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SECURITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS: A FOCUS ON NIGERIA

NWAMBUKO, TEMPLE C. (PhD) FCPA; FICA; MNAPS
Department of Public Administration,
Caritas University, Amorji –Nike, Enugu State
nwambuko@gmail.com; +2348037466885

&

ILOH ANGELA U. (PhD) FCPA; FICA
Department of Public Administration,
Caritas University, Amorji –Nike, Enugu State
+2348036990948

Abstract

Sustainable development and security are closely related. Security has a crucial role to play in realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Nigeria, given the high level of insecurity in the country. This paper, therefore, examined security and sustainable development goals with kin interest in Nigeria. Its research design is descriptive design adopted in order to bring to bear the current state of security challenges in the country. Secondary data sourced from text books, journals, newspapers, the internet and so on were used in this work. The paper identified the following security challenges in Nigeria to include the nefarious activities of Boko Haram, farmer-herder clashes, the Islamic Movement of Nigeria, Niger-Delta militancy, banditry, kidnapping; and the nature of politics, multi-ethnic nature of Nigeria and religious rivalries, corruption, unemployment, poverty etc.; and the look-worm attitude of the government, its security apparatus and the stakeholders to adequately address these challenges have adversely affect the actualization of the SDGs in the country. However, leadership development, good governance, socio-economic development, elimination of corruption and entrenchment of social justice, radical change in values, intelligence gathering and surveillance, modernization of security agencies, pre-damage responses to national security, and coordinated preventive measure policy, remained the core panacea for addressing security challenges and the achievement of the SDGs in Nigeria and in West African sub-region by 2030.

***Keywords*: Security, Focus, Development, SDGs, Nigeria.**

Introduction

It is glaringly clear that the SDGs are all encompassing goals that touches on all spheres of human life, which if met would no doubt go a long way in bettering human life and enhance development in all its ramifications. However, the realization of these goals in the developing societies like Nigeria may prove relatively difficult because of the high level of insecurity in the country. According to Dansabo (2017), the situation of insecurity in Nigeria right from the onset of this democratic dispensation has become a major national issue in the country. The act of armed-robbery that happened to be a breakfast at the beginning of civilian rule in1999, followed by the Niger Delta militancy that gave birth to kidnapping/pipeline oil vandalisation

in the Niger Delta region that assumed its ugly face during late President Musa Yar'Adua administration and currently the Islamic Sect act of terrorism popularly known as Boko Haram, Fulani herdsmen attacks, and banditry unwholesome activities in Nigeria. All these and among others have described Nigeria as a failing State or a failed State. In fact, Nigeria's fourth republic appears to be very chaotic, resulting to incessant insecurity.

However, the violence perpetrated by the banditry, Fulani militia, and Boko Haram sect and the attendants security challenges faced by the country as a result of their nefarious activities, no doubt, having a negative effect not only on the national security of the country but also on its image in the international system. For instance, the country was denied the right to host the Global Food Security meeting in October, 2011, due to the apprehensions expressed by the Food and Agricultural Organizations as a result of the insecurity generated by the Boko Haram activities and the incessant kidnapping menace in the Niger Delta. The country has been classified by some international agencies among the terrorist and violence prone states in the world (see The Punch Feb., 7 2012; Mordi 2011).

Given the above high level of insecurity scenario in Nigeria, the attainment of the Sustainable development goals becomes near impossible. Sustainable development goals are keys to sustaining peace and vice versa. The radical heart of the Sustainable Development Goals is their promise to leave no one behind and to reach the furthest behind first. This is a game-changing commitment to the poorest, most vulnerable people around the world who face violent conflict, unstable government and other security challenges. This is why the 2030 Agenda that contains the SDGs and the Resolutions on the UN's peace building architecture call for the dissolution of silos and the advancement of a strongly coherent and integrated approach, recognizing that development, peace and security, and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing. However, among these, adequate security remains key to the actualization of the SDGs come 2030.

Therefore, it is on the basis of this that the author in this paper deemed it necessary to write on security and sustainable development goals with special attention on Nigeria. In executing this, the structural arrangement of this paper after introduction includes: Conceptual Exposition, Security and Sustainable Development Goals, Security and Sustainable Development Goals: A Focus On Nigeria Fourth Republic, Recommendations and Conclusion.

