



# Assessing Transnational Crimes and Dynamic Changes in Nigeria's Foreign Policy

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## Abstract

Transnational crime is a complex and diverse problem for countries worldwide, impacting both their internal security and their foreign policy dynamics. This paper centres on Nigeria, analysing the significant influence of transborder crime on the development and implementation of the country's foreign policy. Nigeria, located in West Africa, confronts a multitude of transnational menaces, such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, arms smuggling, and cybercrime. These illicit operations not only erode the stability and security of the nation but also have extensive ramifications for its diplomatic relations and global reputation. Nigeria's foreign policy has historically revolved around the values of non-interference, regional cooperation, and adherence to international law. Nevertheless, due to the increase in transborder crime, Nigeria has been compelled to adjust its principles and adopt a more aggressive and collaborative strategy on the international stage. The connection between transborder crime and foreign policy is evident in multiple aspects. The occurrence of transborder crime in Nigeria presents a significant risk to human security, particularly due to the prevalent issues of human trafficking and illegal migration. The nation's foreign policy has progressively prioritised collaboration with international organisations and neighbouring governments to tackle the underlying factors of these offences. Moreover, the interconnection between cross-border criminal activities and terrorism adds an additional layer of complexity to Nigeria's foreign policy environment. The widespread distribution of weapons, driven by illegal trafficking networks, adds to the increase in rebel factions in the area. Nigeria has undertaken cooperative security endeavours with neighbouring nations and global allies to restrain the proliferation of weapons and counter the operations of terrorist groups. Ultimately, transborder crime significantly and diversely affects Nigeria's foreign policy.

**Keywords:** *Trans-border, Security, Criminality, International Relation, Foreign Policy.*

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## Introduction

Nigerian foreign policy is anchored, to a very large extent, on myriad of domestic factors and forces. These factors and forces range from the pursuit of security and welfare broadly conceived to autonomy and status and prestige. The essence is for the stability of the state and happiness of the citizenry. The combination of these factors and forces not only put certain limits upon the actions and choices of Nigerian foreign policy formulators, but also set the scope within which the domestic political contest over foreign policy

matters must be determined. Thus, it has been argued that the accomplishment of these purposes requires interplay of the domestic politics and foreign policy. Marxist scholars were among the earliest thinkers to analyse systematically the interconnection between internal politics and foreign policy. They in fact, characterise foreign policy as a continuation of domestic politics. This is because, in virtually all countries, the dynamism of popular participation in foreign affairs, according to these scholars, produces in the mind of stakeholders a continuous balancing



of foreign and domestic concerns. This, of course, is an admission of the fact that domestic policy is also affected, in some aspects, by external factors and forces. This is particularly so in former European colonies.

This juxtaposition accounts, perhaps, for Osawa's stand when he posits that "the category designated domestic policy consists of many subcategories which cover economics, social welfare, national politics, education and transport" (Osawa, 2013). All these, he demonstrates, regulate, shape, direct and govern relations among citizens, groups of people and national institutions. These domestic variables according to this author provide either contentment and happiness or discontent and domestic unease, hence, foreign policy, he infers, is seen as the extension of domestic policy. In the Nigerian situation, therefore, Adefunye (2012) observes that the nature and conduct of her foreign policy since the attainment of statehood in 1960, has been influenced by a variety of factors. The most prominent among them has remained the domestic factors that are anchored on "ethnic compositions, the colonial heritage, internal political situation, the attitude and perceptions of Nigerian elite, and the priorities which the government set for itself". Suffice it to say that the foreign policy stands of the new civilian government of Nigeria from 1999 to 2003, was shaped to a large extent, by certain domestic forces and external influences. Notable among the forces and influences include: (i) How to protect the then nascent civilian rule (democracy). This quest arose from the fact that the surge of plural politics has gained wide currency in the vocabulary of the prevailing world order. The demise of the former Soviet Union and the socialist countries in Eastern Europe, and the unification of Germany seem to have given fillip to the idea that capitalism-based civilian rule and multiparty systems should be the organising principle in the governance of states in today's international politics. (ii) How to develop and industrialise the state. The essence is to provide for the socio-economic well being of the people. Pragmatically, one of the major pillars of the prevailing world order again, is the liberalisation policy of trade and foreign direct investment.

Thus, the contemporary globalisation phenomenon, as has been argued, depends heavily on economic factors.

Transborder crimes in Nigeria due to the criminal activities of illegal immigrant, oil thieves, internet fraudsters, smugglers, drug and human traffickers and the recent jihadist movements activities have provoked concern across the nations in the sub-region, (Akinsami 2007). Nigeria accommodates more than half of the total population of West Africa which harbours people of common history, tradition, and customs separated by national boundaries under the modern system. For example, Hausa and Fulani are in significant presence in Nigeria, Niger, Cameroon, Ghana, Senegal and Mali and Yoruba is widely spoken of in Benin and Togo. Nigeria shares a 1500 kilometers land border with Republic of Niger and Chad in the north, about 1000 kilometers with Benin Republic in the West, 1700 kilometers with Cameroon in the East and has 700 kilometers of Atlantic coastline, (Muktar, 2021). The porous borders of lack of appropriate mechanism to monitor movement and illegal activities across the border. African Union (2010) contended that developing countries especially in Africa present a peculiar security challenges as a result of poverty, unemployment, hunger and increased belligerency among component entities that make up the continent the activities of rebel groups, trans-border criminals, kidnappers, arm smugglers, cultist and other social misfits characterize the west Africa sub-region. Nigeria faces a lot of challenges to adequately and effectively respond to criminal activities. These challenges include lapses in National Security apparatuses, and the security agencies and weak collaborative effort and legal frameworks. It was found that the weak border security in sub-region had attracted international criminal networks to Nigeria, (Etannibi, 2014).

### **Statement of Problem**

The growing rate of insecurity in Nigeria is alarming and mind-blowing. These security challenges plaguing the country such as armed robbery, kidnappings, ethno-religious conflicts, vandalism and militancy, violent agitations by



secessionists, farmer/herders crises, boko haram insurgency among others, which has continued to plague the country, and has undermined progress and development since independence and particularly in the fourth republic has assumed a heightened dimension thereby threatening the realization of number one (1) goal in Nigeria's foreign policy objectives which emphasized self-preservation as a people. Accordingly, the implication of the above problem on Nigeria's foreign policy are enormous ranging from political, economic, socio-cultural, global respect and commitment to our responsibility as a major power in the African continent.

