NIGERIA'S FOREIGN POLICY AND TRANSBORDER CRIME: AN OVERIEW

OWUDA RASHIDA LAMIDI
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, PRINCIE ABUBAKAR AUDU UNIVERSITY, ANYINGBA, KOGI STATE
owudar@gmail.com, 09053517028

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ABSTRACT
Transnational crime affects countries' internal security and foreign policy in many ways. This study examines Nigeria's foreign policy and transborder crime's considerable impact. West African nation Nigeria faces drug, human, gun, and cybercrime. These criminal operations threaten the nation's security, diplomatic relations, and global reputation. Nigeria's foreign policy has emphasised non-interference, regional collaboration, and international law. However, rising transborder crime has forced Nigeria to change its policies and become more proactive and collaborative internationally. Multifaceted links exist between transborder crime and foreign policy. First, transborder crime in Nigeria affects its economy and international relations. Diplomatic efforts aim to foster economic growth and regional stability. Transborder crime in Nigeria threatens human security, especially owing to human trafficking and illegal migration. The nation's foreign policy has stressed engagement with international institutions and neighbouring nations to address these acts' root causes. Cross-border crime and terrorism further complicate Nigeria's foreign policy. The dissemination of weaponry by criminal trafficking networks boosts insurgent factions. Nigeria works with neighbours and friends to stop the spread of weapons and fight terrorism. These efforts suggest a stronger, more coordinated foreign policy approach to transnational security. Transborder crime considerably and diversely impacts Nigeria's foreign policy. Illegal actions necessitate a planned and flexible diplomatic strategy. Nigeria's response focuses on regional cooperation, economic growth, and security through bilateral and multilateral relations. While fighting transborder crime, the nation's foreign policy evolution shows its commitment to addressing transnational threats' complex issues.

Introduction

A wide range of domestic problems and pressures primarily influence Nigerian foreign policy. The variables and forces encompass a wide range of motivations, including the pursuit of security, welfare, autonomy, and status and prestige. The core objective is to ensure the stability of the state and the well-being of its citizens. The convergence of these causes and forces not only imposes constraints on the actions and decisions of Nigerian foreign policymakers but also establishes the boundaries within which domestic political competition over foreign policy issues must be resolved. Hence, it has been contended that the achievement of these objectives necessitates the interaction between internal politics and foreign policy. Marxist researchers were pioneers in thoroughly analysing the interrelationship between domestic politics and foreign policy. They indeed describe foreign policy as an extension of domestic politics. According to these researchers, the active involvement of the general public in international affairs leads stakeholders to constantly weigh and balance their foreign and domestic interests. This phenomenon is observed in almost all countries. Undoubtedly, there is an acknowledgement that domestic policy is influenced, to some extent, by exterior circumstances and pressures. This is especially true in former European colonies. Osawa argues that the concept of domestic policy encompasses various subcategories, including economics, social welfare, national politics, education, and transport (Osawa, 2013). This juxtaposition may explain Osawa's perspective. He illustrates that all of these factors control, mould, guide, and oversee interactions between persons, groups, and national institutions. According to the author, these internal factors can either bring satisfaction and joy or dissatisfaction and uneasiness within the household. Therefore, the author suggests that foreign policy is perceived as an extension of domestic policy. Since gaining independence in 1960, many factors have shaped Nigeria's foreign policy, according to Adefunye (2012).

The primary variables that have stood out the most are the domestic elements that are based on "ethnic compositions, the colonial legacy, the internal political situation, the attitude and perspectives of the Nigerian elite, and the government's established priorities." Both internal and external pressures had a significant impact on the Nigerian civilian administration's foreign policy positions from 1999 to 2003. Significant among the forces and impacts are: (i) Strategies for safeguarding emerging civilian governance (democracy). This goal emerged due to the widespread adoption of plural politics in the terminology of the current global system. The collapse of the former Soviet Union and the socialist countries in Eastern Europe, as well as the reunification of Germany, have contributed to the notion that the governance of states in today's international politics should be based on capitalism-oriented civilian rule and multiparty systems. (ii) Strategies for fostering economic growth and industrialization within the state. The primary objective is to ensure the socio-economic welfare of the population. One of the key foundations of the current global order is the pragmatic implementation of trade liberalisation and foreign direct investment policies. Therefore, it can be asserted that the current phenomenon of globalisation is largely influenced by economic reasons. The criminal activities of illegal immigrants, oil thieves, online fraudsters, smugglers, drug and human traffickers, and new Islamist movements have caused alarm among nations in the sub-region of Nigeria, leading to transborder crimes. (Akinsami 2007). Nigeria is home to about half of the whole population of West Africa, a region that encompasses individuals with shared history, traditions, and customs but who are divided by national borders within the contemporary framework. Hausa and Fulani have a substantial presence in Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, Ghana, Senegal, and Mali, whereas Yoruba is extensively spoken in Benin and Togo. Nigeria has a land border that spans 1500 kilometres with the Republic of Niger and Chad to the north, approximately 1000 kilometres with the Benin Republic to the west, and 1700 kilometres with Cameroon to the east. Additionally, Nigeria has a 700-kilometre coastline along the Atlantic Ocean (Muktar, 2021). The permeable borders lack a suitable system to effectively monitor the movement and illicit activities occurring across them. The African Union (2010) argued that developing countries, particularly in Africa, face unique security challenges due to factors such as poverty, unemployment, hunger, and increased hostility among the various entities that make up the continent. The region of West Africa is characterised by the presence of rebel groups, trans-border criminals, kidnappers, arms smugglers, cultists, and other social deviants. Nigeria encounters numerous obstacles in its ability to fully and efficiently address criminal

activities. These difficulties encompass deficiencies in the national security apparatus as well as inadequate collaboration and legal frameworks among security agencies. According to Etannibi's 2014 discovery, the lack of adequate border security in the region has attracted international criminal networks to Nigeria.

Statement of Problem

It is startling and astounding how quickly insecurity is spreading throughout Nigeria. Armed robbery, kidnappings, ethno-religious conflicts, vandalism and militancy, violent secessionist agitations, farmer/herder crises, and the boko haram insurgency are just a few of the security issues that the nation has faced and that have hindered progress and development since independence. These issues have become more acute in the fourth republic and have put the country's foreign policy objectives—which prioritised the preservation of Nigeria as a people—in jeopardy. As a result, the aforementioned issue has significant implications for Nigeria's foreign policy, spanning across political, economic, sociocultural, and international domains as well as our dedication to our role as a dominant force on the African continent.

