

Chapter One

Introduction

1.1 Background to the Study

Climate change is a serious problem that affects global peace and safety, especially in Africa. The continent is more at risk because many people depend on farming, which is easily affected by changes in the weather. Also, African countries often don't have enough resources to cope with these changes. As a result, problems like hunger, water shortages, and poor living conditions can become worse and lead to fights over limited resources like water and farmland¹. When people are forced to leave their homes due to floods, droughts, or other disasters, it causes pressure on other communities. These situations can lead to violence and more insecurity. Strong storms, heat waves, and flooding not only destroy homes and crops but also make it harder for governments to keep services running smoothly. All these challenges show that climate change is more than an environmental issue; it is also a major security threat in Africa. Solving this problem needs well-planned and united efforts².

The African Union (AU) is a vital organization that plays a significant role in promoting peace, safety, and development across the African continent. As a continental organization comprising 55 member states, the AU works tirelessly to foster cooperation, stability, and development among its member states. The AU's mandate is multifaceted, encompassing areas such as peace and security, economic development, human rights, and social affairs. In promoting peace and security, the AU works to mediate and resolve conflicts through diplomatic means. The AU's role in promoting economic development is also significant. By fostering economic integration and promoting regional economic communities, the AU works to create a more prosperous and economically stable Africa. The organization also provides

technical assistance and capacity-building programs to support member states in their development efforts.

In addition, the AU is committed to protecting and promoting human rights, democracy, and good governance. By upholding these values, the AU works to create a more just and equitable society for all Africans. The African Union is a vital organization that plays a critical role in promoting peace, safety, and development in Africa. Through its various initiatives and programs, the AU works to address the complex challenges facing the continent and promote a brighter future for all Africans. The AU has recognized that climate change is linked to security problems and has created policies to deal with it. But it's still not clear how successful the AU has been in using diplomacy to reduce climate-related risks. To understand this better, this analysis requires a close examination of the AU's plans, actions, and partnerships with other regional and global groups. It is also essential to study the challenges faced by the AU and their impact on its efforts³.

The years 2015 to 2024 are especially important because of key global actions like the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These international plans pushed many countries and regions to act on climate change. At the same time, Africa experienced more climate-related problems. So, this period is ideal for studying how the AU responded. It gives us the chance to examine the AU's strategies, teamwork with others, and how well it handled the rising challenges⁴. Looking at the AU's work means we also have to consider many different factors. These include the support from African leaders, how much money and resources are available, how strong the AU's institutions are, and how good its partnerships are. Different African countries are affected by climate change in different ways, and this influences how AU strategies are used. Also, other problems like terrorism, poverty, and tribal conflicts make things more difficult. So, it's important to study all these issues

together in order to understand how well the AU is handling climate change as a threat to security⁵.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Climate change poses a significant threat to security in Africa, exacerbating existing conflicts and creating new challenges for peace and stability. While the African Union (AU) has demonstrated a commitment to addressing climate change as a security threat, the effectiveness of its diplomatic strategies remains understudied. This analysis seeks to fill this knowledge gap by evaluating the AU's diplomatic efforts to address climate change-related security issues between 2015 and 2024.

Even though the AU has shown that it wants to deal with climate change as a threat to security, there has not been enough research to measure how effective its strategies have been. This study aims to close that gap by examining the AU's diplomatic efforts to handle climate change-related security issues between 2015 and 2024. It will look at what worked, what didn't, and what can be improved.

1.3 Aim and Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to examine the effectiveness of the African Union's diplomatic strategies in addressing climate change as a security threat, identifying successes, challenges, and areas for improvement, within the period of 2015 to 2024. The specific objectives include to:

- i. explore the AU's diplomatic efforts to tackle climate change as a security threat from 2015 to 2024
- ii. measure how effective these efforts have been in reducing climate-related conflicts in Africa

- iii. identify the major challenges the AU faced in carrying out these strategies, and
- iv. assess the effectiveness of AU policy implementation concerning climate-related security

1.4 Research Questions

1. What diplomatic steps has the AU taken to deal with climate change as a security threat between 2015 and 2024?
2. How successful have these steps been in preventing or reducing conflicts linked to climate change?
3. What major problems have stopped the AU's strategies from working well?
4. In what ways have the implementation of AU policy concerning climate-security been effective?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This work is significant for its potential to enhance knowledge of the intricate linkages among climate change, security, and development in Africa. This paper analyses the African Union's diplomatic initiatives regarding climate change-related security challenges, aiming to offer insights that can guide policy decisions and influence the future of climate change mitigation and adaptation in Africa. The study's conclusions will have significant theoretical and practical ramifications. This study would theoretically enhance the existing literature on climate change and security, illuminating the intricate interactions in Africa. The study's findings will guide the formulation of more effective diplomatic strategies for tackling climate change-related security challenges, thereby fostering peace, stability, and security in Africa.

The study's significance transcends academia, since its findings will have crucial policy ramifications. This study will identify areas for enhancement in the AU's diplomatic initiatives, offering significant advice for policymakers and practitioners addressing climate change and security challenges in Africa. The study's findings will inform the formulation of policies and initiatives designed to advance sustainable development, peace, and stability in Africa.

This study will further the attainment of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), namely SDG 13 (Climate Action) and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). This study will analyze the AU's diplomatic initiatives regarding climate change-related security challenges, offering insights into the intricate connections among climate change, security, and development. The results will guide policies and initiatives designed to foster sustainable development and mitigate climate change concerns⁶.

This work has substantial theoretical, policy, and practical ramifications. The findings will enhance comprehension of the intricate connections among climate change, security, and development in Africa, and guide the formulation of more effective diplomatic policies for tackling climate change-related security challenges. This study will elucidate the AU's diplomatic initiatives, offering significant insights for policymakers, researchers, and practitioners engaged in climate change, security, and development matters in Africa.

1.6 Scope of the Study

This study is geographically situated within the African continent, focusing primarily on the African Union and its member states. Nigeria is used as an illustrative example because of its exposure to climate-related security challenges. The study's subject scope centres on the African Union's diplomatic strategies for addressing climate change as a security threat. It

examines the policies, frameworks, and partnerships the AU uses to manage climate-security risks. Only diplomatic and security-related actions of the AU are considered.

The study covers the period from 2015 to 2024. This timeframe captures important global and regional climate policy developments. It also reflects years when climate-related security impacts increased across Africa. The study draws on secondary data from AU reports, summit declarations, academic literature, and government documents. These sources provide information on climate change, diplomacy, and security issues in Africa. All data used in the study is qualitative.

1.7 Definitions of Key Terms

Adaptation: In this study, adaptation refers to the practical steps taken by African states and the African Union to cope with the effects of climate change. It involves initiatives such as improving agricultural practices, managing water resources, and strengthening resilience to environmental shocks across the continent.

African Union (AU): The AU represents the main continental body examined in this research. It functions as the central institution coordinating Africa's diplomatic and policy responses to climate-related security challenges between 2015 and 2024.

Climate Change: This denotes the gradual alteration of weather patterns and rising temperatures affecting Africa's stability. It is treated as a key factor influencing food insecurity, migration, and resource competition that threaten peace and development.

Climate-Induced Conflict: This term refers to disputes and tensions that arise as a result of environmental degradation and resource scarcity caused by climate change. The study examines how such conflicts challenge regional security and how the AU responds through diplomatic engagement.

Climate Security and Threats: Climate security is used to describe the connection between climate risks and peace in Africa. Threats are the specific dangers created or intensified by climate change, such as droughts, food shortages, and displacement that increase the risk of conflict and insecurity.

Diplomatic Strategies: This refers to the approaches and negotiations employed by the African Union to manage climate-related threats. They include policy dialogues, international partnerships, and regional frameworks aimed at promoting cooperation and resilience.

Mitigation: This refers to the actions undertaken to slow down the effects of climate change. It includes AU-backed policies and agreements that encourage sustainable development and reduce environmental damage across member states.

Paris Agreement: This is viewed as a global framework that guides the AU's diplomatic actions on climate issues. It shapes how African countries collaborate internationally to reduce emissions and adapt to changing climate conditions.

Peace-building: Peace-building in this study refers to sustained efforts to restore stability and prevent future conflicts in areas affected by climate pressures. It involves AU-led mediation, dialogue, and development initiatives that support long-term peace.

Resource Scarcity: This refers to the limited availability of essential resources such as water and fertile land, which can lead to competition and tension. The study highlights how these shortages intensify insecurity and test the AU's conflict management capacity.

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): The SDGs are used as international standards for measuring progress in addressing climate change and promoting peace. This study focuses especially on Goals 13 and 16, which align closely with the AU's agenda on climate action and security.

Transboundary Water Resources: This refers to rivers and lakes shared by more than one country, such as the Nile and Niger basins. They are examined as areas requiring AU-led cooperation and diplomacy to prevent disputes and encourage sustainable use.

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Endnotes

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Chapter Two

Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Security Studies

The pursuit of security is a predominant force in contemporary politics. Enquiring "what is security and security studies?" involves engaging with a notion and field that is vague, contentious, and controversial¹. The relativity of security, concerning who or what is threatened, and by whom or what, has significant implications for comprehending security dynamics across states, within states, and including non-state actors. This segment examines the evolving meanings, practices, and institutions of security, elucidating the reasons for their transformation within the intricate historical context of managing violence and order in contemporary political and social life. Emerging challenges and methodologies both mirror and contest these historical legacies, prompting significant political and analytical enquiries. Security studies is an interdisciplinary field of research that examines the nature, sources, and consequences of security threats, as well as the strategies and policies employed to mitigate them. At its core, security studies seeks to understand the complex dynamics of security in a rapidly changing global environment, where traditional and non-traditional threats intersect and impact individuals, communities, and states².

The concept of security has undergone significant transformations in recent years, expanding beyond traditional notions of military security to encompass a broader range of concerns, including economic security, environmental security, human security, and cyber security. This shift reflects the growing recognition that security threats are multifaceted and

can emanate from various sources, including state and non-state actors, natural disasters, and human activities³.

The study of security is crucial in today's world, where security challenges are increasingly complex and interconnected. By examining the causes and consequences of security threats, security studies can inform the development of effective policies and strategies to prevent, mitigate, or respond to security challenges. This field of study draws on insights from various disciplines, including international relations, politics, sociology, economics, and environmental studies, to provide a comprehensive understanding of security issues. Security studies are a vital field of research that seeks to understand the complex dynamics of security in a rapidly changing world. By examining the evolving nature of security threats and the strategies employed to address them, security studies can contribute to the development of effective policies and practices that promote peace, stability, and human well-being⁴.

Security studies are a subfield of international relations that examines the threats, challenges, and strategies related to national and international security. Traditionally, security studies focused on military threats and state security. However, the field has expanded to include non-traditional security threats such as climate change, pandemics, and economic instability.¹ In the context of this study, security studies provides a framework for understanding how climate change poses security threats to African states and the role of the African Union in mitigating these threats. In other words, Security Studies is an academic discipline that examines dangers to individuals, organizations, societies, and states, emphasizing the comprehension and alleviation of such threats, particularly those associated with violence, conflict, and military power. It analyses both conventional and unconventional security issues, encompassing military conflicts, terrorism, pandemics, environmental degradation, and cyber threats⁵.

The pursuit of security is a predominant force in contemporary politics. Few assertions possess the political potency of those framed within the necessity of "security," and few can mobilize such vast political, social, and economic resources. Globally, over a trillion US dollars are spent annually on military establishments and assets in pursuit of national security, with billions more allocated to police and paramilitary organizations. This vast expenditure underscores the significant resources dedicated to ensuring national security. Furthermore, intelligence services often conduct covert and extralegal actions, rationalized in the name of national security, which operate outside the realm of public oversight. In extreme cases, governments may even require civilians to engage in life-threatening actions or sacrifices under the guise of security measures. This complex interplay of military spending, covert operations, and civilian involvement highlights the multifaceted nature of national security efforts.

The term "security" extends beyond military issues and national security. One perplexing aspect of the notion is its association with a variety of domestic, international, and transnational challenges. Social security programs are linked to the welfare state, while initiatives to enhance environmental or economic security, as well as individual issues related to food or health security; contribute to the perception that the quest for security is ubiquitous and applicable to domains beyond war, conflict, and violence⁶.

Enquiring "what is security and security studies" involves engaging with a notion and field that is vague, debated, and contentious. What one individual, collective, society, or state regards as a menacing source of insecurity, another may not view as such. For some, extensive personal ownership of firearms enhances their security, yet for others, it is a source of insecurity. For one state, the acquisition of a certain weapons system is crucial for its defense, but for another, it seems profoundly menacing. For one social group, the entitlement

to teach their children in a specific faith or language is essential for their cultural preservation; to their neighbours, it may be perceived as a threat that requires suppression.

Even when limiting analysis to national security, difficulties persist. The issue of national security, determining who is included and who is excluded has been central to numerous recent conflicts and wars. The relativity of security pertaining to who or what is endangered, and by whom or what has significant implications for comprehending security dynamics across states, within states, and including non-state actors.

Security is a delicate yet crucial matter that holds varying interpretations for scholars, analysts, policymakers, and organizations worldwide. 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 human community. The notion of security has emerged as a focal concern in the decades subsequent to the conclusion of the Cold War, serving as a pivotal point for many schools of thought within security studies. The concept of security has various elements. It is appropriately utilized in psychology, finance, information retrieval, public safety, and military affairs.

The definition of security is vague since its scope continually broadens. The flexible character of the concept of security elicits various interpretations and perspectives. Security is a significant idea that every individual seeks, possessing one or two interpretations, yet it eludes exact definition. This reflects Barry Buzan's perspective that security is an ambiguous and complex notion, wherein military forces have garnered disproportionate prominence⁷. This segment so analyses the concept of security, considering various perspectives from different experts. It encompasses the concepts of national security, international security, and human security, which underpins all other forms of security.

Security pertains to the practice of mitigating threats to individuals and their valuable assets. Buzan contends that security pertains to the absence of threats and the capacity of governments to preserve their autonomous identity and status when he claims that: A central theme of contemporary thought is the concept of security policy⁸. Political accommodation should be a major and enduring objective; the detrimental impact of predominantly identifying security. The military presence was apparent throughout the Cold War. This methodology might be characterized as strategic reductionism, which conceptualizes security in a technical and mechanistic military framework, evidenced by a fixation on military equilibrium and the deployment of cutting-edge technology⁹.

The alternative perspective on the conceptualization of security is the non-traditional school. This institution seeks to expand and enhance the concept of security. It contends that factors such as environmental, political, economic, and social risks jeopardize the lives and properties of individuals more than the focus on state survival. It argues that a primarily military definition fails to recognize that the most significant threats to state survival may be environmental, health-related, political, social, and economic rather than military in nature. The modern concepts and perspectives about security are comprehensive, as security encompasses more than just military protection or defense against external threats¹⁰.

For several residents of developing nations, security is perceived as the fundamental aspect of the struggle for survival. Consequently, to deliver a comprehensive African Security Assessment, the non-military aspects of security must be incorporated. Consequently, the idea of security should be interpreted in a comprehensive manner to encompass economic security, social security, environmental security, food security, quality of life security, and technology security¹¹.

Nonetheless, security in this context is orientated towards human emancipation. It signifies that individuals must be emancipated from problems, difficulties, and restraints that may hinder their ability to pursue their freely chosen endeavours, including epidemics, poverty, oppression, inadequate education, crises, and similar issues. Currently, non-military factors such as politics, ecological concerns, and economic and demographic difficulties significantly threaten individual security. This introduces the concept of human security, which will be examined later in this chapter.

A prominent theoretical framework on security identifies three levels of analysis: individual, national, and international. This perspective emphasizes that individual security encompasses essential values such as life, health, status, independence, and wealth.¹² Individuals seek to protect themselves from certain hazards through what is known as social security.

The indeterminacy and ambiguity of security have prompted some to consider any effort to describe such a vast and multi-dimensional concept as pointless. The ambiguities surrounding security are akin to those of other contentious political notions, like freedom, democracy, and power. Conflicting perspectives on its nature and the means to attain it are fundamental components of political discourse and decision-making, and the paramount significance of security in political affairs renders it indispensable to acknowledge. Instead of lamenting the contradictory or vague definitions, or perceiving them as indicative of unclear reasoning, our objective in this segment is to delineate the evolving meanings, practices, and institutions of security to elucidate how and why these have transformed as part of a multifaceted historical process addressing the role of violence and order in contemporary political and social existence.

Security is or should be, and instead aims to reveal and elucidate the various interpretations that people, cultures, and governing elites have had on security. This paragraph centers around three themes: movement, rupture, and dissent, to encapsulate these varied interpretations without depicting a linear progression of the discipline. The first explains the conventional narrative and historical evolution of security studies; the second highlights the gaps from prior scholarship evident in the literature; the third acknowledges the persistent dissenting perspectives that challenge the normative framework of the mainstream narrative.

Simultaneously, the mutually beneficial yet occasionally strained relationship between the conceptual domain of security studies and the socio-political sphere are explained. This encompassing institutions and practices will be aptly illustrated as a loosely structured DNA strand, characterized by varying degrees of connectivity, some remote and others immediate. This segment delineates key events in the history of security practices and studies, aiming to emphasize points of significant convergence and divergence in the two developing streams. It briefly examines pre-twentieth-century contributions to underscore certain antecedents of modern discussions, while focusing primarily on the twentieth century in greater depth. This volume, focused on the future, examines the past, both distant and recent, with consideration for anticipated continuities and alterations.

The terminology of security has profound Roman and Greek origins associated with notions of liberation from worry or anxiety; yet, the emergence of a particularly contemporary focus on security aligns with the ascent of the modern state¹³. For Thomas Hobbes, security is a prerequisite for a civil and law-abiding existence, necessitating political institutions to deliver what individuals in the state of nature cannot do, as "we cannot expect security from others, or assure it to ourselves"¹⁴.

This interpretation of security did not yield a discipline of security studies; instead, it offered a rationale for the heightened centralization of state authority and its expanding monopoly on the permissible application of force. What emerged, however, was a methodical analysis of strategy and warfare in support of this new type of state power.

“Strategic studies” can legitimately assert its role as a precursor to mainstream security studies, which is defined by a leading advocate as “the study of the threat, use, and control of military force that encompasses the conditions that increase the likelihood of force utilization, the impact of force on individuals, states, and societies, and the specific policies that states implement to prepare for, prevent, or engage in warfare”¹⁵.

The intimate connection among the evolution of state power, the expanding magnitude of combat and strategic thought was evident in the strong association of strategic theorists with the "science" of war and its application to official policies and practices¹⁶. This encompassed various fields, including the seventeenth-century advancement of border fortifications (Vauban), structured soldier training and drills (Maurice of Nassau), battlefield strategies and tactics during the Napoleonic era, and the significance of twentieth-century military innovations like air power¹⁷.

By the late nineteenth century, strategic thought evolved to encompass a more conceptual and theoretical dimension, alongside its practical aspects, with the emergence of geopolitical doctrines aimed at explaining the fundamental forces influencing nation-states, inter-state conflict, and the progression of global politics. The concepts varied from the strictly geographic notions of continental versus naval powers to the racially influenced, Social Darwinist and Hegelian ideas of German geopolitical thought that intertwined state power with the fate of nations¹⁸.

Opposition to this strategic vision serving the state was present, and the expanding breadth and size of contemporary conflict prompted humanist intellectuals to propose extensive "peace projects"¹⁹. The projects varied from the early fourteenth-century endeavors of Dante and Dubois, yearning for the dominant cohesion of Latin Christendom, to those of scholars like William Penn, the Abbé de St Pierre, and Immanuel Kant, who sought to harmonize the chaotic characteristics of the state system with the cessation of war²⁰.

Although these projects did not establish a discipline of "peace research," they significantly contributed to the context of twentieth-century initiatives in security governance and institution-building that explicitly acknowledged this legacy, particularly under the framework of collective security within the League of Nations²¹. The external perspective of safeguarding the state from military threats, closely associated with strategy and policy, was enabled by heightened domestic security and public order, resulting from the expanding administrative authority of the state²².

Since the French Revolution, as the state engaged and exposed an increasing number of its citizens to the perils of warfare in the name of national and territorial interests, it concurrently accepted greater responsibility for their welfare and protection, as well as an expanded role in societal and population management. This growing apprehension regarding the narrow concept of "policing" society has implications for institutional development and differentiation in three respects: the augmentation of the police as an institution, the gradual reduction of the armed forces' role in maintaining domestic order, and the "pacification" of the state's interactions with its citizens (rule of law, eradication of arbitrary state power exercises such as punishment, detention, torture, and rights deprivation)²³.

More broadly, it encompassed the evolution of what Michel Foucault referred to as the "conduct of conduct": the formation of subjectivity and social action, alongside the

emergence of novel modalities for self-governance and societal regulation “governmentality”, centered on the security of populations²⁴. Policing, in this comprehensive context, encompasses not merely "negative security" (the prevention of certain behaviours and the punishment of transgressors), but also the cultivation of specific types of individuals and societal structures.

All dimensions of security practices (external, internal, state-society) can be framed as trade-offs between liberty and security, as well as productive elements within intricate processes that shape notions of freedom and agency to endorse particular security paradigms. Examine, for example, the abolition of dueling in the seventeenth and nineteenth centuries. This restriction encompassed significantly more than the enhancement of state capabilities to avert or penalize dueling. The process also entailed the marginalization of heroic notions of aristocratic honour, resulting in a perception of dueling as uncivilized, illegitimate, ludicrous, and illegal.

The integration of policing within society, alongside the evolution of law enforcement, has resulted in a transformation of security practices, indicative of extensive processes of state consolidation and social and political change. This technique was essential for consolidating the state's capacity for aggression during the establishment of states in Europe. Institutional advancements in security provision were intricate and varied, yet they uniformly entailed the centralization of policing structures within the state, an augmentation of state authority and surveillance across a specified territory, and an increasing differentiation between internal security institutions and those tasked with external security²⁵.

The early twentieth-century examination of security is distinctly recognized as a departure from nineteenth-century strategic theory, marked by the emergence of two lines of inquiry that foreshadowed and shaped later academic work. The initial strand is characterized

by examinations of peace conditions, largely connected to the League of Nations' collective security initiative and diverse disarmament efforts, which were normatively focused and closely associated with the interests of specific internationalist policy elites²⁶. Despite its clear departure from nineteenth-century strategic thought and great power diplomacy, which were partially blamed for the calamities of the Great War, the underpinnings of innovations like collective security were, in fact, extensions of prior concepts regarding the balance of power²⁷.

Subsequent research on security regimes and security communities can be regarded as a continuation of this trajectory, albeit with a significantly more academic emphasis. The second strand concentrated on the issue of war, with its significant contribution, Quincy Wright's collaborative work *A Study of War*, being "notable for its neglect of national strategy and national security concerns"²⁸. It is potentially positioned alongside Lewis Richardson's *Statistics of Deadly Quarrels* as a foundational work in what its advocates today refer to as the "scientific study of war"²⁹. The sole significant contribution to strategic studies was primarily historical, with the exception of the epilogue discussing the Nazi concept of war³⁰.

The predominant focus of security studies that developed during the early Cold War were not, in fact, an extension of these two strands. It originated from the context of the Second World War and the geopolitical rivalry between East and West, partly as a response to the inadequacies of multilateral security institutions during the interwar period, and concentrated its security focus primarily on the protection of the state (and its citizens) from external military threats³¹. In one sense, this was congruent with the nineteenth century view of state-society relations and of domestic order/international anarchy.

More importantly though, early studies was largely America-centric and policy driven, and cohered with the geopolitical ascendancy of the United States and the crystallization of the notion of “national security,” which had its first appearance in the late 1940s³². By 1947, national security was formalized through the American National Security Act, the establishment of the National Security Council (NSC), and the emergence of the “national security state,” wherein internal security issues were overshadowed by a predominant exterior focus. Daniel Yergin observed that “at certain moments, unfamiliar phrases suddenly become common articles of political discourse, and the concepts they represent become so embedded in the national consciousness that they seem always to have been with us such was the case with the term “national security³³.”

The following development of mainstream security studies throughout the four decades leading to the mid-1980s has been outlined by Steven Walt, David Baldwin, and others³⁴. Scholarship in security studies concentrates on subjects including weapons proliferation, nuclear deterrence theory, and military strategy in counter-insurgency conflicts, arms control, the security dilemma, alliance formation and dynamics, the offense-defense balance, among others²⁵. Scholarly research in each of these domains fluctuated in response to overarching advancements in International Relations theory and methodologies.

Deterrence theory was predominant in the 1950s and 1960s arms control became a focal point in the 1970s, alliance theory resurfaced at the conclusion of the Cold War, among other developments.²⁶ While scholars like Walt hailed this as a “renaissance,” characterized by heightened rigour, methodological sophistication, and theoretical orientation in research, others adopted a more critical perspective, emphasizing the limited scope of the security concept that underlay this work and its implicit assertion of security's primacy as a prerequisite for political and economic existence, immune to diminishing marginal returns.