Conceptual Exposition

The Concept of Security

The 'security' is multidimensional and complex connotation which is co-existed since human civilization came into being. The security is conceivably a paramount necessity to the existence of individuals and the survival of any nation-state. There is no perennial definition of security to satisfy every age and phase.

Security has to do with the process connected with assuaging any kind of threat to people and their precious values. This is why Buzan (2009) asserts that security is about freedom from threat and ability of states to maintain independent identity and their functional integrity against forces of change, which they see as hostile while its bottom line is survival (Bodunde, et.al,. 2014). From the foregoing, security is generally agreed to be about

feeling of being safe from harm, fear, anxiety, oppression, danger, poverty, defense, protection and preservation of core values and threat to those values. William (2008) equally submits that security is most commonly associated with the alleviation of threats to cherish values, especially those threats which threaten the survival of a particular reference object. In line with the above, Ogaba (2010: 35-36) states that:

> *Security has to do with freedom from danger or threats to a nation's ability to protect and develop itself, promote its cherished values and legitimate interest and enhance the well-being of its people. Thus internal security could be seen as the freedom from or the absence of those tendencies, which could undermine internal cohesion, and the corporate existence of a country and its ability to maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core values and socio-political and economic objectives, as well as meet the legitimate aspirations of the people.*

Buzan (2009), identified three levels of analysis of security, where each of these dimensions refers to a different of levels i.e. individuals, state and international system. The first dimension refers to human security, a concept that makes the principle referent object of security the individual, not the state. The second dimension is environmental security and includes issues like climate change, global warming, and access to resources. The third substrate refers to national security, defined as being linked to the state's monopoly over use of force in a given territory and as a substrate of security that emphasizes the military and policing components of security. The fourth component deals with transnational threats such as organized crime, terrorism, and human trafficking. Finally, the integrity of diverse cultures and civilizational forms tackles the issue of trans-cultural security. According to this multi-faceted security framework all five dimensions of security need to be addressed in order to provide just and sustainable global security. It therefore advocates cooperative interaction between states and peaceful existence between cultural groups and civilizations.

Concept of Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable development is a phrase we hear thrown around from time to time in order to underline our ideal vision of the future – rid of all the problems that the inhabitants of the Earth tackle today. Basically, it is a long-term solution to how we plan our indefinite progress in the future without causing damage to the environment so as to guarantee a safe habitat for the next generations, who will continue to develop their economies, societies, and care for the environment with a similar ideal in mind. It satisfies our needs without sabotaging the opportunities of others. The concept covers a broad scope of matters such as environmental, social, and economic development which continues to prove its importance in our lives as it affects all aspects of them.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are 17 with their 169 targets, form the core of the 2030 Agenda. They balance the economic, social and ecological dimensions of sustainable development, and place the fight against poverty and sustainable development on the same agenda for the first time. These goals include:

Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere.

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture
Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
Goal 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
Goal 6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
Goal 7: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
Goal 9: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
Goal 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries
Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable
Goal 12: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
*Goal 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts**
Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development
Goal 15: Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss
Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels
Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

These 17 Goals build on the successes of the Millennium Development Goals, while including new areas such as climate change, economic inequality, innovation, sustainable consumption, peace and justice, among other priorities. The goals are interconnected – often the key to success on one will involve tackling issues more commonly associated with another. For 15 years, the MDGs drove progress in several important areas: reducing income poverty, providing much needed access to water and sanitation, driving down child mortality and drastically improving maternal health. They also kick-started a global movement for free primary education, inspiring countries to invest in their future generations. Most significantly, the MDGs made huge strides in combating HIV/AIDS and other treatable diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis.

The legacy and achievements of the MDGs provide us with valuable lessons and experience to begin work on the new goals. But for millions of people around the world the job remains unfinished. We need to go the last mile on ending hunger, achieving full gender equality, improving health services and getting every child into school beyond primary. The SDGs are also an urgent call to shift the world onto a more sustainable path

The SDGs replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which started a global effort in 2000 to tackle the indignity of poverty. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were born at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in Rio de Janeiro in 2012. The objective was to produce a set of universal goals that meet the urgent environmental, political and economic challenges facing our world.

The SDGs are unique in that they cover issues that affect us all. They reaffirm our international commitment to end poverty, permanently, everywhere. They are ambitious in making sure no one is left behind. More importantly, they involve us all to build a more sustainable, safer, more prosperous planet for all humanity.

