

NIGERIA'S COMMITMENT TO WORLD PEACE AND SECURITY THROUGH UN PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

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ABSTRACT

This paper aimed at examining Nigeria's participation in Peacekeeping Forces in view of ensuring World Peace and Security. The paper examined authors and secondary sources see this world peace move as a necessary diplomatic policy and as a stamp on Nigeria's sovereignty, and outline the financial and manpower obligations Nigeria have fulfilled in time pasts. Journals and articles including extracts from the UN Official Publications were analyzed for evidence of Nigeria's Commitment towards these activities.. The results showed that Nigeria has been very committed in operations to ensure world peace and security both within and outside Africa, at AU level, ECOWAS Level and UN Level. This study suggests that maintaining internal security and strengthening the national military is key to ensuring that the diplomatic operations are not superseding local issues in the state.

Keywords: Security, Peacekeeping, Development, ECOMOG, World Peace

Introduction

Nigeria as a member of the international community has been very active in ensuring world peace and security. This has been shown in her commitment to concerted peace ensuring situations; and making sure that there is decorum in the African setting.

The participation of Nigeria in UN peacekeeping operations conforms to Chapter II Section 19(c) of its foreign policy objectives under the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria; "the promotion of international co-operation for the consolidation of universal peace and mutual support among all nations". Drawing from the foregoing objective, Nigeria has pursued its search for global peace and security through participation in peacekeeping operations (Udeh and Okoroafor 2016). Such global presence in peacekeeping missions to promote global stability and Nigeria's aspiration for permanent membership of the Security Council occurs at the levels of the UN, AU and the ECOWAS and also on the bilateral stage as is now discussed. This paper will review the literature in order to seek to identify Nigeria's commitment and efforts at ensuring world peace.

Nigeria's intention to World Peace through participation in Peacekeeping Operations also surfaced problems in the areas of administration like medical care, medical evacuation, burial pay and allowance. Soldiers in deployed units also complained of lack of promotion opportunities and such simple things as not being able to observe holidays. These shortcomings were largely attributed to poor unit and sub-unit leadership. The poor quality of administration in deployed units has caused significant embarrassment to the Nigerian army and the country in general. The failure of political reengineering attempts in some countries, particularly African countries, violent border disputes, interstate aggressions, civil wars and insurgency are some of the circumstances that have been provoking large scale refugee flows in Africa, with the attendant threat to security and stability in many countries.

Nigeria's Quest for World Peace

Most of the peacekeeping operations have been spearheaded by the United Nations and different countries contribute funds and manpower to make sure that the operations are successful. Nigeria since attainment of independence recognised the UN as a major multilateral pivot for contribution to international peace and security through peacekeeping and peace-making efforts (Oche 2005). Nigeria's participation in peacekeeping operation immediately after independence is a significant aspect of her behaviour in the international arena (Bamidele 2015). Thus, her first contribution to peacekeeping mission began in 1960 with the UN Operation in Congo (ONUC) (Chigozie & Ituma, 2015).

The Nigerian Contingent strived to execute their mandate of assisting the Congolese government to restore law and order (Chigozie and Ituma 2015). The successful completion of her peacekeeping mandate in Congo heralded the participation of Nigeria in mainstream UN peacekeeping missions across the globe (Oche 2005). Subsequently, Nigeria has participated in various UN peacekeeping operations in Lebanon, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Rwanda, Burundi and Darfur amongst others (Bamidele 2015). However, Nigeria's participation in UN peacekeeping operations is confronted by challenges pertaining to differences in operative doctrines and training which affects Nigeria's operational efficiency in peacekeeping missions such as in the United Nations and African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID) (Akpan and Olisah 2019).

Furthermore, the difficult operational environment as in the case of the UNAMID hinders Nigeria's capability to deploy large number of peacekeepers; impacting on its contribution to UN peacekeeping mission (Alli 2012). The country has rendered various services such as humanitarian assistance, peace enforcement, peace building and medical services in the course of executing her peace support roles (Bamidele 2015).

Commitment to World Peace and Security through UN Peacekeeping Operations

At a regional level, Nigeria's approach to peacekeeping has been largely influenced by the belief that the country's security is connected to that of other African states because of cultural, historical, and transnational security issues (Yoroms 2010). These issues are defined by the way in which the security of a nation is affected by what happens in contiguous countries around its neighbourhood (Yoroms 2010).

