

# Peace and Security- Essential Tools for National Development

Nenger Iorkpen

*The Administrative Staff College of Nigeria (ASCON), Topo-Badagry, Lagos State, Nigeria*

**Abstract:** Peace and Security are considered all over the world as an avenue for national development. There can hardly be a consequential national development without peace and security in any nation. Ensuring peace and adequate security has to do with a wide range of practical efforts by all stakeholders be they government and civil society organizations functioning at various levels to ensure that the root causes of violence that seemed to be a threat to peace and national development are seriously addressed in a manner that people are free from fear of war, conflicts, kidnapping and all other social vices that deny them of their freedom. This paper, therefore tries to, examine peace and security as necessities for ingredients for ensuring peaceful societies and national development. This work also tries to discuss in detail some of the key concepts, challenges and suggested some way forward.

**Keywords:** Peace, Security, Essential Tools, National Development, Modern Organizations

## I. INTRODUCTION

Peace and security are inevitable tools that call for political and socioeconomic development globally. These tools are also known to be agents of sustainable growth and development due to their significant role. In agreement with this fact, Omeriyang et al (2015) said, peace and security has been acknowledged all over the world as basic conditions necessary for sustainable national transformation. To this end, there is a consensus among scholars that there is a clear linkage between failures in governance, democratization and sustainable development on the one hand and insecurity and violent conflict on the other hand (Otive, 2010). The role of peace and security cannot be underestimated, considering the devastating consequences of political terror, civil and cold war, violence and armed conflicts which has brought setbacks to political and socioeconomic development of countries like Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Central African Republic, Nigeria, etc. The peace of these countries is mostly hampered by the activities of the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria or The Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (formerly known as al Qaeda), Boko Haram, Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps-Quds Force, Haqqani Network, Kataib Hezbollah and Al Shabab among others.

The presence of political terror, civil and cold war, violence and armed conflicts in any country is attributed to lack of peace and security which in turn affects human lives and properties, political and socio-economical institutions that drives the development of any nation. Therefore, the absence

of threats to peace and security in any nation will trigger its development, and once peace and security of a is sustained, their development too will be sustained. It is in this connection that in May 1999, Nigeria returns to civil rule with hopes and latent optimism to reposition development trajectories to sustainability. Unfortunately, this optimism seems to be a mirage as the development of Nigeria is negatively affected by Boko Haram, Banditry in most part of the Northern states in Nigeria, Boko Haram terrorist is not the only problem of the North, the resurgence of serious activities of the Bandits in the Northern states like Zangare, Sokoto and recently Niger State in the north central with the Niger Delta Avengers in the South-South and Biafra agitators in the South-East Nigeria has been an impediment to peace and development of Nigeria as a nation.

The importance of peace security for national development has call for this paper, this work will examine the critical role the absence of violence, war and armed conflicts to national development. Areas to be covered are conceptual clarification, relevance of peace and security, challenges to peace and security stability, strategies for peacebuilding and security stability and conclusion.

## II. CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

Key concepts like peace, security and national development require detailed explanation for meaningful understanding.

### *Peace*

The word 'peace' is derived from the Latin word 'pax' which literally means a pact, a contract, an agreement to end war or any dispute and conflict between two people (Lecture at the WCC Conference - Ram Madhav. <https://sites.google.com/site/rammadhav/lecture-at-the-wcc-conference>), nations or antagonistic groups of people. It is also seen as a situation or a period in which there is no war or violence in a country, or an area is often described as peaceful. Peace can be a state of harmony or the absence of hostility. "Peace" can also be a nonviolent way of life. "Peace" often depicts cessation of violent conflict, a state of quiet or tranquility or an absence of disturbance or agitation. Peace can also describe a relationship between any people characterized by respect, justice, and goodwill according to (the Messengers of Peace Foundation (MOPF) – The Messengers <https://themessengersofpeace.net/>).