Finance of the SDGs

1. Strengthen domestic resource mobilization, including through international support to developing countries, to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection
2. Developed countries to implement fully their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance (ODA/GNI) to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries; ODA providers are encouraged to consider setting a target to provide at least 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries
3. Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources
4. Assist developing countries in attaining long-term debt sustainability through coordinated policies aimed at fostering debt financing, debt relief and debt restructuring, as appropriate, and address the external debt of highly indebted poor countries to reduce debt distress
5. Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries.

Security and Sustainable Development Goals

Sustainable development and security are closely related. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) only explicitly mention Food Security as a specific goal, but in the same vein, reference could have been made to maritime security, environmental security or human security in general. The latter concept supposes freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to live with dignity as a critical basis for sustaining and developing livelihoods. Personal and community security is perhaps a significant basis for achieving some satisfactory level of sustainable development.

> *"The first step in creating a more satisfactory basis for managing the interrelationships between security and sustainable development goals is to broaden our vision."*

These words were published 30 years ago, in the report Our Common Future, also known as the Brundtland Report. Many of the findings of that report – in which the term "sustainable development" was coined – remain valid today. The Brundtland Report showed how conflicts may arise not only from political and military threats which pre-empt development options. And it argued that threats to national security require multilateral responses. Since then, there have been three decades of global engagement on sustainable development. Two important milestones were the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in 1992 and the adoption of the Millennium Development Goals in 2000. They led to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were adopted by 193 countries at the three- day Sustainable Development Summit held in New York in September 2015.

The SDGs are 17 in number, centered on five major themes: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships. All five of these themes and their achievements define the importance of security in making a difference. If we focus on the planet alone, we can single out seven SDGs and their activities that are linked to security and they all serve to help reach the SDGs. The inclusion of SDG16 on peaceful, just, inclusive societies in the 2030 Agenda by the United Nations and other partnering International Organizations shows the importance of security in achieving the sustainable development goals. However, its inclusion was very hard to negotiate, in large part because of the fears that its inclusion would serve to 'securitize' a multilateral development agenda that needed to champion equality, sustainability and social justice.

Security has a crucial role to play in the newly proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goals, which aim to establish a safe, sustainable and just society for all, require a truly transformative approach, one that places inclusivity, safety, equity and justice at the centre of a global pursuit for sustainable development. However, some United Nations member states are reluctant to securitize the sustainability agenda, and are advocating against their inclusion in the SDGs. The reality is that insecurity is at the crossroad of security and sustainability, making it a significant issue to overcome.

In like manner, King (2016) suggested that accrediting military-security spending as a contribution to the SDGs could fulfill the worst fears of those who cautioned against integrating peace, justice and inclusion into the framework. Accrediting actions that often undermine peace and development as 'progressive' contributions could thus undermine the legitimacy of the 2030 agenda – and the trust of civil society and many member states. It could ultimately lead to peace, justice, inclusion and governance issues being excluded from future global development frameworks and to the neglect of the vital strategic and operational link between peace and development. The 2030 Agenda commitments to promote peaceful, just, inclusive societies were intended to encourage preventative and developmental investments to address conflict and promote peace in insecurity prone countries. Development and peace building are already orphans when compared with vast military and peacekeeping expenditures.

In 2017, world military spending was more than 11 times greater than Official Development Assistance (ODA).2 According to the World Bank-United Nations 'Pathways for Peace' report, 'most bilateral financing for military and police […] has gone to enhancing operational capacities rather than to transformative reforms conducive to preventing conflict and building peace. For example, available figures suggest that over the past decade the US spent roughly three times more on military assistance to the Middle East than all donors spent on peace-related activities for the entire world.

Addressing the underlying causes of conflict and insecurity, Eme (2004) opined that it is better done through long-term, upstream investments and early action to address marginalization, promote inclusion, and support economic and human development – not through investments in war and conflict. There is little evidence that building military capabilities to ensure adequate security leads to improved peace, justice and development outcomes. But there is much evidence regarding the negative impacts of military security assistance.

According to Winjobi (2017), Governments often feel compelled to pursue military-security initiatives to advance national security interests, but these interests are not necessarily the same as the human security interests of people in developing and developed countries. Past experience also suggests that problematic security assistance partnerships have been maintained – in spite of harmful impacts on peace and development – because of national security interests in the developed world (such as selling arms, cutting immigration and countering terrorism).

