

## **Nigeria – United States Relations: A Reflection on Mutuality of Interest in the Post-Cold War Era.**

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### **Abstract**

**T**his paper focuses on areas of mutual interests between Nigeria and United States in the post-Cold War era. The study adopted historical and qualitative research methods and obtained bulk of the data from extensive review of secondary materials, especially literature from the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs. The paper utilized thematic analytical approach in analyzing data gathered for the study. From the analysis, the study noted that there are continuities and shifts in Nigeria and United States relations in the post-cold War era, particularly during military regime in Nigeria and toward the end of Goodluck Jonathan's administration. The study also revealed that both countries share common commitment to democracy and good governance, Regional Security and Stability, trade, economy, investment and military interests. The paper argues that, though the degree of mutual interest between both states varies, but they need each other that as the United States policy towards Nigeria in the period of study revolve around the realistic presumption that Nigeria can serve as the arrow head of American interest and policy actions in Africa. Contemporary issues, however, especially terrorism banditry, corruption and electoral fraud in Nigeria need United States special attention to guarantee regional security and stability that is central to both States.

**Keywords:** *Democracy, Good Governance, Economy, Security, Nigeria, United States*

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### **Background to the Study**

The collapse of the former Soviet Union in 1989 was accompanied by the dismantling of the Berlin Wall, disintegration of the former Soviet Union and decomposition of the Communist regime in Eastern and Central Europe. These developments influenced foreign policy of nation – state, essentially driven by domestic realities or National interest. The “Cold War” World Order was largely, an order characterized by seemingly fierce ideological war between the United States – led advanced capitalist economies and the Soviet propelled socialist and/or communist. The world was basically polarized along These contending ideological blocs. The United States understanding of Nigeria's behavior within the period was contingent on the Cold War Politics (Ate, 2000)

Accordingly, United States disposition toward Nigeria during the period, significantly influenced Nigeria's foreign policy. First, Africa, the centeredness of Nigeria's foreign policy, a “policy choice”, Ate called “misplace policy”, was Influenced by the West based on ideological orientation of the period. Thus, the Cold War era witnesses Cold War priorities in Africa in general and Nigeria in particular. This is because, as a populous black country in the word, it was obvious that she was, by manifest destiny compelled to shoulder the leadership of the black world.

Given this focus, either wittingly or unwittingly, Nigeria has the feeling that she has responsibility far beyond her means. She has no option since:

*As an adjunct to the western Cold War alliance system, she could not do otherwise. Even through Nigeria move in a measure space, there is no doubt that Nigeria leaders both at independence and now, realized that the country had a legitimate claim to leadership and also that black people in Africa and the diasporas looked up to her for this leadership duty.*

Retrospectively, the debate on Nigeria's Africa centeredness policy has been subject to various contending arguments among scholars, and this controversy is between two contending camps. There are those who believe that Nigeria's Africa centered foreign policy concentration is rigorously pursued without any defined or specific regard for the country's internal needs. This policy they insist affect the country negatively, as the cycle of poverty beckoned the country. To them, Nigeria regional leadership posture was a Cold War complexity driven, that gave the country no conscious attempt, or contemplation of coordinating the Nation's interest, in her relations with the United States.

On the contrary, others maintain that Nigeria, by virtue of its huge solid – economic and military resources, has the responsibility to do so. This later camp is composed mainly of scholars of the National Interest, the prestige, the Economic diplomacy and the domestic stability schools of thought (Idist, 1996). The basic assumption of this group is that Nigeria, by virtue of being a force to reckon with in Africa, is predestined to lead Africa. This position informed Ebohon and Obakhedo (2012)'s observation that:

*Playing such a noble role in the economic construction and reconstruction of the region presents Nigeria with an opportunity to assert her dominant position*

*in the region as a matter of prestige. Analysts argue that if Nigeria fails to do so, other credible and contending regional challengers such as Ghana, Egypt, and South Africa would take on such responsibilities.*

From the perspective of Economic Diplomacy, Nigeria's Africa centredness policy, would contribute towards ending the plethora of intra and inter – states crises which have become the defining characteristic of most states in Africa (Ufo, 2013). Those who argue from the perspective of hegemonic stability maintain that it is the duty of the hegemon to champion the cause of cooperation and integration by showing the less willing and less able countries the way.

