

## **FOREIGN TRADE AND AID: NIGERIA ACHIEVING THE UNITED NATIONS MDGs IN 2015**

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### **Abstract**

*Nigeria as a nation-State consist of thirty-six (36) States as sub-national Governments with the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Abuja as former British Colony but the largest State in the Continent of Africa population-wise. Thus, Nigeria was ruled by Great Britain under the Commonwealth platform, the United Nations and its specialized agencies. The eight (8) Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) as it was first initiated by the United Nations in September 2000, to be measurable by its member-States in 2015. These set targets had to do with the slashing of global poverty by half; combating the HIV/AIDs pandemic and non-communicable diseases (such as cancer, diabetes, sickle-cell and obesity added in Sept 2013 Summit); child basic education made 'free and compulsory' by the UN member-States; child healthcare from the six identified deadly child killer diseases at birth; maternal healthcare achievable by planned parenthood; gender equality (through the girl-child pedagogue like boys); environmental sustainability, management and inter-national security (against insurgencies and terrorism worldwide) and global partnership (through inter-dependencies) as between and amongst States in human security provisioning. This paper focused attention on global partnership and environmental sustainability as regard foreign trade and aid issues vis-à-vis the peculiarities of national interest targets set by Nigeria within the ECOWAS by 2015.*

### **INTRODUCTION**

Africa as a Continent consist of fifty-four (54) States with about five main trading blocs (including the ECOWAS as the Economic Community of West African States, EAC as the East African Community, SACU as Southern Africa Customs Union (former SADC as South African Development Commission), COMESA as the Common Market of Eastern and Southern Africa and CEUCA as the Customs and Economic Union of Central Africa) having affinity with their past Colonial mentors on foreign trade, economic aid and technical assistance related matters. Much had been written, canvassed, distorted, seen and heard from African leaders and analyzed by scholars of international repute in law, management and social sciences about the eight millennium development goals (MDGs) in the context of being too vast-in-scope, not relating well with Nigeria's foreign policy objectives (national interest) and not realizable within the ECOWAS in a decade without an effective collaboration with over one-hundred and ninety-four (194) UN member-States across the five Continents of this universe (namely: Africa, Americas, Asia, Australasia and Oceania, as well as the Continent of Europe including the Middle East) belonging to the United Nations conceptualized in this paper as World Government.

## **Literature Review: Focusing on the MDGs and Nigeria's National Interest**

**Slashing Global Poverty by half:** On slashing the global poverty by half by next year 2015, Nigeria woke up yesterday to realize that she is now the second largest importer of rice (and beans) grains after Pakistan (World Bank date, 2011). Anambra State in Nigeria have to this end invested (₦ 1.0bn Naira) as sinking fund in the River Basic Authority for rice cultivation this 2014 by taking a cue from other River Basin Authorities (RBA) across Nigeria. This version of environmental sustainability as done in Thailand was the answer to improved food security for Nigeria with over sixty-five percent arable land at the moment.

**Combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic:** In combating the HIV/AIDS pandemic and non-communicable diseases (added by the UN in Sept Summit 2013), these may be classified as 'diseases of choice,' where wrong diet and wrong blood groups (AS) in marriages account for the bulk of the World Health Organization's caveat on avoidable hiccups of sickle cell and excessive cholesterol consumption.

**Child Basic Education:** In Nigeria, the call for universal basic education (UBE) which involves 'the child's free tuition, books provisions and launch' as optional for implementation by the sub-national Governments (aka States Government) and for the Federal Government of Nigeria this remains a constitutional issue, as set out in s. 18 (3) of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution. State controlled by certain political parties implement 'free and compulsory' child basic education up to secondary school level whereas some political camps shun such public dependency burden as an education public policy capable of encouraging larger family units by parents. The population public policy of 'four children to a couple' would not work in Nigeria when Muslims not only marry up to four wives, they are encouraged to produce as much as eleven children which makes a team.

**Child Healthcare:** The United Nations (UN) drafters of the eight millennium development goals would have started with world population policy as *jus cogen* rule or public policy as condition for the attraction of economic and technical assistance to member-States. As Nigeria battles against the Human Immuno-Virus (HIV) and AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) pandemic and the deadly Ebola virus disease (EVD) epidemic imported into Nigeria by Patrick Sawyer, a Liberian-American in August 2014, pharmaceutical companies were required to carry out research on Ebola virus and come up with an effective vaccine to treat it in addition to sanitary precautionary measures being canvassed by the World Health Organization (WHO) medical experts and doctors without frontiers.

