POLICY BRIEF N0.1, JUNE 10, 2021

NATIONAL PRACTICE ON DOMESTICATION OF TREATIES IN NIGERIA(1960-2021): - WHICH METHOD FOR AfCFTA??

BY
PROF. MUHAMMED TAWFIQ LADAN
(HUBERT HUMPHREY FELLOW, USA,)
DIRECTOR-GENERAL, NIALS, ABUJA, NIGERIA.

Email: - mtladan@gmail.com

INTRODUCTION

Domestication of a treaty or international agreement is a process of incorporating or transforming the provisions of a (signed and ratified) treaty into the domestic law of a given country, thereby given it the needed force of law in the national legal system, including enforceability of its provisions by domestic courts.

The domestication of treaties should be viewed against the background of the principle found in most legal systems that the status of international law or treaties in national legal systems is determined by national constitution/law and not by international law itself.

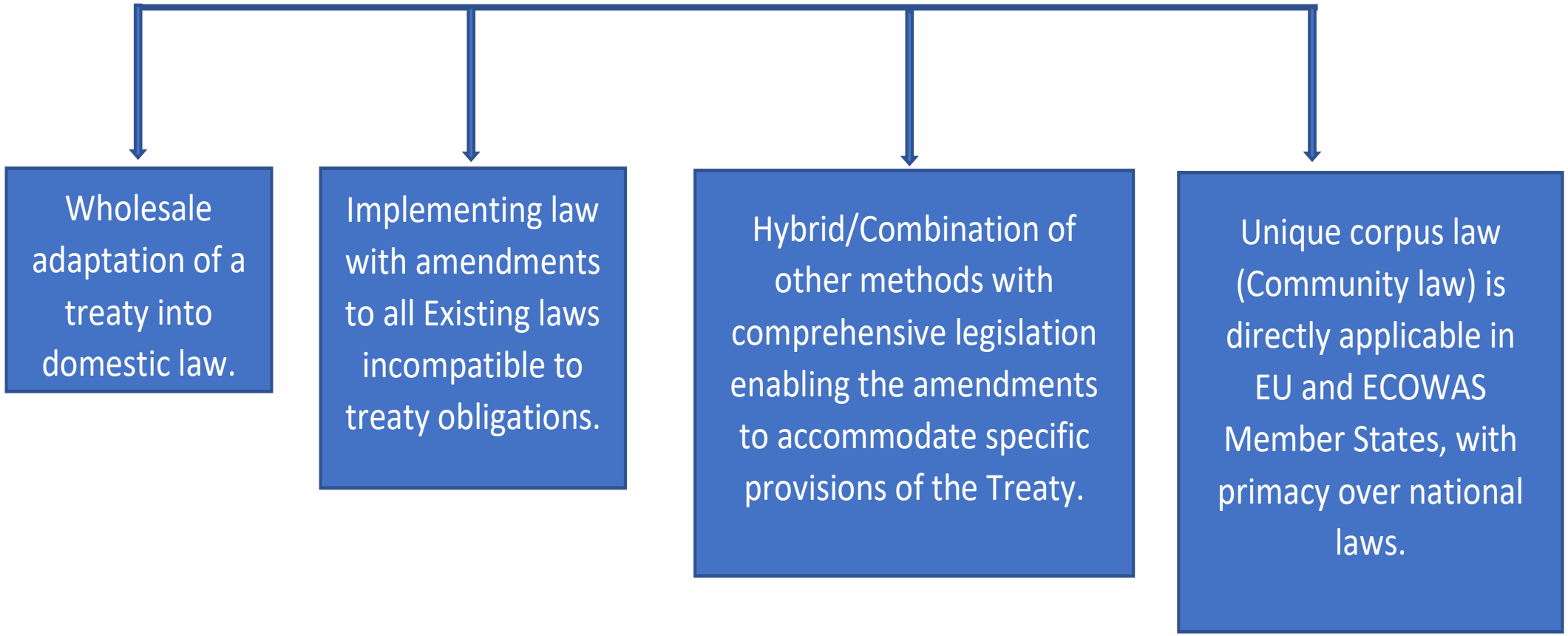
In Nigeria, the trend of case law suggest two things: - that an undomesticated treaty (though ratified) has no force of law whatsoever in Nigeria, by virtue of section 12(1) of the 1999 constitution, as amended; and that a domesticated treaty in accordance with section 12(1) of the constitution does not operate in Nigeria by the force of international law but by virtue of the statute enacted by the legislature (National Assembly) to implement it. (see the Supreme Court decisions in Abacha v. Fawehinmi (2000) FWLR (pt.4) 553 at 586, per Ogundare, Jsc; and in the case of Attorney General of Federation v. AG of Abia State and Ors (2002)FWLR(pt. 102) P.1 at 92-93).

