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## Security and the 2063 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Africa: Whither Nigeria?

**Aborisade, Richard A.**

Department of Sociology, Olabisi Onabanjo University

P.O. Box, 2002, Ago Iwoye, Ogun State, Nigeria

Email: [ra.aborisade@gmail.com](mailto:ra.aborisade@gmail.com)

Phone Number: 08056147100

**Adedayo, Sunday S.**

Department of Sociology, Olabisi Onabanjo University

P.O. Box, 2002, Ago Iwoye, Ogun State, Nigeria

Email: [sundayadedayo96@yahoo.com](mailto:sundayadedayo96@yahoo.com)

### Abstract

Globally, the successes of millennium development goals in a number of development areas have been acknowledged, especially as regards poverty reduction. However, there is a consensus that the millennium development agenda failed in a critical target of ensuring justice and security. Hence, the African Union grew in confidence to define its own development goal, by highlighting its vision of structural changes that are essential to achieving economic transformation, social protection, peace and security. Meanwhile, Nigeria's initial concerns of achieving MDGs centred on tackling corruption, dwindling standard of education, low agricultural yields, and perennial epileptic power supply, were overtaken by the need to address the recurring spate of hapless killings among other violent crimes in different parts of the country. This paper examined Nigeria's bid to meet with the goal of attaining sustainable peace and security as part of the 2063 Agenda for sustainable development in Africa. The study drew on literature on security and development as well as secondary data on security situation in Nigeria to make projections into Nigeria's strategic positioning to realise the Agenda. It concluded that the challenges posed to sustainable development from a peace and security perspective will require a more nuanced approach that takes into account governance, rule of law and human rights compliance in security and justice sector institutions in a conflict, post-conflict and peaceful Nigerian society.

**Key Words:** Millennium Development Goals, Security, Sustainable Development Goals

### Introduction

As an aftermath of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) which was trailed with criticism of being donor-oriented and not fully achieved, Africa grew in confidence to define its own development goal by highlighting its own vision of structural changes that are necessary for the achievement of social and economic transformation. In the January 2015 summit that held in Addis Ababa, the Heads of States of African Union endorsed Agenda 2063 as a strategic framework for inclusive growth and sustainable development for the achievement of its vision of “an integrated, people-centred and prosperous Africa at peace with itself”(African Union Commission, 2015, p.11) The main aim of this strategic framework is to drive the development trajectory of Africa over the next 50 years. Consequently, hopes are high that the continent will witness a shift towards a participatory, universal and rights-based post-2015 development agenda that will galvanise the world into action around the new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)(Africa Development Bank, 2016).

Globally, the successes of MDGs in a number of development areas have been acknowledged, especially as regards poverty reduction (Kharas & Biau, 2016). However, there is a consensus that the global agenda has failed in a critical target of ensuring justice and security (United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, 2015). The agenda also failed to make positive impact in Africa as the continent witnessed remarkable surge on incidences of crime and violence (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2016). Indeed, crime and violence has been recognised as one of the foremost social and development challenges that the continent is facing in the 21st century, and it connects with a range of individual, micro, societal and structural risk factors, such as increased poverty, inequality, social exclusion, unemployment and inadequate services (The World Bank, 2015). Specifically, homicide and violence have been pointed out as concurrent contributors to instability and insecurity that impact negatively at the national and sub-regional levels (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2016). Therefore, it is a huge concern that there is prediction of violent deaths to increase from 149,000 to 165,000 per annum in sub-Saharan Africa by 2030, a region which already records 31 percent of all homicides in the world (United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, 2014).

In Nigeria, initial concerns of the country’s bid of achieving MDG were centred on how the federal government will tackle the caustic and corrosive corruption, dwindling standard of education, low agricultural yields, and perennial epileptic power supply (Adebakin, 2016). However, the recurring spate of hapless killings among other violent crimes in different parts of the country has effectively diverted the minds of Nigerians to clamouring for the federal government to focus on tackling security threats in the country(Achumba, Ighomereho, & Akpan-Robaro, 2013; Ewetan & Urhie, 2014; Adamu, 2015; Adebakin, 2016; Igbuzor, 2017). It is indeed the responsible of governments all over the world to protect their citizens as well as their properties. However, the same cannot be said of Nigerian government as the problem of insecurity has lingered for long with the federal government apparently incapacitated (Enuokora, 2015).

