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#### SECURITY AND ITS SOCIO-ECONOMIC EFFECT ON NIGERIA NATIONAL INTEGRITY

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#### Abstract

The development of a state is contingent upon the security of life and property. Unfortunately, Nigeria's progress has been hindered by a surge in insecurity both within and beyond its borders. Nigeria has been facing significant security challenges in recent years, including terrorism, kidnapping, and violent conflict. These security challenges have had a significant negative impact on the country's economic development, leading to a decline in foreign investment and a rise in unemployment. There is also evidence that the lack of security has led to a decrease in public trust and confidence in the government, which has further undermined national integrity. The objective of the research is to examine the role of security and its socioeconomic implications on Nigeria's national integrity. The study utilizes secondary research methods and employs the state fragility theory to achieve its objective. The paper identifies several factors contributing to the country's insecurity, including porous borders, ethno-religious conflicts, and mismanagement of scarce resources. The findings of the study reveal that Nigeria has faced significant obstacles economically, socially, and politically due to the escalating security challenges. The paper recommends that, contemporary security challenges confronting the world have evolved into sophisticated and technologically advanced threats. In order for Nigeria to effectively counter these security challenges, modern technology and equipment are necessary

**Keywords**: Globalization, Security, Violent Crimes, Insurgency

#### Introduction

In present-day world order, security has been the heart of the matter of most states in a globalized order. Security envisages social prosperity, economic development, international relations and overarching state development. In and around the world security seems to be backdrop impeding the development and prosperity of state. Security is a multifaceted concept whose meaning has changed in accordance with discourses of threats and dangers. Scholars in risk and safety science have proposed that it is meaningful to distinguish between security and safety in terms of

intentionality to separate the fields of handling risks and crises. Fundamentally, security deals with the presence of peace, safety and the protection of human and physical resources or absence of crisis or threats to human dignity all of which facilitates development and progress of human and societal lives ((Isezuo, 2022)

The presence of insecurity is not a concept that has condescended to only third world countries, but a general and worldwide phenomenon (Kashim, 2023). Insecurity ranges from various forms which could be Agricultural (food), standard of living and GDP (Economic), cultural and personal value (social) and

lastly religious. Insecurity is the feeling of fear or unsafety upon oneself life, property, or livelihood. It is a fear of the unknown; A feeling of trepidation and unsafe. Also, it is a state of being unable to protect lives and property. In other words, the person is vulnerable to damage, injury or loss from both internal and external causes.

In recent years, the Nigerian state has been under severe insecurity which has substantially undermined law and order as well as the protection of lives and property. Since the transition to civil rule in 1999 violent insecurity has surged with perpetrators such as militants, kidnappers, cultists, pirates and terrorists. The effect of insecurity in the society has always been an affecting factor to the nation and has overtime condescended to affecting the country's image in the international scene (Philip,2018). As part from the monumental loss over the years the criminal and violent activities causes perpetual fear and insecurity among citizens and foreigners residing in the country. Insecurity is a phenomenon which could transcend to not only affecting the internal image of the country but could also go a long way in affecting the external image of the country(Lambe, 2023). Moreover, insecurity has various ranging effect not only on the foreign image of a country but also on the social, political and economic image of the country.

In Nigeria, the insecurity issues starting from the Boko Haram insurgency in the North East, to the banditry in the North West, the farmers-herders clashes, rising cybercrimes all have condescending effect on the nation in the global world. Countries of the world face various range of insecurity, but Nigeria in recent times has suffered an unprecedented range of insecurity, which has made insecurity become a major issue on the leadership of the country. The federal government of Nigeria's inadequacy to effectively safeguard lives and properties has taken toll on the Nations sociopolitical and ailing business environment. Olahednde (2021), the war against insecurity cost Nigeria \$10.3 billion in 2020. Kidnapping hijacking, banditry and violent attacks that used to roil the oil and Gas sector

are fast becoming a threat to other major sectors of the economy, which is deterring investment and denting the foreign image of the country in the global system.

Nigeria has over time suffered from insecurity which has been detrimental to the well-being and livelihood of the citizens in a whole. Though the insecurity has been regionalized to a part of the country by the transcending effect affects the Nation as a whole. There exists an interplay between the internal and the external which according to Anuoluwapo (2018) assert "that the events happening in a country plays a major role in its external relations with other country. The escalation of the various security vices is what hinders the economic and political relationship of other countries with Nigeria.

