

# **DIPLOMACY AS AN ELEMENT OF NATIONAL POWER**

**LECTURE DELIVERED**

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# Introduction

- ▶ This lecture is structured on the following four (4) modules:
  - a. **Definition of the Concepts of Diplomacy and National Power;**
  - b. **Nigeria's Foreign Policy; Evolution, Principles, Objectives, Goals and Determinants;**
  - c. **Diplomacy as an element of National Power. The Nigerian Example;**
  - d. **Conclusion.**

# Diplomacy

- ▶ Diplomacy is one of the central /important concepts in the study and conduct of international relations and has no generally acceptable definition attributed to it;
- ▶ A good definition of diplomacy is given by Sir Ernest Satow in his work “ Guide to Diplomatic Practice” as the application of intelligence and tact to the conduct of official relations between government of independent states;
- ▶ Quincy Wright in the “ Study of International Relations” defines diplomacy as the employment of tact, shrewdness and skill in negotiation between nations;
- ▶ Harold Nicholson in “ Diplomacy” defines the concept as the management of international relations in a manner that the national interest of a state is adequately and reasonably protected, articulated and promoted, especially through peaceful means of negotiation.

# Definition of Concept: Diplomacy (Cont.)

- Karl Von Clausewitz, a renowned Prussian military strategist debated that diplomacy does not only entails peaceful negotiations, as he categorically insists that diplomacy does not cease in war times; and that war itself is a continuation of diplomacy by other means;
- Diplomacy is further categorized into bilateral and multilateral. Bilateral diplomacy is the form of engagement, in which two (2) partners create a network that covers economic , political , military and socio-cultural dynamics;
- Multilateral Diplomacy is the engagements by more than two (2) states in regional, continental and global international organizations such as ECOWAS, the African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN);
- Diplomacy is the main instrument of Foreign Policy which consists the broader goals and strategies that guide a state's interaction with the rest of the world.

## Definition of Concept ; National Power

- National power is the sum of all elements, including (i) population, (ii) natural and human resources, (iii) military capability (iv) level of diplomatic engagements,(v) economic capability and viability,(vi) accountability and stability of political and social institutions which are available to a nation in the pursuit of national interest and objectives;
- Through the elements or components of national power nations secure or achieve the goals and objectives of its national interest in relation with other countries;
- Some powerful nations sometimes employ the use of threat of force or influence over other less powerful nations to pursue national objectives which are of paramount interest to the powerful nations.

# Nigeria's Foreign Policy: Evolution, Principles, Objectives, Goals and Determinants

- ▶ The origin of Nigeria's Foreign Policy can be traced to September, 1957 when the Ministry of Foreign Affairs was set up as a small unit in the office of late Sir Abubarka Tafawa Balewa, Nigeria's first Prime Minister and Head of Government from October 1960 to January 1966.
- ▶ The office, with initial personnel strength of twelve (12) officers, popularly known as the twelve Apostles, who were also the first generation of Foreign Service Officers in the country, was responsible for the conduct of Foreign and Commonwealth Relations.

## **Nigeria's Foreign Policy: Evolution, Principles, Objectives, Goals and Determinants (Cont.)**

- ▶ At Nigeria's independence in 1960, the Division with the Office of the Prime Minister was renamed the Ministry of Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.
- ▶ On attainment of a Republican status in 1963, it was re-designed Ministry of External Affairs.
- ▶ While in 1989, it became the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

## Nigeria's Foreign Policy: Evolution, Principles, Objectives, Goals and Determinants (Cont.)

- ▶ The historical antecedents of Nigeria's Foreign Policy owe much to the vision of Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa, when he addressed the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), upon the admission of Nigeria as the 99th member of the world body on 7th October, 1960, of the desire of Nigeria to remain on friendly terms with all nations, as well as participate actively in the affairs of all international institutions.
- ▶ The late Prime Minister, also spoke about Africa being the centre-piece of Nigeria's Foreign Policy, as Africa must claim first attention in Nigeria's external relations.



## **Nigeria's Foreign Policy: Evolution, Principles, Objectives, Goals and Determinants (Cont.)**

- ▶ The words of late Alhaji Tafawa Balewa laid the foundation of Nigeria's Foreign Policy thrust pursued by successive governments (both Military and Civilian) from Aguiyi Ironsi in (1966) to Muhammadu Buhari in (2019).

