RETHINKING CLIMATE CHANGE AND NATIONAL SECURITY: IMPLICATIONS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
The phenomenon of climate change is providing a melting point to the global community through its pervading and undeniable implications for life on planet earth. The overwhelming impact of this on human interface, no doubt raises concerns that cuts across creed, colour, religion, and regional calibrations. It is generally believed that change remains a constant in human affairs; and all creatures anticipate change in their negative and positive configurations. Climate change is the response of nature to the increasing intervention and interference of man in the natural ecosystem, leading to fluctuations in average global temperatures often described as global warming. The implications of this in the long run remains unpredictable but the effect of this in contemporary times is orchestrating outcomes that offers no heritage of good to all and sundry. This ranges from decreased precipitation to deforestation and desertification, the poleward shift of vegetation and its impact on animal populations, the unmitigated rise in sea levels among others. This study interrogates the concept of climate change in the light of national security with the commitment to underscore its implication for sustainable development in Nigeria. Historical materialism offered the theoretical framework for this investigation under the methodological philosophy of qualitative analysis as obtainable in social inquiry. The study unearthed the economic effects of climate change, and underscored the historical, structural and institutional factors that explains why third world countries are more susceptible to climate change. Such factors like poor and weak governance structures, endemic conflict, among others negatively exacerbate the challenge of climate change in these climes. It was on the basis of this that it interrogated the polemics of climate change to national security, and the unmitigated implications of this to sustainable development in Nigeria. It offered the blueprints on the way forward with a modest conclusion.

1.1 Introduction

Every change in human affairs comes at a price. This price could be intentionally accomplished or unintentionally so. Sometimes the choice and preferences of man backed by the corresponding actions we deploy in our interface with the natural ecosystem precipitates the harbinger of change. Creation has empowered man in this light, and accords him the responsibility to push further the frontiers of his natural habitat in the quest for his daily survival. Since the time of the 'Early Man', man has been faced with the responsibility to either discover or rediscover nature or recreate the same to his own advantage, and this process is what defines the concept of change in human affairs. Given this natural tendency, human existence has metamorphosed from one phase to another under the framework of different civilizations. Thus, the recreation of nature from its original premise has become the hallmark of all human interventions in the world of nature.

This perspective explains why climate change is the direct response to the deliberate and most times; the concerted effort of man to make the world a better place to live in for the benefit of humanity. The concept of climate change therefore, is a reflection of the age-long consequences of human interventions in the world of nature which orchestrates a mix of the various gases that make up the earth's atmosphere resulting in the abnormal increase and corresponding fluctuations in global temperature. This tendency has raised awareness about the negative outcome of human interference in the natural ecosystem, and has elicited political discourses that have constituted one of the themes in what is today known as green politics. Prominent among this, is the meeting of 38 industrialised countries in 1997 that produced the famous Kyoto Protocol of 1997. The major resolution from this meeting was the commitment made by the 38 participating industrialised countries to reduce their atmospheric emissions of Carbon dioxide by an average of 5.2 percent from 1990 levels by 2012 (Mclean and Alistair, 2009). From that time till now, the United Nations through the UN Convention on Climate change has championed similar initiatives to this end.

Consequently, several reports and studies have zeroed-in on the existential threat of climate change but mostly to humanity at large thus eliciting global efforts to this end. The report by MSCI (2023) focused on the US homeowner's insurance, while the UNDP casted a shadow account of Africa's vulnerability to this challenge. It was Chavi Meatle's searchlight that highlighted Nigeria's efforts to tackle this challenge. Similarly, the USAID provided another modest attempt albeit, to establish some of the negative implication of climate change on Nigeria. The account by these authors fell short of interrogating specifically the implications of climate change on national security and sustainable development in Nigeria thus leaving a vacuum to fill.

The Nigerian state as an integral component of the global community has not been spared of the negative impact of climate change. This study therefore brings to the fore an appraisal of the dynamics of climate change. It investigates this concept using the qualitative approach to elicit valuable information on the subject matter, and within the framework of Historical materialism, it tried to unearth the implications of climate change on national security vis-a vis sustainable development in Nigeria. It is therefore structured around the framework of an introduction, conceptual clarification, theoretical framework, review of literatures, an excursion into the dynamics of climate change on national security and its implications for sustainable development in Nigeria, with the blueprint on the way forward. All this culminated in the conclusion and reference.