The pervasive insecurity in Nigeria constitutes a formidable impediment to its socio-economic development. Rampant incidents of terrorism, communal conflicts, and criminal activities undermine the nation's progress on multiple fronts, hindering economic growth, social stability, and international standing. Zubairu (2020) identified the causes of insecurity to include the menace of unemployment and poverty, elite exploitation of ethnicity and religious differences, corruption, weak security apparatus, porous border, marginalization and inequality in the country, bad governance and poor leadership.

In recent times, Nigeria has witnessed a number of security challenges such as banditry in the Northern part of the country, insurgency in the North East, raising spate of Kidnapping in the South West and the notorious activities of the Unknown Gun Men in the South Eastern part of the country these challenges and many other have threatened corporate existence of the country and by implication renewed the erstwhile calls for a breakup of the federation (Eme & Nwachwukwu, 2017; Elaigwu, 2007).

Security challenges come with the attendant effects of impeding development, trade, political distractions, social order and political stability. Amongst others, the insecurity issue caused by the Boko haram insurgency

has played a very strong role in denting the image of the country in the international system. Nigeria, northeast has been reduced to a death zone. The World Health Organization in recently released data on the life expectancy of World countries, Nigeria's life expectancy was put at 55.2 of which male's life expectancy is 54.7 and female 55.7 (WHO, 2018). This has often led to nations like the United State of America advising it nationals living in Nigeria due to the security issues. According to Nigeria security tracker (2022) 54,948 people have been killed in Nigeria due to violent activities within May 2015 to May 2022. The economic cost of insecurity was estimated at 2.6% of GDP by the PEAC (2020). For most businesses in Nigeria, rising insecurity is now an additional risk for most of who are already exposed to regulatory inconsistency, foreign exchange volatility and irregular fiscal and monetary policy.

The objective of the research is to assess the effect of insecurity and socioeconomic development on the National integrity of Nigeria. The research looks at the impact of effect on the people, the State and socio economic effect of insecurity.

# **Conceptual Clarification**

#### Concept of security/National security

Security can be viewed from many perspectives and prisms but no single definition can lay claim to universality and perfection. In any case, the common element to all definitions of security is that of protection against threats. Security as "the protection of the interests and values of a state or a nation against threats".

National security focuses priority on the amassment of the military armament, personnel and expenditure (Ochoche, 1998). However, national security has changed. It has expanded to include international economies, long term goals and reconciliation. These are important elements for the sustenance of a nation's security. Harold Brown US Secretary of defense from 1977 to 1981 in the carter administration enlarged the definition of National security by including element such as economic and environment security National security then is the ability to preserve the nation's physical integrity and territory to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms to preserve its nature, institution and governance from disruption from outside, and to control its borders'...

Also the importance attached to security was well captured in the Nigerian Constitution of 1999-section 14 (2) (b) of the Constitution states that "the security and welfare of the people shall be the primary purpose of government". Invariably therefore the Constitution has saddled the government with the responsibility of safeguarding lives, properties, welfare of Nigerians against both internal and external threats including other forms of danger (Eme & Onyishi 2011).

#### Globalization and security

With the help of modern technology and the new world order of joining nations and people, the phase of insecurity has changed. The global condition of human and financial security is at the peak of vulnerability. In present age, societal change has global characteristics such as closer and porous national boundaries, broken economic, financial and trade parameters, transnational ethic and religious vices etc.

Globalization and insecurity has exacerbated insecurity and weaken the state in Nigeria in a number of ways. First, globalization has led to increased economic inequality, as well as social and political instability (Collier, 2009). This can create grievances among those who feel marginalized or left behind, leading to violence and insecurity. Second, globalization has facilitated the flow of weapons and other illicit goods, which can fuel violence and organized crime (Adeniji, 2022). Third, globalization has created opportunities for transnational terrorist groups to operate and recruit members in Nigeria (Adeniji, 2022).

One of the best-known examples of the impact of globalization on security in Nigeria is the rise of Boko Haram. The group has been able to use the internet and social media to spread its ideology and recruit new members. Boko Haram has also used the free flow of goods across borders to obtain weapons and supplies, which have been used to carry out attacks on civilians and government targets (Olawale, 2022). The group's ability to operate across borders has also made it difficult for the Nigerian government to combat the threat. So globalization has played a significant role in the rise of Boko Haram and the resulting insecurity in Nigeria. (Goodluck Jonathan Foundation, 2014)

#### **Dimensional Impact of insecurity in Nigeria**

The inseparable link between security and development underscores the critical importance of addressing security challenges for both internal well-being and external perceptions of a country. In the case of Nigeria, as you rightly pointed out, the existing security challenges, if not effectively managed, can have detrimental effects on various fronts.