The security of people's lives and property is gravely threatened by insecurity, which has led to a number of crises including kidnapping, banditry, and conflicts between farmers and herders. For this reason, Shitu and Obi (2017) contended that since the inauguration of democratic governance in 1999, Nigerians' hopes for "a new beginning" have been crushed. The Fourth Republic has been marred by political violence as a result of many crises that have claimed a great deal of lives and property. Nigeria's democratisation has been rendered laughable due to the violent nature of the country's election process.

The compound effect of insecurity is that it has caused Nigeria's progress and development to be delayed. An unfortunate societal phenomenon that does no one any favour is insecurity. Acrimony, constant cases of armed robbery, terrorism, sea piracy, maiming, assassination, intimidation, kidnapping, homicide, rape, poverty, and gang violence (including cultism) are now hallmarks of Nigerian society. These incidents are spreading more widely and feeding the nation's climate of fear, impurity, and insecurity as a result of political violence. The internal security situation in Nigeria has gotten worse due to political upheaval, and Nigerians' hearts are filled with anxiety. The current status of Nigerian society is marked by discord, as seen by the frequent attacks by Fulani herdsmen in many states, including Kogi, Benue, Enugu, Anambra, Abia, Oyo, and Niger. The nation is experiencing an atmosphere of terror, impunity, and insecurity as a result of these attacks, which are spreading more widely.

Lamido (2012) emphasised the country's recent wave of insecurity and how that has affected the country's reputation abroad. He emphasised that Nigeria, which had adopted the role of Africa's big brother, was unable to meet the requirements of that status in the recent past, primarily because of a number of security issues that nearly brought down the country. According to him, the result of this development is that, instead of providing specific aid to underdeveloped nations, Nigeria is now searching the globe for help, including military support to combat the current Boko Haram insurgency, which is quickly endangering its national integrity. As a result, the security issues plaguing the country have changed its interests and turned them towards preserving her sovereignty and pursuing law, order, and peace.

It is still true that transnational crimes have expanded in scope. The various national and regional conventions that have been enacted and modified in an effort to combat the worrying escalations haven't always produced the expected outcomes (Annan 2012). Increased cooperation between government agencies and stakeholders, such as ECOWAS, AU, and UNO, is necessary in light of the shortcomings of current policies aimed at mitigating the harmful effects of crime and violence. According to the 2017 report of intergovernmental actions against money laundering, Nigeria's thriving criminal activities among its teeming population are caused by a multitude of factors and conditions, which have had a negative impact on the nation's socioeconomic development despite massive losses in terms of lives lost, property destroyed, insecurity, threats, international shame, and financial losses. With an emphasis on the following, this essay will examine transnational crimes and Nigeria's foreign policy while offering remedies that will directly solve some of these issues.

i. Why are transborber crimes occurring in Nigeria?

ii. What types of transnational crimes exist in Nigeria?

iii. How does Nigerian foreign policy relate to transnational crime?

i. How are the governments of Nigeria attempting to stop transnational crimes in Nigeria?

Literature Review

Trans-border Criminality

Transborder crimes in Nigeria have existed since the 1960s.They began with the smuggling of products across borders, as well as national criminal gangs that participate in human/drug trafficking, prostitution, the spread of small arms and light weapons, and other economic activities (UNODC, 2016). According to Ortuno and Wiriyachi (2009), the last few years have seen a considerable growth in developing worldwide criminal activities such as banditry, terrorism, piracy, cybercrime, and large-scale financial fraud. Criminal individuals and groups are now more organised. They extend their illegal market by utilising important communication platforms, the financial system, and other sophisticated methods. Syndicates are determined to safeguard their company using violent and cruel measures linked to international terrorist groups and creating unique and notorious organisational strategies to resist capture (Adetula 2008). The Nigerian government has a limited capacity to respond effectively to the threat of criminal activities that have become widespread and complex, functioning as an industry for ex-combatants, jobless youth, indoctrinated and religious believers, and others. Transnational crimes in Nigeria and the subregion have jeopardised state security, the economy, social development, key democratic ideals, and human rights violations.

Land Borders in Nigeria

Nigeria is a country in Western Africa, according to Nigeria finder, the best resource for information about Nigeria on the web. It shares land and sea borders with other countries and has a wide range of climatic and ecological characteristics. Northern Nigeria is bordered by the Republic of Niger, Eastern Nigeria by the Republic of Cameroon, and Southern Nigeria by the Gulf of Guinea, all of which are part of the legally enforced demarcation boundaries between Nigeria and other sovereign nations. West of Nigeria lies the Republic of Benin. Here are a few of Nigeria's land borders:

i. Zamfara - Republic of Niger land b
ii. Adamawa - Republic of Niger land
iii. Lagos - Republic of Benin land bor
iv. Borno – Republic of Niger land bor
v. Jigawa – Republic of Niger land bo
vi. Enugu – Republic of Cameroon lan
vii. Cross River – Republic of Cameroo
viii. Ogun – Republic of Benin land bor
ix. Sokoto – Republic of Niger land bo
x. Kwara – Republic of Benin land bo
xi. Borno – Republic of Cameroon lan

In addition to the aforementioned terrestrial borders that Nigeria shares with the Republic of Niger, the Chad Republic, the Republic of Cameroon, and the Benin Republic, the following independent nations share maritime borders with Nigeria: Equatorial Guinea, Sao Tome & Principe, Ghana, Benin Republic, and the Republic of Cameroon.

The Nexus between National Security and Foreign Policy

One way to conceptualise security is as a condition of protection from risk and anxiety. For a country, security implies conditions of peace, stability, order, and advancement. Francis (2005) defined security as the absence of fear, danger, poverty, worry, and oppression and the state of being safe. According to Alli (2010), security is the preservation of fundamental principles and the absence of any dangers to them. According to Imobighe (1990), security is the absence of dangers to a country's

capacity to protect itself, advance its ideals, and further its legitimate interests. According to Zabadi (2005), security is a situation in which individuals are not at risk from theft, accidents, acts of physical or moral assault, or decline. The word "national security" was looked up to help with a better understanding of this study. The term "national security" doesn't seem to fit well into one meaning. This is because different states may have different ideas about what constitutes national security. Despite the concept's methods of dispute resolution, it incorporates an ideological component that makes it empirical evidence. Held (1998) defined national security as the procurement, use, and use of armed force to promote national objectives. National security, according to Romm (1993), is the absence of risk or danger to upheld ideals, standards, and values, as well as the knowledge that these values will not be attacked at this time or in the future. Thus, national security can be defined as the upholding of a country's principles in relation to the defence of its territory against both human and non-human dangers, which directs the country's pursuit of its national interests within the framework of the international community (Folarin&Oviasoge, 2014). The accumulation of military hardware, manpower, and spending is the main objective of national security (Oche 2013). These definitions demonstrate how national security has evolved over time. It now encompasses long-term objectives, international economies, and reconciliation. These are critical components for maintaining a country's security.