1.2. Conceptual Clarification

i) **Climate Change:** Change is a variation in time and space. It is a constant phenomenon in the natural world. The changes that occur in the natural world are either instigated by man, or flow from the prism of an established natural growth process of a particular human species or structural framework. The word climate change is a testament of the law of cause and effect. The ecosystem of the universe as given, maintained an established and predictable pattern of operation that was almost cast in stone until the contemporary time of increased and intensified involvement and interface of man in the process. Consequently, man's drive to rediscover himself, and his determination to win a living from mother earth including space, has thrown up a series of interventions in the world of nature.

Climate change therefore is the direct response by the atmospheric weather system to the aftermath of the artificial 'products' created by man in the process of earning a living and attaining a fulfilling material existence. The series of deliberate activities of the human element geared towards improving his living conditions and perhaps, achieve a name in the annals of history comes with a price that has drastically altered the sequence of atmospheric weather conditions in what is now known as climate change.

ii) National Security: The dynamics of national security is as old as the birth of the modern state system which took its genesis from the Westphalia peace treaty of 1648. It is often taken for granted that national security is a function of the military strength, capacity and capability of nation-states to protect its sovereign status and territorial boundaries effectively against insidious elements or external aggressors. The concept in contemporary times has gained wider coverage to incorporate other components of national security like environmental security, economic security, security of national resources, political security, energy security, food security, among others. In its composite form therefore, national security encompasses all the measures designed to wade-off all threats both internal and external to a nation's survival. Some of the dimensions of threat today are predominantly man-made as well as naturally orchestrated. The emerging existential threat today to national security are those which hails from the economic adventures of man leading to incidence of outbreak of diseases, adverse weather conditions, food shortages, and many more which impinge on the survival of nation-states. In this context, national security can be defined as the safekeeping of the nation as a whole. It is an all-important duty of the state to its citizens as it embodies their protection from direct military confrontation/assault and other factors that poses a danger to their collective wellbeing and survival (Holmes, K.R, 2005).

iii) **Rethinking:** Rethinking is a word that implies the review of a phenomenon, or an idea with the goal of re-inventing it for the benefit of a social group or interested party/parties. It is an appraisal of what is known, to establish its benefit or otherwise. It is a logical process that applies itself to the act of reasoning in the face of a teething challenge. Rethinking is the domain of social inquiry that is given to asking intrinsic questions about social phenomena with the aim of providing valuable answers to them. This process is synonymous with interrogating an existing idea or situation in order to determine the identified and unidentified implications.

iv) **Sustainable Development:** The keyword 'development' is a many-sided process that transcends the individual, group and national levels. On these premises, development implies increased skills and capacity; greater freedom, creativity, self-discipline, responsibility and material wellbeing (Rodney, 1972). A society develops when its members increase collectively their capacity for dealing with the environment in which they live, and this is correspondingly achievable based on their understanding of the laws of nature and the extent to which such knowledge is practicalised and demonstrated by designing tools for organizing the system of labour in such society (Rodney, 1972).

Sustainable development is a global initiative designed to ensure improved health, promote development, guarantee equity needs through a systems approach at all levels. Sustainable development goals (SDGs) are a set of global goals for a fair and sustainable health at every level; from planetary biosphere to local community (UNDP, 1994). It represents a framework of goals that are scientifically crafted as a robust strategy for building on the progress made by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The aim of SDGs is to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure that all people enjoy the virtues of peace and prosperity, now and in the future (Stephen, M. 2007). Its goals have been adopted by all member states of the United Nations in 2015 and it was intended to last for between 2016-2030. Its priority is to provide the global community with the best chance of ensuring the necessary collaboration and alignment by the global family for the implementation of the necessary approaches for securing a fair, healthy and prosperous life for the present and future generation of mankind.

Quite strategically, Climate Action occupies the 13th position in the schedule of global action for addressing climate change in the SDGs. And under the caption of 'Transforming our World', the Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations has since its commencement date, become the international blueprint that articulates the vision, principles and commitments for attaining a fairer and more sustainable world for the global family.

