

## **IMPACTS OF NON-MILITARY THREATS TO NATIONAL SECURITY IN NIGERIA**

**Felix Iduma Oko**

Department of Student Affairs  
Akanu Ibiam Federal Polytechnic, Unwana

**Nwosu Chinedu Anthony**

Department of Economics  
Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri  
&

**Chukwu Immaculata**

Department of Economics  
Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri

### **Abstract**

*This article examined the impacts of non-military threats as a cause to national insecurity in Nigeria. It also studied the nexus between national security and human security with a critique on the realist conceptualisation of security. Using the doctrinal approach hinged on exposition and analysis, the findings of the paper indicated that the core attributes and responsibilities of the state system such as territoriality, maintenance of law and order and the protection of lives and property are being challenged by numerous non-military threats in Nigeria. The preponderance and ubiquity of these non-military military threats such as poverty, hunger, drug trafficking, kidnapping, environmental degradation, immigration and arms smuggling is eroding the national security landscape of Nigeria. Thus, the paper recommended among other things, improving education and promoting good governance; confronting the scourge of HIV/AIDs and other endemic diseases through the provision of free and adequate health facilities. The paper also drew attention to the imperativeness of security sector reforms in Nigeria.*

**Keywords:** *Security, national security, human security, non-military threats, good governance.*

## **INTRODUCTION**

One of the most central challenges of academic discourse in contemporary Nigeria today is to explain the endemic, protracted and perennial non-military threats to national security that have engulfed the country since the end of the internecine Civil War in 1970. In a radical departure from the vicious Civil War and the recent upsurge of militancy in the Niger Delta region and insurgency in the North Eastern part of Nigeria, the present national security landscape of Nigeria is characterized by non-military socio-economic threats such as diseases, poverty, corruption and financial mismanagement, environmental degradation, illegal immigration and arms smuggling, drug trafficking, kidnapping, armed robbery, hunger and starvation. These non-military threats cut across vertically and horizontally between “different socio-ethnic and cultural groups that aggregate within the national territory of Nigeria” (Egwu, 2012, p.406).

These non-military threats, which fall under the broader human security subfield of security studies, are having unprecedented humanitarian impacts to the socio-economic and national security psyche of Nigeria. Of significant concern however, is that these non-military threats have considerably weakened the internal coherence of Nigeria and her ruling elites thereby weakening the capacity of the country to respond to the challenges of globalization and development. For while it can be argued that some of these non-military threats are exogenous and beyond the capacity of the ruling elites, others have been exacerbated by sheer greed, avarice and maladministration from Nigeria’s political leaders since the advent of democratic governance in 1999.

The challenges posed by these non-military threats to national security become more enigmatic given the explanation that held sway in explaining one of the causes of insecurity in Nigeria to the determined system of resource allocation by the federal government. Then, the conventional wisdom was that endemic insecurity in Nigeria was largely a consequence of an interventionist state, and, in particular, the way in which the central allocative role of the state fueled factional politics in the desperate effort by each faction to capture the state (Egwu, 2012). The continued threat to Nigeria's national security caused by non-military scourge even when there has been massive rolling back of the influence of the state in several sectors of the economic since the era of Structural Adjustment Programme (SAP) and privatization in the 1980s calls attention to the need to re-examine the nexus between the performance of the ruling elites and the rise of these non-military threats in Nigeria's contemporary national security discourse. This is germane given that it is the responsibility of the state to secure the lives and properties of its citizens as well as protects its territoriality, sovereignty and the guarantee of its socio-economic and political stability (Adams & Ogbonnaya, 2014).