Similarly, the six identified deadly diseases, likely to sniff life out of children at birth are polio, whooping cough, measles, tetanus, hepatitis and diphtheria (throat inflammation). Here at birth, Nigeria focuses on diarrhea and dysentery (aka stooling and vomiting), with mosquito induced malaria due to shortage of mosquito-nets, bad eating habit, unsafe water usage and poor sanitary environment. This explains the disease peculiarities of a nation-State divergent from another within the UN body. Polio can kill a born child within three surviving days without treatment, though other diseases may be taken care of by the massive importation and use of vaccination and immunization programmes in Nigeria hospitals across the country. The rural communities often shun some foreign drugs as capable of reducing female high fertility chances when grown to adulthood. Tetanus injection is also scary to children at Health Clinics and centers across Nigeria and rural parents prefer local herbs medication than the orthodox medicine which they perceive as swallowing ineffective loads-of-chalk (tablets) and capsules

that enlarge human kidney attributable to fake drugs and contemporary cases of kidney failure in third world countries (TWCs), including Nigeria.

**Maternal Healthcare:** Contemporary issues that stand out on mother care centers on ‘babies mothering babies’ in Africa and Asia. This is a matter of concern for the United Nations to formulate a worldwide population policy for its member-States and shun early girl-child marriages and uterine bladder rupture (vesico-vaginal fistula) across the globe. Women empowerment through **gender equality** in education, employment opportunities in politics and trade, contraceptives awareness, planned parenthood, late marriages; et cetera have been canvassed by the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) which were at cross-purpose with the people’s religion, culture and character in Africa in general and Nigeria in particular.

**Environment Sustainability and Global Partnership:** The United Nations should come up with a robust blue-print and huge Agenda to tackle a deeply divided and lopsided global economy. Hoarding of technology and hoarding of industrial raw materials divides the world, with those who monopolize world resources in the leadership list as the developed countries (DCs) and those who watch eat and relax in the followership list as Third World Countries (TWCs). It is no longer centre-centre; centre-periphery and periphery- periphery as the political scientists would classify cooperation, competition and compensation between nations and among States. The slogan is that everybody cannot be a winner by Western perception. So, solving the global inequities, inequalities, deprivation and poverty cannot be by the industrialized developed countries (DCs) irregularly giving handouts to the least developing countries (LDCs), but by sharing know-how and factors-endowment for the actualization of global age-of-choice and mass-consumption. The goal of global partnership is essentially for Nigerians to collaborate with genuine foreign investors and the multi-national corporations (MNCs), to convert Nigeria’s petroleum and liquefied natural gas (LNG) into petro-chemicals; raw rubber into tyres and vehicles completing knocked down (CKD) components blended with the ‘local content’ to produce made-in-Nigeria automobile.

The MDGs **justifications** were essentially meant to address global inequities (unfairness and injustice) and inequalities in foreign trade and aid regulated issues as between and amongst nations, by ways of trade inter-dependencies to slash extreme poverty hunger and diseases by half in 2015, reduce maternal and child mortality rates through healthcare hygiene and sanitary measures, access to safe-water, genuine children drugs with improved maternal healthcare delivery in the hospitals and clinics across Nigeria as a valid member of the United Nations.

More so, environmental sustainability-centers on its management and national security against acts of terrorism and insurgencies, containment of industrial urban air pollution and depletion of the ozone-layer by toxic gas-emission, forest desertification arising from bush burning and excessive livestock grazing on green-lands particularly in Northern Nigeria, the issue of bio-diversity and drought control to avoid famine in the sub-Saharan belt, control of the off-shore oil spill and the dumping of industrial toxic waste at the high seas, impinging on commercial fishery, aquatic wildlife and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) in Nigeria; checking on coastal erosion and hinterland poor sewage on land and flooding. Flooding still subsist in some States across Nigeria, such as Katsina, Anambra and Oyo States, which required massive economic trees planting plantation settlements and the use of molded burnt bricks to channelize gully erosion and prevent the landscapes from total collapse, uprooting of economic trees and widening of soil disintegration harmful to farmlands.

Rise in High seas or the Atlantic Ocean level and heavy rains have been identified as major causes of flooding worldwide and Nigeria in particular (e.g. India, Pakistan, Japan and the United States).

### **Regional Trading Blocs, Aid and the MDGs**

On Nigeria's benefits from foreign trade and aid issues, this paper focuses on two paired trading blocs in Africa (as the ECOWAS and EAC) and two paired from Europe and Asia respectively (as the European Union, EU and Association of South East Asia Nations, ASEAN) for comparative analysis and relevance to Nigeria in trade globalization.

In global partnership parlance, African States including Nigeria should be canvassing for trade and not handouts or loans with strings attached as economic aid particularly from the industrialized States to galvanize the Continent's revival from the past economic dependency. The political realities of aid-tying with stringent IMF (International Monetary Fund) loans conditionality had led to untold hardship by austerity measures dubbed structural adjustment program (SAP) as belt tightening hoisted on the citizenry, cut in public expenditure by annual budget trim down, removal of petroleum subsidy, and hike in the pump price of premium motor spirit (PMS) and its buy back by importation from abroad, devaluation of Nigeria's national currency translated into reduction in the face value of the Naira and petroleum export sale by trade deregulation and distortion in import revenue earnings by the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN), retrenchment of workers in public service and aid-tying by donor States with trade diversion from cheaper sources of imported factors input into Nigeria. There are also the issues of debt rescheduling with compound interest from the donor States as majority of States in Africa became loan recipient debtors. This precipitated balance of payments (BOP) deficit and perennial disequilibrium as between excess imports over exports, more external borrowing and national debt crises.