This perspective puts Nigeria at centre stage with regards to commitments to the peace and security in West Africa and the entire region through her engagement in peacekeeping initiatives (Alli 2012). Nigeria's peacekeeping experience at the regional level started under the auspices of the OAU Mission Intervention Force in Chad from 1981-1982 (Sanda 2005). The participation of the country in such operations also took place at a sub-regional level under the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG) peacekeeping initiative in Liberia and Sierra-Leone. The ECOMOG intervened in the civil wars in both countries between 1990 and 2000 and maintained peace (Osakwe and Audu 2017; Hamman et al. 2014). Nigeria is also currently maintaining a peacekeeping force in both Guinea Bissau and the Gambia under the auspices of the ECOWAS Mission in Guinea Bissau (ECOMIB), and the ECOWAS Mission in the Gambia (ECOMIG) respectively (Babatunde 2017). Nigeria's contribution to peacekeeping operations in Africa and other parts of the world have been regarded as invaluable because of her efforts to promote world peace, as well as the financial commitments and personnel sacrifices to peace support operations (Eke 2015).

The participation of Nigeria in peacekeeping operations in Africa has arguably come at a heavy price. The OAU Peacekeeping Operation in Chad in which Nigeria deployed peacekeepers cost her 82 million USD (Dauda 2017). Similarly, the country incurred 12 billion USD and lost more than 1,000 peacekeeping soldiers in her intervention in the Liberian civil war under the ECOMOG between 1991-2003, (Dauda 2017). Furthermore, Nigeria was also regarded as the major financier of ECOMOG peace support operations in Liberia and Sierra-Leone; she funded about 80 per cent of the total expenditure of the operations (Abubakar 2009).

Nigeria's Role in Peacekeeping Operation in Liberia

Nigeria contributed monstrosly to the ECOWAS Monitoring Gathering (ECOMOG), an interventionist intervention power to end the extended Liberian civil war, where the public authority of Nigeria puts the monetary expense at over N800 billion aside from an enormous number of lost and mutilated troopers in 1987. The civil war in Liberia is critical for two reasons. To begin with, it filled in as a significant illustration of another kind of outside intervention - intervention by a sub provincial association. Second, it has prompted a reconsideration by African pioneers, of the strategy of non-obstruction in the internal issues of states. (Anifowose, 1999). Non-intervention in the internal undertakings of states is one of the standards basic the OAU (presently AU). African pioneers are, in any case, undeniably more aware of the danger to territorial security presented by internal struggles. Nigeria shared the delight of the re-visitation of democracy by Liberia. Additionally, The then Nigeria's president, Gen. Babangida served as the Chairman of ECOWAS thrice while the community's secretariat in Abuja - a project mainly funded by Nigeria was completed

(Yakubu, 2011:101)

Nigeria's Role in Peacekeeping Operation in Sierra Leone

Following a long period of military rule, Ahmad Tejan Kabbah was elected president of Sierra Leone on March 17, 1996. Minimal over one year after the fact, On 25 May, 1997 he and his justly elected Government were ousted in a horrendous coup drove by nonconformist military officials and radicals from Sierra Leone's well established revolt. In Walk 1998, a peace keeping force under Nigerian administration with extensive assistance from an English/Africa mercenary from a nearby paramilitary (the (Kamajor), entered Freetown, and reestablished Kabbah and his administration. The thought processes of the Nigerian intervening was in two dimensions: there was a characteristic craving for regional security, however Broad Sani Abacha likewise needed international authenticity for his regime which was being undermined by the international critics. The underlying progress of the peace keeping clouded a portion of the disturbing parts of the effort - the absence of an international order, the utilization of mercenaries in peace keeping tasks and the extremely undemocratic nature of the Nigerian system.

Theoretical Framework: Political Realism Theory

Political realism recognises states as principal actors in the international system, and also recognises that they desire to acquire power and promote their national interests (Waltz 1979).

In line with this realist assumption, Nigeria has at various times deployed its military to project its national interest as seen by its interventions in the Liberia and Sierra-Leone conflicts under the ECOMOG (Osakwe and Audu 2017).

This theory suggests that in Nigeria's quest for international dominance, power and positioning in the global diplomatic system; and in order to command authority in the African setting, and not just to ensure peace; Nigeria has been involved in many military interventions.

This theory is only being used due to the recent events in ECOWAS where different states are pulling out and weakening the base, and in light of Nigeria's own personal security challenges; these would make more peacekeeping contributions to look political if the local issues have not been sufficiently handled.

Methodology

This study was done using the literature discourse and was done across board in order to extrapolate findings from secondary data. The study was done using secondary data in UN Databases and extracts from their websites that have been reviewed and published by authors.

