**NOTE 4: DEFINITION, NATURE AND OBJECTIVES OF DIPLOMACY**

**4.0. INTRODUCTION**

The exist numerous of defining the concept Diplomacy. Hence, for the purpose of this class, we would attempt a glimpse into some. For **Mary Ikande (2017**), she posited two definitions of Diplomacy such as: firstly, Diplomacy is a **principal activity of heads of states and governments**, special bodies of eternal relations used for the implementation of goals, objectives of state’s foreign policy as well as the rights and duties of the state abroad. Also, she conceptualises Diplomacy as an art that has developed as a productive force to draw attention to social consciousness. Diplomacy does this via legal norms as exhibited as tradecraft by professional whose activity or skills in international relations serves typically the purpose of representing individuals or state’s interest abroad.

Another vantage point of Diplomacy is by **Harold Nicholson** and **Joseph Frankel**. They defined Diplomacy as that which can be extracted as a basic means by which a nation seeks to secure the goals of its national interest and foreign policies. For them, goals are always anchored on the shoulder of Diplomacy. Such is because Diplomacy serves as a **toolset** for the **operationalisation of the objectives of a State**. Diplomat (career civil servant trained, skilled and experienced in the practice of Diplomacy) are the channel in which state diplomacy are conducted. The diplomats are seen as the **lubricant** of diplomatic activities in the international system.

**Hans J. Morgenthau** described Diplomacy as the promotion of national interest by peaceful means.

In another light, **K.M Paniker** regarded Diplomacy as the art of forwarding one’s interest in relations to other countries.

Another definition of Diplomacy is that of **Padelford** and **Lincoln**. They discerned Diplomacy as the process of representation and negotiation by which states customarily deal with each other in times of peace. For them, Diplomacy is the **mechanism** for the **promotion of national interest** via **negotiation** and **the conduct of relations** with other states which is guided and conditioned by foreign policy.

For Sir Ernest Satow, whose definition is one of the earliest and most referenced definitions of Diplomacy, he situated Diplomacy in his book **“Guide To Diplomatic Practice”** as the application of intelligence, tactic and wit to the conduct of official relations or state business between the government of independent states.

**4.1. NATURE OF DIPLOMACY**

This encompasses the characteristic, form of practice and the dimension that shapes Diplomacy as a concept. The nature of Diplomacy can be categorised are;

Firstly, Diplomacy is **amoral**. This entail that Diplomacy maintains a neutral position when it comes to morality, it just exists as a vehicle for the actualisation of the foreign policy of a state as shaped by the need of their national interest. To achieve its objective Diplomacy can make use of deceit, propaganda or immoral tact’s.

Another nature of Diplomacy is that it is **a means of international relations**. Diplomacy here utilises techniques and procedure for the conduct of affairs amongst States which transforms Diplomacy into machinery for actions.

Likewise, we have the **structural nature of Diplomacy**; this exemplifies Diplomacy acting through settled structure and procedures such as networks of embassies, foreign office, legation, consulate and special mission, working by definition and settled methods. These structures could be used in bilateral or multilateral forms to handle issues.

**4.2. OBJECTIVES OF DIPLOMACY**

The objectives of Diplomacy can be grouped under four headings they are

1. The General Objective of Diplomacy
2. The Specific Objective of Diplomacy
3. The Political Objective of Diplomacy
4. The Non-Political Objective of Diplomacy

Firstly, Diplomacy **General Objective** is **peace and co-operation** between States, which can be used in times of war or conflict. In pursuing the **General Objective** of Diplomacy, a State seeks to maintain friendly relations with others and the peaceful settlement of disputes.

Likewise, its **Specific Objective** applies to the individual state actors so concerned. Hence, the specific objective of Diplomacy is that of **national interest**. And so in pursuit of its specific objectives, state regard modern Diplomacy as a tool to further their national interest by what **Joseph Franke**l referred to as **soft power (non-military means)** and/or **hard power (military means).**

Also, Diplomacy has **Political Objective**. The **Political Objective of Diplomacy**, it is to secure the national interest of a state as defined in its foreign policy (e.g. increase the influence of a state by the use of persuasion, the promise of rewards etc.) to promote friendship and co-operation as well as to justify states actions.

Another Objective of Diplomacy is that of the **Non-Political Objective**. Here, Diplomacy seeks interdependence for state, as a function of dependences on others for economic, cultural and commercial links by the use of peaceful and persuasive means to promote the interest of the nation.

**4.3. METHOD FOR SECURING THE OBJECTIVES OF DIPLOMACY**

In order to secure the objectives of Diplomacy, nations can make use of variance of methods such as **persuasion**, which entails the use of logical reasoning to convince others. Another is a **concession**, which could be taken to mean a reward for good behaviour or to agree to meet a party demands midway. Yet another is **the threat of/or the use of force** is also another means of achieving the objectives of Diplomacy, which involves the use of **ultimatums, boycotts, protest, walk-out** and others. And another, it the use of **non-violent punishment** that revokes a promised reward and the use of pressure that connotes **propaganda** and **cultural links**, to exploit the situation, rigidities or flexibilities.