in 2015. Even more worrisome for some is that some proportion of this number will add to the already substantial pools of potential terrorists and sympathizers that European domestic security services must keep under constant surveillance. It is a result of these challenges that on 8 September 2006, the UN General Assembly unanimously adopted the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (Strategy), which calls for a holistic, inclusive approach to counterterrorism (Rosand, et. al., 2008). Although the primary responsibility for its implementation rests with UN member states, effective and sustainable implementation requires the contributions of a variety of stakeholders, including regional and subregional bodies (RSRs). Both the Strategy and resolution adopted by the General Assembly in September 2008 following its first formal review recognize the need to enhance the role of RSRs (as well as other stakeholders) (UN, 2008).

In this vein, the African continent from 2011 witnessed popular uprising against the lack of personal opportunity and corrupt, repressive systems across the region which spread like wildfire, overthrowing governments in Tunisia, Libya, and Egypt and unleashing a devastating civil war in Syria (Niblett, 2016). While various governments seem to have fought back to regain control, the Middle East, as we know it in 2016 is in a far more delicate situation than that of five years earlier. This can be seen in the life of Libya where there is lack of a central government and the country is suffering from an internecine civil war. It should also be noted that domestic terrorism is undercutting the economies of Tunisia and Egypt as well as some of the Arab nations, and there is no end in sight to the violence raging in across Syria, Yemen and other African countries due to security challenges. In April, 2021, the rebel fighters from the borders of Chad and Libya succeeded in killing the Chadian strongman, Idris Derby thereby escalating the tension in the region. Africa and the Middle East has also become a major new source of danger for the African continent due to the influx of small arms that were used during the wars experienced by these countries which are now in the open market.

Similarly, the countries of North Africa are no longer capable of holding back from the shores of Europe the growing number of refugees and economic migrants escaping violence and endemic poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. In the last decade, Nigeria has witnessed an upsurge of conflict and violence, partly occasioned by the Boko Haram insurrection and indiscriminate mayhem, perhaps one of the largest terrorist groups in Africa (Anugwom, 2019). Anugwom (2019) further reported that in 2011 alone, sporadic bombings orchestrated by Boko Haram militants included the May 29 bombings in Abuja and Bauchi, the June 16 bombing of the Nigerian Police Headquarters, the attacks in Damaturu on November, 4 and the clashes between the Nigerian security operatives and Boko Haram militants in Maiduguri and Damaturu. Sadly however, as the dust of war are settling down in some parts of the world, other African countries, Nigeria inclusive, encountering security challenges, are hot spots and are facing security challenges which made Ugwu in Imobighe (2010) to, after a critical survey of the global security situation concluded in lamentation that we are all 'living in the fringes of danger'.

### Conceptual Clarification

- i. National Security:** This is traditionally focused on the physical protection of a state's territory from military attacks by other states. This focus is reflected in the express recognition of the 'inherent right of individual or collective self-defense' in article 51 of the UN Charter. However, national security concerns have also diversified into reflecting more contemporary, acute public concerns that pose greater threat to individual and groups of people. The evolved conception of national security has posed challenge to the interpretation and application of existing norms and rules of international law in dealing with non-traditional security threats. For example, the shift from a law enforcement approach to a military response to transnational terrorist activities that are launched by non-state actors, without a state involvement has challenged the conventional understanding that, the right of self-defense can only be exercised in the case of an armed attack by one state against another. The language of security, according to Yakubu and Shuaibu (2016), form vaguely defined threats to national interest and has the danger that, it could be used to distort security discourse and justify states stepping back from their international legal obligations, particularly those which protect individuals and human rights.
- ii. Development:** Development, according to Michael and Todaro (1986) quoted in Bambur (2003), stems from the fact that development is not purely an economic phenomenon. Ultimately, it must encompass more than the material. It is a multi-dimensional process involving the re-organisation and reorientation of the entire economic and social systems. In addition to improvement in incomes and output, it typically involves radical changes in institutional, social and administrative structures, as well as in popular attitudes and sometimes even customs and beliefs. Auwal (2010) on the other hand sees development as the growth or realization of a person's ability through conscious or unconscious learning. In actual fact development

must be conceived of as a multi-dimensional process involving changes in structures, attitudes and institutions as well as the acceleration of economic growth, the reduction of inequality and eradication of absolute poverty.