The seeming uncoordinated Nigeria policy toward the United States is also noted during South Africa Apartheid. This led to strained relations between the west and Nigeria. Again, the radical policies of Murtala Muhammed and Obasanjo Military regime in the apartheid policies and regime resulted in trade and economic isolation of South Africa and its allies. The Murtala Mohammed recognition of MPLA in Angola and the nationalization of the British. Petroleum in the Obasanjo regime strained its ties with the West. The maximum rule of late General Sani Abacha led to the diplomatic and political isolation of Nigeria in Western Capitals.

As averred by Scholars:

*The world can no longer be understood in the monochromatic colors of the Cold War. It is definitely more complex, driven by impulses which bring a range of new and overlapping policy instruments and resources. Foreign policy now includes issues as diverse as investment, migration, energy, inflation, food security, human rights, the natural environment and so on (Pere, et al, 2002).*

Flowing from the above observation, it is imperative to reflect on both states' relations in the post-Cold War era.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The period of the Cold War and its influence though not completely gone but again not at the Centre nor the defining feature of post-Cold War interstate relations. Besides, what drive national interest of State then, not the same with the ever-changing global environment? Thus, it is worthwhile to interrogate the common interest between Nigeria and United State being the leader of the surviving bloc. The specific objectives of the study include

1. To examine Specific area of common interest that demand greater commitments from both States in their interaction
2. To assess how beneficial are the areas identified to both States in the post-cold War Era
3. To make contributions on areas that needs greater attention to strengthen their bilateral relations

### **The Study Methods**

This is a study in foreign policy and international cooperation. Therefore, qualitative and historical method is used. The methodology covers data collection, analysis and presentation.

On data collection, the study is based on both primary and secondary sources. The primary sources include official documents from United States and Nigeria bilateral engagements, newspaper reports and so on. Secondary sources include chapters in books, journal articles, from the relevant disciplines and conference papers among others, particularly Nigeria Institute of International Affairs.

In the study analysis and interpretation, we employed theoretical explanations from various relevant disciplines since mutuality of interest between both countries revolve around economics, politics and security. Therefore, the study adopts the multidisciplinary approach in terms of data analysis and interpretation. In presentation, the study employs the thematic analytical. The introduction is followed by the examination of features common to both States. This helps to bring quickly to our readers peculiar areas of interest explore to their advantage or benefit.

### **Nigeria – US Relations**

The desire to start with features of both states is informed by the knowledge, that country's features play significant role in the determination of foreign policy of a country. Flowing from this, the unit examine both country's features and implication for policy choice toward each other.

#### **Nigeria**

Nigeria is the foremost black nation in Africa, with a projected population of over 200 million, and is expected to grow to 400 million by 2050, to possibly be the world's third populous nation after China and India. Today, Nigeria population is twice the size of California and is located on the Gulf of Guinea in the West Africa sub-region (Goldstein, 2000). Nigeria, like the United States is multiethnic with over two hundred and fifty (250) ethnic groups categorized into three major groups namely Hausa, Fulani dominant in the Northern part of the country, the Igbo group predominantly in the Eastern part of the nation and the third group is the Yoruba in the Western region of the country. For administration and more importantly, economic convenience, the British, in 1914, joined the various ethnic groups together and labeled it "Nigeria".

As the largest black nation in the world, Nigeria occupies geo-strategic position such that any country with much interest in Africa must appreciate. Nigeria is therefore is the colossus of Africa just as the United States is for the Western hemisphere. As remarked by Ate (2000), of all the countries in Africa, Nigeria is the closest to the United States. No countries can more ultimately be closer to the United State than Nigeria, and this is because of its geo-strategic importance. More importantly, of the 12% of black people of Africa origin that made of United States population, 6% of the 12% are Nigerian. These features obviously defined commitments of both states toward each other.

The bilateral ties with the United States started in the post-independence. Through Nigeria's involvement in the United Nations Peacekeeping Operations in the Belgian Congo in the 1960s (Chukwukeme, 2012). This necessitated military collaboration with the United States.

Nigeria and the United State co-operate in various spheres; economic development, governance and maintenance of regional Peace and Security.

### **Nigeria – United States Areas of mutual interest**

Over the years, particularly, the Post-Cold War era, the relationship between the two countries has increased and expanded into symbiotic and mutually beneficial relations in various spheres such as:

#### **Democracy and Good Governance**

Nigeria and the United States shared strong sense of commitment to democracy and good governance modeled on Federal System. Both states opened up in a structural and institutional manner, system of governance that encourage political autonomy and right to engage in political and economic decision making to the various units that make up the nation.

