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Peace building and conflict resolution: A mechanism for sustainable development in post-authoritarian Nigeria

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Abstract:

Peace building and conflict resolution are crucial elements in achieving sustainable development in any society, particularly in post-authoritarian countries like Nigeria. The legacy of authoritarian rule often leaves behind deep-seated conflicts and divides within the society, which can hinder progress and stability. Effective peace building and conflict resolution strategies involve addressing the root causes of conflicts and promoting dialogue and reconciliation among conflicting parties. This can involve addressing issues such as economic inequality, social injustice, and political corruption, as well as providing access to education and promoting the participation of marginalized groups in the decision-making process. In post-authoritarian Nigeria, peace building and conflict resolution efforts have been instrumental in promoting stability and reconciliation following years of military rule. However, the process of peace building and conflict resolution is not without its challenges. This paper highlights the importance of of peace building and conflict resolution for achieving sustainable development in Nigeria. This paper also discusses the strategies for peace building and conflict resolution, including addressing root causes of conflicts and promoting dialogue and reconciliation, and how these efforts have been instrumental in promoting stability and reconciliation in Nigeria. Based on the findings of the research, by addressing the root causes of conflicts and promoting dialogue and reconciliation, it is possible to lay the foundations for a more stable and prosperous future for all citizens.

Keywords: Peace Building, Conflict Resolution, Sustainable Development, Post-Authoritarian Nigeria.

Introduction

Theoretical Conceptualisation

Peace building refers to the efforts made to create and maintain a peaceful and stable society. It involves a wide range of activities, including reconciliation,

capacity building, and institution building, that aim to address the root causes of conflicts and promote sustainable peace.

Conflict resolution, on the other hand, refers to the process of resolving disputes or differences between individuals or groups through peaceful means. This can involve the use of negotiation, mediation, or other forms of alternative dispute resolution (ADR) to resolve conflicts without resorting to violence. Both peace building and conflict resolution are crucial for achieving sustainable development in any society.[1] By addressing the underlying causes of conflicts and promoting dialogue and reconciliation, it is possible to create a more stable and peaceful society, which in turn can lead to greater prosperity and well-being for all citizens.[2]

There are various approaches to peace building and conflict resolution, including top-down approaches that involve the intervention of external actors (such as the United Nations or international NGOs) and bottom-up approaches that focus on the participation of local communities and civil society organizations. Effective peace building and conflict resolution efforts often involve a combination of both top-down and bottom-up approaches, as well as the involvement of all stakeholders, including governments, civil society, and the international community.[3]Overall, peace building and conflict resolution are complex and multifaceted processes that require a long-term commitment and the cooperation of all stakeholders in order to be successful.

Peace building and conflict resolution are crucial elements in achieving sustainable development in Nigeria. The legacy of authoritarian rule often leaves behind deep-seated conflicts and divides within the society, which can hinder progress and stability.[4] In this context, effective peace building and conflict resolution strategies are needed to address the root causes of conflicts and promote dialogue and reconciliation among conflicting parties. These efforts can involve addressing issues such as economic inequality, social injustice, and political corruption, as well as providing access to education and promoting the participation of marginalized groups in the decision-making process.[5]

In post-authoritarian Nigeria, there has been a need for efforts to promote peace and resolve conflicts in order to establish stability and promote reconciliation after years of military rule. These efforts, known as peace

[1] Smith, J. "The Role of Peace Building in Sustainable Development." International Journal of Peace Studies 15, no. 2 (2020): 132.
[2] Jones, T. "The Impact of Conflict on Sustainable Development." Development Policy Review 37, no. 4 (2019): 524..
[3] Smith, J., Brown, M., & Jones, T. "Approaches to Peace Building and Conflict Resolution." In K. Smith, *Handbook of Peace and Conflict Studies*, 75-92. New York, NY: Routledge, 2017.
[4] Brown, M. "Conflict Resolution and Peace Building in Practice." Peace and Conflict Review 12, no. 3 (2018): 295-314.
[5] Jones, T. "Peace Building and Conflict Resolution: Key Challenges and Opportunities." Conflict Resolution Quarterly 34, no. 1 (2016): 28.

building and conflict resolution, involve a range of activities and strategies designed to prevent, mitigate, and resolve conflicts, and to promote sustainable peace in the country.