#### i. Internal Development Impacts:

- A. Economic Stability: Persistent insecurity can hinder economic activities, discourage investments, and impede the growth of businesses, adversely affecting the country's economic stability.
- B. Social Cohesion: Security challenges contribute to social unrest, displacement, and disruption of community life, undermining social cohesion and hindering the realization of sustainable development goals.
- C. Infrastructure Development: Ongoing security issues may disrupt infrastructure projects, impacting the construction of critical facilities such as roads, bridges, and energy installations.

#### ii. External Image and Perception:

A. Investor Confidence: Heightened insecurity can erode investor confidence, deterring foreign direct

investment and negatively impacting the country's image as an investment destination.

- B. Tourism: The security situation can discourage tourism, limiting the potential for the country to showcase its cultural and natural attractions to the global community.
- C. Diplomatic Relations: A nation's image is closely tied to its ability to maintain peaceful internal conditions. Persistent security challenges may strain diplomatic relations and impact international collaborations.

## iii. Social, Ethnic, and Religious Vices:

- A. Community Divisions: Social, ethnic, and religious tensions can lead to community divisions, hindering collaborative efforts for development and creating an environment conducive to insecurity.
- B. Governance Challenges: The management of diverse interests becomes more complex, potentially leading to governance challenges that can further exacerbate security issues.

# Interrelating globalization and security

The joining of the world from a bigger outlook into a smaller outlook through the use of information technology communication and technology. Globalization is defined as an evolution which is systematically restructuring interaction and interrelationship among individuals or nations by breaking down barriers in the areas of culture, distance, trade, communication and several other fields of endeavor(Olawale 2022). Globalization is the systematic process of linking the world together through the application and employment of technology. By globalization we mean the world in no longer a big and spherical object but an international village.

The advent of information technology and globalizing the world into a smaller village has changed the phase of various phenomena in the world. Security has not been spared has the rise in globalization has also led to a rise in the conjugation of groups, MNC'S and nations. Although globalization has tremendous potential benefits for developing countries (Hussein, 2018). The process of globalization is real as the economy increasing integrated provides an unprecedented opportunity for growth and higher living standard throughout the world, productivity, boost export earnings and in turn generate foreign exchange earnings that will lead to the expansion of economic activities in the country. Some say it is the movement of people, language, ideas, and products around the world. Others see it as the dominance of multinational corporations and the destruction of cultural identities. This is to say some see it from the bad side while some see it from the good side. Globalization broadly refers to the expansion of global linkages, the organization of social life on a global scale, and the growth of a global consciousness, hence to the consolidation of world society (Collier, 2009). More, It encompasses several large processes; definitions differ in what they emphasize. Globalization is historically complex; definitions vary in the particular driving force they identify. The meaning of the term is itself a topic in global discussion; it may refer to "real" processes, ideas that justify them, or to a way of thinking about them.

Social Communication media. network are applications and tools for globalization which as overtime given room for development and join the world together as one. With the help of social media most youths and even some adults in Nigeria and around the world have taken to social media as a means of trade and expressing their services to the world. Therefore media has enormous advantages socially, economically and also politically. The 21st century has created advanced technological knowledge with the help of Web 2.0 powering SM platforms. Our world today is filled with advanced technological knowledge and skills that have redefined human communication and interaction in modern society

With the modern day advancement in the security nature. The scope of security therefore encompasses;

- i. Protection and prevention of attack on the home front, home soil and corporation
- ii. Protection and defense of territorial integrity, economic and socio political value
- iii. Deter terrorist and other terror group and prevent internal crisis
- iv. Prevent foreign state military and non-state military interventions