To state the obvious, the choice of this form of governance is to accommodate ill-feeling and grievances in a multiethnic setting, with different cultural, religious and economic background. As require of democratic states, Nigeria and United States have strong commitment to a system that meets three essential conditions:

- i. An extensive competition among individual and groups, especially political partiers for an elective positions of government power on regular internal basis and excluding the use of force.
- ii. A highly inclusive level of political participation in the selection of leaders and policies at least through regular and fair election that no major social group is excluded
- iii. A level of basic and political liberties, freedom of expression, freedom of the press, freedom to form and join organization to ensure the integrity of the system (Deanor, 2000)

Democratic development of both states, as observed focus on popular participation, providing opportunities, in this case, for the citizens to have inputs in policy process, including creating political infrastructure to accommodate diverse interests in governance. Above all, both states emphasized the institutionalization of mechanism to hold rulers accountable to the public. The United States of America has been able to establish a strong, virile, and enduring democratic tradition which has made her one of the most egalitarian societies in the world today (Michael, 2010, 149). Accordingly:

All over the world, America's democratic tradition which incorporates all basic ingredients of democracy such as consultation, free debate, free humming, consensus, tolerance and accommodations is believed to be one of the best.

It is imperative to mention that the Fulbright programme which has been a very effective means of directly and indirectly exporting American culture to Nigeria and other nation of the world was a product of America's democratic experience (Michael, 2010). Nigeria's current transition to democracy commenced on May 29, 1999 and United States was one of the first few countries Nigerian president visited when the country returns to democratic rule in 1999.

The visit reinforces US commitment to assisting Nigeria boost her democratic experience. The result of Obasanjo's visit to US on assumption of office in 1999, was the subsequent visit to Nigeria by the former US president Bill Clinton in 2001.

The United States President visit was a great moral booster to Nigeria that was desperately in search of confidence from the international parties who on account of abuse of democratic institutions and human rights by the military regime were skeptical of Nigeria. In like's manner, president George Bush, when in power, reaffirmed US commitment to continue to support Nigeria's democratic course. Let us keep in mind, that, Nigeria apparently modeled her democratic system in America's image, with emphasis on rule of law and constitutionally respected separation of powers.

The mutuality of interests of both states encourages interactions between various democratic institutions of both countries. In this way:

*To fully grasp America's standard of democracy, Nigeria's legislators had in different accessions visited United States, to learn the US legislative practice, they participate and teach US democratic process, Nigeria legislative personal often under go short training courses in the United States in order to acquaint themselves with America congressional procedures*

In the same vein US congressmen and other top officials routinely visited Nigeria to provide support for its democratic experiment. The “why” in term of interest in this regard, found answer in America's disposition that democracy consistently suppresses violence between and within nations? It is on the basis of democratic driven stability, that America, has a profound security and economic interest in helping to build, Nigeria that is stable democratically.

It is Nigeria interest, as in the United States that government which attain power without a democratic constitution process will not be recognized. Concern for democracy, accountability and human rights increasingly defined Nigeria – US relations in the post-cold War era. It is however necessary to mention that Nigeria seem not to maximize the opportunities of its relation with the US to consolidates her democratic institutions. Over 20 years into Nigeria's democratic rule, it can be said that Nigeria still requires vary strong pillars for the sustenance of its democratization before it can, ultimately attain democratic tradition like that of the US. For example, it still very much requires strong democratic institutions, with the appropriate democratic value orientations commitment and resilience to make her democratic institutions work on a sustainable basis. As pointed out by Attahiru (2000), the efforts to build these pillars are daily confronted and challenged by substantial threats, which manifest themselves, for example in the reckless misrule by elected officials, corrupt practice by public officials.

This is where the study request US strong democratic relations where, substantive popular democracy that emphasize broad-based participation be promoted in Nigeria. In this way, we aligned with Attahiru (2000) that:

*To bring about good governance and democratic consolidation in Nigeria, involve creating viable and effective networks, strengthening alliances and working relationships among the democracy included civil society groups, and getting them to collectively exercise appropriate pressure on the government to establish appropriate relationships and linkage with, as well as facilitate the ingredients of democracy – included external forces on our own terms and definition of what is requires, rather than relationships, which are donor – driven.*

This position request for inclusive democratic promotion in Nigeria. Only marginal efforts are being made to expand democratic space outside the formal system. For instance, in the context of Nigeria, the United States pursued its democracy promotion programmes through the USAID and the USIA. Units of USAID, such as CEDPA, BASICS and OTI served as the major channels for pro-democracy support for Nigerian NGOs in the 1999's elections.