However, the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria (Third Alteration) Act, 2010/ came into force in 2011, appears to have made ratified but undomesticated labour related treaties Justiciable in Nigeria without any legislative intervention by means of an implementing national legislation of such treaties (See section 6(2) and section 254(c) of the Act). Subsection (2) of the said section 254(c) introduced monist doctrine of automatic application of ratified treaties thereby excluding application of both Section 12(1) of the Constitution and the Judicial authority in the case of Abacha v. Fawehinmi as far as labour treaties are concerned in Nigeria.

It is worth noting that international trade agreements/treaties like the AfCFTA are, as a rule of international law, not Self-executing. State Parties to such treaties must ensure that the required domestic legal arrangements are in place in order to give effect to their obligations. They cannot invoke their national law or their own constitution to escape from their international obligations (See Article 27 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties).

There are four (4) basic methods of national implementation of a treaty in international practice: -

Figure 1



1. The practice in the domestication of treaties in Nigeria: - 1960-2021

Domestication of treaties in Nigeria is primarily a constitutional requirement by virtue of section 12(1) of the 1999 constitution, as amended. It is also a statutory /legislative requirement by virtue of section 3(1)(a) and 3(2)(a) as well as 3(3) of the Treaties (Marking Procedure etc.) Act, Cap.T20, Laws of the Federation of Nigeria (LFN) 2004.

The Nigerian Constitution gives the federal government exclusive Jurisdiction over 68 items on the Exclusive Legislative List of the 2nd Schedule to the Constitution, including matters relating to Foreign Affairs (see item 26); implementation of treaties(item 31), Trade and Commerce between Nigeria and other countries (see item62); Customs and Excise Duties (see item 16); Trade representation, etc(see item 20); Export Duties(see item 25); Maritime and Shipping (item 36); Copyright (item 13); Patents, Trade Marks, Trade or Business Names, Industrial Designs and Merchandise Marks(item 43). In its description of Nigeria's Foreign Policy Objectives, section 19(d) of the Constitution refers to "respect for international law and treaty obligations as well as the seeking of settlement of international disputes by negotiation, mediation, conciliation, arbitration and adjudication".

The National Policy on Justice, 2017, adopted by the Federal Executive Council in November 2019, equally refers to Nigeria's commitment to compliance with her Treaty obligations consistent with the constitutional responsibilities pointed out earlier(see NPJ thematic issue 17 @ pp. 67 to 68).

The Nigerian Constitution makes no specific treaty making procedure/power, but reserves to the Legislature/National Assembly the exclusive power to domesticate treaties relating to matters on the Exclusive Legislative List, including the power to make laws on matters **not** included in the Exclusive List for the purpose of implementing a treaty (Section 12(1) & (2)).

NB: - Constitutionally therefore, the Executive's power to make treaties (negotiation, conclusion/ signing and ratification) is implied, having the responsibility of promoting Nigeria's foreign policy objectives, initiating and concluding trade and commerce agreement on behalf of the Federation and people of Nigeria, as statutorily empowered by section 1(2) of the Treaties (Making Procedure , Etc.) Act.

Hence in practice , since independence, while the acts of Negotiation, Conclusion and Ratification of Treaties are undeniably a cluster of Executive functions, the primary and exclusive role of the Legislature / National Assembly lies in domestication of treaties (already ratified by the executive) in order to give it the force of law for domestic implementation. This is so because, NEITHER the Constitution NOR the Treaties (Making Procedure) Act ASSIGNS ANY ROLE to the National Assembly in respect of treaty-making in Nigeria. Cumulatively, the power to make and domesticate treaties in Nigeria is a prerogative of the Federal Government. This was the position of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, per Ogundare, Jsc, in the case of Attorney General of Federation v. AG of Abia and others, where the Court held that: -

> "In the exercise of its sovereignty, Nigeria from time to time enters into treaties, both bilateral and multilateral. The conduct of external affairs is on the exclusive legislative list. The power to conduct such affairs is therefore, in the Government of the Federation to the exclusion of any other political component unit in the Federation." ((2002) FWLR pt.102,1 at 92-93). Further, under Article 1(a) of the Vienna Law of Treaties, only central governments have the capacity to validly conclude treaties on behalf of sovereign states.