#### **Dimensions of Insecurity in Nigeria**

- i. Emergence of Cyber security Threats: With the increasing digitization of various sectors, there might be a rise in cyber threats such as ransom ware attacks, data breaches, and online fraud, requiring enhanced cyber security measures. The increasing digitization of various sectors brings with it the potential for heightened cyber threats. As technology becomes more integral to daily operations, businesses, and government activities, the risk of cyber incidents such as ransom ware attacks, data breaches, and online fraud becomes more pronounced. To effectively mitigate these risks, enhanced cyber security measures are crucial.
- ii. COVID-19 Pandemic Impact: The ongoing global pandemic can introduce additional security challenges, including disruptions to public health infrastructure, economic strains, and potential social unrest due to pandemic-related issues. The ongoing global pandemic introduces a range of security challenges that extend beyond public health concerns. The multifaceted impact of the pandemic can lead to disruptions in various sectors, contributing to security challenges at different levels:
- iii. Extremist Ideologies and Radicalization: The rise of extremist ideologies and the radicalization of individuals, both online and offline, may pose new security threats, necessitating counter-radicalization and preventive measures. The rise of extremist ideologies and the potential radicalization of

individuals, whether occurring online or offline, indeed presents a significant security concern. To effectively counter this threat, a comprehensive approach involving both preventive measures and counter-radicalization strategies is essential

iv. Border Security: Challenges related to border illegal security, including migration, human trafficking, and the movement of illicit goods and arms, could become more pronounced, requiring improved border control mechanisms. challenges related to border security, such as illegal migration, human trafficking, and the movement of illicit goods and arms, can become more pronounced in a dynamic global landscape. Enhancing border control mechanisms is crucial to address these challenges effectively

v. Food and Water Security: Issues related to food and water security might escalate, leading to conflicts over resources and necessitating strategies for sustainable resource management and climate resilience. The escalation of issues related to food and water security is a significant concern, and it can indeed lead to conflicts over resources. In the face of these challenges, adopting strategies for sustainable resource management and climate resilience becomes imperative

vi. Polarization and Political Instability: Heightened political tensions and polarization could contribute to increased social unrest and political instability, requiring effective governance and conflict resolution mechanisms. The heightened political tensions and polarization can indeed contribute to increased social unrest and political instability. To address these challenges, effective governance and conflict resolution mechanisms are paramount

vii. Disinformation and Hybrid Threats: The spread of disinformation, misinformation, and hybrid threats through social media and other channels might pose challenges to national security, demanding efforts to counter false narratives. The spread of disinformation, misinformation, and hybrid threats through social

media and other channels poses significant challenges to national security. Addressing these challenges requires concerted efforts to counter false narratives and protect the integrity of information

viii. Urban Security Challenges: Rapid urbanization can bring about new security challenges, including increased crime rates, inadequate urban planning, and challenges in law enforcement within urban centers. Urban security challenges pose a distinctive dimension of insecurity that requires targeted strategies to ensure the safety and well-being of urban populations. Urban areas often experience higher crime rates, including street crimes, property crimes, and cybercrimes.. Gang-related activities can contribute to violence and insecurity in urban environments

#### Theoretical framework

## **State Fragility Theory**

The theory gained prominence from the 1990s onwards and gained further traction after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. The main proponents of the state fragility theory include Robert I. Rotberg, who coined the term "failed state" in his 2002 book "When States Fail," and Francis Fukuyama, who wrote extensively on the subject in his 2004 book "State-Building: Governance and World Order in the 21st Century."

A fragile state is a low income country characterized by a weak state capacity or weak state legitimacy leaving citizens vulnerable to a range of shocks. A fragile state is significantly susceptible to crisis in one or more of is sub systems. It is a state that is particularly vulnerable to internal and external shocks, and domestic and international conflicts. In a fragile state institutional arrangements embody and perhaps preserve the conditions of crisis: in economic terms, this could be institutions that reinforce stagnation or low growth rates or embody extreme inequality(in wealth, in access to land, in access to the means to make a living); in social terms institutions may embody extreme inequality or lack of access altogether to health or education; in political terms institution

may entrench exclusionary coalitions in power (in ethnic religious, or perhaps regional terms)or extreme factionalism or significantly fragmented security organizations".

Overtime, the globalization of the world into a global village also exposed the world into a new form of security threats ranging from individual, corporate and national level. Most states in different parts of the world has been prone or attacked cyber but some states have been able to modify and safeguarding the ICT spaces. However countries of the third world has still been struggling with protecting the ICT space thereby giving rooms for malicious, libelous, injurious spreads of informations between and amongst ethnic groups. Therefore the theory asserts that the reasons for the social media insecurity is because of the fragility of the state

#### **Relevance of the Theory**

The idea surrounding security envisages or impedes development. Marketers, investors, traders and other economic and political stakeholders for the safety of their life's and investment flee from areas ensued with violence, crisis, war or other insecurity issues

#### Methodology

The research is a case study research and therefore the research employs the use of secondary Data which sourced from literature such as textbooks, articles, research papers, Journals, newspapers, Television reports and Internet sources. It is important to note that this research is descriptive and analytical showing the relationship between the dependent variable which is security on the independent variable which is national integrity.