Insecurity which has resulted in numerous crises ranging from farmers-herders conflict, kidnapping, banditry amongst others constitutes a devastating threat to the security of lives and property of the citizenry. This is why Shitu and Obi, (2017) argued that the hope of Nigerians on the expectation of "a new beginning" has been dashed since the inception of democratic rule in 1999. Political violence has plagued the Fourth Republic as we witness one form of crisis or the other thereby resulting in massive loss of lives and properties. Nigeria's electoral process has been mired in violence thereby making a mockery of its democratization.

The multiplier implication of insecurity is that, it has resulted in the retarded growth and development of Nigeria. Insecurity is an ill wind of social phenomenon which blows no one any good. Nigerian society has now been characterized and manifested in acrimony, incessant cases of armed robbery, terrorism, sea piracy, maiming, assassination, intimidation, kidnapping, homicide, rape, poverty and gang violence (including cultism) that are increasingly becoming wide spread and promoting a climate of fear, impurity and insecurity in the country as a result of political violence. The political unrest has worsened the internal security situation in Nigeria and also imbibed the spirit of fear in the heart of Nigerians. Nigerian society has now been characterized and manifested in acrimony, incessant cases of Fulani herdsman attack in

several states across the country; Kogi, Benue, Enugu, Anambra, Abia, Oyo, Niger etc. These attacks are increasingly becoming wide spread and promoting a climate of fear, impunity and insecurity in the country.

Lamido (2012) stressed that the spate of insecurity in the country and its consequent implications on the nations global image. He stressed that Nigeria which has assumed the big brother status in Africa could no longer meet the demands of such status in recent times owing largely to the several security challenges which has almost consumed the nation. He said, the implication of this development is that rather than been a giver of certain aids to needy countries, Nigeria now go all over the world seeking assistance including military assistance to fight against the present boko haram insurgent which is fast threatening it territorial integrity as a country. Thus, the plectra of security challenges ravaging the nation has reshaped it national interest and directed it toward the quest for law, order and peace and the preservation of her sovereignty

The fact remains that Transborder crimes have grown in dimensions. The different national and regional conventions adopted and adapted towards fighting the alarming escalations have not necessarily achieved the desired results, (Annan 2012). The failures of the extant measures to address the nefarious impacts of crime and violence call for more collaborative efforts of government agencies and stakeholders including ECOWAS, AU and UNO. According to the 2017 report of Inter-governmental actions against money laundering, In Nigeria, plethora of factors and conditions are responsible for the thriving criminal activities among its teeming population and have imparted negativity on the socio-economic development of the country amidst colossal loss of lives, destruction of properties, insecurity, threats, international shame and financial losses. This paper is poised at examining Trans-border crimes and Nigeria foreign policy and proffer solutions that will frontally address some of these challenges with focus on the following:





- i. What are the factors accounting for Trans-border crimes in Nigeria?
- ii. What are the categories of Trans-border crimes in Nigeria?
- iii. What is the nexus between Trans-border crime and Nigerian foreign policy?
- i. What are the efforts of Nigerian governments to checkmate Trans-border crimes in Nigeria?

## **Literature Review**

### **Trans-border Criminality**

Trans-border crimes in Nigeria have been in existence since the 1960's. They started in the form of smuggling of goods across the borders as well as the national criminal groups who engage in human/ drug trafficking, prostitutions, the proliferation of small arms and light weapons among other things for economic reasons, (UNODC, 2016). Ortuno and Wiriyaichi (2009) have maintained that the past few years have been characterized by a significant increase in global criminal activities which are time emerging such as banditry, terrorism, piracy and cybercrime and large scale financial fraud Criminal individuals or groups are now better organized. They carry out their illicit operations using major communication tools, the financial system and other sophisticated means to expand their criminal market. Syndicated are willing to protect their business through violent and ruthless means linked with international terrorist groups and devising novel and notorious organizational strategies to deter capture (Adetula 2008) The Nigeria government possesses weak capacity to respond effectively to the threat of criminal activities that have become widespread and very complicated serving as an industry for (ex) combatant, and jobless youth, indoctrinated & religious faithful and others. Trans-border crimes in Nigeria and sub-region have undermined state security, economy, social development, core democratic values, and abuse of human rights.

### **Land Borders in Nigeria**

According to Nigeria finder, the webs No 1 information hub for Nigeria, Nigeria is a country located on the western coast of the African continent. With diverse ecological and climate features, the country shares both land and maritime boundaries with several countries. Land borders of judicially enforced demarcation lines between sovereign nations with Nigeria include the Republic of Niger and to the North, the Republic of Cameroon to the East and the gulf of guinea to the Atlantic on the South. The Republic of Benin is to the West of Nigeria. Some of the land borders in Nigeria include:

- i. Zamfara - Republic of Niger land border
- ii. Adamawa - Republic of Niger land border
- iii. Lagos - Republic of Benin land border
- iv. Borno – Republic of Niger land border
- v. Jigawa – Republic of Niger land border
- vi. Enugu – Republic of Cameroon land border
- vii. Cross River – Republic of Cameroon border
- viii. Ogun – Republic of Benin land border
- ix. Sokoto – Republic of Niger land border
- x. Kwara – Republic of Benin land border
- xi. Borno – Republic of Cameroon land border
- xii. Oyo – Republic of Benin land border
- xiii. Benue – Republic of Cameroon land border
- xiv. Yobe – Republic of Niger land border

Aside from these land borders that Nigeria shares with the Republic of Niger, the Chad Republic, the Republic of Cameroon, and the Benin Republic, the following sovereign states share maritime boundaries with Nigeria: Equitorial Guinea, Sao Tome and Principle, Ghana, Benin republic and the Republic of Cameroon

### **The Nexus between National Security and Foreign Policy**

The term security can be looked at as a state of being protected from danger and anxiety. Security to a nation, connotes conditions of peace, stability, order and progress. To Francis (2005), security is a state of being safe and absent from fear, danger, poverty, anxiety and oppression. Security is





preserving the core values and the absence of threats to these core values (Alli, 2010). Imobighe (1990), in his opinion describes security as freedom from threats to a nation's capability to defend and develop itself, promote its values and lawful interest. Security is a state in which people are not exposed to danger of physical or moral aggression, accident, theft or decline (Zabadi, 2005). For a clearer understanding of this study, term national security was examined. National security as a term does not appear to lend itself to a particular definition. This is due to the fact that concept and nature of national security may vary from state to state. The concept contains ideological element that makes it empirical evidence notwithstanding its ways of debate resolving. National security according to Held (1998) is the acquisition, deployment and use of military force at achieving national goals. Romm (1993) describes national security as lack of danger or risk to held standards, values and ideals with the absence of fact that these values will be attacked now or later in future. Therefore, national security can be termed as preservation of values a nation holds as it related to the defence of its territory from human as well as non-human threats that guides the pursuit of its national interest in the international system (Folarin&Oviasoge, 2014).