During the Carter administration, Harold Brown, the US Secretary of Defence, expanded the definition of national security by incorporating elements like environmental and economic security. He served in this position from 1977 to 1981. The ability to retain a country's physical integrity and territory, manage its borders, maintain reasonable economic ties with the rest of the world, protect its institutions, nature, and governance from external upheaval, and all of these things together constitute national security. The idea of a sovereign state ruled by a sovereign became the foundation of a new international order of nation-states during the Peace of Westphalia. Hobbs' 1651 work "Leviathan" asserts that citizens submit to a powerful sovereign who, in turn, promises an end to religious and civil wars. This is where the modern concept of national security as a philosophy of maintaining a stable nation-state originates. To shed more light on the subject of security, the article by former head of state Abdul Salami Abubakar about the difficulties facing Nigerian security, which was adapted from a 2004 speech at NIPSS, makes it abundantly evident that insecurity poses the biggest threat to the civilian government. He correctly notes that this is one of the main obstacles to Nigeria's continued existence. In light of the Nigerian Federation's imperative of insecurity, it is vital to take into account security challenges and problems that have impacted the attitudes, confidence, and collaboration of all groups and segments (Oyebode, 2011). He states that it is obvious that, while he seems to be echoing Abukakar's viewpoint in his essay on our security, very little is feasible. Nevertheless, he advises that security should go beyond law and order by giving meaning to existence for the majority of the population.

The notion of foreign policy is commonly associated with a country's identity and actions within the international arena. This is a valid assumption, albeit one that falls short of fully capturing the phenomenon of foreign policy. According to Encyclopaedia Britannica, foreign policy is defined as having overarching goals that direct a state's connections and activities with other governments around the world. According to Holsti (1993), a state's foreign policy comprises its activities concerning the external environment and the circumstances in which those actions are planned. The first of the three components of foreign policy is a nation's overall orientation and relations with other nations through its policies. The second component is the goal a country wants to accomplish in its contacts or relationships with other nations. The methods by which that specific aim or set of goals is to be achieved constitute the third component of foreign policy (Akinyemi, 2016). Adeniran (2013) made strides in broadening the scope of foreign policy; according to him, it is important to consider the connections between the goals and advantages of state-to-state relations. He goes on to say that the fundamental components of foreign strategy are objectives and means. According to Northedge (1968 in Anifowose&Enemuo, 2009), foreign policy is only the result of internal and external dynamics. According to Lerche& Said (1979), a state's foreign policy often refers to the overarching guidelines that direct how a state responds to the global environment. According to Frankel (1975), foreign policy is defined as decisions and actions that involve relationships between one state and another to

some significant extent. Millar (1969) defined foreign policy as something less than the sum of all policies that have an effect on the national government's relations with other national governments. In essence, states use foreign policy as a tool to influence or attempt to affect the outside world in order to achieve goals that align with their perceived national interests.

Framework of Analysis

Categories of Transboarder Crime

Trans-border crimes encompass a broad spectrum of illicit acts that occur across territorial boundaries. These crimes can be categorised into various classes based on their type and characteristics. The following are significant categories of transnational crimes: Drug trafficking refers to the illicit trade and transportation of drugs across international borders. These substances encompass marijuana, cocaine, heroin, and synthetic narcotics. Human trafficking refers to the illegal transportation of individuals over national borders for the purpose of subjecting them to sexual abuse, forced labour, or other forms of exploitation. These transactions frequently involve organised criminal networks. Arms trafficking refers to the illicit commerce and transportation of firearms and ammunition across national boundaries, which frequently results in regional violence and political instability. Illicit transportation and clandestine transfer of commodities across international boundaries while evading detection. This encompasses the illicit transportation of things such as wildlife, counterfeit products, cultural artefacts, and other unlawful items.

According to Etannibe (2014), oil theft facilitates corruption in Africa. The rampant practice of illegal oil bunkering has reached such alarming levels that the government is compelled to take action in order to safeguard one of Nigeria's most crucial assets. Nigeria had held the position of being the top oil producer in Africa. In September 2022, Ghana's ranking on the continent dropped to fourth due to rampant oil theft. This statement is attributed to the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) Limited. Approximately 10 percent of Nigeria's oil, equivalent to approximately 55 million barrels, is illicitly pilfered and traded annually. Due to incidents of theft, vandalism, and violence in the Niger Delta, Nigeria's oil production is estimated to be just two-thirds of its potential capacity. The nation's prosperity is at risk due to the illicit act of oil theft. Illicitly, criminals syphon approximately 437 thousand barrels of oil daily in Nigeria by tapping pipelines both on land and at sea in the Niger Delta region. NNPC Limited has recently discovered an illicit oil connection originating from the Forcados Terminal, which has been operational for a period of nine years.

A few weeks ago, MeleKyari, the CEO of the company, addressed the Senate's joint committees on gas and petroleum (upstream and downstream) regarding this matter. In a statement issued in 2022, the office of the inspector general for the federation reported that the Nigeria National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), currently known as NNPC Limited, failed to provide an explanation for approximately 107,239,436,00 barrels of crude oil that were imported for domestic consumption in 2019. The analysis also identified disparities between the statements made by the AUGF and the NNPC regarding the quantities that were allocated to the federation accounts. According to reports, the NNPC records indicate a transfer of N 1,272,600,864,000.00, whereas the accountant general of the federation recorded N 608,710,292,773,44. This is a discrepancy of 663,896,567,227.28. Bunkering refers to the illicit activities conducted by those involved in theft and human trafficking in the Niger Delta.