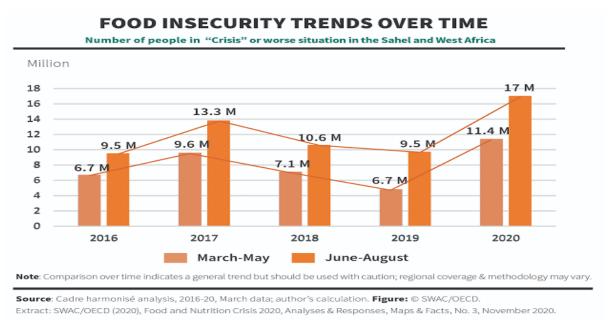
#### **Literature Review**

# **Implications of Security Challenges**

In the present age of globalization phenomenon sequel to a state has a tendency of transcending into other state. Social security being the most important function for the creation of Government is a factor which undermines the legitimacy of the government. Nigeria as a member of the international community and a player in the global politics has a earmarked various visions and objectives it seeks to achieve, like the vision 2020, the economic development and to be African giant). To this end, Jonathan and also the Buhari led government has drawn a road map and framework an agenda to achieve this vision (Olawale, 2022). However, the increasing state of insecurity in the country as a result of the activities of armed and ritual Kidnappers, militants group, cult violent armed robbers and more especially the Boko Haram sect seems to make the dream or vision unattainable. This action by these vices has implications for Nigeria both internally and externally.

The internal effect of insecurity has scourging effect on the people and the various sectors of the state while the external effect of these affect the inter relationship between the state and others. In the first place, the increasing state of insecurity presently in Nigeria especially by Boko Haram sect, has culminated into Nigeria being black listed and given bad image as a terrorist nation by the international community.

Persistent insecurity disrupts economic activities, discourages investments, and undermines business confidence. This hampers economic growth and impedes the creation of a conducive environment for sustainable development. This has shown in the declining food consumption in the country.



More so, when food becomes a problem. The insecurity situation results in internal displacement, disruption of education, and a strained healthcare system. This negatively affects the development and productivity of the nation's human capital.

Unfortunately, this spate of insecurity appears to have defied all security protocol thereby making the security architecture seem incapable at the sight of the menace (Abdulkareem, 2020). More, insecurity disrupts the political stability of a country. So, when the political system is unstable as a result of insecurity, the leadership of the country is distracted from pursuing its political and developmental agenda for transforming the country. This is due to the fact that rather than focus on the agenda of government in power, government will be compelled to re-direct all its energy, funds and resources towards curtailing the insecurity at the expense of other developmental plans. For instance in the 2012 budget security took a large

portion of N921.91 billion, (Newswatch, 2012) when compared with other sectors like health, education, agriculture etc, yet the country is plunged into instability as peace in the polity seems to be a mirage.

More, the *Boko Haram* insurgent group have killed several thousand civilian lives, and displaced millions of people along the Lake Chad region. This insurgency group is known for once holding seventeen local government areas in Borno state, the kidnap of Dapchi girls, Chibok girls., although some experts and security official believes the Boko Haram to be heading towards extinction following several joint military campaigns between the year 2015 to 2022, still the terrorist group has remained remarkably adaptable with its tactics which has sustained its existence in the region till today (Brechenmacher, 2019).

# Media Reported Cases of Civilians and Security Personnel Killed in Nigeria

The figure for 2020 is for the full year, while that of 2021 is from January to September only.