### **Theoretical Framework**

There are several theories that can be used to explain the phenomenon under investigation, however, this study focused on Structural Functional Theory (Functionalism) developed by Herbert Spencer (1898) and the Game Theory by John von Neumann and economist Oskar Morgenstern in the 1940s.

#### **a. Structural Functional Theory**

The structural functional theory sees society as a structure with interrelated parts which are designed to meet the biological and social needs of the individuals in that society. The proponent of this theory saw similarities between society and the human body. He argued that just as the various organs of the body work together to keep the body functioning, the various parts of society work together to keep society functioning. The parts of society referred to were the social institutions, or patterns of beliefs and behaviours focused on meeting social needs, such as government, education, family, healthcare, religion, and the economy.

One criticism of the structural-functional theory is that it can't adequately explain social change. Also problematic is the slightly circular nature of this theory; repetitive behavior patterns are assumed to have a function, yet, it was acknowledged by people to know that they have a function only because they are repeated. Furthermore, dysfunctions may continue, even though they don't serve a function, which seemingly contradicts the basic premise of the theory. Many sociologists now believe that functionalism is no longer useful as a macro-level theory, but that it does serve a useful purpose in some mid-level analyses. Based on these facts, this study will not adopt this theory.

#### **b. The Game Theory**

The Game Theory seeks to explain the role of different actors or players as being key to the attainment of the objectives of a society or organisation. Generally, its proponents posit that game theory is the formal study of decision-making where several players must make choices that potentially affect the interests of the other player (Turocy and Stangel, 2001). The Game Theory emphasises that the action of one actor is important in the outcome of the others in waging war against terror.

By application, this Theory will assist the study to establish the relationship between the functionality of stakeholders towards attaining desired national security and national development. The players involved in the security approach include the government, military, humanitarian actors as well as disaster and emergency managers. As such, tackling insecurity and winning the hearts and minds of the people towards achieving national security and development of a country is vital.

The theory however has been criticised by several scholars. According to Zuckerman (2001), the Game Theory is “only applicable to the prediction of realistic behaviours”. The critics asserted that “every action, good or bad, can be rationalised in the name of self-interest”. Zuckerman affirmed that the Theory is not clear on its role in defining and accounting for every set of variables that influence the strategic outcome. In spite of these criticisms, the application of this Theory is relevant to this study, as it brings out clearly, the prospect and significance of winning the war against global and national security towards national development.

Governments, in collaboration with both state and non-state actors, apply several measures as part of strategy to curtail insecurity in nations towards national development. This is applicable in Nigeria, where the military and other relevant stakeholders such as MDAs, NGOs and Civil Society Organisations carried out strategy to win the fights against insurgency, armed banditry and other crimes through the use of both kinetic and non-kinetic efforts to defeat BH terrorist group in the NE as well as other parts of Nigeria. The outcome of this theory depends on coordination and effective synergy among humanitarian actors and acceptance of efforts by the government and the people in fight against insecurity in the country towards finding a conducive environment for development. It is expected that all approaches and strategy to winning the fight against insurgency and other crimes in the country will enhance national security and also lead to development in Nigeria. It is on this basis that the Game Theory is adopted by this study.

### **Global Security Challenges**

The global security challenges affecting the world can be categorised into national security and Human security which is threatened thus:

### **National Security Challenges**

The major security challenges affecting nations today are categorised below:

- a. **Terrorism:** If any issue has dominated the global strategic environment since the close of the 20<sup>th</sup> century and certainly since we entered the 21<sup>st</sup> century, it is the concern and anxiety over terrorism which has become a dominant issue in international strategic discourse (Imobighe, 2010). Terrorism became intense with the bombing of the World Trade Centre in the United States in 2001. This changed the face of global security which eventually led to a massive manhunt for the mastermind of that bombing (Osama Bin Ladin). All over the world today, the issues of terrorism pose a very serious security challenge in international relations and this new ideological phenomenon is dreaded around the globe because it is both resilient and lethal and is waged unlawfully against civilians with the intent to achieve political, religious, economic or other objectives (Ani and Onyebukwa, 2016). Recent security studies have shown that terrorism is one of the most common threats world over as the security dimension of globalization is the most sensitive in terms of both the tendency of

globalization of terrorism and the idea of maintaining the competence of national states (Răducanu and Anastasiei, 2017). Terrorist groups have now diversified new methods of violent actions by specially targeting their victims through these actions. It cannot be said with certainty that any particular country or region in the world is safe from terrorist actions as their actions have a specific peculiarity to other types of violent events as they do not distinguish between officials and ordinary citizens. Today, terrorism has assumed a separate identity as a specific mode of violent struggle. Its menace is so pervading to make people feel that the world has entered into a new global strategic environment, which is now being generally termed as the age of terrorism.

- b. Human migration:** Human migration, which is originally determined by the global economic and financial crisis, is also a more subtle, long-term threat and as a fundamental characteristic of our times, the movement of people from one place to the other causes allot of security challenges globally. The right of migration has been recognized for more than 50 years with the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since 1994, the issue of international migration has been debated every year at the UN General Assembly, and Resolution 56/203 of 21 December 2001 has been adopted in this regard (Teodor & Deorel, 2010). In the context of international migration, there are two processes closely interlinked and complementary: immigration and emigration. Migration flows from less developed countries to a high level of economic developed countries which has consequences of all aspects of security. The clandestine trafficking of strategic material and human are sometimes considered as transnational crimes and migrants trafficking, both legally and in terms of the content of the offenses is clearly differentiated in the two major components.
- c. Organized crime:** As a complex social phenomenon, organised crime has deeper historical roots which has today turned out to be more dangerous and daring. Organized crime has become one of the most serious dangers to the existence, stability and continuity of society because of the transformation of primitive mafia-type criminal groups into true criminal enterprises in order to oppose the authorities and terrorize the entire community by exacerbating violence, diversifying operating modes, diversifying criminal structures, and committing crimes from almost the entire spectrum of crime hence a major security threat globally.
- d. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons:** The proliferation of small arms has been and is a permanent threat to global peace and security. The risks caused by this type of threat reside in the effects of weapons of mass destruction, which can cause irreparable losses as can be seen in most African countries especially Nigeria. The development of deadly weapons, circulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) which are all products of technology have added to global conflicts and insecurity. SALWs are used in terrorism, cross-border crimes, political assassination, hijacking, sea piracy, kidnapping, among others (Nwolise, 2010). This has prompted the administration of President Muhammadu Buhari to establish the National

Centre for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons. The proliferation of light weapons has become a threat to the country hence this moves by the president to stem the tide of incessant killings, banditry and kidnappings experienced in the country of recent times. It is necessary, in order to ensure global security, to reduce the threat posed by these weapons of mass destruction.

- e. **Drug trafficking:** Drug trafficking is another security threat that cannot be wished away. An example of this is the increase in cocaine production in Colombia where it aimed at enhancing security and eliminating drug plantations, initiated by the US, failed in a very short time. Although Colombia invested \$ 6 million, 90% of cocaine consumed by Americans comes from this Latin American country (Răducanu and Anastasiei, 2017). It is also alarming the figures of a UN study that places 27% increase in cocaine production in 2015, rising for 2016 and if we also add that these cocaine-based production markets finance paramilitary groups and guerrillas in the area, and that despite Columbian military operations, drug trafficking has not fallen, it can be safe to understand the magnitude that this “scourge” has taken in underdeveloped countries (UNODC, 2015).
- f. **Illicit arms trafficking:** Weapons are shipped from developed countries and delivered to the emerging or underdeveloped ones for business purposes but these weapons have caused untold hardship to citizens of these countries. On a global level in the officially registered arms export ranking, the US is the leader with nearly 30%, followed by Russia with almost 24%. Officially, with regard to import, over 44% India, South Korea, Vietnam and China dominate this ranking. Illicit arms trafficking accounts for around 20% of total arms sales and brings revenues between \$ 2 billion and \$ 10 billion a year. It should be noted that small arms have been present in 46 of the 49 conflict zones in the world over the past 10 years, and in 2015 it is estimated that they were the cause of over 13,000 deaths a day, with more than 80% of the victims being women and children (UNODC, 2015).