Since the mid 2000s, national security crisis in Nigeria has worsened with the rise of militant groups in the Niger Delta region and Boko Haram insurgency in the North Eastern region of the country (Adams & Ogbonnaya, 2014). This twin security challenges that the country is facing have led to the obvious neglect of non-military threats that portends greater danger to the national security of Nigeria. While some scholars have argued that the rise of insurgency and militancy in Nigeria is a response to years of socio-economic deprivation caused by bad governance and multinational oil companies, others as (Adams & Ogbonnaya, 2014, p.21) argued:

...have attributed this direct military threat to Nigeria's security from non state actors from the fall out of the on-going global attempt to radicalize Islam and instigate global jihadism with the ultimate aim of challenging the Westernization of the international system by the United States and its European allies.

The arguments in this paper have been developed in five sections. The first section is the introduction. Section two which is the literature review examines the theorization of the concept of national security through the lens of realism. Human security which also broadly covers most of these non-military threats is also critically appraised. The purpose of the literature review is to show in the first place, the inherent pitfalls in terms of explaining national security through the narrow military security approach. Secondly, and more importantly, is to show the inappropriateness of the theory of realism in the explanation of non-military threats to Nigeria's national security challenge. Section three identifies and scrutinizes the impacts of non-military threats to national security in Nigeria. Section four proposes some solutions to overcoming the threats posed by these non-military factors to Nigeria's national security. Section five concludes the paper.

### **1. CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION**

The meaning of security is varied and complex. Buzan (cited in Sheehan 2005) states that security is an "essentially contested concept". The subject has remained the most controversial in International Relations because it has been defined differently by a wide range of scholars and statesmen. Security cannot be fully understood without linking it to a referent object. Buzan and Hansen (2009, p.10) opined that: "...security is about constituting something that needs to be secured: the nation, the state, the individual, the ethnic group, the environment or the planet itself".

The evolution of security as a sub-discipline in International Relations dates back from the Second World War up till the end of the Cold War. During this time, security was basically studied in the context of military and war studies. It was limited in terms of the military capability of states or states in warlike conditions. Wars, alliances, deterrence and diplomacy were some of the means used to suppress any existential threat facing the state. However, this narrow, myopic and realist view of security, has come under intense criticism since after the Cold War. Several scholars and statesmen have argued that the concept of security should be broadened and expanded to include other referent objects and not just the state. The debate between protagonists and antagonists of broadening the concept of security is one that has given rise to a considerable amount of literature on security.

Security as a topic in the social sciences has a multiplicity of definitions. Most of the definitions are normative and epistemologically associated to an existential threat to one or more referent objects. Robert Cox (cited in Sheehan, 2005) claimed that 'theory is for someone and for some purpose', so too is the definition of security. Scholars and policymakers have defined the concept from varied positions based on the theoretical school of thought they belong. Walt (1991, p.212) defines security studies as:

the study of the threat, use and control of military force. It explores the conditions that make the use of force more likely, the ways that the use of force affects individuals, states, and societies and the specific policies that states adopts in order to prepare for, prevent, or engage in war.

Taken the definition further, Zebadi (cited in Idris, 2013) observes that the concept of security has always been associated with the safety and survival of state and its citizens from harm and destruction. He further explains that security is not limited to the preparedness of the defense and security forces while subsuming the safety of the citizens of the state (Idris, 2013). It is in view of this that Fayeye (2007) asserts that security of a nation requires moving away from the traditional militaristic and state-centric definition of security towards human security. To him, security encompasses the personal and communal state of being secured from a wide range of critical and pervasive threats. In line with this assertion, Nnoli (2006) sees national security as a cherished value associated with physical safety of individuals, groups and nation-states. Objectively, security denotes safety from threats, anxiety and danger. It is also subjective and psychological to the extent that it can be measured by the absence of fear that threat, anxiety or danger will occur. Accordingly, Zebadi (cited in Idris, 2013) concludes that security is thus physical and psychological, objective and subjective as well as multi-dimensional; social, economic, political and environmental.