Security studies have tended to focus on one set of means by which security may be pursued which is military statecraft, and has tended to assert the primacy of military security over other goals²⁷. This account captures the general framework of mainstream security studies scholarship, yet it conceals at least three significant issues. Initially, for scholars beyond the United States, the intriguing amalgamation of American national security issues with the academic field of "international security studies" appeared to exemplify academic imperialism and obscured the extent to which conventional security studies were intricately linked to contemporary American policy priorities: deterrence, counterinsurgency, arms control, and terrorism²⁸.

Secondly, the domains addressed by security studies often obscured substantial scholarship that pertained to "issues of war and peace" or the application of force, yet was not explicitly aligned with immediate political considerations. This was particularly true for the extensive literature on the "causes of war", as well as the scholarship linked to the Correlates of War project (COW) from the early 1960s. Mainstream security studies have increasingly mirrored a resurgence of nineteenth and early twentieth-century geopolitics, infused with elements of strategic thought, yet devoid of its disreputable legacy and rebranded as a variant of "grand strategy" to examine the rivalry between competing superpowers and their respective blocs. Ultimately, "dissent" was relegated to the periphery, with peace research and disarmament proponents notably severed from the core of the discipline.

Over the past thirty years, many discussions have emerged on the study, comprehension, and practical provision of security²⁹. Central to these discussions is dissent: the inquiry into the sufficiency of the conventional approach to security studies (focused on the state and predominantly external military threats) within International Relations. The mainstream perspective of security studies has consistently faced contestation, with two elements of the post-Cold War critique being particularly significant. The initial observation

indicated that, under the guise of "state security," the safety of individual residents is frequently jeopardized. This is most evident when an individual is coerced into warfare, necessitating the sacrifice of personal security for the state's protection.

This paradox is more pronounced in scenarios where the state, under the guise of "national security," designates specific individuals or citizens as threats. In numerous locations, the primary dangers to individuals originate from the security apparatus of their own governments, including intelligence and security agencies, or militaries aligned with specific social groups, political factions, or regimes) rather than from external entities³⁰. The second challenge contended that the emphasis of conventional security studies on states and interstate conflict inadequately encompasses numerous critical dynamics of modern security relations, including national identity and culture, the security of groups, individuals, or the biosphere, issues of state stability or fragility, economic dislocation, global migration and information flows, as well as the frameworks and institutions of security cooperation.

Environmental, economic, demographic, and other transformations presented substantial threats to the welfare of states and populations, for which military force was predominantly ineffective, and traditional notions of security were inadequately prepared to acknowledge. In his seminal publication, *People, States and Fear*, Barry Buzan contended that "a conception of security tied to the level of individual states and military concerns is fundamentally insufficient"³¹. He, along with numerous subsequent scholars, advanced a comprehensive agenda for security studies that encompassed various sources of insecurity, including economic and environmental dynamics, in addition to political and military factors for an overview of one issue³². Broadening security studies entails addressing threats and sources of insecurity beyond the military security of the territorial state, prominently including environmental and economic challenges, as well as issues such as transnational migration, global health, food security, energy, and human rights.

The traditional security perspective has faced criticism for being too narrow, prompting advocates to argue for a broader understanding of security that encompasses various entities, including individuals, communities, states, regions, and the environment. This expanded approach recognizes the complexities of modern security dynamics and the associated political and ethical considerations. By shifting the focus from the state to individuals or social groups, or to regional and global frameworks, we can gain a deeper understanding of security issues. However, this broadening of the security agenda also poses challenges, as it can lead to a loss of analytical clarity if not carefully defined.

Some argue that security should be understood positively, emphasizing emancipation and freedom from various forms of violence and insecurity, such as poverty, disease, and environmental degradation. This perspective sees security as a means to empower individuals and communities to govern their own destinies. However, others contend that expanding the security concept too far can lead to analytical confusion and dilute its meaning. They argue that security studies should prioritize conflict and military threats, and that broadening the agenda to include non-traditional security issues can detract from its core focus.

The debate highlights the need for a nuanced understanding of security that balances the need for a broad perspective with the importance of analytical clarity. By recognizing the complexities of modern security dynamics and the various entities that are impacted, we can work towards a more comprehensive and effective approach to security studies and practice.

2.1.1.1 Securitization

Securitization offers a distinct approach to understanding security, diverging from traditional security studies. This framework acknowledges the ambiguity of security and seeks to provide theoretical clarity by focusing on the concept's usage rather than its definition. According to securitization theory, security is a "speech act" that designates

specific phenomena as existential threats, requiring emergency measures and extraordinary actions.

This approach recognizes that security perceptions vary across time and among individuals. It emphasizes the significance of security lies not in its definition but in its implications, framing an issue as a matter of survival that necessitates urgent action. Securitization theory retains aspects of traditional security perspectives, such as the connection to existential anxiety and the likelihood of violence, but dissociates security from specific entities or threat categories³³.

The analytical focus shifts to the security claims made, by whom, and with what effectiveness in a particular context. This approach acknowledges the influence of mainstream notions and conventional state security institutions on the security agenda but also recognizes that these are not absolute or uncontested. Securitization theory highlights the risks associated with defining an issue as a security threat, which can lead to fear, extremity, and urgency. Therefore, issues should only be securitized with caution, considering the potential adverse consequences. De-securitization, or removing an issue from the security agenda, can be a more effective approach, allowing for normal politics and discourse to prevail over the politics of fear and emergency.

The distinction between "security" and "normal" politics has become increasingly blurred with the rise of risk management practices and security professionals. The growth of tools and techniques to manage and foresee security risks has led to a convergence of traditional and non-traditional security threats. This has resulted in a significant investment in data gathering and analysis, as well as the development of profiles and algorithms to make the complex security landscape visible and manageable³⁴.

The emphasis on risk ideas in security studies highlights the historical distinction between internal and external security. However, with the globalization of security concerns and dangers, the practice of policing has extended beyond national borders, and domestic threats are increasingly connected to transnational networks. This has led to a militarization of domestic policing and a blurring of the lines between internal and external security issues.

Modern security challenges often transcend traditional distinctions, and the post-9/11 security landscape reflects a convergence of external and internal threats. The War on Terror and the creation of departments like Homeland Security demonstrate how external dangers can infiltrate domestic life, requiring a more integrated approach to security governance. This shift has significant implications for how we understand and manage security risks, and how we balance the need for security with the protection of individual rights and freedoms.

The domain of security studies has evolved into a repository of theoretical frameworks and empirical challenges, signifying both an advantage and a drawback. This versatility facilitates the exploration of a wide array of issues using multiple techniques. The absence of a common core within the subject may result in divides, exemplified by the substantial disparity between mainstream and alternative approaches. Security is most accurately perceived as a dynamic and developing notion, influenced by social and political actions throughout history. The secured entities, the threats they encounter, and the used methods have all evolved and transformed. Security studies should so analyze the foundational principles of certain security concepts, rather than supposing a singular definition is universally applicable³⁵.

The discipline must examine the transition of risks into threats, the emergence and decline of security issues, and the transformation of insecure relations into stable and peaceful ones. Security studies involve more than mere violence and battle, while conflict

remains a vital component of comprehending security. The discipline must account for the overarching mechanisms by which individuals and groups recognize dangers to their safety and welfare.

Although traditional issues such as interstate conflict are important, security studies must also investigate alternative forms of organized violence, along with the institutions and mechanisms of coercion. In a globalised context, emphasis should be placed on comprehending the linkage between security supply and the state, as well as the influence of contemporary challenges and transformations on this historical resolve. This is significant in regions where weak regimes have consistently failed to ensure security for their residents, and when exploitative governance has been the primary driver of insecurity.

It also pertains to states where historically established policies and systems govern internal and external mechanisms of security providing that have become institutionally and politically separate are diminishing or facing challenges. A constricted or overly static conception of security limits our comprehension of the state's function as a political entity, which may engage with a community in an emancipatory, protecting, or oppressive manner. It also obstructs our ability to analyze numerous critical facets of current vulnerabilities and maybe devise innovative or effective answers that are not constrained by the state.

Ultimately, regarding security as a historical notion situated within a broader social and political context signifies that the development of both the concept and practice of security, together with its interrelation, constitutes a significant area of investigation in its own right. Emphasizing the relationship between theory and practice does not imply that theories dictate reality or that they merely mirror it. Establishing a clearer relationship between the two and demonstrating how varying interpretations of the notion of security are historically contingent can elucidate both the evolution of the concept and the actions

associated with security. Ultimately, the potent “sign of security” organizes the mental frameworks, values, self-conceptions, social order, and security conditions ingrained in the institutions we encounter almost daily. Consequently, discussions on security and the parameters of security studies are linked to overarching values and political assessments of preferred models of local and global order³⁶.

2.1.2 Climate Change

Climate change is a complex and multifarious issue necessitating a clear comprehension of essential concepts and terminology. To effectively tackle this global issue, it is crucial to delineate and elucidate the science of climate change, encompassing the differentiation between weather and climate, the function of greenhouse gases, and the consequences of global warming. Climate change fundamentally denotes the prolonged warming of the Earth, predominantly resulting from anthropogenic activities that emit substantial quantities of greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and methane, into the atmosphere. These gases retain solar heat, resulting in increased global temperatures and consequent effects on the environment, human health, and the economy.

Comprehending the distinction between weather and climate is essential in this context. Weather denotes transient atmospheric conditions, but climate characterizes the enduring patterns and trends that influence our environment. Conversely, greenhouse gases are essential in regulating the Earth's temperature, and their rising concentrations significantly contribute to climate change. By elucidating these concepts and vocabulary, we can cultivate a more profound comprehension of the science underlying climate change and its extensive repercussions. This may guide decision-making, policy formulation, and personal actions, ultimately fostering a more sustainable future for all.

Climate change and the necessity for environmental protection are global issues that require an informed response from all nations for effective resolution. The ten-year plan (1996-2005) of the Education and Training Programme (ETRP) of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) prioritizes the enhancement of a global system approach in its educational and training initiatives within member countries, especially in developing nations. The plan specifies that personnel must possess an integrated training program to comprehend the ocean-land-atmosphere system, applicable for monitoring under the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW), for acquiring knowledge of physical concepts and recognizing patterns, or for forecasting imminent weather and long-term climate variations³⁷.

The scientific community, government entities, and public media have devoted significant attention to climate change. Nonetheless, numerous issues remain inadequately comprehended. The professional operational community of meteorologists, hydrologists, and oceanographers must enhance their understanding of this subject to effectively monitor climate change, integrate climate change considerations into their work, assist governing bodies in comprehending scientific issues, and disseminate information to the general public³⁸.

To understand climate, it's crucial to study the global Earth system, including interactions between atmosphere, land, oceans, and living organisms. The climate system is complex, with energy transfers and transformations driving wind, precipitation, and temperature. The greenhouse effect maintains Earth's surface temperature, making life possible. Solar radiation energizes the climate, with some reflected and some absorbed. Climate change affects ecosystems and human life, and this study explores its causes, consequences, and potential solutions³⁹.

The term 'climate change' encompasses various meanings and viewpoints. It can also mean all environmental alterations or encompass natural variability. It is most beneficial to regard climate change as a manifestation of anthropogenic environmental transformation, viewed from both global and local lenses. A global perspective is warranted due to the interconnectedness of the physical systems integral to climate change. Conversely, a local perspective is crucial, as the local effects are significant to individuals and communities, and it is at the local level that data must be collected globally to accurately⁴⁰.

Climate change refers to significant, long-term changes in the global climate patterns, primarily driven by human activities such as the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation⁴¹. These changes have far-reaching impacts on ecosystems, economies, and societies, including rising sea levels, more frequent natural disasters, and altered weather patterns. In the context of security, climate change is increasingly recognized as a threat multiplier that exacerbates existing security challenges and creates new ones. Climate change denotes enduring alterations in temperature and meteorological patterns, predominantly induced by heightened greenhouse gas emissions resulting from human activity. It includes both natural fluctuations and the rapid alterations induced by the combustion of fossil fuels and other anthropogenic activities. These alterations may present as increasing global temperatures, modified precipitation patterns, and a higher frequency of extreme weather phenomena.

Elucidating the principles and theories that underpin climate change is a crucial initial step in comprehending its implications within an urban context. Appropriate remedies can only be built through the planning system if the problems of climate change are properly articulated.

Climate is commonly defined as the average weather conditions of a specific location, encompassing factors such as temperature, precipitation, humidity, and windiness. A more precise definition would assert that climate is the average condition and variability of these characteristics over an extended duration. Both definitions recognize that the weather is perpetually variable due to atmospheric instabilities. Just as weather fluctuates daily, climate also varies, ranging from diurnal cycles to geological epochs spanning hundreds of millions of years. Climate variation is a tautological phrase, climate is ever changing⁴².

Let us examine the Earth system, the atmosphere is affected by and connected to various Earth features, including oceans, ice masses (glaciers and sea ice), terrestrial surfaces, and vegetation. Collectively, they constitute an integrated Earth system, wherein all components interact and exert impact on one another in frequently intricate manners. Climate affects the distribution of vegetation on Earth's surface (e.g., deserts in arid areas, forests in humid areas), while vegetation subsequently impacts climate by reflecting radiant energy into the atmosphere, transferring water (and latent heat) from soil to the atmosphere, and influencing the horizontal movement of air across the land surface.

The repercussions of climate change represent one of the most significant issues confronting humanity. It is a meteorological alteration observed in a location. This may represent a variation in annual precipitation for a location, a modification in the typical temperature for a month or season, or an alteration in the standard global temperature⁴³. NASA characterizes climate change as: “a comprehensive array of global phenomena primarily induced by the combustion of fossil fuels, which contribute heat-retaining gases to the Earth's atmosphere.” This encompasses increasing temperature trends attributed to global warming, as well as phenomena such as rising sea levels, ice mass loss in Antarctica, the Arctic, Greenland, and mountain glaciers globally, alterations in the blooming patterns of flora, and extreme weather events⁴⁴.

There are two primary sources of climate change: natural factors and anthropogenic influences. Natural factors include solar output, Earth's orbital dynamics, volcanic activity fluctuations, ocean currents, and continental drift. Human-induced factors encompass the greenhouse effect, primarily driven by carbon dioxide and water vapour, which trap heat and sustain Earth's temperature conducive to life; also, land conversion from forests to agriculture, deforestation, mining, fossil fuel combustion (including oil, gas, and coal), and urbanization for economic purposes.

Climate is typically described as the average atmospheric conditions over a specific time period (hour, day, month, season, year, decade, etc.) and for a designated geographical area. The average-state statistics for a specific time scale, encompassing all deviations from the mean, are derived from the ensemble of conditions documented across numerous instances within the designated timeframe. The mean temperature for May in Ankara, Turkey, is derived from typical readings averaged over multiple years for that month. Climate descriptions encompass surface characteristics of the Earth, including ocean temperatures and snow cover⁴⁵.

The average-state description encompasses a diverse array of variables contingent upon the specific area of interest. Temperature and precipitation are the most frequently utilized metrics; nevertheless, the list may also encompass wind, cloud cover, sunshine, atmospheric pressure, visibility, humidity, and phenomena with significant human effects, such as severe storms, extreme temperatures, fog, snow, and hail. The descriptive method emphasizes statistical parameters, including the mean and temporal measures of variability such as range, standard deviation, and autocorrelations. It is essential to distinguish between weather and climate.

Weather refers to the atmospheric conditions at a specific moment for a particular event. Climate can be defined as the average of meteorological conditions over a specified duration, encompassing the likelihood of variations from this average⁴⁶. The climate is undergoing transformation, primarily due to the documented rise in anthropogenic carbon emissions. These alterations encompass increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, extensive melting of snow and ice, and elevated global sea levels. The additional heat within the climate system has further repercussions, such as influencing atmospheric and oceanic circulation, which subsequently affects precipitation and wind patterns.

A significant consequence of escalating carbon emissions is ocean acidification. Approximately one-quarter of anthropogenic carbon dioxide is sequestered by the oceans. As carbon dioxide dissolves in seawater, it generates a dilute carbonic acid, resulting in increased ocean acidity. Preliminary evidence suggests that certain marine organisms are already experiencing the effects of ocean acidification. Experts concur that the most severe consequences of climate change can be largely mitigated if pollution is curtailed to an acceptable threshold⁴⁷.

2.1.3 Climate Systems

The climate system is defined as the five components in the geophysical system, the atmosphere and four others which directly interact with the atmosphere and which together influence the climate of the atmosphere. The five components are enumerated below:

- i. Atmosphere;
- ii. Ocean;
- iii. Terrestrial surface;
- iv. Ice and snow surfaces (including both terrestrial and oceanic regions); and

v. Biosphere (including both terrestrial and marine environments)

At this juncture, it is crucial to acknowledge that additional variable components also influence climate determination. These are classified as 'external' forcing variables, encompassing solar radiation, Earth's orbital characteristics, land-ocean distribution, topographical features of the Earth (both terrestrial and marine), and the fundamental composition of the atmosphere and ocean. These are significant determinants of the climate that, aside from the fundamental composition of the atmosphere and oceans, are not influenced by climatic conditions in return⁴⁸.

Climate Change is characterized as the alteration in climate directly or indirectly caused by human activity, with natural climate fluctuation, witnessed across analogous timeframes. The definition established by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) concentrates solely on human activities that modify the composition of the global atmosphere, omitting the effects of other human activities, such as alterations to the land surface.⁴⁹ The term 'climate change' is occasionally employed to encompass all climate fluctuation, resulting in significant confusion. Climate exhibits variability across all temporal and spatial scales and is perpetually subject to change⁴⁹.

The concept of the climate system indicates that comprehending all its components (atmosphere, ocean, land surface processes, cryosphere, and biosphere) is essential for understanding the system as a whole. To comprehend the interactions between non-atmospheric components and the atmosphere, one must possess a restricted understanding, contingent upon the relevant time scales. Typically, these interactions transpire predominantly at physical interfaces; hence, for oceanic interactions, it suffices to understand the circumstances at the ocean's upper border, and for cold-region interactions, just the surface of the ice are pertinent.

Understanding these variables necessitates comprehending their variability in relation to oceanic and ice conditions. In contrast to other interaction components, the ocean is a readily mobile fluid, akin to the atmosphere; thus, comprehending the ocean for climate system applications necessitates addressing geophysical fluid dynamics and thermodynamic linkages that are as intricate as those of the atmosphere. Therefore, it is essential to employ a numerical model representation for the ocean analogous to that utilized for the atmosphere. Contemporary climate system research relies heavily on coupled atmosphere-ocean numerical models.

2.1.4 Diplomacy

Diplomacy's rich history showcases its adaptability and evolution, reflecting its enduring relevance in international relations. As global conditions shift, diplomacy adjusts, ensuring its continued importance. Exploring various definitions of diplomacy, rooted in theory and practice, offers valuable insights into its significance. This examination also provides a framework for understanding diplomacy's scope, key players, and primary functions, as well as its diverse forms of engagement and modern methods.

Diplomacy is the practice of conducting negotiations and relations between nations and international organizations. It involves the use of dialogue, negotiation, and other peaceful means to resolve conflicts, promote cooperation, and advance national interests. In the context of this study, diplomacy refers to the African Union's efforts to address climate change as a security threat through diplomatic strategies, including negotiations, partnerships, and dialogue with member states, international organizations, and other stakeholders⁵⁰.

Diplomacy is the art and practice of conducting negotiations and relationships between nations, organizations, and groups. At its core, diplomacy involves the strategic use of communication, compromise, and cooperation to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes,

resolve conflicts, and promote understanding⁵¹. Effective diplomacy requires a deep understanding of cultural nuances, political landscapes, and economic interests.

Diplomats play a crucial role in representing their countries' or organizations' interests and values. Through negotiations, they work to reach agreements that benefit all parties involved. This process involves fostering dialogue, building trust, and finding common ground. Diplomacy is not just about resolving conflicts but also about preventing them. By engaging in open and respectful communication, diplomats can address potential issues before they escalate. One of the key aspects of diplomacy is its role in international relations. Diplomats work to shape global policies, foster cooperation, and address global challenges such as climate change, poverty, and security threats. Through diplomatic efforts, countries can work together to find solutions to these complex issues, ensuring a more stable and prosperous world.

Diplomacy also plays a significant role in economic development. By promoting trade, investment, and economic cooperation, diplomats can help create opportunities for growth and development. This, in turn, can lead to improved living standards and increased economic stability. Diplomacy is an essential tool in international relations. It provides a framework for countries to engage with each other, resolve conflicts, and work towards common goals. As the world becomes increasingly interconnected, the importance of effective diplomacy will only continue to grow. By understanding and practicing diplomacy, we can build stronger relationships, achieve peaceful resolutions, and create a more prosperous future for all.

Diplomacy has been defined in various ways by numerous scholars, diplomats, ambassadors, and stakeholders in the field of international relations and strategic studies.

These definitions often reflect different perspectives and approaches to diplomatic practice, highlighting the complexity and nuance of this discipline.

In the realm of international relations, diplomacy is seen as a fundamental institution that enables states to navigate complex relationships and address pressing global challenges. Defining diplomacy in this context provides insights into its scope, participants, and responsibilities, thereby elucidating its importance in international relations. The term diplomacy is etymologically derived from the Greek word *diploma*, which signifies something folded in two; specifically a document that confers particular privileges to its possessor⁵². Formulating a precise and universally accepted definition of diplomacy in the contemporary context is unattainable.

A universally accepted definition of diplomacy does not exist. Thus, the number of definitions of diplomacy is equivalent to the number of authors discussing the idea. This unit focuses on fundamental definitions of diplomacy as provided by pertinent authorities. The Random House Dictionary defines diplomacy as the management by government officials of talks and relations between nations; the art or science of conducting such negotiations, and the abilities required to manage negotiations and interpersonal interactions to minimize negative feelings.

The Oxford English Dictionary defines diplomacy as the management of international relations through negotiations; the process by which these ties are modified and managed by ambassadors and envoys; the practice or art of diplomacy. As previously said, due to the numerous meanings of the idea of diplomacy, no single definition is regarded as comprehensive or universal. Sir Earnest Satow posits that diplomacy entails the utilization of intelligence and tact in managing official relations between the governments of independent

states, occasionally encompassing their interactions with vassal states; in summary, it is the conduct of inter-state affairs through peaceful means⁵³.

Some scholars argue that diplomatic dialogue is a cornerstone of international society, grounded in the principles of respect and recognition for differing perspectives. This ongoing exchange not only resolves conflicts but also cultivates a deeper understanding among nations.⁵⁴ Prominent diplomats and researchers in international relations have defined "diplomacy" as the application of international legal principles and standards inside the realm of international relations. Scholars have characterized diplomacy as a nuanced and dynamic process that seeks to manage the complexities of international relations. Through diplomatic efforts, nations can build relationships, resolve conflicts, and address common challenges, ultimately contributing to a more stable and peaceful global environment. Furthermore, the intricate strategies of diplomacy can be employed to mitigate, alleviate, or eliminate misunderstandings and conflicts that lead to international crises⁵⁵.

At its core, diplomacy involves negotiation, dialogue, and communication between nations, organizations, or groups. Diplomats represent their countries' or organizations' interests, values, and positions, working to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes. This process requires a deep understanding of cultural, political, and economic contexts. Diplomacy's primary objective is to resolve conflicts peacefully and foster cooperation. Through effective communication and negotiation, diplomats can address disputes, build trust, and promote understanding. This multifaceted approach enables diplomacy to play a crucial role in international relations, shaping global policies and promoting stability.

Ultimately, diplomacy's definition may vary, but its essence remains consistent: promoting understanding, resolving conflicts, and achieving mutually beneficial outcomes through effective communication and negotiation. Diplomats generally agree it's the art,

science, and means by which nations manage their international relations through peaceful means, primarily negotiation and dialogue. It involves influencing the behavior of other states, resolving disputes, and promoting cooperation in areas like trade, culture, and science. Diplomacy is a term frequently used in the realm of international affairs, however its precise meaning warrants clarification. What are the methods and procedures employed in its execution? What are the types and characteristics? What is the significance and relevance for our lives and the destiny of humanity?

Diplomacy is the activity and practice of communication and negotiation among entities in the international system, aimed at achieving objectives and resolving problems and disputes. Diplomacy encompasses the application of several strategies and instruments, including discourse, persuasion, compromise, and coercion, to affect and mould the conduct and results of other entities. The definition of diplomacy may differ based on the viewpoint and methodology of the scholar or practitioner; however, a prevalent and widely acknowledged definition is: "Diplomacy is the management of international relations through negotiation; the means by which these relations are regulated and administered by ambassadors and envoys; the profession or art of the diplomat."

Based on the many definitions of diplomacy provided by these experts, it is concluded that diplomacy pertains to the management of relations among sovereign states and between these states and other entities. Diplomacy is sometimes perceived as pertaining to peaceful endeavours, yet it can transpire during warfare or armed conflict, or be employed in the coordination of specific acts of violence. The conflation of diplomatic work and violence is a significant phenomenon that characterizes contemporary diplomacy. The argument might be articulated more broadly about the expansion of diplomatic substance.