National security focuses on the amassment of the military armament, personnel and expenditure (Oche 2013). From these definitions, national security has changed overtime. It has expanded to include international economies, long term goals and reconciliation. These are important elements for the sustenance of a nation's security. Harold Brown US Secretary of defense from 1977 to 1981 in the carter administration enlarged the definition of National security by including element such as economic and environment security National security then is the ability to preserve the nation's physical integrity and territory to maintain its economic relations with the rest of the world on reasonable terms to preserve its nature, institution and governance from disruption from outside, and to control its borders'. The origin of modern concept of National security as philosophy of maintaining a stable nation state can be traced to the peace of Westphalia where in the concept of a

sovereign state ruled by a sovereign became the basis of a new international order of the nation states, it was Hobbs work in 1651 'leviathan' who stated that citizen yield to a powerful sovereign who in turn promises an end to civil and religious war.

To explain further in content of security, the piece by erstwhile head of the state Abdul salami Abubakar on the challenges of security in Nigeria which came from an address given at NIPSS in 2004 clearly shows that the greatest threats to the civilian dispensation is Insecurity .as he rightly observes in addressing the challenges to the survival of democracy in Nigeria. It is pertinent to consider security issues and problems that have affected the attitudes, confidence and cooperation of all groups and segment that makes up Nigeria federation imperative of insecurity' (Oyebode, 2011). He declares it is self-evident that with seems to echo this position of Abukakar in his piece on our security hardly is anything possible he nevertheless counsels that security should go beyond law and order by encompassing meaning to the existence for the generality of the people. Concept of foreign policy most time are seen to be related to one nation's identity and actions in the international scene, an international scenario, an assumption that is correct even though it does not suffice the phenomenon of foreign policy. Encyclopedia Britannica gave the definition of foreign policy has the total objectives which guides the activities and relationship of one state in its interactions with other states of the world. Holsti (1993), sees foreign policy as actions of a state as regards external environment and the conditions under which actions are formulated. Foreign policy has three elements, first amongst these elements is the general orientation and policy interactions of a particular country towards another. The second element is the objective that a nation seeks to achieve in her relations or interactions with other countries. The third element of foreign policy is the means for achieving that particular goal or objectives (Akinyemi, 2016). Adeniran (2013) made a progress at expanding foreign policy, to him foreign policy should be looked at from the connection of motives and benefits that lies in



states relations. He further opines that goals and means are basic ingredients of foreign policy. Northedge (1968 in Anifowose & Enemu, 2009) conceptualizes foreign policy simply as an interplay between the outside and the inside. Lerche & Said (1979) maintain that the foreign policy of a state usually refers to the general principles by which a state governs its reaction to the international environment. To Millar (1969), foreign policy is presumably something less than the sum of all policies which have an effect upon the national government's relations with other national governments. Frankel (1975), sees foreign policy as decisions and actions which involve to some appreciable extent in relationships between one state to another. Foreign policy is essentially the instrumentality by which states influence or seek to influence the external world, and to attain objectives that are in consonance with their perceived national interest.

## **Framework of Analysis**

### **Categories of Transborder Crime**

A broad spectrum of illicit actions that cross national boundaries are included in trans-border crimes. Based on their nature and traits, these crimes can be divided into a number of categories. The following are some important groups of trans-border crimes:

**Trafficking in Drugs:** illegal drug trade and transportation across international borders, including synthetic drugs, cocaine, heroin, and marijuana.

**Trafficking in persons:** The unlawful cross-border movement of individuals for the purpose of forced labour, sexual exploitation, or other forms of exploitation; these transactions frequently include organised crime networks.

**Arms Trafficking:** Illegal cross-border commerce and movement of weapons, including ammunition and firearms, frequently fuels instability and conflict in the region.

**Goods Trafficking and Smuggling:** illegal cross-border shipping of commodities to avoid

detection, including wildlife, counterfeit goods, cultural artefacts, and other contraband.

**Oil Theft:** According to Etannibe (2014), Oil theft lubricates corruption in Africa. Illegal oil bunkering has grown to a proportion that has generated a coercive government response to protect a vital asset of Nigeria. Nigeria was Africa's biggest oil producer until very recently. In September 2022, Nigeria dropped to the fourth place on the continent due to oil theft. According to the Nigeria National Petroleum Cooperation (NNPC) Limited. It is estimated that ten percent (around 55 million barrels) of Nigeria's oil is stolen and trafficked every year. In fact it is estimated that oil production in Nigeria runs at only two thirds of capacity because of theft, vandalism and violence in the Niger delta. Oil theft is putting the country's economy in a precarious situation. An average of 437,000 barrels of Oil is stolen on daily basis by criminals in Nigeria where they illicitly tap pipelines onshore and offshore in the Niger Delta region. Recently, NNPC Limited uncovered an illegal oil connection from Forcados Terminal that was operated for nine years. The company chief Executive Officer, Mele Kyari disclosed this at the Senate's joint committees on Gas and petroleum (upstream and downstream) few weeks ago. The office of the auditor general for the federation in a statement released on the 2022 said that the defunct Nigeria national petroleum corporation (NNPC) now NNPC Limited failed to account for about 107,239,436,00 barrels of crude oil lifted for domestic consumption in 2019. The report also identified discrepancies between the amounts reported by the NNPC as transfer to the federation accounts and what was reported by the AUGF. It is said that while the NNPC records showed that N 1,272,600,864,00.00 was transferred by the corporation the amount recorded by the accountant general of the federation was N 608,710,292,773.44, showing a discrepancy of N 663,896,567,227.28. Bunkering is the practice of stealing and trafficking of oil by criminal groups with links to militant groups in the Niger-delta. The stolen oil is loaded to barges or tankers and sold in Nigeria and the surrounding countries like Ghana, Cameroon and Cote d'Ivoire, even south



Africa Proceeds from the oil bunkering go directly to militants and corrupt officials. Oil bunkering is a crime that enriches a few criminals, insurgents and corrupt officials while impoverishing many, undermining, the rule of law, deepening corruption, polluting the environment, violating human right and depleting natural resources. The response of Nigeria government to this threat is Nigerian oil industry involve deployment of military, acquisitions of marine vessels, and even cooperation between the state and private security companies. UNODC (2009). In August 2022, in a bid to curb crude Oil theft, the Nigerian government launched an application to monitor incidence. The NNPC awarded a multibillion naira pipeline surveillance procurement contract to the former Leader of the movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta (MEND), Government Tompolo. This is to initiate the involvement of non-state actors for protection of oil pipelines and other infrastructure as done in Cambodia and Mexico which produced desired results.