Bal-Tal and Jacobson (1998) expanded the conclusion of Zebadi on security by identifying two main approaches to security studies namely, political and socio-psychological approaches. The political approach sees security as an essential precondition of order for an individual and the society. Individuals and groups must strive in a secured environment which allows them to pursue their aims devoid of threats. The central argument of this approach is that the state is duty bound to provide security to its citizens, both on internal and external levels. On the domestic level, the state has to create economic, societal, cultural, environmental, and educational conditions, which assure life to its citizens (Bal-Tal & Jacobson, 1998). On the international level, the state has to defend the citizens against possible harm from external forces (Buzan, 1991). This approach

is primarily concerned with military alliances and foreign policy. As comprehensive as this approach may be, it has one major flaw. It negates the socio-economic, cultural and psychological issues, which undoubtedly, are imperative to security studies.

On the other hand, the socio-psychological approach contends that people as individuals and/or as groups members experience security, or insecurity, with regard to their own personal life and/or with regard to their collective entity and its systems. Security thus, is psychological experience (Adams & Ogonnaya, 2014)

Taken from another dimension, Badmus (2005) considers national security as the highest level of priority in the hierarchy of interests that a government has towards ensuring that the country is safe and stable for the citizens. It is one of the core values that states cherish as non-negotiable, and that do not admit compromises (Badmus, 2005). From this perspective, politicians and policymakers tend to define and conceptualize national security in highly militarized terms by emphasizing the building of nation's military hardware and capabilities.

This approach portrays the security thinking in Nigeria whereby emphasis is laid on the criminality of the people rather than what turns them into criminals. This approach views insecurity not from its causes but from its effects; the response to this approach is empowering the police and military. Transcending the characterization of security in politico-military terms, Badmus (2005) avers that the socio-economic dimension of national security should be given due attention. According to Badmus (2005), economic security pre-supposes the existence of

political stability, under which the nation can produce, accumulate and distribute its resources- natural, manufactured and human, is central to national security. It is on this premise that McNamara (cited in Abdul-Monem, 1985, P.26) rightly argues thus:

In a modernizing society, security means development, security is not military force though it may involve it, security is not traditional military activity, though it may encompass it; security is not military hardware, though it may include it, security is development and without development there can be no security.

In the light of McNamara assertion, it can be argued that non-military threats to Nigeria's national security are encapsulated in the socio-economic hardship that has bedeviled the country since 1999.

It is for this reason that the MO Ibrahim Foundation (2009 & 2011) definition of security aptly captures the core essence of this paper. The Foundation defines security at the individual and national levels. At the level of an individual, security encompasses safety from domestic political persecution, social unrest and safety of the persons. Others are freedom from violent crimes and human trafficking. At the national level, the Foundation avers that security means safety from cross-border tensions, government involvement in armed conflict and the extent of domestic armed conflict. It is also concerned with the number of political refugees and internally displaced people (Idris, 2013). This paper is concerned with the individual level of security because most prevalent security threats in contemporary Nigeria that affects the safety and survival of individuals or groups of individuals are non-military in nature. In Nigeria, these non-military

threats comprise the rising incidence of armed robbery, kidnapping, oil bunkering, drug trafficking, diseases among others.

From the foregoing analysis, it is evident that different scholars have dissected the concept of security into several components. That notwithstanding, this paper's interest is also to examine national security in tandem with the adverse impacts of non-military threats to Nigeria's national security schematic. In this context therefore, national security, as Okene (2011, p.167) asserts,

implies the ability of Nigeria to protect and develop itself, promote its cherished interest, legitimate values and enhance the standard of living and well being of its people, guests and visitors.

National security is also to Imobighe (1990), an absence to those tendencies which could undermine internal cohesion and corporate existence of the state and its ability to maintain its vital institutions for the promotion of its core values and socio-political and economic objective as well as meet the legitimate aspirations of the people.

## **2. Realism and Security: The Theoretical Nexus**

It is undisputable that dominant paradigms define the dominant trends in the academic debate, research and methodologies as well as policy orientation and practice. Currently, realism in its various manifestations informs the security paradigm. In this article, the resurrection of the theory of realism as a major academic and policy discourse in security studies broadly and human security

specifically is not exceptional. It is meant to unravel the inappropriateness and narrow perspective of security that is inherent whenever realism is used to analyze the concept.