These individuals are often associated with armed organisations and engage in the illegal act of stealing and trading oil. The pilfered petroleum is transported via barges or trucks and thereafter traded in Nigeria and neighbouring nations such as Ghana, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, and even South Africa. The proceeds generated from oil bunkering are directly channelled to support terrorist organisations and unscrupulous government officials. Oil bunkering enriches certain individuals involved in illegal activities, such as crooks, rebels, and corrupt authorities. However, this illicit practice leads to impoverishment for many, undermines the rule of law, pollutes the environment, violates human rights, and depletes natural resources. In response to this threat, the Nigerian government has deployed military forces to engage in the oil industry, procured vessels, and facilitated collaboration between commercial and public security firms. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in 2009.

The Nigerian government initiated the deployment of a mobile application in August 2022 with the purpose of monitoring and curbing instances of illicit crude oil extraction. The NNPC awarded Government Tompolo, formerly the head of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta (MEND), a lucrative contract worth billions of naira to procure pipeline surveillance equipment. The objective is to engage non-state actors in safeguarding oil pipelines and other critical infrastructure, similar to successful initiatives implemented in Cambodia and Mexico, which yielded the desired outcomes. Individuals who acquire funds through illicit means frequently endeavour to conceal the source of the money by establishing intricate company transactions or conducting complex bank transfers.

This activity is commonly referred to as money laundering. Money laundering refers to the illicit practice of concealing the illicit origins of unlawfully obtained funds by subjecting them to a complex sequence of financial transactions and commercial agreements. Rich people or dishonest government officials who have amassed wealth illegally are frequently the perpetrators of money laundering in Nigeria (UNODC, 2016). Ering (2011) Money derived from drug crimes and other illicit enterprises is said to be transferred across various bank accounts under fictitious identities. A significant number of individuals partake in these illicit endeavours, with particular emphasis on Nigeria's political elite, who exploit their governmental positions to embezzle public cash and transfer it to offshore accounts upon Nigerians' departure. Nigeria incurs an annual loss of US$600 million due to money laundering (Elumelu, 2007).

According to a report by Vanguard on October 25, 2005, the nation lost US$410 billion as a result of money laundering between the mid-1980s and 1999. The execution of illegal transactions involving substantial sums of money that have detrimental effects on the Nigerian economy is challenging to accomplish without the assistance, collaboration, or, at the very least, awareness of experts, particularly those employed in financial institutions. Furthermore, Nigeria's corruption and organised crime are exacerbated by the practice of money laundering. Certain terrorist organisations employ methods of money laundering to finance their illicit activities. Documents obtained from the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission indicate that since the start of 2012, the agency has presented significant corruption cases to the highest courts around the nation. Cybercrime encompasses activities such as identity theft, online fraud, hacking, and other illicit acts that occur in the digital realm and can have global ramifications. Information and communication technology (ICT) is a highly captivating and innovative technology that has emerged in the 21st century. Despite the numerous advantages of ICT, ILEA West Africa asserts that cyber fraud has emerged as a global issue, steadily increasing in prevalence. The global economy is estimated to incur a loss of over $400 billion annually due to cybercrime. The majority of nations are facing significant peril due to this circumstance. In 2013, about 800 million individuals worldwide were engaged in computer crimes, such as cyber espionage. Nigeria has the highest incidence of cyber crimes among all African countries, as indicated by statistics. A novel form of deception known as "419" or "yahoo" fraud combines online fraud with occult practices and other supernatural methods to perpetrate criminal activities. The term "419" originates from a Nigerian legislation that specifically addresses fraudulent schemes. According to security intelligence, the majority of cybercriminals are unemployed young individuals. They engage in activities such as impersonation, unauthorised access to credit card and bank accounts, fraudulent lottery schemes, deceptive online dating practices, fraudulent business schemes, theft of automated teller machine (ATM), and other illicit activities.

These factors can adversely impact the country's economic growth, particularly with regards to foreign direct investment, trade, tourism, and safety. In their report for the year 2017, the Intercontinental Action Group Against Money Laundering in West Africa made this claim. During a 2003 meeting of the International Criminal Police Organisation (INTERPOL), a prominent financial regulator from Nigeria revealed that out of the 138 countries in attendance, 122 countries denounced Nigeria's involvement in financial crime within their respective jurisdictions. Recently, there has been an increase in the number of reported incidents of ritualistic homicides in Nigeria. This phenomenon has been associated with the activities of young individuals in their twenties and thirties who engage in fraudulent activities on the internet. Terrorism refers to the deliberate use of violence or intimidation by individuals or

organisations to transcend national boundaries and jeopardise global security. Motivations for their actions can stem from political, philosophical, or religious factors. ISIS, Boko Haram, Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, Ansaru, and JamlatNusrat al-Lslamwalmuslimeen (JNIM) are among the terrorist groups that have been operational in Nigeria and other west African nations in recent times, (Adesula2014a). These groups are capable of carrying out attacks and abductions with the intention of demanding ransom. The Lake Chad Basin region has served as a focal point for both Boko Haram and the Islamic State in West Africa Province.

In the Sahara, there exists Jama'saNusrat UL-Isalamwa al-muslimin, whereas in the Sahel, Ansaruislam is present. The activities of these organisations have a direct impact on the security and tranquilly of the region. The operations of the organisations have resulted in the deaths of thousands of individuals and compelled numerous more to flee their residences in various regions of West Africa. Consequently, the northern and eastern regions of Nigeria are experiencing humanitarian catastrophes. In 2013, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported that the attacks encompassed a range of violent actions, such as premeditated armed assaults, rocket attacks, homicides, abductions (including those involving children and women), car bombs, and arson incidents. Individuals have employed military equipment and vehicles as a means to approach and achieve their objectives. Several recent terrorist incidents have occurred in Nigeria.

The Kuje jail in the Federal capital territory was targeted by explosions and gunshots on July 5, 2022. The number of escaped detainees remains unknown. The perpetration of the homicide was attributed to the Islamic State of West Africa (ISWA). The Islamic State of West Africa (ISWA) claims responsibility for the killings of police officers in Suleja, Niger state, on May 12 and July 4, 2022. The closest urban centre to Suleja is Abuja, located within a distance of less than 20 miles. aboard March 28, 2022, an explosive device detonated aboard the Abuja-Kaduna passenger train. A significant number of individuals lost their lives, and over 60 individuals were held captive as hostages.

