

**NIGERIA IN MULTINATIONAL INTERNATIONAL PEACE
KEEPING OPERATION SINCE 1960**

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**BEING A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY AND
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY,
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INTERNATIONAL STUDIES AND DIPLOMACY**

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CERTIFICATION

We, are undersigned hereby certify that we approve this research essay as written by JULIET OGHOGHO AGHO-REUBEN, is adequately in scope and quality for the award of Bachelor of Art (B.A) certificate in International Studies and Diplomacy in the University of Benin, Benin City.

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Head of Department

Date: _____

Date: _____

DEDICATION

This project is dedicated to God Almighty who gave me the ability and strength to start and finish this research work, as well as for His mercy, protection, provision and guidance. It is also dedicated to my sister Ese Agho for always being there for me and always believing in me even when I do not believe in myself.

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CHAPTER ONE

BACKGROUND OF STUDY

Introduction

Undoubtedly, if the idea and practice of searching for peace is as old as humanity, then it follows that the history of wars and conflicts, which are its harbingers, is older. The recurrence and re-escalation of conflicts in various parts of the world, most especially in the developing states, has indeed made the word ‘sustainable peace’ an illusion. A lot can be said on the havoc wrecked by conflicts on the people and the devastating effects on the natural environment.¹ Regrettably, all efforts made to put an end to conflict around the globe yield little or no significant results since war is a learning behavior and the proclivity of it has remained undefeatable.²

Put simply, the past and recent events around the world reveal that ethno-religious conflict, resources struggle, ideology and mistrust as ever before, still very much predominate in the contemporary world and therefore called for the need for peacekeeping forces by willing states under the auspice of regional and international organization, that is in a multilateral format. There is hardly any doubt that the United Nations Security Council remains the world’s principal body vested with the responsibility of maintaining international peace and security but rely on the willing cooperation of States and contribution of their armed force to serve as a third party between two warring parties. Peacekeeping operation began with the United Nations.³

In the 1950s, after Egypt nationalized the Suez Canal, Britain, France and Israel attempted to intervene forcefully but without success.⁴ It was a case of Britain, France and Israel on hand and Egypt on the other. This led to the 1956 Suez Crisis. Both sides wanted to cease hostilities, but a consensus did not take place. During a United Nations (UN) meeting on November 4, 1956, Lester Pearson, a Canadian diplomat, proposed the idea of a peacekeeping force wearing blue helmets for identification. Their goal was to ensure peace in a conflict and monitor the events. Pearson came up with the idea that each country would assign soldiers to the UN peacekeeping force.⁵ Since then, State such as Nigeria who got independence from Britain in 1960 have been contributing to the United Nations peacekeeping globally. This study examines the Nigeria in multinational international peace keeping operation since 1960. The study intends to cover the concept of multinational peace keeping operation. It looks into the role of the Nigeria in the multinational peace keeping operation around the world.

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to examine Nigeria in multinational international peace keeping operation since 1960, while the objectives for engaging in this research include;

- To examine the concept of multinational peace keeping operation.
- To examine Nigeria in multinational effort in international peacekeeping.
- To examine the impact of Nigeria participation in international peacekeeping in operation on international peace and security.

Scope of the Study

The research work intends to cover the Nigeria in multinational international peace keeping operation since 1960. The study intends to cover the concept of multinational peace keeping operation. It looks into the role of the Nigeria in the multinational peace keeping operation around the world.

Methodology of the Study

While carrying out this research, a descriptive historical research methodology will be used. Thus, information will be obtains from secondary sources. The secondary sources that will be consulted include books, article in journals, newspapers, biography, monograph, thesis and dissertation.

Literature Review

The literatures that will be review here are the ones relevant to our study in one way or the other. The first category of literatures dealt on the gamut of conflict as it affects every human society whether national or international. These help us and our reader (s) to grape the extent or understand what circumstance peacekeeping operation would be needed. The literatures explained the definitions, nature, types, and probable causes of crisis or conflict and outline some strategies for the management and resolution of conflict resolution.

Miriam Ikejiani-Clark (ed.) titled, *Peace Studies and Conflict Resolution in Nigeria*⁹. The book covers virtually all the aspects of peace studies and conflict resolution. Moreover, the last part of the literature deals on case studies in Nigeria, brings the facts

home to us. The book has 33 chapters divided into 5 parts. The first part deals with the *Theories and Basic Concepts*; the second part discusses *Peace and Conflict Management Styles*; part three is concerned with the *role of State and Civil Society in Issues of Peace and Conflict*; fourth part deals with *Gender, Human Rights and Environment Issues in Peace and Conflict Studies*, while the last part deals with some selected *Case Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution in Nigeria*. The first parts is very much relevant to us as it explained the definition, nature, types, and probable causes of conflict and outline some strategies for the management and resolution of conflict. However, the literatures did not examine Nigeria in multinational international peace keeping operation since 1960, hence the need for the current study to examine that void.

S. Akinboye and F. Ottoh's *Conflict and Bargaining in International Relations: A Systematic Approach to International Relations*¹⁰ and G. Caplan's *Prevention of Mental Disorders in Children*¹¹ were other works that were relevant to our study. Akinboye and Ottoh defined crisis as that which reflects a state of conflict between two or more parties. In other words, they postulate that crisis, in all ramification is more severe than conflict, and that it has a single focus. Furthermore, they asserted that crisis, could be an internal affair of a state, or it could be between one state and another. Caplan further postulates that crisis occur when persons perceive some form of obstacle to the achievement of their life goals. This view is credible because it is when two or more persons have clashing interests that there could be crisis and conflict nationally and internationally. This could have theoretically explained the causes of the Sudanese conflict, hence the need for

multinational peacekeeping operation. But the literature did not give details examination of Nigeria in multinational international peacekeeping operation.

There is yet another work that defined conflict. The work is E .O .S Iyamu and L. I Salami (eds), *Peace Studies and Conflict Resolutions*¹². Relevance articles in the literature include G. O Igbinoba's "Conflict Issues and the Basic Assumptions: The Nigerian experience".¹³ In his article, Igbinoba examined conflict in its simplest form saying that it could mean several things, but it has themes like to fight, battle, and contend, to be antagonistic and contradictory. It could also mean sharp disagreement or clash of interests. He further stressed that as a result of this clash, there could be threat to the needs of the parties involved, and that conflict is a normal part of organisational life which provides numerous opportunities for growth through improved understanding and insight. In other words, when parties engage in conflict, there is always a better understanding at the end if properly manage.

The other categories of literatures are the once that dealt on the nature and character of conflict and multinational peacekeeping operation. The first literature in this category is the book by Ogaba D. Uche, titled, *From Dispute to Dialogue: Essays on Conflict and Conflict Resolution*¹⁴. Although, some chapters in literature explained conflict and conflict resolution, but the area that was of importance was the one that dealt on peacekeeping operation. Chapter twelve of the literature examined the meaning and definition of multinational or multilateral peacekeeping and the various types of peacekeeping forces and outlines three case studies of multinational peacekeeping

involving the United Nations, the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) now AU, and the Economic Community of West African States. However, the study did not examine Nigeria in multinational international peace keeping operation since 1960, hence the need for this study.