1.3. Theoretical Framework: Historical Materialism

Historical materialism as a theoretical construct, formed the basis for interrogating economic and political development of human societies as a historical conjecture. Karl Marx is the major proponent of this theory as it represents a profound and rigorous account on the underlining history of socio-economic development. Historical materialism is a reflection of the central ideas of Karl Marx's conception of history with emphasis on economic forces as the driving force behind historical change. According to this theory, it is the economic and material base of society that determines social change and human development (Martins. S, 2009). This position hinges on the perspective that history is the progressive unfolding of man's social and economic development at different epochs. It views history as a reflection of the progressive action of man as the key dynamics of change. To its advocates therefore, the key element of all human actions is economic development which transcend the individual to the group levels. This perspective is predicated on the belief that the moving force behind all important historical events at the realm of economic development of the society are the changes in the mode of production and exchange alongside the corresponding division of society into distinct classes. This position succinctly has become the basis for the classification of nation-states into developed, developing and underdeveloped societies.

The choice of historical materialism as the theoretical thrust for interrogating climate change and national security finds relevance in the strength of its economic analysis which is centred on the need for man to survive in his immediate environment by harnessing the gifts of nature. The process of achieving this orchestrates different relationships, all of which dovetails to human intervention on the world of nature and the undeniable aftermath of this process. It bears acceptance with its materialist's designation of history as the fulcrum of social change and by implication, climate change. In adopting this theoretical praxis, the position of this study is that the challenge of climate change would not have arisen to its present scale, if human (socio-economic) activities on earth, have been conducted in its simple form without the current upscaling and aggressive attack on the natural ecosystem. The materialist drive of man above sustainable levels, but towards self-preservation on a humongous scale is the harbinger of many conflicts, technological adventurism etc., which has negatively impacted on the world of nature.

1.4. Review of Literatures

The account by MSCI (2023) on sustainability and climate trends declares that beyond climate; nature and biodiversity have emerged as additional priority areas to address in order to minimize their underlining and potential negative effects on the ecosystem through some nature-based pragmatic solutions. The major thrust of their report is on extreme weather and its impact on the place of man's abode and the world of work. According to them, physical climate impacts are literally hitting the home and the place of work of millions of people and companies who depend on them coming under its unprecedented consequences. The major area where this is felt the most is the unexpected cost to households in terms of insurance obligations. The study appraised that, as a result of the impact of climate change, the average cost of US homeowners' insurance rose to 145% between 2001 and 2020, which was in excess of the 61% increase in household income over the same period (MSCI, 2023). The consensus on this is that as climate change exacerbates, more expensive policies would emerge with adverse financial burden this would bring on households who are already navigating the painful impact of an inflationary economy. On a continental scale, measuring the cost of this on African households and by extension, Nigeria would precipitate a more worrisome spectacle.

However, in a similar vein, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP, 1994) painted a graphic scenario of climate change on Africa with a searchlight on historical, structural, and institutional factors which have made Africa and other developing nations more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. On a specific note in their report, incidence of poor governance, incessant conflicts, weakened institutional capacities, high disease burden, lack of food security and endemic poverty greatly impact on the vulnerability of these states to the adverse effects of climate change. This report further revealed that several global initiatives through funding assistance and capacity building mechanisms have been deployed on the platform of global partnerships to mitigate the impact of climate change on Africa and other developing nations.

However, tackling climate change and its impact should not be limited to Africa's developmental needs even though climate change on Africa is exacerbated by food insecurity which impacts on their health systems which confronts the overwhelming spread of preventable diseases. This tendency puts the continent in developmental dilemma and ranks her as the most vulnerable to climate change. The 'dilemma of Africa' was acknowledged in this report which is the fact that African countries contributes least to climate change largely because of their low-levels of industrialization and energy consumption, yet faced with the need for rapid investment in infrastructure and industrialization towards the attainment of its Sustainable Development Goals.

Writing under the prism of Climate finance in Nigeria, Sean Stout and Chavi Meatle (2002) revealed that Nigeria has laid a solid foundation for climate change mitigation through a robust policy landscape that is dedicated to planning and responding to climate change eventualities. However, the inadequacy and challenge with good policy initiatives without profitable implementation was acknowledged, as the report alluded to the rise in greenhouse gas emission in the country since 2009 which ranked Nigeria as the third highest in Africa only after the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and South Africa (climatewatch,2009). From this account, the Nigerian economy is existentially vulnerable, since it entirely depends on the ecosystems and natural resources to achieve her goal of economic survival. The crude oil economy and its dynamics was the focus of this appraisal. Close as this account may seem, the critical elements about the impact of climate change on national security and the long term sustainability of the Nigerian state leave much gap to fill. However, the authors revealed that mitigating climate finance in Nigeria is channeled through a range of financial instruments whereas adaptation efforts is financed through debt, to the proportion of 90%. This raises the sustainability question especially when the frequency of climate shocks is brought under scrutiny.