### **Regional Security and Stability Interest**

Nigeria and United States are regional leaders with high degree of mutual interest in regional security and stability. It is established and well recognized that Nigeria's regional security interest in West Africa, and Africa as a whole, is paramount, in the same way as American interest in the Western Hemisphere's security and Stability is crucial. It is obvious that regional security and stability is of mutual interest to both states. This is because, given the strong connection between domestic realities and external relations, crisis at security within their respective region would immediately affect their relations.

The fact that political situation within the borders of Nigeria necessarily affects relations with the United States attest to this position. This is why Jean Herskovits, will probably be required to reconsider his advice to American government. Professors Jean Herskovits, a renowned historian and authority on Africa affairs, wrote an article in the New York times, culled by The Punch (Lagos, Nigeria) and published in its edition of Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2012. In his article titled In Nigeria, Boko Haram is not the Problem, the Professor wrote:

*Indeed, since the inauguration of President Goodluck Jonathan A Christian from the Niger Delta in the country's South, Boko Haram has been blamed for virtually every outbreak of violence in Nigeria. But the news media and American policy makers are chasing an elusive and ill-defined threat, there is no proof that a well-organized, ideologically coherent terrorist group called Boko Haram. Even exists today. Evidence suggests instead that, while the original Core (features not disclosed) of the group remains active, criminal gangs have adopted the name Boko Haram to claim responsibility for attacks when it suits them. The United States must not be drawn into a Nigerian 'war on terror' that would make us appear bias toward a Christian President.*

The position of Jean Herskovits plays down on American security interest in Africa, even as Carter F Ham, had earlier pointed out that Boko Haram had links with Al QAEDA AFFILIATES, with perceived threat growing in Nigeria. To show that the group is a problem,

shortly after Ham's warning the bombed the UN building in Abuja. The position thus obscures Nigeria's reality in terms of Security challenges with little contemplation on such emerging threat to US interest in Africa.

David and Ekemma (2015), observed that both countries share interest in Africa's Security. In the context of this work, Regional Security is all about mitigation of inter and intra state conflict with causes and/or effects that spills over the borders of one state into another. It also involves uncontrolled movement of goods and persons across porous national border.

The region experiences terrorist activities, from groups such as Al-Querka, Boko Haram, Islamic state of West Africa, that operates in countries like Mali, Algeria, Nigeria, Somalia and so on. There is a multi-linked relationship between the terrorist groups and traffickers. The security deficit in the region, particularly Nigeria, the leading trading partner of the United States highly show that the US if refuses to help, her security interest in the region would be affected. US has national security interest in the region The frequent terrorist attacks in the region without proactive measure of curbing the continue terrorist activities is most disturbing to the United States in her war and campaign against global terrorism. However, in order to protect her core or vital interest in the Gulf of Guinea region:

*The United States intensified its military operations on the continent of Africa by entering or securing agreements. With 8 to 10 countries in Africa, to allow the US Military to utilized airfields to pave way and avenue to launch air strikes. In this direction, US instituted bilateral and multi-lateral Cooperation such as transnational Counter Terrorism partnership (TSC TP), African Contingency Operation Training and Assistance program (ACOTA), International Military*

Education and Training program (IMET), Foreign Military Sales Programme (FMS), African Braler Security programme (ACBS) Excess Defence Article Programme (EDA), Anti-Terrorism Association (ATA), Combined Joint Task Force Horn of Africa (CJ IF-HOA), Navel Operation in the Gulf of Guinea.

Given the strategic role of Africa to the United States interest, the United States acknowledges Nigeria as a powerful player and the need therefore to provide Nigeria with the capabilities to secure its vital interest in the region. The mutuality of interest in this direction revolves around the promotion of economic and political development of Nigeria, maintenance of peace and stability in African region and global peaceful co-existence.