### Human Security Challenges

- a. **Health Insecurity:** Health security, according to Ani and Onyebukwa (2016) aims to guarantee a minimum protection from diseases and unhealthy lifestyles. In developing countries, the major causes of death are infectious and parasitic, which kill 17 million people annually. In the same vein, in the industrialized countries, the major killers are diseases of the circulatory system, killing 5.5 million people annually. According to the United Nations in Ani and Onyebukwa (2016), in both developing and developed countries, the threat of health security is usually greater among poor people living in the rural areas due mainly to malnutrition and insufficient supply of medicine, lack of access to clean drinking water and other necessities of life. Nigeria as a developing country is faced with a declining healthcare system that requires urgent assessment and management which is further compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic. Majority of Nigerians continues to be affected by poverty-driven diseases and natural hazards as between one third and half of the population live below the poverty line.



Another major challenge facing Nigeria's health sector include limited asses to healthcare services, including reproductive healthcare which has increased the rate of infant mortality to an alarming level. The prevalence of disease such as HIV/AIDS and the global COVID-19 pandemic in the county is not in doubt and this is yet another very dangerous and serious security challenge that requires attention in the healthcare sector of the country. The underlying truth is that many of the health facility are not – functional due to disrepair, lack of human resources and essential drugs supplies as well as lack of equipment.

- b. **Food Insecurity:** Achieving food security in its totality continues to be a challenge, not only for the developing countries like Nigeria but also for the developed world. The difference lies in the magnitude of the problem in terms of its security and proportion of the population affected. The root cause of food insecurity in Nigeria is the inability of people to gain access to food due to insufficiency of local production and poverty, which weakens the purchase of foreign food stuff. Basically, food security has three aspects; food availability, food access and food adequacy. Food availability has to do with the supply of food. This should be sufficient in quantity and quality and also provide in different varieties. Food access addresses the demand for the food. It is influenced by economic factors, physical infrastructure and consumer preferences. Hence, food availability, though elemental in ensuring food security, does not guarantee it. For households and individuals within the country to enjoy food security, food and its access must be adequate not only in quantity but also in quality. It should ensure an adequate, consistent and dependable supply of energy and nutrients through sources that are affordable and socio- culturally acceptable to them at all times. Ultimately, food security should translate to an active healthy life for every individual in the Nigerian state, which remains a mirage.
- c. **Environmental Insecurity:** The environment is a complex concept that includes both living and non-living matter. However, the place of the resource environment in defining the life of man in different parts of the globe cannot be neglected. Similarly, the quest to exploit resources in a given environment as well as the desire to control the dividend of one's environment has become a very powerful driver of conflict and insecurity among individuals, groups, communities, states and regions. The conflict that ravaged the Niger Delta region and still hunts the country is a product of environmental resource contest. The Niger Delta people over the years have lost their lives in their numbers directly and indirectly due to the abuse of their environment (Ani and Ohagwu, 2013).

### **The nexus between security challenges and national development**

A national security policy (NSP) is a framework for describing how a country provides security for the state and its citizens, and is often presented as an integrated document (Onuoha & Ogbonnaya, 2020). The NSP has a role which outlines the core interests of the nation and setting guidelines for addressing current and prospective threats and opportunities. It is superior to other

subordinate security policies such as military doctrine, homeland security strategy, etc. and is hierarchical and also addresses national security as it concerns specific agencies or issues. The NSP can therefore be distinguished from other policies by the range of subjects that it addresses in attempting to outline both internal and external threats. It also seeks to integrate and coordinate the contributions of national security actors in response to the interests and threats deemed most important. States harmonise their national security policy in order to ensure that the government addresses all threats in a comprehensive manner, increase the effectiveness of the security sector by optimising contributions from all security actors, guide the implementation of policy as well as build domestic consensus. Also, it aimed to enhance regional and international confidence and cooperation and is required to have a thorough analysis of all threats to national security through a comprehensive framework.

