

Constitutional Basis of
Nigeria's Foreign Policy:
Foreign Policy objectives and
National interest

- Nigeria's foreign policy metamorphosed from the colonial era to the post-independent period.
- It was at the post-independence era that a truly indigenous Nigerian foreign policy emerged.
- By “truly indigenous Nigerian foreign policy”, we mean the dominance of foreign policy making and implementation of Nigeria by Nigerians.
- In the post-independence period, Nigeria's foreign policy was not designed and directed to coincide with, nor to pursue, the interest of Her Majesty's government in England.
- Nigeria's foreign policy was anchored on certain principles which were designed to champion Nigerian causes.
- According to Aluko (1981), in 1960, these principles were the usual respect of sovereign equality of other countries, non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries as well as commitment to cooperation as a means of promoting African unity.

- With the coming of successive governments in the following years after independence - the military and other subsequent civilian administrations - the foreign policy of Nigeria had, via various epistemological and ideological constructions, evolved to what we now have today.
- These policies have remained the same with some amendments to capture local, global, political and economic changes.

- **Section 19 of the 1999 Nigerian Constitution (as amended) contains the foreign policy objectives of Nigeria. According to the Section, Nigeria's foreign policy objectives shall be -**
- (a) promotion and protection of the national interest;
- (b) promotion of African integration and support for African unity;
- (c) promotion of international co-operation for the consolidation of universal peace and mutual respect among all nations and elimination of discrimination in all its manifestations;
- (d) respect for international law and treaty obligations as well as the seeking of settlement of international disputes by negotiation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and adjudication; and
- (e) promotion of a just world economic order.