INTERROGATING THE SECURITY-DEVELOPMENT NEXUS: WHAT IMPLICATIONS FOR STRATEGIC GOVERNANCE?

Atelhe George ATELHE¹ and **AL Chukwuma OKOLI²**
¹Department of Political Science, University of Calabar, Calabar, NIGERIA
²Department of Political Science Federal University, Lafia, NIGERIA

Abstract
The security-development nexus has been an important problematic in contemporary security cum development discourses. The thinking around this "nexus" has tremendously influenced the way that both security and development have been conceptualized and administered. By way of a descriptive analysis, predicated on selected literature, this paper revisits the security-development nexus with the intent to underscoring its essence and strategic import in the context of contemporary governance in Africa. The paper posits that the security-development nexus signifies the articulation of security and development regimens into a coordinate sphere of strategic governance in an effort to optimize the dispensation of public good. The paper submits that the "nexus" constitutes a paradigm shift that holds strategic implications for governance in Africa both in theory and in practice.
Keywords: Development; governance; nexus; security; security-development nexus.

Introduction
Security and development are organically related. This presupposes that the two are mutually inclusive and interdependent, both conceptually and practically. The relationship between security and development is such that issues of the former inexorably bear and impinge upon those of the latter, and *vice versa*. This relationship is recognized in the existing literature as the 'security-development nexus' (IPA, 2004; Ganzle, 2009; Chandler, 2007). A 'nexus' exists when "two or more social phenomena" are "put into a logical relationship of mutually reinforcing interdependence" (Ganzle, 2009, p.15). Hence, security-development nexus implies "an explicit articulation of the connecting between the two "phenomena (Stern & Ojendal, 2010, p.15). This connection is so mutually

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permeating that the issues of development are securitized while security concerns are being rather 'developmentalized' (Giovannetti, n.d).

Within the domain of public policy and administration, the security-development nexus is often instantiated by the prioritization of security concerns in development strategies of states. Conversely, there has also been a growing emphasis on development priorities in national and international security strategies over the years. These developments signify a new thinking and a paradigm shift in contemporarily security and development administration.

What is then essence of the security-development nexus? What is its epistemological foundation? And what are its strategic implications, especially in relation to security-development praxis? These questions constitute the main concerns of this paper. While addressing the issues embedded in the afore-stated questions, the paper primarily intends to revisit the security-development problematique, with a view to leveraging understanding on its nature and significance at the levels of theory, policy and practice. The remainder of the paper is schematically organized under the following themes: conceptualizing security and development; revisiting the security-development nexus; implications of the security-development nexus; and conclusion.

Conceptualizing Security and Development
Two basic terms form the thrust of the subject matter of this paper, namely security and development. This section conceptualizes these terms with a view to underscoring their contextual meanings for the purpose of the present discourse. *Security:* Security simply refers to freedom from existential threats or harm. To be secure is, therefore, is to be free or protected from all forms of social, economic, ecological, socio-economic and technological threats and vulnerabilities (Okoli & Ochim, 2016). The essence of security is "to avoid, prevent, reduce or resolve" existential threats, "whether the threats originate from the other states, non-state actors, or structural socio-economic (and socio-ecological) conditions" (IPA, 2004, p.2).

In relation to the state, the meaning of security has historically evolved from a military/defence-centric perspective to an eclectic conception that emphasizes non-military concerns. As observed by IPA: Security has traditionally been defined as the protection of territorial integrity, stability and vital interests of states through the use of political, legal, or coercive instruments at the state or international level. In the 1990s, the definition was broadened to include non-military threats that lead to violent conflict and affect the security of individuals, communities, and states. Such threats range from civil wars to resource conflicts to transnational crime and population movements (2004, p.20).

Following the change in the context and substance of international security in the aftermath of the Cold War, the scope of security was further broadened and 'humanized' (Chandler, 2007; Stern & Ojendall, 2010). This has given rise to the notion of human security, which marks a radical departure from the erstwhile "security of surviving" to the current "security of thriving" (Ganzle, 2009, p.18). According to the United Nations Commission on Human Security:

> Human security in its broadest sense embraces far more than absence of violent conflict. It encompasses human rights, good governance, access to education and health care, and ensuring that each individual has opportunities and choices to fulfill his or her own potentials. Every step in this direction is also a step towards reducing poverty, achieving economic growth and preventing conflict (cited in Chandler, 2007, p.367).

The human security paradigm represents the revisionist thinking on the security problematic (Okoli, 2016a). It has taken the meaning and goal of security to the most radical levels of total state, community and individual safety and protection. The conception of security in the context of this paper is aligned towards the human security perspective.

Development: Development refers to the process of improving human lives and advancing societal progress. It is a multi-dimensional dynamic process that involves reorganization and transformation of the societal system (cf. Ujo, 2004). According to Todaro (1982), development consists in three fundamental objectives: (i) Raising people's conditions of living through improved incomes, consumption, education, medicare, etc. (ii) Creating conditions that are amenable to human self-esteem through the establishment of societal system (structures and processes) that promote human dignity and respect. (iii) Increasing people's freedom of choice by leveraging their choice variables, such as variety of goods and services (author's paraphrases applies).