In order to key into this policy, Onuoha and Ogbonnaya, (2020), stated that President Goodluck Jonathan signed and launched Nigeria's first-ever National Security Strategy (NSS) to serve as the overarching national strategy document in framing the country's pursuit of its national security. The NSS was presented as a framework for a holistic and more coordinated approach and response to security challenges in the country. They further posited that the development of the 2014 National Security Strategy, is aimed "to guide, organise, and harmonise national security policies and efforts. It should be noted that the 2019 edition of the National Security Strategy (NSS) document outlines the major security concerns of the nation for which policies and strategies have been articulated on how the government plans to deal with them. According to Monguno (2019) in Onuoha and Obonnaya (2020), the Strategy envisages the unique characteristics of the risks and threats we face in a world that is constantly undergoing changes. In other words, a strategy that orients state action towards current and perceived future challenges by using available resources flexibly and efficiently. The Strategy will also enhance our prevention, protection and response capabilities to security threats in an increasingly complex environment.

The document recognizes that the security environment in Nigeria has continued to evolve and thereby giving rise to emerging challenges including the farmers/herders' conflicts, banditry, kidnapping, among other violent crimes. It should be noted that the revised NSS is a significant departure from the 2014 edition which is divided into eight chapters on thematic basis such as national values, interests and objectives, Nigeria's geo-strategic environment, dimensions of what the Nigerian government recognizes as security threat and risk, including their implications (Onuoha and Ogbonnaya, 2020). Other issues captured in the summary includes security threats categorization such as terrorism and violent extremism/armed banditry, kidnapping, militancy and separatist agitations, farmers/herders conflicts, transnational organised crime, piracy, borders challenges as well as cybercrimes. Others are socio-political threats, fake news as well a hate-speeches, environmental threats, public health challenges, economic challenges, regional and global security challenges.

Nigeria's development is bedevilled by several challenges, security inclusive. The major security challenges affecting Nigeria include:

- a. **Boko Haram:** The militant Islamist group has destabilised the North-East of Nigeria. Since 2009 the group has killed tens of thousands of people and displaced millions more. About 2.5 million people fled their homes and towns, and the direct consequence of the conflict was that the North-East was plunged into a severe humanitarian crisis - as of 2018, one of the worst in the world - which has left about 7.7 million people in need of humanitarian aid. In his first term, Muhammadu Buhari claimed that his government would bring an end to the national suffering inflicted by Boko Haram. Nevertheless, the crisis is not yet over, and it would be a grave mistake for the president to disregard the continued importance of the conflict. Suicide attacks and kidnappings have been carried out by the group this year. At this time, the government should not just focus on security but invest in peace-building, reconstruction and rehabilitation and socio-economic development.
- b. **Farmer-Herder Conflicts:** The Middle Belt region of Nigeria has faced prolonged violent clashes between the predominantly Christian farmers and the mostly Muslim cattle herders. At the core of the conflicts are disputes over access and rights to land and water resources and rapid desertification which has changed the grazing patterns of cattle. These clashes are not necessarily new, but since 2015, the disputes have become more frequent and violent. In 2018 alone, more than 2,000 people were killed in such clashes - more than the number killed in the past two years combined. The conflict now claims an estimated six times more than the Boko Haram crisis. The dispute is being politicised and is stirring ethnic and religious tensions, which is very dangerous in a deeply divided country like Nigeria.
- c. **The Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN):** The Islamic Movement of Nigeria (IMN) is an Iranian backed Shia group in Nigeria. The leader of the group Ibraheem Zakzaky is opposed to the federal system of Nigeria, Israel, the US and also opposes secular governments. Correspondingly, Zakzaky has called for an Iranian-style revolution in Nigeria. The group's strong position on these issues and their regular protesting has resulted in clashes with security forces. However, recently these clashes have become more frequent and more violent. In 2015, the leader of the sect was arrested, and in 2016 a judicial inquiry revealed that the army had unlawfully killed 347 members of the group in Zaria state. Late last year, the security forces arrested 400 IMN members and allegedly killed dozens of civilians in the capital city Abuja and surrounding areas. According to Amnesty International, the security forces' use of automatic weapons was an excessive and horrific use of force. This escalating violence, the emergence of a charismatic leader and excessive use of force by the Nigerian military are reminiscent of the rise of Boko Haram.
- d. **Niger-Delta Militancy:** The Niger Delta, the oil-producing core of Nigeria has for decades suffered from oil pollution which has led to the loss of