In this context, it will be essential to establish rules that prevent governments from getting credit for activities that are highly likely to put peace and development at risk – and only to include actions with a high potential to have positive impacts that carry very low risks. Increasing the transparency of military-security assistance is a worthy goal where such assistance will promote the achievement of the SDGs.

Security and Sustainable Development Goals: A Focus on Nigeria Fourth Republic

It glaringly clear from the above that the SDGs are all encompassing goals that touches on all spheres of human life, which if met would no doubt go a long way in bettering human life and enhance development in all its ramifications. However, Ola (2017) argued that realizing these goals in Nigeria may prove relatively difficult due to the high level of insecurity among others. Supporting this assertion, Njoku (2019) identified five major security challenges among others that Nigeria is currently confronted with as follow:

1. ***Boko Haram:*** The militant Islamist group has destabilized the North-East of Nigeria. Since 2009 the group 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. The government made significant military gains, reducing the number of Boko Haram attributed deaths from more than 5,000 in 2015 to less than 1,000 in the past couple of years. 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.
2. ***Farmer-herder clashes*****:** 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 politicized and is stirring ethnic and religious tensions, which is very dangerous in a deeply divided country like Nigeria. The president must find inclusive and creative ways of addressing and deescalating this complex conflict.

3. ***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 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. President Buhari has to ensure that the army has learnt lessons from how they dealt with the then emerging threat of Boko Haram, and make sure that the situation does not repeat itself.
4. ***Niger-Delta*:** 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. Nonetheless, the Niger Delta Avengers have just ended their ceasefire with the government claiming that the government has not made good on bringing peace and development to 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.
5. ***Cameroon*:** Neighbouring country Cameroon is on the brink of civil war. The Anglophone minority - 20% of the total population - has felt marginalised since independence. In 2016, what started as a series of protests by the Anglophone community against the increasing use of French in their region, eventually turned into a full-blown deadly crisis. The Anglophones are now calling for the secession of their territory which they call Ambazonia. In the past year alone, this intensifying conflict has led to the deaths of about 420 civilians, 175 military and police officers and hundreds of secessionist fighters. As a consequence, over 437,000 people have been displaced from their homes, and about 32,000 people have fled to Nigeria. The increasing influx of refugees into the already fragile Niger Delta region will have untold consequences on local host communities and Nigeria as a whole. The government needs to be proactive in its response to the conflict through helping to mediate and deescalate the conflict and also through making proper arrangements for incoming refugees.

Segun (2013) identified other areas that are germane in the discussion of security and sustainable development goals in Nigeria to include:

1. ***The Nature of politics*:** The intense nature of competition for political power especially in the fourth republic has made violence to be associated with insecurity in Nigeria. Nigerian politicians, over the years, have become more desperate and daring in taking and retaining power and more intolerant of opposition, criticism and efforts at replacing them (Alemika, 2011:1). Similarly, Omoweh and Okanya (2005:303) noted that political competition for the control of the state and its political power is now a bloody warfare as the state holds the key to wealth. The above scenario explains why the implementation of the SDGs may proof difficult in Nigeria.
2. ***Multi-ethnic Nature of Nigeria and Religious Rivalries:*** Salawu (2010) noted that Nigeria has over four hundred (400) ethnic groups, belonging to several religious sects, thus, Nigeria since independence has been grappling with the problem of ethnicity on one hand and religious conflicts on the other hand. Haliru (2012) contended that the ethnic and religious composition of Nigeria and its manipulation by the political elite poses a lot of threat to governance and security of Nigeria. The inability of the state to perform its constitutional duties of maintaining law and order, justice and providing social services for the people has culminated in the emergence of ethnic militias in several parts of the country such as the Oodua People's Congress (OPC), Bakassi boys, Egbesu boys and the emergence of Boko Haram in Northern Nigeria. Salawu (2010) opined that the emergence of ethnic militias and the deep divides between the various ethnic groups; makes religious intolerance more violent and bloody with more devastating consequences using the ethnic militias as the executors of the ethno-religious agenda. Salawu (2010) also notes that over 40% of ethno-religious based conflicts are credited to the fourth republic of Nigeria.
3. ***Corruption, Unemployment and Poverty:*** Adesoji, (2010) is of the opinion that public sector corruption leading to misuse of resources, unemployment and mass poverty; ignorance due to limited educational opportunities swelled the army of vulnerable people whose disillusionment and impoverishment made them easy prey in the hands of demagogues like the late Yusuf the first leader of Boko Haram that has been a security threat to Nigeria. It is important to state that the fourth republic is very pivotal in analyzing the relationship between poverty and violent conflicts in Nigeria.