Walt's (1991) definition of security is clearly from the realist and orthodox point of view which focuses on the state as the only referent object. Security as seen by the traditionalists or realists is survival. Survival not to individuals in a state but to the state as a political entity in an anarchical state-system. For the traditionalists, anything that threatens the survival of the state must be tackled with the threat or use of the armed forces.

Prior to and during the Cold War, security was studied and analyzed from this realist perspective in that, "the international system is anarchic in nature and states act to maximize their power or security" (Snyder, 1991, p.1) through the use of their military arsenal. It was for this reason that at the climax of the Cold War, the United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics embarked on massive production and stockpiling of conventional and nuclear weapons not only to guarantee their security and that of their allies, but also to threaten the existence of their adversaries.

Buzan, Waever and De Wilde (1998, p.21) agree with this state-centric view of security when he stated that:

Security is about survival. It is when an issue is presented as posing an existential threat to a designated referent object (traditionally, but not necessarily, the state, incorporating government, territory, and society).

To the realists, when the existence of the state is threatened either from within or outside, the government in power can utilize emergency and drastic measures to combat the seeming aggressor. Realists see military security as the only way the existence of a state can be guaranteed. They preach that a state with well developed and highly trained armed forces is better protected from aggression. They “tend to see all military affairs as instances of security” (Buzan *et al*, 1998, p.22) and argued that anything other than military security should not be treated as a security issue. They see states as the only objects in global politics that need to be secured. National security is synonymous to military security because once the state is secured; it can then guarantee the security of other collectivities within its boundaries. When we talk of states as the most important referent objects, we are not only looking at their physical boundaries but to all other features of the states as prescribed by the Westphalian States-system. Features such as their governments (legitimate or illegitimate), their populations and their political sovereignty. If any of these characteristics is facing existential threats, then the security of the state is threatened.

Arguments for the narrowing of security gained enough prominence prior and during the Cold War where the military capability of the US and the USSR was determined by the nature and quantity of nuclear weapons in their military arsenals. Long after the Cold War, the debate for or against the broadening the concept of security has remained unabated. Though realists accept the broadening of the concept to other non military sectors, they still maintain that this should be link to threat to the existence of the state. As Chipman (cited in Buzan *et al*, 1998, p.3) argued:

The structuring element of strategic analysis must be the possible use of force...Non military aspects of

security may occupy more of the strategist's time, but the need for peoples, nations, states or alliances to procure, deploy, engage or withdraw military forces must remain a primary purpose of the strategic analyst's inquiries.

Despite this seeming shift of position by the traditionalists as acknowledged by Chipman, the state still remains the most important referent object and the use of military apparatus to maintain the territorial as well as the political sovereignty of the state remains sacrosanct. Walt's definition of security studies "as the study of the threat, use, and control of military force" (Walt, 1991, p.212) further cemented the argument because the other non military sectors proposed by the proponents of broadening have no relevance if they do not relate to military issues. Walt (1991, p.213) further accentuated this archaic, orthodox and realist argument thus:

Nonmilitary issues deserve sustained attention from scholars and policy-makers, and that military power does not guarantee well-being. But this prescription runs the risk of expanding 'security studies' excessively; by this logic, issues such as pollution, disease, child abuse, or economic recessions could all be viewed as threats to 'security'. Defining the field in this way would destroy its intellectual coherence and make it more difficult to devise solutions to any of these important problems.

Attaching the word "security" to issues in order to convince the ruling government to use emergency measures to solving such problems can be misleading. In pragmatic terms, the ruling government may find it extremely difficult if it tries to use emergency measures to resolve issues emanating from

other non military sectors. Problems from these non military sectors realists have argued can be solved as political problems and not security problems.