Loans were graciously given by donor creditor-clubs with long-term moratorium to further deepen economic dependency. Greece and some members of European Union (EU) rejected this loans conditionality from the IMF in 2011 and threatened to withdraw from the EU if the coordinating States (France and Germany) refused to print more 'Euro' unit to accommodate the liquidity crises in the zone. No nation wants to borrow and squander now for the next generation to suffer under such repayment public dependency burden as external national debt crises. Hence, the position of this paper is that global partnership between developed countries (DCs) and the least developing countries (LDCs) of African origin should not be based on external borrowing as aid but foreign trade based on economic inter-dependencies. Raw materials from the Continent of Africa like cocoa, petroleum, iron ore, rubber et al, should be processed to fetch reasonable foreign exchange to buy a thousand and one petrol chemical finished products sent back in return, tyres, confectionary as chocolates and cookies, vehicles and auto parts. Rudderless leadership in Africa, who hub-knob with the IMF and global financial institutions should be voted out of office and prevented from rigging general elections to remain in power at all cost.

Today, the entire Third World Countries (TWCs) are canvassing for democracy and good governance in Africa as one of the five Continents of the world. Islamic banking is based on zero bank-rate and bank consignment, where the creditors and importers share profit, not loan with high interest rate or aid-tying, with the re-structuring of regional trading blocs to dismantle import taxes, promote external trade and remove trade barriers across the globe.

**ECOWAS:** The Economic Community of West Africa States formed by Treaty of Lagos (May 28, 1975) is yet to gain entry into the ‘common market’ tenet as the 4<sup>th</sup> stage of tariff abolition and the harmonization of commercial policies within the West Africa zone. The EU achieved this 4<sup>th</sup> stage in 1957 as European Economic Community (EEC). Six tenets of regional merger schemes subsist and had about two major social-legal instruments at each stage.

Mutual co-operation requires cosmopolitan enlightenment and exchange of culture, attitudes values and languages. The second stage known as Free Trade Area (FTA) requires trade liberalization within the zone and the harmonization of administrative policies and protocols. The ECOWAS is on the third stage as ‘customs union’ inaugurated in 2001 which entails the implementation of a Common External Tariff (CET) and tariffs reduction within the zone to ensure trade creation as against trade diversion. The fourth stage entails common market with the abolition of import taxes and the harmonization of commercial policies within the zone. The fifth stage is known as ‘economic union’ with the floating of an optimum currency area for a single currency as ‘Eco-currency’ and the withdrawal of national currencies within the zone. The sixth and last stage is called ‘supra-nationalism or a complete political union’. It involves a common defense and national identity with constitutional reforms, common national anthem and flag; et cetera.

**EAC:** The East Africa Community consists of five States in Africa formed in 1967 by Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania later joined in 1991 by Rwanda and Burundi. Zanzibar and Tanganyika earlier merged (in 1964) to become Tanzania. A combined population of about 100m people, the EAC has a huge economic trade agenda which includes an Optimum Currency Area (OCA) by adopting one currency; a common power pool, common gas pipelines, fifteen metro-lines connecting the five cities of Nairobi (Kenya), Kampala (Uganda), Kigali (Burundi), Bujumbura (Rwanda) and Dar el Salam (Tanzania); with on-going on-shore petroleum drilling technology across the zone. It is envisaged that three more states may join the East African Community viz: Ethiopia, South Sudan and South Africa, with a master-plan and a consortium of private investors including South Africa’s Sheltam Corporation (expounds the Africa magazine, 2008:42). In all these though the Fund for cooperation, compensation and development (CCD) is yet to be floated as the case with the EU to accommodate the anticipated import revenue loss by some members-States as with the ECOWAS and the EAC when the stages are implemented.

**EU:** The European Union is a major trading partner with Nigeria in vehicles, beverages, confectionary and chocolate import in exchange for cocoa-butter, petroleum and gas with the ECOWAS trading bloc which Nigeria belongs. Established in 1951 with the Treaty of Paris by six pioneer founding members (Viz: France, Germany, Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium and Italy), Great Britain joined only in 1973 with Ireland and Denmark; Greece 1981; Portugal and Spain 1986; Austria, Sweden and Finland 1995, totaling fifteen members; with additional ten new members based on the Treaty of Nice (2000) ratified in 2004 as Poland, Czech Republic; Slovakia; Slovenia, Hungary, Estonia; Latvia; Lithuania, Malta and Cyprus. In 2007, two more members were Romania and Bulgaria).

