THE QUEST FOR NIGERIA'S PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP OF THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

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Abstract

Research problem: *The stronghold of the existing five permanent members of the council has sparked agitation for reforms of the UN and its security council, especially from Africa. Nigeria and other African countries have indicated interest for the seat. This paperexamined Nigeria's quest for the permanent membership of the Council to represent the African continent.*
Method/theory: *The paper relied on secondary sources of data collection obtained from textbooks, journals and articles. It also adopted the theory of manifest destiny to explain Nigeria's sole claim for the position.*
Results*: Several decades of Nigeria's leadership on African continent, her vast experiences and contributions to peacekeeping operations, her prominent roles in multilateral institutions, her population size and economic standing in Africa, make her not only deserving, but also suitable for the seat. Notwithstanding, findings also identified likely impediments to Nigeria ambitions which must be addressed timely.*
Conclusion: *Nigeria is suitably qualified to represent Africa in the UNSC given her past and current contributions to global affairs, however; it needs to address some domestic challenges to make her more fitting for the seat.*
Key contributions to knowledge: *Nigeria remains a key contributor to Africa's development and global peace and security.*
Recommendations: *Nigeria should sustain lobbying of the international community, especially the five permanent members of the Council until the aim is achieved; ensure African countries endorse her as the sole candidate for the seat; and proactively address all domestic issues raised in the paper.*

Introduction

Nigeria has achieved a prominent status in international relations since gaining independence in 1960. Through its strong Afrocentric foreign policy, it has advocated for the ideas of multilateralism, decolonisation, and regional integration throughout Africa and beyond (Akinterinwa, 2010). Nigeria has consistently been regarded as a formidable candidate to represent Africa on the United Nations Security Council. The administrations of Ibrahim Babangida, Olusegun Obasanjo, Goodluck Jonathan, and Muhammadu Buhari have all advocated for Nigeria's membership in the UNSC, citing its contributions to peacekeeping, global peace and security, as well as the magnitude of its economy and population as justifications for this inclusion (Mbara, 2019). The need has grown imperative due to the increasing desire for reforms of the United Nations system, established in 1945 during the Second World War. Proponents of UN changes contend that the organization no longer represents the reality of global geopolitics and the inclusion of all demographics in the contemporary world (Iweriebor&Uhomoibhi, 2025). The Ezulwini Consensus and Sirte Declaration of 2005, endorsed by the African Union, advocate for a minimum of two permanent seats for Africa, inclusive of veto power, on the UN Security Council (AJCR, 2023).

Consequently, Egypt, Nigeria, and South Africa are the principal competitors for the seat. Nigeria appears "prepared to serve Africa and the world in a reformed Security Council to promote international peace and security" (Audu, Adewumi & Obafemi, 2024, p.102); however, concerns persist those challenges such as inadequate governance, corruption, poverty, domestic insecurity, and external competition from other candidates hinder Nigeria's legitimate aspiration to represent Africa on the Council. This study analyses the justification for Nigeria's candidature for the esteemed position, along with the internal and foreign problems that may hinder Nigeria's pursuit of this role. The study asserts that, despite the hurdles, Nigeria might feasibly attain permanent membership in the UNSC if it effectively addresses these challenges and engages proactively with key stakeholders.

Research Problem

Nigeria's ambition to represent the African continent in the proposed expansion of the United Nations Security Council permanent seats has elicited varied responses. The need for reforms of the United Nations Security Council to enhance its representativeness and democratic nature in accordance with contemporary realities has persisted for decades. Nigeria regards this as a commendable endeavour that will secure its participation on the permanent seat of the UNSC. Nonetheless, there are apprehensions that this may be more of an illusion than a reality. Researchers identify various internal and external factors that will impede Nigeria's membership in the Council (Mbara, 2019; Iweriebor & Uhomoibhi, 2025). The existing permanent members of the UNSC may be reluctant to admit new members, such as Nigeria, while Egypt and South Africa, as continental contenders for the seat, will pursue their national interests vigorously. The prevailing domestic realities in Nigeria, characterised by instability, poverty, and corruption, significantly hinder the nation's pursuit of a seat on the United Nations Security Council. Mbara (2019, p.140) contended that "it will be easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for Nigeria to secure one of the proposed seats."

Some believe that, considering Nigeria's historical role in African and global affairs, its demographic and economic status, along with the government's efforts to address previously expressed concerns, and the support from China, a permanent member of the UNSC, Nigeria's aspiration for membership can become a reality (Adegoroye, 2025, January 13).

