



THE POLITICS OF EXPANDING THE UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL (UNSC) PERMANENT MEMBERSHIP AND THE PROSPECTS FOR NIGERIA TO REPRESENT AFRICA

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ABSTRACT

Nigeria is identified as one of the most powerful country in Africa. The country attained her independent status from the great Brittan on 1st October 1960. Since then, Nigeria has been contributing both her military and material resources to the promotion of international peace and security. Empirical studies have revealed that, Nigeria is among the top list of troop contributing countries in the world under the UN peacekeeping operations. Similarly, Nigeria has organized and sponsored peacekeeping operations in Africa under OAU (now AU) and ECOWAS. Hence, Nigeria is been described as a country with the most intimidating credentials in terms of peacekeeping operations in Africa. Nigeria has participated in not less than 45 peacekeeping operations around the world. This study examined the politics of UNSC reform and possibilities of Nigeria emerging as a permanent member of the UNSC representing the voice of African continent. This empirical qualitative study gathered information through unstructured interview from fifteen (15) respondents who are drawn through purposive sampling. These professionals are drawn from the academic environment, professional military, officers, senior police officers, senior civil servants, and experienced legislative members. Because of the nature of the study, the identities of our respondents were not disclosed throughout. The study reveals that Nigeria has the highest records of participation in peacekeeping operations in Africa. Hence, anytime the expansion of the UNSC is open, Nigeria will be one of the most favoured candidate from Africa. However, with all the peacekeeping operations credentials of Nigeria, the study revealed that it commitments alone cannot be enough to guarantee the ascension of Nigeria to the UNSC permanent seat. Nigeria needs to effectively organize her internal political and socio-economic environment in order to compete favourably with other contenders from Africa for the seat of the UNSC, such as South Africa, Egypt Ghana and Senegal.

Keywords: United Nations, Security Council, Peacekeeping operations ,expansion, permanent membership.