The Roles And Importance Of Organs Of External Relations In Diplomacy

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ABSTRACT
Diplomacy is considered an important process of relation among nations. Through diplomacy, nations across the globe conduct their affairs in manners aimed at ensuring peaceful relations. The main function of individual diplomatic services is to ensure that interests of their countries are safeguarded abroad. Diplomacy remains a government’s process of communicating with foreign publics in an endeavor to bring about understanding for its nation’s needs and ideals, its culture and institutions and its national goals and current policies. Foreign policy is the content of every foreign relation and it comprises the aspiration and aims a nation seeks to achieve in her relation with other nations and international government organizations. The Vienna convention on diplomatic relations of 1961 contains the rules applicable to the conduct of diplomatic affairs among states globally. There are however a number of unwritten rules, customs and conventions for the purpose of diplomacy. The diplomatic practice of every nation including Nigeria ought to be for the fulfillment of her national interests. This article aims at appraising the various organs of external relations and how their roles make diplomacy effective.

Keywords: Diplomacy, external relations, foreign policy, consular services

INTRODUCTION
The importance of diplomacy cannot be taken for granted or looked down on. In fact, it is the brain child of the foundation and core process of relations among every nation of the world. Establishment of diplomatic relations among nations marks the beginning of the establishment of relations. Diplomacy remains the medium through which nations of the world start the development of their relations. Scholars and writers alike of diplomacy have recognized diplomatic practices across the world over and or globally and going back before recorded history. However, the term ‘diplomacy’ never gained such recognition as it ought to in terms of usage until the last decade of the eighteenth century. The emergence of ‘diplomacy’; has been identified as part of a much larger shift in political languages, aimed at replacing the understandings of absolutism with the new understandings of enlightenment. According to this understanding, diplomacy as known today was birthed out of western revolution and enlightenment.

In every discourse of this nature, certain key concepts are essential for definition and discussion; these concepts are diplomacy and organs of external relations.

Diplomacy
Diplomacy as a concept dates back to God who is the creator and maker of the universe. Having created all things including man, God designed a peaceful co-existence, hence the reason to always come down in the cool of the evening to have fellowship with man therefore, creating and building a relationship with man.

Diplomacy has been said to mean the use of intelligence and fact in the course of conducting official relations between the government of independent states, extending sometimes also to other relations with vassal states.

Diplomacy has been looked at as a method through which different parties communicate including negotiations between recognized agents.

**Organs**

Organs on the other hand as used in this context can be said to be an affiliate, agency, annex, department, chapter, bureau, offshoot and subsidy. It has also been defined as an organization or a subordinated group responsible for the performance of specialized functions.

**External**

External has been defined as being situated outside, apart or beyond specifically. Something situated near or towards the body, acting or arising from outside or external force. As afore mentioned, there is need for states to relate with one another as no state can act alone or can function effectively independently.

There is also a need for states to carry on relationships with other states through other channels and mediums. These mediums are called the organs of external relations. Organs of external relations can be said to mean the medium with which a state conducts its relations with other states and also with international organizations. These state organs of external relations are usually created by the state and also empowered by the state to carry-out their functions. These organs include head of government, head of state, ministry of foreign affairs, Nigerian institute of international affairs, diplomatic missions, consular mission. The powers so vested on the state organs of external relations are usually determined by the laws of the particular state as well as international law. The organs of external relations of a state therefore serves as an instrument through which states carry on relationship. Organs of external relations are important in the diplomatic growth of a nation that strengthening them becomes very needful. They are the institutional framework for foreign policy formulation and execution, particularly with regards to the ministry of foreign affairs. Their functions are usually hampered as a result of intrinsic.

**Challenges**

Nigeria is not free from these challenges. The first of these challenges is that of professionalism. Staffing, training and funding combine as formidable challenges that glare at the professional practices of effective diplomacy through organs of external relations which serve as the driving force of Nigeria’s foreign policy. Nigerian diplomats and foreign policy practitioners seem not to have received the requisite training and orientation to meet up with diplomatic realities and challenges of the present global age possibly because they are usually appointed based on political consideration rather than expertise.