Research Objectives

The following are the objectives of this paper:

i. To determine why Nigeria deserves the UNSC Seat

ii. To Discuss the likely challenges Nigeria faces in her quest for UNSC seat

Research Methodology

The paper utilised historical-descriptive research design. While the historical design enabled the researcher to fetch past vital information relevant to the subject matter, and Nigeria's role in the United Nations over the year, the descriptive design assisted in the clear and simple presentation of the issues to the public. Also, data for the study was obtained from the secondary source, including textbooks, articles, journals, etc from the internet as well as the physical libraries in Abuja. The data was analysed qualitatively with themes aligning with the objective of the paper.

The Concept of Security

All human societies require security to advance, preserve lives, and safeguard property. Security may refer to the safeguarding, preservation, and protection of individuals from harm or danger. Afolabi (2015, p.1) asserts that security fundamentally pertains to the existence of peace, safety, happiness, and the safeguarding of human and physical resources, as well as the absence of crises or threats to human dignity, all of which promote the development and advancement of any society. The concept of security derives from the two Latin words "sine" and "cura," forming "securitas." According to Bien-kachala Serowaniec (2016), 'sine' is defined as 'without,' while 'cura' signifies 'worry,' 'fear,' and 'anxiety.' The original definition of security is interpreted as "concern, fear, or anxiety" (2016, p.16).

Research has indicated that the concept of security is undergoing transformation. In nations such as the United States, traditional security threats, including terrorism, nuclear proliferation, and energy security, were once predominant concerns for the public. However, this paradigm is shifting, as the most urgent security threats now encompass the ramifications of climate change and racial and economic inequality (Stark, Rondeaux & Hurbart, 2021).

In addition to the overarching idea of security, the concept of human security, described as "people's freedom from fear and freedom from want" (Mude, 2016, p.3), has also gained prominence. The concept arose as a reaction to the inflexible state-centered notion that defined security solely in militaristic terms. (Mude, 2016, p. 3). The 1994 Human Development Report on New Dimensions of Human Security, published by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and referenced by Hussein, Gnisci, and Wanjiru (2004), delineates the seven thematic areas of human security as follows: Economic security pertains to assured basic income, employment, and resource accessibility; food security emphasises the availability and accessibility of food; health security underscores access to inexpensive and quality healthcare services. Environmental security pertains to a safe and non-toxic environment for all inhabitants.

Personal security pertains to the safety of an individual within the context of society. Community security underscores the autonomy of individuals to associate with groups that provide their safety, with political security that upholds the protection of fundamental human rights. All these measures are intended to guarantee the comprehensive security of human society.

Whether considering the conventional concept of security or the contemporary perspective that includes human security, the fundamental nature of security is encapsulated in the words of Thomas Hobbes, as referenced by Jackson-Preece (2011), who asserts that "without security, there is no place for industry… no arts, no letters, no society; and which is worst of all, continual fear, and danger of violent death; and the life of man, solitary, poor, nasty, brutish, and short… (p.140)." The United Nations Security Council serves as a forum for international security discussions. Nigeria's pursuit of a permanent seat on the UNSC is a strategic initiative that will allow it to engage in decision-making and implementation processes that safeguard not just its own security but also that of Africa and the global community.

Theoretical framework

The research is consistent with the doctrine of manifest destiny. “The term manifest destiny literally signifies a state's capability to expand its borders or guide others through leadership, capacity, strength, and ability” (Adetunji&Adewumi, 2021, p.2). Manifest destiny was initially articulated in John L.O. Sullivan’s 1845 article to advocate for the annexation of Texas and Oregon (Halidu, Nwokedi& Adie, 2018). The Americans argue that providence has granted them the right to expand and occupy their continent. Nigeria, akin to America, believes that nature has bestowed upon it the responsibility to lead Africa.

Adetunji & Adewumi (2021, p.1) state that "Nigeria’s image ranked high as it served as a rallying point among other African countries, as evidenced by the adoption of an Afro-centric foreign policy." The nation has advocated for numerous causes on behalf of the continent, including the struggle against racial discrimination in former apartheid South Africa, support for liberation movements across Africa, and the promotion of peace and security through conflict resolution and peacekeeping efforts. Bach (2007, p.303) observed that "subsequent administrations constructed a diplomatic rationale for Nigeria to realise its manifest destiny and be regarded as the champion of Africa." This elucidates Nigeria's ongoing aspiration to attain permanent membership in the UNSC as Africa's exclusive representative.