Nigeria has been witnessing frantic and drastic insecurity challenges in the past few years. Various forms of conflicts have continued to ravage the entire length and breadth of the country, ranging from communal conflict, religious crisis, political upheavals and socioeconomic turmoil. The crises rage in varying degree of casualty, with innocent people being worst hits in the numerous attacks. At present, the entire country is enveloped in fear of

several crime and violence that pervades the country. People live in absolute suspicion and constant presentiment of an impending danger (Igbuzor, 2017). Economic activities in various parts of the country have been crippled and private businesses are folding up as a result of the soaring rate of crime and fear of crime (Adebakin, 2016; Omoyibo & Akpomera, 2016; Oladeji & Folorunso, 2017). There have been drastic reductions in the number of government functions that holds in public as compared to the previous years (Oladeji & Folorunso, 2017). All these are some of the direct consequences of the problem of insecurity in the country.

It is against this background that this paper examined the strategic positioning of Nigeria in aligning with the 2063 Agenda for sustainable development in Africa. In particular, the bid of the country to meet with the goal of attaining sustainable peace and security was assessed and the key impediments that bothers on insecurity that are capable of scuttling the country's bid towards sustainable development were identified. The paper is therefore divided into five parts; a review of Nigeria's performance in the MDGs, an overview of SDGs, 2063 Agenda for sustainable development in Africa, Nigeria's security challenges and sustainable development agenda goals and the effects of insecurity on Nigeria's development agenda.

### **Nigeria and the Millennium Development Goals: A Review**

The MDGs' aim is to facilitate development through the improvement of social and economic conditions in the poorest countries of the world (United Nations, 2015). The millennium declaration by the United Nations, states that all individuals have the right to freedom, dignity, equality, a basic standard of living that includes freedom from violence and hunger, and encourages solidarity and tolerance (United Nations, 2015). The making of the MDGs were based on the operationalisation of these ideas by setting indicators and targets for the reduction of poverty as a way of achieving the right set forth in the declaration on a set fifteen-year timeline, there are eight goals with 21 targets and a series of health indicators that are measurable and each target having its own economic indicators.

Millennium Development Goal Reports (MDGRs) starts with country's development context and assesses every goal based on: progress's status to date; main challenges being faced; priorities for development assistance; capacity for progress's monitoring; environments that are supportive (United Nations, 2015). Nigeria's performance appraisal which has culminated into thirteen years for the achievement of the set Millennium Development Goals has evolved some mixed results (Olabode, Adeigbe, Kayode & Owonibi, 2016; Oleribe & Taylor-Robinson, 2016). Nigeria's progression towards meeting five MDGs has been below average but, there has been unsatisfactory progress made towards the other three MDGs:

**Goal 1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger-** As regards this, there is hardly much progress for the country. Sixty-nine per cent of the populace still live in abject poverty, while the gap that exist between the rich and the poor continues to widen. Eight out of every ten Nigerians still live in poverty (Oleribe & Taylor-Robinson, 2016). As reported by the United Nation (2015), "nearly 60 percent of the world's 1 billion extremely poor people lived in just five countries in 2014: India, Nigeria, China, Bangladesh and the Democratic Republic of the Congo."

**Goal 2: Achieve universal primary education-** This particular goal as well as related other may be the cause of criticisms that the gaols are deficient in analysis and justification behind the selection of the objectives, the lack of or difficulty in measuring some of the goals and unevenness in the progress at meeting some of the goals (Olabode *et al.* 2016). The country experienced some progress in respect of net enrolment. Six out of ten eligible children are

now enrolled in schools from the universal primary education program enrolment and interventions, in private schools.