Contemporary diplomacy transcends the limited politico-strategic definitions often ascribed to it, and it is inappropriate to regard diplomacy in a restrictive or formal manner as solely the domain of foreign ministries and diplomatic personnel. Consequently, diplomacy should be perceived as an endeavour conducted by officials from various domestic ministries or agencies in collaboration with their foreign counterparts, reflecting its technical nature. This may involve officials from international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the United Nations (UN) Secretariat, as well as foreign corporations and numerous governments transnationally, alongside Non-Governmental Organizations and private individuals.

By clarifying these key concepts, this section provides a foundation for understanding the complex relationships between security studies, climate change, and diplomacy, and sets the stage for a nuanced analysis of the African Union's role in addressing climate change as a security threat.

2.1.4.1 The Essence of Diplomacy

Diplomacy is a vital component of international relations, enabling nations and organizations to navigate the complexities of global interactions. At its core, diplomacy is about representation, negotiation, and communication, aimed at promoting national interests, resolving conflicts, and fostering cooperation. This segment will explore the nature of diplomacy, its key characteristics, functions, types, and challenges. Joseph Stalin, as cited in Dallin work, expressed his admiration for the art of diplomacy with the following words:

“The statements of a diplomat should bear no connection to actions; otherwise, what constitutes effective diplomacy? Words represent one aspect, while actions signify another. Flattering language serves as a veneer for the obscuration of malevolent actions. Genuine diplomacy is as unattainable as dry water or wooden iron⁵⁶” In this remark, Stalin articulated

the conventional perspective of contemporary tyrants towards diplomacy, asserting that it serves as a mechanism to obscure a nation's true objectives and to provide a façade for activities of a significantly different kind. Joseph Stalin adopted a cynical perspective on the art of diplomacy.

Although Stalin's sentiments possess certain justifications, they do not accurately reflect the true essence of diplomacy, which encompasses the methodologies and protocols for managing inter-state relations; it is, in fact, the conventional approach to conducting international affairs. Diplomacy, akin to any mechanism, is inherently neither moral nor immoral; its efficacy and significance are contingent upon the intentions and competencies of its practitioners.

Diplomacy operates through a complex network of foreign offices, embassies, legations, consulates, and special missions globally. It is typically bilateral in nature; but, due to the rising significance of international conferences, organizations, regional agreements, and collective security initiatives, its multilateral dimension has gained prominence. It may encompass a myriad of interests, ranging from the minutiae of interactions between two governments to critical matters of war and peace. When it deteriorates, the threat of war, or at the very least a significant crisis, becomes tangible.

Nation-states engage in bilateral relations and convene in multilateral organizations not solely due to shared interests, but also because of conflicting interests. Moreover, the fact of independence fosters skepticism and doubts. History is replete with instances of conflict, duplicity, and policy reversals, with new ones continually arising. Diplomacy is closely related to these issues and is thus regarded as a structured method of communication and negotiation that allows each sovereign state to gain insights from what it also opposes.

In contemporary international communities, diplomacy has evolved beyond a mere tool for communication and negotiation. It is an endeavor that, despite frequent misuse, tends to favour conflict resolution. Prominent diplomats and experts have defined "diplomacy" as the application of international legal principles and norms in global relations⁵⁷. Diplomacy, with its increasingly complex methodologies throughout all domains of human endeavour in the modern era, has evolved into a structured scientific discipline, and its efficacy in international politics is paramount.

One of the primary characteristics of diplomacy is representation. Diplomats serve as official representatives of their country or organization, tasked with promoting their interests, values, and positions. This requires a deep understanding of the represented entity's goals, priorities, and cultural nuances. Effective representation also demands strong communication skills, enabling diplomats to articulate their message clearly and persuasively⁵⁸. Negotiation is another crucial aspect of diplomacy. Diplomats engage in dialogue and negotiation to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes, often requiring creative problem-solving and compromise. Successful negotiation demands a thorough understanding of the interests, needs, and limitations of all parties involved. By finding common ground and building trust, diplomats can facilitate agreements and resolve disputes⁵⁹.

Diplomacy also involves communication, which is essential for building relationships, conveying information, and preventing misunderstandings. Effective communication requires diplomats to be aware of cultural differences, nuances, and sensitivities. By adapting their communication style to the specific context, diplomats can foster greater understanding and cooperation. The functions of diplomacy are diverse and multifaceted. One of its primary roles is conflict resolution, where diplomats work to resolve disputes and conflicts through peaceful means. Diplomacy also fosters international cooperation on global issues, such as

trade, security, and environmental protection. Additionally, diplomats promote their country's interests, trade, and investments, contributing to economic growth and development.

There are various types of diplomacy, including bilateral, multilateral, and public diplomacy. Bilateral diplomacy involves relations between two countries, while multilateral diplomacy engages multiple countries or organizations. Public diplomacy, on the other hand, focuses on engaging with foreign publics to promote understanding and influence opinion. Despite its importance, diplomacy faces numerous challenges. Cultural differences can lead to misunderstandings and miscommunication, while conflicting interests can make diplomacy challenging. The complexity of global issues, such as terrorism and climate change, also demands innovative and collaborative diplomatic approaches.

In conclusion, the nature of diplomacy is complex and multifaceted. By understanding its key characteristics, functions, and challenges, we can appreciate the vital role diplomacy plays in promoting peace, cooperation, and national interests. Effective diplomacy requires a deep understanding of cultural nuances, adaptability, and strong communication skills. As the world continues to evolve, diplomacy will remain an essential tool for navigating the complexities of international relations.

2.1.5 African Union

The African Union (AU) is a continental organization encompassing all 55 African countries, established to promote unity, development, and peace across the continent⁶⁰. Its roots trace back to the First Congress of Independent African States held in Accra, Ghana, in April 1958⁶⁰. This meeting aimed to celebrate Africa Day and mark the liberation movements fighting colonial rule and foreign domination⁶⁰. These early efforts laid the foundation for the Organization of African Unity (OAU), founded in May 1963 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia⁶⁰. The OAU intended to advance African solidarity and independence, though it faced criticism for

failing to protect citizens' rights and for non-interference policies in member states' internal affairs⁶⁰.

The OAU served as the precursor to the AU but was limited in scope, often labeled the "Dictators' Club" for its tolerance of autocratic regimes⁶¹. The vision for a more integrated and effective continental body was rejuvenated in the late 1990s, especially under Libya's leader Muammar al-Gaddafi⁶¹. The Sirte Declaration in September 1999, made by the OAU heads of state, formally called for the creation of the African Union⁶². Subsequently, summits held in Lomé (2000) and Lusaka (2001) adopted the Constitutive Act and implementation plans for the AU, which officially launched on July 9, 2002, in Durban, South Africa, during the inaugural Assembly chaired by former South African President Thabo Mbeki⁶².

The AU's purpose transcends that of its predecessor, focusing on political, social, and economic integration, conflict prevention, promotion of human rights, and sustainable development⁶³. Its institutional structure includes the Assembly of Heads of State and Government as the supreme body, the Executive Council composed of foreign ministers, the African Union Commission handling daily operations, the Pan-African Parliament working towards legislative authority, and the Peace and Security Council managing conflict resolution and peacekeeping⁶³. These organs exemplify the AU's comprehensive approach to governance and continental unity⁶⁴.

A major AU initiative is the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), which launched an ambitious project to create the largest free trade area in the world by integrating the economies of all 55 member states⁶². AfCFTA seeks to boost intra-African trade by removing tariffs and facilitating cross-border investment. Complementing such economic efforts is Agenda 2063, a strategic framework envisioning Africa's transformation into a prosperous and peaceful continent with integrated economies over the next five decades⁶³. The AU

emphasizes multilingualism, recognizing Arabic, English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, and Swahili as official working languages, reflecting the continent's rich linguistic diversity⁶³. This promotes inclusivity in diplomacy and policy implementation. Furthermore, the AU has increasingly gained recognition on the global stage, notably becoming a permanent member of the G20 in 2023, highlighting Africa's growing geopolitical influence⁶⁴.

Historically, the AU emerged from a post-colonial context marked by the struggle for sovereignty and the desire for pan-African unity championed by leaders such as Ghana's Kwame Nkrumah⁶⁵. Pan-Africanism inspired visions of a united Africa to overcome colonial legacies and external dependencies⁶⁵. Despite early divisions between immediate unification advocates and those favoring a gradual approach, the organization achieved important milestones, including the creation of the OAU and later the AU, largely propelled by leaders like Ethiopia's Emperor Haile Selassie and others who prioritized African solidarity against external threats⁶¹. The AU also addresses security, democracy, and human rights challenges in Africa⁶⁵. It has played a mediating role in conflicts such as Libya and Sudan, deployed peacekeeping missions, and advocated for democratic governance reforms⁶². The 2015 address by then U.S. President Barack Obama at the AU headquarters in Addis Ababa underscored both the progress and ongoing challenges in governance, human rights, and economic development facing the continent⁶⁴. The AU continues working to enhance democracy, fight corruption, and improve living standards across its members⁶⁵.

Over time, the AU has evolved a multifaceted approach combining political cooperation, economic initiatives, and security frameworks to address the continent's complex issues⁶⁶. Its vision remains ambitious, to foster a united Africa that is influential globally, self-reliant economically, and peaceful socially and politically⁶⁶. The transition from the OAU to the AU marks a historic shift, reflecting a continent striving for greater integration and collective progress amid a challenging international landscape⁶¹.

2.1.5.1 Historical Background of the African Union

The push for continental unity in Africa can be traced back to the First Congress of Independent African States in Accra, Ghana, from 15 to 22 April 1958⁶⁶. This congress aimed to affirm the desire for an Africa free from colonial rule and to establish “Africa Day” to annually commemorate liberation movements and promote unity⁶⁶. On 25 May 1963, thirty-two independent African nations met in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, to create Africa’s first post-independence continental institution, the Organization of African Unity (OAU) ⁶¹. The OAU’s main objectives were to accelerate decolonization, promote solidarity among African states, and defend their sovereignty. It played a critical role in supporting African nations in their independence struggles and the fight against apartheid, while also establishing diplomatic platforms for African interests at the United Nations⁶¹. Despite these achievements, the OAU was frequently criticized for its inability to intervene in the internal affairs of member states (such as preventing coups or human rights abuses), earning the derisive nickname “Dictators’ Club”⁶².

By the 1990s, it was clear that the OAU structure was inadequate for addressing new challenges facing Africa, ranging from economic integration to peace and security⁶¹. Under the leadership of Libyan head of state Muammar al-Gaddafi, African leaders issued the Sirte Declaration on 9 September 1999, which called for the formation of a more effective and integrated continental body. Between 2000 and 2001, foundational instruments for the new organization were drafted, including the Constitutive Act of the African Union (adopted at the Lomé summit in 2000) and the plan for implementation (Lusaka, 2001)⁶². The African Union (AU) was officially launched at the Durban summit on 9 July 2002, replacing the OAU and expanding both the ambitions and operational scope of the continental union⁶².

The AU’s shifted focus towards:

- i. Promoting economic integration and sustainable development⁶¹.
- ii. Addressing peace and security, with mechanisms for intervention in cases of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity⁶¹.
- iii. Establishing continental institutions, such as the Pan-African Parliament and the African Standby Force⁶¹.

2.1.5.1.2 Institutional Reform in the AU

Recognizing ongoing challenges, AU member states have undertaken institutional reforms, particularly since 2016⁶⁶. African leaders emphasized the importance of making the AU more effective by streamlining its operations, restructuring organs and offices, improving financial independence, and making the organization fit for purpose to address Africa's evolving needs⁶⁶. Key reform priorities include:

- i. Focusing on fewer, high-impact priority areas.
- ii. Realigning structures for better service delivery.
- iii. Increasing engagement with African citizens.
- iv. Achieving sustainable financing and reducing reliance on external donors.

The reform process has been supervised by appointed champions, including Presidents Paul Kagame (2016–2024) and William Ruto (2024 onward), who have overseen implementation and progress in institutional transformation⁶⁶.

2.1.5.1.3 Expanded Mandate and Objectives of the African Union

The African Union (AU) was established by the Constitutive Act (2000) to foster continental unity and development with the following objectives:

- i. Unity and Solidarity: Achieve greater unity, cohesion, and solidarity among African countries and peoples to consolidate continental integration⁶⁰.
- ii. Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity: Defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of member states, respecting existing borders⁶⁰.
- iii. Political and Socio-Economic Integration: Accelerate political and socio-economic integration through harmonization of policies and development of Regional Economic Communities (RECs) ⁶⁰.
- iv. African Common Positions: Promote and defend unified African positions on key global issues and international negotiations, increasing Africa's voice and influence⁶⁰.
- v. Peace, Security, and Stability: Maintain peace and security by preventing, managing, and resolving conflicts, thus providing the stability needed for development⁶⁰.
- vi. Democracy, Governance, and Human Rights: Promote democratic principles, human rights (aligned with the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights), popular participation, and good governance⁶⁰.
- vii. Sustainable Development: Foster sustainable economic, social, and cultural development to improve living standards, with special focus on science, technology, and public health cooperation⁶⁰.
- viii. International Cooperation: Encourage cooperation with international partners to address preventable diseases, health promotion, and other common challenges⁶⁰.
- ix. Women's Participation: Ensure effective participation of women in all spheres of decision-making, especially political, economic, and socio-cultural realms⁶⁰.

- x. Research and Capacity Building: Advance development through promoting research, knowledge sharing, and capacity building in all fields relevant to continental development⁶⁰.

2.1.5.1.4 Expanded Structure and Organs of the African Union

The AU's governance architecture involves:

- i. Assembly of the African Union: The supreme policy-making organ composed of Heads of State and Government, which sets priorities, adopts policies, and reviews progress⁶¹.
- ii. Executive Council: Made up of ministers (typically foreign affairs), it prepares policy for the Assembly and coordinates implementation⁶¹.
- iii. Commission of the African Union: The secretariat responsible for daily administration, program implementation, and coordination across sectors. It acts as the AU's executive branch and plays a leading role in driving integration strategies and peace initiatives⁶¹.
- iv. Permanent Representatives Committee (PRC): Consists of ambassadors based in Addis Ababa providing technical and preparatory support to the Executive Council⁶¹.
- v. Peace and Security Council (PSC): The AU's primary organ for peace and security, mandated to authorize interventions, conduct peacekeeping, and promote conflict prevention and resolution⁶¹.
- vi. Panel of the Wise: An advisory body of eminent African personalities tasked with conflict prevention and mediation advice⁶¹.

- vii. African Standby Force (ASF): A multidimensional peacekeeping force composed of contributions from member states, ready to deploy for peace enforcement and humanitarian actions⁶¹.
- viii. Continental Early Warning System (CEWS): An intelligence tool that monitors conflict indicators and alerts decision-makers for timely action⁶¹.
- ix. Pan-African Parliament (PAP): Provides a platform for African peoples' participation in governance, harmonization of laws, and human rights advocacy⁶¹.
- x. African Court of Justice and Human Rights: The judicial organ upholding the rule of law and human rights within the AU framework⁶¹.
- xi. Specialized Technical Committees: Focused on thematic areas such as health, education, infrastructure, and trade to support development policies⁶¹.

2.1.5.2 African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) with Climate Security Focus

The African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) is the African Union's comprehensive framework designed to promote peace, security, and stability across the continent⁶⁷. It provides a coordinated and African-led approach to prevent, manage, and resolve conflicts, as well as to support post-conflict reconstruction and development⁶⁷. APSA was established following the adoption of the AU Constitutive Act (2000) and notably the 2002 Protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council (PSC), which serves as its central decision-making organ for peace and security matters⁶⁷. This architecture reflects a commitment by African states to take ownership of their security challenges while working in collaboration with international partners such as the United Nations⁶⁷.

At the core of APSA is the Peace and Security Council (PSC), a 15-member body representing regional and political diversity across the continent⁶⁸. The PSC has broad

mandates that include early warning, conflict prevention, and mediation, authorization of peace support and peacekeeping operations, as well as oversight of post-conflict reconstruction⁶⁸. It meets regularly and can convene urgently to respond to crises, making binding decisions aimed at fostering peace and stability⁶⁸. The PSC also coordinates with other AU organs and international bodies, promoting African ownership in security responses. Supporting the PSC is the African Union Commission, which acts as the executive and administrative arm. The Commission's Peace and Security Department translates PSC decisions into actionable plans and manages logistics, resources, and coordination among APSA's components⁶⁸. It liaises with Regional Economic Communities (RECs), mobilizes financial and technical support, and ensures effective implementation on the ground, including the operation of the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) and preparation of the African Standby Force (ASF)⁶⁹.

The Panel of the Wise is a group of respected African leaders and elders who provide proactive mediation, advisory, and diplomatic support aimed at preventing conflicts before they escalate⁶⁹. Using behind-the-scenes diplomacy, confidence-building, and facilitation efforts, the Panel complements PSC activities by engaging in quiet negotiations between parties in conflict and advocating peaceful resolutions⁶⁹. Their influence is rooted in African traditional values of reconciliation and elder mediation, making them a vital prevention mechanism in the architecture. The Continental Early Warning System (CEWS) is APSA's intelligence and analysis hub⁶⁹. It continuously monitors political, social, economic, and environmental indicators across Africa to detect emerging threats early⁶⁹. CEWS gathers data from multiple sources, including governments and civil society, to issue timely alerts to the PSC and AU leadership. This enables preventive diplomacy and rapid policy responses, contributing to a move from reactive peacekeeping toward anticipatory conflict prevention⁶⁹.

The African Standby Force (ASF) constitutes the military and security component of APSA⁶⁷. It is designed as a rapid deployment force made up of military, police, and civilian personnel drawn from the Regional Economic Communities⁶⁷. The ASF aims to conduct peace support operations, including peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, and stabilization. While still developing its full operational capacity, it represents Africa's ambition to manage its conflicts with indigenous capacity and reduce dependency on external actors. To finance APSA's activities, the Peace Fund was established to reduce reliance on donor funding by mobilizing African resources⁶⁷. The fund supports peacekeeping missions, mediation efforts, capacity building, and post-conflict recovery⁶⁷. Although challenges in resource mobilization persist, the Peace Fund marks a strategic shift toward self-financing, enhancing APSA's sustainability and African ownership⁶⁷.

Finally, the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and Regional Mechanisms (RMs) are pivotal in implementing peace and security measures at the sub-regional level. Entities such as ECOWAS, SADC, and IGAD work closely with the AU and PSC to ensure a layered, complementary approach to conflict resolution and peacebuilding. This relationship is founded on the principles of subsidiarity and complementarity, where regional bodies act as first responders, bringing local knowledge and resources to APSA's broader continental framework.

Together, APSA's components form an integrated system designed to address Africa's complex security challenges through early warning, preventive diplomacy, peacekeeping, democratic governance promotion, and humanitarian action⁷⁰. While APSA has made significant progress, it faces ongoing challenges including funding shortages, capacity building needs, and political complexities that will require continued investment and cooperation⁷⁰.

APSA is the comprehensive framework designed to address peace and security challenges, integrating political, security, and developmental tools:

- i. Conflict Prevention: Combining CEWS and Panel of the Wise for early diplomatic intervention before conflicts escalate⁷⁰.
- ii. Peace Support Operations: Deploying the African Standby Force and collaborating with regional mechanisms for peacekeeping and enforcement⁷⁰.
- iii. Post-Conflict Reconstruction and Development: Linking peace building with socio-economic recovery to address root causes of instability⁷⁰.
- iv. Climate and Security Nexus: APSA recognizes climate change as a multiplier of security risks impacting resource scarcity, displacement, and inter-community tensions⁷⁰. APSA integrates climate risk assessments into its early warning and conflict resolution processes to promote resilient peace building adapted to climate stressors⁷⁰.
- v. Collaboration with RECs and Partners: To enhance effectiveness, APSA works closely with Regional Economic Communities and international partners for capacity building and coordinated responses⁷⁰.

2.1.5.3 AU Agenda 2063 and Environmental Goals

Agenda 2063 is the African Union's strategic framework aimed at transforming Africa into a global powerhouse by the year 2063. Adopted in January 2015, it reflects Africa's own vision for inclusive and sustainable economic growth, peace, and development⁷¹. The agenda was birthed from the realization that Africa needed to shift its focus from liberation and political independence to economic, social, and environmental transformation. It combines aspirations

from all corners of the continent and is operationalized through five, ten-year implementation plans, with the latest focusing on accelerating progress across all sectors⁷¹.

2.1.5.3.1 Environmental Dimension: Goals, Aspirations, and Alignment with SDGs

Environmental stewardship forms a critical pillar of Agenda 2063. Among its seven core aspirations, Aspiration 1 and more pointedly Aspiration 7—"Africa's hall Be a Prosperous and Environmentally Sustainable Continent"—are most relevant to environmental sustainability. The environmental goals are closely connected with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those addressing clean water, clean energy, sustainable cities, climate action, and conservation of natural resources⁷¹.

The agenda establishes concrete environmental objectives, such as:

- i. Promoting sustainable natural resource management and biodiversity conservation⁷¹.
- ii. Encouraging sustainable consumption and production patterns⁷¹.
- iii. Enhancing water security⁷¹.
- iv. Building climate-resilient economies and communities⁷¹.
- v. Addressing desertification, land degradation, and biodiversity loss⁷¹.
- vi. Developing robust frameworks for adaptation and mitigation to climate change⁷¹.

2.1.5.3.2 Implementation Mechanisms and Priority Areas

To achieve its vision, Agenda 2063 relies not only on continental ambitions but also on regional and national actions⁷¹. The First Ten-Year Implementation Plan (2014–2023) featured 20 goals and 39 priority areas, with over 250 targets to be tracked by all member states⁷¹. Environmental targets have included measurable actions in climate adaptation,

reforestation, reduction of emissions, water and sanitation, and sustainable agriculture⁷¹. Progress is monitored through 63 core indicators, ensuring accountability and benchmarking against both continental priorities and the SDGs. The African Unions Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy (2022–2032) further deepen these commitments⁷¹. It provides a continent-wide framework for coordinated response to climate risks, enhancing resilience, supporting a just energy transition, and reinforcing institutional capacity across member states⁷¹. This strategy builds on core principles of sustainability, equity, and climate justice, focusing on vulnerable communities, long-term adaptation, disaster risk reduction, and the creation of green jobs⁷¹.

2.1.5.3.3 Principal Environmental Initiatives

A few recognized principal projects under Agenda 2063 that advance environmental goals include:

- i. The Great Green Wall Initiative: A pan-African program combating desertification and land degradation across the Sahel⁷².
- ii. Promotion of Blue and Green Economies: Encouraging sustainable use of ocean and forest resources⁷².
- iii. Creation of transnational parks and protected areas to boost biodiversity conservation⁷².
- iv. Investment in renewable energy, notably through programs supporting hydropower, wind, solar, and geothermal sources⁷².

2.1.5.3.4 Challenges and Opportunities

Despite significant ambition, Africa faces hurdles in financing, capacity-building, and aligning national policies with both continental and global goals⁷². Many ecosystems are still highly vulnerable to climate change, population increases, and land use pressures⁷². However, Agenda 2063 positions these challenges as opportunities for innovative, homegrown solutions, emphasizing knowledge transfer, inclusive green growth, continental cooperation, and harnessing technology for environmental resilience⁷².

In conclusion, Agenda 2063's environmental goals embody Africa's determination to chart a sustainable future, balancing growth with stewardship of its natural heritage⁷². The framework's strong emphasis on climate action, resource management, and adaptation ensures that environmental sustainability is not peripheral, but foundational to the "Africa We Want⁷²." Strategic alignment with global initiatives like the SDGs and the Paris Agreement augments the Agenda's effectiveness, bolstering prospects for a greener, more resilient continent⁷².

2.1.5.4 Role of the AU Commission (AUC)

The African Union Commission (AUC) serves as the secretariat and executive branch of the African Union (AU), playing a central role in the daily operations and strategic implementation of the AU's policies and programs⁷³. Based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, it functions as the administrative and operational hub of the Union, tasked with coordinating and representing the interests of the AU and its member states⁷³. The AUC represents the AU at the continental and international levels⁷³. It advocates for the interests of the Union under the guidance and mandates of the AU Assembly and Executive Council. This involves defending the AU's positions, drafting common African stances, and coordinating member states' actions during international negotiations to ensure a unified continental voice⁷³. A key responsibility of the Commission is to implement decisions taken by AU organs⁷³. This

operational role includes facilitating the execution of policies, programs, and projects agreed upon by the Assembly and Executive Council. The AUC works closely with member states to assist in the actualization of these initiatives at the national level⁷³.

The Commission coordinates and harmonizes AU policies and programs with those of the Regional Economic Communities (RECs), which are the AU's building blocks for regional integration⁷⁴. It fosters cohesion among the AU's various organs and institutions to promote synergy in advancing the AU's goals. The AUC acts as the custodian of the AU Constitutive Act, treaties, protocols, legal instruments, and decisions of both the AU and its predecessor, the Organization of African Unity (OAU). It ensures these frameworks are respected and implemented⁷⁴. The Commission manages the AU's budget and financial resources. It oversees the allocation of funds, mobilizes resources, and ensures fiscal responsibility in support of the union's programs. It is mandated to ensure gender mainstreaming across all AU programs, promoting inclusivity and the advancement of women. Additionally, it fosters social development initiatives, including health, humanitarian affairs, and education within the continent⁷⁴. Beyond a secretariat function, the AUC actively contributes to peace and security on the continent. It administers AU policies related to conflict prevention, management, and resolution, playing a substantive role through its Peace and Security Department.