An Overview of the UN Security Council and the Growing Calls for its Reform

The United Nations is an international governmental organization founded in 1945 as a successor to the League of Nations, which was established after World War I. The primary objective of the organization, as articulated in Article 1 of its Charter, is “to save succeeding generations from the scourge of war” (Adeniran 2007). The United Nations comprises six primary organs: the General Assembly, the Security Council, the Economic and Social Council, the Trusteeship Council, the International Court of Justice, and the Secretariat. The Security Council, tasked with the maintenance of world peace and security (Adie, 2025), is considered the most crucial instrument of the organization (Mbara, 2019).

The organ consists of 15 members, of which ten are non-permanent and five are permanent. The

five permanent membersnamely, the United States, Britain, France, China, and Russiaoriginating only from Europe, North America, and Asia, possess equal veto powers. As a global institution, not all continents are represented among the permanent members of the Security Council, a highly privileged position that allows a member to reject any measures it does not approve (Adeniran, 2007). This Council has thus faced rigorous examination over revisions to enhance its representativeness, democratic nature, and inclusivity. Iweriebor and Uhomoibhi (2025) assert that the impetus for expanding the United Nations Security Council can be traced to the "1978 Initiative of the General Assembly," when Nigeria, along with several member states, proposed an agenda item titled: "Question on the equitable representation on and increase in the membership of the Security Council" (2025, p.1).

The writers observed that, despite this, no draft resolution existed; however, by the 1990s, there was a resurgence of proposals for reform of the Council. Several ideas have been presented about the enlargement of the Security Council. Three models have been proposed for the reform of the UNSC as follows:i. “The two current classifications of permanent and non-permanent members, along with a third tier that will be permanent but devoid of veto power; ii. The two current categories, along with a third tier of representation that would be semi-permanent and rationalised among two or more countries from a single region; and iii. An extensive enlargement of the Council that maintains the existing two categories of representation without introducing a third tier, while augmenting its membership at both levels to ensure equitable geographical representation and demographic distribution” (Iweriebor&Uhomoibhi, 2025, p.2-3). Alternative proposals, like the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration of 2005, endorsed by the African Union, urge for a minimum of two permanent seats for Africa, including of veto power in the UN Security Council (AJCR, 2023). Nigeria seeks to seize this opportunity to represent Africa on the UNSC.

Why Nigeria deserves the UNSC Seat for Africa

The population of Nigeria exceeds 200 million, as reported by the National Population Commission in the 2006 census. This established the country as the most populous in Africa and among the most populous globally. With one in five Africans being Nigerian (Dauda, Adie &Nwokedi, 2018), Nigeria asserts this demographic advantage as a significant justification for its qualification to represent the African continent on the global stage. As noted by Akinterinwa (2010), a detailed examination of the current permanent members of the UN Security Council reveals that they represent a substantial population, with China exceeding one billion individuals, and both Russia (notably during the era of the former Soviet Union) and the United States each having populations of over 300 million. Consequently, population is a significant aspect to consider.

Nigeria asserts it possesses the demographic, economic, and geopolitical qualifications to represent Africa internationally. The issue of population is linked to the vast human capital resources present in Nigeria. Numerous Nigerians, including Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Director-General of the World Trade Organization; Akinwumi Adesina, President of the African Development Bank; TijjaniBande, President of the UN General Assembly; Philip Emeagwali, computer scientist; Jelani Aliyu, esteemed international automobile engineer; Mustapha Balarabe Shehu; and Benedict

Oramah of the African Export-Import Bank (Afreximbank) (Agbo, 2024, December 2, and The Top 10 Magazine, 2021, April 27), are excelling and enhancing Nigeria's reputation globally. Additionally, Nigeria has produced billionaires, including Aliko Dangote, the wealthiest individual in Africa (Oamen, 2025, December 16). If Nigeria can showcase individuals of this calibre, who are recognised and esteemed internationally, it indicates that Nigeria is capable of having her nationals represent Africa at the UNSC.