Bush Administration put the mutual interest of Nigeria and United States in the following words:

*African Oil was a priority for Us national security. West Africa, was one of the fastest growing sources of oil and gas for the American needs. Nigeria is the most viable market for the sale of American goods in Africa, hence, the Need to safeguard American's Multinational Corporations in Nigeria and break trade barriers for sale of American made goods, expanded American's interest and foreign policy towards Nigeria and thus made security and stability primary issues (David and Ekemima 2015).*



Implying from the foregoing analysis, it is therefore imperative to state that the mutuality of interest in Nigeria-United States in the Cold war era include but not limited to democracy and regional stability and security. Actually, the United States encourages Nigeria's leadership role in West Africa to facilitate the process of conflict resolution, as in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast, and to take a lead in the management of regional, security. Ate (2012) provided two reasons for this support.

First, when a regional institution such as ECOWAS assumes responsibility under Nigeria's leadership to resolve a regional conflict, US government is relieved, for political and budgetary reasons, of the need to become directly involved in the process. This explains why the United States supported ECOMOG financially and logistically in its operations in Liberia and Sierra Leone. The second reason is that regional security and stability promote the cause of democracy, economic development and poverty reduction. Without doubt, Americans are to be negatively affected more than Nigerians, especially in terms of maintenance of regional peace and security, Nigerian remains in the best position to ensure that America's security and stability in Africa is realized.

Most significantly, United States interests are not under Muslims or Christians but under all Nigerians. Unfortunately for Herskovits, the government of the United States realized that if the Americans want to be safe in the world, their security strategies must always be considered as related with those of regional influential, like Nigeria. The endowments of Africa with precious natural resources required for America and global prosperity, cannot be protected without collaboration with U.S. The geographical position of the Gulf of Guinea, is one issue that represent not only global threats, but challenges to Africa's interest and security. In 1998, the United States Assistant Secretary for African Affairs, Susan Rue, had identified cogent security reasons why the US should take more serious interest in Africa. The United States had viewed transnational security threats both from within Africa and other parts of the world as a matter of serious concern to its national interest and global security.

U.S. policy towards Nigeria both in the cold war and currently hinge on the realistic presumption that Nigeria can serve as the arrow head of American interest and policy actions in Africa. The United States, accepts that Nigeria must play prominent role in the affairs of Africa. With one-fifth of Africa's people, and vast human and natural resources, a revitalized Nigeria can be the economic and Political anchor of West Africa and the leader of the continent, we need your continued leadership in the struggle for peace.

#### **Nigeria- US Trade and Investment Interest.**

The United State has for over six decades now been dependent on oil from outside its shores to augment the high rate of consumption in the country. Oil has been a very useful product to the United States' economy, such that it has continued to play a major role in virtually all aspects of its foreign policy. Nigeria and the United States share strong commitment to trade and investment relations, particularly in the oil sector. The significance of oil to the US was made known by Lenezowski (1980), That oil is a commodity, in the absence of adequate and practical substitute, civilization of the West as we know it today would be tremendously affected.

The Report of the U.S. Department of Commerce Bureau of Economic Analysis (2020) revealed that Nigeria was the second largest United States trading partner in sub-Saharan Africa, after South Africa, and the third beneficiary of the U.S. Foreign Direct Investment in the continent, after Mauritius and South Africa. Nigeria's crude oil dominates the country's export to U.S., which at \$4.4 billion accounted for over 88% US imports from Nigeria in 2019. US International Trade Commission shows that Nigeria ranked as the top source of exports to the United States under the African Growth and opportunity Act (AGOA). On the other hand, Nigeria is a major regional destination for US exports of motor vehicles and refined petroleum products particularly, gasoline, which is U.S fastest growing export to Africa. Agricultural products and machinery are also on the list of U.S. exports to Africa with US FDI concentrated in the oil and Gas sectors. A critical aspect of the relationship between Nigeria and the United States is trade. Indeed, there is a strong trade relation between both countries, mostly in oil worth over \$42 billion a year (Dambata, 2012).

The country supplies eight percent of US oil imports, this represents roughly half of Nigeria's daily oil production of about 2.3 million barrels. Trade between the two countries in 2008 was valued in excess of \$42 billion. The United States exports of machinery, wheat, and motor vehicles to Nigeria in 2008 worth more than \$ 4 billion, while imports from Nigeria particularly oil, were worth over \$38 billion (Dambata, 2012). Nigeria's largest consumer of crude oil, accounting for 40% of the country's total oil exports. Nigeria provides about 11% of overall U.S. oil imports and ranks as the fifth largest source for U. S. Imported oil. In 2007, the United States trade deficit with Nigeria was \$ 21 billion, and in 2010, it was \$26 billion.