Although, Liberia and Sierra Leone served as a reference point; the study is focused on all the peacekeeping operations that involves the both the ECOMOG, and the United Nations that Nigeria participated in.

The secondary data was extracted due to relevance and recency in achieving the objectives of the study which is to outline the efforts at Nigeria at involving the Armed Forces in being deployed at different points to ensure world peace and regional security both within the ECOWAS region and in many other cases not popularly discussed.

Data Analysis

The record of Nigeria's participation in UN Peacekeeping Operations and other regional peacekeeping initiative is summarised in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Nigeria’s Participation in Peacekeeping Missions 1960 to Date

	Name of Mission	Acronym	Year of Participation	Personnel in the Mission
	(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)
1	UN Operation in Congo	ONUC	1960-1964	Peacekeeping contingent
2	UN Security Force in West New Guinea	UNSF	1962-1983	Military Observers
3	UN India-Pakistan Observer Mission	UNIPOM	1965-1966	Military Observers
4	OAU Mission Intervention Force in Chad	Operation Harmony I and II	1981-1982	Peacekeeping Contingent
5	UN Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group		1988-1991	Military Observers
6	UN Angola Verification Mission	UNAVEM I, II and III	1989-1995	Military Observers
7	UN Transition Assistance Group in Namibia	UNTAG	1989-1990	Military Observers
8	UN Mission for Referendum in Western Sahara	MINURSO	1991 – 2017	Military Observers
9	UN Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission	UNIKOM	1991	Military Observer
10	UN Interim Mission Kosovo	UNMIK	1991	Military Observer
11	UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia	UNTAC	1992-1993	Military Observer
12	UN Operation in Somalia	UNOSOM I and II	1992-1995	Peacekeeping Contingent
13	UN Mission in Sierra Leone	UNAMSIL	1999-2006	Peacekeeping Contingent
14	OAU Monitoring Group in Rwanda		1992-1993	Civil experts
15	UN Protection Force in Yugoslavia	UNPROFOR	1992-1993	Military Observers
16	UN Operation in Mozambique	UNOSOM	1992-1995	Military Observers
17	UN Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina	UNMIBH	1993	Military Observers
18				
19	UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda	UNAMIR	1993-1995	Military Observers
20	UN Confidence Restoration Operation in Croatia	UNCRO	1993-1995	Military Observers
21	Nigerian Peacekeeping Force in Tanzania (Bilateral)	TAPKM	1994	Peacekeeping Contingent
22	UN Mission of Observers in Tajikistan	UNMOT	1994-2000	Military Observers
23	UN Group in the Aouzou strip, Libya/Chad	UNASOG	1994	Military Observers

24	UN Prevention Deployment in Macedonia	UNPREDEP	1995-2000	Military Observers
25	UN Transitional Administration for Eastern Slovenia, Baranja, Western Sirmium in Croatia	UNTAES	1996-1998	Military Observers
26	UN Observer Mission in Angola	MONUA	1997	Military Observer
27	ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG)-Liberia	Operation Harmony	1990-1997	Peacekeeping/Peace Enforcement Contingent
28	ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG)-Sierra Leone	Operation Sandstorm	1997-2000	Peacekeeping/Peace Enforcement Contingent
29	UN Mission in Democratic Republic of Congo	MONUC	2000 – Date	Military Observers/Staff Officers
30	UN Civilian Police Support Group, Croatia		1998	Police Peacekeeping Contingent
31	UN Transition Authority in East Timor	UNTAET	2000	Military Observers
32	UN Mission in Liberia	UNMIL	2003 -2018	Peacekeeping Contingent and Military Observers
33	AU Mission in Sudan	AMIS	2004-2007	Peacekeeping Contingent and Military Observers
34	UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti	MINUSTAH	2004	Military Observer
35	UN-AU Hybrid Mission in Darfur	UNAMID	2007 – Date	Peacekeeping Contingent (2007-2015) and Military Observers
36	UN Interim Security Force for Abyei	UNISFA	2011-2017	Military Observer
37	UN Mission in South Sudan	UNMISS	2011-Date	Military Observers and Staff Officers
38	UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali	MINUSMA	2013 – Date	Military Observers and Staff Officers
39	UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Central African Republic	MINUSCA	2014-Date	Military Observers
40	ECOWAS Mission in Guinea Bissau	ECOMIB	2015-Date	Peacekeeping Contingent
41	ECOWAS Mission in the Gambia	ECOMIG	2017 –Date	Peacekeeping Contingent

Source: Dauda, M. et al. 2017; Marthins Luther Agwai Peacekeeping Centre, Jaji-Nigeria.