**Goal 3: Promote Gender equality and empower women-** This goal is expected to see to the elimination of gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and at all level at 2015. In reality, there has been some measure of improvement in gender parity in the country (Oleribe & Taylor-Robinson, 2016). For every ten boys in school, there are nine girls, and also female economic and political empowerment is also on the increase.

**Goal 4: Reduce child mortality-** The expected goal was to see to a two-third reduction in child mortality from 1990 to 2015 (Ajiye, 2014). To this end, mortality rate has witnessed a minor decrease for those under the age of five years, from 301 deaths per 1000 live births in 2003 to 201 death per 1000 live births in 2008. There is also a significant decline in infant mortality from 100 per 1000 live births in 2003 to 85 deaths per 1000 live birth in 2008. Part of the reasons for this reduction is the increase in the proportion of minors immunised against measles by 12 months of age from 31.4% in 2003 to 41.1% in 2008 (Oleribe & Taylor-Robinson, 2016).

**Goal 5: Improvement in maternal health-** There have been slow pace of success recorded in this goal and greater challenge is posed to the existence of women. In spite of this, there has been a remarkable decrease in maternal mortality from 800 deaths per 100,000 births in 2003 to 545 deaths per 100,000 births in 2008 (Akosile, 2015). Meanwhile, the rate of reproduction has reduced also as a result of the use of contraceptives which rose to 4% in the country.

**Goal 6: Combating of Malaria, HIV/AIDS and other diseases-** The rate of infection of malaria has refused to abate as it remained steady, while accounting for average of 300,000 deaths every year (Oleribe & Taylor-Robinson, 2016). Meanwhile, the incidence rate of HIV/AIDS has witnessed some reduction to 4% in 2008. Pregnant women in the country equally recorded a lower prevalence rate to 4% in 2008. Pregnant women of age 15-24 who are living with HIV also saw some reduction to 4.2% in 2008(Ajiye, 2014). The availability of antiretroviral drugs also rose considerably in proportion to 34.4% though still very costly, basically for the elite. The percentage of children sleeping under insecticide-treated mosquito net rose from 2.2% in 2003 to 5.5% in 2008(Akosile, 2015).

**Goal 7: Ensuring the sustainability of environment-** Access to safe water and sanitation has not improved significantly and other environmental challenges, such as erosion, coastal flooding and climatic change are growing, a good example is the incidence of the recent flooding that gulped almost the entire country (Oleribe & Taylor-Robinson, 2016).

**Goal 8: Fostering of a global partnership for development-** The benefits that accrues from debt relief have not been commensurate with the increase in aid; while trading and accessing markets have not being equalled. The gains of debt relief would have largely assisted Nigeria in bringing about considerable progress at meeting the goals of MDGs, if the few people that are saddled with the responsibility have not being busy with embezzling and misappropriating the public funds left under their care (Olabode *et al.*, 2016).

### **Sustainable Development Goals: An Overview**

There is the potential for humanity to meet with the goals of sustainable development, that is, to make sure that development meet with the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The concept of sustainable development was an outcome of a gradual shift in development perspectives. Sustainable development

encompasses the interlinkages of the three dimensions of economic growth, social development and environmental sustainability (Oleribe& Taylor-Robinson, 2016). The environment is perceived as the source of life which provides grounds for economic activities, which in turn evolve and sustain social development (Emesini 2016, Olabode *et al.* 2016).

For the Africa region, the formulation of the sustainable development was to be guided by, among others, the Rio principles; the need for the goals, targets and indicators to embody all three dimensions of sustainable development; the need for the goals to be action-oriented to allow for effective monitoring and evaluation; universality and flexibility; availability of adequate means of implementation; and the need to promote equitable and inclusive human-centred development(African Union Commission, 2015). There have been identification of the following issues as major priorities of sustainable development West Africa: addressing poverty rate; improvements in education quality; gender equality; improvement in access to affordable and good quality health; sustainable water, energy and transport infrastructure development, and inclusive growth; proper environment; agriculture and food security and natural resource management; sanitation and urban management; social protection for the poor and vulnerable; and enhancing partnerships for development.