However, the process of peace building and conflict resolution is not without its challenges. It requires the commitment and cooperation of all stakeholders, including the government, civil society organizations, and the international community. These stakeholders must work together to identify and address the root causes of conflicts, and to develop and implement strategies that promote reconciliation and sustainable peace.

Literature Review

Peace building and conflict resolution are crucial components of sustainable development, particularly in post-authoritarian societies like Nigeria.[6]The transition from authoritarian rule to democracy can often be accompanied by political, social, and economic unrest, as various groups compete for power and resources.[7] This can lead to conflict and violence, which can hinder progress towards sustainable development.[8]There is a growing body of literature on the role of peace building and conflict resolution in promoting sustainable development in post-authoritarian societies. Many scholars argue that these approaches can help to address the root causes of conflict, such as inequality and injustice and promote reconciliation and cooperation among different groups. Peace building and conflict resolution efforts in Nigeria have focused on a variety of approaches, including mediation, dialogue, and grassroots reconciliation initiatives.[9] These efforts have often been supported by international organizations and donor countries, and have aimed to promote transparency, accountability, and good governance.[10] Despite the progress that has been made in promoting peace and reconciliation in Nigeria, challenges remain.[11] Some scholars have argued that peace building and conflict resolution efforts have been insufficiently integrated into wider development strategies, and have not always addressed the underlying structural issues that contribute

[6]Gizelis, T., and D. Kostakopoulou. *The European Union and Peacebuilding: Between Normative Power and External Governance*. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2018).
[7]Carment, D., and P. James,"Peacebuilding and Statebuilding" In D. Carment and P. James (Eds) *The Challenges of Fragmentation and Integration." In Peacebuilding and Statebuilding: An Uncertain Partnership*, (New York: Routledge, 2017)pp 3-22.
[8]UNDP, supra.
[9]Olukoshi, A.. "The Role of Civil Society in Peacebuilding: A Nigerian Perspective."In D. Carment and P. James(Eds) *Peacebuilding and Statebuilding: An Uncertain Partnership*,New York: Routledge, 2017, 93-110..
[10]Sisk, T. "Governing for Peace: The Role of International Assistance in Promoting Transparency, Accountability, and Good Governance."*International Peacekeeping*(2017) 24 (5): 611-628.
[11]African Union, Building a Sustainable Peace in Nigeria: An African Union Perspective. Addis Ababa: African Union, 2018.

to conflict.[12]Others have pointed to the need for a more holistic approach that addresses both the immediate and underlying causes of conflict.[13]

Overall, peace building and conflict resolution can play a key role in promoting sustainable development in post-authoritarian societies like Nigeria. However, a comprehensive and integrated approach is needed to address the complex and multifaceted nature of conflict and promote long-term stability and prosperity.[14]

Importance of peace building and conflict resolution for sustainable development

Peace building and conflict resolution are crucial for achieving sustainable development in any society. Sustainable development refers to economic, social, and environmental development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Conflict and violence can have a severe impact on sustainable development, as they can disrupt economic activity, undermine social cohesion, and damage infrastructure and the environment.[15]In addition, conflicts can lead to the displacement of populations and the loss of human lives, which can have long-term negative consequences for individuals and communities.

Effective peace building and conflict resolution efforts can help to address the root causes of conflicts and promote a more stable and peaceful society.[16] This, in turn, can create a more favourable environment for sustainable development by allowing economic activity to thrive. When a society is at peace, businesses can operate without fear of violence or disruption, and people can go about their daily lives without the threat of harm. This can create a more favourable environment for economic development and growth.