The concept of Peacekeeping is a vital part of our discourse, the other literature on peacekeeping operation by United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Department of Field Support is *Civil Affairs Handbook*¹⁵. The literature aims to familiarize us with the context of civil affairs work and UN peacekeeping support operation including key trends, reforms and cross-cutting themes. Part II discusses the guiding principles, skills and an attitude required for civil affairs work, and provides tips and tools on analysis, planning and managing civil affairs components in field missions. Part III focuses on the implementation of the three peacekeeping mission liaison, monitoring and facilitation at the local level; confidence-building, conflict management and support to the development of political space; and support to the restoration and extension of state authority. It also provides tips and good practices on implementing Quick Impact Projects (QIPs). This literature broadened our knowledge on the United Nation peacekeeping missions around the world. However, the literature did not examine Nigeria in multinational international peace keeping operation since 1960.

These were done by Charles Dokubo and Oluwadare, Abiodun Joseph in there article titled, “Nigeria’s Role in Conflict Resolution: A New Paradigm”¹⁶, the article make an effort to advance our understanding of the endemic conflict system that has

brought untold human tragedy to the African continent and the need for peacekeeping forces. The task undertaken in this article was to attempt to conceptualise conflict, then analyse the causes of conflict and explore its magnitude and consequences as a means of assessing the role for Nigeria in view of the new paradigm shift in the emerging conflict resolution architecture.

Isiaq A. Abdulwaheed's "Nigeria and Peacekeeping Process in Africa: the Darfur Peace Process in Sudan"¹⁷, assess Nigeria contribution to the efforts towards the crafting of sustainable peace in the Sudan. In specific term, it assesses the pivotal role that Nigeria has played in the peace processes in the Sudan visà-vis the humanitarian disaster before the eventual independence of the Southern part.

Ahmed Musa Sule's book titled, *Nigeria's Participation in Peacekeeping Operations*¹⁸, review the enormous contribution that Nigeria has made towards securing world peace and security through its past participation in peacekeeping support operations (PSO). It identifies past problems and current "issues" in Nigeria's participation in peace keeping operation. The literature enumerated the benefits that would accrue to the Armed Forces of Nigeria if her peacekeeping support operation is well structured. The literature seemed to have been written with special focus on Nigeria but not comprehensively.

Chapter Outline

This research project Nigeria in multinational international peace keeping operation since 1960 is structure into five chapters.

Chapter One: Background to the Study

The chapter takes on the background to the study. In it, there shall be an introduction which shall encapsulate the entire gamut of this research work. The chapter also contains the aim and objectives, the scope of study, methodology and literature review.

Chapter Two: Concept of Multinational Peace Keeping Operation.

This chapter will attempt a conceptual clarification of conflict or war and peacekeeping operation.

Chapter Three: Nigeria in Multinational International Peacekeeping

This chapter examined the role of Nigeria in multinational international peacekeeping operation. It also looked at some multinational force (if any) before the multinational international peacekeeping that included Nigeria.

Chapter Four: Impacts of Nigeria and International Peacekeeping Operation on International Peace and Security

This chapter examines the impact multinational international peacekeeping operation generally. It will also examine the impact that Nigeria have made in these peacekeeping mission.

Chapter Five: Conclusion

This chapter contains the assessment and conclusion of the study.

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CHAPTER TWO

CONCEPT OF MULTINATIONAL PEACEKEEPING OPERATION

Introduction

This chapter will attempt a conceptual clarification of peacekeeping operation. Human history is replete with incidence of wars which often result in wide spread devastation and alarming humanitarian casualty rates. The outbreak of the First and Second World War in the first half of the 20th century left behind several and far reaching consequences for mankind which formed the bedrock for the resolved of the founding fathers of the United Nations “to save the succeeding generations from the scourge of war (whether international or national), which twice in our lifetime has brought untold sorrow to mankind”¹.

The commitment of the international community to unite in the promotion of international peace and security as enunciated in the preambles of the Charter of the United Nations has propelled the world body to embark on initiative that build and sustain peace across the globe. This endeavour has given rise to the concept of peacekeeping and to several peacekeeping missions in troubled countries and regions globally.

Conflict involves two or more parties (a person or things) that have, or perceive incompatibility in either interests or values, or in strategy of achieving the ends desired². The terms conflict as a Latin word which refers to ‘clash’ ‘fight’, or confrontation among

parties whose means or ends are incompatible. Conflict can be violent and non-violent as it manifest.

Conceptualization of Peacekeeping

Peacekeeping, like the other conflict resolution instruments is hard to conceptualise and may be intended by different users to mean different things. Due to the diversity of operations being described, and the familiarity and favourable resonance of the word itself, “peacekeeping” is used to encompass a wide range of missions that often include peacebuilding. Peacekeeping is a technique designed to preserve the peace, where fighting has been halted, and to assist in implementing agreements achieved by the peacemakers. Over the years, peacekeeping has evolved from a primarily military model of observing cease-fires and the separation of forces after inter-state wars, to incorporate a complex model of many elements – military, police and civilian – working together to help lay the foundations for sustainable peace³.

The concept of peacekeeping, according to Okereke involves the use of multinational or multilateral military, civil police and in some case civilian personnel for the prevention, containment and termination of crisis which the United Nations or any other international organization feels might threaten international peace and security.⁴ It is used to describe certain military action authorized by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and geared towards supervising ceasefire agreements and separating the belligerents in conflict situations⁵. Boutros B. Ghali described it as the deployment of United Nations presence on the field, hitherto with the consent of all parties concerned⁶. Such presence

for him expands the possibilities for both the prevention of conflicts and making of peace, otherwise terms peacemaking.

In its classic form, a traditional peacekeeping operation is established when parties to a conflict, typically two state, or between a state and rebel groups engaged in armed conflict, agree to the interposition of UN or foreign troops to uphold a ceasefire. In such instances, limited number of lightly armed troops are introduced and situated between the combatants to provide a symbolic guarantor of peace. If the UN whenever does this it is refers to as multinational peacekeeping mission, in that it more than one state's effort, otherwise it will be a unilateral peacekeeping⁷.

Peace – like war – is a protracted process and a peace agreement may exist, only later to unravel. Therefore, while peacekeeping may entail monitoring peace processes that emerge and assisting the signatories to implement the agreements, it may also involve efforts to instill confidence and reaffirm commitments to stalled or thwarted peace processes.

Core Principles of Peacekeeping

The UN Charter lays the foundation, under international law, for the responsibility of the UN system to maintain international peace and security. Peacekeeping is one of many instruments available to the UN in carrying out this work. While missions with different characteristics have emerged, peacekeeping has most commonly been used in recent years to preserve and build the conditions necessary for sustainable peace where a ceasefire or peace agreement is already in place and where the

parties to a conflict have consented to the deployment of a peacekeeping mission. Peacekeeping is defined as an instrument for peace and security. The core principles are reinforcing, listed below, which provide a compass to guide peacekeepers in the implementation of their mandates.

- **Consent**

Peacekeeping can only take place with the consent of the parties to the conflict. This consent ensures that the mission has the political and physical freedom and the protection needed to carry out its mandate effectively. Without consent, the security of peacekeepers may be jeopardized as a peacekeeping mission risks becoming a party to the conflict, rather than the arbiter of the peace agreement.

- **Impartiality**

Peacekeepers will implement their mandate without favour or prejudice to any of the parties to the conflict. Impartiality is not the same as neutrality, however, and does not mean that peacekeepers need to be apolitical in condoning violations of the peace agreement or of international norms. Rather, it requires that they hold all parties to a conflict to the same standards. Abiding by the principle of impartiality will ensure that a peacekeeping mission is perceived as fair and transparent.