livelihoods and sources of food for locals. The area has also been neglected by the federal government even though the bulk of the country's fund comes from the region. In the last decade, clashes between armed groups in the area and the security forces reached an all-time high; kidnappings were rife, and oil infrastructure destroyed at a phenomenal rate. In 2016, one of the most prominent armed groups in the region, the Niger Delta Avengers (and other smaller groups), destroyed oil production infrastructure reducing production from 2.2 million barrels per day to the two decades low of 1.4 million barrels a day. The infrastructure vandalism contributed to the onset of one of Nigeria's worst economic recessions on record. Efforts were made by the Buhari administration in its first term to address the grievances of the region. There is every reason for the government to make efforts to better foster peace and development in the region especially given the havoc the Avengers (and similar groups) have already brought to the country.

- e. **Kidnapping and Banditry:** Exploiting a security vacuum due to other challenges that have stretched the Nigerian security, criminal gangs in North West Nigeria have been behind a surge of kidnappings for ransom targeting boarding schools. In the last five years, the North West has experienced the greatest concentration of kidnappings in Nigeria. The ransoms collected through these mass abductions have become a means of business for these criminal gangs. Mass kidnappings in Zamfara, Niger, and Katsina states have emulated 2014's infamous kidnapping of the Chibok schoolgirls by Boko Haram and have forced the government to respond. Government spokespeople deny paying ransom to secure the release of the children, but on-the-ground accounts contradict this. As in the North East, kidnapping for ransom has made highways in the region too dangerous for travel, and airlines now operate short flights from Abuja to Kaduna. In Zamfara State, where the North West's armed gang problem originated, rival groups raid and clash over the artisanal gold mines that have proliferated in the past decade. The gangs' control of the state's gold rush has attracted many impoverished and unemployed young men to join their ranks. These gangs are known to hideout in the Sububu and Dansadau forests in Zamfara and to smuggle arms across the border from Niger. Zamfara's government has estimated that 10,000 so-called bandits are spread between 40 camps in the state (Duerksen, 2021).

### **Effects of security challenges on Nigeria's Development**

Development is said to be a predictor that determines whether a country is progressing or not. Studies have shown that there are numerous factors that challenges development in Nigeria (Makinde, 2005; Babawale, 2007; Nnabuife, 2010; Yunusa, 2009; Itah, 2012; Gberevbie, Shodipo & Oviasogie, 2013). For Makinde (2005), the imposition of policies on citizens of a nation, lack of adequate human resources or capital to implement these plans/policies, corruption and lack of credible leadership are the major challenges to Nigeria's development. A critical assessment of Nigeria's development despite her abundance in human, natural and material resources reveals that the country

is yet to achieve the desired expectations as clamoured by her citizens. This cannot be unconnected with the security challenges it faces and lack of purposeful leadership as well as endemic corruption that pervades the Nigerian polity.

Anger (2010) identified 35 developmental programmes that have been undertaken by the state at different intervals. These include programmes such as: Operation Feed the Nation [OFN] in 1976, a national agricultural extension and mobilization program instituted by the military government of Nigeria in 1976 as a measure to achieve self-sufficiency in food crop production and inspire a new generation to return to farming; Green Revolution in 1980 to address poverty; Directorate of Foods, Roads and Rural Infrastructure [DFFRI] in 1986 to construct good roads, provide rural water and electrification supply for those in the rural areas; National Directorate of Employment (NDE) in 1986 aimed at providing financing, training and guidance for the unemployed youths; Poverty Alleviation Programme (PAP) which was introduced in 2000 to address the problems of rising unemployment in the society, boost economy productiveness, and ensure Nigerians are provided with basic necessities of life such as: affordable health care, sanitized environment, quality education amongst others (Holme, 2007). Nigeria also saw the introduction of the free universal primary education (UPE) by the then military regime of Gen Olusegun Obasanjo in September 1976. This was designed to make primary education free and available throughout the country which targets pupils aged six. The UPE plan was criticized due to the lack of proper planning which led to inadequate educational facilities in classrooms, insufficient trained teachers and erosion in the provision of quality education.

