Security Tensions and the Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Nigeria

[1]**Joseph K. Ukwayi &**
[2]**Bassey Anam**
[1]*Department of Sociology, University of Calabar*
[2]*Institute of Public Policy & Administration, University of Calabar*

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Abstract

It is over a year now when world leaders proposed a 17-goal agenda known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The goal has 69 components aimed at ending poverty, protecting the planet, as well as ensuring prosperity for all. The United Nations (UN) described these goals as those that will "transform our world" within the next 15 years, which lapses in 2030. The policy is a continuation of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Recent studies have shown that most countries, especially African countries could not achieve the MDGs due to several challenges. For Nigeria, the problem has largely been that of security. No meaningful development policy can be achieved without a peaceful political, social and economic environment. The current ethnic, social, political and economic security challenges in the country pose a threat to the achievement of the SDGs. This paper examines this truth and identifies measures of reducing rising security tensions in the country. Using a descriptive research design, data are drawn mainly from secondary sources as such; the study adopts the content analysis of issues. To be sure that the SDGs can be achieved by 2030, the study recommends the adoption of dialogue and inclusive mechanism as a way of addressing security tensions in the country.

Corresponding Author:
Bassey Anam

Background to the Study

Nigeria has an estimated population of 170 million people (Abass, 2012). It is endowed with solid minerals; oil and gas and sizeable educated and skill workforce. In spite of these, Nigeria has not been able to harness its blessing to progress the economy sufficiently to improve the welfare of its people. As the population is fast growing, so are the ideas of how to grow the economy. In moving forward, several development policies have been initiated. At the international level, the country has joined itself with other nations to work towards the actualization of global development goals such as the millennium development goal and the sustainable development goals, among others.

According to Dabak (2014), sustainable development is a global commitment and an overarching umbrella also for environment-related research. Building on the foundation laid by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the United Nations member states, including the European Union (EU) Member States, agreed in 2012 at the Rio+20 Sustainable Development Conference, to develop Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They are an integral part of the post-2015 development agenda which is scheduled for adoption by the UN Member States in September 2015. Nigeria, like most other nations of the world, signed this treaty and promised to work towards the realization of this goal. To achieve this, a number of steps were taken, including the release of central government funds. Offices were created and individuals appointed to key positions to work towards the MDG targets (Isah, 2014).

In assessing the success level of the MDGs, United Nations reported that the number of people living in extreme poverty declined worldwide by more than half, falling from 1.9 billion in 1990 to 836 million in 2015; primary school enrolment rate has increased and the number of out-of-school children of primary school age worldwide has fallen by almost half, to an estimated 57 million in 2015, down from 100 million in 2000 across the world. There has been a significant improvement in gender equality with the empowerment of women as more girls are in school, more women are in paid employment and many more women are now in government around the world. The global under-five year mortality rate has declined by more than half, dropping from 90 to 43 deaths per 1,000 live births between 1990 and 2015 (UN, 2015). In addition, maternal mortality ratio has declined by 45 per cent worldwide since 1990 with an improvement in contraceptive prevalence; and new malaria and HIV cases have declined, with new HIV infections falling by approximately 40 percent between 2000 and 2013, from an estimated 3.5 million cases to 2.1million (UN, 2015). For Nigeria, at the end of the MDG period in 2015, much is yet to be desired. There are a number of unsupported claims that Nigeria achieved most of the goals, especially the HIV and maternal mortality MDG targets ahead of deadline (Akosile, 2015).

According to Ideyi (n.d), human beings knows that a peaceful world is far better than the violent world because of development, which is the positive change and which enhances, promotes and advances his well-being is a direct function of peace. While backwardness, which distorts, disfigures, diminishes and impoverishes his well-being, is a direct product of insecurity. Eme & Anthony (2011) summarizes the impact of insecurity in Nigeria in the following words:

1. Social dislocation and population displacement
2. Social tensions and the new pattern of settlements which encourages Muslims/Christians or members of an ethnic group moving to Muslim/Christian dominated enclaves.
3. Heightens citizenship question and encourages hostility between "indigenes" and "settlers".
4. Dislocation and disruption of family and communal life.
5. The general atmosphere of mistrust, fear, anxiety and frenzy
6. Dehumanization of women, children, and men especially in areas where rape, child abuse, and neglect are used as instruments of war.
7. Deepening of hunger and poverty in the society
8. The atmosphere of political insecurity and instability including declining confidence in the political leadership and apprehension about the system.
9. Governance deficit as a result of security agencies inefficiency and corruption.
10. Loss of man hours due to shortened working hours by banks and commercial institutions and the unprecedented loss of man hours or closure of businesses by those who work at night due to the curfew consequent on the declaration of the state of emergency in some states. This has affected the informal but widespread sector of the local economy such as suya, shayi, kosai vendors who make out their living on day to day basis. (Shettima, 2012)