### **2063 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Africa**

At the continental level, and in an attempt to compliment the 2030 SDGs, African countries adopted Agenda 2063 which is a 50 year Transformative Agenda for the continent (African Union Commission, 2015). Both frameworks are designed and seek to achieve inclusive growth, sustainable development and peace and security for the continent. Inclusive economic growth and structural economic transformation have been priority development areas in Agenda 2063 and in the Common African Position on the Post-2015 Development Agenda. Inclusive and sustainable economic growth is a key driver for realizing virtually all of the continent's development objectives.

The 2063 Agenda for Africa is targeted towards meeting certain aspirations which include: a prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development, an integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of pan Africanism and the vision of African renaissance, an Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law, a peaceful and secure Africa (African Union Commission, 2015). One particular interest to this paper is the Aspiration 4 which bothers on Africa attaining a peaceful, stable and secured continent. Conflict is one of the most destructive forces undermining sustainable development on the continent and the African Union remains committed to its goal of silencing all guns by 2020.

The interlinkages between democratic governance, peace and development are fully recognized by both agendas, which seek to address multiple triggers or drivers of fragility and armed conflicts in Africa, including the youth bulge and unemployment, poverty, inequality and exclusion, organized crime, terrorism and violent extremism, and increased migration from the continent, amongst others. On the continent, the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) is striving to support effective governance and to contribute towards silencing the guns by 2020 while the partnership between the African Union and the United Nations will also play a crucial role in achieving peace and security priorities under both agendas (African Union Commission 2015).

In addition, gender equality and women's empowerment are strongly related to peace and security efforts on the continent, as African women are both victims of violence and conflict as well as agents of peace and reconciliation. The role of women in peace and security has

been an utmost priority for the continent, as well as for the international community. In this respect, Security Council resolutions 1325 and 2242 provide a framework that draws attention to the inextricable link between gender equality and international peace and security and aims to integrate women, peace and security concerns across all country-specific situations on its agenda (African Union Commission, 2015).

### **Nigeria's Security Challenges and Sustainable Development Agenda Goals**

One of the major impediments to Nigeria's attaining sustainable development agenda within the set timelines of 2030 and 2063 is the problem of insecurity in the country. Within the last few years, the federal government has earmarked not less than N5 trillion for the defence of the territorial integrity and internal security of the nation (Achumba, Ighomereho, & Akpan-Robaro, 2013). A number of state governments have also allocated huge sums of money for the maintenance of law and order (Adebakin, 2016). As a matter of fact, individual citizens and communities now pay levies and salaries to young men and women who are engaged as security personnel to guard their properties. Despite the monumental sum of money that has been committed to bring about security, the country has continued to grapple with the menace of hostage taking, kidnapping, armed robbery, and terrorism being carried out by disenfranchised youths.

One of the conventional definitions of national security describes it as comprising of "the measures, facilities and systems put in place by a nation to secure its citizens and resources from danger and the risk of infiltration, sabotage, subversion or theft etc" (Adebakin, 2016, p.10). This definition is in consonance with the dictates of Section 14(2)(b) of the 1999 Constitution that pointed out that "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government; and the participation by the people in their government shall be ensured in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution." Implicitly, the constitution has imposed the economic wellbeing of the people as a duty to the State to guarantee as it went on to point out that the State should ensure "the maximum welfare, freedom and happiness of every citizen on the basis of social justice, and equality of status and opportunity."