The Commission initiates proposals related to AU activities and development strategies. It drafts and promotes common policies at the continental level, ensuring member states align with the AU's strategic vision. The AUC facilitates AU interactions with civil society, the private sector, and other non-state entities, strengthening partnerships critical for continental integration and development. The AUC is led by a Chairperson and a Deputy Chairperson, appointed by the AU Assembly of Heads of State and Government⁷³. This structure allows the Commission to address diverse sectors critical to Africa's integration, development, and

stability⁷³. It has six Commissioners appointed by the Executive Council, each responsible for specific thematic portfolios such as:

- i. Agriculture, Rural Development, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Environment
- ii. Economic Development, Trade, Industry, and Mining⁷³
- iii. Education, Science, Technology, and Innovation
- iv. Infrastructure and Energy⁷³
- v. Political Affairs, Peace, and Security⁷³
- vi. Health, Humanitarian Affairs, and Social Development⁷³

The African Union Commission operates as both the engine and the nerve center of the AU⁷⁴. It transforms the AU's vision of an integrated, prosperous, and peaceful Africa into actionable programs and policies. The Commission supports capacity building for integration actors, harmonizes regional initiatives, and acts as the continent's interface with the global community⁷⁴. It also plays a critical leadership role in promoting peace, human rights, security, economic growth, and good governance. Its principal functions include:

- i. Representing the AU in international forums and acting as the custodian of constitutive and treaty documents⁷⁴
- ii. Drafting policy proposals, executing AU decisions, liaising with organs, and coordinating with Regional Economic Communities (RECs)⁷⁴
- iii. Supporting peace and security, development, governance, and gender mainstreaming
- iv. Managing the AU budget, facilitating member state cooperation, and supervising the implementation of agenda initiatives such as Agenda 2063⁷⁴

2.1.5.5 AU Legal Frameworks and Treaties Relevant to Security and Climate

Key continental legal and policy instruments underpinning AU action on security and climate include:

- i. The Constitutive Act (2000): Foundational legal framework defining principles of sovereignty, peace, democratic governance, and development⁷⁵.
- ii. Lomé Declaration (2000): On unconstitutional changes of government; sets norms for democratic governance and responses to coups.
- iii. Kampala Convention (2009): The African Union Convention on the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons, addressing causes such as conflict and climate-driven displacement⁷⁵.

AU Policy Framework on Security Sector Reform and Environment: Emphasizes the impact of natural disasters and climate on security, the necessity of resilient institutions, and protection for rights during crises⁷⁵.

2.1.5.6 AU's Relationship with Member States

The AU's foundational purpose is to promote unity and solidarity among African countries and peoples. Its objectives are expansive: defending the sovereignty and independence of member states, fostering greater political and socio-economic integration, and promoting peace, security, and human rights across the continent. To this end, the AU works closely with its members by:

- i. Convening regular summits and meetings where representatives deliberate and coordinate policies on key continental and global issues⁷⁶.

- ii. Establishing protocols for binding decisions, especially in cooperation with the Regional Economic Communities (RECs). The RECs are considered building blocks of the AU, and coordination mechanisms exist to harmonize initiatives and facilitate the gradual realization of the AU's integration agenda⁷⁶.
- iii. Supporting member states in peace and security initiatives, democratic governance, and responses to crises, evident in interventions, mediation missions, and peacekeeping efforts (such as those in Somalia and elsewhere) ⁷⁶.
- iv. Advancing continental development through a shared strategic framework, most notably "Agenda 2063," which revolves around the long-term social, economic, and political transformation of Africa and requires active collaboration and implementation at the member state level⁷⁶.

Nevertheless, the AU faces internal challenges. While the pan-African ideals of continental unity remain central, member states often prioritize national sovereignty and self-interest⁷⁶. This can inhibit the implementation of collective decisions and undermine the efficacy and legitimacy of AU directives. Additionally, competition for resources and authority can arise between the AU and powerful sub-regional organizations, further complicating harmonization of objectives and strategies⁷⁶.

2.1.5.7 AU's Engagement with the International Community

The AU's external relations are guided by its mandate to defend Africa's interests globally and establish the continent as a unified and influential actor in international affairs. The AU acts as the voice of Africa within major intergovernmental organizations, most notably as a permanent observer at the United Nations General Assembly⁷⁷. This strategic positioning allows the AU to:

- i. Advocate for African positions in global governance, shaping international discussions on security, health, trade, and human rights⁷⁷.
- ii. Forge strategic partnerships with leading global organizations and states.
- iii. Benefit from resource pooling, capacity-building, and technical assistance in sectors such as peacekeeping, healthcare, infrastructure, and climate resilience.
- iv. Champion Africa's agency and unity in international negotiations, increasing its leverage during global decision-making on trade (like Africa's role at the WTO), climate action, migration policy, and security frameworks⁷⁷.

The AU maintains strategic partnerships to leverage technical, financial, and political support:

- i. United Nations (UN): Deep climate, peace, and security cooperation, including joint frameworks, annual consultations, and climate security risk assessments⁷⁷.
- ii. The European Union (EU): Formal summits, long-term programs on governance, security, and economic integration; sometimes criticized for asymmetries in partnership
- iii. World Bank, GCF, and others: Funding for climate adaptation, disaster risk management, and development projects⁷⁷
- iv. Climate coalitions: Participation in regional and global platforms to align on climate, resilience, and sustainable financing priorities⁷⁷.

These partnerships are essential for AU functioning, with up to two-thirds of its annual budget funded by external partners, a structure the AU is actively seeking to reform for greater financial autonomy and ownership over the continental agenda. The AU's approach to external engagement is undergoing reforms targeted at streamlining partnerships and

reducing dependency. The goal is to prioritize quality over quantity, realign collaboration to more directly serve Africa's needs, and promote African-led solutions and ownership of continental initiatives. While successes are evident, challenges, including donor-driven priorities, lack of cohesive strategies for external engagement, and the influence of geopolitics, continue to shape and sometimes limit the AU's effectiveness on the world stage.

In conclusion, The AU's relationships, both internally with member states and externally with the international community, reflect a continuous balancing act between unity and diversity, sovereignty and integration, autonomy and partnership⁷⁷. While it has strengthened Africa's voice and capacity to act collectively, from mediating conflicts to shaping development policies, its journey is ongoing, marked by both progress and enduring challenges. The AU's effectiveness ultimately depends on the commitment of its member states to pooling sovereignty for the common good, and on its ability to leverage international partnerships in ways that advance the continent's priorities and aspirations⁷⁷.

2.1.5.8 Challenges Facing the AU as a Continental Body

Despite many achievements, the AU faces persistent difficulties:

- i. Funding gaps: Overdependence on external funding (e.g., EU, international donors) undermines financial sustainability and sovereignty⁷⁸
- ii. Political divisions: National interests sometimes trump convergence, leading to slow consensus and policy fragmentation⁷⁸
- iii. Institutional inertia: Bureaucratic complexity and weak enforcement mechanisms stall rapid implementation of reforms⁷⁸
- iv. External dependency: Heavy reliance on outside expertise and financing can limit home-grown solutions and priorities⁷⁸

- v. Other issues include corruption, poverty, and infrastructure gaps impeding effective governance and development⁷⁸.

2.1.6 Climate-Induced Migration and Displacement in Africa

Climate change continues to be a major driver of migration within Africa, particularly in sub-Saharan regions, where people are forced to move due to environmental degradation impacting their livelihoods⁷⁹. The World Bank and recent studies estimate that by 2050, up to 85-110 million Africans could be displaced internally as a direct consequence of climate change, depending on greenhouse gas emission scenarios and adaptive policies implemented. Many displaced persons move from rural, climate-stressed areas to urban centers seeking safety and economic opportunity, though infrastructure in these cities is often insufficient to cope⁷⁹.

2.1.6.1 Migration

Migration is driven by a complex interplay of factors, ranging from economic and social to environmental and political conditions⁷⁹. Among these, climate migration, a form of migration driven by climate-related changes, has increasingly gained attention due to its rising impact amid global climate change. Migration drivers are multifaceted and can be broadly categorized into:

- i. Economic factors: Often primary drivers, including wage disparities, employment opportunities, and economic stability. Many migrate seeking better income or to escape economic hardship in their origin regions⁷⁹.
- ii. Demographic factors: Age structure plays a role; younger populations may migrate for education or jobs, while aging populations may also influence labor migration⁷⁹.

- iii. Environmental factors: Natural disasters (such as floods, cyclones, droughts) and gradual environmental changes (sea level rise, temperature changes, reduced agricultural productivity) can directly or indirectly push people to move⁷⁹.
- iv. Social and political factors: Social networks, governance quality, political stability, conflict, and security conditions influence migration decisions⁷⁹.
- v. Human development factors: Access to healthcare, education, and infrastructure can also impact the likelihood and direction of migration⁷⁹.

Environmental drivers are particularly significant as climate change exacerbates food insecurity, water scarcity, and disaster risks, often acting in concert with economic and security challenges to stimulate migration⁷⁹.

2.1.6.2 Models of Climate Migration

Climate migration modeling employs multiple approaches often dependent on spatial and temporal scales:

- i. Agent-based models: These simulate individual or household-level decision-making based on detailed local data, useful for small-scale contextual studies⁷⁹.
- ii. Gravity and radiation models: These capture spatial and temporal migration patterns at larger scales often based on population sizes and distances between locations⁷⁹.
- iii. Integrated Assessment Models: Complex frameworks that simulate interlinked environmental, economic, and social dynamics on a global or multinational scale⁷⁹.
- iv. Statistical and machine learning models: Non-linear methods such as random forests and neural networks are increasingly used to capture complex climate-mobility relationships, although challenges remain regarding interpretability⁷⁹.

Models vary in their focus, with some predicting migration based on historical patterns alone, while others attempt to incorporate climate and socio-economic drivers for more robust forecasts. Despite advances, climate migration modeling struggles with accounting for multi-causal, non-linear relationships and uncertainties in predictions⁷⁹.

Challenges of Climate Migration

Climate migration poses multiple humanitarian, social, and political challenges:

- i. Internal displacement vs. cross-border migration: Most climate migration is expected to be internal, but managing large movements' strains urban infrastructure, housing, and social services in destination areas⁸⁰.
- ii. Vulnerability and inequality: Women, children, the elderly and marginalized groups often bear disproportionate burdens during climate displacement, facing barriers accessing essential services and protection⁸⁰.
- iii. Legal recognition: Climate migrants frequently do not fit traditional refugee definitions, complicating legal protections and international responses⁸⁰.
- iv. Resource competition and conflict: Migration driven by environmental degradation can exacerbate competition over scarce resources, fueling tensions and conflicts⁸⁰.
- v. Economic and operational impacts: Businesses face disruptions in supply chains, operations, and access to skilled labor as climate migration unfolds⁸⁰.
- vi. Geopolitical tensions: Cross-border movements may strain relations between countries, especially where migration is rapid or unplanned⁸⁰.

2.1.6.2 Drought, Water Scarcity, and Insecurity in the Sahel

Drought is one of the most critical environmental threats in the Sahel. The region experiences large inter-annual rainfall variability, confined to a brief monsoonal season, making it extremely vulnerable to climate change-induced shifts⁸¹. Recent studies indicate statistically significant increasing drought severity in much of the Sahel, particularly in the western and southeastern zones, driven by complex climate interactions including global warming and regional atmospheric phenomena. For example, drought intensification in western Sahel regions like Senegal and Mauritania has been linked to sea surface temperature changes and atmospheric oscillations that disrupt rainfall patterns⁸¹.

This chronic drought directly reduces water availability, depletes soil moisture, and lowers river and reservoir levels, thereby undermining agriculture, livestock, and drinking water supplies. Groundwater recharge is also severely compromised due to both prolonged dry spells and the growing frequency of intense, short-lived storms that promote surface runoff rather than infiltration⁸¹. Sahelian communities, dependent largely on rain-fed farming and pastoralism, face deteriorating food security and livelihoods. Moreover, inadequate water infrastructure and maintenance exacerbate the scarcity. Political instability and violent conflicts frequently damage water systems, worsening access issues⁸¹. Competition for dwindling water and land resources is a significant driver of communal and ethnic violence, with some armed groups capitalizing on these tensions to recruit and destabilize the region.

Local water insecurity also deeply affects vulnerable groups, especially women and children, who often bear the burden of fetching water, limiting their educational and economic opportunities. Furthermore, poor sanitation and water quality contribute to malnutrition and waterborne diseases, compounding health challenges in the Sahel. Paradoxically, the Sahel, while drought-prone, also suffers from devastating floods due to irregular but intense rainfall events. These floods inundate villages, destroy homes, infrastructure (roads, bridges, schools, health centers), and wash away crops and livestock⁸¹. For instance, during just one week in

August 2024, extreme rains caused vast flooding across the Sahel, displacing tens of thousands and crippling livelihoods, particularly in densely populated areas such as northeastern Nigeria⁸¹.

The destruction of infrastructure and agricultural bases leads to food insecurity and disrupts essential social services. Many displaced persons face prolonged humanitarian crises due to limited resources and funding. Floods further destabilize communities already strained by conflict and poverty, threatening social cohesion and accelerating community collapse⁸². A critical challenge is that floodwaters often cannot be effectively harnessed or stored due to lack of infrastructure like artificial groundwater recharge systems. This means valuable water quickly runs off instead of replenishing underground reserves, exacerbating overall water scarcity and drought vulnerability⁸².

Drought, water scarcity, and flood-induced disasters in the Sahel form a complex, interrelated environmental crisis. Drought and water scarcity reduce agricultural productivity and trigger migration and conflict over resources⁸². Flooding causes displacement, destruction, and community destabilization. Together, these stressors undermine food security, economic stability, and public health, while fueling insecurity⁸². Responding to these challenges requires integrated approaches: climate adaptation (to manage drought and rainfall variability), infrastructure investment (to increase water capture, storage, and sanitation), conflict resolution mechanisms (to address resource-based violence), and strengthened humanitarian aid⁸².

The Sahel region (including countries like Mali, Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso, Sudan) faces rising temperatures at 1.5 times the global average and increasingly erratic rainfall patterns⁸². This results in persistent drought and increasingly severe water scarcity⁸². The economy is heavily reliant on rain-fed agriculture and pastoralism; drought ravages crop yields and

livestock health. Scarce natural resources spark conflict over land and water among communities, herders, farmers, and fishers, feeding cycles of insecurity and displacement⁸³. These resource conflicts intertwine with ethnic and political tensions, further destabilizing the region.

Many Sahel inhabitants migrate seasonally or permanently, either internally or across borders, seeking stability, exacerbating urban overcrowding and socio-economic fragility⁸². Weak governance, limited climate adaptation strategies, and insufficient humanitarian response deepen vulnerabilities. Malnutrition, food insecurity, and displacement are chronic issues that require robust coordinated action⁸².

2.1.6.3 Flood-Induced Disasters and Community Collapse

Increasing Flood Incidence:

Floods in Africa are becoming more frequent and intense due to climate change-induced variability in rainfall, poor land management, and urbanization. For example, the 2022 floods in Nigeria displaced approximately 2 million people, and Cyclone Freddy in 2023 caused around 1.4 million displacements in southeastern Africa. Flood-induced disasters can lead to community collapse through a complex interplay of environmental factors and societal vulnerabilities⁸³. Flooding, a common natural disaster arises from heavy rainfall, snowmelt, or dam failures. These events can overwhelm communities, causing loss of life, displacement, and extensive damage to infrastructure⁸³. Understanding the causes and impacts of flooding is crucial for developing strategies to enhance community resilience and facilitate recovery⁸³. Floods result from a combination of meteorological, geographical, hydrological, climatic, and human factors. Heavy rainfall, often intensified by climate change, can lead to both short-term flash floods and prolonged inundation. Geographical factors, such as living in low-lying areas or near rivers, increase flood susceptibility⁸³. Deforestation and poor land management

exacerbate the risk by altering natural water flows. Climate change further intensifies weather patterns, leading to more severe storms and irregular precipitation⁸³. Human activities, including inadequate infrastructure and poor urban planning, also contribute to the problem.

The following are the consequences of Flooding:

- i. Destruction of homes, infrastructure, agricultural lands, and critical services leads to immediate mass displacement⁸³.
- ii. Floods cause food insecurity due to crop losses and heighten health crises through waterborne diseases⁸³.
- iii. Temporary displacements may become protracted, with communities losing traditional livelihoods and social structures⁸³.
- iv. Flood-prone urban peripheries become new areas of vulnerability, trapping displaced populations in cycles of poverty and exposure to future hazards⁸³.
- v. Long-Term Impacts: The economic cost of repeated flood recovery efforts drains national budgets and undercuts development, perpetuating vulnerability and limiting resilience building⁸³.

The impacts of flooding extend beyond immediate physical damage, leading to long-term social and economic challenges. Loss of life and injuries are immediate concerns, with deep, fast-flowing water posing significant risks⁸³. Displacement disrupts community networks, forcing residents into temporary shelters or new locations. Infrastructure damages such as roads, bridges, and utilities cripples' community functionality⁸³. Economic losses from damaged homes and businesses can be devastating, with recovery taking years. Health risks, such as waterborne diseases, and mental health issues further strain communities. Social disintegration can occur as the stress of recovery weakens community ties. Certain

communities are more vulnerable to flood-induced disasters due to socioeconomic status, geographical location, infrastructure quality, and preparedness levels⁸⁴. Low-income communities often lack the resources for adequate preparation and recovery. Locations in floodplains or coastal areas face higher risks. Inadequate infrastructure and a lack of disaster preparedness plans increase vulnerability⁸⁴. Cultural factors, such as weak social cohesion, can also hinder a community's ability to cope with and recover from floods⁸⁴.

Strategies for Resilience and Recovery

Building resilience and facilitating recovery requires a multifaceted approach that includes risk assessment and planning, infrastructure improvement, ecosystem restoration, and community engagement. Comprehensive risk assessments help identify vulnerable areas and inform flood management plans. Investing in robust flood defenses, such as levees and drainage systems, is essential. Restoring wetlands and forests can enhance natural flood. Community engagement in disaster preparedness and response planning fosters a sense of ownership and enhances local knowledge. Education and training raise awareness about flood risks and promote preparedness measures. Financial support through insurance schemes and assistance programs aids economic recovery. Effective emergency response systems, including early warning systems and evacuation plans, can save lives and reduce panic during floods.

Specific Strategies for Flood Resilience

- i. **Risk Assessment and Planning:** Conducting thorough flood risk assessments is essential for identifying vulnerable areas and developing effective mitigation strategies. This includes creating flood maps and understanding the potential impact of various flood scenarios⁸⁴.

- ii. **Infrastructure Improvement:** Investing in and maintaining infrastructure such as levees, floodwalls, and drainage systems can significantly reduce flood impacts. Green infrastructure, such as bio-swales and rain gardens, can also be integrated to manage storm water runoff.
- iii. **Ecosystem Restoration:** Restoring wetlands and floodplains can provide natural flood control by absorbing excess water and reducing runoff. This also enhances biodiversity and improves water quality
- iv. **Community Engagement:** Engaging community members in disaster preparedness and planning is crucial for building. This includes incorporating local knowledge and practices to create tailored and effective strategies⁸⁴.
- v. **Education and Training:** Public education campaigns can raise awareness about flood risks and promote preparedness measures, such as creating emergency kits and developing evacuation plans.
- vi. **Financial Support:** Providing access to insurance and financial assistance programs can help communities and individuals recover economically from flood events.
- vii. **Emergency Response Systems:** Establishing and maintaining effective emergency response systems, including early warning systems and community shelters, is vital for saving lives and reducing panic during floods.

Nature-based solutions (NBS) use natural processes to tackle challenges like flooding, habitat loss, and water quality issues⁸⁴. Floodplain restoration, a key NBS, helps mitigate flood risks, boost biodiversity, and improve water resources. Restoring floodplains involves reconnecting rivers to their natural floodplains by removing or modifying barriers such as levees, allowing water to spread across the floodplain, slowing down floodwaters and reducing their intensity.

Engaging the community during Disaster Risk Management helps strengthen social cohesion and resilience⁸³. NGOs can facilitate community-driven initiatives, such as community-based disaster preparedness committees, where individuals come together to collectively address disaster risks. Community engagement enables participatory risk assessment and planning, where community members actively contribute to identifying hazards, vulnerabilities, and capacities within their locality⁸⁴.

2.1.6.4 Desertification and Land Disputes in Africa

Desertification is a critical environmental challenge in Africa, affecting roughly 45% of the continent's land area and degrading up to 65% of its productive land in some capacity. Around 319 million hectares are vulnerable to desertification, especially in the semi-arid and arid regions such as the Sahel, parts of East Africa, and around the Kalahari and Namib deserts. Desertification is propelled by both natural climate variability and human activities such as overgrazing, deforestation, unsustainable agricultural practices, and population pressures. The Sahara Desert is reported to be advancing southwards at an average annual rate of 5 kilometers in parts of West Africa, a process accelerated by climate change and land misuse. In the Horn of Africa (Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia), prolonged droughts from 2020-2023 directly affected about 46 million people, with 13.5 million internally displaced due to resource scarcity and land degradation. Economic losses exceeded \$1.5 billion, including the death of nearly 9.5 million livestock critical to pastoral livelihoods⁸⁴.

Desertification and resulting land degradation intensify competition for increasingly scarce arable land and water resources, triggering or exacerbating land disputes and conflicts, especially between pastoralist and farming communities. These disputes are often interwoven with ethnic and political tensions, resulting in localized violence and displacement. In countries with weak governance, such disputes can escalate into protracted conflicts. For

example, in parts of the Sahel and East Africa, diminished grazing land and water sources have led to clashes between herders and farmers. In West Africa, reduction in fallow periods and over-cultivation reduce soil fertility, resulting in territorial conflicts over remaining fertile land⁸⁴.

Initiatives like the EU-funded “Action Against Desertification” highlight urgent needs for land restoration and sustainable land management, particularly benefiting small-scale farmers. In six countries (Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, The Gambia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal), about 14 million hectares require restoration, with strong correlations seen between land degradation, food insecurity, and poverty. Despite these challenges, some projects have succeeded in restoring tens of thousands of hectares, helping thousands of people improve livelihoods and reduce conflict risk⁸⁴.

2.1.6.5. Transboundary Resource Disputes (e.g., River Nile, Lake Chad)

Africa’s fragile water and land resources often span national borders, making their management complex and occasionally contentious. Key transboundary resources such as the River Nile and Lake Chad have become focal points of dispute linked to increasing scarcity driven by climate change and demographic growth⁸⁵.

- i. River Nile Basin: The Nile, shared by 11 countries, is critical for agriculture, hydroelectric power, and water supply. The construction of the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam (GERD) has intensified tensions between Egypt, Sudan, and Ethiopia, as downstream nations worry about reduced water flows impacting millions. Climate variability complicates agreements due to changing hydrology⁸⁵.
- ii. Lake Chad Basin: Historically one of Africa's largest freshwater lakes, Lake Chad has shrunk by approximately 90% over the last 60 years due to prolonged drought and

increased water extraction from its tributaries shared by Nigeria, Niger, Chad, and Cameroon. This shrinkage has led to serious livelihood losses and cross-border migration, stoking conflicts and insecurity in the region⁸⁵.

Transboundary disputes over water and land exacerbate geopolitical tensions, impact food and water security, and often intersect with insurgency and displacement challenges. Effective cooperation frameworks remain critical yet politically fraught⁸⁵. Actors such as the Nile Basin Initiative and Lake Chad Basin Commission work toward coordinated management, but climate change-induced unpredictability and competing development priorities strain these efforts⁸⁵.

2.1.6.6. Climate-Induced Food Insecurity in Africa

Climate change has emerged as a leading factor driving food insecurity across Africa by affecting crop yields, livestock productivity, and fisheries. Key climate-related issues include:

- i. Erratic rainfall and recurrent droughts reducing crop outputs.
- ii. Flooding destroying farmlands and infrastructure⁸⁶.
- iii. Rising temperatures stressing crops and animals⁸⁶.
- iv. Desertification and land degradation reducing arable land availability⁸⁶.

Over 80% of Africa's agriculture is rain-fed, highly vulnerable to climate variability. The Sahel region and Horn of Africa are chronically food insecure, with millions dependent on emergency aid. Food insecurity is linked to increased malnutrition, economic losses, and forced migration⁸⁶. Smallholder farmers, pastoralists, women, and children bear the brunt due to limited adaptive capacity and resources. Adoption of climate-smart agriculture, improved

irrigation, drought-resistant crops, and sustainable land management practices are promoted, but scaling remains a challenge⁸⁶.