**Laundering of money:** The act of hiding the source of funds gained unlawfully, usually by means of a convoluted series of international business deals or bank transfers. Money laundering is the illegal process of concealing the origins of money obtained illicitly by passing it through a complex sequence of banking transfers and commercial transaction. it is money laundering in Nigeria is usually undertaken by wealthy business tycoons or government officials who have acquired their monies through corrupt practices, (UNODC, 2016). Ering (2011) Posited that Financial proceeds from drug related crime and other illegal business activities are laundered into various banks accounts under different identities. These criminal activities involve many individuals, specifically members of the political class in Nigeria who are privileged to occupy government position to siphon public funds to foreign account at the retirement of the Nigerian citizens. Nigeria loses US\$ 600 million annually to money laundering (Elumelu, 2007). between the mid- 1980 and 1999, the country lost us410billion to money laundering (see vanguard, October 25, 2005), such illegal inflows and

outflows of huge amount of money that had contributed to impoverishment of the Nigerian economy cannot be easily perpetrated, without the cooperation, collaboration or at the very least, connivance of the professional particularly financial institutions. Worse still, money laundering fuels corruption and organized crimes in Nigeria. Some terrorist groups also use money laundering channels to support their terror activities. The economic and financial crimes commission records in early 2012 showed that the Agency had filed high - profile corruption cases in various high courts across the federation.

**Cybercrime:** Digitally mediated criminal activity, such as identity theft, online fraud, hacking, and other cybercrimes that may have worldwide consequences. Information and communication technology (ICT) is one of the most remarkable innovations in the 21st century. According to ILEA West Africa, in spite of the numerous benefit of ICT, the increasing trend of cyber fraud has now becomes a global challenge. It has estimated that cyber crime costs the global economy more than \$400 Billion each year. This situation poses a lot of threat to most nations. In 2013, for example, the activities of internet crime including cyber espionage more than 800 million people worldwide According to statistics, Nigeria is ranked first in Africa in terms of online-related crimes. Cyber fraud popularly known as “yahoo” or sometimes tagged “419”, is a newly spread practice which combines internet based fraud with charms and other supernatural means to commit crimes. The term “419” was derived from a section of Nigeria law that talks about fraud. According to security intelligence, most cyber fraudsters are young unemployed people who usually get themselves involved in activities such as online dating scam, business scam, lottery scam, impersonation, hacking of credit cards and bank accounts, ATM theft and many more. The prevalence of cyber crime in the West Africa sub-region can affect the solid economic development of the nation in several ways especially in terms of direct foreign investment, business transaction or trade, tourism and security. According to the 2017 report of Intercontinental Action Group Against money laundering in West Africa. According to





one of Nigeria's leading financial regulator at an international criminal police organization [INTERPOL] meeting in 2003, 122 out of 138 countries represented complained about Nigeria involvement in financial fraud in their countries. In Nigeria, the recent upsurges in the reported cases of ritual killings have been linked with activities of internet fraudsters who are in their early 20's and 30's.

**Terrorism:** acts of violence or intimidation that cross national boundaries and endanger international security, committed by individuals or groups motivated by political, intellectual, or religious reasons. In recent years, Nigeria just like other west Africa nations has played host to terrorists groups such as JamlatNusrat al-Islamwalmuslimeen(JNIM) , Islamic state greater sahara (ISGS) Al queda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM) AL Murabitam, Ansaru and Bokoharam. Adetula (2014a). These groups are capable of carrying out attacks and kidnapping for ransoms. Boko haram and the Islamic state in West Africa province have been active in the Lake Chad Basin region. Jama'saNusrat UL- Isalamwa al-muslimin, the islamic state in the Sahara and Ansaruislam in the Sahel the activities of these groups have implications on the peace and security of the sub - region.Muktar (2021). The activities of the groups have led to the death of thousands and displaced many others across parts of West Africa. This has resulted to humanitarian crises in the Northern Eastern part of Nigeria. According to United Nation office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in 2013, methods of attacks have included coordinated armed assaults, rockets attacks, assassinations, kidnappings, (including child and female bombers), car bombing, and arsons. Military uniforms and vehicles have been used as tactics to get close to the intended targets. Some of the recent attacks in Nigeria by the terrorist groups.

1. On July 5, 2022, the kuje prison in the Federal capital territory was bombed and attacked by gunmen and an unknown number of prisoners escaped. The Islamic state West Africa (ISWA) has claimed responsibility for the attack.

2. The Islamic state West Africa (ISWA) has claimed responsibility for killings of policemen in Suleja, Niger state on 12 May and 4 July 2022. Suleja is less than 20 kilometers away from the federal capital territory, Abuja. 3. On March 28, 2022, there was an attack on Abuja - Kaduna passengers train. Many killed while more than 60 passengers were abducted. 4. On 28 November, 2020, at least 70 civilians were killed and others wounded and abducted in Jere local government Area, Borno state by insurgents and 5. On 14 April, 2014, 276 were kidnapped from government girls school at the town of Chibok, Maduguri in Borno State.

**Transnational Organised Crime:** criminal organisations that operate internationally and engage in a variety of illicit crimes, including drug trafficking, human smuggling, and racketeering.

**Crimes Against the Environment:** illicit actions that damage the environment and may have cross-border effects include pollution, illicit logging, and animal trafficking.

**Corruption and Gift-giving:** Illegal actions that involve the misuse of authority or influence for one's own benefit; these actions frequently have international repercussions because corrupt behaviour knows no national bounds.