Nigeria is a developing nation with many problems; among them, some very critical, including, ignorance and superstition where people will prefer to seek help from traditional medical people instead seek medical help for health care; religious dogmatism where we have a lot of religiously fanatic people who are prone to involving themselves in conflicts, violence and terrorism and some make others become refugees, corruption and economic mismanagement where we have a large population of poor people who are stagnated because of bad national economy (due to ubiquity of corruption and leadership impunity); lack of political will – the Nigerian governments have not been very effective to stop many industries that pollute the air or they are not very effective in enforcing the laws stopping youths that are criminally involved in activities that cause crude oil pollution, authenticity of collected data where it is difficult to vouch for the baseline data obtained from developing nations with which we are assessing the progress of the MDG (Lawrence, 2018).

In this vein, Nigeria will most certainly need support even as it races to the implementation and realisation of its desire to develop and with the adoption of the SDGs. The first arises from the reality of the current economic recession which implies that the country will need all the support it requires in mobilizing adequate financial and other resources; including from domestic sources and through the traditional (North – South, South – South and triangular cooperation) partnerships. The government has made remarkable advances

on efforts that target the combating of illicit financial flows as well as strengthening asset recovery measures and the enforcement of whistle-blower policy as part of National fight against corruption. All these measures are over and above the several fiscal reform initiatives undertaken and which are also expected to contribute to domestic resource mobilization for implementation of the SDGs. The second area relates to the matter of technology transfer and capacity building in, among others, data, information and performance management, all which are urgently needed so as to support both the SDGs implementation agenda as well as the attendant process of accountability and tracking of performance. All these plans of development cannot be achieved without a conducive and secured environment.

### **Efforts at Curbing Global Security Challenges**

A National Security Policy (NSP) provides guidelines for a country to address security needs of the people and the state because it incorporates the views of the Government and other institutions, as well as needs and perceptions of the people and takes the form of a National Security Policy document. In this vein, some countries do not have a single national security policy document but a series of policy documents, such as White Papers on Defence, speeches of the authorities, and other related papers. Therefore, a national security policy should incorporate, or give place to, the development of National Security and Defence Strategies which will latter 'identify the formal methods that will be used to attain security and defence objectives described by National Security Policy' (Bucur-Marcu, 2019).

Addressing both effectiveness and accountability of the security sector are essential for the legitimacy of security institutions and the protection of citizens and their rights as they represent strategic entry-points for engaging in and guiding the reform efforts. Just as national security policies are based on core national legal documents, the development of policies also provides an opportunity to review and improve that legal framework. Issues of security sector reforms globally should take cognisance of themes such as the state's role in the international system, perceived international challenges and opportunities as well as the responsibilities of implementing actors in addressing these challenges and opportunities should be taken into consideration. The first element defines the state's vision of the international system and the role that the state plays in that system. The second element assesses current and future threats and opportunities (both internal and external) while the third describes the functions and responsibilities of each implementing actor.

The principles for an effective global security policy could be observed in a holistic approach to security concerns, actors, and means, which is the best way to cover the largest array of security and defence issues. In the same vein, wide range of threats should be considered, including social and economic threats, natural disasters, and terrorism. It could also flexibility and take the international environment, actors, standards and regulations into consideration as well as international law into consideration. In doing that, the international

community should take a comprehensive NSP development process which would encompass a wide array of actors because the drafting and approval stages occur at the highest authority levels. It could also include civil society organisations, academics who perform an oversight role, and security sector personnel at every level who implement and experience first-hand the dictates and effects of policies, up to the government, ministries, and the parliament, who's role in overseeing the entire process is of crucial importance.