Budgetary allocations for foreign affairs being one of the main organs of external relations have always been low to meet up with the expected service delivery. The foreign affairs ministry receives just about one percent of the federal government budget for recurrent expenditure. There has been some disturbing reports of the diplomats not being paid their allowances regularly. Because of the underfunding, some Nigerian foreign policy analysis and political stakeholders have called for the closure of the Nigeria missions abroad. Specifically, in the regime of President Olusegun Obasanjo, a committee was set up which suggested the closure of some missions deemed to be expensive for the country’s economy to run. Such missions were those in Venezuela, Kuwait, Lebanon, Congo, Pakistan, Bangladesh, North Korea and Philippines. The disturbing problem posed by this closure is that ‘when we close mission, we damage relation that have taken years to build”.

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2. Genesis 3:8
3. JR Eduardo (ed), the max planck encyclopedia of public international law (Rudiger wolfram, 2012) 97.
7. Ibid.
8. CFRN 1999 (as amended) s 19; Vienna convention on diplomatic relations 1961, art 3; Vienna convention on consular relations 1963, art 5.
Organs of external relations are however divided into three (3) categories namely: the internal, external and international organizations. Internal organs of external relations are made up of the head of the state, the head of government and ministry of foreign affairs as well as their heads. They represent the state ex-officio by virtue of the office they occupy.

**Head of Government**

In the executive branch of a federated state or sovereign state, or even a self-governing colony, the head of government is often the higher or even second higher official who oversees the affairs of secretaries who head executive departments, ministers or even the colony. Head of government differs from head of state. However, the appreciable difference is that in a parliamentary system of government, not excluding constitutional monarchies, there is usually one chamber to which the head of government being the first political leader is answerable to in the entire legislature. In absolute monarchies or presidential system both the head of state and the head of government is one and the same person and here the relationship between the leaders and the government be it separation of powers or even autocracy varies depending on what is enshrined at the constitution of that state.

**Head of State**

The primary function of the head of state is representative which entails service that speaks volume of the states’ integrity both at home and abroad. The selection method for the office of the head of state varies between political systems. In some cases it could be by direct election by the people, or even indirect election by a legislative body, it could also be through Electoral College and or even maybe hereditary succession but in cases of dictatorship, the position is often seized by force. In countries like USA and the Philippines, the office of the head of state is one and the same with the head of government and of course retains the duties, prerogatives and responsibilities that flow from both titles. Practically, in Nigeria, we see and hear cases of our president being the head of state and No 1 citizen attending and representing us in meetings outside the country.

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs**

The ministry of foreign affairs is a specialized organ that is responsible for external relations. They are in charge of the state’s diplomatic missions abroad and (as a rule) also the consulates. In the contemporary international system, the ministry of foreign affairs has its most important duty as supporting and staffing missions abroad. By virtue of the ministry, the government of one state can comfortably and conveniently sends messages to another government or international organization. In Nigeria, the ministry of foreign affairs is a creation of the statute to reinforce foreign decision, make and implement processes and also handle the external promotion of Nigeria’s domestic Vision and ideas. Finland has an exceptionally different case as she holds the belief that a vital part of their current and security policy is development policy which is achieved through strengthening their main resources and has made them believe that dialogue between states and private sector development cooperation are developed as well.

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10. Ibid.
11. C Enuka and E C Ojukwu, ‘challenges of Nigeria’s foreign policy (2016) (5)(2) international journal of Arts and Humanities (IJAH); 54.
13. A Arian (eds) and others executive governance a Israel; Advance in political science (palgrave macmillian publishing, 2001)76.
The Nigerian Institute of International Affairs
The Nigerian institute of international affairs is the bedrock of Nigeria’s foreign Affairs. Established in 1961, the institute focuses on international law and organization, African politics and integrations, international economic relations, international politics and also security and strategic studies. The institute is vital because of gives ideas and directions on how Nigeria should follow at the international level.

Diplomatic and Consular Mission
A diplomatic mission is a state’s representative office that is situate in the territory of another state. The establishment of diplomatic missions is not imposed on states rather it is done by agreement between states.