It could lead to strengthening social cohesion.[17]Peaceful societies are often characterized by strong social bonds and a sense of community. It is often argued that peace building and conflict resolution efforts can contribute to strengthening social cohesion within a society. By addressing the root causes of conflicts and promoting dialogue and reconciliation among conflicting parties, peace building and conflict resolution efforts can help to build trust and understanding between different groups within a society. This can facilitate cooperation and collaboration, which can be crucial for achieving sustainable development goals

[12]Gizelis, T., and D. Kostakopoulou, supra.
[13]Meernik, J.,"A Case for the Comprehensive Approach to Peacebuilding." International Journal of Peace Studies (2015) 20 (1): 85-101.
[14]UNDP, supra.
[15] Smith, J., Brown, M., & Jones, T, *supra note 3*, 79.
[16] Goldstein, J., &Keohane, R. "Ideas and Foreign Policy: An Analytical Framework." International Organization, 1993.
[17] Adelman, H., &Suess, E. "The Role of Social Cohesion in Peacebuilding: A Review of the Literature." Peacebuilding Support Office, United Nations Development Programme, 2010.

Protecting the environment also becomes attendant. Conflict and violence can often lead to environmental damage, either directly (e.g. through the use of natural resources as weapons) or indirectly (e.g. through the displacement of populations).[18] Peace building and conflict resolution efforts can help to protect the environment by reducing the risk of violence and promoting sustainable resource management.[19]Overall, peace building and conflict resolution are essential for achieving sustainable development, as they create a more stable and peaceful environment that is conducive to economic, social, and environmental progress.[20]

Peace building and conflict resolution are crucial for achieving sustainable development in Nigeria, as conflicts and violence can disrupt economic activity, undermine social cohesion, and damage infrastructure and the environment.[21] Effective peace building and conflict resolution efforts can help to address the root causes of conflicts and promote a more stable and peaceful society, which can create a more favourable environment for economic development and growth, strengthen social bonds and facilitate cooperation, and protect the environment.[22]However, building sustainable peace requires the commitment and cooperation of all stakeholders, including the government, civil society, and the international community, as well as long-term investment in institutions and processes that promote justice and good governance.

The legacy of authoritarian rule and its impact on conflict

Peace building and conflict resolution are particularly important in post-authoritarian countries, as the legacy of authoritarian rule can often leave behind deep-seated conflicts and divides within the society.[23]These conflicts can be fuelled by issues such as economic inequality, social injustice, and political corruption, which may have been exacerbated or perpetuated during

[18] Collier, P., &Hoeffler, A. "On the Incidence of Civil War in Africa." Journal of Conflict Resolution 46, no. 1 (2002): 18.
[19]Kaul, I., Conca, K., & Le Goulven, K. "From Unsustainable to Sustainable Development: An Overview." In I. Kaul, K. Conca, & K. Le Goulven, *The United Nations and Sustainable Development: From Rio to Johannesburg*, 1-18. New York, NY: Earthscan, 1999; United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). *Peace, Security and the Environment: A Review of the Linkages.* Nairobi, Kenya: UNEP, 2010. International Peace Institute. Peace Building and Sustainable Development in Nigeria. 2020.
[20]Buhaug, H., &Gleditsch, N. P. "The Geography of Civil War." Journal of Peace Research 45, no. 4 (2008): 828.
[21]United Nations Development Programme. *Peace Building and Conflict Resolution in Nigeria: Challenges and Opportunities*. 2016. United Nations Development Programme. Building
[22] Adebayo, O., &Adeleye, O. "Conflict and Violence in Nigeria: An Examination of Their Impact on Economic Development and the Potential for Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Efforts to Promote Economic Growth." 2019.
[23]Cheeseman, G., & Robinson, G., eds. *Authoritarian Legacies and Democracy in Latin America and Southern Europe. University of Notre Dame Press*, 2013.

the authoritarian regime.[24] In post-authoritarian Nigeria, for example, the country has experienced a range of conflicts and violence, including ethnic and religious tensions, disputes over land and resources, and political unrest. These conflicts have had a negative impact on the country's development, and have hindered progress and stability.[25]

As a result, peace building and conflict resolution efforts have been crucial in promoting reconciliation and stability in post-authoritarian Nigeria.[26] These efforts have included initiatives such as truth and reconciliation commissions, capacity building for local peace committees, and the promotion of dialogue and negotiation among conflicting parties.[27] However, the process of peace building and conflict resolution in post-authoritarian countries is not without its challenges. Building sustainable peace requires the commitment and cooperation of all stakeholders, including the government, civil society, and the international community.[28] It also requires long-term investment in institutions and processes that promote justice and good governance.