- **Non-use of force**

Peacekeepers will refrain from the use of force, except in self-defence and defence of the mandate. With the authorization of the Security Council, the use of force may occur as a tactical measure of last resort in self-defence of UN personnel and property

and to defend the mandate. In contexts where the civilian population is at risk, the Security Council may give the mission a mandate to use force to protect the civilian population from imminent threat of physical violence.⁸

iv. **Legitimacy**

Perceptions of the legitimacy of a peacekeeping mission will fluctuate throughout its life cycle, but ultimately legitimacy depends on various factors. These include the perceived impartiality with which the mission exercises its mandate; how it uses – or does not use – force; the conduct of its personnel and the respect they demonstrate for the culture, customs and people of their host country; and the visibility of actual peace dividends. International legitimacy is one of the most important assets of a United Nations peacekeeping operation. The international legitimacy of a United Nations peacekeeping operation is derived from the fact that it is established after obtaining a mandate from the United Nations Security Council, which has primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security⁹.

The uniquely broad representation of Member States who contribute personnel and funding to United Nations operations further strengthens this international legitimacy. So too does the fact that United Nations peacekeeping operations are directed by the United Nations Secretary-General, an impartial and well-respected international figure, committed to upholding the principles and purposes of the Charter. The manner in which a United Nations peacekeeping operation conducts itself may have a profound impact on its perceived legitimacy on the ground.¹⁰

The firmness and fairness with which a United Nations peacekeeping operation exercises its mandate, the circumspection with which it uses force, the discipline it imposes upon its personnel, the respect it shows to local customs, institutions and laws, and the decency with which it treats the local people all have a direct effect upon perceptions of its legitimacy. The perceived legitimacy of a United Nations peacekeeping operation is directly related to the quality and conduct of its military, police and civilian personnel. The bearing and behavior of all personnel must be of the highest order, commensurate with the important responsibilities entrusted to a United Nations peacekeeping operation, and should meet the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. The mission's senior leadership must ensure that all personnel are fully aware of the standards of conduct that are expected of them and that effective measures are in place to prevent misconduct. Civilian, police and military personnel should receive mandatory training on sexual exploitation and abuse; and this training should be ongoing, as troops rotate in and out of peace operations. There must be zero tolerance for any kind of sexual exploitation and abuse, and other forms of serious misconduct. Cases of misconduct must be dealt with firmly and fairly, to avoid undermining the legitimacy and moral authority of the mission¹¹.

Experience has shown that the perceived legitimacy of a United Nations peacekeeping operation's presence may erode over time, if the size of the United Nations "footprint" and the behavior of its staff becomes a source of local resentment; or if the peacekeeping operation is not sufficiently responsive as the situation stabilizes.

Peacekeeping missions must always be aware of and respect national sovereignty. As legitimate and capable government structures emerge, the role of the international actors may well need to diminish quickly. They should seek to promote national and local ownership, be aware of emerging local capacities, and be sensitive to the effect that the behavior and conduct of the mission has upon the local population¹².

v. **Credibility**

Credibility rests, to a large degree, on the mission's ability to meet local expectations. To achieve and maintain this, the mission must have a clear and deliverable mandate, with resources and capabilities to match. United Nations peacekeeping operations are frequently deployed in volatile, highly stressed environments characterized by the collapse or degradation of state structures, as well as enmity, violence, polarization and distress. Lawlessness and insecurity may still be prevalent at local levels, and opportunists will be present who are willing to exploit any political and security vacuum. In such environments, a United Nations peacekeeping operation is likely to be tested for weakness and division by those whose interests are threatened by its presence, particularly in the early stages of deployment. The credibility of a United Nations peacekeeping operation is a direct reflection of the international and local communities' belief in the mission's ability to achieve its mandate. Credibility is a function of a mission's capability, effectiveness and ability to manage and meet expectations. Ideally, in order to be credible, a United Nations peacekeeping operation must deploy as rapidly as possible, be properly resourced, and strive to maintain a confident, capable and unified

posture. Experience has shown that the early establishment of a credible presence can help to deter spoilers and diminish the likelihood that a mission will need to use force to implement its mandate¹³.

To achieve and maintain its credibility, a mission must therefore have a clear and deliverable mandate, with resources and capabilities to match; and a sound mission plan that is understood, communicated and impartially and effectively implemented at every level. The deployment of a United Nations peacekeeping operation will generate high expectations among the local population regarding its ability to meet their most pressing needs. A perceived failure to meet these expectations, no matter how unrealistic, may cause a United Nations peacekeeping operation to become a focus for popular dissatisfaction, or worse, active opposition. The ability to manage these expectations throughout the life of a peacekeeping operation affects the overall credibility of the mission. Credibility, once lost, is hard to regain. A mission with low credibility becomes marginalized and ineffective. Its activities may begin to be perceived as having weak or frayed legitimacy and consent may be eroded. Critics and opponents of the mission may well exploit any such opportunities to this end. The loss of credibility may also have a direct impact on the morale of the mission personnel, further eroding its effectiveness. Accordingly, the maintenance of credibility is fundamental to the success of a mission¹⁴.

vi. Promotion of National and Local Ownership

Multinational United Nations peacekeeping operations are increasingly involved in efforts to help countries emerging from protracted internal conflict re-build the

foundations of a functioning State. The terms of the peace process and/or the Security Council mandate will shape the nature of a peacekeeping operation's role in this area. In some instances, state and local capacity may be so weak that the mission is required to temporarily assume certain functions, either directly, as in the case of transitional administration, or in support of the State. Other situations require less intrusive support to state authority, and sometimes no such support at all.

The nature and scale of a particular United Nations peacekeeping operation's role will depend on its mandate, the gravity of the situation on the ground, the resources the international community is willing to invest and an assessment of the availability of capable, credible and legitimate partners within the host nation. Each of these variables may change during the course of a United Nations peacekeeping operation's lifetime and require adjustments in the peacekeeping operation's approach. National and local ownership is critical to the successful implementation of a peace process. In planning and executing a United Nations peacekeeping operation's core activities, every effort should be made to promote national and local ownership and to foster trust and cooperation between national actors. Effective approaches to national and local ownership not only reinforce the perceived legitimacy of the operation and support mandate implementation, they also help to ensure the sustainability of any national capacity once the peacekeeping operation has been withdrawn. Partnerships with national actors should be struck with due regard to impartiality, wide representation, inclusiveness, and gender considerations. Missions must recognize that multiple divergent opinions will exist in the body politic of

the host country. All opinions and views need to be understood, ensuring that ownership and participation are not limited to small elite groups. National and local ownership must begin with a strong understanding of the national context. This includes understanding of the political context, as well as the wider socio-economic context¹⁵.

A mission must be careful to ensure that the rhetoric of national ownership does not replace a real understanding of the aspirations and hope of the population, and the importance of allowing national capacity to re-emerge quickly from conflict to lead critical political and development processes. The mission will need to manage real tensions between the requirement, in some instances, for rapid transformational change from the *status quo ex ante*, and resistance to change from certain powerful actors who have a vested interest in maintaining the status quo. The ownership of change must be built, first, through dialogue. Political, financial and other forms of international leverage may be required to influence the parties on specific issues, but those should only be used in support of the wider aspirations

for peace in the community. The activities of a multi-dimensional United Nations peacekeeping operation must be informed by the need to support and, where necessary, build national capacity. Accordingly, any displacement of national or local capacity should be avoided wherever possible¹⁶.

