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**THE PLACE OF FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (4IR) FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF PEACE AND SECURITY TOWARDS NATIONAL UNITY**

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**THE PLACE OF FOURTH INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION (4IR) FOR SUSTAINABILITY OF PEACE AND SECURITY TOWARDS NATIONAL UNITY**  
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**Abstract**

*Digitization is the mechanism of using technological devices in all facets of economy to promote and improve the productivity and profitability of the nation. The digital technologic device encompasses computer, internet, web apps, multimedia, Artificial Intelligence, machine learning, big data and others to curb most of the social vices that are prevalent here and there such as kidnapping, terrorism, insurgence, human trafficking, stealing and many more. All tiers of governments are advised to accept deployment of these devices to curb and ameliorate most of the menaces happening nowadays to give rooms for developments and understanding of co-existence and well beings. It is believed that if the technologic devices are well accepted and implemented, the transformation of life will occur and standard of living will improve.*

**Keywords:** **Digitization, technological devices, productivity and profitability.**

**Introduction**

The whole world is now digitized with the emergence of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The Fourth Industrial Resolution (4IR) is the 21<sup>st</sup> century technological digital devices that are deployed in all aspects of economy such as government, transport, engineering, weather and others which can do simple and complex tasks with ease. Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is the backbone of the fourth industrial resolution. The 4IR encompasses the components such as computer, internet, multimedia, Web applications, Artificial intelligence, Machine learning, Closed circuit television (CCTV) and others that can help human to accomplish their works easily. It is a versatile device that applies to all professional fields to improve the performance of the job effectively and efficiently and increases the productivity, provides equal good guidance, proper growth and true development and keeps the coherence of the state. The 4IR is trying to be deployed in the all facets of economy to fast track the developments of human endeavors and used to control and ameliorate most of modern social devices such as bandits problems, kidnapping, terrorisms, killing of innocent people, human trafficking and others happening in the world now. It is believed that after the application of these devices to most of these problems, the good economic transformation, industrialization and human capacity and development will be improved to give room for further developments through understanding of co-existence of well beings.

### **National Unity**

National unity refers to a sense of unity and oneness by citizens of a country to the extent that despite their diversity, they see themselves as forming a nation. The national unity brings the different ethnic groups of different culture, religion, beliefs, languages and others from different angle of one nation to live together in harmony. This spirit of love makes a nation to stand as one and the disintegration causes the failure of a nation to fall apart. This national unity binds and inspires the people to form a nation or a country to experience their good potentials, protection, peace, independence and sovereignty are directly dependent on and relative to a nation's pride, patriotism and social cohesion also known as unity, Atiku also in Alabede (2018). That sense of solidarity encourages them to invest economically, socially, politically and emotionally in the well-being of the nation. National Unity does not mean the complete absence of disagreements but those disagreements handled and resolved within the parameters laid down by the country's laws and regulations and in a manner that preserves that sense of oneness. The existence of peace and security in a nation calls for the peaceful co-existence of well-being for accelerating unity and cooperation which results to rapid development on the land Atiku (2018) in Alabede (2018).

### **Peace**

The concept of peace is defined differently by different scholars and policy makers. There is no universal definition of peace by all. However, peace has been defined by most analysts as the absence of war, conflict, fear, anxiety, suffering and violence (Francis, 2006; Igbuzor, 2011) in Alabede (2018). But as Igbuzor (2011) notes correctly, this conception of peace has been criticized by many scholars such as Beanu, Reyhier and Wiberg, (2006) and Bajpay (2003) in Alabede (2018) for being inadequate for understanding the meaning and the nature of peace. To overcome these limitations in the prevailing definitions of peace, the Norwegian peace theorist, who is certainly one of the leading experts on the issue of peace, Galtung (2006) distinguished three types of violence that can help to understand the concept of peace. According to Galtung (2006) in Alabede (2018), three types of violence are direct, cultural and structural violence which have more implications on the meaning of peace. It is believed that peace is the element of development of a nation which is characterized by the understanding, development, tolerance, transparency, no backbiting, no gossiping and others that can fast track the development.

### **Security**

The definition of security, just like the one of peace, is equally contentious. Security has been defined by Otive (2001) in Alabede (2018), as the condition or feeling of safety from harm or anger, the defense, protection and preservation of core values and the absence of threats to those values. However, within the context of security, there may be security contexts range from home, ecological, food, corporate, human, national, computer and others and if they are properly secured, managed and applied, the peace and sustainable national development and co-existence well-being will be achieved. This makes the state or government the key actor or stakeholder in the process of seeking actively for the peace, security and sustainable national unity of the country.