**International Kidnapping:** international abduction of people for ransom, nefarious intent, or other reasons.

**Crimes pertaining to intellectual property:** Intellectual property rights violations that have an impact on global trade, such as piracy, counterfeiting, and unapproved use of copyrighted technology.

**Crimes against Cultural Heritage:** illegal cross-border trafficking in antiquities, cultural artefacts, and archaeological treasures; frequently involves the illicit excavation and export of artefacts related to cultural heritage.

Comprehending these classifications facilitates the formulation of successful policies for



countering trans-border crimes by law enforcement, policymakers, and international organisations. Collaboration and cooperation across countries are essential to addressing the complex issues these illegal activities present.

### **Factor Accounting for Trans-border Crimes in Nigeria**

The occurrence of trans-border crimes in Nigeria can be ascribed to a confluence of social, economic, political, and geographical variables. Gaining comprehension of these aspects can offer valuable perspectives on the fundamental origins of such criminal activities. Several factors contribute to trans-border crimes in Nigeria:

#### **Economic determinants:-**

**Poverty:** The presence of significant poverty in specific areas can compel individuals to resort to illicit behaviours such as smuggling and trafficking in order to sustain themselves.

**Unemployment:** Insufficient job prospects might compel individuals to pursue alternate means of earning money, frequently resulting in engagement in illicit activities beyond national boundaries.

#### **Factors related to politics:**

**Insufficient Governance:** Insufficient governance, corruption, and feeble law enforcement can foster a climate that is favourable to illegal activities. This may encompass inadequate border control methods and poor legislative frameworks. Political instability in certain regions can serve as a catalyst for trans-border crimes, as the disruption of law and order can create favourable conditions for criminal networks to thrive.

#### **Geographical factors:**

The porosity of Nigeria's borders, resulting from its large and often permeable character, poses a challenge in effectively enforcing rigorous control measures, hence facilitating the flourishing of criminal enterprises.

**Insufficient Infrastructure:** The absence of suitable infrastructure, such as well-constructed highways and effective monitoring systems, can facilitate the activities of criminals who can operate undetected across national boundaries.

#### **Ethnic and cultural dynamics:**

**Ethnic tensions:** Ethnic disputes and tensions within Nigeria or across borders can lead to the migration of individuals seeking asylum, involvement in illicit activities, or exploitation of prevailing instability. Cross-border ethnic links refer to the historical connections between some ethnic groups that extend beyond national boundaries. Although technology can promote cultural interchange, it can also be manipulated by criminals to support illicit endeavours.

#### **The intersection of globalisation and technology:**

**Global Trade:** The rise in global trade might potentially result in a surge in smuggling operations, as criminals take advantage of trade routes and legal gaps to transport illegal products and services.

**Technology Facilitation:** Technological advancements can assist criminals in organising and carrying out cross-border illegal activities, such as cybercrimes and people trafficking.

#### **Acts of terrorism and insurgency:**

**Terrorist Organisations:** The existence of terrorist groups and rebellions in nearby nations can extend into Nigeria, creating a favourable atmosphere for cross-border criminal activities. Arms trafficking refers to the illegal trade of weapons between different countries, and it is often associated with terrorism and other types of organised criminal activities.

#### **Ecological Factors:**

Climate change can exacerbate population displacement and migration, which in turn increases susceptibility to trans-border crimes due to environmental issues like droughts or resource



scarcity. To effectively tackle trans-border crimes in Nigeria, it is necessary to adopt a holistic strategy that encompasses measures such as bolstering governance, expanding economic prospects, fortifying border security, and promoting regional collaboration with neighbouring nations.

### **The nexus between Trans-border crime and Nigerian foreign policy**

The complicated and multi-dimensional subject of transnational crime has emerged as a major concern for countries worldwide. Because of its prominence on the global stage, Nigeria faces challenges related to transnational crime. This paper delves into the complex web of connections between transnational crime and Nigeria's foreign policy, looking at the ways in which the country's diplomatic initiatives, regional partnerships, and international reputation are affected by and affected by these illegal operations.

### **Setting the Scene:**

One needs to look at the past in order to understand the connection between Nigerian foreign policy and transnational crime. Transborder thieves take advantage of Nigerians' weaknesses, which have their roots in the country's colonial history and its difficulties since independence. The dynamics of criminal activities that cross borders have been influenced by historical links, ethnic affiliations, and geographical considerations. To evaluate the development of Nigeria's foreign policy responses to transnational crime, it is essential to comprehend this context.

### **The Effects on the Economy:**

Drug trafficking, people smuggling, and illicit trade are transnational crimes that significantly impact Nigeria's economy. Corruption, a lack of FDI, and a breakdown in regional trade are all ways in which these actions stunt economic growth. If Nigeria is serious about achieving its foreign policy goals of promoting sustainable development and international cooperation, it

must deal with the financial dimensions of transborder crime.

### **Engaging in Diplomacy and the Region:**

There is a close relationship between Nigeria's regional engagement, especially in the West African subregion, and its foreign policy. It is often necessary for neighbouring countries to work together to combat transborder crimes because these crimes do not respect national boundaries. Regional cooperation is facilitated by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). Nigerian foreign policy actions within ECOWAS seek to cooperatively combat transborder crimes and solve common security concerns. With active participation in international organisations and conferences, Nigeria's diplomatic relations go beyond West Africa. Combating transnational crimes requires close cooperation between international organisations such as the UN and Interpol. Recognising the interconnectivity of security crises across borders, Nigerian foreign policy highlights the need of coordinated efforts in addressing global challenges.

### **Threats to National Security and the Concept of Sovereignty:**

Nigeria has incorporated security concerns into its foreign policy framework in response to the growing threat of transnational crimes. Protecting national sovereignty while simultaneously fostering regional cooperation is no easy feat. Striking this balance is an important goal of Nigerian foreign policy, which seeks to promote collaboration without sacrificing the nation's independence or security concerns.

### **Assaults on Terrorism and Rebellion:**

Transnational terrorist organisations like Boko Haram are one of the many security threats that Nigeria continues to confront. Given the global scope of these dangers, it is imperative that international and regional strategies be integrated





into foreign policy planning. To combat the causes and manifestations of terrorism, Nigeria is actively involved in counterterrorism initiatives within the African Union and collaborates with worldwide partners. This highlights the connection between transborder crimes and national security concerns.