In reality however, the Nigerian government has consistently failed in its responsibility to ensure security of all within the country. The security tension in the country is so high and enduring that there has been growing concern over Nigeria's ability and readiness to deliver the goals of sustainable development, having failed in her attempts to meet the earlier millennium development goals (Oladeji & Folorunso, 2017). There has been an upsurge of social discord, killings and bombings in the northern part of Nigeria; and kidnapping, ritual killings, armed robbery in southern Nigeria (Igbuzor, 2017). In a report on the security situation in Nigeria, SB Morgan (2017) expressed that Nigeria's security situation in 2016 raised a lot of concern and birthed a good number of discussions. In that year, there were surges in cattle rustling, oil theft related violence, attacks by pastoralists on farming communities and attacks on oil facilities in the Niger Delta region. The Boko Haram insurgency, after a brief lapse, witnessed an increase in suicide attacks, and attacks on military units (Oladeji & Folorunso, 2017). The insecurity situation in Nigeria was orchestrated by three main categories of conflicts.

**Terrorism:** Without doubt, there is a consensus of beliefs that terrorism is the most fundamental source of insecurity in the country. The effects of the Boko Haram have bothered strongly on the bid of the Nigerian government spreading the gains of democracy across the country and meeting with the derivable of sustainable development agenda (Adebakin, 2016).

Millions of people have been rendered homeless as a result of the activities of Boko Haram especially within the Northern parts of the country. Today, there are several hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons who are currently victims of communicable diseases, malnutrition and several other social problems (Oleribe & Taylor-Robinson, 2016). This figure was estimated to be 1,738,982 as of April 2016 by the internally-displaced monitoring centre (Adejumo, 2014). In addition, Nigeria contributed significantly to more than 52,000 people who were forced to abandon their homes and seek protection due to armed conflicts in 2016 (Igbuzor, 2017).

**The Pastoral Conflict:** This has to do with cattle rustling and attacks from herdsmen which have become another major source of insecurity in the country. Of all the security upheavals in the country in the year 2016, Morgen (2017) identified the pastoral conflicts as the most deadly threats, with 470 victims killed as a result of cattle rustling, and 1,425 killed in attacks involving herdsmen. There were fatal attacks that averaged 30 deaths per attack by herdsmen, while the average for cattle rustling stood at 39 per attack. Attacks on communities rose to four times by herdsmen than incidents of cattle rustling.

**Niger Delta Militant Attacks:** Though the number of attacks of Niger Delta militants on oil installations was significant, the average number of fatalities per attack was the lowest, at 3 per attack. This is largely attributed to the federal government's decision to cut off funding of the Amnesty programme at the start of the year 2016 (Igbuzor, 2017). The fatalities of the Niger Delta militants may have been low in 2016; however, they have been making threats and counter threats in the second quarter of 2017. For example, the Niger Delta Revolutionary Crusaders has announced that it will commence fresh attacks on oil facilities across the Niger Delta on September 31 (Vanguard News, 2017).

Aside from these major sources of insecurity in the country for 2016, there are other significant sources of insecurity that have continued to ravage the country and caused massive social disorder. These include inter-communal conflicts, ritual killings, secret cult activities across major cities and series of violent crimes across the country (Enuokora, 2015). These events have not only continued to pose serious threats to Nigeria's bid towards development, they have severe retrogressive effects on the country's ailing economy.

### **The Effects of Insecurity on Nigeria's Developmental Agenda**

The implications of the state of insecurity of Nigeria on social and economic wellbeing of the country cannot be overemphasised. It is argued in this paper that when there is widespread insecurity, the achievement of social and economic transformation will be impossible. This is premised on the fact that sustainable development is only expected to be achieved in an enabling environment. Consequently, the state of insecurity of Nigeria will have adverse effect on its bid in meeting up with the 2063 Agenda in the following ways:

#### **1. Loss of revenue to the government:**

The high level of insecurity in Nigeria has both increased government spending on security and reduced earnings that usually accrue from economic activities in the country. In addition, money from some international organization and funds raised locally by the governments, non-governmental agencies, charitable organizations and individuals which are supposed to be channelled to human capital development have been deployed to the rehabilitation of families of the casualties and the renovation of properties destroyed by the insurgences thereby causing a huge loss of revenue to the government (Adejumo, 2014; Adebakin, 2016). As a result, the activities of these various militia groups have resulted in low income for

government from oil revenue, moderating the growth rate of Gross Domestic Product, and low participation of foreign and local investors in economic development (Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce, 2016).