Climate-induced food insecurity in Africa is a growing and complex crisis with far-reaching consequences⁸⁷. Climate change acts as a major threat to food security across the continent, jeopardizing the livelihoods, nutrition, and economic stability of millions of people. Africa experiences various climate hazards, droughts, floods, heat waves, and erratic rainfall, that undermine agricultural productivity. Sub-Saharan Africa, where the majority of the population depends on smallholder or subsistence farming, is particularly vulnerable. Climate impacts reduce crop yields for staple cereals such as maize, millet, and sorghum, which millions rely upon for sustenance. Rising temperatures and increasing frequency and severity of droughts and floods diminish arable land availability and degrade soil quality. For example, in Southern Africa, crop yields could decline between 5% and 17% by 2050 due to climate effects⁸⁷. In Tanzania, a 2 °C temperature rise by 2050 may reduce maize production by 13% and sorghum by nearly 9%⁸⁷.

The losses in crop yields directly translate to food shortages and higher food prices, worsening access and affordability for vulnerable populations⁸⁷. Many countries, such as Nigeria, Kenya, and Senegal, import significant proportions of staples like rice and wheat. Price volatility on global markets, intensified by climate shocks, disproportionately affects poorer households. Food insecurity figures are stark: approximately 800 million food-insecure people were reported on the continent in 2021, with nearly 300 million undernourished⁸⁷. In sub-Saharan Africa, at least 123 million people were acutely food insecure in 2022, a figure exacerbated by compounded shocks such as the COVID-19 pandemic and global crises like the war in Ukraine affecting food and fuel supply chains⁸⁷.

The following are some Regional-Specific Challenges

- i. Horn of Africa: Facing the worst drought in over four decades, severely reducing cereal production by 4% in 2022 compared to 2021.
- ii. West Africa: Frequent extreme weather events undermine food system stability and pose nutritional risks, especially for vulnerable groups. Changes in climate also increase infectious diseases affecting nutrition.
- iii. Southern Africa: Food security risks are amplified by weak institutions, limited technology access, and financial constraints for adaptation.

Beyond immediate food supply impacts, climate-induced food insecurity threatens economic growth, child nutrition, education, and health outcomes, and potentially unraveling decades of developmental progress in African countries. Also, recurring climate shocks contribute to migration and conflict as people are forced to relocate due to crop failures and resource scarcity⁸⁷. Africa's low adaptive capacity demands urgent investment in climate-resilient agriculture, sustainable irrigation, crop diversification, and technology transfer. Supporting smallholder farmers with financial and technical resources is essential. Policies should focus on reducing greenhouse gas emissions, conserving soil, and integrating climate and food security strategies in national development plans⁸⁷. Climate-induced food insecurity in Africa is a multifaceted crisis driven largely by increasing climate variability and extreme weather events. It diminishes agricultural productivity, escalates food prices, and deepens poverty and hunger. Addressing this issue requires coordinated international and local efforts, enhanced investment in adaptation measures, and innovative policy integration to safeguard the food future of the continent's most vulnerable populations⁸⁷.

2.1.6.7 Climate Risk Assessments and Hotspot Mapping in Africa

Climate risk assessments and hotspot mapping are critical tools that identify regions highly vulnerable to climate-induced shocks such as droughts, floods, and food insecurity⁸⁸. These tools support targeted adaptation, policy making, and humanitarian responses. The way by which these tools are used and how they are used can be seen as the following:

- i. Integration of climate models with socioeconomic and environmental data⁸⁸.
- ii. Use of satellite imaging, GIS mapping, and local participatory inputs⁸⁸.
- iii. Identification of hotspots such as the Sahel, Horn of Africa, Lake Chad Basin, and coastal lowlands⁸⁸.
- iv. Early warning systems for drought and floods⁸⁸.
- v. Prioritizing regions for investment in resilience-building infrastructure.
- vi. Informing migration and displacement risk management⁸⁸.
- vii. Supporting donor and government coordination efforts⁸⁸.

Recent initiatives use machine learning and real-time data streams for dynamic assessments. For example, the UNCCD and African Union have advanced continental-level frameworks incorporating hotspot maps to plan land restoration and disaster preparedness. Despite technological gains, challenges include data gaps, resource constraints, and translating technical outputs into actionable local policies.

2.1.6.8 Climate Migration Governance

Climate-induced migration is increasingly recognized as a critical governance challenge in Africa. Millions are displaced annually by droughts, floods, and other climate shocks. However, existing international legal frameworks do not explicitly recognize "climate migrants," leaving many vulnerable to rights violations⁸⁹. African states and regional bodies

have made progress towards creating governance frameworks that can address the specific needs of climate migrants, but significant gaps and implementation challenges remain⁸⁹. The African Union (AU) and regional economic communities like ECOWAS and IGAD (Intergovernmental Authority on Development) have adopted protocols and policies aimed at facilitating free movement and protecting vulnerable migrants, including provisions adaptable to climate migrants⁸⁹. ECOWAS's Protocol on Free Movement allows visa-free travel within member states, offering a potential legal corridor for cross-border climate mobility, though implementation is often uneven across countries due to security concerns. IGAD has pioneered natural disaster-specific provisions that could be models for broader climate migration policies⁸⁹. The AU's Migration Policy Framework for Africa (MPFA) and the Global Compact on Migration (GCM) are being implemented with an emphasis on protecting displaced persons while promoting orderly migration as part of development strategies⁸⁹.

Challenges:

- i. Fragmented and inconsistent policy implementation due to resource constraints, political will, and security concerns⁸⁹.
- ii. A securitized approach to migration in some parts of Africa, particularly North Africa, where migration is often framed as a border and security issue rather than a developmental or human rights challenge⁸⁹.
- iii. Limited recognition of slow-onset climate migrants versus sudden displacement victims⁸⁹.
- iv. Need for enhanced capacity building, legal training, cross-border coordination, and public awareness⁸⁹.

Emerging Approaches:

- i. Moving towards a rights-based, human-centered approach that recognizes climate migration as a form of mobility integral to adaptation and resilience⁸⁹.
- ii. Strengthening migration governance to transform migration into a catalyst for regional stability and economic growth⁸⁹.
- iii. Enhancing international cooperation, particularly between African states and development partners, to support climate-resilient migration management⁸⁹.
- iv. Expanding legal definitions to explicitly include climate migrants as a vulnerable group needing protection⁸⁹.

2.1.6.9 Climate Change as a Multiplier of Existing Threats

Climate change acts as a “threat multiplier,” exacerbating pre-existing socio-economic, political, and environmental vulnerabilities in Africa⁹⁰. It intensifies conflicts, food insecurity, health crises, and economic instability, often amplifying issues already driven by poverty, weak governance, and social inequality⁹⁰.

How Climate Change Multiplies Existing Threats:

- i. **Exacerbates Instability:** Climate change intensifies problems like water scarcity, food shortages, and overpopulation, acting as an accelerant of instability in already fragile regions⁹⁰.
- ii. **Increases Inequality:** Climate change worsens global inequality, with marginalized communities with fewer resources being hit the hardest by shifting weather patterns, droughts, flooding, and storms⁹⁰.

- iii. Heightens Security Risks: Climate change amplifies pre-existing threats, from strategic competition to terrorism, and worsens extreme weather events, impacting energy resilience and security⁹⁰.
- iv. Undermines Health: Climate change undermines decades of progress in global health, increasing the risk of deaths, diseases, and health emergencies, especially in areas with weak health infrastructure⁹⁰.
- v. Drives Displacement: Climate-fueled disasters are a major driver of internal displacement, forcing millions from their homes and increasing their vulnerability⁹⁰.

Climate change does not affect everyone equally. Certain populations are more vulnerable due to a combination of factors:

- i. Geographic factors: People living in areas highly exposed to climate risks like flooding, sea-level rise, fires, and heat waves are disproportionately affected⁹⁰.
- ii. Socioeconomic factors: Poverty, lack of access to resources, and inadequate infrastructure increase vulnerability to climate impacts⁹⁰.
- iii. Sociopolitical factors: Discrimination, marginalization, and lack of political representation can further exacerbate vulnerability⁹⁰.
- iv. Demographic factors: Children, the elderly, pregnant women, people with disabilities, and Indigenous communities are often more vulnerable to climate change impacts⁹⁰.

Examples:

- i. In the Sahel, climate stress over scarce water and arable land intertwines with ethnic tensions and insecurity linked to armed groups, terrorism, and banditry⁹¹.

- ii. Drought and desertification worsen livelihoods, triggering competition over resources and fueling local and regional conflicts⁹¹.
- iii. Flood disasters not only displace populations but strain fragile health systems, leading to disease outbreaks⁹¹.
- iv. Climate stress interacts with rapid urbanization, creating overcrowded informal settlements susceptible to economic hardship and social unrest⁹¹.

Specific Examples:

- i. Afghanistan: Decades of conflict combined with intensified droughts and floods are deepening the humanitarian crisis, leading to increased displacement, hunger, and poverty⁹¹.
- ii. Iraq: Rising temperatures, dwindling rainfall, and surging dust storms are wreaking havoc on land and water resources, with children particularly affected by lack of access to clean water⁹¹.
- iii. Somalia: Shifting rain patterns are leading to water scarcity and contributing to higher rates of clan violence and honor killings, particularly harming women⁹¹.

Governments and regional organizations report the complexity of addressing layered crises where climate impacts overlap with existing vulnerabilities⁹¹. Many conflict and displacement scenarios in Africa would likely be less severe without the compounding effects of climate change. Integrated policies that address climate adaptation, peace building, social protection, and economic diversification are necessary⁹¹.

Addressing the Challenge:

The following ways can be used to address climate change as a threat multiplier requires:

- i. Mitigation: Reducing greenhouse gas emissions to limit the severity of climate change⁹¹
- ii. Adaptation: Implementing measures to help communities adapt to the impacts of climate change, such as building climate-resilient infrastructure and developing drought-resistant crops⁹¹
- iii. Addressing Inequality: Tackling the underlying social, economic, and political factors that make certain populations more vulnerable to climate change⁹¹.
- iv. Conflict Prevention: Integrating climate considerations into peace building and stabilization efforts to prevent climate change from exacerbating existing conflicts⁹¹
- v. Community Engagement: Engaging communities in disaster risk management and planning to ensure that their needs and perspectives are taken into account⁹¹.

2.1.6.10 Impact of Population Growth on Climate Stress

Africa's population is rapidly growing, expected to double by 2050 to around 2.5 billion people⁹². This growth intensifies pressure on natural resources, urban infrastructure, and social services, exacerbating climate vulnerability⁹².

Population Growth and Climate Stress Linkages:

- i. Increased demand for water, land, and food strains ecosystems already stressed by climate change⁹².
- ii. Rapid urbanization fuels expansion of informal settlements in flood- and drought-prone areas, increasing risk exposure⁹².
- iii. Youth unemployment and poverty rates rise as economies struggle to provide jobs for expanding populations, increasing social instability linked to migration and conflict⁹².

- iv. Resource competition intensifies, especially in ecologically fragile regions like the Sahel, Lake Chad Basin, and coastal urban centers⁹².

Policy and Planning Challenges:

- i. Need for integrated demographic and climate planning to manage risks linked to population dynamics⁹².
- ii. Scaling up family planning, education, and economic opportunities to reduce vulnerability⁹².
- iii. Enhancing urban resilience through improved infrastructure and services⁹².
- iv. Strengthening rural development to reduce forced migration drivers⁹².

2.1.7 Nigeria and the African Union (AU)

2.1.7.1 Nigeria's Role in the Formation of the AU

Nigeria's dedication to African unity dates back to its independence in 1960 when it swiftly adopted a foreign policy focused on the continent⁹³. The country played a crucial role in establishing the Organization of African Unity (OAU) in 1963, which later evolved into the African Union (AU)⁹⁴. Nigerian leaders understood the significance of continental solidarity as a means to tackle shared challenges and pursue common objectives. Nigeria's contribution was guided by its vision of gradual socio-economic integration across Africa as a foundational step toward political union⁹³.

Nigeria's influence was clearly demonstrated at the preparatory conference in Lagos in January 1962, where the organizational framework of the OAU was deliberated upon⁹⁵. It championed the fight against colonialism and institutionalized racism within the OAU's structure⁹⁵. Nigeria's strong opposition to apartheid, influenced by its civil war experience,

deepened its commitment to Southern Africa's liberation⁹⁵. For example, Nigeria nationalized British Petroleum (BP) for supplying oil to South Africa, underscoring its firm stance against apartheid⁹⁵.

Furthermore, Nigeria took a leading position in the OAU's transformation into the African Union (AU)⁹³. President Olusegun Obasanjo emphasized that the AU's nature should be seen as a pursuit of socio-economic integration, which is essential for achieving political unity⁹³. In collaboration with South Africa, Nigeria helped develop the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), which was endorsed at the OAU summit in Lusaka, Zambia, in July 2001⁹³. The name NEPAD was proposed by Nigeria, which also introduced the African Peer Review Mechanism (APRM) to ensure peace and security measures in the new AU commission⁹³.

Nigeria's unwavering commitment to the AU is also reflected in its financial support⁹⁷. It remains one of the top five contributors to the AU's operational budget, granting it full voting rights and the ability to sponsor its nationals for key leadership roles⁹⁸. Nigeria's Afrocentric foreign policy has strongly driven its active involvement in peace and security initiatives across Africa⁹⁹.

The country's vision for the AU is firmly rooted in its belief in continental unity, peace, and development⁹³. Nigeria's leadership role within the AU balances its interests with the need for fairness among all African nations, promoting a cooperative and inclusive decision-making process⁹⁶. Overall, Nigeria's involvement in the AU is motivated by its enduring commitment to the continent's unity, peace, and gradual development process⁹³.

2.1.7.2 Nigeria's Participation in AU summits

Nigeria has consistently been an active participant in African Union (AU) summits, using these events as platforms to influence the AU's agenda and advance its interests on the global stage⁹⁵. President Muhammadu Buhari attended the 33rd Ordinary Session of the AU held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in 2020, where the focus was on "Silencing the Guns: Creating Conducive Conditions for Africa's Development"¹⁰⁰. More recently, President Bola Tinubu took part in the 38th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union (AU) Heads of State and Government in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, in February 2025¹⁰¹. At the 2025 AU summit, Nigeria's upported reforms aimed at revitalizing the AU's structure to enhance responsiveness to the needs of member states¹⁰². One key proposal from Nigeria was the creation of a Combined Maritime Task Force for the Gulf of Guinea, to be headquartered in Lagos¹⁰². Additionally, Nigeria's igned an agreement with the AU to provide Strategic Sea Lift Services supporting peace operations, natural disaster responses, humanitarian efforts, and personnel movement¹⁰².

Nigeria also secured the re-election of Ambassador Bankole Adeoye as the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security during the 38th AU summit¹⁰¹. It retained its seat on the AU's Peace and Security Council, reaffirming its dedication to continental peace and security¹⁰¹. President Tinubu emphasized the need for a structured, phased implementation system for AU reforms¹⁰¹. Throughout its participation in AU summits, Nigeria has addressed key priorities such as maintaining peace and security, combating terrorism and violent extremism, advancing economic development, asset recovery, and fighting corruption¹⁰⁰. Moreover, Nigeria has engaged in bilateral meetings with global leaders on the sidelines of these summits, strengthening diplomatic relationships and cooperation¹⁰⁰. Nigeria's consistent presence at these summits reinforces its commitment to multilateralism and the value of collective African action¹⁰³.

Nigeria's involvement in AU summits underscores its leadership in shaping the AU's policies and strategic priorities⁹⁵. Its interventions demonstrate a firm commitment to fostering peace, security, and development on the continent¹⁰². Nigeria's participation is deeply rooted in its Afrocentric foreign policy and its resolve to contribute meaningfully to Africa's unity and progress⁹⁹.

2.1.7.3 Trade Relations between Nigeria and AU Member States

Nigeria's trade relations with other African Union (AU) member states constitute a vital part of its broader economic cooperation goals within the continent¹⁰⁴. Nigeria plays a leading role in advancing the African Continental Free Trade Agreement (AfCFTA), a flagship initiative designed to promote African economic integration through strengthened trade and partnerships¹⁰². Nigeria remains a steadfast advocate for the economic empowerment of African countries by actively engaging in the AfCFTA and lobbying for its effective implementation⁹⁵. The Nigeria-Niger Joint Commission for Cooperation, established in 1971, has further enhanced bilateral collaboration encompassing trade, industry, culture, education, and political relations¹⁰⁴. The primary objective of Nigeria's trade relations with AU member states is to bolster intra-African trade and investment, utilizing the AfCFTA framework to expand exchange with other African nations¹⁰⁴. Nigeria's robust economic growth positions it as a major contributor to the potential of intra-African trade, given its status as one of Africa's economic powerhouses with significant capacity to support development efforts⁹⁵. Nigeria has also been active in championing specific initiatives aimed at fostering economic development and continent-wide integration⁹³.

Nigeria exports a range of goods to AU member states, including crude oil, wood, and textile machinery parts¹⁰⁵. The country is strongly focused on diversifying its economy by boosting trade in non-oil products across Africa¹⁰⁴. Partnering closely with the AU, Nigeria's upports

efforts to transform and rejuvenate agriculture while increasing food production via the Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Programme (CAADP) ¹⁰⁶. In addition to trade, Nigeria's engagement includes infrastructure initiatives such as the Kano-Maradi railway project, the Zinder refinery project, and the Trans-Sahara gas pipeline project¹⁰⁴. These joint ventures are expected to enhance trade flows, attract investment, improve energy supply, and foster regional integration with neighboring countries¹⁰⁴. Nigeria's dedication to regional integration is further reflected in its efforts to harmonize trade and economic policies in line with other AU member states¹⁰⁴.

Overall, Nigeria's trade relations within the AU framework are critical for driving economic growth, reducing poverty, and promoting regional integration across Africa¹⁰⁴. Its active participation in the AfCFTA and commitment to regional infrastructure projects underscore its strong determination to deepen economic ties with other African states⁹⁵. By prioritizing economic diversification and increasing trade in non-oil sectors, Nigeria aims to further strengthen its economic cooperation with AU member countries¹⁰⁴.

2.1.7.4 Nigeria's Role in AU Peacekeeping Missions

Nigeria has consistently been a central and influential participant in African Union (AU) peacekeeping missions, clearly demonstrating its strong and unwavering commitment to maintaining peace and security throughout the African continent¹⁰³. Its Afrocentric foreign policy has been a major driving force behind Nigeria's active engagement in peacekeeping operations in numerous African countries⁹⁹. Over the years, Nigeria has contributed a wide range of personnel, including troops, police officers, and civilian experts, to more than 40 peacekeeping missions organized by the United Nations (UN), the Organization of African Unity (OAU)/African Union (AU), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)¹⁰³. Nigeria has not only played leading military roles but also diplomatic and

mediation efforts aimed at supporting and restoring peace in conflict-affected nations such as the Congo, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Sudan⁹⁹.

Nigeria's involvement in AU peacekeeping missions is comprehensive, including the deployment of armed military contingents, unarmed military observers, military staff officers, formed police units, and police advisors¹⁰³. Nigeria has further demonstrated leadership by providing senior civilian officials to several of these missions⁹⁹. Its participation in peacekeeping operations, however, has come at a significant human and material cost, reflecting the challenges and sacrifices Nigeria has endured¹⁰³. Its commitment to peacekeeping dates back to 1963 when Nigeria first sent troops on a peacekeeping mission to the Congo¹⁰⁷. The motivation behind Nigeria's pivotal role in AU peacekeeping is deeply rooted in its firm dedication to the unity, peace, and sustainable development of the African continent⁹³. Nigeria has been among the top contributors of military personnel and resources for ECOWAS peace operations, having contributed billions of dollars towards missions in countries such as Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, and Sierra Leone²⁸. Moreover, Nigeria's commitment to peacekeeping is also evident through its robust support for the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) framework¹⁰⁸.

Nigeria has also played a distinguished role in conflict mediation, frequently chairing the AU's Peace and Security Council⁹³. Its peacekeeping efforts in Sudan have specifically targeted the restoration of peace in Darfur and the maintenance of stability in South Sudan⁹⁹. Nigeria has also actively supported peace negotiations between various rebel groups and the Sudanese government⁹⁹. Despite these efforts, Nigeria's peacekeeping missions have encountered numerous challenges, including casualties among troops, financial constraints, and inadequate equipment⁹⁹. Nigeria's ongoing participation in AU peacekeeping missions underscores its prominent leadership role in Africa and its steadfast commitment to ensuring peace and security across the continent¹⁰³. The country's peacekeeping endeavors have

significantly contributed to lowering tensions, facilitating the delivery of humanitarian relief, enhancing the security of vulnerable civilians, and influencing peace negotiations in conflict-affected regions⁹⁹. Ultimately, Nigeria's dedication to peacekeeping is fueled by its strong belief in the necessity of collective action and its desire to build a stable, prosperous Africa⁹³.

2.1.7.5 Nigeria's Contributions to African Arts and Culture within the AU Framework

Nigeria's cultural influence extends well beyond its national borders, making remarkable and meaningful contributions to African arts and culture within the African Union (AU) framework⁹⁴. Nigeria has expertly harnessed its soft power by cultivating artistic cultural exchanges and collaborative projects, thereby weaving intricate and lasting cultural connections with many other African countries⁹⁵. This form of cultural diplomacy has greatly enriched the unique mosaic of African peoples by fostering greater unity and mutual support across the continent⁹⁵.

Nigeria's cultural contributions manifest vividly in various creative fields including music, literature, fashion, and other artistic expressions⁹⁵. Nigerian artists and cultural ambassadors have played instrumental roles in elevating African culture on the global stage⁹⁵. The country has actively engaged in AU cultural programs and initiatives specifically designed to encourage cultural exchange, cross-cultural understanding, and solidarity among African nations⁹⁵. Nigeria's cultural institutions such as the National Institute for Cultural Orientation (NICO) have partnered with the AU to promote indigenous Nigerian languages and cultural heritage⁹⁵. The influence of Nigeria's culture has been integral to nurturing a sense of unity and a shared identity among Africans, thereby aligning closely with the AU's objectives of integration and cooperation⁹⁵. Nigeria's commitment to cultural exchange is further reflected in its steadfast support for initiatives that preserve and promote African languages, traditions, and historical heritage¹⁰⁴. Furthermore, Nigeria's cultural contributions have played a crucial

role in challenging negative stereotypes about Africa and showcasing the vast richness and diversity of the continents cultures.

Within the AU framework, Nigeria's role in promoting African arts and culture is indispensable for strengthening cultural bonds and nurturing a collective Pan-African spirit⁹⁵. Nigeria's cultural diplomacy has not only bridged gaps between African countries but has also promoted mutual understanding, respect, and solidarity⁹⁵. This dedication to cultural exchange is motivated by Nigeria's firm belief in the power of culture as a fundamental instrument for fostering peace, unity, and sustainable development on the continent¹⁰⁴. Nigeria's significant contributions to African arts and culture stand as a testament to its rich cultural heritage and unwavering commitment to the promotion of African unity and identity⁹⁵. Its cultural influence has helped shape the AU's cultural agenda and amplified the continents cultural diversity on the global stage. Nigeria's continued support for cultural exchange and cooperation remains vital for building an integrated, harmonious, and prosperous Africa⁹⁵.

2.1.7.6 Nigeria's Involvement in AU Health Programs

Nigeria has been actively engaged in a wide range of African Union (AU) health programs, clearly demonstrating its deep commitment to improving healthcare outcomes not only within its own borders but across the entire African continent⁹³. In recognition of Nigeria's leadership in the health sector, President Bola Tinubu has been appointed as the AU Champion for Human Resources for Health and Community Health Delivery Partnership, underscoring the country's pivotal role in continental health initiatives⁹⁴. Nigeria's involvement encompasses efforts to combat infectious diseases, enhance access to essential healthcare services, and strengthen health systems throughout the region⁹⁴.

Under President Tinubu's administration, Nigeria is attracting significant global investments aimed at upgrading the country's health infrastructure, acquiring state-of-the-art medical equipment, and developing world-class healthcare workforce capacity⁹³. These efforts are directed toward making healthcare more accessible, affordable and of higher quality for all Nigerians, regardless of their socio-economic status⁹⁵. Among these initiatives, the Nigeria Health Sector Renewal Investment Initiative (NHSRII) stands out as a pioneering program designed to improve health outcomes on a large scale⁹⁵. Nigeria is committed to training frontline health workers, expanding the availability of primary health facilities, and improving healthcare access for every citizen⁹³.

Nigeria is actively working to expand primary healthcare services, enhance national health insurance coverage, and promote the immunization of girls against human papilloma virus (HPV) ⁹⁶. Moreover, the country is increasing its health workforce quotas to train more nurses, pharmacists, medical students, and laboratory scientists⁹⁶. Nigeria has also introduced policies to raise the retirement age for skilled health professionals from 60 to 65 years, which will help retain experienced workers longer⁹⁶. These efforts are aligned with the AU's vision of deploying 2 million Community Health Workers (CHWs) by the year 2030⁹⁷. In addition to its ongoing programs, Nigeria has played a significant role in responding to health emergencies such as the Ebola and COVID-19 outbreaks, working closely with the AU and other international partners to contain and manage the spread of these diseases⁹⁴. Nigeria is committed to promoting peer learning among African countries and advocating for collaborative approaches to achieve the AU's health-related goals⁹⁷. The country is actively urging African nations to institutionalize the role of health workers, recognizing them as critical agents in delivering essential healthcare services⁹⁷.