- a. The Global Efforts:** The global security situation has become fundamentally more complicated as a result of the consequences of the terrorist attacks on the United Nations Headquarters in New York and Washington on 11 September 2001, and the attack on the United Nations Office in Baghdad on 19 August 2003. As a result, the UN adapted its security approach to a serious and qualitatively different threat that is significantly independent of local circumstances and developments. In the last decade, the security environment in which humanitarian organizations have operated has steadily deteriorated largely in response to the increase in the incidence of internal armed conflict and more recently as a result of the threat of terrorism. In an effort to enhance national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism, the UN General Assembly in September 2006 unanimously adopted a resolution known as The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and an annexed Plan of Action (A/RES/60/288). As a consequence of these, humanitarian organisation must respond to a variety of challenges that have a direct impact on the organization's ability to manage the security of staff members. In order to stem the activities of terrorist out of the globe, a unique instrument and policies which requires updating and expansion in a number of areas including gender and specific security needs of women, security measures for national staff members particularly in situations in which international staff members are evacuated, and security procedures in the event of death or serious injury to staff members due to insecurity was put in place. The policy is however not sufficiently explicit on the extent to which humanitarian organisations' approach to security management should be decentralized.
- b. The Regional Efforts:** The African continent, just as other parts of the world is not immune to security challenges. In this vein, efforts have been made to integrate human security into the AU binding agreements, declarations, decisions and policies which is very significant. It is significant in part because legalisation is one of the most important aspects of institutionalisation of ideas and in part because it provides a basis for the incorporation of human security doctrines into national laws and policies. This legalisations on human security doctrines have also strengthened the hands and the work of human rights advocates operating in the Africa region. It has also given the human rights advocates and their organisations region-wide legal instruments and resources they could use to influence African governments to pursue human security-oriented policies. In order to fully take advantage of all instruments put in place for African security,

the African Union Non-Aggression and Common Defence Pact with the objectives to promoted cooperation among the member states in areas of non-aggression and common defence, promote peace coexistence in Africa, prevent conflicts of inter-state or intra-state nature, and to ensure that disputes are resolved by peaceful means (African Union, 2005).

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

An attempt has been made to x-ray the global security policy as well as Nigeria's development challenges. Available literature shows that the major challenges affecting the world includes but necessarily not limited to terrorism, health insecurity, human trafficking as well as proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Others include illicit arms, drug trafficking and environmental insecurity. Analysis of global security challenges shows that some countries do not have a single national security policy document but a series of policy documents, such as White Papers on Defence, speeches of the authorities, and other related papers. In an effort to enhance national, regional and international efforts to counter terrorism, the UN General Assembly in September 2006 unanimously adopted a resolution known as The UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and an annexed Plan of Action all aimed at making the world a safer place to leave in and ensure global peace and security. In the African continent, efforts have been made to integrate human security into the AU binding agreements, declarations, decisions and policies which is very is signiûcant to its growth and development.

Nigeria's myriad challenges of security has hampered its development and also put its citizens into serious poverty. The country cannot continue to fold its hands believing that things will get better overnight rather, government must as a matter of urgency, formulate and vigorously pursue policy strategies aimed at eliminating SALWS proliferation. There is therefore the need for a robust strategy that encapsulates three broad dimensions of intervention: governance, security and diplomacy (GSD). We must strengthen the institutions and processes of governance to enhance social provisioning for citizens, who are becoming increasingly frustrated over governance failure, thereby resorting to violent crimes that increase demand for SALWS. All levels of government; federal, state and local government need to partner with the private sector to undertake aggressive job creation program for Nigeria's teeming and idle youths. Strengthened intervention by all the levels of government to promote peaceful coexistence among the different ethno-religious and political groups in Nigeria remains imperative. This strategic area if effectively managed and controlled, would help minimize the outbreak and persistence of violent conflict that promotes arms proliferation in the country. Finally, there is need for the creation and adoption of a National Arms Control Strategy (NACS) to guide the clean-up and prevention of SALWS circulation.



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