It is also an old concept that has received different perceptions, explanations and interpretations by different scholars and experts. Galtung (1996) describes peace in terms of the conditions that hold when a peaceful state is maintained and promoted "Peace consists of positive thoughts, pure feelings, and good wishes. In addition, Galtung outlines two dimensions of peace. The first is negative peace which is the absence of direct violence, war, fear and conflict at individual, national, regional, and international levels; and positive peace which describes the absence of unjust structures, unequal relationships, justice and inner peace at individual level. A more useful conceptualization of peace must therefore see beyond the narrow conception of absence of war, fear, anxiety, suffering and violence. Ahamefule (2013) defined peace as a situation in which there is no war between countries or groups; a situation in which you are not annoyed by noise or other people; a state when you are calm and have no worries. Francis (as cited in Ebrim, Mbaji and Iwuozor, 2012) conceptualized peace "as the absence of war, fear, conflict, anxiety, suffering and violence". In the words of Ibeanu (2006), peace can be defined as a situation where there is absence of violence or other disturbances within a state to ensure social, political, and economic development. Ibeanu pinpointed philosophical, sociological and political definitions of peace. Many philosophers see peace as a natural, original, God-given state of human existence. Sociologically, peace refers to a condition of social harmony in which there are no social antagonisms. Politically, peace entails political order that is institutionalization of political structures in a way that makes justice possible. As Ibeanu has argued, it would be wrong to classify a country experiencing pervasive structural violence as peaceful. In other words, although war may not be going on in a country where there is pervasive poverty, oppression of the poor by the rich, police brutality, intimidation of ordinary people by those in power, oppression of women, or monopolization of resources and power by some sections of the society, it will still be wrong to say that there is peace in such a country.

Peace is also defined as 'a political condition that ensures justice and social stability through formal and informal institutions, practices and norms'. Miller and King (2003). It is dangerously misleading to think that the absence of war means the presence of peace. It is also important to know that simply avoiding conflicts, does not mean peace, but acting in accordance to some of the conditions that must be met to guarantee peace in any society. Balance political power sharing in any region; legitimacy for decision makers and implementers in the eyes of their respective groups, supported by external parties through transparency and accountability; recognized and valued interdependence among the people fostering long-term co-operation during disagreements, agreements, normality and crises; trusted and reliable institutions for resolving conflicts; mutual understanding of incompatibility, and every member of that community must be given a sense of respect and belonging in principle and

practice, collectively and individually in accordance with international standards. All these conditions mentioned above come to guarantee positive peace. Peace sought outside the premise of social justice as mentioned above is called negative and it is not true peace.

The Conception of peace as tranquility can also pertain to an individual's sense of himself or herself, as being "at peace" with one's own mind. This is why Saint Augustine argued that peace and health go hand-in-hand. As he puts it:

*"The peace of the body then consists in the duly proportioned arrangement of its parts. The peace of the irrational soul is the harmonious repose of the appetites, and that of the rational soul the harmony of knowledge and action. The peace of body and soul is the well-ordered and harmonious life and health of the living creature."*

Following from the above, peace can pertain to an individual relative to his or her environment, because the use of the word *peaceful* could be to describe calm, serenity, and silence. This latter understanding of peace can also pertain to an individual's sense of self, as to be "at peace" with oneself would indicate the same serenity, calm, and equilibrium within oneself—i.e., a life devoid of worries, bitterness or pain. This probably explains why some people refer to death as a state of peace with one's creator.

In most cases, when people mouth the word "peace", they refer to an absence of hostility. However, the term also represents a situation where there is, among others, a healthy or newly healed interpersonal or international relationship; safety in matters related to social or economic welfare; the acknowledgment of equality and fairness in political relationships and, in world matters. Thus, peacetime represents a state where any war or conflict is absent. Whenever we reflect on the nature of peace, it is usually in relation to considerations of the factors that bring about its absence or loss including such critical issues like insecurity, social injustice, economic inequality, political and religious radicalism, and acute nationalism.

In the light of the above definitions, peace cannot just be the absence of violence, war and terrorists' and other criminal activities in a country but a situation which guarantees free movement of persons, friendly environment for political participation and investment into socioeconomic activities. It is the maintenance of orderliness and absence of threat to society.

#### *Security*

There is no way that peace will be discussed without mentioning security, the two are inseparable and also known to be two sides of the same coin. Where there is no violence, war and armed conflicts, the people are secured and free to go about their normal business without fear, but a situation where there is war and violence like in Syria today, the citizens are

not secured to move freely. With this analogy, security can now be defined. United Nations (2013) understand security to mean far more than simply the absence of conflict and armed violence. Development, human rights and protection from environmental hazards are pre-conditions for security and lasting peace. Ahamfele equally defined security as safety from attack, harm or danger; a situation in which one feels confident and safe.