A multi-dimensional United Nations peacekeeping operation may be obliged, in the short-term, to take on important state-like functions, such as the provision of security and the maintenance of public order. However, these functions should be conducted in a

consultative manner. The aim must always be to restore, as soon as possible, the ability of national actors and institutions to assume their responsibilities and to exercise their full authority, with due respect for internationally accepted norms and standards. In building national capacity, women and men should have equal opportunities for training. Targeted efforts may need to address gender inequalities¹⁷.

Functions of UN Peacekeeping Missions/Operation

Although specific mandates vary from context to context, the core functions of multidimensional UN peacekeeping operations, as identified in the *United Nations Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines* or “Capstone Doctrine” in 2008, are to:

- (a) Create a secure and stable environment while strengthening the State’s ability to provide security, with full respect for the rule of law and human rights;
- (b) facilitate the political process by promoting dialogue and reconciliation and supporting the establishment of legitimate and effective institutions of governance;
- (c) provide a framework for ensuring that all United Nations and other international actors pursue their activities at the country-level in a coherent and coordinated manner;
- (d) the protection of civilians, particularly those under imminent threat of physical danger within their zones of operation;
- (e) the facilitation of the provision of humanitarian assistance, and
- (f) the creation of conditions conducive to the voluntary, safe, dignified and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons¹⁸.

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CHAPTER THREE

NIGERIA IN MULTINATIONAL INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING

Introduction

This chapter examined the role of Nigeria in multinational international peacekeeping operation. It also looked at some multinational international peacekeeping that included Nigeria. The foreign policy of any nation serves as a mirror of its domestic reality. It begins with identification and articulation of national interests. Several reasons prompt Nigeria's participation in international multinational peace keeping. Whatever the nation's interests represent form the principal consideration in the formulation and execution of national policies, both at the domestic and international, military and diplomatic level. One of the cardinal points of Nigeria's foreign policy is the maintenance of peace and security in Africa. This has enabled her to play an active role in peace keeping in the continent (that is, restoring peace where there is none and where it has been disrupted). Since her independence in 1960, Nigeria has participated in many multinational peacekeeping operation in West Africa regional organisation (ECOWAS), Africa continental level (Africa Union), and globally (United Nations).

Nigeria has been widely recognized in the international community as a dedicated and unrelenting supporter of world peace. Nigeria demonstrated her commitment towards promoting peace and stability in Africa. Her contributions in Liberia and Sierra Leone still stand incredible. This could be clarified from the speech delivered by Late Head of

State, General Sani Abacha to ECOWAS ministers on 26 June, 1997 to justify Nigerian's involvement in the Sierra Leone conflict.¹ He stated that;

Permit me to say that the position of Nigeria is one of peace and stability. As a nation, we have always chosen the path of peaceful negotiations wherever possible. Similarly, we have consistently striven to pursue policies which guarantees peace and save lives.²

The reasons and the motives of the country's involvement in the conflict *vis-à-vis* the intent to promote peace and stability are hard to explain and justify, but not unfounded in view of certain political and economic exigencies.³ Thus, the reasons for Nigeria's intervention could be better explained within the context of Nigeria's national interests which also includes security. National interest is an important concept in the study of foreign policy. Indeed, it is regarded as the main determinant of a country's foreign engagement. Promotion of peace and stability is an aspect of national interest and an essential instrument for advancing national interest and fostering global peace and security.⁴

Many nations in the world have hinged their foreign policy actions on national security interest. Since independence, successive Nigerian governments have justified the country's peace keeping missions in many parts of Africa and the world on the ground of security interest.⁵ This is because of Nigerians belief that without peace and stability, development and growth which are the core objectives of Nigeria and international community cannot be realized".⁶

Nigeria in Multinational International Peacekeeping in Africa

Nigeria's Armed Forces were deployed beyond Nigeria's border on a number of times. The assignment includes regional peacekeeping and assisting the UN in peace building efforts. Between 1960 and 1964, Nigeria's Armed Forces participated in United Nation Peace Keeping Operations in the Congo, and Tanzanian (1964), when Tanzania army revolted against the government, the government of Tanzania invited the Nigerian army to assist in suppressing the mutiny.⁷ Similarly, in 1978, Nigeria's armed Forces were deployed to Chad. In pursuit of Nigeria's commitment to the decolonization processes in Africa. The Nigeria Air Force was actively involved in the evacuation of refugees back to Zimbabwe from various frontline States where they had gone on exile during the run-up to the first Zimbabwean election to enable them participate in it. Other deployments include Nigeria's Armed Forces participation in the United Nations Operation in Mozambique, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), and the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG).⁸

The Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) spearheaded by Nigeria played crucial roles in ending the civil wars in Liberia and Sierra-Leone. The Liberian crisis was precipitated by the invasion of Liberia on Christmas eve (25th) December 1989, by the Charles Taylor led rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia. The invasion later degenerated into civil war. The ECOMOG force landed in Monrovia on 24 August 1990 melt with Charles Taylor's promise to intensify his attack in order to

undermine their advancement.⁹ That was why when ECOMOG landed on Liberia, the conflict escalated. Taylor's policy however had implications for ECOMOG. Within a month of landing ECOMOG's strategy had evolved into a conventional offensive, with the aim of driving Taylor's troops out of Monrovia and creating a protected buffer zone around the capital city. ECOMOG though was a "peacekeeping force", its actual mission bordered on "peace-making" and "peace-enforcement".¹⁰

It took considerable effort, time and diplomacy to persuade the warring parties that ECOMOG force is neutral. Charles Taylor on his part perceived the ECOMOG as pro – Doe, deployed with the intention to prompt up the Doe's regime. Despite this, ECOMOG troops continued to manage their peace keeping mandate by showing remarkable humanity in their treatment of captured or surrendered combatants and civilians, including Liberians in order to infuse confidence and trust in ECOMOG mission and capability in the country. The initial fears which the insurgents had about ECOMOG disappear, especially when in contact with ECOMOG troops. They were given food, cigarettes, medicine and made to feel at home as fellow soldiers. In most cases, the combatants find out that they receive better treatment from ECOMOG troops than from their own commander.¹¹

Also, Nigeria took part in keeping order in Sierra Leone. When the elected President of Sierra Leone, Tejan Kabbah was illegally overthrown, the Nigerian Armed Forces in conjunction with troops from other West African states under the auspices of ECOMOG went to Sierra Leone, to quell the rebellion and reinstate Tejan Kabbah.¹² However,

their incursion into politics had in turn produced two problems amongst other numerous problems. These are the problems of (1) loss of internal cohesion and (2) poor public image. Ironically, internal cohesion and good public image are crucial to the success of any nation's Armed Forces in the foreign policy process

The Nigeria led ECOWAS/ECOMOG military intervention in Sierra Leone was basically in two phases. The first phase ran from the start of the civil war in March 1991 to the election of President Kabbah in 1996.¹³ The second phase ran from the 1997 coup d'état against Kabbah up to the arrival of UNAMSIL in 1999.¹³ While Sierra Leone was under military grip, Liberia, a next door neighbour's conflict began in 25 December 1989 when the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL), led by Charles Taylor, launched an attack on the Liberian government.¹⁴ The Liberian civil war, combined with conditions (or climate of poverty, repression, and concentrated state power) in Sierra Leone itself, helped fuel the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), and on March 23, 1991, the RUF, under the leadership of former army corporal and television cameraman, Foday Sankoh, invaded the eastern Sierra Leone district of Kailahun and, simultaneously, the southern district of Pujehun. The RUF incursion into Sierra Leone in March 1991 was Taylor's response to the presence of ECOMOG in the country.¹⁵