### **Sustainable**

It is an action or process that can continue or last for a long period of time (Longman, 1995). The realization of peace and security received by the learners through the formal education sustain the national unity for long period of time. Sustainability can also be defined as a socio-ecological process characterized by the pursuit of a common ideal Wandemberg (2015) in Alabede (2018). An ideal is by definition unattainable in a given time and space. However, by persistently and dynamically approaching it, the process results in a sustainable system according to Wangemberg (2015). The study of ecology believes that sustainability is achieved through the balance of species and the resources within their environment. In order to maintain the equilibrium, available resources must not be depleted faster than the resources that are naturally generated.

### **Sustainable Development**

The sustainable development goals are about sustainable development common to all nations of the world. Development is a gradual or progressive enhancement of human, natural and material resources of community, nation and the entire society. A nation's development potential depends upon its ability to continuously educate its citizens as well as create armies of skilled manpower (Iji & Agbulu, 2006).

Wikipedia, the online free encyclopedia defines sustainable development as the organization of principle for meeting human development goals while simultaneously sustaining the ability of natural system to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services upon which the economy and society depend. It is also defined as development that meets the needs of the present without comprising the ability of future generations Wikipedia, (2016) in Alabede (2018). The desired result is a state of society where living conditions and resources are used to continue to meet human needs without undermining the integrity and stability of the natural system of a country.

### **The Contributions of 4IR/ICT to the Oneness of a Nation**

There are many important elements of fourth industrial resolution (4ir/ict) for developments if they are properly harnessed as outlined and discussed below:

**Communication:** Information and Communication Technology (ICT) can increase the interactions of village people (governments-local council areas/state and federal council areas), increase chances of access to various services for linking up for message passing, information sharing from one locality to another. ICT can authorize the rural dwellers by spread outing the available utilities of government services for personalized information. The uses of ICT for rapid development couple with some of the elements of development mentioned above which may transform rural areas to the industrialized areas.

**Transparency and Accountability:** ICT makes the government finances and expenses to be more transparent and accountable enough with the use of treasury single account policy. And every disbursement of monthly allocation are clearly displayed on the media every month for accountability and transparency. This medium of finance control checks and reduces the excessive frauds people perpetrating in the government offices and parastatals which may lead to other developments if properly utilized.

**Education:** ICT contributes immensely to the growth of education worldwide. It increases the quality of education and makes the education of students' with disabilities easier with use of ICT. It carries all aspects of disabilities along like hearing, visually, physically impaired and others. It contributes seriously on education with the use of e-learning which adopted during the Coronavirus-19 pandemic. The lectures delivered electronically during lock down. These were done with the use digital devices which still be done in other areas of economy if the right person is handled it without publicizing.

**Health:** ICT can promote the efficiencies of government and health agencies. Anti-coronavirus-19 and anti-Ebola virus were given by the government with the use of ICT based appliances to suppress and quench the negative actions of the viruses.

**Transportation:** ICT popularizing the government activities either positively or negatively by exposing their activities or atrocities. It lessens the problems of the passengers one way or the other especially in railway system. Some ICT railway systems are installed for transporting people from one part of Nigeria into other parts, ease the transporting people and goods to and fro for economy boosting and sustainability of the nation. Recommender system and other ICT aspects are used in transportation system for easy location of a base and lessen the user decision making with the adoption of 4IR into the system, more achievements would be recorded if the digitization is properly used.

**Insecurity:** Presently, Nigeria is witnessing an unprecedented level of insecurity. Inter and intra-communal and ethnic clashes, ethno religious violence, armed robbery, activities of Boko-Haram, Hausa and Fulani herdsmen, kidnapping, rapping, assassination, murder, gender-based violence and bomb explosion have been on the increase, leading to enormous loss of life and property and a general atmosphere of siege and social tension for the populace (Ibrahim and Igbuzor, 2002) which is calling for separation from present Nigeria by certain sections of Nigeria. If 4IR/ICT is properly employed to counter against this set of people behind this menace like Boko Haram insurgency, terrorists, bandits and others, one national unity will be achievable when social, economic, political and environmental sustainability elements in Nigeria are stable, secured, viable and equitable, Ndubuisi-Okolo and Anekwe (2018).