## **2. Worsening the country's poverty level:**

The high level of insecurity in the country has impacted negatively on peoples' livelihood, especially, those living within the affected communities in the Northern parts. Millions of people have been displaced from their homes and source of livelihood as a result of the activities of Boko Haram insurgency (Golwa & Alozieuwa, 2012). Also, the high rate of cattle rustling and attacks from herdsmen has left many leaving their places of abode. Cattle rustling in particular have destroyed hectares of farms and affected farm produce greatly, taking its toll on the prices of farm products across the country (Achumba, Ighomereho, & Akpan-Robaro, 2013). Agriculture and food security is one of the key priorities of Nigeria in meeting with sustainable development (Adejumo, 2014). Therefore, the high impact of insurgencies in the country manifests gravely on adverse food security conditions that are capable of impeding Nigeria's strive towards sustainable development.

## **3. Adverse implication on public health:**

One of the priorities of West African countries in the sustainable development goals is the improved access to affordable and good quality health (Oleribe & Taylor-Robinson, 2016). However, this goal will remain unattainable as long as the negative effects of insurgency in the country continue to bite hard on various parts of the country. Health indices, such as maternal and child mortality are worst in the northeast region compared with elsewhere in Nigeria as a result of Boko Haram activities in the region (Adebakin, 2016). In addition, there is a high rate of displacement of people which has compounded the health situations of millions who find it difficult to access quality health even if they can afford it. The condition of living of these internally displaced people in official and unofficial camps have led to outbreak of illnesses, psychological and physical trauma, and minimal access to health care and basic essentials, such as food, shelter, clothing, clean water, and sanitary conditions. In addition, as these people live on charity, have limited access to healthcare services and healthy shelter, their health and emotional conditions are far from ideal (Golwa & Alozieuwa, 2012). Also, fear of attacks has led to mass exodus of healthcare workers, closure of healthcare facilities and deserted communities, resulting in difficulties in accessing healthcare during emergencies, outbreak of communicable diseases, and many avoidable deaths and complications (Nwabueze, 2015).

## **4. Impedes social protection for the poor and vulnerable:**

The increasing rate of insecurity in Nigeria has brought about a number of threats to social protection policies in the country. Insurgencies and criminal activities across the country have led to the poor and vulnerable in the country losing their sense of belonging as they continue to fall victims of such events (Nwanegbo & Odigbo, 2013). The inability of state security actors to control and contain the activities of insurgencies and scattered conflicts across the country has exposed citizens to a lot of security risks and victimisations. Aside from killing and maiming, vulnerable groups like girls and women are also faced with sexual assault, exploitation and harassment that have led to several unwanted pregnancies and maternal deaths (Otto & Ukpere, 2012).



### 5. Crippling of business activities:

The insecurity problem in Nigerian environment has midwived some insecurity variables that affect business performances which business enterprises have little or no direct control over (Adebakin, 2016; Oladeji & Folorunso, 2017). In the country, the variables range from theft to organised armed robbery, assassination and kidnapping for ransom, blockading of business installations, repeated invasions, lack of access to livelihood resources, social injustice, unemployment, rising cost of living and pipelines destruction and bombing. All these are variables of social maladies and crimes that have made the Nigerian security environment to be complex.

### 6. Reduction in the inflow of foreign investment:

It has been asserted that the rate of new business investment into the Nigerian economy has decreased in recent years mainly as a result of the growing degree of insecurity in the country. This is due to the fact that doing business in an unsecured environment increases the cost of running such business through direct loss of goods and properties or the cost of taking precautions against business risks and uncertainty (Achumbaet *al*, 2013). For example, International Oil Companies operating in the volatile Niger Delta region of Nigeria have been reported to have spent millions of dollars on their own to ensure the safety of their workers who are highly vulnerable to being kidnapped for ransom within the area as well as against attacks on their installations (Golwa & Alozieuwa, 2012). These costs have negative impacts on business development and progress.