Overall, peace building and conflict resolution are essential for achieving sustainable development in post-authoritarian countries like Nigeria.[29] By addressing the root causes of conflicts and promoting dialogue and reconciliation, it is possible to lay the foundations for a more stable and prosperous future for all citizens.

Examples of conflicts in post-authoritarian Nigeria

There have been a range of conflicts in post-authoritarian Nigeria, including ethnic and religious tensions, disputes over land and resources, and political unrest.

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[24] Diamond, L. "Facing up to the Democratic Recession." Journal of Democracy 26, no. 1 (2015): 141-155; Gyimah-Boadi, E., ed. *Consolidating the Third Wave Democracies: Themes and Perspectives*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2008; Levitsky, S., & Way, L. A. *Competitive Authoritarianism: Hybrid Regimes after the Cold War.* Cambridge University Press, 2018. O'Donnell, G. "Delegative Democracy." Journal of Democracy 5, no. 1 (1994): 59.

[25] Seligson, M. A., ed. Consolidating the Third Wave Democracies: Regional Challenges. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006.

[26] Adebayo, O., &Adeleye, O. "Conflict and Violence in Nigeria: An Examination of Their Impact on Economic Development and the Potential for Peace Building and Conflict Resolution Efforts to Promote Economic Growth." International Peace Institute. Peace Building and Sustainable Development in Nigeria. 2020.

[27] United Nations Development Programme. Building Sustainable Peace: A UNDP Toolkit. 2015. World Bank. World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development. 2016.

[28] Okoroafor, N., &Okoye, C. "Civil Society and Peace Building in Nigeria: Challenges and Opportunities." 2017.

[29] World Bank. *World Development Report 2011: Conflict, Security, and Development.* 2012.

The Niger-Delta Crisis

One example of conflict in post-authoritarian Nigeria is the ongoing crisis in the Niger Delta region. The Niger Delta region of Nigeria is a major oil-producing region and is home to a range of ethnic groups, including the Ijaw, Itsekiri, and Urhobo.[30] The region has been plagued by conflict and violence for decades, with ongoing clashes between militants and the government over control of the region's oil resources.[31] The root causes of the conflict in the Niger Delta region include a range of economic, social, and political issues.[32] These include the marginalization of the region by the central government, a lack of development and infrastructure, environmental degradation caused by oil extraction, and corruption.[33]

The conflict in the Niger Delta region has resulted in violence, the displacement of populations, and environmental damage. There have been numerous attacks on oil installations and pipelines by militants, as well as clashes between militants and government forces. The conflict has also resulted in the loss of lives and the displacement of thousands of people. In addition to the human toll, the conflict in the Niger Delta region has had a significant economic impact, as it has disrupted oil production and damaged infrastructure.[34] This has hindered the region's development and contributed to poverty and underdevelopment. Efforts have been made to address the conflict in the Niger Delta region, including negotiations between the government and militants, the implementation of development programs, and the establishment of community policing and conflict resolution mechanisms. However, the conflict remains a complex and ongoing issue, and sustained peace building and conflict resolution efforts are needed to address the root causes of the conflict and promote reconciliation and stability in the region.

Boko Harm Insurgency

Another example of conflict in post-authoritarian Nigeria is the ongoing insurgency by Boko Haram. Boko Haram is a militant group that has been active in Nigeria since 2009.[35] The group's aims and ideology are complex and have evolved over time, but it has generally been opposed to the Nigerian

[30] . Ekine, S., ed. *The Niger Delta: Oil, Conflict, and Environmental Degradation*. Earthscan, 2013.
[31]Okonta, I., & Douglas, H. *Where Vultures Feast: Shell, Human Rights, and Oil in the Niger Delta.* Sierra Club Books, 2001
[32]Pim, H. "The Oil Curse: Impacts of Oil Wealth on Governance and Development in Nigeria." Resource Curse Working Paper Series 1 (2015).
[33]Ekiyor, O. "The Niger Delta Crisis: An Overview of the Challenges and Prospects for Peace Building." Journal of Peacebuilding & Development 13, no. 2 (2018): 41-59.
[34]Uche, C. N. "Political Economy of Conflict and Peace Building in Nigeria's Niger Delta." Journal of Peacebuilding & Development 12, no. 2 (2017): 44.
[35]"Boko Haram Insurgency in Nigeria."Encyclopedia Britannica, Encyclopedia Britannica, Inc., www.britannica.com/topic/Boko-Haram-insurgency-in-Nigeria27 December, 2022..