There is no gainsaying that socio-economic, socio-political and socio-cultural development can only strive in an atmosphere of peace and tranquillity. This is because without an enabling environment in which production, industrial activities, and trade can take place and prosper; development would forever remain elusive (Dabak, 2014). Like most development policies, this paper argues that Nigeria could not successful achieve the MDGs because of insecure socio-economic, political and cultural environment and that with rising security tensions, the prospects of achieving the sustainable development goals by 2030 may not be realizable. It suggests the need for the government to address current security challenges if meaningful development is to be achieved.

Methodology
The study adopts descriptive research design. Data are drawn mainly from secondary sources as such; the study adopts the content analysis of issues.

MDGs Survey Report 2015 in Nigeria
In the year 2000, over 148 countries signed up to the Millennium Declaration, which articulated a bold vision and established concrete targets for improving and saving the lives of those threatened by diseases and hunger. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are 8 international goals that were officially established following the millennium summit of the United Nations in 2000, as well as the adoption of the United Nation Millennium Declaration (Isah, 2014). The MDGs caught the world's imagination from the very day they were agreed by a record of 189 countries and 23 international organizations at the UN General Assembly in September 2000, agreed to achieve those target. The goals include those dedicated to eradicating poverty, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating

HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability and developing a global partnership for development.

The eight main targets, using 1990 as a baseline, are:
1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
2. Achieve Universal Basic Education
3. Promote Gender equality
4. Reduce Child Mortality
5. Improve maternal health 2015 target
6. Combat AIDS, Malaria, and Other Diseases
7. Ensure environmental sustainability
8. Develop a Global Partnership for Development

Shettima (2012) opined that Nigeria was an enthusiastic signatory to the MDGs and has claimed to pursue them vigorously since then, though with varying degrees of success. While MDGs are for all mankind, they are primarily about children, in part because children are the most vulnerable when essentials like food, water, and healthcare are scarce. Children are always the first victims, six of the eight goals relates directly to children. The aim of MDGs is to encourage development by improving social and economic conditions in the world's poorest countries. The millennium declaration produced by the United Nations, which asserts that every individual has the right to dignity, freedom, equality, a basic standard of living that includes freedom from hunger and violence, and encourages tolerance and solidarity. The MDGs were made to operationalize these ideas by setting targets and indicators for poverty reduction in order to achieve the right set forth in the declaration on a set fifteen-year timeline, there are 8 goals with 21 targets and a series of measurable health indicators and economic indicators for each target (Anam, 2015).

Anam (2015) further noted that the Millennium Development Goal Reports (MDGRs) begins with the development context of the country and examines each goal according to a status of progress to date; major challenges faced; supportive environment; priorities for development assistance; capacity for monitoring progress. The performance appraisal of Nigeria's thirteenth-year journey to achieving the set Millennium Development Goals is mixed. Progress towards five MDGs has been below average but, progress has been less satisfactory towards the achievement of the goals, especially the first goal; eradicating extreme poverty and hunger.

Poverty and hunger are no new concepts but at each mention, they stir a lot of misgiving. This is because of their very devastating influence on its victims. They reduce the social and psychological prestige of its victims. Poverty is a condition of being poor. This could be evidenced even amidst plenty because there could be reeking poverty as a result of lack of knowledge to translate potentiality into practical creative benefits to actuate well-being. In other words, if there is a poverty of something, it, therefore, means that there is a lack of it or the quality of it is extremely low. As an economic strategy to achieve the MDG, in 2004, Nigeria produced a policy document called the National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS) to further see to the achievement of the millennium development goals. Specifically, NEEDS has the following actionable goal:

a. Wealth creation
b. Employment generation
c. Poverty reduction
d. Value re-orientation