The concept of security has undergone a transition from traditional conceptualisation to a nontraditional meaning. Traditionally, security management was the unilateral function of the state especially if we consider the intellectual view(s) of some political theorists like Thomas Hobbes who argued that the essence of a state is to provide law and order, which are attained through (effective) security management.

However, in an attempt by the state to actualise the purpose of its creation (through social contract), it has found it necessary to acquire legitimate use of force (violence). This idea has made security issue a function of effective monopoly of violence, which the state applies to engender strict conformity and complaisance to state laws by the peoples for effective security management.

But, in contemporary time, definition of security goes beyond the traditional military ways of protecting the state against internal and external aggression. The fact is that since the end of the cold war, security management has assumed a new dimension, external threat to security resulting from international hostilities and aggression that characterised the cold war era has been replaced with non-traditional security threats like information warfare, drug trafficking, nuclear pollutions, disease epidemics like HIV-AIDS, corruption, human trafficking, (internal) insurgency among others.

Nevertheless, this situation has led to multidimensional approach in security discourse and management. Now, governments have now realised that they can no longer monopolise the business of security in local domains as well as the world at large. This has led to extending the security community to include private players in security business, NGOS and above all the civilians take the centre stage in security management. This we shall discuss further in the subsequent segment of this unit. Well, on the question of definition of the term security, it is not a mischief to say that there are various definitions of the term (security) without any consensus among scholars in their conceptualisation. And thus, to some, security can be defined as:

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

- Not only in terms of the internal security of the State, but also in terms of secure systems of Food health, money and trade (Tickner, 1994:180).

In conclusion, security is defence against external and internal threats as well as the overall socio-economic well-being of the society

#### *National Development*

Development is critical and essential to the sustenance and growth of any nation. A country is classified as developed when is able to provide qualitative life for her citizenry. Most of nations of the world since independence have been battling with the problems of development in spite huge human, material and natural resources in their possession. Development according to Lawal and Abel (2011) is a concept that has been victimized by definitional pluralism. It is a difficult word to define. However, attempts have been made by erudite scholars to conceptualize development. Chrisman (1984) viewed development as a process of societal advancement, where improvement in the well-being of people are generated through strong partnerships between all sectors, corporate bodies and other groups in the society. It is reasonable to know that development is not only an economic exercise, but also involves both socio-economic and political issues and pervades all aspects of societal life. In the same vein, Naomi (1995) believes that development is usually taken to involve not only economic growth, but also some notion of equitable distribution, provision of health care, education, housing and other essential services all with a view to improving the individual and collective quality of life. Gboyega (2003) captured development as an idea that embodies all attempts to improve the conditions of human existence in all ramifications. It implies improvement in material wellbeing of all citizens, not the most powerful and rich alone, in a sustainable way such that today's consumption does not imperil the future, it also demands that poverty and inequality of access to the good things of life be removed or drastically reduced. It seeks to improve personal physical security and livelihoods and expansion of life chances. Therefore, development is the overall transformation of all sectors of the nation's economy. That is, changing these sectors from their old state to new state, thereby, making them more functional and competitive.

On the other hand, development has to do with ways of reducing poverty, promoting prosperity and protecting the planet. They are based on the conviction that lasting international peace and security are possible only if the economic prosperity and the well-being of people everywhere are assured. One of these development efforts is sustainable development which calls for a decent standard of living for everyone without compromising the needs of future generation, ([www.un.org/en/development](http://www.un.org/en/development)). Sustainable development is that development which meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs (UNDP Training Module:

17). According to Harris (2000) it is development which protects the environment, advances economic prosperity and social justice. The practical implication of this orientation is that sustainable development frowns at all activities that degrade or have the potential of degrading the environment and demands that these activities be stopped. It is, therefore, not surprising that sustainable development is fanatically environment-friendly and advocates and pursues activities and policies that are intended to renew and improve the environment. More importantly, sustainable development preaches, among other things, capacity-building among local beneficiaries of development projects, to ensure that these projects will continue in existence and remain functional even when external assistance is withdrawn or ceases. In conclusion, Izueke et al (2014) stated that sustainable development, both as a concept and as a strategy, aims at meeting the country's needs; achieving sustained decent living conditions in a given country, eliminating poverty; maintaining the physical and human environment for the present and future generations of the members of a given country; involving all members of the community in the development process and ensuring equal benefits of what is produced.