**Elimination of Corruption and entrenchment of social justice:** Corruption is viewed by everybody as the cog in the Nigerian wheel of progress and development. It is the bane of our society and economic monster. It is the cause of inequality and inequitable distribution of the nations' wealth among its citizens, a situation that is the root cause of disaffection among Nigerians. It is theorized by many that fighting corruption and winning the war with the proper and appropriate use of ICT will bring about an egalitarian society, where fairness, social justice and equal right for all will reign supreme; where rights will not be privileges for some people, and for others, privileges are their rights: where every Nigerian will be treated and accorded position not based on tribe and sect, but on merit defined in terms of the content of his character, mental capacity and ability to deliver; where there will be no discrimination.

**Agriculture:** Green Revolution was one of the policies introduced into the promotion of agriculture some decades ago with the availability of technology by then. Now with the 21<sup>st</sup> century, high tech strategies are more available to boost the agriculture products more in almost all aspects of agriculture like weather forecast, ecological aspects,

chemical applications, harvesters, planters, pesticides, fertilizers and other aspects of it. By implementing the appropriate devices of the 4IR, more agricultural achievements will be showcased.

**Industrialization:** It is believed that digital device behinds 4IR. According to Yantumaki (2009), industrialization defined as a process of economic production gradually moves away from animate to inanimate system. In basic economics, industry relates to these economic activities which involve transformation of inputs into new products which includes manufacturing, construction, mining, electricity generation and so on (Udu and Agu, 2005). 4IR is responsible for this transformation raw materials if it properly utilized for sufficient production of human goods and services to sustain the unity of this nation without one being marginalized or not and problem of separation may not arise at all. And if 4IR is properly managed, the industrialization will be evenly distributed without any biased.

**Leadership/power Tussle:** This factor has resulted in putting the square peg in a round hole. This has deprived Nigerians the benefit of being administered by good leaders as most of the political leaders are in office for their own selfish gains. Often, sadly, these crops of political leaders oppress the citizens with the looted money, train thugs and hooligans who later turn to armed robbers, kidnappers, drug pushers etc when they are dumped by the politicians after elections thus constituting a serious threat to national growth and development. If Nigerian political leaders are ICT literates, well educated not being half-baked and Nigeria herself ready to accept ICT and becomes compliance of ICT, all the political styles of ruling will be guided and checked by the use of ICT for their excessiveness in terms of looting of treasury, use of political power by thugs and other atrocities. This may enhance the sustainability of the unity of the nation if 4IR is properly utilized to check them in excessiveness of power intoxication.

**Unemployment/Poverty Issues:** The degree with which unemployed youths are roaming about the street is alarming. These unemployed youths at present employ themselves by engaging in illegal activities such as kidnapping, robbery, child abduction, and other nefarious activities. As a result of the high level of unemployment and poverty among Nigerians, especially the youths, they are adversely attracted to violent, crime (Adagba, et al, 2012). This is depicted by recent development in Anambra State where reports by Fides (2018) unveiled a 70-year old farmer butchered by disgruntled, hunger-infested and jobless youths residing in their villages owing to unemployment palaver. Nwagbodo (2012) posits that the failure of successive administrations in Nigeria to address challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequitable distribution of wealth among ethnic nationalities is one major causes of insecurity in the country. Unemployment has a severe negative implication on sustainable and national development in Nigeria. Poverty also is a threat to human existence and reduces a man to a perpetual state of infancy. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD, 2007) opines that despite Nigerian huge resources and oil wealth, poverty is still rampant to the extent that the country is ranked one of the 20th poorest countries in the world". Indeed, over 70 percent of the population is classified as poor, with 35 percent living in abject poverty (Andenrele, 2014).

If Nigerian government is to be 4IR/ICT compliance and apply it to all her economy, more investments would have been opened for Nigerian youths to engage themselves and the poverty would have reduced to the minimal level. The major economy of China

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is on ICT which provides jobs for their youths and with most populated or second populated nation in the world, they can still sustain their national unity with their resources from ICT.

### Conclusion

It is obvious from the above that the 21<sup>st</sup> century emerged digital era. The era of Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) deployment brings the unity of a nation. The backbone of the 4IR is the information and communication technology. It is believed that once 4IR is properly implemented, it creates more employment for youths to reduce poverty and social devices. The marginalization of any ethical type may not arise, corruption may be checked and financial transparency keep a national unity of a country. The appropriate implementation of 4IR sustains peace and security for rapid development and improve human capital and all sorts of economy will be enhanced which will result to elongation of unity of a nation.

### Recommendation

Due to some problems facing a nation especially Nigeria presently, it is recommended that Nigeria government should:

Apply ICT in all government sectors.

Allow those with ICT knowledge especially the youth to participate in governance.

Subsidize the cost computers to make easily affordable for all Nigerians .

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