In another account, the USAID (2023) extolled Nigeria as Africa's largest economy where agricultural production supports a huge percentage of the country's population. Regrettably, it mentioned that rising sea levels orchestrates the vulnerability of the country to flooding, air temperature, all of which adversely impact on food security, health and nutritional standards of the citizenry. The study tipped Nigeria as having the highest rate of deforestation in the world, losing about 3.7% of its forest every year as a result of uncontrolled human activities that impact negatively on the ecosystem. It equally revealed that drought and reduced rainfall, combined with rising air temperatures inhibits the country's hydropower infrastructures and hinder agri-business especially fishing, thus reducing food security with its negative implication on the health and nutritional standards of the people. According to this report, the energy sector of the country, deforestation by peasant farmers, the pattern of land use administration, etc. are the greatest contributors of Nigeria's greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. It articulates Nigeria's efforts towards climate change mitigation through the establishment of the National Council on Climate Change in 2021, the Nigeria Adaptation Plan Framework (2020), the Nigeria Energy Transition Plan. The energy transition plan bears the seal of a sworn commitment to carbon neutrality by 2060 across key sectors ranging from power to cooking, oil and gas to transport and industry, etc.

Reinventing Climate Change Education as articulated by Ulla H, R and Halla, H. L. (2021) zeroed- in on climate change and its challenge to educators. To them, the impact of climate change today underscores the need for sensitization and awareness for stakeholders in this sector. The authors in their account, made the submission that climate change involves addressing not only scientific and environmental issues but also social, cultural and political frameworks that impinge on climate change. In their perspective, climate change is equally a socially constructed challenge that require everybody to play a part towards mitigating its adverse consequences. This necessitates why students should know and learn how to interpret numerical data on the subject matter of climate change, identify its consequences, and be part of the vanguard towards sustainable solutions. The author's perspective is predicated on the belief that the effects of today's emissions could have historic or future implication for communities in the near future. This explains why climate change to them, should not be a regional nor the exclusive problem of any particular nation. It is a global challenge which should involve the students and other stakeholders in the sector towards articulating sustainable solutions. Emphasis therefore should be how to mitigate and adapt to climate change, as well as

appropriate the toolkits required to navigate the climate change albatross and bring it under control. This belief informs why UNESCO's work on climate change education aims at making climate change a central part of the international response to climate change globally. The report therefore recommends that policy makers should articulate; education policy, curriculum development, capacity building for teachers, raise public awareness, increased investment in high-level support and resources for climate change, improvement in communication-related to climate change education among member states (UNESCO, 2015).

1.5 National Security and Climate Change: Implications for Sustainable Development

The conception of national security should not be limited to its kinetic military connotation. Robert McNamara (1968) offered a comprehensive appraisal of the concept when he said that 'in a modernizing society, security encapsulates development; and security is not limited to military hardware though it may involve it'. By this, Security does not exclusively rest on the traditional military activity, though it may encompass it. His position buttresses that Security is development, and without development there can be no security. According to McNamara, any society that seeks to achieve adequate military security against the background of acute food shortage, population explosion, low level of production, low technological development, adequate and inefficient public utilities and chronic problem of unemployment has a false sense of security (Mcnamara,1968). It is in this light that the impact of Climate change is considered as one of the greatest threats to sustainable development, having far-reaching and unprecedented implications on social, economic, political, and environmental dimensions that are exacerbated and foisted on populations that are marginalized on the scale of national development (Fuso Nerini, et al, 2019). In Nigeria and sub-Saharan Africa in general, the impact of climate change on agricultural production have hampered efforts to reduce poverty and hunger as outlined in sustainable development goals (Chilunjika and Gumede, 2021).