### **The Migrant Crisis and Human Trafficking:**

Nigeria has a double-edged sword when it comes to human trafficking: the country is a breeding ground for victims and a transit hub for those victims. Through diplomatic engagement with receiving nations, advocacy for anti-trafficking legislation, and promotion of international collaboration, Nigerian foreign policy aims to tackle the underlying causes of human trafficking. As the country deals with the challenges of controlling cross-border movements and reducing the risks of transborder crimes, migration policies are also important to Nigeria's foreign policy.

### **Obstacles and Restrictions:**

There are still a lot of obstacles to overcome, even though Nigeria has tried to link its foreign policy with the battle against transborder crimes. Challenges to effective implementation include insufficient resources, weak institutions, and political factors. Illicit items and activities are far more difficult to control when laws are not consistently enforced and borders are permeable. A comprehensive strategy integrating diplomatic efforts, legislative reforms, and improved regional collaboration is necessary to tackle these difficulties.

The efforts that Nigeria is making to handle the myriad of issues that are created by illegal activities are a clear indication of the connection that exists between transnational crime and Nigerian foreign policy. The participation of Nigeria in regional and international forums demonstrates the country's dedication to finding answers via collaborative efforts. The challenge of striking a balance between the demand for regional cooperation and the need to protect national sovereignty is a sensitive one that calls

for a sophisticated and adaptable approach to foreign policy. If Nigeria is going to continue to struggle with the ever-changing landscape of transnational crimes, the efficiency of its actions in terms of foreign policy will be of the utmost importance. When it comes to reducing the impact of transnational crimes on national security, economic development, and the overall well-being of its population, it is vital to take a proactive position that is supported by solid regional alliances and international collaboration.

### **Nigeria's Response to Trans-border Crimes**

Transborder crimes provide a serious problem for nations around the world, and Nigeria, located in the West African region, is no exception. As a key participant on the continent, Nigeria has been subjected to a variety of transnational crimes, including drug trafficking, people smuggling, and terrorism. This essay examines Nigeria's complex approach to transborder crimes, diving into the country's difficulties, strategies, and potential future prospects.

### **Challenges in Addressing Transnational Crimes:**

Nigeria faces various hurdles in its efforts to curb transborder crime, which impedes effective response systems. These issues have economic, political, institutional, and geographical implications. Economically, poverty and unemployment provide ideal ground for individuals to engage in illegal activities, which contributes to the perpetuation of transnational crimes. Political elements, such as corruption and poor government, worsen the situation by creating a climate in which criminals can operate relatively freely. Institutional flaws, such as insufficient law enforcement capacity and border control procedures, provide substantial challenges. Nigeria's borders are broad and often porous, making it difficult to monitor and manage the flow of people and products, giving criminal networks plenty of opportunities to exploit loopholes.



### **Strategies Used by Nigeria:**

Nigeria has enacted legislation to counter transnational crimes. For example, the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Act combats drug trafficking, whereas the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act addresses human trafficking. These legislative frameworks establish a legal foundation for prosecuting offenders and discouraging criminal behaviour. Nigeria actively collaborates with other countries to address transnational crimes. Partnerships with neighbouring nations, regional organisations like the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and global agencies like Interpol improve information sharing, joint operations, and coordinated efforts to combat transnational crime. Nigeria has enhanced border security by deploying soldiers, using technology for surveillance, and improving border infrastructure. Initiatives such as the Nigeria Immigration Service's Migration Information and Data Analysis System (MIDAS) seek to improve border control and track movements.

Nigeria has stepped up counterterrorism operations due to the region's high terrorism rate. Collaboration with neighbouring nations, engagement in international counterterrorism projects, and military operations against insurgent groups such as Boko Haram illustrate the country's commitment to dealing with transnational security challenges.

### **Anti-corruption Campaigns:**

Recognising the relationship between corruption and transnational crime, Nigeria has initiated anti-corruption programmes to remedy institutional shortcomings. The Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) is responsible for investigating and prosecuting financial crimes, as well as destroying the financial networks that sustain transnational criminal operations. Nigeria prioritises public awareness and education to combat transnational crimes. Informing the public about the consequences of engaging in

illegal acts, as well as boosting awareness about criminal methods, all help to deter crime.

### **Challenges of Implementation:**

Despite these tactics, Nigeria confronts obstacles in effectively implementing its response to transnational crime. Resource restrictions, competing objectives, and the need for persistent political will are among the impediments to the full implementation of the country's anti-crime programmes. Limited resources, both financial and human, limit law enforcement authorities' ability to address the breadth and complexity of transborder crimes effectively. Allocating resources to other critical causes, such as healthcare and education, has the potential to distract focus and financing away from the battle against organised crime.

Political will is essential to the success of any anti-crime campaign. Inconsistent commitment from consecutive governments can cause policy variations and impede the stability essential for long-term success. Corruption within law enforcement agencies is another issue that can undermine the effectiveness of anti-crime operations. Geopolitical dynamics and diplomatic issues are also important, especially when dealing with transnational crimes. Tensions or strained relationships with neighbouring nations might stymie cooperation efforts, making it difficult to create a consistent regional response to transborder crimes.

### **Theoretical Framework**

The correlation between transborder crime and a nation's foreign policy is a multifaceted interaction driven by numerous factors. This theoretical framework seeks to offer a comprehensive understanding of the influence of transborder crime on Nigeria's foreign policy, by utilising fundamental theoretical approaches in the field of international relations. The following theoretical perspective is used to commonly address the criminal decision-making processes. Realism refers to the artistic or literary



representation of things as they are in reality, without idealisation or exaggeration. Within the framework of realism, governments are perceived as rational entities that actively pursue their national interests within a competitive global system. Nigeria's national security can be directly jeopardised by transborder crimes, such as drug trafficking and terrorism. The influence on foreign policy is apparent as the state endeavours to safeguard its borders, establish alliances, and participate in regional and global initiatives to counteract these threats. Nigeria's foreign policy responses are guided by realism, which prioritises safeguarding its sovereignty and ensuring the security of its population in the presence of transnational criminal activity. Another theoretical approach is the constructivism which emphasises the active role of individuals in constructing their own knowledge and understanding of the world. According to the constructivist viewpoint, a state's behaviour in the international arena is influenced by ideas, norms, and identities. Transborder crimes pose a threat to the established principles of state security and integrity. Nigeria's foreign policy responses are shaped by the establishment of novel norms pertaining to collaboration, collective security, and the combat against organised crime. Constructivism emphasises the potential for Nigeria's foreign policy to develop and change via its interactions with other countries and international organisations. This contributes to the formation of a common understanding of transborder crime as a shared problem, (Mehlkop and Graeff, 2010).