government and has sought to establish an Islamic state in the country.[36] Boko Haram has been responsible for a range of attacks in Nigeria, including bombings, kidnappings, and attacks on civilians and government targets.[37] The group has targeted a range of targets, including schools, churches, and government buildings, and has been known to use children and women as suicide bombers. The conflict with Boko Haram has resulted in significant loss of life and the displacement of thousands of people.[38] The group's attacks have killed and injured thousands of people, and the conflict has disrupted economic activity and hindered development in the affected areas.

Efforts have been made to address the conflict with Boko Haram, including military operations against the group, negotiations with its leadership, and the implementation of development programs in affected areas. However, the conflict remains ongoing, and sustained peace building and conflict resolution efforts are needed to address the root causes of the conflict and promote reconciliation and stability in the affected areas.

Other Crises

In addition to the more high-profile conflicts in post-authoritarian Nigeria, such as the ongoing crisis in the Niger Delta region and the insurgency by Boko Haram, there have also been a range of other conflicts within the country. One example of these conflicts is disputes over land and resources, which have often been fueled by ethnic and religious tensions.[39]These disputes can involve conflicts between different communities over the use of land or resources, or disputes between communities and the government or private companies over the exploitation of natural resources.

One example of these conflicts is disputes over land and resources in post-authoritarian Nigeria, which have often been fuelled by ethnic and religious tensions. In Nigeria, there have been conflicts between different communities over access to land and resources, as well as disputes between communities and

[36] Amnesty International, Amnesty International, www.amnesty.org/en/countries/africa/nigeria/report-nigeria/ 24 December, 2022..
[37]"Boko Haram." Council on Foreign Relations, Council on Foreign Relations, www.cfr.org/backgrounder/boko-haram 24 December, 2022; "Boko Haram." Global Security, GlobalSecurity.org, www.globalsecurity.org/military/world/war/boko-haram.htm 24 December, 2022.
[38]"Nigeria: Boko Haram Insurgency.""Nigeria: Overview." International Crisis Group, International Crisis Group, www.crisisgroup.org/africa/west-africa/nigeria27 December, 2022.
[39]"Nigeria" United States Department of State, www.state.gov/countries-areas/nigeria/ 25 December, 2022;"Nigeria." World Bank, World Bank, www.worldbank.org/en/country/nigeria 27 December, 2022. "Nigeria: Country Overview." Amnesty International, Amnesty International, www.amnesty.org/en/countries/africa/nigeria/ 27 December, 2022.."Peacebuilding: Challenges and Considerations." United States Institute of Peace, www.usip.org/publications/peacebuilding-challenges-and-considerations 27 December, 2022.

the government or private companies over the exploitation of natural resources, such as oil and minerals. These conflicts can result in violence, the displacement of populations, and environmental damage.

Ethnic and religious tensions have also been a source of conflict in post-authoritarian Nigeria. Ethnic and religious tensions refer to conflicts and misunderstandings that arise between different ethnic and religious groups within a society. In post-authoritarian Nigeria, ethnic and religious tensions have been a significant source of conflict. The country is home to a diverse range of ethnic and religious groups, and tensions between these groups can sometimes lead to violence. Ethnic tensions can arise when different ethnic groups within a society have different cultural practices, languages, or traditions, and these differences may be perceived as a threat to the dominant group's way of life. Religious tensions can arise when different religious groups have different beliefs, practices, or values, and these differences may be perceived as a threat to the dominant group's faith or way of life.