Walt's realist definition of security quoted earlier in this article should be accepted in its totality because anarchy as a feature of the Westphalia state-system will always compel states to seek for self-help in order to survive. States in an anarchical system would remain the principal referent objects for a very long time. They have the political power and authority to securitize an issue. Mutimer (1999, p.97) emphasized that:

challenging the traditional understanding of security as state security, in the name of another referent object, be it the individual, some other social grouping or the global environment, is therefore to pose a political challenge to the power of the state and make a claim for the political power of this other referent.

Though proponents of broadening the concept have persistently queried the traditionalist's position of placing the state as the most important referent object, they still acquiesce that the Westphalian state system is anarchical and states will still rely on their armed forces for their internal and external security. In global politics, states still play key roles in determining issues that need to be securitized. Mutimer (1999, pp.80-81) analyses Buzan's acceptance to the uniqueness of the state as the most important referent object thus:

Buzan continued to accept that anarchy, as generally understood in realist approaches to International Relations, placed formidable constraints on security, the first of which was that states are the principal

referent object of security because they are both the framework of order and the highest source of governing authority.

If proponents of broadening acknowledge the pivotal position of the state in an anarchical state system and the importance of the military in safeguarding the state, then why argue that the concept of security should be broadened to other non military sectors? If the military structures of the state are weak, efforts made in the other non military sectors can be undermined by conflicts. Buzan agreed to the important role the military plays in national security when he (cited in Mutimer, 1999, p.81) warned that

...because the use of force can wreak major undesired changes very swiftly, military threats are traditionally accorded the highest priority in national security concerns. Military action can wreck the work of centuries in all other sectors.

### **3. IDENTIFYING AND SCRUTINIZING THE IMPACTS OF NON MILITARY THREATS TO NIGERIA'S NATIONAL SECURITY**

Having looked at national security from the theoretical perspective of realism, one would agree that the characterization of security transcends the politico-military domain. It is on this premise that, we shall at this juncture, look at the various non-military threats to Nigeria's national security. It is imperative to note that these non-military threats are so interrelated and they stem from endemic divisions aggravated by rapid socio-economic changes and deteriorating economic conditions to environmental degradation.

- **Poverty and Unemployment**

Poverty and unemployment are socio-economic factors that constitute a serious non-military threat to the national security of Nigeria. Generally, poverty according to (Thomas, 2008) is the lack of material and non material needs. It is a situation where people do not have the money to buy adequate food or satisfy other basic needs. Poverty is one of the complicating factors affecting the possibility of attaining the noble attributes of national security. In the sense that poverty may undermine peace by creating situations that contribute to the abuse of human rights as a result of inequality and inequitable distribution of resources (Salih, 2008).

Successive governments in Nigeria have consistently failed to provide the basic needs of life such as food, housing, water supply and transportation to the citizenry. The inability of the government to avail a greater part of the population these basic amenities has forced the people to take certain unwholesome acts in order to eke a living (Badmus, 2005). From the year 2000 to the present, the discourse on poverty as a non-military threat to national security in Nigeria is rife because the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), in which eradication of poverty is one of the targets, have remained a mirage, and the various administrations appear to be in an eternal struggle to address the UNDP eclectic approach to national security which emphasizes human security in general and poverty in particular (Osakwe, 2014).

In the same vein, since the glut in global oil prices, the Nigerian economy has been facing a downturn that has resulted in mass unemployment of the youths who end up as recruits for ethnic militias. The frustrated youths are manipulated by some unscrupulous political leaders to cause mayhem in

support of certain parochial interests (Idris, 2013). Osakwe (2014, p.27) succinctly presented a sobering data on youth unemployment in Nigeria thus:

With an approximated population of about 170 million, of which about 67 million are unemployed; 80 percent of the unemployed are uneducated and tertiary institutions turning out about 4.5 million graduates without a job.

The implication of such high level of youth unemployment in Nigeria portends grave danger for Nigeria's national security.