As was expected, NEEDs sought to fight against the many strands of poverty through job creation and empowerment of people to success. As a way of bringing the reform programme closer to Nigerians, each state government is expected to develop a State Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (SEEDs). The implementation, monitoring and evaluation framework will be through the National Economic Council and the National Council Development on Planning. Furthermore, local governments are being encouraged to develop benchmarks, targets, deliverables, timeliness and implementation guides. The institutional framework of NEEDs was meant to facilitate the process of interaction between stakeholders and to ensure synergy in the implementation process. In assessing the performance of MDGs and NEEDS in Nigeria, especially when it relates to 'poverty eradication' one can say without fear of contradiction that MDGs have performed below the expectations of Nigerians. Table 1 below explains this further. The table shows an increase in the urban poverty ratio in the country between 1992 and 2015.

Table 1: Demographic and Deprivation Statistics for Nigeria

Year	Population (million)	Urban Population	Poverty percentage	Actual poor population (millions)
1992/93	96.8	38%	59.2	57.3
1996/97	102.3	42.3%	70.2	71.8
2002	120.9	45.9%	70.2	93.2
2015	161.7	55.5%	66.9	108.3

Source: Agbedo (2016)

From table 1 above, it is clear that poverty, rather than reducing, is actually increasing in Nigeria. Estimates also show that the 2015 target is at variance with the trend. The Poverty Gap ratio also increased. Poverty is very real in Nigeria. Poverty has various manifestations, including lack of income and productive resources sufficient to ensure sustainable livelihood; hunger and malnutrition, ill health; limited or lack of access to education and other basic services, increase morbidity and mortality from illness, homelessness and inadequate housing; unsafe environments, social discriminations, and exclusion. It is also characterized by a lack of participation in decision and in civil, social and cultural life (Edoh 2001). It can also be inferred; by the increasing urban population figures that Urban Poverty will also increase.

Edoh (2001) further identifies the following as some of the causes of poverty in Nigeria:
1. Corruption and embezzlement
2. Poor Leadership
3. Lack of comprehensive National Poverty Alleviation
4. Lack of sound agricultural policy and protracted neglect of the sector.
5. Lack of basic infrastructures

6.   Rapid population growth
7.   Excessive internal and external debt burden.

Several factors are responsible for the inability of the nation to achieve poverty reduction strategies. Besides weak institutional framework, there are security challenges that hamper development efforts. It is important to examine these issues bearing in mind that, if they are not critically assessed and addressed, they hamper the achievement of development goals currently adopted.

Security tensions and the achievement of sustainable development goals in Nigeria
Sustainable development simply puts entails development that can be kept going or maintained (Abumere, 2002). This should entail proper attention given to the transformation of productive forces and commensurate transformation in the social relations of production. Lele (1991) describes sustainable development as "a new way of life and approach to social and economic activities for all societies, rich and poor which are compatible with the preservation the Environment Sustainable Development refers to the efficient management of resources for human survival taking into consideration both the present and future generation. The ability to maintain this guarantees sustainable development. Several factors affect the achievement of development goals.

Nigeria is synonymous with deep divisions which cause major political issues to be vigorously and violently contested along the lines of intricate ethnic, religious and regional divisions (Osaghae and Suberu 2005). There is evidence of the various intra-ethnic conflicts witnessed among the minority groups, like the lfe-modake, TIV, Jukun, and the constant clashes that have become a daily occurrence in the Niger Delta regions of the country (Anderson, 2010). The various conflicts that have taken place show that the unity of the country is at stake. The Niger Delta crisis has got to be resolute, and environmental degradation in oil producing regions remains a problem. Exacerbating this is the public perception that the government has been insensitive and slow in addressing fundamental issues affecting Nigerians such as poverty alleviation resource distribution, infrastructural development, and security. An air of uncertainty continues to pervade the Nigeria society, thereby negating the maximum utilization of both the abundant human and material resources in the country for the total development of socio-political and economic sectors of the nation. As Anam (2015) said "ethnic conflicts has a clear chance of following the part to a serious imbalance or disjunction between order and development at any level of the economic, social and political structures.

Agbedo (2016) disclosed that between 1999 and 2013, numerous conflicts have been witnessed in Nigeria. The most important among them is the Boko Haram crisis which is on-going. This group has started a bloody campaign to impose a sui-generis Islamic regime based on Sharia in the Muslim North of the country. Actually, it is hard to argue that Boko Haram is a religious or ethnic conflict. In the former case, it targets more Muslims than Christians. In the latter, it is mostly an ethnic Northern conflict. For this reason, though Boko Haram uses a religious discourse, it may be more appropriate to call it simply a terrorist organisation (Anderso, 2010).