Nigeria's economic sector has demonstrated resilience despite experiencing multiple recessions under the previous administration of President Muhammadu Buhari. The nation possesses abundant mineral resources, including oil and gas, rendering it one of the greatest oil exporters and a significant member of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) (Ogbu, Adie &Nwokedi, 2019). Nigeria is a repository of gold, various solid minerals, fertile agricultural soil, and abundant water resources, providing significant economic leverage in Africa and other developing nations (Terwase, Abdul-Talib &Zengeni, 2014). Nigeria possesses proved natural gas reserves estimated at 120 trillion cubic feet (tcf) and recoverable gas resources of 45 tcf, positioning it among the greatest gas reserves globally (Bach, 2007, p.302). In 2014, Nigeria surpassed South Africa to become the largest economy in Africa after rebasing its gross domestic product (Terwase, Abdul-Talib &Zengeni, 2014) and maintained this status till recently. The results of the economic changes initiated by President Bola A. Tinubu's government are anticipated to enhance Nigeria's economic position in Africa. This will position her advantageously to participate actively in international economic diplomacy and significantly contribute to the finance of global programs and peacekeeping activities, a role for which Nigeria is already recognised in the international system (Bonchuk, 2005; and Akpuru-Aja, 2009).
Nigeria merits a UNSC seat due to its active participation and significant experience in multilateral institutions. Nigeria has always demonstrated a robust commitment to the United Nations, serving in numerous capacities, including as a non-permanent member of the Security Council during the periods of 1966-1967, 1978-1979, 1994-1995, 2010-2011, and 2014-2015 (Nwalie, 2022). This positioned Nigeria to acquire essential expertise in the operations of the UNSC and the overall UN framework more than any other African nation, particularly in conflict management. Nigeria consistently advocates for discussions on global development, conflict resolution, and decolonisation pertaining to Africa and other nations in the Global South at the UN General Assembly, thereby reinforcing its case for permanent representation on the UNSC (Halidu, Nwokedi& Adie, 2018).
Nigeria merits a UNSC membership due to its dedication to Pan-Africanism and its position as a regional leader in Africa since its independence in 1960. Nigeria has prominently supported the liberation movements of various African nations from colonialism and apartheid, with South Africa, Namibia, Congo, Angola, Mozambique, and Zimbabwe serving as notable examples (Halidu, Nwokedi& Adie, 2018). Nigeria has provided substantial financial assistance and coordinated diplomatic efforts to fulfil its objectives; furthermore, Nigeria has played a crucial role in the establishment and functioning of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and continues to be a primary financier of the organization. Nigeria has served as a stronghold for the establishment and promotion of democratic governance throughout the continent, actions it

often references to bolster its claim for permanent membership on the Council. Nigeria's foreign policy is articulated in the 2nd Republican Constitution, which states: "the State shall promote African unity, as well as total political, economic, social, and cultural liberation of Africa and all other forms of international cooperation conducive to the consolidation of universal peace and mutual respect and friendship among all peoples and states, and shall combat racial discrimination in all its manifestations" (Iweriebor&Uhomoibhi, 2025, p.31).

Nigeria's significant contributions to peacekeeping operations and support, particularly under the aegis of the Economic Community of West African States, African Union, and United Nations, are widely recognised. Nigeria has dispatched troops for peacekeeping missions in conflict-ridden nations, including the Congo, Lebanon, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, and Mali, among others. It performed crucial roles in the establishment and leadership of the ECOWAS Monitoring Group (ECOMOG), as well as United Nations missions in Sierra Leone, Angola, and globally (Bonchuk, 2005; Akpuru-Aja, 2009; United Nations Department of Peace Operations, 2022; United Nations, 2023). Nigeria has engaged in 73% of global UN peacekeeping missions (Halidu, Emmanuel & Ashimolowo, 2022). These endeavours are unparalleled, and no other African nation has been able to equal Nigeria's successes in the realm of peacekeeping. Nigeria has also dispatched its police force to ensure security in certain crisis zones. Nigeria's evident dedication to regional stability has bolstered its reputation as a responsible global participant prepared to incur the expenses associated with international peace and security.

Nigeria is a significant nation in international relations, consistently leveraging its power to galvanise the African continent in several domains of diplomacy and development. Nigeria administers the Technical Aids Corps, which offers help to other African nations requiring technical support in essential industries (Ibrahim &Ogbeidi, 2010). It also contains the headquarters of ECOWAS and the secretariat of the New Partnership for African Development (NEPAD). It persistently organises and coordinates African solidarity, actively advocating for equal representation in international organisations, so reflecting a strategic quest for enhanced influence in global governance (Adebajo, 2008). Nigeria has established strategic economic, military, and political alliances with other nations on the continent, including those within the Gulf of Guinea Commission and the Lake Chad Commission, to address cross-border security challenges, migration, climate change, and regional stability.