- **Hunger and Starvation**

Broadly speaking, there are two schools of thought with regard to hunger, the nature focused-approach which identifies the problem largely as one of overpopulation, and the entitlement, society-focused approach, which sees the problem more in terms of distribution (Thomas, 2008). Over 14 million people die of hunger each year (Sheehan, 2005). In Nigeria, hunger is deep rooted in the two approaches and it is now a non-military threat to national security. Nigeria's population has been projected to be at approximately 307 million people by 2050 (Thomas, 2008). With such projection, if urgent steps are not taken to increase food production and adhere to strict family-planning policies, the effects of hunger and starvation will be exacerbated in Nigeria.

Since the exploration and exportation of crude oil in commercial quantities agriculture that used to be the mainstay of the Nigerian economy has been relegated to the background. There are little or no government incentives to encourage agriculture. Most rural labourers in Nigeria who have the

possibility and means of growing their food are been obliged to sell their lands and join the wage-based economy. Unlike in the developed countries in the West, Nigeria has no social security arrangement to ensure that access to food is maintained. The resultant effect of this neglect is that most people will suffer from hunger and starvation, and this category of people becomes willing tools in the hands of violent local militias and insurgents. In this regard, hunger has resulted in structural violence by denying access to basic needs to most people in Nigeria. Hunger and the problem of human wellbeing, can be seen as a security issue both in its own right and because it may lie behind many conflicts.

- **Diseases**

Across Nigeria, there are several communicable and non-communicable diseases ravaging the population. Diseases as a non-military threat to national security are not novel. The Ebola outbreak, if not timely curtailed, would have decimated a larger part of the population and plunge the country into a serious health crisis. Of recent, the scourge of HIV/AIDs on the national psyche and national security of Nigeria is profound.

The dominant mode of HIV transmission in Nigeria is heterosexual contact. Yet, many people are reluctant to openly admit that the country faces a crisis of shattered tradition, where poverty, social alienation and political disaffection mean that sexuality is no longer guided by traditional norms. Moreover, the reluctance to speak openly about sex and sexuality has resulted in political and religious leaders struggling to acknowledge the deeper cultural crisis at the root of Nigeria's AIDs epidemic. Consequently, leadership has narrowly defined as simply making references to the epidemic in speeches and passing laws that are neither monitored nor consistently

enforced for efficacy. Yet as effective as law are in offering the perception of protection, they do not stop generalized epidemics (Poku, 2008).

- **Environmental Degradation**

Environmental degradation represents another common non-military threat to Nigeria's national security. Continued and unchecked environmental damage has the potential to lead to disasters in Nigeria with great consequences. For example, the impact of global warming caused primarily by pollution and linked to industrialization and development, has led to the emergence of new forms of cardiac related diseases and the rising of the sea levels (Bakut, 2012). Rising sea levels result into floods, destroying lives and properties and displacing inhabitants. It also leads to hotter climates, which contribute to drought. Drought leads to desertification, as well as soil erosion- common problems in Nigeria. Desertification and erosion, as well as floods, are dangers that have led to conflict in Nigeria due to the scarcity of land for both grazing and farming.

Environmental degradation as a non-military threat to Nigeria's national security is evident. Desertification, soil erosion and water shortage, and the degradation emanating from the activities of multi-national oil companies (MNOCs) by way of exploring and exploiting the environment for crude oil especially in the Niger Delta region are linked to regional conflicts and the rise of armed militancy in the country. In the north-central and north eastern region of Nigeria, there has been an upsurge of conflicts between grazers and herdsmen on the one hand and farmers on the other. These violent conflicts are directly linked with the narrowing of both farming and grazing land due to the pressure of desert encroachment (Bakut, 2012).