## Principles, Objectives and goals of Nigeria's Foreign Policy

- ▶ At independence, Nigeria's Foreign Policy was essentially tailored to reflect our commitment to the well-being of all African states; particularly in the area of peaceful coexistence, prevention of violence, restoration of peace, economic development, wellbeing of Nigerian citizens, and more importantly, the maintenance of peace and security all over the world.
- ▶ For this purpose, the following eight (8) cardinal principles were discerned to guide the operationalization and application of Nigeria's Foreign Policy:

## Principles, Objectives and goals Of Nigeria's Foreign Policy (Cont.)

- ▶ i. Maintenance of friendly relations with all states, including peaceful coexistence;
- ▶ ii. Respect for the territorial integrity and independence of all states;
- ▶ iii. Sovereign equality of States;
- ▶ iv. Non-alignment;
- ▶ v. Respect for the principles enshrined in the UN Charter;
- ▶ vi. Pacific settlement of disputes;
- ▶ vii. De-colonization; and
- ▶ viii. Promotion of Pan-Africanism and African Unity.

## Principles, Objectives and goals Of Nigeria's Foreign Policy (Cont.)

- ▶ The objectives of Nigeria's Foreign Policy, running through all administrations from 1960 to date, and also clearly specified in Chapter II, Section 19 of the 1999 Constitution include the following:
- ▶ The defence of Nigeria's National interest including its sovereignty, territorial integrity and national independence, as well as the creation of the necessary economic, political, social and cultural conditions to secure the independence of Nigeria and other African countries;
- ▶ Promotion of the rights of all blacks and other under colonial domination;
- ▶ Promotion of African integration and support of African Unity;

# Determinants of Nigeria's Foreign Policy

- ▶ The successful formulation and projection of every nation's Foreign Policy is largely determined by the country's domestic factors/environments.
- ▶ Indeed, it is a combination of both the domestic and external environment that influences and determines Nigeria's world view
- ▶ Therefore, the under-listed eight (8) domestic factors have overtime shaped Nigeria's Foreign Policy formulation and projection:
- ▶ Social, cultural and religious diversity and the federal structure of the government;
- ▶ The conservative-radial dichotomy in the debate of Nigeria's foreign policy, especially in the post-independence period

## Determinants of Nigeria's Foreign Policy (Cont.)

- ▶ (iii) The specific domestic priorities of the Federal Government
- ▶ (iv) The state of the Nigerian economy;
- ▶ (v) The specific domestic priorities of the Federal Government;
- ▶ (vi) Shifts between the military and civilian government
- ▶ (vii) The roles of the National Assembly; and
- ▶ (viii) The personality of the Head of State, President and Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces.

## Determinants of Nigeria's Foreign Policy (Cont.)

- ▶ These elements/determinants constitute a set of core national values, goals, aims, objectives and aspirations that our defence and foreign policies seek to defend, advance or achieve in our country's relations with the rest of the world.
- ▶ They do not only serve as a platform for the promotion of national power, but as a compass in our diplomatic voyage

# Diplomacy as an element of National Power: The Nigerian example

- ▶ The success of foreign policy, as well as full attainment of the interest of a nation is largely dependent on the quality of diplomacy such a nation takes to other foreign capitals;
- ▶ Diplomacy pursued and delivered in a timely and cost effective manner, can bring the ends and means of foreign policy into harmony with the available resources of national power;
- ▶ Therefore, Various Nigerian administrations from 1960 till date have deployed, with maximum effect, diplomacy (both civil and military) to project Nigeria not just as a “big brother”, but also as a dependable brother regionally, continentally and globally;
- ▶ Nigeria’s diplomatic strength has been graphically demonstrated in numerous capacities, especially in intervening and resolving crisis and conflicts in Africa and beyond.



## **Diplomacy as an element of National Power: The Nigerian example (cont.)**

- ▶ Nigeria's security, independence and prosperity are inextricably linked to those of our immediate and strategic neighbours both in the West Africa sub-region and the entire African continent.
- ▶ Therefore, Nigeria's diplomacy has been informed to rally via the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the African Union (AU), and the United Nations Organizations (UNO), to promote economic integration, uphold democracy/good governance, as well as liberate the Africa from poverty, underdevelopment, conflicts and wars.
- ▶ Nigeria also spearheaded the formation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM), with a view to promote economic and political stability on the continent.

## Diplomacy as an element of National Power: The Nigerian example (cont.)

- ▶ Nigeria also contributed significant human, financial and logistical support in containing conflicts, as well as promoting democracy and good governance through Peace Keeping, Mediation and Reconciliation measures in numerous African countries including Angola, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Chad, Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, the Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, Zimbabwe, just to name a few.
- ▶ Through the Technical Aid Corp (TAC) and Directorate of Directorate of Technical Cooperation in Africa (DTCA), Nigeria is also providing support to other African countries for cross-fertilization of ideas, and promotion of human capacity development.