There are of two main types. They include;

i) **An Embassy:** The main function of an embassy is to handle government to government issues that border on diplomacy. An embassy is usually situated in the capital city of the state. The embassy looks into every complaint made by a government about another and if for any reason, one officially delegated by one country intends to use the other, such arrangements are made by the embassy.

ii) **A consulate:** Although a consulate can be situated in any city. It is usually situated at major cities. A consulate primarily provides consular services for either individuals or businesses and some of their functions include: provision of visas for foreigners who have the intention of leaving their country, passport services, registration as it concerns births and marriages and all other forms of assistance for their own citizens.

International Organizations
Relationships between states are regulated at the international level through various specialized agencies or organizations. However, on the responsibility of international organizations, article 2 of the International Law Commission 1948 refers to it as ‘an organization created by a treaty or other instruments governed by international law and possessing its own legal personality while emphasizing that besides states, other entities may be included as members of international organizations. It is not in doubt that international organizations have made notable contributions to the growth and development of international law. As different from but in addition to personality, under domestic law, international organizations possess international legal personality. This legal personality makes them subjects of international law and gives them room to enforce rights and duties at the international level. In the case of Nauru v Australia the international court of Justice shed more light on this where it noted that the arrangement under which Australia, New Zealand and the UK become the court and took on the task of administering authority for Naura in 1947 did not establish a distinct international legal personality from that of the state. The foremost on the list of international organizations is the United Nations.

The United Nations
The United Nations is an inter-government organization saddled with several responsibilities such as to maintain international peace and security, achieve international co-operations, develop friendly relations among nations, and be a center to harmonize nation’s actions. The purpose of the United Nations is set as or article 1 of the charter as follows:

1. To ensure the maintenance of international peace and security, which also entails taking effective collective measures to prevent and remove threats of peace, suppress breaches of peace and acts of aggression, and also to settle international disputes in line with the principles of justice and international law.
2. To strengthen universal peace using appropriate measures and also to nature and or develop friendly relations between nations hinged and self-determination and respect for the principle of equal rights of people.

(3) To solve social, humanitarian, economic and cultural problems at the international level. To encourage and promote fundamental freedoms and respect for human right as it cuts across all sex, religion, race and language,

(4) To be at the center stage of harmony of nations actions in attaining a common end.  

Having summarily considered the roles and importance of the organs of external relations in effective diplomacy, certain key points were concluded on and recommendations drawn therefrom.

CONCLUSION
Organs of external relations are permanent organs situated abroad for the purpose of conducting and coordinating the foreign affairs of their states. It includes diplomatic ministry, Consular mission, and permanent state missions and international organization.

It remains the medium through which every nation starts the development of their relations and promotes economic growth. Diplomacy is not new to the world. Diplomacy as presently known today was born out of western revolution and enlightenment and it guarantees peace among nations. There are two major United Nations instruments regulating diplomacy. These instruments are: The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 and The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963. The above instruments have been ratified by Nigeria but not yet domesticated.

RECOMMENDATIONS
Effective functioning of the organs of external relations is essential for effective diplomacy. Therefore, the following recommendations are made for proper regulation of Nigerian foreign policies.

(1) The role of Nigerian embassies should be redefined and to make them live up to national expectations. In this respect, Nigerian government must take pro-active actions at empowering the overseas missions.

(2) The organs of external relations should be well staffed with competent hands, the training programme for diplomats should be reviewed to give them the necessary knowledge to practice the art and science of diplomacy because they are at the forefront of Nigerian foreign policy implementation.

(3) The organs should also be well funded by the government to meet their ever expending tasks and responsibilities.

(4) Laws should be enacted by the Nigerian legislature for proper regulation of diplomatic relations and practices in Nigeria. The only major law on diplomatic relations in Nigeria is the Diplomatic and Privileges Act, Cap D9, Laws of the federation of Nigeria, 2004.

(5) The Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations 1961 and The Vienna Convention on Consular Relations 1963 should be domesticated by the national assembly to fulfill the constitutional requirement under section 19 of the 1999 constitution.

22 United Nations charter 1945, art 1.