In an exploration on the nexus between national security and sustainable development Adigwe, A.N. (2019), re-echoed the United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals which are: (1) Zero Poverty (2) Zero Hunger (3) Good Health and Wellbeing (4) Quality Education (5) Gender Equality (6) Clean Water and Sanitation (7) Affordable and Clean Energy (8) Decent Work and Economic Development (9) Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure (10) Reduction in Equality (11) Building Sustainable Cities and Communities (12) Responsible Consumption and Production (13) Climate Action (14) Life Below Water (15) Life on Land (16) Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (17) Peace and Partnership. The fundamentals of these goal has been summarized into 5 thematic areas of critical importance sobriquet as "5 P's" namely; People, Prosperity, Planet, Peace, and Partnerships. Thus, interrogating climate change in the light of sustainable development leaves a deep hole in Nigeria's effort to achieve most of these goals.

i) **Climate Change and Agricultural Productivity in Nigeria.:** Agriculture is the main stay, as well as the life-wire of a huge percentage of the population of the country. But the current and unmitigated change in weather condition adversely affects both food crop and cash crop farming in Nigeria. The incidence of extreme dry weather in the north, orchestrates seasonal changes that impact on farming activities in the region, where a large percentage of agricultural produce comes from. Again, the 2012 and 2019 episodes of flood disasters presents painful memories about the negative impact of climate change in Nigeria. The overall impact of this is not only the precipitation of hunger and starvation, but the loss of lives and arable/farming lands which has negatively impacted a huge percentage of Nigerian population of more than 200 million people.

ii) **Climate Change and the Goal of Clean Water:** It is popularly said that water sustains life but equally fundamental is that clean water guarantees a sickness-free life. The seasonal changes in weather orchestrated by climate change have multiplied the rate of flooding and erosion in many parts of Nigeria. When floods occur, the quality of water is compromised and this leads to incidence of outbreak of diseases. The outbreak of diseases impinges on the realization of a major component of sustainable development goals which is good health and wellbeing of the people.

iii) **Climate Change and Poverty Reduction:** Poverty subsists when an individual lacks the wherewithal to satisfy his material and basic needs in life. These basic needs include food, clothing and shelter. It is commonly believed that hunger is a symptom of poverty, and the lack of shelter is another testament of poverty. The unprecedented impact of climate change today exacerbates, rather than reduce the menace of global poverty especially among developing countries like Nigeria. The economic effects of climate change such as displacement of agricultural communities, farmers-herder's conflicts, incidence of Internally Displaces Persons (IDP's) impinge on the realization of foremost goal of poverty reduction as enshrined in the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals.

iv) **Climate Change and Building Sustainable Cities in Nigeria:** Building Sustainable Cities and Communities is goal number eleven of United Nation's sustainable goal initiative. It is taken for granted that Nigeria is ranked as the country with one of the fastest growing populations on the continent of Africa. Thus, providing shelter for this ever-expanding population should be a priority that requires opening of the hinterlands. There are societies that have built communities around the coast and this also serve as a tourist heaven and source of revenue. But instances abound in Nigeria where the meteorological agency intermittently issue warning forecast to people leaving around water enclaves to vacate their homes in anticipation of impending floods. This pattern of seasonal relocation is antithetical to building sustainable cities and communities both in the short and long run.

v) **Climate Change and National Security:** Adigwe, A.N. (2019) articulated that national security is widely canvassed as the state-centric perspective on security that is premised on the physical protection of the territorial enclaves of a nation-state against unwanted infiltration by potential aggressors including states and non-state actors. However, because climate change is a global phenomenon that affects all communities albeit at varying degrees, Nigeria is presently having an unfair share of its unmitigated impact as a result of the influx of herders and other criminal elements from neighbouring states into the country. This accounts for the worsening case of insecurity in Nigeria due to insurgency, banditry and kidnapping as they are presently constituted today. Furthermore, the increasing drought in the Sahel states that share border with Nigeria is among the push factors that force herders to migrate into the country. These herders who are in search for green pastures for their animals have relentlessly and without conscience engage in violent confrontation with farmers in their local communities causing of them to flee for safety. The implication of this is the shortfall in crop farming since these farmers can no longer engage in their farming as a result of safety concerns hence, the shortage and high cost of food precipitating a fall in the general standard of living of the Nigerian populace The recurrent scenario as it today has altered the complexion of national security on many fronts in Africa's most populous country called Nigeria.

1.6 Summary of Findings

Interrogating climate change and its impact has opened new frontiers in our understanding of the risks climate change pose to humanity both for the present and in the future. The economic effects of this trend spreads across different regions with social and structural consequences. From this study, it was discovered that human activities is responsible for 1.0-degree C of global warming and it is predicted that if this trend continues unchecked, global warming is likely to ascend 1.5-degree C between 2030 and 2052. It was suggested that, to retain global temperature at 1.5-degree C, there must be a cut on global emissions by 45% in the next six years (2030) from what it was in 2010 in order to attain a net zero emission by 2050. However, the effort to limit global warming to 1.5 C require accelerated commitment to transitions in energy infrastructures and industrial systems (IPCC, 2022). The question about how feasible effective energy transition could be achieved among developing countries is still begging for answer in the light of their peculiar circumstances.