With regard to the numerous conflicts and the Boko Haram menace, in particular, the country's stability is under constant threat. Boko Haram has introduced into Nigeria's political and social life a level of insurgency never witnessed before. The insurgency became violent in 2008 even before the country could heal from previous ethnoreligious conflicts (Shehu 2011). From a clear standpoint, the challenges pose by ethnicity and social insecurity in Nigeria is a threat to national development, especially the attainment of the sustainable development goals. The Nigerian government and political elites must wake up and enthrone good governments, promote national integration and foster good economic progress that will foster national unity and economic progress.

Terrorism is the most fundamental source of insecurity in Nigeria today, and its primary bases and sources of support have generally been located in religious fanaticism and intolerance (Ekundayo, 2013). As "the premeditated use or threat of use of violence by an individual or group to cause fear, destruction or death, especially against unarmed targets, property or infrastructure in a state, intended to compel those in authority to respond to the demands and expectations of the individual or group behind such violent acts" (Agbedo, 2016) which has cost 13.4 percent of the world gross domestic product. Nigeria has lost more than 1000 lives in the Northern region since 2009 to the insurgency of this infamous sect, Boko Haram which has been ravaging the northern region of the country (Ekundayo, 2013).

Furthermore, Agbedo (2016) observed that the Boko Haram insurgency/Niger Delta militancy is sufficiently diffuse that superior firepower of government cannot be fully effective, and to approach triumph too closely may be to forement resistance by the communities where the battle would be fought. All of the factors above are succinctly summarized in the views expressed by foreign observers about the causes of insecurity in Nigeria. Located the sources of insecurity in Nigeria in four factors: political conflicts; the unbalanced development that involves horizontal inequalities; religious/ethnic distrust; and leadership failure (Agbedo, 2016). It could be associated with low level of economic development as a result of poor governance and high-level corruption.

There is a rising scourge known as conflicts resulting from cattle grazing problem in Nigeria. According to Fajonyomi, Fatile and Ejalonibu (2016), these conflicts have become pervasive to the extent that most states in Nigeria have an unresolved conflict associated with cattle grazing and this affects agricultural development in the area. In the view of Abass (2012), violent attacks by Fulani herdsmen on farmers and innocent citizens in Nigeria in the recent past has taken more sophisticated dimensions with the use of new types of weapons and communication devices. Fasona & Omojola (2005) also noted that conflicts resulting from grazing problem accounted for more than 35% of reported clashes from the 1990s to date in the country. Thus, the destruction of several lives and properties has further aggravated the violence. In consequence, the agrarian communities have resorted to self-defense through local vigilante groups (Fajonyomi, Fatile, and Ejalonibu, 2016). The table below shows samples of recent cases of clashes between pastoralists and crop farmer in Nigeria.