National, according to Longman dictionary of contemporary English, refers to a phenomenon that embraces a whole nation. National development therefore can be described as the overall development or a collective socio-economic, political as well as religious advancement of a country or nation. National development can also be considered as National Transformation which implies a basic change of character and little or no resemblance with the past configuration or structure. National transformation, therefore, implies fundamental change in the building block of a nation, change in the social, economic, infrastructural, and political landscape of a nation (Dakuku, 2014). National development and transformation can be achieved through development planning, which can be described as the country's collection of strategies mapped out by the government.

Challenges of Development in Nigeria/Possible Solution

### III. RELEVANCE AND ELEMENTS OF PEACE

Peace is a tool and gate way for sustainable national development. There is no country on the globe that can experience development without peace. The significance of peace calls for development of stable economy, encouragement of unity as well as attraction of foreign investors. Development of stable economy has to do with assurance of economic growth. Attraction of foreign investors will bring about establishment of industries and consequently lead to job creations. With peace, there is improvement in the quantity and quality of the nation's factors of production. Peace encourages the improvement of infrastructural base of the nation such as roads, electricity, water, school, hospital among others to ensure a change in the standard of living of the citizenry. Any nation without unity due to violence and

crime will not witness any appreciable national transformation. Malaysia and Singapore would not have been where they are today without the willingness of a group of citizens who endangered their lives. Peace is the most important element for a nation's success. It is a critical factor for sustainable national development.

As a factor that determine economic stability, it is often said that no country can develop or grow economically without peaceful coexistence among its population, and within its borders. The fastest developing nations are among those with the best security structures or architecture, and having peace and tranquility thriving within them. Nigerian economy is far from that majorly because of the current security challenges. Countries like Rwanda have recorded enormous development and viable economic progress over the last two decades base on the fact that, Rwanda is among the few secure and peaceful states in Africa. This has propelled national production, trade, and investments in all sectors of it's economy. In addition, Rwanda has stood to be one of the best places for ease of doing business according to the World Bank rankings. Indicators used to arrive at such data may often include safety of people, protection of investments among others, all of which are premised on the level of security and peace a country has. Madu, Ewelum and Chieke (2015: 5) discussed the relevance of Peace and security in the society as:

*The key to sustainable national transformation. No nation boosts of development in the absence of peace and security. The relevance of peace and security entails development of stable economy, encouragement of unity as well as attraction of foreign investors. Development of stable economy has to do with assurance of economic growth. Attraction of foreign investors will bring about establishment of industries and consequently lead to job creations.*

*With peace and security, there is improvement in the quantity and quality of the nation's factors of production. Peace and security encourages the improvement of infrastructural base of the nation such as roads, electricity, water, school, hospital among others to ensure a change in the standard of living of the citizenry. Any nation with absence of unity as a result of violence and crime will not witness any appreciable national transformation. Malaysia would not have been where she is today without the willingness of a group of citizens who endangered their lives. Peace and security are the most important elements for a nation's success. It is the gate way to sustainable national transformation.*

While almost all of us want peace and prefer to live and work in an environment that is peaceful, few of us have bothered to identify the elements that foster peaceful living. We have seldom given thought to what types of beliefs, traditions, attitudes, and values lead to peaceful coexistence and social harmony. We have also not devoted quality time to ruminate on whether it is possible to have global peace if we

do not personally have peace in our lives as individuals. This paper will also point out some of the elements that ensure peace.

#### *Peace as 'Cooperation'*

While on the one hand peace is an end to be sought it is also a condition of many achievements. Co-operation is a necessary condition for nearly all human attainment because for peace to reign, people have to learn to rely on one another. The inverse side of co-operation includes, among others:

- The destruction brought about by force and violence;
- The waste of scarce resources in war or during the preparation for war;
- The distraction from human welfare as resources are committed to buying weapons rather than food or provision of social services; The loss of lives and property when disagreements become unmanageable;
- The abuse of fundamental freedoms and disrespect for the rule of law, and so on.

This view of peace as cooperation between individuals and entities tallies with the concept of dynamic peace or peace that is being worked for which will be discussed later on during discussions on peace as process. Cooperation discourages an understanding of peace as a 'soft state' in which hard decisions, social change and deteriorating relations between groups can be avoided. In other words, it is not an approach to peace that ignores the element of conflict in human situations.

