



COMMUNIQUE

ADOPTED AT THE ROUNDTABLE ON FUTURE OF PEACE SUPPORT OPERATIONS: IMPLICATIONS FOR NIGERIA HELD AT THE NATIONAL DEFENCE COLLEGE ABUJA ON THURSDAY 28 JUNE 2018

1. The National Defence College (NDC) Nigeria, through its Centre for Strategic Research and Studies (CSRS), convened a Strategic Level Defence, Foreign Policy and National Security Roundtable on the theme: **Future of Peace Support Operations: Implications for Nigeria**. The Roundtable which held on Thursday 28 June 2018 attracted over 50 participants from the Armed Forces of Nigeria (AFN), Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) including the Academia, the Media, and the Organised Private Sector. The Roundtable provided an avenue for participants to critically reflect on the evolving characteristics and future of global Peace Support Operation (PSO) and its implications for Nigeria with specific intention to proffer viable policy options and strategies to enhance Nigeria's relevance and contributions to PSO. Eight papers were presented in addition to the field report from preliminary studies sponsored by the College on the subject matter. These measures were taken to deepen participants' understanding of the contending issues and challenges associated with Nigeria's continued engagement in PSO.

2. Participants made the following salient observations after extensive deliberations:

a. In spite of Nigeria's active participation in various PSOs around the world since 1960, there is no extant National Policy on PSO hence there is no sustainable mechanism for managing PSO as well as comprehensive data and other benefits on Nigeria's engagement.

b. While noting the inconclusive drafting process on National Policy on PSO since 2010, Nigeria's engagement in PSO has not often been driven by well-articulated, focused, consistent and identifiable National Interest rooted in its Foreign and Defence Policies. Furthermore, there is no coherent flow of information and communication between the MOD and MFA particularly on matters relating to PSO. There is therefore the need for stronger synergy between the MOD and MFA.

c. Nigeria's status declined steadily since 2010 which raises the urgent need for a concrete national standby arrangement or contingency on PSO.

d. Nigeria's strategic and operational level logistics planning capacity is grossly inadequate and deficient. There is the need to emphasize strategic and operational level logistics doctrine mechanisms for logistical support in PSO.

e. There have not been tangible benefits from Contingent Owned Equipment (COE) reimbursements partly because of the absence of a coherent model for meeting COE requirements that meet UN standards.

f. Nigeria is yet to ratify and domesticate some key AU/ECOWAS protocols and policies on peace and security.

g. There is significant gap in mainstreaming gender in PSO as well as lack of capacity to support civilian participation and leadership in international and sub-regional PSO missions.

h. Nigeria is among the countries that do not observe the day set aside by the UN (May 29) to honour and pay tribute to peacekeepers who paid the ultimate price while discharging their duties in pursuit of international peace and security.

i. In spite of internal security problems faced by key PSO participating countries such as India, Pakistan and Bangladesh, they did not shy away from PSO responsibilities.

3. From the strengths of the above observations, the participants recommended that the Federal Government of Nigeria should:

a. Expedite the process of developing a National Policy on PSO that is driven by National Interest and Foreign Policy, with emphasis on national and institutional capacity, and promotion of individual competence as well as individual and institutional benefits.

b. Retain a regional focus in its PSO engagements. As a strategic posture particularly in consideration of UNSC permanent seat, Nigeria should not shy away from her responsibilities due to internal security challenges.

c. Establish priority for developing sea and airlift capacity as key PSO COE tool in addition to troop contribution.

d. Develop National and Joint doctrines on PSO.

e. Develop a National PSO standby arrangement which should incorporate multidimensional considerations (Diplomatic, Military, Police, Civilian, Gender and enabling logistics) ready for deployment at short notice.

- f. Build more robust capacity to deploy civilians as negotiators and mediators as well as civilians that can provide logistics and IT support.
- g. Sustain human capacity building programmes on PSO at CSRS and MLALPKC.
- h. Emphasize strategic and operational level training and doctrine/mechanisms for logistics support in PSO.

- i. Ratify and domesticate key AU/ECOWAS Peace and Security legal frameworks and security architecture (especially the 1999 Protocol).
- i. Adopt a COE Policy, including a viable model and management structure, including private sector participation and PSO supply chain in terms of procurement, deployment, re-deployment, logistics support and accounting.
- j. Domesticate the International Day for UN Peacekeepers (May 29) to honour and pay tribute to Nigerian peacekeepers who paid the ultimate price in PSO.

**Roundtable on Future of Peace Support Operations: Implications for Nigeria. National Defence College Nigeria
ABUJA
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