Table 1: - Methods Adopted by Nigeria in Practice.

1.	**Wholesale adoption:** - An implementing national legislation is enacted for wholesale adoption of a treaty into domestic law (and Annexed the treaty in question). **E.g.,** the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights, Cap. A9, LFN 2004; and the Geneva Conventions Act Cap.G3, LFN 2004(which gives effect to the fundamental provisions and obligations relating to universal Jurisdiction for war crimes and duty to punish individuals under the Four Geneva Conventions of 1949). **NB:-** In 2009, the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols (Consolidated) Bill was scheduled for consideration by NASS, for the purpose of Repeal of Cap. G3 and for the Domestic implementation of both the Four Geneva Conventions and their Two Additional Protocols of 1977. Officially gazetted as SB 315/C31693183, NASS; and was re-tabled in 2019/2020 as an Executive Bill for passage.
2.	**Superseding for incompatibility/inconsistency with treaty obligations: -** An implementing legislation with suspension or amendments to all Existing national legislations that may be / are incompatible with State obligations under the treaty in question. **E.g.,** the Child Rights Act, No. 26 of 2003, superseded the Children and Young Persons Act of 1945 etc for inconsistency with Nigeria's treaty obligations under both the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the AU Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child ratified by Nigeria(section 274).

3.	**A Hybrid approach/Combination of other methods: -** An implementing Comprehensive Legislations enabling the CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS to accommodate new or expansive provisions contained in the treaty; or for the specific provisions of the treaty to be incorporated in consequential amendments to existing domestic legislations. **E.g.,** the Suppression of Piracy and Other Maritime Offences Act, 2019, gives effect to the fundamental maritime security provisions under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) 1982 and the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA Convention) 1988 and its Protocols. **NB: -** while section 21 of the Act provides for consequential amendment / repeal, Sections 2,6 and 9 refer to the two treaties explicitly on matters relating to application, Jurisdiction, Custody and detention.
4.	**Domestication by Reference: -** is where the implementing legislation transforms a treaty (or treaties) into domestic law merely by reference to either specifically or generally of the treaty in the body, long and short titles, preamble or schedule of the implementing statue. **E.g**., the Constitution of Nigeria(Third Alteration) Act, 2010 (Assented on 4 March 2011) is an incorporation of the National Industrial Court (NIC) Act into the Constitution, a re-establishment of the NIC as a superior court of records with exclusive Jurisdiction on labour and related matters provided in section 254(c) as embodied in Section 6 of the Third Alteration Act. Section 254(c) (2) of the Act , made reference to the application of all treaties, which Nigeria has ratified , relating to labour, employment, workplace, industrial relations or matters connected therewith, and conferred Jurisdiction on NIC to deal with such matters, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in this Constitution. **NB: -** The above provision appears to have practically rendered inoperative the provisions of section 12(1) of the Constitution in this context. (See the Supreme Court of Nigeria's decision in the case of NDIC v. Okem Ent. Ltd (2004)10 NWLR (pt.880) p.107 at 182.) NB: - The Plant Variety Protection Act, 2021 refers to UPOV and incorporated the provisions of the 2001 Plant Varity Treaty ratified by Nigeria on 20 January 2021 relating to Plant Breeders and Farmers' Rights.

5.	**<u>Domestication by a UNIQUE CORPUS LAW</u>** (Community law) with direct application in Member States of the European Union(EU) and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), without recourse to the rigours and attendant delays of parliamentary ratification (in civil law jurisdictions)or domestication of such treaties (in dualist Jurisdictions like Nigeria). **NB: -** In ECOWAS , under the new Community Legal regime , consistent with MONISM, all Supplementary Acts passed by the Authority of Heads of States, apply directly in Member States as Legally binding instruments.

While Figure 1 and Table 1 above reveal the methods of domestication of treaties in both international and Nigerian practices, tables 2-4 below show the applicable legal instruments on treaty making and domestication and selected domesticated treaties relating to trade, economic integration, human rights and humanitarian law, petroleum, taxation an maritime crimes, amongst others, in Nigeria.