In 1994, applications to join the EU by Norway and Switzerland were stopped by their citizens by a referendum against it. The 2002 Turkey’s political and economic reforms and re-entry negotiations stretched into 2005 which remained on-going as the first ninety-five percent Islamic state seeking EU membership and would be second largest population-wise put at 72m, if Germany, France and UK are 82m, 69m and 68m respectively. UK, Denmark and Sweden retained their national currencies whereas a non- EU member (Monaco) adopted the ‘Euro-

unit.' UK and Ireland imposed work restrictions on the citizens of the ten newly joined EU members in 2004. Great Britain joined only in 1973 and still retaining her national currency (pound sterling) which is stronger than the 'Euro' currency as the common denominator within the EU zone (expounds Rourke 2009:223-33; Goldstein and Pevehouse 2010:356-68, Kapue 2008:199; Kauppi and Viotti 2008:422, et al).

The EU's North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) military alliance has 28 membership including the United States and Canada. The EU has scaled through the five hurdles of economic integration which are essentially through mutual co-operation; free-trade-area (FTA); customs union; common market (Treaty of Rome in March 25<sup>th</sup> 1957); economic union (Treaty of Maastricht, Germany 1992) with the European monetary union (aka Euro) and at the sixth final act or stage of supra-nationalism, a complete political union, supra-national organization or inter-continental World Government. The final Treaty of Lisbon (Portugal 2005) was on constitutional reforms for one constitution, one national identity (flag; anthem; coat of arms; et al); common defense and national security.

**ASEAN:** The Association of South East Asian Nations was formed in 1967 by five founding member-States as Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines. The Association was to promote regional political stability in defense and security matters within the zone, aside from the economic integration main object.

In 1993, additional five states joined the Association as Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar (former Burma) and the Vietnam, thus putting membership at ten. More so, the trade association agreed to work together to establish a free-trade-area (FTA) by trade liberalization and eliminating administrative bottlenecks and most tariff on manufactured goods and services. The association holds an annual ministerial meetings each July and agreed in 2002 to consult with its Ten-Dialogue-Partners (TDP) as Australia; Canada, China, European Union of 27 States; India; Japan; South Korean Republic; New Zealand; Russia and the United States. It focuses on economic and security matters, as well as the modalities for coercive (preventive) diplomacy in trade and investment issues within the zone (expounds Hague 2001:5; Goldstein 2010: 449).

**Nigeria's trade foreign policy:** The Nigerian trade foreign policy is a constitutional issue set out in s.19 (e) of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution guided by the quest for a 'just new world economic order' in the oil and gas and vehicles CKD assembly plants technology with economic inter-dependencies as between trading blocs high-lighted in order to eliminate inequities (unfairness and injustice) in trade and political inequalities which are in tandem with the MDGs on global partnership. To achieve this global partnership with the EU, EAC and ASEAN trading blocs, Nigeria within the ECOWAS is bent on having attractive incentives for foreign direct investors by fixing her perennial power outages and energy crises that made some of the hitherto manufacturing firms in Lagos metropolis to re-locate to Ghana where regular electricity subsists.

Nigeria's major trading partners include the sixteen member-States within the ECOWAS zone, Japan, China, South Korea, South Africa, India, Germany, United Kingdom, United States, France, Italy and Brazil. Japan is well-known in Nigeria for auto-parts, automobile and electronics, China for electronics and general merchandise, India for bolts and nuts, Germany for used automobile and telecommunications equipment, United Kingdom for beverages and confectionary, the United States for agric fertilizers and petrol-chemical products, France for auto-parts and automobile, Italy for tiles and marbles; Brazil for utility buses of different models, South Korea for KIA motors with lower carbon-monoxide emissions and household

items and South Africa for telecommunications equipment and chemicals. Of course, Nigeria is the sixth largest producer of petroleum under the OPEC for export sale and second largest producer of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the world after Russia.

South Africa, since the collapse of the apartheid policy in Africa (in 1991) did dismantle the old economic policies of high import tariff, import substitution, anti competitive external market and subsidy to her infant industries by extensive government intervention in the economy, to a Laissez-faire policy, market competitiveness and private sector investment promotion and the loosening up of foreign exchange control, to strengthen export drive and subsidy.

### **Tenets of Foreign Trade and Aid vis-à-vis the MDGs**

Aid-tying, Debt Rescheduling and Trade Deregulation

Global partnership as the 8<sup>th</sup> Millennium Development Goal suggests international cooperation as between States and amongst regional trading blocs to slash global poverty by half with continental and international treaties formed to make smaller and weaker nations have a voice in the international political system by multi-lateral diplomacy. The economic aid (or incentive) tenet are perceived in the context of the relationship as between foreign aid-donor State and donee-recipient State. Debt burden by smaller States have arisen due to the conflict in grant lopsided interest of aid-tying, debt rescheduling (with compound interest) away from the original arrangement of simple interest on the sum borrowed as requested by the donor creditor institution with trade deregulation insistence to cheapen the national currency of the debtor nation by currency devaluation, the cut down in public expenditure and social security with public utilities, dumping of foreign goods to destabilize the recipient's economy and the folding up of competing infant industries (e.g. textile factors in Lagos metropolis).