Without doubt, both countries need each other and mutually benefit from being reliable partners. The binational commission agreement provides a framework for investment opportunities. The U.S. and Nigeria met under the existing Trade and investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) to advance their trade relations. However, it is observed that essential focus of U.S – Nigeria economic interest is not mutual, as, U.S focus more on the exchange of primary commodities than industrial goods. This, explained why, some scholars used the concept “partnership” rather than mutuality of interest. This, regularly stems from the fact that U.S, knows its relations with Nigeria are comparatively less strategic for its national purpose, in contrast to Nigeria's interest. It is for this reason Perhaps, that the study added its voice on the need to acquire U.S. skills, technologies and Investment capital for economic transformation of the country to manufacture driven economy.

The study further requests for proactive assistance to deal decisively with several dimension of human security challenges that poses threat to human and national security. For half a decade, northwestern Nigeria has been facing serious insecurity, ranging from armed group violence to kidnappings and banditry, which has affected most of the population living in Zamafara, Katsina and Sokoto states. According to the UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) Maradi, Niger office, as of June last year, the crisis had forced more than 80,000 civilians to flee their communities and find refuge in the Niger Republic (HumAngle.ng, July 17, 2020). Unfortunately, the Nigerian government's response to the crises in the region has done little to alleviate the security concerns.

Nigeria's North West region comprises seven states, including Zamafara, Katsina, and Sokoto, as well as Kano, Jigawa, Kaduna, and Kebbi. Endowed with a sizeable landmass of 216,065 square kilometers and a population estimated at approximately 35.8 million people, the region constitutes 25.75 percent of the total population of Nigeria (National Population Commission, 2006 census). The majority of the population are farmers, with others engaged in trade and commerce and animal husbandry.

The recent spate of banditry-related violence began in 2014 with cattle rustling activity, but the matter became worse in early 2016 when the bandits started killing local miners in Zamfara communities. However, the attacks now affect the entire North West region, especially the border area with Niger. In what has become a reoccurring tragedy, not only have thousands been killed, but women have been raped, children have become orphans, villages have been sacked and destroyed, farm produce has been destroyed, property has been stolen, and civilians have been kidnapped for ransom (wanep.org, August 19, 2020).

This trend gradually spread to neighboring states, such as Katsina, Kaduna, Sokoto, and Kebbi in 2021. It is estimated that between 2011 and 2021, 4,983 women were widowed, 25,050 children were orphaned, and more than 190,340 people were displaced in Zamfara due to armed banditry. The former Governor of Zamfara state, Abdulaziz Yari, similarly reported that nearly 500 villages and 13,000 hectares of land were destroyed and 2,835 people were killed in his state between 2011 and 2018 (HumAngle.ng, August 2, 2020). The Rugu, Kamara, Kunduma, and Sububu forests in the North West region all have since become strategic areas for banditry groups to carry out their attacks. In March, innocent Nigerian that were in train on Abuja Kaduna rail were attacked and many killed and others adopted. Few weeks ago, over hundred innocent Nigerians killed in Plateau state. It is such that many had advice the government to seek foreign mercenaries, especially from the US. The Government has lost in the crisis of security, that is why some government official encourage the citizens to defend themselves by all means, legal or illegal

Since 2001, both Nigeria and American governments have issued political statements admitting military cooperation but not military pact. We need this military pact now more than ever. Today, Nigeria is seen as the hot bed of terrorist activities and cells in sub-Saharan Africa and the need for cooperation. We need US assistance in this new trend of threat.

### **Conclusion**

This paper has attempted to discuss the relevance of Nigeria-United States relations in the post-cold war era, as a medium for consolidating both countries need for each other. Nigeria has the protective to be a strong regional leader and an important partner to the United States in access to energy and fight against terrorism globally.

Since 1999, there has been remarkable relationship between Nigeria and United States in trade, and investment, military and regional peace keeping. The inauguration of U.S – Nigeria Binational Commission in April, 16, 2010 marked the formalized commitment between Nigeria and United States for mutual benefits. Both countries have remains, relatively stable with more opportunities for mutual cooperation.

However, to avoid unfavourable trading relations, Nigeria needs to increase its export of non-oil products to U.S. Also, the country needs vibrant and proactive military relations with the U.S. in her fight against insurgency, and other criminal elements, including drug trafficking, money laundry human trafficking and banditry.

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