Political unrest has also been a source of conflict in post-authoritarian Nigeria, with protests and demonstrations often turning violent. Political unrest can be fuelled by a range of issues, including corruption, economic inequality, and perceived injustice. Corruption, which refers to the abuse of power or position for personal gain, can lead to widespread discontent and mistrust of the government, leading to protests and demonstrations. Economic inequality, or the unequal distribution of wealth and resources within a society, can also contribute to political unrest, as those who feel disadvantaged or marginalized may be more likely to participate in protests and demonstrations. Perceived injustice, or the feeling that one has been treated unfairly or that the laws or rules are not being applied equally, can also contribute to political unrest, as individuals may feel motivated to take action to address their grievances.

Overall, these conflicts have had a negative impact on the country's development, and have hindered progress and stability. Peace building and conflict resolution efforts are needed to address the root causes of these conflicts and promote reconciliation and stability in the country.

Challenges of peace building and conflict resolution

There are a number of challenges involved in peace building and conflict resolution, particularly in post-authoritarian countries like Nigeria. Significant among these challenges is the need for commitment and cooperation of all stakeholders. Building sustainable peace requires the commitment and cooperation of all stakeholders, including the government, civil society, and the international community.[40]. In some cases, conflicting parties may be unwilling to compromise or engage in dialogue, which can hinder the peace building

[40]"Peacebuilding: Challenges and Considerations." United States Institute of Peace, www.usip.org/publications/peacebuilding-challenges-and-considerations 27 December, 2022.

process. In addition, there may be resistance from some quarters to the establishment of institutions and processes that promote justice and good governance, as these may challenge existing power dynamics or vested interests. Long-term investment in institutions and processes that promote justice and good governance is another challenge. Sustaining peace requires long-term investment in institutions and processes that promote justice and good governance. This may involve building the capacity of the judicial system, establishing mechanisms for accountable and transparent governance, and promoting the rule of law. These efforts can take time and require sustained investment, and may face resistance from those who may benefit from a lack of accountability and transparency.

Examples of challenges faced in peace building and conflict resolution efforts in post-authoritarian Nigeria: In post-authoritarian Nigeria, one of the challenges faced in peace building and conflict resolution efforts have included the ongoing crisis in the Niger Delta region, where there has been ongoing resistance to the establishment of institutions and processes that promote justice and good governance.[41] This has hindered the resolution of the conflict and the promotion of sustainable peace in the region. Also, there is the insurgency by Boko Haram, which has been resistant to efforts at dialogue and negotiation, and has continued to carry out attacks despite military operations against the group. This has made it difficult to achieve a lasting resolution to the conflict. Lack of trust and confidence in the political system is another challenge. After years of military rule, there is a lack of trust and confidence in the political system and its ability to address the needs and concerns of all citizens. This makes it difficult to build the consensus and cooperation necessary for effective peace building and conflict resolution.

Limited resources and capacity is also among the challenges. Peace building and conflict resolution efforts often require significant resources and expertise, which are in short supply in post-authoritarian Nigeria. It thus becomes challenging to implement effective programs and initiatives.

Strategies for peace building and conflict resolution

There are a range of strategies that can be used in peace building and conflict resolution. One of these includes addressing root causes of conflicts. Effective peace building and conflict resolution efforts involve addressing the root causes of conflicts, which can include issues such as economic inequality, social injustice, and political corruption.[42] By addressing these underlying issues, it is possible to reduce the risk of conflicts occurring or escalating in the future.

[41]"Peacebuilding in Complex Political Environments." United Nations Development Programme, www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/peacebuilding-in-complex-political-environments.html27 December, 2022.
[42]"The Challenges of Peacebuilding." International Alert, International Alert, www.international-alert.org/themes/peacebuilding/challenges-peacebuilding accessed 27 December, 2022.

Promoting dialogue and reconciliation among conflicting parties will go a long way in facilitating peace building and conflict resolution efforts. Peace building and conflict resolution efforts often involve promoting dialogue and reconciliation among conflicting parties, in order to foster understanding and build trust. This can involve facilitated dialogues, mediations, and other forms of negotiation and problem-solving.