Nigeria possesses the capability for vigorous diplomatic lobbying, both bilaterally and multilaterally. The nation has utilised its diplomatic missions and engagement in international forums, including the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), the Commonwealth, and the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), to garner support from member states, particularly within the Global South (Adebajo, 2008).

In addition to those who have explicitly endorsed Nigeria's pursuit of UNSC membership (Adegoroye, 2025, January 13), the United States has also expressed a willingness to support reforms of the council to include two representatives from Africa, among other changes (Deen, 2024, September 25). If the reform is implemented, Nigeria has the opportunity to become a member of the council, considering its historical context previously described.

Probable obstacles Nigeria encounters in its

pursuit of a UNSC seat Notwithstanding the aforementioned grounds supporting Nigeria's candidature to represent Africa at the UNSC, there are elements that may impede Nigeria's prospects of securing the permanent seat. The following points are discussed:

Nigeria has been experiencing significant governance challenges, including the government's failure to resolve numerous domestic socio-economic issues such as poverty, unemployment, frequent strikes, energy shortages, food insecurity, insurgency, low industrialisation, corruption, mismanaged public institutions, and inadequate infrastructural development. The fundamental issue is the deficiency of competent leadership in the country (Achebe, 1998). These significant domestic governance challenges create a highly negative perception of Nigeria and undermine its legitimacy. Despite ongoing issues in corruption, security, and infrastructure, policymakers must maintain an awareness that local legitimacy is crucial for securing foreign credibility (Adebajo, 2008). In this context, collective efforts are essential to enhance Nigeria's electoral processes, judicial autonomy, and anti-corruption frameworks, which should be integral to a comprehensive strategy aimed at establishing Nigeria as a stable and dependable participant on the global stagecapable of fulfilling the obligations of permanent membership in the UNSC.

A significant obstacle to Nigeria's pursuit of a permanent seat on the UNSC is its diplomatic ineptitude. Nigeria's diplomatic apparatus is comparatively underdeveloped, with its embassies, high commissions, and consulates sometimes inadequately funded and understaffed, thereby impairing the nation's ability to achieve its strategic foreign policy aims and objectives. Nigeria exhibits constrained investment in global cultural diplomacy (Salifu, Ade-Ibijola, &Opeyeoluwa, 2023), encompassing educational exchange programs, international media exposure, and development assistance beyond the African continent, which are frequently employed by major powers to cultivate goodwill and establish international legitimacy. Countries such as China and the United States have adeptly utilised development assistance, public diplomacy, and media to enhance their global reputations and further their international objectives. Nigeria, despite its prominent position in Africa, has failed to convey a persuasive story regarding its values, goals, and leadership aspirations on the world stage. Ambassadors were selected to lead Nigeria's missions abroad until recently (Omogbolagun, 2025, December 4).

Nigeria's economic difficulties present a significant obstacle to its aspiration for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. Despite being one of Africa's largest economies, its current economic conditioncharacterized by substantial foreign debt, aid dependency, budget deficits, inflation, unemployment, gross mismanagement, and macroeconomic instability (Luck, 2006)may diminish the nation's global influence. The economy is fundamentally reliant on oil, rendering it exceedingly susceptible to variations in global oil prices. This excessive dependence on oil has hindered the country's economic diversification, which is essential for sustainable growth. The National Bureau of Statistics report for 2022 indicates that more over 40% of Nigerians reside below the poverty line, with millions deprived of essential utilities such power, clean water, and excellent education. All these issues must be addressed promptly to facilitate Nigeria's accession to a permanent seat

on the UNSC.