From the Table 1 above, it can be seen that the country participated in a total of 31 UN Peacekeeping Missions and seven regional and sub-regional peacekeeping engagements. Thereafter, Table 2 below shows Nigeria’s personnel contribution to UN peacekeeping. Nigeria was the highest contributor to UN peacekeeping missions in the Year 2000 and was rated among the top ten contributors of peacekeepers to the UN Missions from 1999 to 2015 (UN Department of Peace Operation, 2020; Bove and Smith 2011).

Table 2: Nigeria's Personnel Contribution to UN Peacekeeping Operations 1960-2019

Year (As at December)	Troops Contingent	Military Observer/Staff Officer	Police Contingent	Total Personnel	Ranking among Contributors
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
1960	80	-	-	80	-
1961	80	-	-	80	-
1962	80	-	-	80	-
1963-1970	-	-	-	-	-
1971	-	5	-	5	-
1972	-	5	-	5	-
1973	-	2	-	2	-
1974	-	2	-	2	-
1975	-	3	-	3	-
1976	-	3	-	3	-
1977	-	2	-	2	-
1978	-	2	-	2	-
1979-1986	-	-	-	-	-
1987	-	3	-	3	-
1988	-	3	-	3	-
1989	-	2	-	2	-
1990 (November)	-	2	-	2	-
1991	-	23	-	23	-
1992	887	29	192	1108	-
1993	618	22	34	674	-
1994	386	65	154	605	-
1995	148	52	30	230	-
1996	-	33	45	78	-
1998	0	18	35	53	-
1999	1560	13	33	1606	3 rd
2000	3290	24	211	3525	1 st
2001	3321	52	95	3468	3 rd
2002	3159	50	68	3277	3 rd
2003	3228	61	72	3361	3 rd
2004	2586	78	226	2890	8 th
2005	1954	84	374	2412	9 th
2006	1963	80	365	2408	9 th
2007	1974	90	630	2694	7 th
2008	4903	88	917	5908	4 th
2009	4915	86	806	5807	4 th
2010	4888	76	877	5841	4 th
2011	4948	75	726	5749	5 th

2012	4842	63	536	5441	5 th
2013	4134	53	649	4836	5 th
2014	2503	33	394	2930	8 th
2015	2520	38	396	2954	10 th
2016	1708	58	405	2171	14 th
2017	455	37+35(Staff Officer)	349	876	29 th
2018	166	31+27(Staff Officer)	203	427	42 th
2019	63	22+38(Staff Officer)	194	317	43 th

Sources: 1. Martins Luther Agwai Peacekeeping Centre, Jaji - Nigeria.

2. UN Department of Peace Operation, 2021 (Available at: <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/troop-and-police-contributors> [Accessed: 17 February 2021]).

Based on the statistics indicated in that table, Nigeria contributed more peacekeepers to UN Peacekeeping operations than Egypt and South Africa. Nigeria was also among the top four UN contributors to peacekeeping at various times between 1999 and 2010. Table 2 shows a gradual decline in Nigeria's contribution to UN peacekeeping from 2016 onwards. The country contributed only 317 peacekeepers to UN operations as of December 2019 and was ranked 43rd among contributing states to UN peacekeeping operations (UN Department of Peace Operation, 2020).

Conclusion

Nigeria, being the giant of Africa has been involved in ensuring peace in not just neighbouring countries but in the whole world due to contributions in terms of finance and manpower to UN Peacekeeping Operations and ECOMOG Peacekeeping Operations.

Nigeria is therefore a country that is vying to ensure international and collective regional security and world peace through ensuring that the military budget and manpower is robust and ensuring that there are military advancements and investments to boost both internal, bilaterall and external security. Even though authors might have argued these peace operations political, this paper shows a deep commitment by the Nigerian state towards world peace.

Recommendations

The following recommendations are hereby put forward for the Nigerian Foreign Affairs and Peacekeeping Operations:

- The armed forces of Nigeria should come up with a suitable doctrine for Peacekeeping Operation. This would impact positively on all aspects (organization, training, leader development, material, and selection of soldiers) of the armed forces of Nigeria's preparations for and conducting peace keeping operations.
- Standardization of Nigerian Army units in terms of manpower would be a positive step towards equipping the Nigerian Army for effective participation in peacekeeping operation.
- There should be robust technological advancement and tracking systems to combat modern-day terrorism as most coups and wars are currently sparked by insurgents and terrorist-sponsored troops.
- There should be continuity and profound efforts at internal security in order to maintain an proper international image during world peace summits.

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