#### *Peace as Conditioning Factor in Social Outcomes*

One of the problems of distinguishing the features of peace is that peace is a conditioning rather than a separate factor in political and social behaviour. Although individuals may say publicly or express a belief that they are pursuing the path of peace in their relationship with others, what may be happening in reality is that they are either: trying to secure a guarantee that their interests will be protected in the process of relating with others; trying to construct a balance of power and interests; or ensuring that there is freedom to make free and informed choices in matters related to their own future. Yet, because peace so pervasively about conditions and situations that appear desirable, there is a temptation to define peace in terms of all that is good. However, it is a fact that whenever peace is associated with only things that are cherished, it will not be possible to distinguish peace from other social values that are cherished.

#### *Peace as 'Order'*

If we put together the structural and psychological indicators of peace and see them especially as conditioning factors, we may then conclude that peace is more of an orientation than a specific content of nature. It is our approach to handling differences that allows creativity, reciprocity and co-ordination (and therefore peace) to prevail in human affairs. Peacefulness also ensures that human affairs can be carried on without disruption. Peace is one of many human

achievements, or put differently, a part of overall human achievement. There can be achievements without peace but they tend to be threatened, fragile and distorted without order. For the most part, peace is needed to set other human achievements free and for societies to develop meaningfully for the benefit of those who live in such societies.

In this connection St. Augustine's stress on order (and peace as the tranquility of order) is instructive. On the one hand, peace is one element of order but there are many others. On the other hand, order does not exist on its own because it only describes the relationship between things: elaboration of means to achieve given ends; agreeable relations between the parts of a social whole or community; and acceptable styles of living and behaviour. This functioning of peaceful order is *structural peace* insofar as structure is taken to mean orderly relations.

#### *Peace as a Product of Human Solidarity*

The point has been made by scholars in the humanities and beyond that in so far as humans remain competitive and aggressive by nature, there will always be wars, different levels of conflicts over needs and wants (desires). However, a closer look at human nature will readily reveal the fact that despite a tendency to compete, sometimes aggressively and thereby threaten the cohesion of their social group or society, they also naturally seek the friendship and cooperation of others who are close to them. This tendency to reach out to others suggests a realisation that they can only attain fulfilment when they learn to collaborate with one another.

Collective action (solidarity) in the pursuit of peace has multiple effects. One is the power for change that increases with comprehensiveness of actions and mutual support in them. Another effect is increased awareness of common interests and goals, which contribute to friendship during those engagements and subsequent desire for sustaining such relationship. Maintenance of focus during difficult situations that threaten collective aspirations and interests is another effect of unity in the pursuit of peace. Ultimately, initiation of action is an important effect of solidarity. Observers of conflict who join in a collective action develop motivation for continued participation in connection-based pursuits of peace, and very so often, for individual peace activism. The effect of collective courage, especially in the face of potential or actual violence should also not be overlooked.

Solidarity for peace has been sustained for decades through shared ideology and philosophies. Transformations resulting from collective actions that are focused on peace have ranged from awareness-raising for participants and observers to small or large change, such as revolution. Our interdependence in peace development and our capability for cooperation in a united response to conflict remind us of the power we have to bring about change, and connect with others for solidarity in the pursuit of peace to increase our power for change without violence.

The breakdown of this collaboration is a distortion of the natural order. The uneasy or bitter feeling that normally accompanies a quarrel or a fight also support this point because no creature feels uneasy in its natural state. If humans feel so uneasy when they quarrel or fight, it may be because it is not natural for them to fight or quarrel. This is as true of individual persons as it is of nations, and other human groupings.

#### IV. CHALLENGES OF PEACE AND SECURITY STABILITY

For the fact peace remains the building block for sustainable national development and transformation, there are still many challenges confronting it. These challenges can be viewed in different dimensions ranging from social, educational, political and economic factors.

**Social challenge:** Social conflict occurs, when people, tribes, different societies agitate and cause opposition in social interaction, preventing rivals from accomplishing their goals (Ebirim, Mbaji & Iwuozor, 2012). This situation usually culminates in disruption of peace and security. This can also manifest in form of social vices resulting to assassinations, violence, riot and demonstrations. Social crises such as boundary disputes, cultism, criminality and violation of human rights pose social challenge to peace and security. The absence of social amenities for citizens can threaten peace, affecting development.

**Educational challenge:** The total collapse of the educational sector resulting to falling standard in the quality of education. The inability to empower citizens with the knowledge and skills to overcome ignorance and poverty makes them vulnerable and in turn affects the peace of any country.