On November 28, 2020, insurgents in the Jere local government area of Borno state perpetrated a violent attack resulting in the deaths of a minimum of 70 individuals, injuries to others, and the abduction of other individuals. On April 14, 2014, a total of 276 female students from a government school in Chibok, Maduguri, located in Borno State, were abducted. Transnational organised crime pertains to criminal organisations that operate internationally and engage in a multitude of illicit activities, including drug trafficking, human smuggling, and racketeering. Environmental Offences: Pollution, illicit deforestation, and wildlife smuggling are all unlawful practices that detrimentally impact the ecosystem and may transcend national boundaries. Corruption and gift-giving refer to the unlawful act of sharing authority or influence for personal benefit. These acts frequently impact other nations as corrupt activity disregards national boundaries. International abduction refers to the act of forcibly transporting an individual across country boundaries with the intention of demanding ransom or for other nefarious purposes. Crimes related to intellectual property encompass acts that violate intellectual property rights and have a significant impact on international trade. These acts include piracy, counterfeiting, and unauthorised use of protected technology. The illicit trafficking of antiquities, cultural artefacts, and archaeological treasures across national borders is a crime committed against cultural heritage. This form of criminal activity frequently involves the unlawful excavation and transportation of cultural heritage objects. Comprehending these classifications facilitates the development of efficient strategies by law enforcement, policymakers, and international organisations to combat transnational crimes. Collaborating internationally is crucial for addressing the intricate issues caused by these illicit activities.

Reasons for Trans-Border Crimes in Nigeria

The occurrence of trans-border crimes in Nigeria can be ascribed to a confluence of social, economic, political, and geographical variables. Gaining comprehension of these aspects can offer valuable perspectives on the fundamental origins of such criminal activities. Several factors contribute to trans-border crimes in Nigeria:

Economic determinants:

Poverty: The presence of significant poverty in specific areas can compel individuals to

resort to illicit behaviours such as smuggling and trafficking in order to sustain themselves.

Unemployment: Insufficient job prospects might compel individuals to pursue alternate means of earning money, frequently resulting in engagement in illicit activities beyond national boundaries.

Factors related to politics:

Insufficient Governance: Insufficient governance, corruption, and feeble law enforcement can foster a climate that is favourable to illegal activities. This may encompass inadequate border control methods and poor legislative frameworks. Political instability in certain regions can serve as a catalyst for trans-border crimes, as the disruption of law and order can create favourable conditions for criminal networks to thrive.

Geographical factors:

The porosity of Nigeria's borders, resulting from its large and often permeable character, poses a challenge in effectively enforcing rigorous control measures, hence facilitating the flourishing of criminal enterprises.

Insufficient Infrastructure: The absence of suitable infrastructure, such as well-constructed highways and effective monitoring systems, can facilitate the activities of criminals who can operate undetected across national boundaries.

Ethnic and cultural dynamics:

Ethnic tensions: Ethnic disputes and tensions within Nigeria or across borders can lead to the migration of individuals seeking asylum, involvement in illicit activities, or exploitation of prevailing instability. Cross-border ethnic links refer to the historical connections between some ethnic groups that extend beyond national boundaries. Although technology can promote cultural interchange, it can also be manipulated by criminals to support illicit endeavours.

The intersection of globalisation and technology:

Global Trade: The rise in global trade might potentially result in a surge in smuggling operations, as criminals take advantage of trade routes and legal gaps to transport illegal products and services.

Technology Facilitation: Technological advancements can assist criminals in organising and carrying out cross-border illegal activities, such as cybercrimes and people trafficking.

Acts of terrorism and insurgency:

Terrorist Organisations: The existence of terrorist groups and rebellions in nearby nations can extend into Nigeria, creating a favourable atmosphere for cross-border criminal activities. Arms trafficking refers to the illegal trade of weapons between different countries, and it is often associated with terrorism and other types of organised criminal activities.

Ecological Factors:

Climate change can exacerbate population displacement and migration, which in turn increases susceptibility to trans-border crimes due to environmental issues like droughts or resource scarcity. To effectively tackle trans-border crimes in Nigeria, it is necessary to adopt a holistic strategy that encompasses measures such as bolstering governance, expanding economic prospects, fortifying border security, and promoting regional collaboration with neighbouring nations.

The Nexus between Trans-Border Crime and Nigerian Foreign Policy

The complicated and multi-dimensional subject of transnational crime has emerged as a major concern for countries worldwide. Because of its prominence on the global stage, Nigeria faces challenges related to transnational crime. This paper delves into the complex web of connections between transnational crime and Nigeria's foreign policy, looking at the ways in which the country's diplomatic initiatives, regional partnerships, and international reputation are affected by and affected by these illegal operations.

Setting the Scene:

One needs to look at the past in order to understand the connection between Nigerian foreign policy and transnational crime.

Transborder thieves take advantage of Nigerians' weaknesses, which have their roots in the country's colonial history and its difficulties since independence. The dynamics of criminal activities that cross borders have been influenced by historical links, ethnic affiliations, and geographical considerations. To evaluate the development of Nigeria's foreign policy responses to transnational crime, it is essential to comprehend this context.

The Effects on the Economy:

Drug trafficking, people smuggling, and illicit trade are transnational crimes that significantly impact Nigeria's economy. Corruption, a lack of FDI, and a breakdown in regional trade are all ways in which these actions stunt economic growth. If Nigeria is serious about achieving its foreign policy goals of promoting sustainable development and international cooperation, it must deal with the financial dimensions of transborder crime.

Engaging in Diplomacy and the Region:

There is a close relationship between Nigeria's regional engagement, especially in the West African subregion, and its foreign policy. It is often necessary for neighbouring countries to work together to combat transborder crimes because these crimes do not respect national boundaries. Regional cooperation is facilitated by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Nigerian foreign policy actions within ECOWAS seek to cooperatively combat transborder crimes and solve common security concerns. With active participation in international organisations and conferences, Nigeria's diplomatic relations go beyond West Africa. Combating transnational crimes requires close cooperation between international organisations such as the UN and Interpol. Recognising the interconnectivity of security crises across borders, Nigerian foreign policy highlights the need of coordinated efforts in addressing global challenges.

Threats to National Security and the Concept of Sovereignty:

Nigeria has incorporated security concerns into its foreign policy framework in response to the growing threat of transnational crimes. Protecting national sovereignty while simultaneously fostering regional cooperation is no easy feat. Striking this balance is an important goal of Nigerian foreign policy, which seeks to promote collaboration without sacrificing the nation's independence or security concerns.