Table 2: Samples of cases of clashes between herdsmen and farmers in Nigeria

S/N	Nature of the Incidence	When	Where
1	Fulani herdsmen attacked Ukpabi Nimbo in Uzo – Uwani Local Government Area of Enugu State and about 40 people were killed	April 25th, 2016	Enugu State
2	Twenty-five Local Government Areas in Delta State protested on the Benin-Asaba Expressway, the alleged killing of about 23 persons by herdsmen.	April 19th, 2016	Delta State
3	15 people were killed as the Fulani herdsmen attacked two villages in Gashaka Local Government Area of Taraba State	April 12th, 2016	Taraba State
4	5 days to the end of Governor Suswam's administration in May 2015 over 100 farmers and their family members were killed in villages and refugee camps located in Ukura, Per, Gafa and Tse-Gusa LGAs of the State	May 24th 2015	Benue
5	Farmer's hand was cut off; his sibling was raped and farmland destroyed.	March 2015	Oyo State
6	Clashes between Gbagyi farmers and Fulani nomads near Abuja left two people dead, five injured, and over 1,500 people displaced from about 27 settlements that were destroyed.	December 2012	Plateau State
7	About 200 persons, including a serving federal senator, Gyang Dantong, were killed in Matse and Kakuru villages during a funeral for some people killed earlier by suspected Fulani herdsmen.	July 2012	Plateau State
8	At least six people were killed, houses burnt, and several farmlands were destroyed in Ngandum Village, Adamawa State as pastoralists and farmers engaged in a fierce battle. These occurred after Herdsmen led their cattle into rice fields resulting in the death of a farmer.	June 2012	Adamawa State
9	A clash between farmers and herders in Gwer West area in Benue State left five people dead, and many others displaced	May 2012	Benue State
10	April 2012 One person was killed, and several others were injured in a Fulani-Hausa Clash in Sokoto.	April 2012	Sokoto
11	Sixteen people were killed in a clash between Tiv farmers and Fulani herdsmen in Kadarko community, Giza Local Council of Nasarawa State. About 5,000 residents fled to safer areas in nearby towns.	March 2012	Nasarawa State
12	The conflict between Fulani pastoralists and sedentary farmers in Gwer West Local Government Area of Benue State left over 30 people dead.	March 2012	Benue State
13	Fulani/ farmers clash in Kirikasamma Local Government area of Borno State left one person was killed and over 17 people from the farmers' side seriously injured. This was triggered when farmers in the area took measures to protect the perennial destruction of their yet-to-be-harvested farm produce and frequent attacks on them by the Fulani pastoralists. Conflicts between farmers and Fulani pastoralists in Benue State, left two soldiers, some 50 men, women, and children dead.	November 2011	Borno State & Benue State
14	Fulani herders invaded three villages of Dogo Na Hauwa, Ratsat and Jeji in Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State killing many people including mostly children and women in a barbaric manner.	March 2010	Plateau State
15	32 people were killed, scores of houses burned, and several farms destroyed following clashes between pastoralists and farmers in Nassarawa State. About 700 pastoralists were sent away from Borno State	December 2009	Nassarawa State & Borno State

16	Dozens of people were killed in Adamawa state when Fulani herdsmen alleged to come from Chad and Niger attacked farming communities in a dispute over grazing land.	February 2005	Adamawa State
17	49 farmers were killed as they flee nomad attacks by Nomads in the farming town of Yelwa, Plateau State.	February 2004	Plateau State
18	Herdsmen attacked and burned 34 farming villages in Adamawa and Gombe States which resulted in 63 dead and over 500 people were injured.	May 2003	Adamawa/ Gombe States
19	About 100 people were killed in clashes over the past days between Fulani and the Yungar ethnic groups in Adamawa State.	February 2003	Adamawa State
20	About 30 people were killed in conflicts between farmers and herders over grazing land in BarkinLadi local council area of Plateau State.	January 2002	Plateau State

Source: Adapted from Agbedo, (2016)

Fajonyomi, Fatile, and Ejalonibu (2016) explained that the herder/farmer conflict has serious implications for the progress of Nigeria. Social and economic factors continue to provoke violent conflicts among the Fulani herdsmen and farmers. The intensity and variations of the conflicts depend on the nature and type of the user groups where the herders graze. These conflicts have constituted serious threats to the means livelihoods of both the farmers and herdsmen (Isah, 2014). As noted by Tonah (2006), conflicts between farmers and herders have been a feature of economic livelihood in Nigeria. This development is unhealthy in achieving community and/or rural development in Nigeria.

The insecurity environment of business refers to insecurity variables that affect the performance of a business but over which the business enterprise has little or no direct control. In Nigeria, the variables range from theft to organized armed robbery, kidnapping and demand for ransom, assassination, repeated invasion and blockading of business installations, social injustice, unemployment, lack of access to livelihood resources, rising cost of living, and bombing, pipelines destruction. All these variables of crimes and social maladies have made the Nigerian security environment to be complex. In addition to the usual crimes, the coordinated attacks from the Boko Haram sect in the northern part of the country, besides making life miserable for Nigerians, has affected so many businesses operating in that region. The bomb explosions initiated by this group have been on the increase leading to enormous loss of life and property and a general atmosphere of fear and social tension in the country.

Statistics have also indicated that in the last one year, there is a significant decline in peace as Nigeria dropped four places to 146th out of 158 countries in the 2012 Global Peace Ranking. In fact, Nigeria has been identified as the least peaceful country in West Africa (GPI, 2012).West Africa is the most unsecured region in the world and Nigeria is the most unsecured country in the region as it has consistently ranked high among the countries in West Africa. On the contrary, Ghana a neighboring country to Nigeria has consistently ranked low and is taken as the most peaceful country in the region.