Also the national debt is compounded by the balance of payments (BOP) disequilibrium and endless adjustment mechanisms due to annual budget deficit financing and beggar-thy-neighbor status by excessive external borrowing. Whereas the developed economies protect their currencies by revaluation and the expansion of the industrial production-base, third world countries typified by Nigeria are advised to privatize and commercialize public enterprises, as opposed to Nationalization and Indigenization policy, to control the commanding heights of the recipient's economy.

On trade tenets, the theories could stretch from mercantilism as between trade merchants as buyers and sellers with several middlemen. This economic dependency may take the shape of developed countries (DCs) supplying finished goods to third world countries (TWCs) while the later provides the raw materials as industrial intermediate factors-input for production. The principles of comparative advantage canvassed by neo classical school entails the regional trading blocs specializing on areas where they have the least cost advantage based on resource endowment. Nations over the years have reversed their phenomenon in practice. It is discordant that Nigeria should export petroleum (crude oil) and import its finished product (e.g. premium motor spirit). This shows that competition in the international market is fierce and unpredictable amongst nations and between States which calls for the intervention of the United Nations World Trade Organization (WTO).

Autarky on the other hand, entails the elimination of economic dependency by States through self-reliance and a centrally planned economy. The French current president Francisco Hollande based his government on socialism upon assumption of office in 2012. But, socialistic measures are not sustainable in Nigeria's mixed economy. More so, Nigeria is a

member of the cartel system tagged the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (the OPEC). It behooved its leadership to take advantage of this OPEC membership to slash poverty within its economy as well as assist needy States within the West Africa region.

### **Appraisal of Nigeria's Actualization of MDGs through Foreign Trade and Aid**

In considering Nigeria's membership within the ECOWAS, her foreign trade and economic aid related issues are keyed to the interaction as between her major trading partners and dealings under the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Common External Tariff (CET) platform of customs union tenet.

The sixteen member-States of the ECOWAS consist of three Portuguese (Luse-phone) speaking States of Cote Verde; Guinea and Guinea Bissau; five English (Anglo-phone) speaking States of The Gambia, Ghana, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone and eight French (Franco - phone) speaking States of Benin Republic, Burkina Faso, Cote d' Ivoire, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal and Togo Republic. Now, poverty slashing by half, infectious and non - communicable diseases, child education, child healthcare, maternal (mother) healthcare, gender equality (by women empowerment in trade and politics, girl child education promotion); environmental sustainability, management and security (by food security, fight against drought, erosion and flooding and fight against insurgencies and terrorism) and global partnership are the eight vast Millennium Development Goals measurable by 2015.

On universal basic child education in Nigeria it is a selective choice of States in Nigeria to make it a continuum and achievable by 2015. But, section 18(3) of the education objectives as contained in the 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (FRN) should be expunged so that all the three tiers of government (at federal, thirty-six sub-national governments plus the FCT and 774 local government area councils) can become more committed to child education as a holistic social responsibility of States to the child particularly for children with indigent background. The French language should be encouraged in primary schools *pari-passau* with the mother tongue, so that Nigerians can better understand their neighboring West African States.

Curiously, the MDGs was first set by the United Nations in September 2000, measurable by member - States in 2015 but Nigeria had a 2007 Seven - Point Agenda (SPA), focusing on uninterrupted power supply Nationwide as critical to sustainable economic development and wealth creation for food security and full - employment of resources in men, money and (raw) materials in Nigeria.

In raising the bar, national security of lives and property was third in the agenda to counter - insurgency and the quest for (crude oil) resource - control by militants in the South-South (Niger Delta) zone of Nigeria. Whereas the MDGs focused on environmental sustainability management and security, the Seven - Point Agenda focused on the disarming of militants, granting of amnesty not to prosecute them for treason against the States but re - training them in sea - diving as vocational skills acquisition from abroad to fit into the oil - drilling operations of the Oil Multi - National Corporations (MNCs). Land Reform to encourage large scale agriculture in cocoa, rubber, palm oil and other economic trees plantation (such as seed less hybrid guava, avocado pea, blue pea, a variety of mangoes and oranges) were contemplated but abandoned by States to private hands not on government build operate and transfer, BOT basis); mass - transit transportation facilitates to ensure the free-mobility of factors of production (through tarred truck a highways, metro - lines linking the South with the

North, the East with the West), as the East African Community (EAC) planned fifteen metro – lines to link the five States of Kenya, Uganda, Tanzania, Rwanda and Burundi. The Seven – Point Agenda also considered child education along with the disadvantaged groups in Nigeria, comprising the orphans below eighteen years old, the widow, the aged and jobless sixty–five years old and above, the physically challenged and lunatics as mentally disabled. So far, however, only Ekiti State in the last four years provided social security allowances for the aged in Nigeria. As Vice-President, Good-luck Jonathan took over in acting capacity from President Umaru Yar’Adua upon demise (in 2007-ditto) and overhauled the Seven Point Agenda into ten points Agenda as: foreign direct investment (FDI) attraction in the oil and gas industry; turn-around maintenance (TAM) of Nigeria’s existing four major refineries, regular power supply pool through public-private partnership as with telecommunications; mass transportation quest through metro-lines and regular maintenance of tarred truck A highways linking States across Nigeria, control of street crimes and human trafficking as modern slavery, respect for cultural diversity and its promotion in Nigeria. The current ten-point Agenda had external and domestic issues embedded in it which are vital to national security and economic development.