Consequently, liberal theory highlights the significance of international institutions, cooperation, and economic interdependence in influencing the actions of states. Nigeria seeks international cooperation to solve the issues posed by transborder crimes, which have negative impacts on economic operations and societal stability. Nigeria aims to advance a liberal order by actively engaging with regional organisations such as ECOWAS, as well as collaborating with the United Nations and Interpol. The country's primary focus is on promoting collective security, upholding the rule of law, and fostering mutual aid

in the fight against transborder crimes via interdependence characterised by intricate and interconnected relationships. This notion according to Gommert and Obi, (2017) is a complex interdependence asserts that states are interconnected through several pathways, and phenomena such as transborder crimes generate interdependencies across nations. The influence on Nigeria's foreign policy is seen in the acknowledgment that these offences necessitate collaborative resolutions. Nigeria recognises that effectively combating transborder crimes requires a network of interconnected actions, which includes not just security measures but also diplomatic, economic, and social elements. This is demonstrated via Nigeria's collaboration with neighbouring countries, regional organisations, and worldwide partners.

Conversely, the security dilemma theory posits that when a state takes measures to strengthen its security, these efforts may be interpreted as a potential threat by other states, hence creating a loop of insecurity. Regarding transborder crimes, Nigeria's initiatives to fortify its borders and engage in cooperative endeavours with other nations may raise apprehensions regarding sovereignty and the possibility of power asymmetries. Nigeria's foreign policy strategy must carefully balance the requirement for security with the necessity of avoiding any actions that could disrupt regional relations. It is on this note that dependency theory emphasises the inherent disparities within the global system and their impact on the decision-making processes of emerging countries. Nigeria is affected by transborder crimes, which are often driven by economic inequalities and inadequate governance in neighbouring countries. These crimes involve the illegal movement of goods or people across Nigeria, either as a transit point or as a final destination. Nigeria's foreign policy reaction may entail tackling underlying factors, offering developmental aid, and lobbying for global economic reforms to alleviate the circumstances that contribute to transborder crimes.

This theoretical framework offers a perspective to comprehend the influence of transborder crime on





Nigeria's foreign policy. Realism prioritises the state-centric perspective that centres around safeguarding national interests, whereas constructivism highlights the changing norms and collective understandings within the global community. The concepts of liberalism and complex interdependence emphasise the need for cooperative and integrated approaches to effectively tackle transborder crimes. In addition, the security dilemma theory cautions about the possibility of conflicts forming due to security measures, while the dependency theory highlights the economic factors that contribute to Nigeria's susceptibility to transborder crimes. By including ideas from these theoretical perspectives, an integrated approach can provide a thorough comprehension of how Nigeria's foreign policy addresses the difficulties presented by transborder crimes within the intricate realm of international relations.

### **Method and Materials**

Phase one of this qualitative field survey was conducted by review of literature and other secondary information while phase two involved field visits where interviews were conducted and supporting documents collected. The data analyzed in the study originated from primary and secondary sources. During the field works the researcher visited relevant government establishments and stakeholders dealing with criminal activities that occur across and within Nigeria borders: Airports, Seaports, Immigration Services, Nigeria Custom Services, Nigeria Police Force, Nigeria Security & Civil Defence Corps (NSCDCs), Economic & Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), Independent Corrupt Practices & Other Related Offences Commission (ICPC) Financial Institutions, Military Commands, National Assembly and ECOWAS Headquarters in Abuja. The study involved face-to-face interviews, group discussions and direct observations to gather relevant data from indigenes and non-indigenes residing in one border town in each of Nigeria's six (6) geopolitical zones. They were mainly traders, artisans, traditional rulers and shop owners.

Purposive sampling technique was used. Both data from phase 1 and phase 2 were analysed as presentation for this report. From thirty five (35) Interviewees, 27 were male, 8 were female and they fall within the age bracket of 25-60 years, contributing their quotas to national development. They all have education, experience and understanding of the phenomenon under investigation.

### **Result**

**Research Question 1** What are the factors accounting for Trans-border crimes in Nigeria?

From the analysis of the opinions of 35 interviewees representing 100%, all of them agreed that the rate of different categories of Transborder crime is on the high side and the reasons are numerous. From the analysis of 35(100%) respondents, 11 agreed that youth unemployment contributed greatly to the prevalence of Transborder crimes in Nigeria. 5 agreed that porous border, 6 agreed that inadequate funding of security agencies, 5 agreed that corrupt security officials at the borders, 3 agreed that poor training of security and border officials. 3 agreed on poor coordination and cooperation of inter-governmental agencies and 2 supported religious radicalizations of youths contributed to Transborder crimes in Nigeria. This shows that youth unemployment is the major cause of Transborder crimes in Nigeria.

**Research Question 2** what are the categories of Transborder crimes in Nigeria?

The information gathered from the interviewees showed that terrorism, smuggling, money laundering, oil bunkering, human trafficking and drugs trafficking, internet fraud, piracy and maritime crimes, proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALWs) are perpetrated cross Nigerian border by criminal elements, all respondents 35 representing 100% attest to this.



### **Research Question 3 What is the nexus between Transborder crime and Nigerian foreign policy?**

From the analysis of the opinions, all 35 respondents representing 100% agreed that Transnational crime is a significant global concern, with Nigeria facing significant challenges due to its colonial history and independence struggles. The country's foreign policy responses to transnational crime are influenced by historical links, ethnic affiliations, and geographical considerations. Drug trafficking, people smuggling, and illicit trade significantly impact Nigeria's economy, leading to corruption, lack of foreign direct investment, and regional trade breakdowns. Nigeria's foreign policy engages in regional cooperation, particularly in the West African subregion, to combat transborder crimes and solve common security concerns.