**Political challenge:** The inability to distribute power and resources among communities, call for agitations among the citizens which escalates to crisis affecting peace.

**Economic challenges:** Activities such as inflation, high standard of living, fluctuation in exchange rates and unfriendly environment for investors also pose serious challenge to peace.

Apart from the challenges discussed above, Elowson and Albuquerque (2016) examined other challenges to peace and security in East Africa thus:

**Armed conflict:** The regional conflict complex in the Sudans comprises an interstate conflict between Sudan and South Sudan, as well as civil wars in the two respective countries.

**Terrorism:** In Eastern Africa, the major terrorist threat derives from the salafi-jihadist organization al-Shabaab, which functions primarily out of Somalia.

**Political crisis:** Political violence in Burundi has steadily escalated during 2015 in response to president Pierre Nkurunziza's resolve to stay in power for a third term.

**Democracy and governance deficits:** The level of democracy among states in Eastern Africa is abysmal, with only one state, Mauritius, being classified as "free" by Freedom House. With regard to governance, Eritrea, Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia rank within the bottom five on the continent according the Ibrahim Index of African Governance.

#### V. PEACE BUILDING AND SECURITY STABILITY TECHNIQUES

In order to overcome these challenges, strategies for peace building has been proposed to promote peace for sustainable national development and transformation by different scholars. According to Egugbo Chuks 2016, The following factors if put in place can mitigate the challenges stated above and enhance peace building and security stability in Nigeria:

- **Transparency and Accountability:** He said this can be an essential ingredient of good governance which is a panacea for peace. Those in position of authority are there based on the mandate of the people and they are expected to conduct the business of government in a transparent way. With this, people would have a window of opportunity to make their input in the governance process and as such their wishes and aspirations would not only be taken seriously but effort would be made towards achieving them. According to Olowu (2002: 141), Olowu went further to say that "accountability is one of the five norms of good or better governance, the others being efficiency, transparency, predictability or rule of law, and legitimacy". From the foregoing, it is obvious that transparency and accountability give room for the citizens not only to be aware of what goes on in government but also have the conducive atmosphere to make their contributions in the governance process. If this situation prevails, good governance would not only prevail in the society but sustainable peace would be achieved.
- **Respect for the Rule of Law:** According to Egugbo (2014), "the complex nature of man and its society makes it inevitable to have a framework that would serve as a guide to both the governed and the government and as well check their excesses. This framework can be considered the rule of law" (p. 23). The United Nations Security Council cited in Bjornlund (2014, p. 5) defined the rule of as when all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the state itself, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced and independently adjudicated, and which are consistent with international human rights norms and standards. If those in positions of authority and the governed act in consonance with the laws of the land; there is high tendency that peace would be the order of the day. This does not mean that some miscreants would not go against the law but when such happens they

would be dealt with in accordance with the laws and this would serve as a deterrent to others.

- **Free, Fair and Credible Elections:** Free, fair, and credible election is a panacea for peace because the parties involved would be satisfied with the process in view of the fact that no one is cheated. Free, fair and credible election is achieved if the agencies involved in the conduct of the elections decide to be transparent, impartial and fair to all the parties involved. According to the Voter Education Handbook (2005, p. 41), four basic conditions are necessary to create an enabling environment for the holding of free and fair elections. These are:
  - i. An honest, competent and non-partisan body to administer the election (usually referred to as the electoral commission);
  - ii. The knowledge and willingness of the political community to accept basic rules and regulations governing the contest for power;
  - iii. Developed system of political parties, traditions and teams of candidates presented to the electorate as alternative choices; and
  - iv. An independent judiciary to interpret electoral laws and settle election disputes.

All and sundry have the responsibility of ensuring free, fair and credible elections and this can be achieved if the agencies to conduct the elections create conducive and level playing field for all the political players.

- **Prudent Management of Resources:** When resources are prudently managed, there is high tendency that those in government would make more positive impact on the lives of the people. This is because opportunity would be created where workers' salaries and pensions would be paid as and when due. Development projects would also be springing up. When people are gainfully employed and their salaries are paid as and when due it would reduce greatly the tendency of people to go into crime as well cause crisis.
- **Diversification of the Economy:** The country's overdependence on oil revenue has had adverse effect on the economy in such a way that it had made people as well as government to be lazy in terms of looking for and exploring other sources of revenue. The end result is that it has made the economy to contract with its attendant consequences manifesting in lack of jobs as well as revenue. It is on this note that Nigeria government should live up to expectation by ensuring the diversification of the economy in order to tap the resources for the country's development. When the economy is diversified a lot of jobs and revenue would be created to the benefit of all and sundry.