Assaults on Terrorism and Rebellion:

Transnational terrorist organisations like Boko Haram are one of the many security threats that Nigeria continues to confront. Given the global scope of these dangers, it is imperative that international and regional strategies be integrated into foreign policy planning. To combat the causes and manifestations of terrorism, Nigeria is actively involved in counterterrorism initiatives within the African Union and collaborates with worldwide partners. This highlights the connection between transborder crimes and national security concerns.

The Migrant Crisis and Human Trafficking:

Nigeria has a double-edged sword when it comes to human trafficking: the country is a breeding ground for victims and a transit hub for those victims. Through diplomatic engagement with receiving nations, advocacy for anti-trafficking legislation, and promotion of international collaboration, Nigerian foreign policy aims to tackle the underlying causes of human trafficking. As the country deals with the challenges of controlling cross-border movements and reducing the risks of transborder crimes, migration policies are also important to Nigeria's foreign policy.

Obstacles and Restrictions:

There are still a lot of obstacles to overcome, even though Nigeria has tried to link its foreign policy with the battle against transborder crimes. Challenges to effective implementation include insufficient resources, weak institutions, and political factors. Illicit items and activities are far more difficult to control when laws are not consistently enforced and borders are permeable. A comprehensive strategy integrating diplomatic efforts, legislative reforms, and improved regional collaboration is necessary to tackle these difficulties.

The efforts that Nigeria is making to handle the myriad of issues that are created by illegal activities are a clear indication of the connection that exists between transnational crime and Nigerian foreign policy. The

participation of Nigeria in regional and international forums demonstrates the country's dedication to finding answers via collaborative efforts. The challenge of striking a balance between the demand for regional cooperation and the need to protect national sovereignty is a sensitive one that calls for a sophisticated and adaptable approach to foreign policy. If Nigeria is going to continue to struggle with the ever-changing landscape of transnational crimes, the efficiency of its actions in terms of foreign policy will be of the utmost importance. When it comes to reducing the impact of transnational crimes on national security, economic development, and the overall well-being of its population, it is vital to take a proactive position that is supported by solid regional alliances and international collaboration.

Nigeria's Response to Transborder Crimes

Transborder crimes provide a serious problem for nations around the world, and Nigeria, located in the West African region, is no exception. As a key participant on the continent, Nigeria has been subjected to a variety of transnational crimes, including drug trafficking, people smuggling, and terrorism. This essay examines Nigeria's complex approach to transborder crimes, diving into the country's difficulties, strategies, and potential future prospects.

Challenges in Addressing Transnational Crimes:

Nigeria faces various hurdles in its efforts to curb transborder crime, which impedes effective response systems. These issues have economic, political, institutional, and geographical implications. Economically, poverty and unemployment provide ideal ground for individuals to engage in illegal activities, which contributes to the perpetuation of transnational crimes. Political elements, such as corruption and poor government, worsen the situation by creating a climate in which criminals can operate relatively freely. Institutional flaws, such as insufficient law enforcement capacity and border control procedures, provide substantial challenges. Nigeria's borders are broad and often porous, making it difficult to monitor and manage the flow of people and products, giving criminal networks plenty of opportunities to exploit loopholes.

Strategies Used by Nigeria:

Nigeria has enacted legislation to counter transnational crimes. For example, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Act combats drug trafficking, whereas the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act addresses human trafficking. These legislative frameworks establish a legal foundation for prosecuting offenders and discouraging criminal behaviour. Nigeria actively collaborates with other countries to address transnational crimes. Partnerships with neighbouring nations, regional organisations like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and global agencies like Interpol improve information sharing, joint operations, and coordinated efforts to combat transnational crime. Nigeria has enhanced border security by deploying soldiers, using technology for surveillance, and improving border infrastructure. Initiatives such as the Nigeria Immigration Service's Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) seek to improve border control and track movements.

Nigeria has stepped up counterterrorism operations due to the region's high terrorism rate. Collaboration with neighbouring nations, engagement in international counterterrorism projects, and military operations against insurgent groups such as Boko Haram illustrate the country's commitment to dealing with transnational security challenges.

Anti-corruption Campaigns:

Recognising the relationship between corruption and transnational crime, Nigeria has initiated anti-corruption programmes to remedy institutional shortcomings. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is responsible for investigating and prosecuting financial crimes, as well as destroying the financial networks that sustain transnational criminal operations. Nigeria prioritises public awareness and education to combat transnational crimes. Informing the public about the consequences of engaging in illegal acts, as well as boosting awareness about criminal methods, all help to deter crime.

Challenges of Implementation:

Despite these tactics, Nigeria confronts obstacles in effectively implementing its response to transnational crime. Resource restrictions, competing objectives, and the need for persistent political will are among the impediments to the full implementation of the country's anti-crime programmes. Limited resources, both financial and human, limit law enforcement authorities' ability to address the breadth and complexity of transborder crimes effectively. Allocating resources to other critical causes, such as healthcare and education, has the potential to distract focus and financing away from the battle against organised crime.

Political will is essential to the success of any anti-crime campaign. Inconsistent commitment from consecutive governments can cause policy variations and impede the stability essential for long-term success. Corruption within law enforcement agencies is another issue that can undermine the effectiveness of anti-crime operations. Geopolitical dynamics and diplomatic issues are also important, especially when dealing with transnational crimes. Tensions or strained relationships with neighbouring nations might stymie cooperation efforts, making it difficult to create a consistent regional response to transborder crimes.

Theoretical Framework

The correlation between transborder crime and a nation's foreign policy is a multifaceted interaction driven by numerous factors. This theoretical framework seeks to offer a comprehensive understanding of the influence of transborder crime on Nigeria's foreign policy, by utilising fundamental theoretical approaches in the field of international relations. The following theoretical perspective is used to commonly address the criminal decision-making processes. Realism refers to the artistic or literary representation of things as they are in reality, without idealisation or exaggeration. Within the framework of realism, governments are perceived as rational entities that actively pursue their national interests within a competitive global system. Nigeria's national security can be directly jeopardised by transborder crimes, such as drug trafficking and terrorism. The influence on foreign policy is apparent as the state endeavours to safeguard its borders, establish alliances, and participate in regional and global initiatives to counteract these threats. Nigeria's foreign policy responses are guided by realism, which prioritises safeguarding its sovereignty and ensuring the security of its population in the presence of transnational criminal activity. Another theoretical approach is the constructivism which emphasises the active role of individuals in constructing their own knowledge and understanding of the world. According to the constructivist viewpoint, a state's behaviour in the international arena is influenced by ideas, norms, and identities. Transborder crimes pose a threat to the established principles of state security and integrity. Nigeria's foreign policy responses are shaped by the establishment of novel norms pertaining to collaboration, collective security, and the combat against organised crime. Constructivism emphasises the potential for Nigeria's foreign policy to develop and change via its interactions with other countries and international organisations. This contributes to the formation of a common understanding of transborder crime as a shared problem, (Mehlkop and Graeff, 2010).