This paper focuses on environment sustainability as required by contemporary issues on the MDGs measurable by 2015. The position of this paper is that Africa as a Continent with over one billion population and Nigeria as a State within it with over 170m population needs a robust foreign trade with partners and not economic aid and handouts to slash poverty, considering the stringent IMF (International Monetary Fund) loans conditionality and the dragnet of past exploits of the international ‘London and Paris’ creditor-clubs, global financial institutions without safety nets for States having BOP liquidity crises (e.g. Greece, Spain, Portugal, 2011).

The World Bank Group (IBRD) with its affiliates consist of the International Finance Corporation (IFC); International Development Association (IDA); Multi – lateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA) and the International Centre, for the Settlement of Investment Dispute (ICSID).

The Africa Continent has five major trading blocs, consisting essentially of the ECOWAS, the EAC, the COMESA, formed shortly after the political independence and disentanglement from the shackles of colonial administration by the European powers, notably the Great Britain, France, Portugal, Italy (of the old Roman Empire heritage and the Holy Vatican City); Belgian as now the capital of European Union; Germany; Spain with colonial exploits of the past in North Africa, South Latin American States and so on, as the aftermath of the 1861 Berlin Conference in the partitioning of the African Continent. Great Britain adopted the indirect rule system as a foreign policy hinged on trade public administration and aid in Africa’s past dependent trust-territories, whereas the French Empire adopted the assimilation policy, the Southern African minority regimes adopted the Apartheid policy, all variously described in one – tone as colonialism and cultural imperialism (dominance) with past Ashanti slave labor known as human trafficking in contemporary phraseology done on a massive–scale in to Europe. Africa political leaders consequently clamor for economic reparation from past colonial masters and not from the current European settlers themselves (e.g. North Rhodesia now Zimbabwe since 1986). Today, Africa is doing a new thing and as the book of books (The Holy Bible and Qur’an) admonishes all nations, let by–gone be bye–gone. African leaders cannot be regretting the past and forget the future. What have we done after independence for the present? Africa cannot afford rudderless leadership at this time (21<sup>st</sup> century).

## **Challenges of Nigeria Global Partnership in Achieving the MGDs by 2015**

**The EU–ECOWAS Partnership:** Whereas the ECOWAS cocoa – butter fetches no less than \$30bn per annum to Belgium alone as the capital State of the European Union (EU), the ECOWAS is yet to eliminate trade and non-trade barriers like import restrictions, tariff protectionism and import revenue tax as target accounting for over ₦20bn to Nigeria from the EU on cocoa export sale alone each year (expounds Goldstein 2010). Thus, to slash rural poverty in Nigeria requires income – redistribution, food security through agriculture and the actualization of “Eco-currency” within the ECOWAS region, which is vital for a complete Economic Union and economic integration in the West Africa Region (expounds Eziakor, 2014).

On environmental sustainability, management and security, erosion in Nigeria and water shed management (NEWMAP) agency had to be inaugurated to become a reality by the Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) in partnership with the International Development Association (IDA) by seven States across Nigeria already mapped out to benefit from this erosion and flooding containment projects, estimated to cost ₦19bn in twenty–one (21) sites, involving Abia, Anambra, Cross- River, Ebonyi, Edo, Enugu and Imo States across Nigeria (expounds the guardian report 6<sup>th</sup> September p6).

Funds would be pulled from Global Environmental Fund (GEF) and Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF) in collaboration with the World Bank Group over 8years Strategic Investment Loan (SIL) of \$508.59m. It consists of \$500m IDA concessional loan, blended with GEF and SCCF grants totality \$8.59. The FGN was to contribute \$150m for salvaging the perennial gully – erosion and flooding across the seven (7) States of Nigeria as phase 1 pilot scheme.

The challenges to be encountered in implementing the 21 sites project include: solving the poverty of the internally displaced people, the eco–system services thereof, the disaster risk – management, bio–diversity in institutional performance, good governance with international best practices and the execution of the projects. The environment in the seven States were so devastated that near Agulu Lake in Anambra State for instance, gully erosion could be as high as 40 feet comparable with a four storey building and the lake infested with crocodiles.

Each State named in this project was to contribute \$8m, thus totaling \$56m for pre-feasibility study designs on the intervention sites as the agreed criterion for projects participation and the FGN additional cash contribution of \$70m and \$24m in kind, to be used for the payment of staff at sites, offices costs and compensation for the re – settlement of people that would be displaced (as also contained in the Guardian Report, September 2<sup>nd</sup> 2014, p.6).