- **Religious Tolerance:** Nigeria is multi-ethnic and multi-religious country and as such people should be made to feel free to practice their religion without hindrance. Section 39(1) of the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria as amended guarantees every Nigerian; Muslims, Christians, idol worshippers, free thinkers, even agnostics, freedom of expression, to hold opinions and to impart ideas and information without interference. There must be the respect for the provisions of our Constitution in all ramifications. A situation whereby some people take laws into their hands by attempting to force others to abandon their religious beliefs or impose their religion on others should not be tolerated and anybody found to be doing that should be sanctioned in accordance with the Law.

In totality, the following strategies discussed below are vital and fundamental.

- **Good Governance:** The ability of the elected officers to provide to the needs of their citizens without comprising will not only foster peace but brings stability in government since the rise in opposition activities will be minimized.
- **Political participation:** Ensuring that citizens at all levels participate freely in political activities without being harmed and putting in place electoral process that is free and fair to justify the opinions of the citizens. Finally, avoid limiting power to political elites.
- **Economic stability:** Create conducive environment for investors to invest into existing industries and explore opportunities for new ventures that will create jobs for unemployed youths. Ensure that inflation is controlled and encourage local production for export, in order to curb the fluctuation in exchange rates.
- **Educational reforms:** Reviewing policies and programmes for a new curriculum to be aligned with national issues aimed at empowering citizens the knowledge and skills to look inward for solutions instead of borrowing ideas with devastating consequences.

Most importantly African Union has developed solution framework for African problems known as African-Centered Solution (Afsol) which is aimed at addressing peace and security challenges using peaceful, coordinated and integrated processes of peace operations and peacebuilding. AfSol principles (commitment, ownership and shared values) in Africa requires that Africans look inwardly to their inherent value of developing own initiatives. The search has led to general conceptual discussions and refining principles of AfSol to proactively engage in policy decision-making in the continent (Rwengabo, 2016).

## Under AfSol:

- Africans develop the capacity (institutional, resource, politico-diplomatic, techno-scientific) to identify, examine, and originate solutions to Africa's peace and security problem(s) through consultations, investigations, experience sharing, and strategic analysis.
- Africans rediscover—and adapt—relevant indigenous or traditional conflict-resolution measures to Africa's different post-modern peace and security challenges.
- Africans mobilize and utilize resources, technology, and knowledge, to solve peace and security problems, seeking needful foreign assistance, but assuming central responsibility and accountability for these solutions.
- Africans avoid over-reliance on foreigner-imposed solutions/decisions to design and implement security solutions—hence collaboration with, not dependence on, foreigners.
- Convergence of states' interests and political will to address insecurity. Not that states' interests cannot conflict but that a mechanism for securing minimum interest convergence is developed to solve peace and security problems.