   Studies have shown that there is an increase in the rate of poverty in the fourth republic. The poverty level in 1999 was put at 45% but increased to 76% in 2012 due to mismanagement of the country's resources by corrupt leaders (Egharevba and Chiazor, 2012). It was also observed that the money that was made from oil between 1999 and 2011 was more than all that was made from 1960-1999 (Save Nigeria Group, 2012), but squandered by Nigerian leaders through corruption, leaving the masses in poverty-stricken conditions (Egharevba and Chiazor, 2012). According to National Bureau of Statistics (2012), the Nigerians that live on less than $ 1 per day are not less than two-thirds of the total Population. This implies that 112.5 million Nigerians out of the estimated 163 million are living in poverty.

   Marke, (2007) cited in Ikiejiaku, (2012) postulated that the account of political corruption perpetrated by African leaders are catholic and these has taken toll on the provision of human needs, with implications on conflict. He said youths that are not

> engaged in meaningful work, and can no longer cope with the burden of poverty caused by leadership corruption bring attention to their plight by engaging in destructive behaviour. Ikejiaku (2012) also note that violence in the Niger Delta has been spearheaded mainly by restive and often unemployed youths. In fact, violence seems to be more in areas that experience more poverty.

All these security challenges have made Nigeria in recent times witnessed an unprecedented level of insecurity. Consequently, it has made national security threat to be a major issue for the government and has prompted huge allocation of the national budget to security. In order to ameliorate the incidence of crime, the federal government has embarked on criminalization of terrorism by passing the Anti-Terrorism Act in 2011, fundamental surveillance as well as investigation of criminal related offences, heightening of physical security measures around the country aimed at deterring or disrupting potential attacks, strengthening of security agencies through the provision of security facilities and the development and broadcast of security tips in mass media. Despite these efforts, the level of insecurity in the country is still high. In addition, Nigeria has consistently ranked low in the Global Peace Index (GPI, 2012), signifying a worsened state of insecurity in the country.

With the lingering security challenges and the inability of the security apparatus of the government to guarantee safety and security in the country, the question that borders everyone in Nigeria today is "can there be security?" Is security of lives and properties achievable? Can the Sustainable Development Goals be achieved in the midst of this unprecedented level of insecurity?

Recommendations

This paper recommends the following plausible measures of addressing security challenges with the intent of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria:

Leadership Development: It is viewed that Nigeria will have to develop visionary leadership, a leadership that is detribalized such that it has at leadership positions only people who are able to inculcate in their people or followers, the ideal of common citizenship as the transcendent factor among all Nigerians, no matter the tribe, gender, religion, economic and social status. In other words, it is imperative that we have leaders who would not be limited to championing the causes of their home state, tribe or religious groups, but rather focused on deeds and pronouncements which convincingly and positively impact on the entire citizenry of the federal republic". The argument for this is that such leaders "will help to mould the contending ethnic and religious groups into harmony and help to remove the perceived mutual distrust among them. Collective partnership of all remains key to the implementation of the SDGs.

Good Governance: Good governance is the panacea for the insecurity challenge and the implementation of the SDGs in Nigeria. The war against insecurity would be won only by raising governance standards - A government that is responsible and accountable to the people. Adequate security provision cannot be separated from good governance as peace and security are determined by good governance. Therefore, the implementation of the SDGs can only be possible in a country where good governance breeds adequate security of lives and

property. The underlying principle of good governance is the focus on people as the ultimate objective of governance.

Socio-economic development: This factor is strongly considered as the major key to peace and security in Nigeria and an indices to the implementation of the SDGs.. The challenge in solving the insecurity problem in Nigeria is to accelerate the pace of development. Development in this context consists of creating an economy with relevant social, economic and physical infrastructure for business operations and industrial growth, to provide gainful employment, high level education facilities and medical care for the people.