# Diplomacy as an element of National Power: The Nigerian example

- ▶ Through both bilateral and multilateral diplomacy Nigeria is showing great interest, as well as playing active roles in addressing broad issues with global implications such as;
- ▶ (i) The promotion of International Cooperation for the consolidation of Peace and Security,
- ▶ (ii) The fight against Terrorism and illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons;
- ▶ (iii) The call of a new and more equitable International Economic/World Order;
- ▶ (iv) Climate Change and Global Warming;
- ▶ (v) Irregular Migration/Human Trafficking;
- ▶ (vi) Corruption and illicit financial flows;
- ▶ (vii) Poverty and Underdevelopment, among others.

## Diplomacy as an element of National Power: The Nigerian example (cont.)

- ▶ Nigeria's commitment to International cooperation for consolidation of mutual peace placed us in the forefront of troops contributing nations to support the United Nations Sub-Regional, Regional, Continental, and Global led Peacekeeping Operations.
- ▶ Nigeria had contributed large troops, who had served under different United Nations Peacekeeping Missions, namely; United Nations-African Union Hybrid Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), UN Iraq-Kuwait Observation Mission (UNIKOM), etc.
- ▶ At a time, Nigeria remains the third largest troops contributing country to the United Nations peacekeeping operations worldwide, while as at 2020, it dropped to 6<sup>th</sup> place with 4,684 in humanity's service outside its shore.

## Diplomacy as an element of National Power: The Nigerian example (cont.)

- ▶ Nigeria is an active member of, while many notable Nigerians are heading numerous Regional, Continental and Global International Institutions including; ECOWAS, African Union (AU), United Nations Organization (UNO), Commonwealth of Nations, the Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC), African Development Bank (ADB), Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), World Trade Organization (WTO), G15, ICC, UNCTAD, IMO, OPCW, etc.
- ▶ Nigeria is also playing active roles in sustaining these institutions through our human, financial and materials commitments.
- ▶ Therefore, our active and dynamic diplomatic engagements in these institutions have brought us global prestige, power, respect, development, peace and progress

## Diplomacy as an element of National Power: The Nigerian example (cont.)

- ▶ Through aggressive economic and cultural diplomacy, Nigeria is presently engaged in expanding its economic base, as well as attracting Foreign Direct Investments in manufacturing, agriculture, infrastructure, entertainment, tourism, among others.
- ▶ The objective is to propel economic growth and development, generate employment for the looming population, eradicate poverty eradication, provide security and protection for Nigerians citizens at home and abroad.

## Diplomacy as an element of National Power: The Nigerian example (cont.)

- ▶ For this purpose, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant government agencies are signing, as well as facilitating the revival of some of the bilateral agreements on mutually beneficial areas negotiated with friendly countries such as the United States of America, Germany, China, Canada, South Africa, the Russian Federation, Indonesia, Japan, South Korea, United Kingdom, among others.
- ▶ Similarly, our proactive engagements in multilateral /conference diplomacy has also continued to deepen the gains **accruable** to the government in the areas of trade and investment, energy, security, agriculture, democracy and good governance, the fight against terrorism, the provision of social infrastructures.

## Diplomacy as an element of National Power: The Nigerian example (cont.)

- We are also leveraging on the tremendous respect and goodwill the Nigeria's President enjoys regionally, continentally and globally, to reach out personally to fellow heads of state and government, in getting them to supporting the country's interests at various international platforms.
- This includes the appointment of Nigerians in international organizations, with particular emphasis on the recent re-election of Akinwumi Adesina as President of the African Development Bank (ADB), election of Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala as Director-General of the World Trade Organization (WTO), as well as Bankole Adeoye as the African Union Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security (PAPS).
- Finally, the Ministry is also working with relevant agencies to reposition our cultural diplomacy, an inevitable soft power in all facet of it, using the film industries through the umbrella of Nollywood, religious tourism, elegant and breathtaking traditional attires.



# Conclusion

- ▶ We need to intensify efforts towards achieving a more proactive and responsive Foreign Policy and diplomacy in order to increase our global visibility, as well as our active engagements with the rest of the world.
- ▶ There is no doubt that the Ministry is brilliantly doing so in projecting diplomacy as a valuable element of Nigeria's national power in West Africa, Africa as a continent and at the multilateral arena, particularly at the United Nations.
- ▶ Finally, through visionary leadership and synergies with MDAs such as the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign Ministry will continue to do its utmost best to preserve Nigeria's achievements as we march towards a vibrant future beyond 21st century challenges and opportunities.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
ATTENTION**