Again, this study revealed that for historical, structural and institutional reasons, Africa and other developing countries are more vulnerable to climate change, and that the malaise of poor

governance, endemic conflicts, weakened institutional capacity, plus high disease burden amplified by food insecurity exacerbates Africa's vulnerability to climate change. It was equally made clear that Africa's natural heritage of unexploited reserves of oil, gas, coal, as well as other natural endowments like cobalt, lithium, uranium and bauxite are fundamental elements that necessitates the compelling use of fossils. This tendency puts this group of states in a development dilemma, and further entrench and deepen their vulnerability to climate change.

This study discovered that on a global scale, developing countries like Nigeria contributes the least to climate change largely because of their low level of industrialization and energy consumption, but yet confronts with the need to embrace industrialization in order to harness their natural resources and forestall their status of dependency. The twist to this is that if industrialization is pursued at the scale required to attain development based on the utilization of her natural resources, then the continent would be working against the 1.5 C global warming reduction target.

Furthermore, from a comparative standpoint, this study discovered that Nigeria, like other African countries have a weak, fragmented and compromised response to the goal of climate change mitigation. The continuous gas flaring in the Niger-Delta region of Nigeria, combined with untamed incidence of illegal refineries and pipeline vandalism, exacerbates fossil emissions which impacts negatively on aquatic life and the environment in general. The timelines for ending gas flaring and other unwholesome practices inherent in the energy sector has become the definition of 'national abracadabra'. From this exploration, it became clear that a well-coordinated and strategic policy framework whereby words are matched with pragmatic actions is needed to reverse this trend.

1.7 Conclusion and Recommendations

The increased human activity on the world of nature is the harbinger of Climate change. The environmental degradation that it precipitates is a threat to human survival in this 21st century. The World Economic Forum (WEF,2020) revealed that more than half of global economic output moderately rely on the resources of nature for their survival, and mitigating the risks that this huge level of human dependence on nature, calls for a concerted effort towards the preservation and restoration of natural ecosystem. With the myriads of unprecedented climatic disasters occasioned by severe adverse weather conditions in different parts of the world, no price is too huge to pay to mitigate the ripple effects of climate change. The current conversation around this global human challenge with emphasis on the green pathway is a commendable approach towards mitigating the impact of climate change,

From this study, the impact of climate change on Nigeria is undoubtedly very clear as the country is faced with the consequences of this in the agricultural sector, which has cascaded down to the security architecture of the country. The intermittent flooding, and the unprecedented drying up of the lake chad axis of the country and its direct impact on the fishing and herders' community that rely on it, orchestrates a migration push that is the harbinger of farmers-herders conflict that abounds in different parts of the country. The obvious effects of this is the shortage in food supply which has snowballed into high cost of living. This shortage in food supply has been sociologically linked to acts of banditry and kidnapping in the country.

In the light of the forgoing, this study recommends that all the rhetoric around mitigating climate change in Nigeria should give way to a more pragmatic approach where policy initiatives are matched with consistent actions. There should be more decisive action towards ending gas flaring and the operation of illegal refineries in the oil producing areas of the Niger-Delta region of the country. The International Oil Companies (IOC's) should be compelled to end this menace, as well clean up the degraded communities through their oil exploration activities. The government should be more proactive against flooding by following through with the early warning signals from the meteorological service department. The recent flood disaster in Bornu state smacks of executive recklessness and carelessness.

Furthermore, the seeming twist to the goal of industrialization in Nigeria by the global action at mitigating climate change should not deter the country. In harnessing her natural resources to this end, the Nigerian state should explore other alternatives to prevent her from working against the 1.5 C global warming reduction target by 2030.

Since agriculture is the predominant occupation of majority of the populace in Nigeria, the government should completely ban open grazing by nomadic farmers and enforce the policy of ranching for herders to discourage the attraction that open grazing holds for nomadic farmers from neighbouring states who are forced by draught to migrate to Nigeria in search for pastures for their livestock. This stands as one the remote causes of insecurity, and by extension food insecurity both of which on national development.

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