Also, lack of institutional capacity resulting in government failure described as the corrosion or breakdown of institutional infrastructures (Çancı, Haldun, Şevket and Şen, 2010). The foundations of the institutional framework in Nigeria are very shaky and have provoked deterioration of state governance and democratic accountability, thus, paralyzing the existing set of constraints including the formal and legitimate rules nested in the hierarchy of social order. The state of insecurity in Nigeria is greatly a function of government failure or can be linked to government failure. This is manifested by the incapacity of government to deliver public services and to provide basic needs for the masses. The lack of basic necessities by the people in Nigeria has created a pool of frustrated people who are ignited easily by any event to be violent. The argument here is that Nigeria has the resources to provide for the needs of its people, but corruption in public offices at all levels has made it impossible for office holders to focus on the provision of basic needs for the people Nigerian situation as a 'Paradox of Plenty'. A situation where the country earns a great deal of revenue through oil sales but fails to use these earnings to meet the needs of its people and to develop infrastructure as well as the economy. When these situations exist, the crime rate is bound to rise and the security of lives and properties cannot be guaranteed.

There is also weak security system in Nigeria. This results from inadequate equipment for the security arm of government, both in weaponry and training. This is in addition to poor attitudinal and behavioral disposition of security personnel. In many cases, security personnel assigned to deal with given security situations lack the expertise and equipment to handle the situations in a way to prevent them from occurring. And even when these exist, some personnel get influenced by ethnic, religious or communal sentiment and are easily swallowed by their personal interest to serve their people, rather than the nation. Thus, instead of being national watchdogs and defending national interest and values, and protecting people from harm by criminals, they soon become saboteurs of government effort by supporting and fuelling insecurity through either leaking vital security information or aiding and abetting criminals to acquire weapons or to escape the long arm of the law.

Loss of Socio-cultural and communal value system further forms a security challenge that affects the achievement of development goal in Nigeria. The traditional value system of the Nigerian society like most African societies is characterized by such endearing features as collectivism, loyalty to authority and community, truthfulness, honesty, hard work, tolerance, love for others, Mutual harmony and co-existence, and identification of individual with one another (Other distinctive features of Nigerian traditional society are abhorrence for theft and high value for living. Stealing was considered extremely disgraceful and lives were also highly valued). All of these values which made society secured and safe have all gradually been thrown away and lost. New values have taken over their place over the years, with the so-called 'modernity and civilization'. All our endearing values and morals have been traded off for western values.

It must also be pointed out that unemployment and poverty further heighten the security challenge in the country. As a result of the high level of unemployment and poverty among Nigerians, especially the youths, they are adversely attracted to violent crime. Failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities is one of the major causes of insecurity in the country.

There is a strong skepticism that if the level of insecurity in Nigeria is not addressed, efforts towards the actualization of development goals may end in futility. The nation must strive to get to a level where crimes will be nipped in the bud before they are perpetuated. Therefore, the government, civil society groups, business organisation, and individuals must fight insecurity so as to create an enabling environment where business organizations will feel free and secure to achieve their full potentials and the country will itself be safe to achieve sustainable development.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations
The challenge of achieving development goals in Nigeria was the focus of this paper. The literature reviewed disclosed that no meaningful development policy can be achieved without a peaceful political, social and economic environment. The current ethnic, social, political and economic security challenges in the country pose a threat to the achievement of the SDGs. In view of this, the paper recommends the need the adoption of dialogue and inclusive mechanism as a way of addressing security tensions in the country. This can be achieved through the following ways,

1. Through the dialogue and the adoption of inclusive and integrated strategies, the Nigerian government and Nigerians must address challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities as these are major causes of insecurity in the country.

2. Through traditional and formal institutions, the traditional value system of the Nigerian society such as collectivism, loyalty to authority and community, truthfulness, honesty, hard work, tolerance, love for others, mutual harmony and co-existence, and identification of individual with one another, among other things must be taught and imbibe by citizens.

3. The challenges pose by ethnicity and social insecurity in Nigeria is a threat to national development, especially the attainment of the sustainable development goals. Ongoing insurgency and conflict between farmers and herders, which affects socio-economic development in Nigeria, must be meaningfully addressed. National integration is the goal.

4. Institutional capacity at the federal, state and local level must be enhanced. This will affect the quality of policy formulation and implementation in the country.

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