While ECOMOG backed the Liberian Interim Government, Charles Taylor's NPFL controlled about 90 per cent of Liberia. ECOMOG responded by stationing some army units from Guinea and Nigeria and a Ghana Air force squadron along the Liberia – Sierra Leone border. In fact, the Yamoussoukro IV Accord (on ending the conflict in

Liberia) signed in October 1991 mentioned categorically that all hostile forces should be withdrawn from Sierra Leone and that a buffer zone be created between them. In the process, while RUF was seen at the time as an upshot of Taylor's NPFL, support for the Sierra Leone government was seen as containment for the conflict contagion from Liberia. But the overthrow of Joseph Saidu Momoh's government in 1992 and the increasing divisions within ECOMOG and ECOWAS over Liberia limited the help that Nigeria could provide to Captain Valentine Strasser whom came to power (through military coup) government against the RUF incursions.¹⁶

The RUF advanced on Freetown forced the National Provisional Ruling Council (NPRC) headed by Strasser to turn to private military companies, the Executive Outcomes (EO) and Civil Defence Forces (CDF), the best known being the Kamajor. It was largely through the employment of these forces and not the ECOMOG forces, that sufficient spaces were created for the 1996 electoral processes to be completed. Thus, throughout the period and up till 1997, the ECOMOG force with the supports of the Nigerian troops was relegated to the protection of the government in power. In other word, the Nigerian troops were in Sierra-Leone even before 1991. This was partly due to the fact that Nigerian and Guinea had military agreement with Sierra-Leone to be there. The Nigerian troops provided security to the regime in its fight against the RUF onslaught. The Nigeria Army became deeply involved in the Sierra-Leone peace support operation under the (ECOWAS) in 1997 in response to the coup executed by Major

Johnny Paul Koromah. In an attempt to restore the democratically elected government of President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah to power.¹⁷

ECOMOG, the military arm of the thirteen West African states making up ECOWAS, actually conducted its first operations in Sierra Leone in August 1990 when it intervened in the Liberian civil war to assist the Liberian government of Sergeant Samuel Doe in defeating the rebel force led by Charles Taylor. Ghana, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Gambian and Nigeria contributed troops, with the bulk of the forces and support being provided by Nigeria.¹⁸

Undoubtedly, if the idea and practice of searching for peace are as old as humanity, it follows that the history of wars and conflicts, which are its harbingers, is older. Given that scenario, there is hardly any doubt that the United Nations Security Council remains the World's principal body vested with the responsibility of maintaining International Peace and Security but rely on the willing cooperation of states and contribution of their armed force to served as a third party between two warring parties. Perhaps, of all the African civil wars, none has proved highly elusive at resolving than the decades long civil conflicts that ravaged Sudan. The history of the conflicts in Sudan is littered with numerous failed attempts at brokering peace. Unlike any other conflicts in the continent, the Sudanese conflict and its various peace processes have consumed enormous human and material resources. The conflict also witnesses the greatest involvement, from within and outside the continent, of which Nigeria remains prominent. This was not unconnected with the ranking of Nigeria as the fourth country in terms of military deployment outside

her borders on peace-keeping operations, and its commitment towards the African problem.

Nigeria has played a significant role in the Sudan Crisis, mediating and providing troops to the African-Union-United Nations hybrid peace keeping mission in Darfur. The first international involvement was led by the Chadian President, who mediated a 45-day ceasefire between the Government of Sudan (GOS) and the Sudan Liberation Army (SLA). However, the ceasefire disintegrated due to President Deby's blame on the demands of the SLM and JEM. The African Union (AU) took over the mediation and supported the deployment of the African Mission in Sudan (AMIS) in Darfur. The Armed Protection Force from Rwanda and Nigeria was dispatched to the Darfur region, and peace talks continued in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Nigeria's commitment to the Sudan peace process is rooted in its Afrocentrism and political concerns about potential instability in neighboring countries. The country has hosted peace conferences on the Sudanese civil war twice and collaborated with the Organization of African Unity to bring warring sides back to the negotiating table.¹⁹

Nigeria has contributed troops to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).²⁰ The mission's objectives include protecting civilians, supporting the government's efforts to stabilize the country, and promoting peace and security. Nigerian troops have been involved in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). The mission seeks to stabilize Mali and support the implementation of a peace agreement

between the government and armed groups. Nigerian troops participated in the United Nations Operation in Ivory Coast (UNOCI) from 2004 to 2017. The mission aimed to support the peace process, protect civilians, and assist in the disarmament and demobilization of combatants.²¹

Nigeria has contributed troops to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL). Nigerian peacekeepers have been deployed to Lebanon since 1978, supporting the mission's mandate to monitor the cessation of hostilities, assist the Lebanese government in restoring its authority in the area, and provide humanitarian assistance.²² Nigerian troops have participated in the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO). MINURSO's main objective is to facilitate a self-determination referendum for the people of Western Sahara. Nigeria has been involved in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA). Nigerian peacekeepers have been deployed to help protect civilians, support the political process, and stabilize the country amid ongoing conflict. Nigerian troops have been part of the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). These missions aim to support the restoration of peace, security, and governance in Somalia, which has experienced protracted conflict and instability.²³

Apart from the UNMISS mission, Nigeria has also contributed troops to the Regional Protection Force (RPF) in South Sudan. The RPF works alongside UNMISS to provide enhanced protection for civilians and support the implementation of the peace

agreement. Nigerian troops have been involved in the United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE). The mission was established to monitor the ceasefire between Ethiopia and Eritrea following their border conflict in 1998-2000.²⁴ It's important to note that Nigeria's contributions to peacekeeping extend beyond these specific countries. Nigerian personnel have also participated in other missions and operations, such as those conducted by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU), demonstrating their commitment to regional peace and security in Africa. Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping reflects its dedication to promoting stability, resolving conflicts, and supporting the principles of international peace and security as a responsible member of the global community.²⁵

Nigeria contributed troops to the United Nations Transitional Administration in East Timor (UNTAET) from 1999 to 2002. The mission was established to help East Timor transition to independence and maintain peace and stability. Nigerian troops participated in the United Nations Angola Verification Mission III (UNAVEM III) in the 1990s. The mission aimed to verify the ceasefire between the Angolan government and the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) rebels. Nigeria contributed troops to the United Nations Operation in Mozambique (ONUMOZ) in the 1990s. The mission supported the implementation of the peace agreement between the Mozambican government and the Mozambican National Resistance (RENAMO).²⁶

Nigerian troops have been involved in the African Union Mission in Burundi (AMIB) and the United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB). These missions

aimed to support the peace process, disarmament, and the establishment of democratic institutions in Burundi. Nigeria has contributed troops to the United Nations Peacekeeping Force in Cyprus (UNFICYP). The mission has been in place since 1964 to maintain peace and stability on the island and facilitate the reunification of Cyprus. Nigerian troops participated in the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR) in the 1990s. The mission aimed to assist in the implementation of the Arusha Peace Accords and provide humanitarian assistance during the Rwandan civil war and genocide. Nigeria has contributed troops to the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and its successor, the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH). The missions aimed to support stability, rule of law, and development in Haiti.²⁷

In addition to UNOCI, Nigeria has been involved in the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) and the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI). These missions aimed to support the peace process, protect civilians, and facilitate the disarmament and reintegration of combatants. Nigeria's commitment to peacekeeping has earned it recognition and respect within the international community. The country's contributions underscore its willingness to play an active role in resolving conflicts, promoting peace and security, and supporting the principles of the United Nations and regional organizations in various parts of the world.²⁸

Conclusion

Nigeria has been actively involved in peacekeeping operations around the world, contributing troops, police personnel, and military observers to various missions. Nigerian troops formed the largest contingent in the mission and were involved in maintaining security, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration efforts. The chapter showed that Nigeria played a significant role in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), which was established in 2003 to help stabilize Liberia after a devastating civil war. Nigerian troops formed the largest contingent in the mission and were involved in maintaining security, disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration efforts.