Table 2: -Legal Instruments on Treaties Making Procedure and Domestication in Nigeria

S/N	Title of Instrument	Purpose / Objectives	Scope/ Content/structure
1	Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999, as amended.	The Constitution is for the purpose of promoting the good government and welfare of all persons in our country, on the principles of freedom, equality and justice, and for the purpose of consolidating the unity of the Nigerian people. Accordingly, section 1(1) of the Constitution provides that the Constitution is supreme and its provisions shall have binding force on the authorities and persons throughout the Federal Republic of Nigeria. Section 1(3) further provides that if any other law is inconsistent with the provisions of this Constitution, this Constitution shall prevail, and that other law shall, to the extent of the inconsistency, be void.	Section 12 of the Constitution provides for the Implementation of treaties as follows- (1) No treaty between the Federation and any other country shall have the force of law to the extent to which any such treaty has been enacted into law by the National Assembly. (2) The National Assembly may make laws for the Federation or any part thereof with respect to matters not included in the Exclusive Legislative List for the purpose of implementing a treaty. (3) A bill for an Act of the National Assembly passed pursuant to the provisions of subsection (2) of this section shall not be presented to the President for assent, and shall not be enacted unless it is ratified by a majority of all the House of Assembly in the Federation.

2	Treaties (Making Procedure, Etc.) Act Cap T20 Laws of the Federation of Nigeria 2004.	The Act provides, among other things, for treaty-making procedure and the designation of the Federal Ministry of Justice as the depository of all treaties entered into between the Federation and any other country.	The Act consists of 7 sections, providing for the following – • Section 1 - Treaty making procedure • Section 2 - Making of treaties • Section 3 - Classification of treaties • Section 4 - Designation of the depository of treaties • Section 5 - Register of treaties • Section 6 - Responsibility to give information to Federal Government Printer • Section 7 provides for the short title of the Act.

Table 3:- Selected Domesticated Treaties In Nigeria

1. **Treaty to Establish the African Union (Ratification and Enforcement) Act, 2003.**
2. **The International Convention for the Safety of life at sea No. 9 (Ratification and Enforcement) Act, 2004.**
3. **United Nations Convention against Transitional Organised Crime (ratification and Enforcement) Act, 2005.**
4. **Treaty to Establish African Economic Community Relating to the Pan African Parliament (Accession and Jurisdiction) Act, 2005 as amended in 2016**
5. **Treaty on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters between the Government of the Federal Republic of South Africa (Ratification and Enforcement) Act, 2005.**
6. **Extradition Treaty between the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Government of the Federal Republic of South Africa (Ratification and Enforcement) Act, 2005.**
7. **Treaty between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe on the Joint Development of Petroleum and Other Resources in areas of the Exclusive Economic Zone of the two States (Ratification and Enforcement) Act, 2005.**
8. **United Nations Convention on Carriage of Goods by Sea (Ratification and Enforcement) Act, 2005.**
9. **Treaty to Establish Rotterdam Convention on the Prior informed Consent Procedure for certain Hazardous chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (Ratification and Enforcement) Act, 2005.**
10. **International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage 1971 as amended (Ratification and Enforcement) Act, 2006.**

11. International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage, (Ratification and Enforcement) Act, 2006.
12. International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 and 1978 Protocol (Ratification and Enforcement) Act, 2007.
13. Transfer of Convicted offenders (Enactment and Enforcement) (Amendment) Act, 2013.
14. Prohibition Of Double Taxation Between The Federal Republic Of Nigeria And The Republic Of South Korea (Domestication And Enforcement) Act, 2017
15. Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation between Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Kingdom of Sweden (Domestication and Enforcement) Act, 2017.
16. Avoidance of Double Taxation Agreement between the Federal Republic of Nigeria and the Kingdom of Spain (Domestication and Enforcement) Act 2018.
17. African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Ratification of Enforcement) Act, Cap. A, LFN 2004.
18. Geneva Corrections Act, Cap.G3, LFN 2004.
19. Child Rights Act, No.26, 2003.
20. Plant Variety Protection Act, 2021.

2. The Why of Domestic Implementation of Treaties?

- Usually, the obligation to perform a treaty is intrinsic to its ratification / accession by the state and therefore is not expressly stipulated. The Vienna convention on the law of treaties simply states that a treaty must be performed in good faith by the states which are parties to it. Indeed, a state in good faith does want that the treaty to which it has become a party, is given full effect.
- It is the normal duty of the states which are parties to a treaty to take every necessary step to ensure that provisions of the letter are given full effect.
- Out of a total of **23** International Humanitarian Law/ International Criminal Law Treaties, Nigeria had **Signed** all, **Ratified 19** out of 23, **Domesticated 2** with 6 Domestication Bills pending before NASS. (See ICRC.org/databases/treaties - Accessed on 7 June 2021).