Nigeria has incorporated security concerns into its foreign policy framework, aiming to protect national sovereignty while fostering regional cooperation. It is actively involved in counterterrorism initiatives within the African Union and collaborates with worldwide partners to combat terrorism. Nigeria also addresses the migrant crisis and human trafficking through diplomatic engagement, anti-trafficking legislation, and international collaboration. However, Nigeria faces obstacles such as insufficient resources, weak institutions, and political factors. A comprehensive strategy integrating diplomatic efforts, legislative reforms, and improved regional collaboration is necessary to tackle these difficulties. Nigeria's efforts to handle illegal activities demonstrate the connection between transnational crime and its foreign policy. The efficiency of its actions in terms of foreign policy will be crucial in reducing the impact of transnational crimes on national security, economic development, and overall well-being.

Transborder crimes pose a significant global challenge, with Nigeria, a key player in the West African region, facing numerous challenges.

Economic factors like poverty, unemployment, corruption, and poor governance contribute to the perpetuation of these crimes. Institutional flaws, such as insufficient law enforcement capacity and border control procedures, also pose significant challenges. Nigeria has implemented legislation to combat transnational crimes, such as the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) Act and the Trafficking in Persons (Prohibition) Enforcement and Administration Act. It has also collaborated with other countries, enhanced border security, and increased counterterrorism operations. Nigeria has also initiated anti-corruption campaigns, such as the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC), to address institutional shortcomings. However, the country faces obstacles in effectively implementing its anti-crime programmes, including resource restrictions, competing objectives, and persistent political will. Inconsistent commitment from successive governments, corruption within law enforcement agencies, and geopolitical dynamics and diplomatic issues also hinder the country's efforts.

### **What are the efforts of Nigerian governments to checkmate Transborder crimes in Nigeria?**

From the analysis of the opinions of the interviewers, all of them agreed that the present measures undertaken by the Nigerian government have not effectively checkmated different categories of Transborder crimes in Nigeria. This shows that government efforts to combat Transborder crimes in Nigeria have not yielded the desired results. Suggesting proactive measures to curtail Trans-border crime 5 interviewees respondents supported job creation as a panacea to criminal activities reduction in Nigeria. Others disagreed. 10 supported proper border monitoring, 6 supported community policing initiative, 2 supported proper funding of security agencies, 3 supported increased military operations and surveillance, 2 supported strengthening of judicial and legislative system. 3 supported enhance coordination and collaboration of Border officials within and across border of ECOWAS members. 2 supported creations of constitutional roles for traditional



rulers and religious leaders. 2 supported de-radicalisation of youths. This shows that proper border monitoring, community policing and job creation by the government and private investors will reduce poverty in Nigeria and in turn contribute significantly to the reduction of Transborder crimes in Nigeria.

### **Discussion of Findings**

The purpose of this paper was to evaluate the Transborder crimes and Nigeria foreign policy. From the analysis of data collected and the finding from this qualitative research showed that the rate of different categories of Transborder crimes is phenomenally high in Nigeria which is significantly attributed to be direct consequence of unemployment of its active young population. The impact of transborder crime on Nigeria's foreign policy is significant and multifaceted, affecting various aspects of the nation's international relations, security, and diplomatic engagements. The study also revealed that the government has taken various measures both at national, bilateral and at multinational levels to respond to the challenges of the criminal activities of some undesirable elements in the society but all the efforts of the government have not yielded the desired results. The study also revealed that provision of jobs for youths will account for a considerable reduction of Transborder crimes ahead of other proactive and coherent actions, policies and programmes of National and sub-regional bodies. However, the submission above provides more understanding of the study as it encompasses; the causes of Transborder crimes, the factors and conditions that encourage the prevalence of those crimes, Nigeria's response to the criminal challenges and solutions that will de-escalate the growing trend of the menace in Nigeria within the ECOWAS sub-region. The impact of transborder crime on Nigeria's foreign policy is profound, influencing diplomatic priorities, regional collaborations, security strategies, and international engagements. As Nigeria navigates the complexities of addressing transborder crimes, its foreign policy reflects a commitment to proactive and collaborative

approaches, recognizing the interconnectedness of security challenges in the global arena.

### **Conclusion**

The nexus between transborder crime and Nigerian foreign policy is evident in the nation's efforts to address the multifaceted challenges posed by illicit activities. Nigeria's engagement in regional and international forums underscores its commitment to collaborative solutions. Balancing national sovereignty with the imperative for regional cooperation is a delicate task, requiring a nuanced and adaptive foreign policy approach. As Nigeria continues to grapple with the evolving landscape of transborder crimes, the effectiveness of its foreign policy responses will be pivotal. A proactive stance, bolstered by robust regional partnerships and international collaboration, is essential to mitigating the impact of transborder crimes on national security, economic development, and the overall well-being of its citizens. Nigeria's response to transborder crimes consists of legislative measures, international collaboration, increased border security, and counterterrorism efforts. While the country has made progress in addressing these challenges, persistent issues, such as resource constraints and institutional weaknesses, remain obstacles. Moving forward, continuous political will, resource mobilisation, and a dedication to regional and international cooperation will be critical. To effectively address transborder crimes, a complete plan must include embracing technology, involving communities, and prioritising legal and institutional reforms. As Nigeria navigates these difficulties, a proactive and adaptable approach is required to defend its borders, protect its population, and contribute to regional and global security.

### **Future directions and recommendations:**

To improve Nigeria's reaction to trans-border crimes, several major tactics and recommendations might be explored for future implementation:





- i. Nigeria should prioritise resource mobilisation and allocation to strengthen law enforcement institutions. Adequate money for training, technology, and staff is critical for developing a strong response to transnational crimes. Maintaining continuity in anti-crime measures demands strong political resolve. Establishing bipartisan support and implementing successful methods would help tackle transnational crime in the long run.
- ii. Nigeria should continue to promote regional and international partnership. Building alliances with neighbouring countries, regional organisations, and global institutions is critical for coordinating intelligence sharing, joint operations, and capacity-building projects. Integrating innovative technology improves border security and law enforcement capacities. Implementing cutting-edge surveillance systems, data analytics, and biometric identification techniques can improve the effectiveness of transborder crime prevention and detection.
- iii. Promoting community engagement and education can encourage public participation in combating transnational crime. Educating communities about the indications of criminal activity and encouraging them to report suspicious behaviour can help with overall prevention efforts. Periodic legal reviews and modifications can guarantee a strong legislative framework that adapts to new problems. Institutions, such as the judiciary and law enforcement agencies, must be strengthened through capacity building and anti-corruption measures to ensure effective implementation.

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