Internal Instability and Insecurity

Nigeria's failure to adequately address insurgency and instability presents substantial challenges that hinder its aspiration for a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council. Nigeria has, in the last twenty years, contended with deadly insurgencies from Boko Haram in the Northeast, Lukarawa in the Northwest, and secessionist agitation by the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in the Southeast (Castor Vali, May 9, 2025). These occurrences significantly undermined global trust in Nigeria's ability to maintain peace and security, domestically and internationally. Moreover, the Northwest and North-Central regions have emerged as epicentres of banditry, ransom kidnappings, and sectarian violence, frequently perpetrated by armed factions that operate with impunity owing to the frailty of law enforcement and judicial systems. In the South, secessionist parties like the IPOB have gained traction, organising protests and engaging in violent clashes with security forces, hence exacerbating regional instability. The Middle Belt concurrently has recurrent farmer-herder conflicts, exacerbated by climate change, land disputes, and ethnic tensions (Adeniran, 2020; Tersoo, 2016). If Nigeria is unable to provide internal stability or adequately safeguard its citizens, it becomes challenging for the international community to have confidence in its capacity to assume the obligations of global security governance at the highest echelon.

One of the challenges to Nigeria's pursuit of a UNSC position originates from inside Africa itself. Currently, there are alternative candidates for Africa's leadership and representation in the UNSC. Countries such as Egypt and South Africa, possessing comparable economic and military capabilities to Nigeria, can undermine Nigeria's opportunity to secure the position if they persist in advancing their own interests. While the African Union, via the Ezulwini Consensus and the Sirte Declaration of 2005, endorsed the allocation of two permanent seats for Africa on a reformed Security Council (AJCR, 2023), it failed to explicitly identify the countries that would represent the continent, which constitutes the core of the issue. In the absence of an African consensus, Nigeria may encounter challenges in overcoming obstacles.

Discussion of Findings

The study's findings indicate that Nigeria's aspiration to serve as Africa's permanent representative on the UN Security Council is rooted in the belief in manifest destinya responsibility Nigeria must undertake for the continent. Nigeria is well-qualified based on its population size, economic status, historical performance in peacekeeping missions, leadership role in Africa, involvement in multilateral institutions, and recent backing from China. To fully realise this aspiration, Nigeria must confront various domestic difficulties, including insecurity, poverty, and corruption, as described in the report, to get the opportunity it has long sought.

Conclusion

The document evaluated Nigeria's aspiration to attain permanent membership in the United Nations Security Council. The decision was prompted by demands for reform of the Council to enhance inclusivity and democracy, as no African nation is presently represented among its members. Although other candidates in Africa are vying for the same position, the article contended that Nigeria is more qualified for the seat than any other competitors. This is attributable to several factors, including its population size, as it is the most populous country in Africa; its significant and ongoing

contributions to peacekeeping operations; its regional leadership; and its economic status as one of Africa's foremost economies, which greatly enhances its aspirations. Nonetheless, Nigeria encounters substantial obstacles to its aspirations and must confront its internal issues, including the promotion of good governance, the safeguarding of human rights, the mitigation of corruption, and the enhancement of security, if it seeks to attain that position. The international world need to endorse Nigeria, as it is more qualified and deserving of a permanent position on the UNSC than any other African nation.

Recommendations

1. **Lobby and Engage with International Community:**Nigeria must prioritise and raise a strong diplomatic lobby group, through its diplomatic missions to constructively counter negative image of the country and project her suitability for the permanent seat of UNSC. Nigeria must pursue consistent diplomatic engagements to achieve its objectives.

2. **Galvanise Africa Endorsement:** Nigeria should leverage on its leadership role in Africa to obtain the much needed endorsement of the entire 54 countries of the Africa Union. This, though may be difficult, it is not impossible. Nigeria should work tirelessly and proactively to achieve this goal.

3. **Address the Challenge of Corruption and Bad Governance in Nigeria:** Nigeria should quickly address some of the identified domestic challenges that continue to dent its credibility at the international stage. Issues such as leadership deficit, corruption, insecurity, electoral malpractices, human rights violations, poverty and so on can be systemically tackled to position Nigeria as a true giant of Africa deserving of such a prestigious seat at the UNSC.

4. **Sustain Nigeria's Participation in Multilateral Institutions:** Nigeria must continue to participate actively, fund and support UN and other multilateral peace keeping initiatives to sustain its momentum and push for the UNSC seat. In addition it should maintain visibility in vital multilateral institutions such as ECOWAS, AU, Commonwealth and others.

5. **Build Strategic Partnership and Alliances with Great Powers:** Nigeria should also build strategic relations with the current five permanent members with veto powers, especially China which has indicated interest in supporting Nigeria's bid, and the US that has called or UNSC reform so they can persuade and convince others to accede to Nigeria quest for UNSC permanent seat.

6. Nigerians heading vital positions across the world should use their platform to convince other nations to support Nigeria's quest.

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