2. The Why of Domestic Implementation of Treaties? (Cont'd)

- Out of a total of **14** UN Human Rights Treaties, Nigeria had **Ratified /Acceded to 12** and **Domesticated 7** by hybrid, reference and superseding methods (Acts: - E.g., the CRA, 2003; The Torture Act, 2017, NAPTIP Act,2015; VAPP Act, 2015 and Persons with Disabilities Act, 2018).
- Out of a total of **178** International Labour Organization (ILO) Conventions (Fundamental, Governance and Technical), Nigeria had **Ratified 40**, of which 26 are in force in Nigeria by virtue of Domestication by reference made under the Constitution, Third Alternation Act, 2010/2011.
- Out of total of **23** Multilateral Environmental Treaties, Nigeria had **Ratified 20** with only **two domesticated** (UNCLOS, 1982 by SUPOMO Act, 2019) and (Plant Variety Treaty – ITPGRFA, 2001 , by the Plant Variety Protection, Act, 2021).
- Out of a total of **17** UNESCO Treaties, Nigeria had **Ratified all the 17** with **zero domestication.**

- Out of a total of **61** African Union Treaties relating to Governance, Trade, Economic integration, Human Rights, Health, Education etc., Nigeria had **Ratified 26** of them with only **4 domesticated**.
- Nigeria had Ratified /Acceded to **10** (ten) Intellectual Property Treaties between 1963 and 2017 (source:- WIPO IP Portal – accessed 15 June, 2021).
- In addition to the Foundation ECOWAS Treaties of 1975, Revised in 1993 and Amended in 2006 by the Supplementary Protocol amending the Revised Treaty of 1993, fifteen (15) Supplementary Acts passed by the Authority of Heads of State are directly applicable in all Member States by virtue of the Monist Corpus Law/Community Law. (See ECOWAS Documentation online for the Supplementary Acts passed between 2008 and 2014).
- Nigeria inherited from the UK at independence about 334 treaties. (See Nigeria's treaties in Force 1970-1990 (1990) 22).

3. The How of Domestic Implementation?

METHODS OF DOMESTIC IMPLEMENTATION OF A TREATY

There are 4 basic methods in international practice: -

- An Implementing Legislation for WHOLESALE ADOPTING of a treaty into domestic law (and Annexed the treaty in question).

  E.g. The Geneva Conventions Act and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

- An Implementing Legislation with AMMENDMENTS to all EXISTING national legislations that may be/are incompatible with state obligations under the treaty in question.

  E.G., French-civil law jurisdiction approach.

- A HYBRID/combination of other method Approach: - with COMPREHENSIVE Legislation enabling the CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS to accommodate new/expansive provisions/elements in the treaty; or for the specific provisions of the treaty to be incorporated in consequential amendments to existing domestic legislations.

  E.G., the Canadian Act on the Rome Statute of ICC Cap. 24 of 29th June, 2000.

  - See the Preamble to the Canadian Act.

- Unique corpus law (Community law) with direct applicable in Member States of the EU and ECOWAS , without recourse to the rigours of parliamentary ratification or domestication of such treaties. In ECOWAS, they are known as a Supplementary Acts, that the Authority of Heads of States passes.

3. The How of Domestic Implementation?(Cont'd)

Table 4: - List of Domesticated IHL/IHRL Treaties/National Implementing Legislations/Draft Domestication Bills in Nigeria: - 1960-2020