Nigeria's involvement in AU health programs is essential not only for improving the health and well-being of its own population but also for contributing to the broader health

improvements across Africa⁹³. The leadership Nigeria has demonstrated in the health sector reflects its strong dedication to Pan-African ideals and its vision for a healthier and more prosperous Africa⁹³. Through ongoing collaboration with the AU and various development partners, Nigeria is playing a vital role in addressing complex health challenges on the continent and advancing towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ⁹⁴.

2.1.7.7 Critiques of Nigeria's Leadership Role in the AU

While Nigeria has undeniably played a prominent and influential role within the African Union (AU), its leadership has not been without critiques and challenges⁹⁵. Some observers argue that Nigeria's domestic challenges, including persistent corruption, ongoing security problems, and political instability, have at times undermined its ability to fully focus on and effectively pursue its continental ambitions⁹⁵. There are also concerns among some member states and analysts that Nigeria's leadership within the AU may occasionally lack sufficient balance and equitable consideration of the interests of other African countries⁹⁵. Furthermore, some commentators have suggested that Nigeria's influence within the AU has diminished somewhat in recent years¹⁰⁸.

Nigeria's reliance on foreign aid and military assistance to address internal security threats has led to questions regarding its sovereignty and capacity for regional leadership¹⁰⁹. The economic burdens imposed by ongoing conflicts and security concerns have caused certain countries in the region to doubt Nigeria's sustained ability to lead efforts against terrorism¹⁰⁹. Additionally, issues such as corruption, recurring human rights abuses, and protracted conflicts have negatively impacted Nigeria's international reputation and standing¹⁰⁹. Critics have also argued that Nigeria's emphasis on prioritizing its national interests can sometimes overshadow its commitment to the collective goals and unity of the AU⁹⁵. There are

perceptions among some AU member states that Nigeria's leadership style can appear domineering or paternalistic, which can cause friction within the union⁹⁵. Moreover, despite Nigeria's considerable financial and troop contributions to the AU, some analysts note that these efforts have not always resulted in tangible or proportional benefits for Nigeria itself⁹⁵.

Even Nigeria's significant contributions to peacekeeping have faced serious challenges, including the loss of troops, financial constraints, and inadequate equipment⁹⁹. The ongoing Boko Haram insurgency has further exposed vulnerabilities in Nigeria's security apparatus and has raised serious questions about its capacity to effectively confront regional security threats¹⁰⁹. These realities highlight the critical need for Nigeria to reconcile its leadership aspirations with the difficult practicalities of domestic challenges and to address the legitimate concerns of other AU member states⁹⁵.

The critiques directed at Nigeria's leadership role within the African Union emphasize the inherent complexities of navigating regional politics and underscore the importance of effectively tackling internal problems in order to maintain credibility and influence on the continental stage⁹⁵. Nigeria's ability to respond constructively to these critiques and to demonstrate a genuine dedication to the collective interests of the AU will be essential for sustaining its leadership position in the future⁹⁵. Achieving a balanced leadership approach, which respects and incorporates the equitable considerations of other African nations, will be crucial for fostering a harmonious, inclusive, and effective decision-making environment within the AU⁹⁵.

2.1.7.7 Challenges Facing Nigeria-AU Relations

Nigeria-AU relations encounter several significant challenges that can potentially affect the effectiveness of their cooperation and impede the achievement of their shared objectives⁹⁵. One of the primary obstacles lies in the implementation of AU policies and resolutions at the

national level, which is often hampered by a lack of political will and insufficient commitment from member states¹⁰⁴. Furthermore, political instability and insecurity in certain African countries represent serious threats to the continental integration process and the broader goals of the AU¹⁰⁴. Another challenge is the underdevelopment of infrastructure and limited connectivity between Nigeria and other AU member states, which restricts trade flows and economic integration¹⁰⁴. The recent resurgence of military coups in West Africa poses a grave threat to integration efforts and undermines the AU's objectives. Regional security challenges, particularly the Boko Haram insurgency and related conflicts, strain Nigeria's relations with its neighbors and divert crucial resources away from development efforts¹⁰⁹.

Asymmetrical power dynamics and relationships among African countries also present barriers to effective continental integration⁹³. Additionally, the high levels of corruption among some African leaders undermine integrative initiatives and institutional mechanisms designed to promote unity and development across the continent⁹³. Nigeria, in particular, faces the ongoing challenge of balancing its leadership ambitions with the need to respect the equitable interests and perspectives of other African nations⁹⁵. The African Union's reliance on external funding sources limits its autonomy and overall influence, often making the organization vulnerable to the priorities and interests of donor countries⁹⁸. Institutional weaknesses and bureaucratic inefficiencies within the AU hamper its capacity to implement policies and programs effectively¹⁰⁴. There is a critical need for greater coordination, synergy, and collaboration among the various organs and departments of the AU to enhance organizational efficiency and output⁹⁸.

Addressing these multifaceted challenges requires a stronger political will from member states, increased intra-African trade, substantial improvements in infrastructure, and the promotion of cultural ties and solidarity among African peoples¹⁰⁴. Nigeria and the AU must

collaborate closely to overcome these obstacles and drive the regional integration agenda forward¹⁰⁴. Nigeria's success in tackling its domestic challenges and demonstrating a sincere commitment to the AU's collective interests will be vital for strengthening its partnership and influence within the organization⁹⁵.

2.1.7.8 Nigeria's Vision for the AU in the Next Decade

Nigeria's vision for the African Union (AU) over the next decade is fundamentally focused on enhancing the organization's capacity to confront the numerous challenges facing the African continent while simultaneously promoting its integration and inclusive development¹⁰². Nigeria envisions a more dynamic, viable, and responsive AU one that is fully capable of addressing the rapidly evolving socio-economic realities at the global level¹⁰². Central to this vision is an AU that takes a more proactive role in fostering peace and security, swiftly resolving conflicts, and preventing the rise and spread of violent extremism¹⁰³.

Nigeria intends to collaborate closely with other AU member states to deepen economic integration, significantly boost intra-African trade, and vigorously promote sustainable development initiatives¹⁰⁴. The country seeks an AU that is more effective in championing good governance, strengthening democratic institutions, and upholding human rights throughout the continent¹⁰⁴. Additionally, Nigeria aspires toward an AU that is highly responsive to the needs and aspirations of its citizens, particularly in critical sectors such as health, education, and social welfare¹¹⁰.

Strengthening the AU's institutional frameworks and mechanisms is a priority for Nigeria, with the aim of enhancing the organization's ability to implement its policies and programs more efficiently¹⁰⁴. Nigeria also envisions an AU that is more successful in mobilizing resources and attracting investment to support its ambitious development agenda¹⁰². Ultimately, Nigeria imagines an AU with increased influence on the global stage, better

representing Africa's interests and advocating for a more just, equitable, and multipolar world order¹⁰².

This vision is deeply rooted in Nigeria's commitment to Pan-African ideals and its firm belief in the importance of collective action to tackle the continent's pressing challenges¹⁰². Nigeria aims to work hand-in-hand with other AU member states to build a more united, peaceful, and prosperous Africa¹⁰². Nigeria's leadership within the AU will be instrumental in realizing this vision and ensuring that the organization effectively serves the needs and aspirations of the African people¹⁰².

Moreover, Nigeria's vision aligns closely with the AU's Agenda 2063, which sets forth ambitions for a prosperous and fully integrated Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development¹⁰⁴. This commitment is further demonstrated through Nigeria's consistent efforts to promote good governance, democracy, and human rights across the continent¹⁰². As such, Nigeria's leadership role will be crucial not only for achieving this vision but also for enhancing the AU's capacity to deliver tangible and positive outcomes for African citizens¹⁰².

There exist numerous potential areas where Nigeria and the African Union (AU) could enhance their collaboration to strengthen their partnership and accelerate the continent's overall development¹⁰⁴. A key area is peace and security, where Nigeria and the AU can jointly work towards preventing and resolving conflicts, combating terrorism and violent extremism, and fostering stability across Africa¹⁰⁸. Economic integration is another critical domain for collaboration, with a focus on boosting intra-African trade, encouraging investment, and developing regional infrastructure that facilitates connectivity and growth¹⁰⁴.

2.2 Theoretical Review

2.2.1 Securitization Theory

This study will utilize the Securitization theory as a paradigmatic lens to elucidate the diplomatic stratagems employed by the African Union in navigating the existential threat posed by climate change, spanning the period from 2015 to 2024. By operationalizing this theoretical framework, the research seeks to provide a nuanced explication of the ways in which the African Union has constructed and responded to climate change as a security issue, thereby shedding light on the attendant implications for regional security dynamics and cooperative endeavors.

The world confronts a multifaceted and always changing spectrum of threats, including pandemics, climate change, cyber-attacks, and economic instability. Conventional security studies, centered on military threats and nation-states, find it challenging to comprehensively understand these intricate weaknesses. Securitization theory is propounded by Ole Wæver, and it serves as a potent instrument, providing a dynamic and critical perspective to traverse this evolving environment¹⁰⁸. Securitization fundamentally analyses the transformation of commonplace concerns into existential threats. A sudden event such as a flood, disease-outbreak, or economic catastrophe, when perceived as a significant threat to a community, lifestyle, or humanity elicits exceptional responses that surpass standard procedures. This process, as examined by Wæver, exhibits notable parallels to the manner in which armed forces react to adversarial threats¹⁰⁹.

Originating from the Copenhagen Peace Research Institute in 1985, the Copenhagen School of Security Studies stated that success of security depends on persuading an audience; the interaction between the performer and the audience establishes the urgency and perceived reality of the danger¹¹⁰. It also examined "regional security complexes" to understand how governments within a region interact, influencing collective perceptions of dangers and

potentially securitising specific concerns within that context¹¹¹. Despite being regarded as the "first generation" of securitization theory, the Copenhagen School continues to thrive and develop. Their focus on language and social construction illuminated new avenues for comprehending the formation and contestation of security in the contemporary interconnected world¹¹².

The Copenhagen School, led by researchers such as Buzan, Wæver, and de Wilde, has instigated a transformative movement in the field of international security. Their theory of securitization contests the conventional perception of security as a concrete threat, proposing instead that it is a performative act. It is not solely about what existing, but rather how we articulate it. Introduce the notion of speech acts, drawing extensively upon J.L. Austin's linguistic philosophy¹¹³. Ole Wæver, a prominent person in the field, articulately encapsulated the heart of this paradigm shift: "What truly defines "Is this a security issue?" he enquired, emphasising the shortcomings of conventional analysis. His response resides in the transforming capacity of language. By articulating "security," Wæver contends, we raise a problem beyond basic concern to a issue of existential peril, warranting exceptional actions. Consider it a performative act, akin to a declaration of war or a marriage vow - the act itself alters the dynamics¹¹⁴.

The Efficacy of De-Securitization

The Copenhagen School's securitization theory, emphasizing the construction of risks through "moves," provides a compelling framework for analyzing security environments. Initially, it concentrated predominantly on the process of securitization, neglecting the examination of the transition back to "normal" politics. Desecuritization emerges here as the essential component in the Copenhagen School's framework. Desecuritization reverses the narrative. It demonstrates how "securitized" matters can be "deconstructed" and reintegrated

into the domain of conventional politics. It elucidates the processes that oppose extraordinary measures and reaffirm the significance of communication and compromise. Examining desecuritization provides understanding of mechanisms that contest securitized assertions, including revealing factual mistakes, emphasizing alternate interpretations, or permitting fears to diminish¹¹⁵. Ultimately, desecuritization enhances the Copenhagen School's framework significantly. Comprehending both securitization and its reversal enhances our grasp of the fluidity and contestability of security narratives¹¹⁶.

By incorporating desecuritization, the Copenhagen School's paradigm transforms from a unilateral approach to a bilateral one, providing a more profound comprehension of the intricate interplay between security and politics in our dynamic environment¹¹⁷. Securitization theory offers a compelling framework for examining the transformation of ordinary issues into pressing security concerns that necessitate exceptional responses. This paper applies this theoretical lens to the Analysis of Diplomatic Strategies of the African Union's Role in Addressing Climate Change as a Security Threat, spanning the period from 2015 to 2024.

By adopting the Securitization Theory, this study aims to illuminate the complex dynamics underlying the African Union's efforts to frame climate change as a security issue, and the resultant implications for regional peace and stability. Through this theoretical prism, the research will investigate how the African Union has employed diplomatic strategies to securitize climate change, the responses it has elicited from member states and international partners, and the consequences of this securitization for addressing the security threats posed by climate change in Africa¹¹⁸.

The African Union's initiatives to confront climate change as a security concern constitute a vital component of its diplomatic tactics to foster peace and stability in Africa. This analysis utilizes Securitization Theory to elucidate the intricate interplay between

climate change and security in Africa, thereby enhancing comprehension of the African Union's involvement in tackling this pressing concern¹¹⁹. Securitization, in relation to climate change, entails characterizing climate change as a security danger necessitating immediate attention and collaborative action¹²⁰. The African Union's efforts to securitize climate change are rooted in the recognition that climate change poses a significant threat to peace and security in Africa. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and increased frequency of extreme weather events are exacerbating existing conflicts and creating new ones. For example, in the Sahel region, climate change has led to competition for scarce resources, such as water and land, which has fueled tensions between pastoralists and farmers¹²¹.

By categorizing climate change as a security concern, the African Union has validated its involvement in mitigating this threat and garnered international backing for its initiatives. This has resulted in heightened collaboration among African nations and foreign allies, improved climate governance, and strengthened security and stability in Africa¹²². The constraints of the Securitisation Theory in this context underscore the necessity for a more sophisticated comprehension of the securitization process. By situating the theory within the distinct historical, political, and social framework of the African Union, academics can attain a more profound comprehension of its practical application and pinpoint areas necessitating adaptation or modification. A comprehensive understanding of the securitisation process can enhance the development of effective measures to address the security ramifications of climate change in Africa¹²³.

The subject of the Analysis of Diplomatic Strategies of the African Union's Role in Addressing Climate Change as a Security Threat, 2015-2024, is intricately connected to the Copenhagen School's perspective on securitization. The African Union's initiative to characterize climate change as a security threat exemplifies securitization, wherein an issue is

depicted as an existential danger to a certain group or community, prompting the implementation of emergency steps to mitigate it¹²⁴. The AU's initiatives to tackle climate change as a security challenge must be based on a sophisticated comprehension of the intricate dynamics involved¹²⁵.

In conclusion, the African Union's involvement in mitigating climate change as a security danger is a vital component of its initiatives to foster peace and security in Africa. The African Union has legitimized its involvement in combating climate change through its securitization, hence garnering international backing for its initiatives. By tackling the security ramifications of climate change, the African Union is fostering improved security and stability in Africa, so advancing a more peaceful and prosperous future for its populace.

2.3 Review of Empirical Studies

Climate change has emerged as a significant threat to global security, with far-reaching implications for peace, stability, and development. Empirical studies have explored the complex relationships between climate change, diplomacy, and security, providing valuable insights into the challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. This essay reviews the existing literature on climate change, diplomacy, and security, analyzing the key findings and implications for policymakers.

Research has consistently shown that climate change poses significant risks to global security. Rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and increased frequency of extreme weather events can exacerbate existing tensions, leading to conflicts over resources, territory, or ideology. Climate change can also have devastating impacts on human security, threatening access to basic needs like food, water, and energy. For example, droughts and famines can lead to social unrest, displacement, and migration, while sea-level rise can

threaten the very existence of low-lying countries. Understanding these security risks is crucial for developing effective climate diplomacy and security strategies.

Climate diplomacy plays a vital role in addressing the security implications of climate change. International cooperation among nation-states and non-state actors is essential for mitigating the effects of climate change and adapting to its impacts. Climate diplomacy involves navigating the complex interface between national interests and international cooperation, requiring policymakers to balance competing priorities and interests. Effective climate diplomacy also involves engaging non-governmental and sub-state actors in decision-making processes, recognizing the critical role they play in implementing climate policies and promoting sustainable development¹²⁶.

Despite the importance of climate change research for informing policy decisions, there is a significant gap between research and policy. Scientists and researchers often struggle to communicate their findings effectively to policymakers, while policymakers may not fully appreciate the complexity and uncertainty of climate change. Bridging this gap is essential for developing evidence-based policies that address the security implications of climate change. Researchers must prioritize policy-relevant research, while policymakers must create an enabling environment for research to inform policy decisions.

Several initiatives and organizations are working to address the security implications of climate change. For example, the Adelphi and UN organizations have developed a self-paced course on climate change, peace, and security, aimed at building the capacity of policymakers and practitioners. The International Institute for Strategic Studies has also been at the forefront of discussions on climate diplomacy and security, providing valuable insights and analysis on the complex relationships between climate change, diplomacy, and security¹²⁷.

The African Union's (AU) efforts to address climate change as a security threat through diplomatic strategies have been multifaceted and ambitious. A comprehensive review of empirical studies on the AU's role in this area reveals a complex and dynamic landscape of challenges, opportunities, and lessons learned. At the heart of the AU's approach is the Common African Position on Climate Change, Peace, and Security (CAP-CPS), which aims to unify African voices on climate, peace, and security issues in multilateral processes. This framework has been instrumental in solidifying the role of African negotiators in climate negotiations and promoting a coordinated African response to climate-related security risks. The AU's diplomatic strategies have focused on promoting conflict-sensitive climate adaptation, comprehensive strategies and policies, and strengthening adaptation and climate, peace, and security capacities. For instance, the Africa Climate Security Risk Assessment (ACRA) provides a comprehensive analysis of climate-related security risks across the continent, highlighting the need for early warning systems, emergency response plans, and climate-resilient infrastructure¹²⁸.

However, the AU's efforts are not without challenges. Governance and fragility are significant obstacles in addressing climate-related security risks, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected states. The AU has also emphasized the need for effective management of natural resources to prevent conflicts and promote sustainable development. Furthermore, adequate climate financing is essential to support member states in addressing climate-related security risks. To overcome these challenges, the AU should prioritize developing and institutionalizing coordinated responses to climate-related security risks. This includes strengthening climate security leadership within the organization and member states, fostering partnerships with international organizations, civil society, and the private sector, and leveraging resources and expertise to support climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts¹²⁸.

Ultimately, the AU's diplomatic strategies on climate change as a security threat are critical to promoting peace, security, and sustainable development in Africa. By building on existing strengths and addressing key challenges, the AU can play a leadership role in shaping the global response to climate change and promoting a more secure and prosperous future for African citizens. The AU's experience highlights the importance of a comprehensive and coordinated approach to addressing climate-related security risks. By prioritizing conflict-sensitive climate adaptation, comprehensive strategies and policies, and strengthening adaptation and climate, peace, and security capacities, the AU can help to build resilience and promote peace and security in the face of climate change¹²⁸.

Moreover, the AU's efforts underscore the need for effective international cooperation and partnerships to address the global nature of climate change. By working together with international organizations, civil society, and the private sector, the AU can leverage resources and expertise to support climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts and promote a more secure and prosperous future for Africa. Future research should focus on understanding the inter-linkages between climate change, development, and human security. This requires exploring the complex relationships between climate change, poverty, inequality, and social instability, as well as identifying effective strategies for building resilience in the face of climate change. Research should also prioritize policy-relevant findings, recognizing the critical role that research can play in informing policy decisions and promoting sustainable development¹²⁸.

The AU's diplomatic strategies on climate change as a security threat are a critical component of the organization's efforts to promote peace, security, and sustainable development in Africa. By building on existing strengths and addressing key challenges, the AU can play a leadership role in shaping the global response to climate change and promoting a more secure and prosperous future for African citizens. In conclusion, the

intersection of climate change, diplomacy, and security is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires a comprehensive and integrated approach. Empirical studies have provided valuable insights into the security risks posed by climate change, the importance of climate diplomacy, and the need to bridge the research-policy gap. As policymakers and practitioners, we must prioritize evidence-based policies, international cooperation, and multi-stakeholder engagement to address the security implications of climate change and promote sustainable development¹²⁹.

2.4 Conceptual Framework

The conceptual framework for this study illustrates the relationships between the variables that influence the African Union's diplomatic strategies in addressing climate change as a security threat. The framework consists of the following components:

Independent Variable: Climate Change as a Security Threat

- Climate change poses significant security threats to African countries, including rising temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and increased frequency of extreme weather events.

Dependent Variable: Diplomatic Strategies of the African Union

- The African Union's diplomatic strategies refer to the organization's approaches and actions taken to address climate change as a security threat, including negotiation, cooperation, and advocacy.

Moderating Variables:

- i. International Cooperation: The level of cooperation between the African Union and international organizations, such as the United Nations, influences the effectiveness of diplomatic strategies.
- ii. National Capacity: The capacity of African countries to address climate change, including their economic, institutional, and technological capabilities, affects the success of diplomatic strategies.
- iii. Regional Context: The regional context, including the level of conflict, economic development, and environmental degradation, influences the nature and effectiveness of diplomatic strategies.

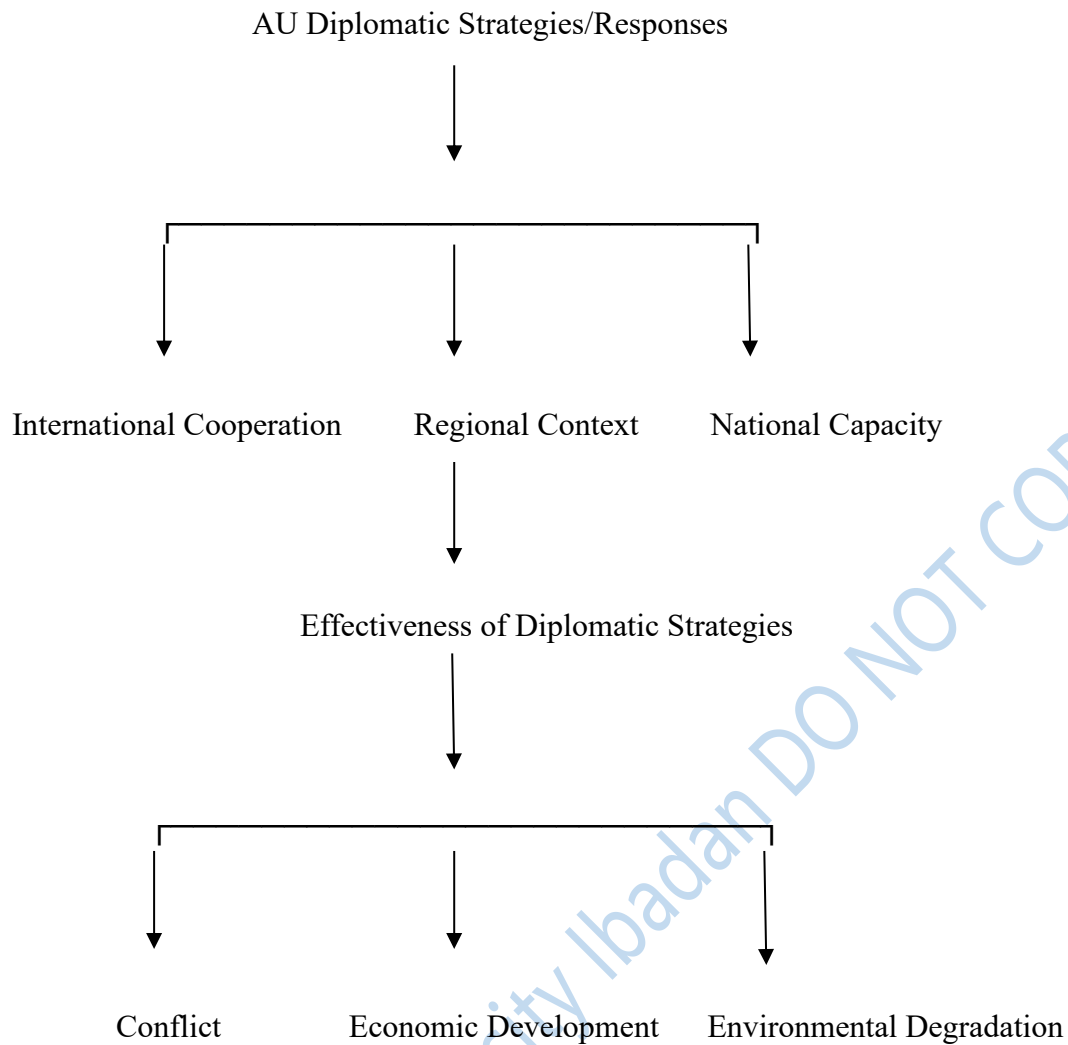
Relationships between Variables:

- The African Union's diplomatic strategies are influenced by the severity of climate change as a security threat.
- The effectiveness of diplomatic strategies is moderated by international cooperation, national capacity, and regional context.
- The relationships between these variables are complex and dynamic, requiring a nuanced understanding of the African Union's diplomatic strategies in addressing climate change as a security threat.