To ascertain the severity of the threat posed by environmental degradation to the national security of Nigeria, Jibo et al (cited in Bakut, 2012, p.249) after a careful analysis of 40 conflict situations reveals that:

...32 of them were on landownership, hence a direct link to rights claims on the use of the environment. Another 3 were classified as based on claims of ownership between indigenes and settlers. Both the conflicts in Plateau and Delta states in Nigeria are about claim of ownership of lands (with the resources found in them). These conflicts are in essence over the right to use the environment in pursuit of socio-economic interest of the peoples. Of course the chieftaincy claims (3) and resource control claims (2) are also linked to the usage of the environment.

From the above revelation, it is evident that environmental damage caused either by nature or human activities, is a serious non-military threat to the national security of Nigeria.

- **Immigration and Arms Smuggling**

Nigeria's national security is also threatened by illegal immigration and illicit arms smuggling. With a relatively strong economy within the West African sub-region, Nigeria attracts foreigners who are seeking economic opportunities. Because of the porous Nigerian borders, illegal immigrants come into the country and some constitute themselves into social and security menace (Badmus, 2005). Some of them arriving especially through the North Eastern borders smuggle in weapons which they use for violent crimes and sell them to hoodlums who then use such against our citizens.

The Boko Haram crisis is further exacerbated by huge influx of illegal immigrants (mostly Chadians and Nigeriens who served as foot soldiers for the Boko Haram terrorist group) and illicit arms smuggling into Nigeria by unscrupulous agents working for Boko Haram (Badmus, 2005; Adams & Ogbonnaya, 2014).

#### **4. NIGERIA'S NON-MILITARY THREATS PROBLEMATIC: OVERCOMING THE CHALLENGE**

It is lamentable that Nigeria has not developed an appropriate and effective national security policy to meet the above stated non-military threats. Instead, the Nigerian government depends on:

...ad hoc responses to internal emergencies, in which emphasis is on developing the coercive apparatus of government with little or nothing done in the positive area of removing the causes of socio-economic hardship, poverty, and public alienation. The target of the country's coercive measures includes not only the perpetrators of crimes against the society but also the so-called radicals, opposition elements and other deviants within the society (Imobighe, 1990, p.233).

As a means to overcoming these challenges, the government and relevant stakeholders need to address the following:

- **Improving Education**

Education is a tool of advancement and the domestic and global economy is driven by knowledge and education. Post independence Nigeria still grapples with the herculean task of giving appropriate and qualitative education to her citizenry. The various educational policies and programmes have not successfully worked (Okene, 2011). The massive failures in public exam bodies, incessant strikes in schools and public universities, poor infrastructural provisioning in the tertiary institutions explain Nigeria's malaise in this critical sector.

There is need therefore to reform all sectors of education to make it ethical and globally oriented. An educated person should know that crises and unwarranted conflicts impede development, peaceful co-existence and growth of the society. Adequate provision of facilities and better welfare packages for staff of educational institutions will undoubtedly improve the quality of education in Nigeria. The various educational bodies and agencies should be strengthened, well funded and made to function within universal standards.

The Nigerian government should begin the re-internationalization of Nigerian universities by providing world class infrastructures and modern teaching materials and aids. When the educational sector is appropriately improved, the above mentioned non-military threats will be adequately tackled by an educated and enlightened populace. Such an enlightened and informed citizenry would undoubtedly task the government on issues bordering on their security and welfare.

- **Promoting Good Governance**

There is need to institute and improve good governance at all levels of the geo-political administration in Nigeria. Good governance should enable the people to choose their leaders and representatives. It should enjoin the leaders to govern with sincerity and provide public goods, utility, accountability, effective protection of human rights, provision of portable water, good roads, sound and affordable health facilities, transparency, catering for disables, children and women empowerment (Okene, 2011; Poku, 2008). The ruling political leaders should strive to forbid evils and curb ethnic irredentism, sectional militancy, eschewing religious manipulation and perverted leadership, waging war against money laundering, human kidnapping and all other activities and programs that threaten the security of Nigerians.