The chapter also revealed that Nigerian troops also contributed to the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL) from 1999 to 2005. The mission aimed to restore peace and stability in Sierra Leone following a decade-long civil war. Nigeria has participated in several peacekeeping operations in Sudan and South Sudan. For example, Nigerian troops were part of the United Nations Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and later the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). These missions focused on supporting peace processes, protecting civilians, and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid.

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CHAPTER FOUR

IMPACTS OF NIGERIA IN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING OPERATION ON INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND SECURITY

Introduction

This chapter examines the impact Nigeria multinational international peacekeeping operation generally. It will also examine the impact that Nigeria have made in these peacekeeping mission. Nigeria has been actively involved in multinational international peacekeeping operations for several decades. Its participation in these operations has had significant impacts both domestically and internationally. Nigeria's participation in peacekeeping operations has contributed to regional stability in Africa. Nigerian troops have been deployed to various conflict zones, such as Sierra Leone, Liberia, Sudan, and Mali, helping to restore peace and stability in these countries.

By doing so, Nigeria has played a crucial role in preventing the spread of conflicts and reducing the potential for regional destabilization. Nigerian peacekeepers have been actively involved in conflict resolution efforts. They have facilitated negotiations, peace talks, and reconciliation processes in war-torn regions, helping to bring warring factions to the negotiating table. Nigeria's experience in managing diverse ethnic and religious groups within its own borders has provided valuable expertise in conflict resolution strategies.

Impact Nigeria Multinational International Peacekeeping Operation

Nigerian peacekeepers have provided humanitarian assistance to populations affected by conflicts. They have assisted in the distribution of food, medical aid, and other essential supplies to the affected communities.¹ Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping operations has helped alleviate the suffering of civilians caught in the midst of conflicts and has improved their access to critical services. Nigeria's participation in multinational peacekeeping operations has provided opportunities for its military personnel to gain international experience and training. Nigerian troops have received specialized training in peacekeeping techniques, conflict resolution, and humanitarian operations. This knowledge and experience have enhanced Nigeria's capacity to handle internal security challenges and contribute to future peacekeeping missions.²

Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping operations has increased its diplomatic influence on the international stage. Through its participation, Nigeria has been able to shape and influence peacekeeping policies and decisions. It has also strengthened its relationships with other nations and international organizations involved in peacekeeping efforts, which has led to increased cooperation in other areas of mutual interest. Nigeria's participation in peacekeeping operations has had positive implications for its own national security. By contributing to peace and stability in neighboring countries, Nigeria has reduced the potential for cross-border conflicts and the infiltration of armed groups into its territory. Additionally, the experience gained from peacekeeping missions has

helped enhance Nigeria's military capabilities and its ability to respond to security challenges at home.³

Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping operations has enhanced its reputation as a responsible global actor and a contributor to international peace and security. It has bolstered Nigeria's soft power and improved its standing within the international community. This positive reputation has opened doors for economic opportunities, foreign investment, and partnerships in various sectors.⁴ Overall, Nigeria's participation in multinational international peacekeeping operations has had a significant impact on regional stability, conflict resolution, humanitarian assistance, national security, and its international reputation. By actively contributing to peacekeeping efforts, Nigeria has demonstrated its commitment to global peace and security while also benefiting from the experiences gained in the process.

Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping operations has had both positive and complex impacts on its relationships with other African nations. Nigeria's active engagement in peacekeeping operations has helped strengthen its relationships with other African nations. By deploying troops and contributing to peacekeeping efforts in conflict zones, Nigeria has demonstrated its commitment to regional stability and security. This has fostered closer ties and cooperation with other African countries, particularly those directly affected by the conflicts Nigeria has intervened in. Nigeria's participation in peacekeeping operations has positioned it as a key mediator and facilitator in conflict resolution efforts within the African continent. Through its involvement in peacekeeping

missions, Nigeria has gained experience and expertise in managing and resolving conflicts. This has earned Nigeria recognition as a trusted and neutral actor, leading to increased diplomatic influence and stronger relationships with other African nations seeking assistance in resolving their own conflicts.⁵

Nigeria's peacekeeping contributions have helped build trust and foster collaboration with other African nations. By working alongside troops from other countries in multinational peacekeeping missions, Nigerian soldiers have developed personal relationships and professional networks with their African counterparts. These connections have facilitated better communication, coordination, and joint efforts in addressing common security challenges and promoting regional peace. Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping operations has demonstrated its willingness to share the burden and take up a leadership role in addressing conflicts on the continent. Other African nations appreciate Nigeria's contributions to peacekeeping efforts, as it relieves some of the pressure on their own resources and military forces. This shared responsibility has strengthened bonds between Nigeria and other African countries, fostering a sense of solidarity and cooperation.⁶

While Nigeria's peacekeeping involvement has generally improved its relationships with other African nations, it has also at times created competition and rivalries. Nigeria's prominent role and influence in peacekeeping operations can sometimes be perceived as challenging the authority or influence of other African countries. This can lead to tensions and strained relations, particularly when there are

disagreements over the best approach to resolving a conflict or when there are overlapping interests.⁷ Nigeria's participation in peacekeeping operations has provided opportunities for capacity building and assistance to other African nations. Nigerian troops have trained and mentored soldiers from other African countries, sharing their knowledge and expertise in peacekeeping techniques, conflict resolution, and military operations. This capacity-building support has contributed to stronger military capabilities and improved peacekeeping capacities in partner nations, fostering positive relationships and gratitude towards Nigeria.

Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping operations has generally had a positive impact on its relationships with other African nations. It has strengthened regional cooperation, enhanced Nigeria's mediation and conflict resolution role, built trust and collaboration, and demonstrated a shared burden and responsibility.⁸ However, it is important to acknowledge that competition and rivalries can arise in certain situations. Overall, Nigeria's commitment to peacekeeping has contributed to its standing as a respected and influential actor within the African continent.