Consequently, liberal theory highlights the significance of international institutions, cooperation, and economic interdependence in influencing the actions of states. Nigeria seeks international cooperation to solve the issues posed by transborder crimes, which have negative impacts on economic operations and societal stability. Nigeria aims to advance a liberal order by actively engaging with regional organisations such as ECOWAS, as well as collaborating with the United Nations and Interpol. The country's primary focus is on promoting collective security, upholding the rule of law, and fostering mutual aid in the fight against transborder crimes via interdependence characterised by intricate and interconnected relationships. This notion according to Gomment and Obi, (2017) is a complex interdependence asserts that states are interconnected through several pathways, and phenomena such as transborder crimes generate interdependencies across nations. The influence on Nigeria's foreign policy is seen in the acknowledgment that these offences necessitate collaborative resolutions. Nigeria recognises that effectively combating transborder crimes requires a network of interconnected actions, which includes not just security measures but also diplomatic, economic, and social elements. This is demonstrated via Nigeria's collaboration with neighbouring countries, regional organisations, and worldwide partners.

Conversely, the security dilemma theory posits that when a state takes measures to strengthen its security, these efforts may be interpreted as a potential threat by other states, hence creating a loop of insecurity. Regarding transborder crimes, Nigeria's initiatives to fortify its borders and engage in cooperative endeavours with other nations may raise apprehensions regarding sovereignty and the possibility of power asymmetries. Nigeria's foreign policy strategy must carefully balance the requirement for security with the necessity of avoiding any actions that could disrupt regional relations. It is on this note that dependency theory emphasises the inherent disparities within the global system and their impact on the decision-making processes of emerging countries. Nigeria is affected by transborder crimes, which are often driven by economic inequalities and inadequate governance in neighbouring countries. These crimes involve the illegal movement of goods or people across Nigeria, either as a transit point or as a final destination. Nigeria's foreign policy reaction may entail tackling underlying factors, offering developmental aid, and lobbying for global economic reforms to alleviate the circumstances that contribute to transborder crimes.

This theoretical framework offers a perspective to comprehend the influence of transborder crime on Nigeria's foreign policy. Realism prioritises the state-centric perspective that centresaround safeguarding national interests, whereas constructivism highlights the changing norms and collective understandings within the global community. The concepts of liberalism and complex interdependence emphasise the need for cooperative and integrated approaches to effectively tackle transborder crimes. In addition, the security dilemma theory cautions about the possibility of conflicts forming due to security measures, while the dependency theory highlights the economic factors that contribute to Nigeria's susceptibility to transborder crimes. By including ideas from these theoretical perspectives, an integrated approach can provide a thorough comprehension of how Nigeria's foreign policy addresses the difficulties presented by transborder crimes within the intricate realm of international relations.

Method and Materials

This qualitative inquiry began with a thorough review of the literature and secondary sources. In the second phase, field trips were used for interviews and documentation. The study used primary and secondary data. The researcher visited government agencies and entities involved in illegal operations in Nigeria and abroad during fieldwork. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), airports, seaports, immigration services, Nigeria Custom Services, Nigeria Police Force, NSCDCs, financial institutions, military commands, the National Assembly, and the ICPC are examples. For data collection, the study used direct observation, group discussions, and in-person interviews with indigenous and non-indigenous people of a single border village in each of Nigeria's six geopolitical zones. Merchants, artisans, traditional leaders, and retail owners dominated this group. The researchers used purposeful sampling. The original and later analyses are included in this paper. Twenty-seven (27) and eight (8) of the 35 questioned were men. Interviewees were 25–60. They greatly aided national growth. All have the necessary credentials, skills, and subject-matter knowledge.

Result

Research Question 1 What is the reasons for Transborber crimes in Nigeria**?**

Based on the study of the perspectives of 35 interviewees, who collectively constitute 100% of the sample, it is unanimously acknowledged that the incidence of various kinds of Transborder crime is significantly elevated. The causes for this phenomenon are manifold. Based on the analysis of all 35 respondents, representing 100% of the sample, it was found that 11 of them believed that youth unemployment has a significant impact on the occurrence of Transborder crimes in Nigeria. Out of the participants, 5 individuals acknowledged the existence of a porous border, 6 individuals acknowledged the insufficient funding of security agencies, 5 individuals acknowledged the presence of corrupt security officials at the borders, and 3 individuals acknowledged the inadequate training of security and border authorities. Three individuals concurred that the inadequate coordination and collaboration among inter-governmental authorities, along with the endorsement of religious radicalization among young people, have led to the occurrence of transborder crimes in Nigeria. These findings indicate that the primary catalyst for

transborder crimes in Nigeria is youth unemployment.

Research Question 2 what are the categories of Transborder crimes in Nigeria?

The data collected from the interviewees indicates that criminal activities such as terrorism, smuggling, money laundering, oil bunkering, human trafficking, drugs trafficking, internet fraud, piracy, maritime crimes, and the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) occur across the Nigerian border. All 35 respondents, representing 100% of the participants, confirm this.

Research Question 3 What is the nexus between Transborder crime and Nigerian foreign policy?

From the analysis of the opinions, all 35 respondents representing 100% agreed that Transnational crime is a significant global concern, with Nigeria facing significant challenges due to its colonial history and independence struggles. The country's foreign policy responses to transnational crime are influenced by historical links, ethnic affiliations, and geographical considerations. Drug trafficking, people smuggling, and illicit trade significantly impact Nigeria's economy, leading to corruption, lack of foreign direct investment, and regional trade breakdowns. Nigeria's foreign policy engages in regional cooperation, particularly in the West African subregion, to combat transborder crimes and solve common security concerns.