In addition, there should be an institution of positive measures to ensure easier access to finance for those seeking to establish medium, small and micro businesses. In the same vein, the Nigerian government needs to redirect public expenditure away from recurrent expenses and unnecessary consumption back to capital projects with the view to impact positively on personal incomes and employment. There is need to redirect all developmental policies and attention towards agriculture by the provision of farming inputs, improved seed varieties, implement soft loans and transport and export facilities. The present fiscal and austerity measures aimed at blocking all leakages of public finance instituted by the present Buhari-led Federal Government is a step in the right direction towards enshrining accountability, transparency and probity in public finance.

Above all, democratic institutions in Nigeria need to be strengthened as a necessary condition to a more secured polity. This implies that as a

democratic state, issues that will reduce conflicts should be promoted. Nigerians should be made aware that secured polity is the responsibility of all citizens. This calls for an increase in public education in national consciousness to accept the challenge to build a strong democracy. With stronger democratic institutions, the non-military threats bedeviling the country's national security sector will be adequately checkmated.

- **Confronting HIV/AIDSs**

As a serious of non-military threat to Nigeria's national security, advocacy is needed to ensure that political leaders include the fight against AIDS among their primary responsibilities, as well as mobilized and support those willing to speak out against stigma and discrimination. There is evidence that many NGOs are but surely mainstreaming HIV/AIDSs in their work, but governments need to do more. In the struggle against HIV/AIDSs, leaders are challenged to use their capacity to influence their people in a positive way to create a national and social environment that hinders the spread of the disease and cares for people living with HIV/AIDSs.

The provision of treatment for people living with HIV/AIDSs in Nigeria and keeping the Nigerian labour force free of HIV infection through an expansion of prevention activities are some other ways in which HIV/AIDSs can be addressed in Nigeria. If the scourge of HIV/AIDSs as a non-military threat to Nigeria's national security is to be adequately addressed, it is clear that advocacy, care and preventive measures in the fight against HIV/AIDSs should be implemented.

- **Undertaking Security Sector Reform**

Broadly, security sector reform is concerned with the efficient use of scarce resources to address issues and problems of insecurity through institutional reforms (Adams & Ogbonnaya, 2014). A frontal and holistic approach to security sector reform in Nigeria in order to overcome the challenges pose by non-military threats will entail the development of effective legislation and the strengthening of governmental institutions capable of providing security, reduce poverty and bridge socio-economic inequalities.

Again, Nigeria must reach an agreement with its immediate territorial neighbours and the entire West African Sub-region and their governments for co-operation in various areas in order to curtail transnational crime and reduce insecurity. Furthermore, for the core security sector, there is the urgent need for a complete and total overhauling of Nigeria's security institutions and agencies to meet the current security challenges. This will entail adequate training, funding and equipping of the security institutions, intensifying regular and timely oversight of core security sectors in order to improve service delivery in the security sector (Adams & Ogbonnaya, 2014).

## **5. CONCLUSION**

Non-military threats to Nigeria's national security are interrelated in rather a complex fashion with the consolidation of Nigeria's political and socio-economic growth and development. Prolong years of military rule and the absence of democratic governance generated most of these non-military threats that have merely served to intensify the conditions of underdevelopment and social injustices that lead to further insecurity. Where then can the vicious cycle be broken? In the past the answers were sought at the level of the international community. But, as is

often noted, the international community has been less part of the solution and rather more a major part of Nigeria's security challenges.

A shift in perspectives to a people-centred approach, reified in the emergent democratic structures and agencies, in civil society initiatives and advocacy and in discourses of Nigeria's intelligentsia, hold out some promise. But the challenges within Nigeria to the tentative consensus of support for the numerous effects of non-military threats to Nigeria's national security clearly remain substantial. The international community's role through NEPAD and the MDGs in providing sustained support for the initiatives being promoted in Nigeria by Nigerians grounded in the human developmental security needs of every day existence faced by millions of Nigerians, therefore remain critical and inescapable.

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