African Union (AU): Still on environmental sustainability, African Union (AU) was re – named in 2001 to replace the OAU (Organization of African Unity established on 28 May, 1963), with the primary aims to include environmental safety and security of the Continent of Africa against arms race, refugees spill – over and re – settlement, re-location of internally displaced persons from their homelands by rescue missions, salvaging the debris of earthquake and extreme drought in sub – Saharan Africa, preventing environmental degradation and natural disasters; acts of terrorism and insurgencies, disarming of militants and international cooperation with the United Nations (as the World Government) with its specialized agencies.

Diseases control is also environmentally determined with child and mother (maternal) healthcare from pandemic and epidemic health hazards within and outside the Continent of Africa. **Mediation** in conflict situations by **coercive diplomacy** and other Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) intervention methods (by **negotiations, conciliation, arbitration, use of umpire, UNGA resolutions**) other than **adjudication** by judiciary settlement. These are part of the environmental problems identified by the MGDs for practice solutions by the UN number – States, individuals and collectively at regional, continental and inter-continental levels.

**Social Systems and Environmental Collective Security:** The era of ideological rivalry, sit-tight military dictatorships, nepotism and dislike for democratic governance has given way to global partnership, collective security, peaceful co-existence and economic inter-dependencies. Similarly, we have environmentally determined issues of religious extremism, hostage taking (as with the Chibok girls in Nigeria 2014), trans-border crimes, espionage by diplomats, trafficking in firearms or smuggling in harmful drugs, kidnapping without a trace of victim and trite leaders, political assassination and subversive activities, have all given way to regional legal responses to global terrorism, diplomatic immunity inviolability and privileges enforceability under diplomatic and consular law provisions accorded diplomats and granted immigrants in their host States.

**Balance of Power and Partnership:** Regional trading blocs have been impacting positively on environmental sustainability in Africa in general and Nigeria in particular through global partnership. Thus, the global environment is a collective good looked with national and international security perspectives, over forest reserves for timber sourcing, check on the invasion of mankind and on wildlife endangered species, check on industrial toxic waste dump on the high seas, safeguard to fresh and safe-water supply, food security and other human-security-provisioning (expounds the UNDP Report of 1994 revised 2005).

**Impact of Environmentalists:** Much concern have been shown by scientists and regional environmentalists over global warming and the ozone layer depletion by Chloro-fluoro-carbons (cfc), a gaseous substance that emits chlorine atoms which causes oxygen depletion, inefficient land – use reform through irrigation schemes for large scale agriculture, over harvesting of forest products and excessive livestock grazing on green-lands causing deforestation and desertification, drought and famine particularly in sub-Saharan zone of Nigeria and mindless exploitation of plywood in the rain – forest zone of Africa.

Bio-diversity have been similarly linked with natural rate of extinction in wildlife due to land conversion, urbanization, climate change, air pollution, water pollution and the excessive constant harvesting of natural resources without fresh trees planting and replenishment. These are the short-term environmental challenges of contemporary regional trading blocs in Africa and Nigeria in particular to be measured by next year September 2015 after fifteen years (2001-2015).

**Environmental Conventions and National Interest:** The questions often asked under environmental sustainability are whether it is a national security issue, human security or global security concern (expounds Viotti and Vauppi, 2008:144). At the national security level, which entity pays for the cost of industrial air – pollution and toxic waste dump at the high – seas as water pollution, the spread of desert in Nigeria caused by the herds – size expansion, the trampling and destruction of farmlands and Greenland vegetation by timber cutting in thick forest for pieces of furniture making.

s.20 of the 1999 Nigerian constitution on environmental objectives states that ‘the State shall protect and improve the environment and safeguard the water, air and land, forest and wildlife of Nigeria, under cap 2, of the fundamental objectives and directive principles of State policy. At the international security level, of what impact are the international environmental law to safeguarding endangered species from international trade and illegal trafficking under the Endangered Species International Trade Prohibition. (ESITP); Convention on Trans-border Air Pollution (CTAP,1979); Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone-layer (VCPO, 1987) with the Montreal Protocol (1987); the UN Convention on Law of the Sea (UNCLOS I,II & III Revised 1986); Comprehensive Nuclear Test BAN (CNTB, 1997); Et cetera.

These international statutes are in consonance with the United Nations Millennium Development Goals on environmental sustainability, management and security and global partnership based on States equality and mutual respect. To this end, Nigeria would certainly attain the United Nations Millennium Development Goals at least by eighty percent (80%) in 2015 with mutual assistance (aid) and trade globalization amongst Nations.