Nigeria has incorporated security concerns into its foreign policy framework, aiming to protect national sovereignty while fostering regional cooperation. It is actively involved in counterterrorism initiatives within the African Union and collaborates with worldwide partners to combat terrorism. Nigeria also addresses the migrant crisis and human trafficking through diplomatic engagement, anti-trafficking legislation, and international collaboration. However, Nigeria faces obstacles such as insufficient resources, weak institutions, and political factors. A comprehensive strategy integrating diplomatic efforts, legislative reforms, and improved regional collaboration is necessary to tackle these difficulties. Nigeria's efforts to handle illegal activities demonstrate the connection between transnational crime and its foreign policy. The efficiency of its actions in terms of foreign policy will be crucial in reducing the impact of transnational crimes on national security, economic development, and overall well-being.

Transborder crimes pose a significant global challenge, with Nigeria, a key player in the West African region, facing numerous challenges. Economic factors like poverty, unemployment, corruption, and poor governance contribute to the perpetuation of these crimes. Institutional flaws, such as insufficient law enforcement capacity and border control procedures, also pose significant challenges. Nigeria has implemented legislation to combat transnational crimes, such as the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Act and the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act. It has also collaborated with other countries, enhanced border security, and increased counterterrorism operations. Nigeria has also initiated anti-corruption campaigns, such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), to address institutional shortcomings. However, the country faces obstacles in effectively implementing its anti-crime programmes, including resource restrictions, competing objectives, and persistent political will. Inconsistent commitment from successive governments, corruption within law enforcement agencies, and geopolitical dynamics and diplomatic issues also hinder the country's efforts.

What are the efforts of Nigerian governments to checkmate Transborder crimes in Nigeria?

Based on the study of the interviewees' viewpoints, it is unanimously agreed that the current measures implemented by the Nigerian government have not successfully curbed various types of transborder crimes in Nigeria. This indicates that the Nigerian government's endeavours to address transborder crimes have not achieved the intended outcomes. Proposing proactive strategies to mitigate cross-border criminal activities 5 interviewees expressed their support for job creation as a solution to reducing criminal activities in Nigeria. There were dissenting opinions. 10 individuals expressed their endorsement for effective border monitoring, while 6 individuals showed their support for a community policing effort. Additionally, 2 individuals advocated for adequate funding of security services, 3 individuals favoured expanded military operations and surveillance, and 2 individuals

advocated for the reinforcement of the judicial and legislative system. 3 measures facilitate the improvement of coordination and collaboration among Border officers both within and across the borders of ECOWAS member countries. There are two instances where constitutional roles have been established for traditional rulers and religious leaders. 2 advocated for the deradicalization of young people. This demonstrates that implementing effective border surveillance, implementing community policing, and fostering job creation through government and private investment can decrease poverty in Nigeria and consequently make a substantial contribution to the mitigation of transborder crimes in the country.

Discussion of Findings

This study examined Nigerian foreign policy and its relationship with transnational crimes. The data analysis and qualitative inquiry revealed that transborder crimes are prevalent in Nigeria due to the elevated levels of youth unemployment. Transnational crime has many effects on Nigeria's foreign policy, security, and diplomatic relations. The study also showed that attempts by the government to address the illegal behavior of undesirable people in society have not been successful on a national, bilateral, or international level. The analysis suggests that youth employment will have a more significant effect on lowering transborder crimes compared to other proactive, coherent national and subregional policies, strategies, and activities. The aforementioned contribution provides a comprehensive understanding of the subject, including its causes, contributing factors, and circumstances, as well as Nigeria's response to criminal issues and strategies to mitigate the threat inside Nigeria and the ECOWAS subregion. The impact of transborder crime on Nigeria's foreign policy is profound, influencing diplomatic priorities, regional collaborations, security strategies, and international engagements. As Nigeria navigates the complexities of addressing transborder crimes, its foreign policy reflects a commitment to proactive and collaborative approaches, recognizing the interconnectedness of security challenges in the global arena.

Conclusion

The nexus between transborder crime and Nigerian foreign policy is evident in the nation's efforts to address the multifaceted challenges posed by illicit activities. Nigeria's engagement in regional and international forums underscores its commitment to collaborative solutions. Balancing national sovereignty with the imperative for regional cooperation is a delicate task, requiring a nuanced and adaptive foreign policy approach. As Nigeria continues to grapple with the evolving landscape of transborder crimes, the effectiveness of its foreign policy responses will be pivotal. A proactive stance, bolstered by robust regional partnerships and international collaboration, is essential to mitigating the impact of transborder crimes on national security, economic development, and the overall well-being of its citizens. Nigeria's response to transborder crimes consists of legislative measures, international collaboration, increased border security, and counterterrorism efforts. While the country has made progress in addressing these challenges, persistent issues, such as resource constraints and institutional weaknesses, remain obstacles. Moving forward, continuous political will, resource mobilisation, and a dedication to regional and international cooperation will be critical. To effectively address transborder crimes, a complete plan must include embracing technology, involving communities, and prioritising legal and institutional reforms. As Nigeria navigates these difficulties, a proactive and adaptable approach is required to defend its borders, protect its population, and contribute to regional and global security.

Recommendations:

To improve Nigeria's reaction to transborder crimes, several major tactics and recommendations might be explored for future implementation:

i. Nigeria should prioritise resource mobilisation and allocation to strengthen law enforcement institutions. Adequate money for training, technology, and staff is critical for developing a strong response to transnational crimes. Maintaining continuity in anti-crime measures demands strong political resolve. Establishing bipartisan support and implementing successful methods would help tackle transnational crime in the long run.

ii. Nigeria should continue to promote regional and international partnership.

Building alliances with neighbouring countries, regional organisations, and global institutions is critical for coordinating intelligence sharing, joint operations, and capacity-building projects. Integrating innovative technology improves border security and law enforcement capacities. Implementing cutting-edge surveillance systems, data analytics, and biometric identification techniques can improve the effectiveness of transborder crime prevention and detection.

iii. Promoting community engagement and education can encourage public participation in combating transnational crime. Educating communities about the indications of criminal activity and encouraging them to report suspicious behaviour can help with overall prevention efforts. Periodic legal reviews and modifications can guarantee a strong legislative framework that adapts to new problems. Institutions, such as the judiciary and law enforcement agencies, must be strengthened through capacity building and anti-corruption measures to ensure effective implementation.

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