Development does not simply refer to economic growth; although it necessarily embodies that. Like security, the scope and meaning of development have historically evolved from the orthodox micro/macro-economic perspective that emphasizes economic growth to the human development paradigm that stresses the imperative of human and societal wellbeing. Considered from this view point, therefore,
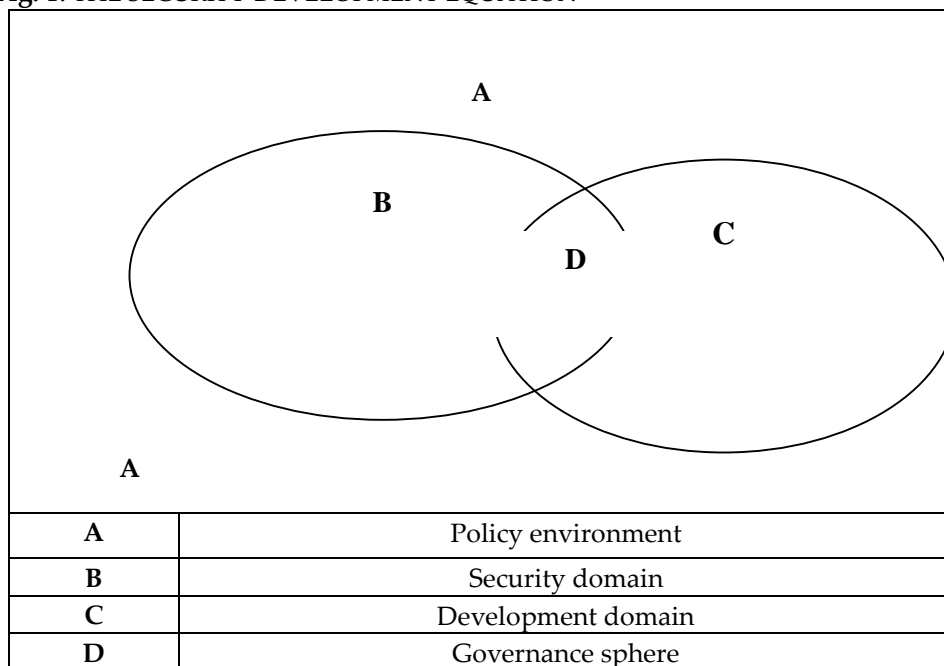
Development typically refers to the processes and strategies through which societies and states seek to achieve more prosperous and equitable of standards of living. Development activities have usually been confined to socio-economic growth, provision of health and education and improvements in infrastructure (IPA, 2004, p.2). The conception of development in this paper is inclined to the human development

perspective. Indicators of human development generically converge at various points with those of human security. As we shall see subsequently, the relationship between human security and human development has been well adverted to in the security-development nexus.

The Security-Development Nexus: Revisiting the Paradigm
The security-development nexus refers to the mutual inter-relationship between security and development. It stresses the organic intersection between the domains and processes of security and development within the policy arena (see fig. 1). The notion of security-development nexus presupposes that the concerns of security and development are intricately interwoven. This further implies that the two realities cannot be understood or even realized in mutual isolation.

Fig. 1: THE SECURITY-DEVELOPMENT EQUATION

A	Policy environment
B	Security domain
C	Development domain
D	Governance sphere

Source: Original concept of the author, 2017.

Note: The domains of security (B) and development (C) are situated within the wider policy environment (A) wherein the two sectors are coordinated at a critical point of

intersection (D) - the sphere of strategic governance (D). This illustrates the logic of strategic public policy and administration in contemporary states.

The security-development equation has been an important thinking in contemporarily security/development policy and administration. It had its foremost expression in the endeavours of the Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) in fostering stability and security in Europe during the Cold War (Giovannetti, n.d). The "securitization" trend in the post-9/11 world has occasioned a new security regimen that prominently embodies development and governance issues (Okoli, 2016). Hence, security concerns, and subsequently security policies, have become paramount and started to intrude into everyday life of many people all over world. Governments have substantially reinforced security sectors and increased security awareness in many domains of governance of governance, including migration, media and welfare systems (Ganzle, 2009, p.14).

The security-development nexus underscores the need to link security and development policies in such that a manner that 'pragmatizes' governance. The justification for this has been vividly demonstrated by the empirical correlation between conflicts and development crisis. This has been affirmed in the field-based report of the International Peace Academy (IPA, 2004, p.1), wherein it is submitted that:

Most contemporary wars are intra-state conflicts, which often have far reaching regional as well as international dimensions and ramifications. Such conflicts not only rupture a country's development; they are often the consequence of the failure of a country's development efforts.