**Nigeria’s Development Agenda and the MDGs:** The eight United Nations MDGs centers on global poverty reduction, combat Ebola virus disease (EVD), HIV/AIDS pandemic and non-communicable diseases(such as cancer, diabetes, obesity, sickle cell; et al); ensuring a holistic child basic education free and compulsory: (viz: polio, measles, tetanus germ infection, hepatitis and diphtheria (or throat inflammation) ; maternal (mother) healthcare from visco vaginal fistula (VVF) caused by uterine bladder rupture and babies mothering babies particularly in Africa and Asia due to early girl child marriages and pregnancy); women empowerment and participation in trade and politics at all strata of governance; global partnership as between DCs and LDCs as well as environmental sustainability, management and security. President Jonathan’s 2011 ten – point development key issues, both external and domestic, had to do similarly with the United Nations global partnership in the key area of foreign direct investment (FDI) attraction in the oil and gas and vehicle assembly plants; regularity of power supply through public – private partnership by local and foreign investors and thirdly, a Turn-Around-Maintenance (TAM) of Nigeria’s four major oil refineries and building of new mini – refineries to minimize premium motor spirit (PMS) buyback currently imported on a massive-scale from the United States, which is a huge paradox to Nigeria’s economy.

The remaining seven domestic key issues include: the construction of metro-lines and modern railways to transport commuters, goods and services across Nigeria, eradication of hunger and diseases by mechanized farming and medical research and new inventions; youth employment and social security for university unemployment graduates and the aged citizens above sixty – five years old, curbing of street crimes and child trafficking in all its forms, promotion of the culture of various tribes in Nigeria and control of religious extremism and sectarian crises by amicable settlement in Nigeria, expunging of section 18(3) of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution to make basic education at primary and secondary schools level truly free and compulsory at sub-national Government level.

## **Conclusion**

There was need for Nigeria’s airspace security as an environmental issue for the containment of the danger posed on humans by air – pollution, land degradation and water polluted environment. Scientist discovered that there was a hole in the ozone-layer of the atmosphere at the Antarctic North-polar regions of this universe. And since the ozone – layer absorbs most of the harmful ultra-violet bio-radiation from the Sun, its depletion allows for more harmful rays

to reach the mother – earth surface, thus resulting in more human skin – eruption and possible skin – cancer, eye – cataracts, weak immune system in humans and reduction in plant yields. The world, African Continent and Nigeria in particular cannot therefore afford to ignore the danger to ocean eco-system and rise in high-sea levels, coastal erosion and the dire consequences to the environment. Thus, tackling of forests depletion, diseases, child education and child healthcare with the mother, gender equality, environmental protection and global partnership as between states and amongst states, are on – going and achievable in Nigeria by 2015.

### **Recommendations**

On environmental sustainability management and security, most trading nations like Nigeria now ban used refrigerators and air – conditioners with compressors and spray-cans, many of which are corrosive in garbage dumps, since chloro–fluoro–carbons (cfc) from them release chlorine atoms that cause the ozone – layer depletion. The international climate change taskforce in its 2005 Report also claim that fossil fuel derived from unconventional shale – oil, coal and wood used in factories and vehicles of all kinds contribute to acid rain which kills fish, economic trees and other forest plant life. Hence, the necessity for the FGN to curb industrial air – pollution and auto – emissions giving rise to high – seas level and decline in soil fertility and food production, safe – water shortage and the irreversible damage to Nigeria’s environmental eco – system.

For instance, Katsina State in Northern Nigeria and Ibadan city in Oyo State are susceptible to rainfall – induced flooding and gully erosions and should be included in phase II project sites for environmental protection in Nigeria. Also, inadequate access to safe – water with poor hygiene and sanitation measures have led to water related diseases in Nigeria, such as elephantiasis, cholera, hepatitis and sudden death across the rural settlements in Nigeria. Jimmy Carter, the former President of the United State of America fought elephantiasis to a halt (in 1996) in the Eastern region of Nigeria called Abakiliki Town in Ebonyi State. So, sub – national Governments should provide safe fresh water with the rise in demand by the rural economy, urbanization, industrial development and rapid growth in population.

There should be an effective soil management and expansion in irrigated agriculture to prevent land degradation and boost food security in Nigeria. A stop should be put to live animals extinction and fishery due to the effects of oil spill, global warming on the coral – reefs and the use of ocean to deposit industrial waste. Aforestation programs and global forest watch should be encouraged in Nigeria, with the prohibition of trade on endangered species (e.g. exotic lizards and animal wildlife conservation). Teenage pregnancy should be legislated against as a national population policy by the Nigerian National Assembly to avoid vesico – vaginal fistula (VVF) infection and child birth complications rampant in the Northern-parts of Nigeria.

Polio immunization within three days of a child birth is vital, to check chicken – pox, cholera dysentery and diarrhea (aka vomiting and stooling) and the containment of diphtheria (throat inflammation). Pursuit of macro – economic goals by Nigeria was recommended which includes the national security of lives and property to contain terrorism, full – employment of resources in men, money and (raw) materials; income re-distribution by providing public utilities and notably the regular power supply across Nigeria, price stabilization for food security and agricultural production to solve poverty and provide raw material to the infant industries; the balance of payments (BOP) equilibrium through an annual balanced budget to ensure more exports over imports and rapid growth and economic development of Nigeria.

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