Nigeria has often taken on leadership roles in peacekeeping operations, demonstrating its commitment to peace and security in Africa. Nigerian military officers have served in key leadership positions within peacekeeping missions, including as force commanders, sector commanders, and mission chiefs.⁹ This leadership role has allowed Nigeria to exert influence and shape the direction of peacekeeping efforts, contributing to its reputation as a regional power. Nigeria has been one of the largest contributors of

troops to United Nations (UN) peacekeeping operations. Nigerian soldiers have served in various capacities, including as military observers, peacekeepers, and staff officers. Nigeria's consistent contributions have been vital in enabling the UN to fulfill its mandate in maintaining international peace and security. Nigeria has made efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment in peacekeeping operations. It has actively deployed female peacekeepers, including in leadership roles, and supported initiatives to increase the participation of women in peacekeeping missions. By doing so, Nigeria has contributed to the UN's agenda of promoting gender equality and recognizing the important role women play in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.¹⁰

Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping operations has brought economic benefits to the country. It has received financial reimbursements from the UN for its troop contributions, which has provided an additional source of revenue. Furthermore, the presence of Nigerian peacekeepers in conflict-affected countries has created opportunities for Nigerian businesses to engage in economic activities, such as construction, logistics, and services. Nigeria's participation in peacekeeping operations has helped strengthen its own institutions and processes related to peace and security.¹¹ Through involvement in multinational missions and collaboration with other countries, Nigeria has gained insights into best practices, operational standards, and organizational structures. This knowledge has been applied to enhance Nigeria's own peacekeeping capabilities and contribute to the professionalization of its armed forces. Nigerian military personnel engaged in peacekeeping operations have benefited from exposure to diverse environments, cultures,

and operational challenges. This exposure has broadened their skills, knowledge, and professional development, making them better equipped to handle complex security situations. The training and experience gained from peacekeeping missions have contributed to the overall effectiveness of Nigeria's military and security forces.¹²

Nigeria's participation in peacekeeping operations has facilitated cultural exchange and people-to-people relations. Nigerian peacekeepers interact with local populations, providing an opportunity to learn about different cultures, traditions, and perspectives. This exchange promotes understanding, tolerance, and goodwill between Nigeria and the countries where peacekeeping missions are conducted. Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping operations has reinforced its commitment to regional integration in Africa.¹³ By actively participating in regional security initiatives, Nigeria has strengthened its membership in regional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union (AU). This engagement has helped promote cooperation, harmonization of policies, and joint efforts towards peace and stability in the region. These various impacts highlight the significance of Nigeria's participation in multinational international peacekeeping operations, showcasing its commitment to regional and global peace, security, and development.¹⁴

Nigeria has often provided electoral support and played a role in promoting democratic processes in countries emerging from conflict. Nigerian peacekeepers have assisted in organizing and safeguarding elections, ensuring a peaceful and inclusive

electoral process. This support contributes to the consolidation of democratic governance and helps countries transition from conflict to stability. Nigeria's participation in peacekeeping operations has been particularly significant in countering violent extremism in the region. Nigerian troops have been deployed to areas affected by extremist groups such as Boko Haram, providing security, conducting counterinsurgency operations, and supporting efforts to restore peace. This has helped contain the spread of extremist ideologies and restore stability in affected regions.¹⁵

Nigeria's engagement in peacekeeping operations has been an important element of its public diplomacy and soft power projection. By actively participating in international peacekeeping efforts, Nigeria has showcased its commitment to global peace and security. This has helped improve Nigeria's image and influence on the international stage, contributing to its diplomatic leverage and influence in regional and global affairs. Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping operations has led to the development of international partnerships and collaborations. Through joint peacekeeping efforts, Nigeria has built relationships with other countries, international organizations, and regional bodies. These partnerships provide avenues for cooperation on various issues, including security, development, and diplomacy, enhancing Nigeria's diplomatic outreach and influence.¹⁶

Nigerian peacekeepers have been actively involved in post-conflict reconstruction and development efforts. They have contributed to rebuilding infrastructure, providing security during reconstruction, and supporting initiatives aimed at socio-economic

recovery. Nigeria's engagement in these activities has been instrumental in helping conflict-affected countries transition from war to sustainable peace and development. Nigeria's participation in peacekeeping operations has strengthened its role in regional conflict prevention and early warning mechanisms. Drawing on its own experiences of managing internal conflicts, Nigeria has contributed to efforts aimed at identifying and addressing root causes of conflicts before they escalate. This has enhanced regional mechanisms for conflict prevention and contributed to a more proactive approach to maintaining peace and security. Nigeria's engagement in peacekeeping operations has highlighted the need for military modernization and equipment acquisition. The experiences gained from peacekeeping missions have underscored the importance of having well-equipped and trained forces capable of effectively addressing security challenges. As a result, Nigeria has sought to enhance its defense capabilities through the acquisition of modern equipment and technology.¹⁷

Nigeria's consistent participation and significant contributions to peacekeeping operations have positioned it as a role model for other African countries. Nigeria's commitment to peacekeeping has encouraged other nations to increase their own involvement in peacekeeping efforts. By leading by example, Nigeria has inspired and motivated other African countries to actively contribute to peace and security on the continent. These additional details further emphasize the wide-ranging impact of Nigeria's involvement in multinational international peacekeeping operations, showcasing its contributions in areas such as democracy promotion, countering violent

extremism, public diplomacy, partnerships, post-conflict reconstruction, conflict prevention, military modernization, and serving as a role model for other African nations.¹⁸

Nigeria's participation in peacekeeping operations emphasizes the importance of upholding the rule of law and promoting justice. Nigerian peacekeepers have been involved in supporting judicial processes, strengthening legal institutions, and promoting human rights in post-conflict countries. By doing so, Nigeria contributes to the establishment of accountable and transparent governance structures, fostering a culture of respect for the rule of law. Nigerian peacekeepers have played a crucial role in facilitating disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration processes in post-conflict settings. They have assisted in collecting and securing weapons, reintegrating former combatants into society, and supporting their transition to civilian life. This contributes to the reduction of arms proliferation and the prevention of future conflicts.¹⁹

Nigeria's participation in international peacekeeping operations has facilitated cultural exchange and capacity sharing between Nigerian troops and those from other countries. Nigerian peacekeepers gain exposure to diverse cultural contexts, enhancing their cultural competency and ability to work effectively in multinational environments. Simultaneously, Nigerian troops share their own experiences, knowledge, and expertise, contributing to the collective capacity of peacekeeping forces.²⁰ Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping operations provides a platform for advocating for peace and conflict prevention at regional and global levels. Nigerian leaders and diplomats actively engage

in diplomatic efforts, negotiations, and high-level discussions to promote peaceful resolutions to conflicts. This advocacy helps shape international discourse on peace and security and reinforces Nigeria's commitment to peaceful coexistence. Nigeria's participation in peacekeeping operations underscores the importance of addressing the root causes of conflict. Nigeria recognizes that sustainable peace requires addressing issues such as poverty, inequality, marginalization, and governance challenges. Through peacekeeping missions, Nigeria contributes to addressing these root causes, supporting efforts for long-term stability and development.²¹

Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping operations contributes to the strengthening of regional security architecture in Africa. By actively participating in regional peacekeeping initiatives, such as those led by ECOWAS and the AU, Nigeria helps build a more robust and coordinated approach to addressing security challenges on the continent. This collaborative approach enhances collective security and promotes regional stability. Nigerian peacekeepers gain valuable mediation and conflict resolution skills through their participation in peacekeeping operations. These skills are transferrable and can be applied in other contexts, including domestic conflicts or regional mediation efforts. Nigeria's peacekeepers become experienced negotiators, facilitators, and mediators, contributing to conflict resolution beyond the specific missions they are involved in.²²

Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping operations emphasizes the importance of African solutions for African challenges. Nigeria actively contributes to the development

and implementation of African-led peacekeeping initiatives, reinforcing the principle of African ownership and self-reliance in addressing security issues. This approach empowers African countries to take the lead in resolving conflicts on the continent. Nigeria's engagement in peacekeeping operations fosters enhanced regional cooperation among African nations. Through joint operations and collaborative efforts, Nigeria builds stronger relationships with neighboring countries and regional partners. This cooperation extends beyond peacekeeping and can encompass areas such as intelligence sharing, joint military exercises, and coordinated responses to security threats.²³

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CHAPTER FIVE

CONCLUSION

The study examined Nigeria in multinational international peace keeping operation since 1960. The study examined the concept of multinational peace keeping operation, Nigeria in multinational effort in international peacekeeping and the impact of Nigeria participation in international peacekeeping in operation on international peace and security. The study showed that the concept of peace is as old as humanity, and the history of wars and conflicts is older. The recurrence and re-escalation of conflicts, particularly in developing states, make the concept of sustainable peace an illusion. Ethno-religious conflict, resource struggle, ideology, and mistrust still dominate the contemporary world, calling for the need for peacekeeping forces by willing states under the auspices of regional and international organizations. The United Nations Security Council maintains international peace and security, but peacekeeping operations began with the United Nations in the 1950s. Since then, states like Nigeria, which gained independence from Britain in 1960, have contributed to the United Nations peacekeeping globally. This study examines Nigeria's role in multinational peacekeeping operations since 1960.

Peacekeeping is a conflict resolution technique that aims to preserve peace and help implement agreements made by peacemakers.¹ It has evolved from a military model to a complex model of military, police, and civilian elements working together to establish sustainable peace. Peacekeeping involves the use of multinational or

multilateral military, civil police, and civilian personnel to prevent, contain, and terminate crises that threaten international peace and security. It is authorized by the United Nations Security Council and focuses on supervising ceasefire agreements and separating belligerents in conflict situations. Traditional peacekeeping operations involve the interposition of UN or foreign troops to uphold a ceasefire, and peacekeeping may involve monitoring emerging peace processes and reaffirming commitments to stalled or thwarted peace processes. The UN Charter mandates the UN system to uphold international peace and security, with peacekeeping being a key instrument. It is primarily used to establish sustainable peace conditions in conflict situations where a ceasefire or peace agreement exists and parties consent.²

Nigeria's Armed Forces have been deployed beyond its borders multiple times, including in regional peacekeeping and assisting the UN in peace building efforts. Between 1960 and 1964, Nigeria participated in United Nations Peace Keeping Operations in the Congo and Tanzania, and in 1978, they were deployed to Chad. The Nigeria Air Force was involved in the evacuation of refugees back to Zimbabwe from various frontline states during the run-up to the first Zimbabwean election. Other deployments include the United Nations Operation in Mozambique, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), and the Economic Community of West African States Monitoring Group (ECOMOG).³

ECOMOG played crucial roles in ending civil wars in Liberia and Sierra-Leone. The Liberian crisis was precipitated by the invasion of Liberia on December 25, 1989, by

the rebel National Patriotic Front of Liberia. ECOMOG's strategy evolved into a conventional offensive, with the aim of driving Taylor's troops out of Monrovia and creating a protected buffer zone around the capital city. Despite initial fears, ECOMOG troops managed their peacekeeping mandate by showing remarkable humanity in their treatment of captured or surrendered combatants and civilians.⁴

Nigeria also participated in maintaining peace in Sierra Leone, where the Nigerian Armed Forces and troops from other West African states intervened to quell the rebellion and reinstate President Tejan Kabbah. However, their incursion into politics produced problems such as loss of internal cohesion and poor public image. The Nigeria-led ECOWAS/ECOMOG military intervention in Sierra Leone was divided into two phases. The first phase ran from the start of the civil war in March 1991 to the election of President Kabbah in 1996, while the second phase ran from the 1997 coup d'état against Kabbah up to the arrival of UNAMSIL in 1999.⁵

The United Nations Security Council is responsible for maintaining international peace and security, but it relies on the cooperation of states and their armed forces to serve as a third party between warring parties. Sudan has been the most elusive conflict in Africa, with numerous failed attempts at brokering peace. Nigeria remains prominent in this conflict, ranking fourth in terms of military deployment outside its borders on peacekeeping operations. Nigeria has played a significant role in the Sudan Crisis, mediating and providing troops to the African-Union-United Nations hybrid peace keeping mission in Darfur. The country's commitment to the Sudan peace process is rooted in its

Afrocentrism and political concerns about potential instability in neighboring countries. Nigeria has hosted peace conferences on the Sudanese civil war twice and collaborated with the Organization of African Unity to bring warring sides back to the negotiating table.⁶

Nigeria has contributed troops to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA), the United Nations Operation in Ivory Coast (UNOCI) from 2004 to 2017, the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO), the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM). Nigeria's contributions to peacekeeping extend beyond specific countries, demonstrating their commitment to regional peace and security in Africa. Their commitment to promoting stability, resolving conflicts, and supporting the principles of international peace and security has earned them recognition and respect within the international community.⁷

Nigerian peacekeepers have provided humanitarian assistance to communities affected by conflicts, aiding in the distribution of essential supplies. Their involvement has also increased Nigeria's diplomatic influence on the international stage, shaping peacekeeping policies and decisions. This has strengthened relationships with other

nations and international organizations involved in peacekeeping efforts, leading to increased cooperation in other areas of mutual interest. Nigeria's participation in peacekeeping operations has had both positive and complex impacts on its relationships with other African nations.⁸

By deploying troops and contributing to peacekeeping efforts in conflict zones, Nigeria has demonstrated its commitment to regional stability and security, fostering closer ties and cooperation with other African countries. Nigeria's peacekeeping contributions have built trust and fostered collaboration with other African nations, facilitating better communication, coordination, and joint efforts in addressing common security challenges and promoting regional peace. However, Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping operations can sometimes create competition and rivalries, as it can sometimes challenge the authority or influence of other African countries. However, Nigeria's commitment to peacekeeping has contributed to its standing as a respected and influential actor within the African continent.⁹

Nigeria has often taken on leadership roles in peacekeeping operations, demonstrating its commitment to peace and security in Africa. Nigerian military officers have served in key leadership positions within peacekeeping missions, exerting influence and shaping the direction of peacekeeping efforts. Nigeria's involvement in peacekeeping operations has brought economic benefits to the country, providing financial reimbursements from the UN for troop contributions. The presence of Nigerian peacekeepers in conflict-affected countries has created opportunities for Nigerian

businesses to engage in economic activities. Nigeria's participation in peacekeeping operations has facilitated cultural exchange and people-to-people relations, as peacekeepers interact with local populations, providing an opportunity to learn about different cultures, traditions, and perspectives.¹⁰

Nigeria's peacekeeping efforts have fostered understanding, tolerance, and cooperation between the country and its neighbours. This has strengthened Nigeria's membership in regional organizations like ECOWAS and the African Union, promoting peace and stability. Nigerian peacekeepers have countered violent extremism, improved public diplomacy, and supported post-conflict reconstruction. Their involvement has encouraged other African nations to increase their involvement, fostering cultural exchange and capacity sharing. Peacekeeping also provides a platform for advocating for peace and conflict prevention, enhancing regional security and promoting African solutions for challenges.¹¹

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