## VI. CONCLUSION

This work tries to bring up the importance of peace and security as a panacea for national development. It has examined the problems of national development in Nigeria, and some of the security issues that are standing the way of sustainable national development in the country and carefully outlined some of the peace building and security stability techniques for national development. The paper also discuss some the challenges to overcome to engender sustainable national development and listed some of the conditions as total peace and security, absence of violence, armed attacks, banditry, kidnapping etc. Over the years, Nigeria has been ridden by frequent ethnic and cultural violence, religious and political crisis, gross acts of violence, kidnapping, murder, unemployment, misappropriation of public funds by government officials etc. The instability engendered by these factors has brought about drastic setback on the socio-political, economic and educational development of the country. Most recently, armed banditry are said to have displaced communities in the northern states of Sokoto, Zamfara and currently Niger State in the north central Nigeria where farmers and villagers are levied to avoid attacks by the bandits. Hence, there is a crying need for education against violence among the Nigerian populace. The country must also find lasting solution to some of the regional agitation to be able to achieve the desired development as a nation.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Achoka JSK, Okoth PG (2008). "Education and Peace in Conflict Scenarios case of Elgon region in Kenya". *Int. J. Disaster Manage. and Risk Reduction*, Vol. No. 2 (On-line)
- [2] Ahamefule, U. How to attain peace and security in Nigeria. Retrieved July 15th, 2013. From: <http://www.african-spotlight.com>. 2013.
- [3] AU. (2005, 12<sup>th</sup> May). Communique of the 29th Meeting of the Peace and Security Council, PSC/PR/Comm (XXIX), Addis Ababa: AUPSC
- [4] Beswick, D. (2010). 'Peacekeeping, Regime Security, and "African Solutions to African Problems": Exploring Motivations for Rwanda's Involvement in Darfur.' *Third World Quarterly*, 31(5), pp.739-754
- [5] Cresnet, (2001) *Conflict Management Training Manual*. USAID/OTI Isaac Olawale Albert (2001) Introduction to Third Party Peace.
- [6] Dakuku, P. National transformation. Retrieved on 29th May, 2015 from [dakukupeterside.com/national-transformation-the-youth-link-2/](http://dakukupeterside.com/national-transformation-the-youth-link-2/). 2014.
- [7] Ebirim, P.U., I. N. Mbaji, & P. O.Iwuozor(2012). Peace and security challenges in Nigeria. A paper presented at the National Conference Organized by Faculty of Education Unizik, Awka.
- [8] Egugbo, C.C. (2014). The rule of law and democratic consolidation in Nigeria. *Uniuoyo*
- [9] Elowson, C and Albuquerque, A .L(2016). Challenges to Peace and Security in Eastern Africa: The role of IGAD, EAC and EASF. *Studies in African Security: Swedish Research Agency*.
- [10] Franke, B. (2010). 'Précis of Security cooperation in Africa : a Reappraisal', *African Security Review*, 19(2), pp. 84-96
- [11] Galtung (2000). *Conflict transformation by peaceful means* (the Transcend method). New York: United Nations Disaster Management Training Programme. pp. 14 & 16.
- [12] Harris, J.M (2000) Good Governance and Sustainable Development, Global Development and Environmental Institute Working Paper 00-04, June.
- [13] Henk, Dan (2005). "Human security: Relevance and Implication," *Parameters*, Vol. 35.
- [14] Ibeanu, O. (2006). *Conceptualizing peace: Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies in West Africa*. Abuja: Spectrum Books. 2006.
- [15] Izueke, E. M.C., Edwin M. C., Okoli, F.C., and Ifeoma, I. N. (2014). Peaceful Co-Existence: A Tool for Sustainable Development along the Boundary Corridor of Nigeria. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*. Vol.5(27),pp364-370
- [16] Lawal, T and Abe, O. (2011). National development in Nigeria: Issues, challenges and prospects *Journal of Public Administration and Policy Research* Vol. 3(9), pp.237-241
- [17] Miller, C., and King, M. (2003) *A Glossary of Terms and Concepts in Peace and Conflict Studies*. University for Peace, Costa Rica.
- [18] Møller, B. (2009). *The African Union as a Security Actor: African Solutions to African Problems? Crisis States Working Papers Series No.2*
- [19] Omeriyang, M. C. , Nnadi, E. J. and Chukwuto, C. J. (2015). Peace and Security: Necessities for Sustaining National Transformation in Nigeria. *International Journal of Scientific and Research Publications*, Volume 5, Issue 7: 1-4
- [20] Otiye, I.(2010). Peace And Security Education: A Critical Factor for Sustainable Peace and National Development. A Paper Presented during the Commemoration of the International day of Peace organized by the Foundation for Peace and Security Education held at the Conference hall of ECOWAS Secretariat Abuja.
- [21] Rwegabo, S. (2016). AMISOM and African-Centred Solutions to Peace and Security Challenges. *AfSol Journal* Volume 1, Issue 1 pp.5,10 & 89.
- [22] Tickner, J.A. (1994). "Re-visioning Security" in Ken Booth and Steve Smiths (eds). *International Relations Theory Today*.



- [23] Touray, O.A. (2005). 'The Common African Defence and Security Policy', African Affairs, 104(417), pp.635-656
- [24] United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (2006) Training Modules 1-4, Abuja. Ministry of States and Local Government: The Presidency.

- [25] Wulf, H. and Debiel, T. (2009). 'Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanisms: Tools for Enhancing the Effectiveness of Regional Organisations? A Comparative Study of the AU, ECOWAS, IGAD, ASEAN/ARF, and PIF'. CRRC, WP No. 49, London: LSE [www.un.org/en/development](http://www.un.org/en/development).