Fig. 2.4. Graphic Representation of Relationships between Variables:

Climate Change as a Security Threat





Source: Author, 2025

2.5 Summary of Gaps in Literature Reviewed

The current literature about the African Union's (AU) role in mitigating climate change as a security hazard identifies multiple deficiencies that necessitate additional investigation. Despite an expanding corpus of study on climate change and security in Africa, further comprehensive investigation of the AU's diplomatic initiatives in tackling this issue is essential. There is a deficiency of thorough studies analyzing the AU's initiatives to confront climate change as a security challenge from 2015 to 2024.

A significant gap in the literature is the insufficient emphasis on the AU's diplomatic tactics for addressing climate change as a security concern. Although research exists on the AU's climate change policies and actions, further investigation is required into the precise diplomatic techniques utilised by the AU to tackle this matter. This entails analyzing the AU's collaboration with foreign partners, regional cooperation, and interactions with member states.

A notable deficiency in the research is the absence of analysis about the African Union's role in advancing climate security in Africa. Although studies exist about the effects of climate change on security in Africa, further research is necessary concerning the African Union's initiatives to mitigate these effects and enhance climate security. This entails analyzing the AU's efforts on climate change adaptation, mitigation, and resilience enhancement.

The research indicates a constrained comprehension of the AU's diplomatic initiatives in confronting climate change as a security concern. Further research is required on the African Union's diplomatic interactions with international partners, particularly the United Nations, European Union, and other regional organizations. This entails analyzing the AU's negotiation tactics, alliances, and cooperative efforts regarding climate change and security.

The literature about the African Union's involvement in mitigating climate change as a security threat indicates multiple gaps that necessitate additional research. The deficiencies encompass a narrow emphasis on diplomatic methods, insufficient consideration of the AU's role in climate security, and a constrained comprehension of the AU's diplomatic initiatives. Rectifying these deficiencies will yield a more thorough comprehension of the AU's initiatives to confront climate change as a security challenge and guide policy and practice in this domain.

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Chapter Three

Methodology

3.1 Research Design

This study adopts a qualitative research design, specifically a documentary research design, which is most appropriate for inquiries that rely exclusively on existing written records rather than field-based data collection. A qualitative approach allows for the interpretation of meanings, contexts, and patterns within texts, thereby facilitating a deeper understanding of the African Unions (AU) diplomatic strategies in addressing climate change as a security issue¹.

The documentary design emphasizes the use of published materials such as policy papers, communiqués, reports, journal articles, and international agreements. This design is justified because the subject under investigation, the AU's diplomatic response to climate change, has already been widely documented by the organization itself, scholars, and international agencies. Employing documentary analysis thus eliminates the need for direct contact with human participants, while still permitting an in-depth exploration of the AU's strategies, successes, and limitations¹.

Furthermore, the qualitative design enhances flexibility, enabling the researcher to analyze diverse perspectives, trace policy developments over time, and capture the complexity of diplomacy and security discourses². It is particularly suited for studies in International Relations where official records and scholarly works form the primary evidence base. Through this design, the study systematically interrogates how the AU has framed and implemented climate security strategies from 2015 to 2024².

3.2 Population of the Study

The population of this study comprises of all relevant published works and official documents relating to the African Union's diplomatic initiatives on climate change and security between 2015 and 2024. This includes AU communiqués, summit declarations, peace and Security Council reports, policy frameworks, and strategic plans. In addition, scholarly publications and analyses from reputable academic journals and international organizations form part of the population³. This study seeks to thoroughly grasp the African Union's diplomatic strategy for addressing climate change as a security issue by examining this demographic.

3.3 Sample and Sampling Technique

Given that the research relies exclusively on secondary data, no sampling procedure is required. Instead, emphasis is placed on the comprehensiveness of sources consulted, ensuring that only authoritative, credible, and thematically relevant documents are included in the review.

3.4 Description of Research Instrument

This study does not involve direct engagement with respondents; therefore, no field research instrument was designed. Instead, the research is anchored on existing published data.

3.5 Validity of Research Instrument

This study was carried out with no instrument administered on the field, so therefore, validity is not applicable.

3.6 Reliability of Research Instrument

This study was carried out with no instrument administered on the field, so therefore, validity is not applicable. Nevertheless, consistency in interpretation is maintained by adhering to a clear analytical framework, drawing on established literature, and triangulating findings across various sources. This approach minimizes researcher bias and enhances the dependability of conclusions⁴.

3.7 Data Collection

Data collection involved systematically identifying, accessing, and downloading relevant documents from official AU websites, databases of international organizations, and academic repositories. This process will be carefully documented to ensure transparency and replicability⁵.

3.8 Data Analysis

The analysis employed a descriptive and thematic approach, focusing on the identification of recurring themes, narratives, and patterns in the reviewed documents. Instead of treating the information as primary data, the analysis combines insights from published works to answer the research questions. Themes such as diplomatic strategies, partnerships, policy implementation, and challenges were identified and discussed. This approach provides a coherent narrative of the AU's role in climate diplomacy without overstating the interpretation of secondary materials.

3.9 Ethical Considerations

Although this study focuses on publicly available documents, ethical considerations are crucial. All sources are carefully cited to maintain academic integrity and prevent plagiarism. Interpretations of the data were aimed at achieving objectivity, recognizing any potential biases in the documents and transparently addressing any limitations⁶.

Endnotes

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Chapter Four

Results and Discussion of Findings

4.1 Demographic Data Analysis

The demographic data analysis within the context of the African Unions diplomatic strategies to address climate change as a security threat reveals several key insights:

Table 4.1: Categories and description of African Union diplomatic strategies¹

Category	Description
Climate Change Strategy	African Union's 10-year Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032)
Priority Areas	Enhancing Africa's response to climate impacts, ensuring low-carbon, climate-resilient growth
Transformative Pathways	8 pathways for sustainable development, including climate-resilient agriculture, energy, and infrastructure
Means of Implementation	Enhanced means of implementation, including climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building support
Regional Cooperation	Promoting regional cooperation and coordination to address climate-related challenges
Key Statistics	Africa contributes <4% of global emissions but is most impacted by climate change
Implications for Security	Climate change poses significant security risks to African

The demographic data analysis reveals several key insights that have significant implications for climate change and security in Africa. The region's predominantly young population, with a median age of 19.7 years, renders it more vulnerable to climate-related displacement and resource scarcity. This youthful demographic may face increased challenges in adapting to climate change, potentially leading to migration, social unrest, and conflict. The high population growth rate of 2.7% per annum further exacerbates the competition for resources, potentially leading to conflicts over access to land, water, and other essential resources. This demographic pressure can strain the region's resources, infrastructure, and social services, increasing the likelihood of instability and conflict.

Rapid urbanization, with an annual urban population growth rate of 3.4%, is also a significant concern. As people move to cities in search of better economic opportunities, urban resources and infrastructure may be strained, potentially leading to social unrest and instability. The influx of people into urban areas can also lead to increased competition for resources, housing, and services, further exacerbating social and economic tensions. The high proportion of the population reliant on climate-sensitive sectors, such as agriculture, which accounts for 40% of GDP, makes the region particularly vulnerable to climate-related impacts on livelihoods and food security. Climate change can lead to crop failures, reduced yields, and changed growing seasons, which can have devastating effects on agricultural productivity and food security, potentially leading to displacement, migration, and conflict.

The analysis also highlights the potential for resource-based conflicts and competition, particularly in areas with high population density and limited resources. For example, water scarcity in North Africa can lead to tensions and conflicts over access to this essential

resource. Similarly, climate-induced migration and displacement, estimated to affect 143 million people by 2050, can have significant security implications, including social unrest and conflict. The demographic data analysis underscores the need for the African Union to prioritize climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies that take into account the region's unique demographic challenges. By addressing these challenges, the African Union can promote stability, security, and sustainable development in the face of climate change.

The African Union's diplomatic strategies to address climate change as a security threat should prioritize several key areas. Firstly, conflict-sensitive adaptation is crucial, where adaptation strategies are designed to address the root causes of potential conflicts and target vulnerable populations. This approach would enable the African Union to proactively mitigate the impacts of climate change on security and stability. Furthermore, regional cooperation is essential in addressing climate-related challenges that transcend national borders. By fostering regional cooperation, the African Union can facilitate the sharing of knowledge, resources, and expertise to address common climate-related challenges and promote regional stability. In addition, effective resource management is critical in preventing resource-based conflicts, particularly in areas with high population density and limited resources.

Ensuring equitable access to resources would help to reduce tensions and promote stability, thereby enhancing the African Union's ability to address climate change as a security threat. By integrating demographic data analysis into its diplomatic strategies, the African Union can develop a more nuanced understanding of the complex relationships between climate change, population dynamics, and security. This would enable the organization to design more effective and targeted interventions, promoting inclusive and sustainable development and enhancing its ability to address the security implications of climate change.

4.2 Presentation of Data

Table 4.2 Demographic Indicators and Climate Security Implications in Africa²

Demographic Indicator	Description	Implications for Climate Change and Security
Age Structure	Predominantly young population (median age 19.7 years)	Higher vulnerability to climate-related displacement and resource scarcity
Population Growth	High population growth rates (2.7% annual growth rate)	Increased competition for resources and potential conflicts
Urbanization	Rapid urbanization (3.4% annual urban population growth rate)	Strain on urban resources and infrastructure, potential for social unrest
Climate-Sensitive Sectors	High proportion of population reliant on agriculture (40% of GDP)	Increased vulnerability to climate-related impacts on livelihoods and food security
Resource Scarcity	High population density in areas with limited resources (e.g., water scarcity in North Africa)	Potential for resource-based conflicts and competition
Migration Patterns	Climate-induced migration and displacement	Potential security implications,

(estimated 143 million	including social unrest and conflict
climate migrants by 2050)	

Analysis

The African Union's climate change strategy, as outlined in the 10-year Climate Change and Resilient Development Strategy and Action Plan (2022-2032), is a comprehensive and ambitious framework that aims to enhance Africa's response to climate impacts and promote low-carbon, climate-resilient growth. The strategy is built around several key components, including priority areas, transformative pathways, means of implementation, and regional cooperation. The priority areas of the strategy focus on enhancing Africa's response to climate impacts and ensuring low-carbon, climate-resilient growth. This is a critical aspect of the strategy, as climate change poses significant challenges to Africa's development and security. By prioritizing climate-resilient growth, the African Union is acknowledging the need to balance economic development with environmental sustainability and social justice.

The 8 transformative pathways for sustainable development outlined in the strategy provide a framework for implementing climate-resilient development in key sectors such as agriculture, energy, and infrastructure. These pathways are designed to support the transition to a low-carbon economy and promote sustainable development. For example, the pathway for climate-resilient agriculture could involve the adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, such as conservation agriculture and agro-forestry, which can help to improve crop yields and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The means of implementation, including climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building support, are critical for the successful implementation of the strategy. Climate finance is essential for supporting the transition to a low-carbon economy and promoting climate-resilient development. Technology transfer can help to support the adoption of climate-resilient technologies and practices, while capacity-building support can help to build the skills and knowledge of African countries to address climate change. Regional cooperation and coordination are also essential for addressing climate-related challenges that transcend national borders. The African Union's strategy recognizes the importance of regional cooperation and coordination in promoting climate-resilient development and addressing the security implications of climate change.

The statistics highlighted in the table are also noteworthy. The fact that Africa contributes less than 4% of global emissions but is most impacted by climate change is a stark reminder of the disproportionate impacts of climate change on the continent. This highlights the need for global cooperation and support to address the impacts of climate change on Africa. The security implications of climate change are also significant, and the African Union's strategy recognizes the need to address these risks and promote climate-resilient development. Climate change can exacerbate existing security challenges, such as conflict over resources, and can also create new security risks, such as climate-induced migration and displacement.

In conclusion, the African Union's climate change strategy is a comprehensive and ambitious framework that aims to enhance Africa's response to climate impacts and promote low-carbon, climate-resilient growth. The strategy recognizes the importance of addressing the security implications of climate change and promoting climate-resilient development. While there are challenges to implementing the strategy, including the need for climate finance, technology transfer, and capacity-building support, the African Union's efforts to

address climate change are critical for promoting sustainable development and security on the continent.

4.2.1 Research Questions

1. What diplomatic strategies has the African Union employed to address climate-related security challenges in Nigeria during 2015–2024?

The African Union has adopted a comprehensive diplomatic strategy to address Nigeria's pressing security issues associated with climate change. The primary rationale for this strategy is a comprehensive understanding of the interconnections among climate change, peace, and security. The African Union has demonstrated its commitment to addressing the root causes of climate-related instability by incorporating climate challenges into its peace and security strategies. A crucial aspect of this approach is being able to comprehend the impact of climate change on security concerns, particularly with employment, agriculture, and resource-related conflicts. The African Union's Peace and Security Council has emphasized the necessity of incorporating climate-related security risk assessments into its early warning systems. This would assist the organization in addressing potential conflicts beforehand and mitigate the adverse effects of climate change³.

The African Union's early warning systems, which account for the impacts of climate change, are crucial for identifying potential conflicts and preventing their occurrence. The organization has enhanced its capacity to address security issues related to climate change by advancing disaster preparedness and risk reduction programs at local, national, regional, and continental levels. The African Union aims to enhance its member states' capacity to confront climate change, particularly through integrated strategies that connect humanitarian and developmental concerns. The group aims to mitigate the adverse effects of climate change

and enhance environmental resilience and safety by promoting adaptive solutions and sustainable development practices⁴.

Collaboration and information exchange among regions are critical components of the African Union's strategy to address security challenges arising from climate change. The association has facilitated collaboration among member countries through the exchange of knowledge, experience, and resources. This has enhanced their overall response to the pressing issue of climate change. The Common African Position on Climate, Peace, and Security (CAP-CPS) exemplifies regional collaboration. This framework statement articulates a cohesive African position on the relationship between climate change, peace, and security. It provides member states with a framework for developing their own climate security initiatives. The CAP-CPS has enabled African nations to collaborate in addressing climate-related security challenges, ensuring a unified perspective on this critical matter.

The African Union has established numerous platforms for individuals to exchange their best practices and insights on adapting to and addressing climate change. The African Climate Policy Centre (ACPC) serves as a platform for information exchange, skill enhancement, and policy assessment about climate change. The ACPC has facilitated the formulation of national climate strategies and policies, in addition to regional initiatives such as the Climate Change and Development in Africa (CCDA) series. The Lake Chad Basin Commission (LCBC) is collaborating with neighboring countries to mitigate the security impacts of climate change in the Lake Chad basin. The LCBC has convened member governments to facilitate knowledge sharing, policy coordination, and collaborative projects that advance peace and sustainable development in the region. The LCBC's efforts have demonstrated the significance of regional collaboration in addressing security challenges linked to climate change. Its experiences may benefit analogous programs throughout the continent⁵.

The African Union's Climate Change and Security Program seek to enhance the resilience of African communities to security concerns linked to climate change. The effort addresses technical challenges, enhances capacity, and facilitates climate information services, early warning systems, and resilient infrastructure against climate change. The project has enabled regional economic groups and member nations to collaborate on a unified strategy to address security challenges associated with climate change. The African Union's focus on collaboration and information sharing has been crucial in enabling the continent to address climate-related security threats in a unified manner. The organization has equipped member nations with the necessary instruments to collaboratively address the pressing issue of climate change more effectively and sustainably through the dissemination of best practices, the establishment of unified views, and the promotion of knowledge exchange.

The African Union has diligently sought increased funding and assistance for developing nations to address climate change within the United Nations framework. Nigeria, as a member state, has reiterated its proposal, emphasizing the necessity for substantial financial resources to mitigate the impacts of climate change and to bolster initiatives for sustainable development. Climate change poses a significant threat to Nigeria's economy, ecology, and populace. The nation is experiencing severe challenges including as droughts, deserts, and flooding, resulting in food shortages, population displacement, and employment losses. The recurrent floods in Nigeria have resulted in total losses and damages amounting to \$16.9 billion.

The African Union and Nigeria have initiated several projects to assist individuals in adapting to and mitigating the impacts of climate change in response to these challenges. The African Union is spearheading the Great Green Wall initiative, which seeks to reforest 8,000 kilometers of damaged territory by 2030. This will assist in addressing drought, food insecurity, and migration issues. The Nigeria Erosion and Watershed Management Project

(NEWMAP) and the Agro-Climatic Resilience in Semi-Arid Landscapes (ACReSAL) initiative have been initiated to combat gully erosion, land degradation, and enhance climate resilience in northern Nigeria⁶.

Despite these endeavors, Nigeria continues to have significant challenges in securing climate finance. The government and corporate sector fail to contribute to the country's financial well-being. Rather, it depends significantly on international organizations. The absence of a universally agreed adaptation paradigm, coupled with insufficient political resolve, complicates effective responses to climate change. Communities are unable to secure financing, insurance, or guidance, so complicating their ability to address climate change. Nigeria must facilitate access to climate funds for communities, farmers, and small enterprises to address these issues. The government must enhance climate governance by formulating and implementing robust climate policies, frameworks, and institutions⁵. For climate action to be effective, it is essential to endorse community-driven adaptation efforts that prioritize local needs and objectives.

The African Union's Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP) is an innovative initiative that aims to allocate \$25 billion to assist Africa in adapting to climate change and enhancing its resilience. Nigeria may implement such strategies to address its climate change challenges. The African Union, Nigeria, and many nations globally may collaborate to acquire the resources and assistance necessary to mitigate the impacts of climate change and foster sustainable development in Nigeria. The African Union assists member nations in exchanging information on strategies to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change. It achieves this by promoting the dissemination of best practices and enhancing ability to bolster national resilience⁸. By providing member governments with essential knowledge and skills, the group has enhanced its collective response to climate-related security concerns.

The African Union has established a comprehensive diplomatic strategy to address Nigeria's pressing climate-related security issues from 2015 to 2024. The Great Green Wall project spearheads this initiative, which is a pan-African effort to combat desertification and promote sustainable development. The African Union has demonstrated its commitment to enhancing the continent's resilience to climate change, particularly Nigeria, by initiating this significant project. The African Union has collaborated with other organizations to create a comprehensive Africa Climate Security Risk Assessment (ACRA). This comprehensive analysis enhances our understanding of the intricate climate security challenges faced by Nigeria and other African nations⁹. The ACRA analysis elucidates these issues, so assisting policymakers and strategists in making fact-based decisions.

The African Union has urged African nations to collaborate in addressing the shared challenge of climate change. The association has facilitated knowledge exchange across African nations, enabling them to leverage their strengths through the sharing of best practices, experiences, and resources. This cooperative approach has been highly significant for making the continent's development more sustainable and its ability to deal with climate change stronger. The African Union has significantly contributed to raising awareness about the impact of climate change on security in Nigeria and other regions¹⁰. The group has emphasized the significance of addressing climate change, thereby garnering support for its inclusion in national security strategies. This lobbying initiative has positioned climate change as a security concern necessitating targeted solutions and strategic investments.

The African Union has significantly assisted Nigeria in establishing its climate change governance structure. The organization collaborated with the Nigerian government to establish a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) framework that delineates the country's adaptation objectives while ensuring alignment with its economic goals and conditions. This

tailored strategy has assisted Nigeria in addressing its distinct climatic challenges while fostering sustainable development.

The African Union has collaborated with international entities to get significant climate funds for Nigeria and other African nations. The Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAAP) and other initiatives have received substantial backing, indicating the organization's commitment to expediting climate adaptation across Africa. The AAAP program, with a substantial \$25 billion investment, aims to implement significant improvements to enhance environmental resilience¹¹. The African Union has emphasized the necessity for Nigeria to independently adapt to climate-related security challenges. The group advocates for a people-centered approach to climate change by prioritizing community-based adaptation, ensuring inclusivity, addressing gender considerations, and aligning responses with developmental objectives¹². This approach honours the autonomy and expertise of local communities, empowering them to spearhead their own adaptation initiatives and cultivate climate resilience from the grassroots level.

2. How effective have these diplomatic interventions been in reducing climate-induced conflicts within Nigeria?

The African Union's diplomatic efforts have demonstrated potential in mitigating climate-related conflicts in Nigeria; however their effectiveness remains under assessment. The AU's initiatives emphasize the integration of climate change considerations into peace and security frameworks, the formulation of comprehensive plans and strategies, and the enhancement of adaptive capacities to address climate change while maintaining peace and security.

The Great Green Wall Initiative is a significant undertaking that encompasses the entirety of Africa. Its objectives are to halt desertification, foster sustainable development,

and enhance the livelihoods of millions in the Sahel region. The African Union initiated this significant project in 2007¹³. By 2030, it seeks to rehabilitate 100 million hectares of degraded land, sequester 250 million tons of carbon, and generate 10 million green employment opportunities¹⁴.

The program's primary objectives are distinct. The objective is to restore degraded landscapes and enhance the quality of life for millions in the Sahel. The Great Green Wall Initiative aims to enhance land health and productivity to ensure that millions of individuals have increased access to food. The initiative seeks to enhance the region's resilience to climate change by creating 10 million green jobs in rural regions and providing economic possibilities to mitigate migration pressures¹⁵.

Significant advancements have been made since the commencement of the initiative. Over \$14 billion has been secured and pledged to support the initiative, encompassing 22 African nations. The Great Green Wall is merely 18% complete, having rehabilitated nearly 20 million hectares and generated 350,000 jobs. Nevertheless, only 4% of the objectives established for 2030 have been achieved¹⁶. Merely 4 million hectares have been rehabilitated out of an overarching objective of 100 million hectares. Certain nations, such as Nigeria, are incapable of executing the project. Nigeria has restored merely 2,801 hectares of its targeted 800,000 hectares, despite its ambitious objectives. This indicates the necessity for expedited action to achieve our objectives by 2030.

The Great Green Wall Initiative employs a community-centric strategy to ensure that projects are customized to the specific requirements of each locale. Employing integrated solutions for natural resource management enhances land management sustainability, thereby benefiting both human well-being and the environment¹⁷. The endeavour relies on assistance

from international collaborators, national administrations, and local communities, both financially and in cooperative efforts.

The Great Green Wall Initiative advocates for sustainable land management and reforestation, potentially mitigating tensions and disputes over natural resources exacerbated by climate change. As the project progresses, it is essential to address the issues and obstacles that have arisen, this will ensure that the project attains its utmost potential and fulfils its ambitious objectives¹⁸. The Great Green Wall Initiative has the potential to positively transform the Sahel region by fostering sustainable development, enhancing climatic resilience, and stimulating economic growth through diligent effort and commitment.

The African Union's Africa Climate Security Risk Assessment (ACRA) is an extensive research elucidating the interconnections among climate change, peace, and security in Africa. The analysis highlights critical concerns like as governance and instability, management of conflicts over natural resources, and the sustainability of livelihoods and poverty, all exacerbated by climate change. In Africa, inadequate governance and institutions can exacerbate climate-related security issues, particularly in nations lacking the means to address climate challenges. Climate change may exacerbate competition for natural resources such as water and land, perhaps resulting in conflicts among various groups. Climate change significantly affects individuals' lives, particularly in regions where agriculture and other climate-sensitive sectors are vital.

In Nigeria, climate change presents numerous security threats. The nation is significantly susceptible to climate change, evidenced by increasing temperatures, altered precipitation patterns, and more severe weather phenomena¹⁹. Climate change can exacerbate disputes over natural resources such as water and land, particularly in areas with few resources and inadequate infrastructure. Climate change significantly affects the lives of

individuals in Nigeria, particularly within the agricultural sector, which serves as a primary source of employment and income for numerous Nigerians.

Nigeria must enhance its governance structures and institutions to address these issues. Effective management of natural resources can mitigate conflicts over resources and promote sustainable growth. Moreover, promoting the diversification of livelihoods and the adoption of climate-resilient agricultural practices can enhance community resilience to climate change. The ACRA study provides policymakers, researchers, and practitioners with a robust basis for developing effective strategies to enhance Africa's climate resilience and security. The African Union may formulate specific strategies to address climate-related security concerns in Nigeria and other African nations if it comprehends the interconnections among climate change, peace, and security²⁰. Ultimately, governments, civil society, and international partners must collaborate to advance sustainable development, peace, and security in Africa to address these issues.

The Common African Position on Climate, Peace, and Security (CAP-CPS) framework illustrates the African perspective on the interconnectedness of climate change, peace, and security. This framework provides member countries with a mechanism to develop their own climate security strategies, facilitating collaborative efforts to address security challenges related to climate change. Several factors will influence the efficacy of these efforts in mitigating climate-related conflicts in Nigeria. These initiatives will succeed just if they receive adequate funding and are executed well. Community engagement and ownership are crucial, as local populations must participate in initiatives to adapt to climate change and address disputes. Regional collaboration is essential as security concerns associated with climate frequently transcend state boundaries.

Individuals throughout Nigeria are witnessing the repercussions of these measures, particularly in regions susceptible to climate change. In the Lake Chad Basin, where climate change has exacerbated conflicts over natural resources, regional collaboration and climate adaptation initiatives are underway²¹. The Lake Chad Basin Commission has united member nations to exchange information, synchronise policies, and collaborate on initiatives that seek to foster peace and sustainable development in the region. The African Union's diplomatic initiatives have established a foundation for addressing climate-related conflicts in Nigeria; however, further efforts are required to ensure their efficacy and sustainability. The African Union, Nigeria, and other nations may collaborate to acquire the necessary resources and support to address the impacts of climate change and foster peace and security in the region.