Chart: Dataphyte · Source: SBM Intelligence · Created with Datawrapper

The political instability in a state will more so, affect the external image of the country. The perception of political stability is a crucial factor for foreign governments, investors, and international partners assessing a nation's attractiveness collaboration, investment, and diplomatic engagement. Political instability raises concerns among investors about the security of their investments. Zubai (2019) asserts that Uncertainty in governance may deter foreign direct investment and hinder economic development. Countries with political instability may face challenges in establishing and maintaining stable trade relations. Trading partners often seek stable environments for business transactions and investments. Politically unstable states may find it challenging to build and maintain diplomatic relationships. Consistency and reliability governance are essential for fostering positive diplomatic ties with other nations

According to the Global Peace Index 2020, Nigeria ranked 147th out of 163 countries (compared to 148th position in the previous year). Every investment is majorly for the purpose of profit and development, but insecurity could defeat the purpose. This is why foreign investors usually avoid regions and areas prone

to security challenges. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country has dropped. When there is insecurity in the country, foreign investors are scared away from coming to invest their capital and contribute towards economic development. Insecurity discourages investment as it makes investment unattractive to business people. This is because it increases the cost of doing business either through direct loss of goods and properties or the cost of taking precautions against business risks and uncertainty. These costs could have a negative impact on business development and progress. The thick arrow connecting the insecurity environment and business investment means that insecurity can be a huge blockade to business investment.

Fourthly, the economy suffers from stagnation. The ramping up of violent attacks on diverse civilian and military targets in Nigeria by Boko Haram since July 2009, when it launched a short-lived anti-government revolt, has effectively made the group a subject of interest to states, security agencies, journalists and scholars...

Nigeria is at war with self as insecurity remains her greatest challenge. Nigeria is witnessing a number of security challenges associated with militancy.

Kidnapping, armed robbery, political killings, arms proliferation, piracy, ethno-religious clashes, insurgencies like Boko Haram and IPOB heralded new security challenges. These fundamentalist groups in the Northern Nigeria and the movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta remain serious setbacks for the growth and development in Nigeria. In the south east especially Abia state, Kidnapping and armed robbery activities grounded the economy of the state to a halt few years ago. Thus, small and medium scale enterprises closed down their businesses, and even banks shut down their operations because they were losing so much money to the armed robbers. This affects the population and demand for goods and services that could boost the economy of the nation. In the latter, money that should have been used to provide new infrastructure would be channeled back to rebuild those properties destroyed

#### **Findings**

The research was able to discover that security has a significant impact on the socio-economic integrity of Nigeria, as evidenced by its national integrity. Insecurity, particularly in conflict-affected regions like the North-East and the Niger Delta, disrupts economic activities such as agriculture, trade, and investment. This leads to reduced productivity, loss of livelihoods, and overall economic decline (International Crisis Group, 2020).: Prolonged insecurity limits access to education and healthcare services, leading to decreased human capital development. Children are often unable to attend school due to safety concerns, and healthcare facilities may be inaccessible or overwhelmed, resulting in poor health outcomes (UNICEF, 2020).

: Persistent insecurity deters both domestic and foreign investment, as businesses face risks such as property damage, supply chain disruptions, and threats to personnel safety. This hampers economic growth and job creation, exacerbating poverty and inequality (World Bank, 2020).: Insecurity fosters distrust and division among communities, ethnic groups, and religious affiliations, undermining social cohesion and solidarity. This can fuel further conflict and instability,

perpetuating a cycle of violence and underdevelopment (International Crisis Group, 2020).

#### **Conclusion and Recommendation**

These findings highlight the interconnectedness between security and socio-economic integrity in Nigeria, underscoring the importance of addressing security concerns to foster sustainable development, social cohesion, and good governance. Addressing effective governance security threats requires structures and institutions. However, the Nigerian government's capacity to provide security and maintain law and order has been hampered by corruption: weak institutions. and inadequate resources, further exacerbating security challenges (Transparency International, 2021).

To address these security challenges, Nigeria must adopt a multifaceted approach that includes: Strengthening counterterrorism efforts and intelligence capabilities by improving our counterterrorism capabilities and networks. Security is now a global priority and state must invest in defense technology and innovation by Investing in cyber security infrastructure and capabilities.

Enhancing regional and international collaboration to combat transnational crimes. Nigeria's border is presently too porous and the security is too weak. The state must protect its borders effectively. The free flow of migrants and aliens allows for free flow of bad intentions people also get in to the country illegally making terrorist activity easy.

Developing strategies for climate change adaptation and resource management. Climate change is one of the problems causing insecurity and crisis therefore the government must actively invest in form of intervention in the North east areas that are suffering from desertification by creating infrastructures of water etc. As cyber threats continue to evolve, a proactive and adaptive approach to cyber security is essential to safeguard digital assets and maintain the

integrity of operations in an increasingly digitized environment.

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