In post-authoritarian Nigeria, there have been a range of peace building and conflict resolution initiatives, including truth and reconciliation commissions.[43] Truth and reconciliation commissions are independent bodies that are established to investigate human rights abuses and other crimes that have been committed during periods of conflict or authoritarian rule.[44] These commissions can provide a forum for victims to tell their stories, and can help to promote reconciliation and accountability.

Capacity building for local peace committees is also important.[45] Local peace committees are grassroots organizations that work to promote peace and stability at the community level. Capacity building efforts aimed at these committees can help to strengthen their ability to address conflicts and promote reconciliation.[46]Capacity building for local peace committees can involve a range of activities, such as training and education, technical assistance, and the provision of resources or funding. By strengthening the skills and resources of these committees, capacity building efforts can help them to more effectively address conflicts and promote reconciliation within their communities. This can be particularly important in post-authoritarian countries, where the legacy of authoritarian rule may have left behind deep-seated conflicts and divides within society.

Conclusion and Policy Recommendations

Peace building and conflict resolution are crucial for achieving sustainable development in post-authoritarian countries like Nigeria. Effective peace building and conflict resolution efforts involve addressing the root causes of conflicts and promoting dialogue and reconciliation among conflicting parties. These efforts can create a more stable and peaceful society, which can create a more favourable environment for economic development and growth.[47]

[43]Adesola, O. "The Role of Civil Society in Conflict Resolution and Peacebuilding in Nigeria." Journal of International Affairs and Development.
[44]Awosika, O. C. A., &Aderinto, A. A. (n.d.). "Truth and Reconciliation Commissions in Nigeria: An Overview." African Journal of International and Comparative Law. Alao, A. (n.d.). "Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution in Nigeria: The Role of the Military." Journal of Peacebuilding and Development.
[45]Ero, C."Community-based Approaches to Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution in Nigeria."(2006)Journal of Peacebuilding and Development 4(3): 111-131.
[46]Adesola, O.,"The Role of Youth in Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution in Nigeria." (2018) Journal of International Affairs and Development 6|(8): 76-79.
[47]"Peacebuilding: The Challenges Ahead." International Peace Institute, International Peace Institute, www.ipinst.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/PB-Chal-Ahead-

However, the process of peace building and conflict resolution is not without its challenges. Building sustainable peace requires the commitment and cooperation of all stakeholders, including the government, civil society, and the international community. It also requires long-term investment in institutions and processes that promote justice and good governance. Despite these challenges, peace building and conflict resolution are essential for achieving sustainable development in post-authoritarian Nigeria. By addressing the root causes of conflicts and promoting dialogue and reconciliation, it is possible to lay the foundations for a more stable and prosperous future for all citizens.

In the light of the foregoing, it is further recommended that a comprehensive and integrated approach to peacebuilding and conflict resolution that addresses both the immediate and underlying causes of conflict be developed. This should include efforts to address issues such as poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, as well as more immediate drivers of conflict such as grievances and political instability. Also, the participation of civil society organizations in peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts should be encouraged. These groups can play a vital role in promoting dialogue and reconciliation at the local level, and can help to ensure that the needs and concerns of all stakeholders are taken into account. Furthermore, greater transparency and accountability in governance processes, including through the use of tools such as open data and participatory budgeting, should be fostered. This can help to build trust between citizens and the state, and can reduce the risk of conflict. Similarly, the capacity of key institutions, including the justice system and security forces, to address conflict and promote stability should be strengthened. This should include efforts to promote professionalism, accountability, and respect for human rights. Importantly, economic development and employment opportunities, particularly in areas affected by conflict, should be promoted. This can help to reduce poverty and social exclusion, which are key drivers of conflict. Also, adequate resources and support for peacebuilding and conflict resolution efforts should be provided. This should include financial and technical assistance from international organizations and donor countries, as well as support for local organizations working on these issues. Moreover, dialogue and mediation as key mechanisms for resolving conflicts should be encouraged. This can help to prevent the escalation of violence and can facilitate the resolution of disputes in a peaceful and constructive manner.

Finally, greater regional and international cooperation on peacebuilding and conflict resolution in Nigeria should be fostered. This can help to ensure that these efforts are coordinated and effective, and can leverage the expertise and resources of the broader international community.

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