3. What are the principal obstacles hindering the African Union's diplomatic engagement with Nigeria on climate security issues?

The African Union's diplomatic initiatives with Nigeria to enhance climate security face numerous challenges, including inadequate institutions and ineffective governance. The issues are evident in all regions of Nigeria's climate security. A significant concern is that Nigerian agencies tasked with environmental management, disaster risk reduction, and conflict resolution lacks the requisite expertise. The Nigerian Meteorological Agency struggles to obtain precise and timely weather information due to insufficient funding. Nigeria's strategies for addressing climate change and its implications for security are frequently poorly conceived and lack cohesion.

The National Policy on Climate Change and the National Adaptation Strategy and Plan of Action on Climate Change establish the framework for climate action. Nevertheless, these initiatives are not being implemented due to insufficient resources and inadequate governmental collaboration. Moreover, corruption and poor governance in Nigeria can

impede efforts to mitigate security issues arising from climate change. Corruption among those responsible for managing natural resources, such as land and water, can exacerbate conflicts and tensions surrounding these assets. The Lake Chad Basin and the Niger Delta region exemplify areas highly susceptible to climate change. The Lake Chad Basin ecosystem is jeopardized due to climatic alterations, excessive water extraction, and poor land management practices. Climate change exacerbates conflicts over natural resources, particularly oil and gas, in the Niger Delta. The African Union's initiatives to enhance climate security in these regions are hindered by insufficient institutional capacity, inadequate policy frameworks, minimal community engagement, and corruption.

The African Union may collaborate with Nigeria to enhance institutional frameworks, formulate cohesive policies, foster community engagement, and address issues related to corruption and governance. Enhancing the capabilities of Nigerian institutions, including climate change into national development strategies, and promoting transparency and accountability in natural resource management may mitigate security issues related to climate change. To overcome these challenges, governments, civil society, and international partners must collaborate to foster peace, security, and sustainable development in Nigeria and beyond²². The African Union and Nigeria may collaborate to develop effective strategies for addressing security challenges arising from climate change and to foster a more resilient and harmonious future.

Climate change has a major impact on people's life, especially in areas that are very susceptible to fluctuations in the weather, like farming. This effect could bring a lot of social and economic problems, such more poverty and food insecurity. The strain on resources and competition for few opportunities may exacerbate social and economic disputes, potentially resulting in warfare. Climate change disproportionately impacts marginalized individuals, such as farmers, fishers, and those displaced from their residences²³. Climate change is

making natural resources less stable, which directly affects their jobs. These groups often don't have enough influence in decisions, which can make them more vulnerable and less able to adjust to changing events.

These marginalized communities not having a voice or representation, can have huge impacts. If they are not present during decision-making, their specific needs and concerns may be overlooked, rendering them more susceptible to the impacts of climate change. They encounter difficulties in acquiring the necessary funding, technology, and comprehension to address climate change²⁴. To address these issues, it is essential to amplify the voices of marginalized communities and consider their demands in climate change decision-making. This may encompass inclusive decision-making, providing targeted assistance, and empowering local people to manage initiatives that facilitate their adaptation to and mitigation of climate change.

Promoting inclusive decision-making, providing targeted assistance to marginalized communities, and empowering local populations can enhance resilience to climate change and foster equitable, sustainable development results. This plan can enhance resilience; alleviate poverty and food insecurity, and foster peace and stability in a changing environment. Climate security initiatives may be less effective if peace, humanitarian, development, and climate stakeholders fail to collaborate across sectors. When these disparate sectors operate independently, they frequently fail to use one another's talents, expertise, and resources, resulting in solutions that are incompatible and unsustainable.

Failure to collaborate may result in individuals duplicating efforts, misallocating resources, and lacking the capacity to address the intricate challenges posed by climate change. For climate security initiatives to be effective, it is essential for conflicting parties and the government to establish mutual trust. Establishing trust is challenging, particularly in

environments characterized by significant conflict, power disparities, competing interests, and historical grievances. Climate change exacerbates these issues by intensifying competition for natural resources, displacing populations, and disrupting social connections. To address these issues, we must devise a strategy that unites individuals from many sectors and backgrounds. This may entail establishing shared goals and objectives, promoting inclusive participation in decision-making, and fostering trust and credibility. Collaborative efforts across stakeholders can leverage mutual knowledge, resources, and expertise to enhance the efficacy and sustainability of climate security initiatives.

Incorporating everyone's input in decision-making is crucial for fostering trust and addressing the interests and concerns of all stakeholders. This may involve engaging with local individuals, considering their perspectives, and leveraging their expertise in climate security initiatives. Consequently, stakeholders may devise solutions that are customized to the distinct requirements and circumstances of each community. An effective climate security program requires a collaborative strategy that emphasizes trust-building, inclusive decision-making, and interdisciplinary cooperation²⁵. Collaboratively, stakeholders can identify solutions that address the intricate challenges of climate change, enhance safety, and foster sustainable development in conflict-affected areas.

A comprehensive strategy involving stakeholders from local, national, and international spheres can significantly enhance the African Union's initiatives to address climate-related security challenges. This strategy may foster collaboration, cultivate trust, and ensure that climate security initiatives are developed and implemented in accordance with the demands of the local population. To comprehensively grasp the distinctive challenges and prospects present at the grassroots level, collaboration with communities, civil society organizations, and local traditional leaders is essential. Collaborating with local stakeholders, the African Union may acquire a more profound comprehension of the distinct needs and

conditions of various communities. This would enable them to design solutions customized to the distinct needs of each community.

Collaboration with governments, line ministries, and other stakeholders at the national level is essential to ensure that climate security initiatives align with national objectives and policies. This may involve collaborating with national governments to develop and implement policies and programs addressing security challenges related to climate change, as well as providing technical and financial assistance to national institutions. Collaborating with international stakeholders such as donors, UN agencies, and regional organizations can offer significant technical and financial assistance for global climate security initiatives. This may entail collaborating with global partners to acquire funding, expertise, and resources to initiate and manage climate security initiatives.

This technique is predicated on the principle of inclusive decision-making. Ensuring that decision-making procedures are transparent and incorporate the perspectives and concerns of marginalized groups helps foster trust and a sense of ownership and commitment within local communities. This entails establishing venues for dialogue and engagement where various stakeholders can express their perspectives, concerns, and recommendations.

The African Union can foster trust, promote collaboration, and advance effective climate security initiatives that address local community needs by employing a multi-tiered strategy that engages local, national, and international stakeholders, emphasizing inclusive decision-making and context-specific methodologies. This technique ensures that climate security projects are designed and implemented to address the requirements of local populations, hence enhancing their efficacy and sustainability over time. Addressing climate-related security challenges in Africa necessitates collaborative efforts among all stakeholders, including governments, civil society, and foreign partners²⁶. The African Union can facilitate

peace, security, and sustainable development in Africa in response to climate change through collaborative efforts.

The African Union could enhance its diplomatic relations with Nigeria regarding climate security by addressing these challenges and employing innovative strategies. This may involve applying insights gained from projects that have effectively utilized climatic and environmental concerns to foster trust in regions at risk of violence. Ultimately, effective climate security measures necessitate collaboration among governments, civil society, and international partners to foster peace, security, and sustainable development in Nigeria and beyond.

4. To what extent has cooperation between the African Union and Nigerian institutions facilitated or impeded efforts to tackle climate-related security threats?

The collaboration between the African Union and Nigerian institutions has demonstrated potential in mitigating climate-related security challenges. The African Climate Security Risk Assessment (ACRA) is a significant program that examines the connections between climate, peace, and security throughout Africa. The ACRA seeks to enhance risk management and foster resilience by identifying effective practices and strategic entry points. The ACRA's methodology is founded on empirical, contextually relevant analysis that considers local knowledge, traditions, social institutions, and governance frameworks influencing vulnerability and resilience to climate-related security threats.

The African Union Commission has collaborated with Regional Economic Communities, particularly those in Nigeria, to gather insights on regional climate security threats²⁷. This collaboration aims to integrate climate, peace, and security factors into strategic and policy frameworks. Notwithstanding these endeavours, obstacles remain. Access to finance continues to be a substantial obstacle, as climate money frequently

manifests as loans or non-grant instruments that impede access for marginalized populations. Furthermore, rectifying historical injustices and facilitating a fair, egalitarian, and peaceful green transition necessitates international collaboration and sustainable resource extraction strategies.

Nigerian institutions, including the University of Ibadan, are pivotal in research and capacity development in West Africa. The university's participation in the Pan African University's Life and Earth Sciences thematic hub exemplifies its contributions to the area. Nigerian institutions can benefit from collaboration with African Union organizations, such as the African Energy Commission and the African Minerals Development Centre, to tackle climate-related security challenges.

In summary, the collaboration between the African Union and Nigerian institutions has advanced initiatives to address climate-related security challenges. Nonetheless, additional efforts are required to tackle the magnitude and intricacy of these difficulties. Improved coordination, augmented funding, and tailored strategies can foster resilience and advance peace and security in response to climate change.

4.3 Discussion of Findings

The African Union's diplomatic initiatives to tackle climate-related security issues in Nigeria are essential for fostering peace, security, and stability in the region. From 2015 to 2024, the African Union has implemented various measures to address these concerns, including the formulation of coordinated responses to climate-related security threats. The African Climate Security Risk Assessment (ACRA) is a significant program that does a thorough analysis of climate security routes and examines responses, best practices, and suggestions. The ACRA establishes a basis for comprehending climate-related security threats and formulating ways to mitigate them. Through collaboration with regional and

international entities, including the United Nations, the African Union may utilise their combined experience and resources to improve their response to climate-related security issues.

The efficacy of these diplomatic measures in mitigating climate-induced conflicts in Nigeria remains under assessment. The ACRA offers an essential framework for comprehending the intricate interconnections among climate change, security, and development. By identifying critical risks and vulnerabilities, the ACRA can guide the formulation of focused measures to mitigate these issues.

Notwithstanding these endeavours, numerous impediments obstruct the African Union's diplomatic interaction with Nigeria over climate security matters. A significant difficulty is the absence of concrete policy implementation, which hinders the conversion of policies into executable plans and programs. Moreover, financial inadequacy and insufficient accountability among member states provide substantial obstacles to the African Union's initiatives in mitigating climate-related security threats.

The collaboration between the African Union and Nigerian institutions has enhanced initiatives to address climate-related security issues. Collaborative research and analysis, capacity enhancement, and knowledge dissemination are fundamental elements of this partnership. The African Union and Nigerian institutions can collaborate to utilize their combined experience and resources to formulate effective strategies for tackling climate-related security concerns.

In summary, the African Union's diplomatic initiatives to tackle climate-related security issues in Nigeria are complex and essential for fostering peace, security, and stability in the region. Despite ongoing obstacles, the African Union's dedication to formulating coordinated solutions, executing comprehensive risk assessments, and fostering robust

climate security leadership is crucial for tackling these issues and advancing a more resilient and peaceful future.

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Chapter Five

Conclusion

5.1 Summary of Findings

The African Union (AU) has been using a variety of diplomatic techniques to actively confront climate change as a security problem. This effort is crucial given the continent's vulnerability to the impacts of climate change, which range from exacerbating conflict over natural resources to displacement and mobility issues. This analysis highlights the key strategies, major initiatives, challenges, and priorities in the AU approach to climate change and security. Creating a Common African Position on climate change, peace, and security is one of the AU main initiatives. This shared viewpoint highlights African ownership, leadership, and agency, recognizing the continent's unique vulnerabilities and strengths. By establishing a common position, the AU aims to ensure a coordinated and effective response to the security implications of climate change.

The AU is working to improve governance by building stronger climate-security systems and making sure everyone is included. Part of this effort is raising money to reduce the gap in funding for climate adaption, which is very important for helping vulnerable communities. The AU also sees the need to work closely with regional groups, civil society, and international organizations. The partnerships are important for dealing with the complex challenges that come with climate-related security issues.

The AU has started several key projects to tackle issues of climate change and security. One of them is the Africa Climate Security Risk Assessment (ACRA), which gives early data to help shape the Common African Position on Climate, Peace, and Security (CAP-CPS). The CAP-CPS is a brad plan designed to include climate change in peace and security

policies, while also dealing with the root causes of conflicts made worse by climate change. In addition, the Eleven Guiding Principles agreed upon at the Nairobi consultation highlight the importance of African leadership, prevention, resilience building, inclusion, and shared responsibility.

Despite these efforts, the AU's still faces major challenges such as weak governance, fragile states, and conflicts over natural resources, changing climate patterns, and issues of displacement and migration. To respond to these problems, the AU has set some main priorities. These include promoting climate adaptation that takes conflict into account, creating broad strategies and policies, and improving the capacity to manage climate, peace, and security together.

The AU recognizes the importance of international cooperation in addressing climate-related security risks. The AU and UN Security Council have emphasized the need for joint frameworks, capacity building, and local community engagement. Mobilizing finance and technology transfer are also critical for supporting African countries in their efforts to adapt to climate change and transition to low-carbon economies.

The African Union's diplomatic strategies in addressing climate change as a security threat are multifaceted and comprehensive. By developing a unified approach, enhancing governance, fostering partnerships, and launching major initiatives, the AU is working to address the complex challenges posed by climate change. However, the AU must continue to prioritize conflict-sensitive climate adaptation, comprehensive strategies and policies, and international cooperation to effectively address these challenges and promote peace and security on the continent.

From 2015 to 2024, the African Union (AU) has used a broad approach to tackle climate-related security issues in Nigeria. One important step has been the adoption of

diplomatic strategies, including the creation of a Common African Position on climate change, peace, and security. The joint position stresses the importance of African ownership, leadership, and responsibility, and is guided by research such as the Africa Climate Security Risk Assessment (ACRA).

The ACRA provides an in-depth analysis of key climate security risks from a continental perspective, identifying emerging good practices to address them. Furthermore, the AU works closely with regional economic communities, civil society, and international organizations to develop integrated responses to climate-related security risks. These collaborative efforts demonstrate the AU's commitment to addressing the complex and multifaceted nature of climate-related security challenges.

Although the impact of these diplomatic efforts in reducing climate-related conflicts in Nigeria is still being reviewed, the AU's work in creating a Common African Position and carrying out detailed risk assessments shows a proactive step toward solving these problems. However, the AU's still struggles with challenges such as limited resources and the complicated nature of climate-security risks. Dealing with these issues will require a broad approach that brings together different sectors and stakeholders.

The AU's cooperation with Nigerian institutions has facilitated efforts to tackle climate-related security threats through joint initiatives and capacity building. Collaborative efforts between the AU, African regional organizations, and the UN system demonstrate a commitment to addressing climate-related security risks. The AU's work with Nigerian institutions helps build capacity and develop integrated responses to climate-related security risks. The African Union's diplomatic strategies demonstrate a proactive approach to addressing climate-related security challenges in Nigeria. While further evaluation is needed to assess the effectiveness of these interventions and identify areas for improvement, the

AU's efforts to develop a Common African Position, conduct comprehensive risk assessments, and foster partnerships demonstrate a commitment to addressing the complex and multifaceted nature of climate-related security risks.

5.2 Conclusion

In conclusion, the African Union diplomatic strategies to address climate change as a security threat between 2015 and 2024 demonstrate a proactive and multifaceted approach. Through the development of a Common African Position, comprehensive risk assessments, and collaborative partnerships, the AU has shown a commitment to addressing the complex and far-reaching impacts of climate change on peace and security. While challenges persist, including limited resources and the complexity of climate security risks, the AU's efforts to build capacity, foster partnerships, and develop integrated responses demonstrate a promising trajectory. As the continent continues to grapple with the security implications of climate change, the AU's diplomatic strategies will play a crucial role in shaping a more resilient and peaceful future.

Ultimately, this research highlights the importance of continued support and evaluation of the AU's efforts to address climate change as a security threat, and underscores the need for sustained international cooperation to address this pressing global challenge. The African Union has employed several diplomatic strategies to address climate-related security challenges in Nigeria between 2015-2024, including developing a Common African Position on climate change, peace, and security, and conducting comprehensive risk assessments like the Africa Climate Security Risk Assessment. These efforts aim to establish a unified stance on climate change and identify emerging good practices to address climate-related security risks. The AU has also worked closely with regional economic communities, civil society,

and international organizations to develop integrated responses to climate-related security risks.

While the effectiveness of these diplomatic interventions in reducing climate-induced conflicts within Nigeria is still being evaluated, the AU's efforts demonstrate a proactive approach to addressing these challenges. However, principal obstacles hindering the AU's diplomatic engagement with Nigeria on climate security issues include limited resources, complexity of climate security risks, and financial unpreparedness.

Cooperation between the African Union and Nigerian institutions has facilitated efforts to tackle climate-related security threats through joint initiatives and capacity building. The AU's work with Nigerian institutions helps build capacity and develop integrated responses to climate-related security risks. To further enhance the AU's response to climate-related security risks, it is essential to develop and institutionalize coordinated responses, provide strong climate security leadership, and focus on shared problems and solutions. The African Union's diplomatic strategies demonstrate a commitment to addressing climate-related security challenges in Nigeria. While challenges persist, the AU's efforts to develop a Common African Position, conduct comprehensive risk assessments, and foster partnerships show promise. Continued support and evaluation of these efforts are necessary to assess their effectiveness and identify areas for improvement, ultimately contributing to a more resilient and peaceful future for Nigeria and the African continent.

5.3 Recommendations

Based on the research findings here are some recommendations that can help in enhancing the African Union's Diplomatic Strategies in Addressing Climate Change as a Security Threat and also help to strengthen the African Union's diplomatic efforts and promote a more resilient and peaceful future for Nigeria.

1. Strengthen Institutional Capacity and Coordination Across AU Organs, RECs, and Member States: To enhance the AU's ability to address climate-related security threats, its key institutions, especially the Peace and Security Council (PSC), Military Staff Committee, Committee of Experts, PSC Secretariat, and the Continental Early Warning System, must be adequately funded, well-staffed, and fully operational. Strengthening AU-REC coordination through a clear definition of subsidiary will prevent duplication of roles and conflicting decisions. Better cooperation with member states, including Nigeria, ensures smoother implementation of AU climate-security policies. This institutional strengthening will improve the AU's crisis response, decision-making, and long-term strategic planning on climate-related security.

2. Improve Early Warning, Risk Assessment, and Preventive Diplomacy at Continental and National Levels: Climate-related conflicts worsen when early warning signals are ignored or when responses arrive too late. The AU should improve its Continental Early Warning System by promoting a culture of proactive conflict prevention, using real-time climate-risk assessments and integrating climate data into its peacekeeping and mediation activities. For countries like Nigeria, periodic climate-security risk assessments will help identify hotspots, guide early intervention, and support tailored diplomatic actions. This shift from reactive crisis management to preventive diplomacy will reduce conflict escalation and improve long-term stability.

3. Enhance Partnerships, Funding, and Support for Climate-Resilient Development: Addressing climate-security challenges requires strong partnerships and sustainable funding. The AU should deepen cooperation with international organizations such as the UN, EU, and regional partners, while securing predictable financing for climate-security work. More resources are needed for capacity building, climate-smart agriculture, climate-resilient infrastructure, and sustainable development practices in vulnerable states like Nigeria. These

partnerships and investments will strengthen diplomacy, reduce vulnerability to climate shocks, and support peace building efforts across the continent.

4. Promote Inclusive Dialogue, Monitoring, and Adaptive Diplomatic Strategies: Climate-related security challenges require continuous learning and inclusiveness. The AU should expand engagement with civil society organizations, local communities, and expert groups to enrich decision-making and strengthen the legitimacy of its interventions. Regular monitoring and evaluation of diplomatic actions will help identify what works, what does not, and how strategies can be adapted to emerging climate risks. Encouraging dialogue among AU institutions, RECs, Nigeria, and international partners will ensure that diplomatic responses remain relevant, evidence-based, and effective.

By implementing these recommendations, the African Union can enhance its diplomatic efforts to address climate-related security challenges in Nigeria and promote a more resilient and peaceful future.

5.4 Contribution to Knowledge

This research makes a significant contribution to the body of knowledge by advancing our understanding of climate change as a security threat in Nigeria. It sheds light on the complex relationships between climate change, peace, and security, highlighting the need for integrated approaches to address these challenges. The study also informs diplomatic strategies by identifying effective approaches employed by the African Union to address climate-related security challenges in Nigeria. This research evaluates the effectiveness of the African Union's diplomatic interventions in reducing climate-induced conflicts within Nigeria. By assessing the impact of these interventions, the study identifies areas where the African Union can improve its efforts to address climate-related security challenges. This evaluation

provides valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners seeking to enhance the effectiveness of diplomatic efforts in this area.

Furthermore, the research highlights the importance of cooperation between the African Union and Nigerian institutions in addressing climate-related security threats. It demonstrates the potential for collaborative efforts to enhance capacity and develop effective responses, providing valuable insights for policymakers and practitioners. The study also identifies the challenges and limitations faced by the African Union in addressing climate-related security challenges in Nigeria, including limited resources and the complexity of climate security risks. By acknowledging these challenges, the research provides a nuanced understanding of the complexities involved in addressing climate change as a security threat.

The research also highlights the principal obstacles hindering the African Union's diplomatic engagement with Nigeria on climate security issues. Limited resources and the complexity of climate security risks are identified as significant challenges that need to be addressed. By acknowledging these obstacles, the study provides a nuanced understanding of the complexities involved in addressing climate change as a security threat. Moreover, the study examines the extent to which cooperation between the African Union and Nigerian institutions has facilitated or impeded efforts to tackle climate-related security threats. The research emphasizes the importance of collaborative approaches, highlighting the potential benefits of capacity building and cooperation between international organizations and national institutions.

In addition to these contributions, the research offers practical recommendations for the African Union to enhance its diplomatic efforts. These recommendations include conducting regular climate security risk assessments, fostering closer cooperation with Nigerian institutions, and promoting climate-resilient development. By providing actionable

insights, the study has the potential to inform policy and practice, ultimately enhancing the African Union's ability to address climate-related security challenges in Nigeria.

Theoretically, the research contributes to our understanding of the climate change-security nexus, highlighting the complex relationships between climate change, peace, and security. The study advances knowledge on diplomatic strategies for addressing climate-related security challenges, providing insights into effective approaches and interventions. In practical terms, the research provides policy guidance for the African Union and Nigerian institutions on effective diplomatic strategies for addressing climate-related security challenges. The study emphasizes the importance of capacity building and cooperation between international organizations and national institutions in addressing climate-related security threats.

Moreover, the research offers practical recommendations for the African Union to enhance its diplomatic efforts. These recommendations include conducting regular climate security risk assessments, fostering closer cooperation with Nigerian institutions, and promoting climate-resilient development. By providing actionable insights, this study has the potential to inform policy and practice, ultimately enhancing the African Union's ability to address climate-related security challenges in Nigeria and promoting a more resilient and peaceful future.

This research contributes to the body of knowledge by providing a comprehensive understanding of climate change as a security threat in Nigeria and offering practical recommendations for the African Union to address these challenges. Its findings and recommendations have the potential to inform policy and practice, making it a valuable resource for policymakers, practitioners, and researchers in the field.

5.5 Suggestion for Further Studies

Further research is necessary to build upon the findings and recommendations of the study on "Analysis of Diplomatic Strategies of the African Union's Role in Addressing Climate Change as a Security Threat, 2015-2024". Several areas warrant additional investigation. One potential area of research is investigating climate change law and justice. This could involve exploring the role of international law in addressing climate change, particularly in the African context. Researchers could analyze the effectiveness of existing legal frameworks, such as the Nairobi Declaration on Climate Change and the Bamako Convention. Additionally, the potential for a specialized International Court on the Environment to address climate-related disputes and hold polluters accountable could be examined.

Another area of research is assessing climate security risk assessments. This could involve developing more effective methodologies for conducting regular climate security risk assessments. Researchers could evaluate the impact of climate security risk assessments on policymaking and practice, identifying best practices for integrating climate security risk assessments into broader development planning processes. Enhancing cooperation and capacity building is another crucial area for further research. This could involve investigating the most effective approaches to capacity building and cooperation between international organizations and national institutions. Researchers could evaluate the impact of capacity building initiatives on climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, identifying opportunities for enhancing collaboration between the African Union and Nigerian institutions on climate security issues.

Climate change, loss, and damage are another area that requires further research. This could involve developing robust mechanisms for addressing loss and damage associated with

climate change impacts. Researchers could evaluate the effectiveness of existing mechanisms, such as financial support, technology transfer, and capacity building. Additionally, strategies for enhancing resilience and promoting sustainable development in the face of climate-related losses and damages could be identified.

Finally, the human rights implications of climate change in Africa warrant further investigation. Researchers could examine the effectiveness of existing legal frameworks and policies in protecting human rights in the context of climate change. Strategies for promoting a rights-based approach to climate change adaptation and mitigation could also be identified. By exploring these areas, researchers can build upon the findings and recommendations of the original study, ultimately enhancing the African Union's ability to address climate-related security challenges in Nigeria and promoting a more resilient and peaceful future.

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