Elimination of Corruption and entrenchment of social justice: Corruption is viewed by everybody as the cog in the Nigerian wheel of progress and development. It is the bane of our society. It is both a social and economic monster. It is the cause of inequality and inequitable distribution of the nations' wealth among its citizens; a situation that is the root cause of disaffection among Nigerians. It is theorized by many that fighting corruption and winning the war will bring about an egalitarian society, where fairness, social justice and equal right for all will reign supreme; where rights will not be privileges for some people, and for others, privileges are their rights: where every Nigerian will be treated and accorded position not based on tribe and sect, but on merit defined in terms of the content of his character, mental capacity and ability to deliver; where there will be no discrimination. It is under this environmental scenario that the implementation of the SDGs is made possible.

Radical change in values: A paradigm shift of values from the current order has also been suggested and emphasized by many, considering the role of values in governance system, leadership, developmental goals, and behaviour towards corruption. It is argued that except our values are right, we cannot get it right as a country in all of the areas that we have itemized, and except we get it right in those areas, the people will continue to suffer deprivation and injustice which will cause dissatisfaction and disaffection and consequently create an insecure environment where the implementation of the SDGs will be difficult if not impossible.

Intelligence Gathering and Surveillance: To overcome insecurity there is need for intelligence gathering and surveillance so that law enforcement agents could be proactive and reasonably predict potential crime with near perfect accuracy rather than being reactive. The menace of insecurity no doubt calls for a new approach that will be founded on credible intelligence gathering". Government must not only continue to engage the security personnel, it must, more than ever before, recognize the need to devote more attention to security intelligence, capacity building to meet the global best practice standard and acquisition of modern technology.

Modernization of Security Agencies: There is also the need to modernize the security agencies with training, intelligence sharing, advanced technology, logistics, motivation and change of orientation. This effort will enhance the operational capabilities of the Nigeria security agencies by identifying avenues that would enable them respond appropriately to internal security challenges and other threats. In addition, there should be a complete overhaul of the security institutions in the country to reflect international standards of best practices so as to pre-empt these security breaches. In particular, the failure of the intelligence services to contain the recurring security breaches.

Pre-Damage Responses to National Security: The consistent pattern of post damage responses to national security has been attributed to the dearth of pre-emptive intelligence among security personnel. There should be an institutionalized approach rather than the episodic and reactive response adopted by the government at the aftermath of attacks. In addition, Government at all level should not compromise in enforcing the law. Cases of corruption are not meant to be compromised at all, let alone adjourning them endlessly. The judiciary ought to have, at this stage in our development, evolved time scales for cases. There ought to have been a time to determine a case; time to close that case; and time to deliver judgement and pass sentences. In Nigeria, cases that bother on corruption and insecurity have most often been compromised. Thus, the law is no longer acting as a deterrent. Our law enforcement agencies must therefore be incorruptible and fair. To ensure all this, there must be incentives, good conditions of service and social security. Finally, dealing alone with the issues mentioned above will not appraise the root causes of insecurity.

Coordinated Preventive Measure Policy: Policies that focus solely on single governmental agencies, such as security agencies or enactment of laws are unlikely to succeed. Instead, a coordinated preventive measure is necessary in addition to military strategies and judicial institutions. He posited that there is a need to reorder priorities and to seek better understanding of the underlying causes and dynamics of the insecurity in the country with the aim of providing effective conflict prevention and management strategies. The formulation and effective implementation of policies and programmes capable of addressing the root causes of insecurity in Nigeria are crucial, especially with regard to poverty; unemployment, environmental degradation, injustice, corruption, porous borders and small arms proliferation. Therefore, efforts to tackle insecurity can only be effective if there is a robust combination of legislative and judicial interventions with government reforms that address some of the acute human security challenges confronting a vast majority of the population.

Conclusion

For any country to reach a lasting peace, the journey must always be led by its own people. The role of the UN is to support this journey, providing the experience, expertise and using the convening power at its disposal to give countries in crisis the best chance at stability and prosperity. Peace is not simply a benchmark to achieve. It requires ongoing, dynamic participation from the entire society in its governance. That is why a country's development must be inclusive and sustainable; it gives everyone a stake in a shared future.

Nigerians need a country that is stable, peaceful, and safe. We must strive to get to a level were crimes will be nipped in the bud before they are perpetuated. Therefore, the government, civil society groups, business organization and individuals must fight insecurity so as to create an enabling environment where the people will feel free and secured to achieve their full potentials and the country will itself be safe to achieve the sustainable development goals in her fourth Republic.

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