The fact that security and development are inextricably linked (Annan, 2004, as cited in Stern & Ojendal, 2010, p.1) implies that the two ends must be understood and pursued as common, coherent agenda. This would entail that security concerns and priorities are considered in development policy and programmes in the same way that issues of development are factored into security policy and governance. The strategic import of this is that both security and development will be administered within a more coordinated and pragmatic frame work that guarantees optimal efficiency. Therein lays the agenda for strategic governance in respect of the ever burgeoning contemporary global security-development problematic.

The security-development nexus has inspired different shades of ideological and teleological discourses over the years. Its resonances are variously loudly evident in the human security, human development and sustainable development schemata. In effect, it is plausible to observe that the security-development nexus represents an attempt to dialectically synthesize the most contemporary polemics on the security / development problematic.

From the foregoing, it is evident that the security nexus marks a watershed in the annals of contemporary security come development praxis. Yet, the nexus can hardly be said to be sacrosanct. In effect, as a paradigmatic modality, the nexus appears to have convoluted the understanding of security and development into a sort of conceptual omnibus that is bereft of epistemological systematization and precision. Besides, the nexus conjures up sundry semantics and nuances that are neither amendable to conceptual clarity nor agreeable to ontological exactitude. In this regard, Stern and Ojendall (2010, p.7) aptly opine that: "In the realm of policy, the echoes of a harmonious plea or attention to the nexus resonates confusion, lack of conceptual clarity and ideological divisions, at best, and rhetorical facades, interest politics and shallow political correctness at worst".

Some Strategic Implications of the Security-Development Nexus
The nexus between security and development is an important one. It is important because it has affected the way in which the two fields are conceived of, studied and practiced. What are the strategic implications of this nexus? This forms the thrust of this section. *Implications for security-development theorizing:* The nexus between security and development depicts a fundamental conceptual and ontological linkage. The significance of this is that the two concepts are mutually inter-penetrating in such a manner that makes it impossible to conceive of one in discreet isolation of the other. Theoretical endeavours in the field should, therefore, seek to evolve requisite conceptual schemas and categories to illuminate and edify this important linkage.

Implications for policymaking and practice: The conceptual linkage between security and development dovetails into security-development policy-making and administration. The concerns of security and development should be properly understood and pursued as common policy agenda. This recommends the adoption of a 'grand strategy' capable of delivering the ends of both security and development more comprehensively and more sustainably. *Implications for conflict management:* The mutual convergence and complementarity between security and development questions hold immense strategic implications for conflict management and peace-building. The logical and empirical correlation between conflict and development failure has been elaborately established in the cognate literature (cf.IPA, 2004; Okoli, 2016b). The crisis of human security/development, especially in the context of a failed or failing state, has been a major primary driver of violent conflict and criminality across the developing world. The implication of this is that any meaningful effort at conflict management or peace building must proceed from a conscious attempt to understand and mitigate the root causes of conflict through a concerted security-development approach.

Implications for international assistance/aid: The security-development nexus has mandated a new thinking in the area of international assistance/aid. Foreign assistance to conflict-prone or conflict hidden countries has increasingly assumed the posture of development intervention, rather than that of humanitarian intervention. This approach affirms the assumption of the security-development nexus to the effect that what is usually at issue in volatile or fragile states is an ostensible security debacle with deep-seated development undercurrents. This approach is a desideratum for international aid/donor communities that are involved in related activities.

Implications for strategic governance: The security-development nexus highlights a crucial agenda for strategic governance in the realm of security/development policy and administration. The implication of this is that stakeholders should begin to see the domains and processes of security and development as two sides of the same coin. In-between the two fields, there is a bridge and cross-cutting influences that provide a veritable opportunity for common policy agenda. Government and non-governmental stakeholders in the sectors should explore the available common grounds towards evolving a cross-meshing governance strategy and regime that holistically articulates the gains of security and development in sustainable terms.

Conclusion

Security and development constitute two critical domains of strategic public policy and administration. Within the wider policy environment, the two spheres of activities inter-relate and often coverage. The convergence of security and development on the policy arena depicts the notion of security-development nexus. This defines the focus of contemporary security and development scholarship.

The security-development nexus holds both theoretical and practical implications for the aforementioned fields. Theoretically the nexus underscores the conceptual and ontological linkage between security and development in a manner that leverages a synthetic understanding of the phenomena. At the practical level, the nexus highlights the mutual interpenetration of security and development policies and practices in the context of public governance. The overall significance of this is that core concerns of development and security is being coordinated into a strategic governance framework than can deliver both development and security more optimally and sustainably. This forms the crux of contemporary development and security policy/administration.

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Biographical Notes

Atelhe George ATELHE, *PhD*, is a Lecturer and Head (Ag), Department of Political Science, University of Calabar, Calabar, NIGERIA

Ali Chukwuma OKOLI, *PhD*, is a Lecturer in the Department of Political Science, Federal University, Lafia, NIGERIA.