In a World Bank report on investment climate in nine African countries it was found that 29% of business operators in Africa and 36% in Nigeria perceived insecurity as a major constraint on investment (Nigeria-South Africa Chamber of Commerce, 2016). It is evident that Nigeria has witnessed a reduction of inflow of foreign direct investment. The 2015 figures that emanated from the annual report of Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) showed a steep 78.1 percent reduction in foreign direct investment while also exhibited a significant 87.2 percent increase in portfolio investment into the economy of Nigeria to capitalise on the depression in the Nigeria stock market as a result of economic activities that have being on the low.

### 7. Reduction in enrolment in educational institutions:

The literacy programme of the government of Nigeria that is part of the agenda for sustainable development has been massively affected by the high rate of insecurity in the Northern parts of the country. In any education system, peace and tranquility is an antidote for a successful teaching and learning (Adebakin, 2016). However, in recent times, the conflicts that resulted to insecurity in the country have caught up with millions of school children not only in respect of their school attendance but to their lives and property. Many children have been forced out of formal education and abandoned schools due to the activities of Boko Haram group, making an already ill-educated and disadvantaged region to continue to suffer gap. According to the Nigerian Education Data Survey (NEDS, 2010) as cited in Saleh (2011) constant attacks makes it even harder for teachers and other stakeholders to persuade parents to allow their children stay on at school.

## Conclusion and Recommendations

Global and African discourse on how to frame peace and security in the context of the SDGs has focused on conflict prevention and cross-border security concerns (including terrorism). However practice in the security and justice sectors across Nigeria indicates that the challenges posed to sustainable development from a peace and security perspective will

require a more nuanced approach that takes into account governance, rule of law and human rights compliance in security and justice sector institutions in conflict, post-conflict and peaceful societies. As discussed in the paper, insecurity therefore, becomes a drain on local and national resources at the expense of development and peoples' wellbeing thereby, having adverse consequences on economic growth and development.

The Nigerian government can still accelerate progress towards sustainable development goals. The process of implementing the goals should be led at the highest level of political leadership at local, state, regional and country levels. Effective political leadership is crucial for ownership, galvanising support, commitment, mobilising resources and ensuring accountability. There is need for Nigeria to develop visionary leadership, that is, one that will be detribalised such that the country has at leadership positions only individuals who are able to inculcate in their people or followers, the ideal of common citizenship as the transcendent factor among all Nigerians, irrespective of the ethnic, religion, economic and social status.

The panacea for the problem of insecurity in Nigeria is good governance. One of the major ways by which the problem of insecurity can be solved is by raising governance standards and cultivating the culture of good governance where the government is responsible and accountable to the people. Logically, there cannot be any separation of security engagement from good governance. It is well established that good governance is a function of effective, visionary, transparent, trustworthy and credible leadership whose driving force is an improvement in the collective wellbeing of the citizens through well-conceived, effectively implemented economic policies and human development programmes.

Socioeconomic development is a factor that is strongly considered as a major key to peace and security in Nigeria. The acceleration of the pace of development is one of the key challenges towards solving the problem of insecurity in Nigeria. In this context, development consists of creating an economy with relevant economic, social and physical infrastructure for the operations of businesses and growth of industries, for the provision of gainful employment, high level educational facilities and medical care for the people.

Elimination of corruption and entrenchment of social justice should be pursued with sincerity of purpose. Corruption is perceived by everybody as the clog in the Nigerian wheel of progress and development. It is responsible for the high level of inequality and inequitable distribution of the wealth of the nation, a situation that is the root cause of disaffection among Nigerians. Several scholars have theorised 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 their ethnic affiliation and religion, but on merit defined in terms of the content of his character, mental capacity and ability to deliver; where there will be no discrimination. Meanwhile, except we get it right in those areas, the people will continue to suffer deprivation and injustice which will cause dissatisfaction and disaffection and ultimately an insecure environment.

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