S/NO	TITLE OF INSTRUMENT	STATUS
1.	Geneva Conventions Act Cap. G.3 Vol. 7. LFN 2004	Domesticated Treaty: - Commencement date: 30/9/60
2.	Armed Forced Act Cap. A. 20 Vol.1 LFN 2004	Implementing legislation relating to universal jurisdiction and state duty to punish for IHL violations. Commencement date 6th July 1994 (Initially Armed Forces Decree 105 of 1993 as amended in 1994
3.	Nigerian Red Cross Society Act Cap. N.130 Vol. 12 LFN 2004	Implementing legislation: - Commencement date 1/1/1961
4.	Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocol Bill. December 2007	Draft Bill before the National Assembly: - For the Repeal of Cap. G.3 LFN 2004 and for the domestic implementation of both the conventions and the Additional Protocols.
5.	Chemical Weapons Convention (Prohibition) Bill, 2006	Implementing legislation: - Officially gazette 12th April, 2006, Vol.3, No. 8 NASS Journal, Abuja. Yet to be passed into law by the NASS.
6.	Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman Punishment (Ratification and Enforcement) Bill 2004	Implementing legislation passed by both chambers of NASS – 25 May, 2005.
7.	Rome Statute of the ICC (Ratification and Jurisdiction) Bill 2005	Implementing legislation: - Officially gazetted 12th July, 2001, Vol. 88 No. 46. Passed by the Senate: 19th May 2005.
8.	Diplomatic Immunities and Privileges Act Cap. D9 Vol. 5 LFN 2004	Domesticated the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations etc, Commencement date of the Act: 27 Dec. 1962
9.	The African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (Ratification and Enforcement) Act Cap. A.9 LFN 2004	Domesticated ACHPR Treaty
10.	The Child Rights Act, 2003	Special Implementing legislation of the UN CRC and the AUCRWC. Commencement date: - 31st July 2003.
11.	National Commission for Refugees etc Act (of 29-12-89) Cap. N.21 LFN 2004	Domesticated in Nigeria 1951 UN Convention and its 1967 Protocol on Refugees as well as the 1969 OAU (AU) Refugees Convention.

4. Strategies for developing a national implementing legislation domesticating the AfCFTA in Nigeria.

The following strategic actions are worth considering in pursuit of the above: -

i. **Establish a technical expert working group to develop a workplan for developing a domestic implementing legislation of the AfCFTA in Nigeria. inclusive of the workplan are the following points: -**

- Provide rationale behind/Justification for domestication and implementation;
- Propose desk review of relevant national legislations in order to identify gaps, remove legal obstacles for trade and identify legislations needing amendment;

ii. Invest in a consultative process

The development of a national instrument on AfCFTA is a process worth investing in for the following reasons: -

- It is an opportunity for the government to demonstrate its approach to fulfilling its primary role in addressing trade matters and NAC-AfCFTA and to further build its capacity.
- It brings together all relevant actors involved in addressing trade matters in the affected country. It triggers relevant discussions among all participants in the process and provides advocacy opportunities.
- It helps to resolve misunderstandings and to reach agreement on key notions, definitions and concepts.
- It is an excellent opportunity to involve the private sectors and CSOS.
- It is an important learning exercise for everyone involved.

The consultative process to develop a national instrument is as important as the outcome, because it will shape its content and prospects for its successful implementation.

iii. Define the nature and scope of the envisaged national implementing legislation: - The first decision to reach is whether the stakeholders involved would prefer to adopt any of the 4 models in international practice or to reflect on other Nigerian national practices by reference and by special adoption of ECOWAS Monist model or to look for best practices elsewhere.

iv. WHICH METHOD FOR AfCFTA AND ITS PROTOCOLS??

- **5 options** are available from Nigerian National Practice on domestication of Treaties in Nigeria, 1960 – 2021.
- Due to its complexity and vast areas of coverage, the preferred option is first, to Domesticate the fundamental principles and State obligations and establish a national coordinating body for the implementation of AfCFTA. Hence may adopt the Reference or Hybrid method or take a cue from the Geneva Conventions Act, Cap. G3, LFN 2004 approach.

5. Need for Monitoring and Evaluation Framework of implementation of the Policy and the Domestication Bill

- Monitoring and evaluating implementation serves two primary purposes:
  i. Measuring progress: It is important to measure the progress made in implementation of the instrument and assess its impact on economy. Progress assessments are also important for donors if they are to continue to support the implementation activities.
  ii. Promptly identifying obstacles and gaps: Obstacles and gaps in the implementation process can be problematic and costly if they are not quickly identified and addressed.

  An implementation action plan can help to measure progress and identify obstacles and gaps. In order to maximise its potential, any such plan should clearly identify a body with monitoring expertise and experience, establish monitoring periods and require the national institutional focal point to convene regular or ad hoc meetings to take stock of the implementation process.

iii. The six W's of an implementation action plan

- Who undertakes what activity, where and when, using which funding and under whose leadership?
- **Who?** This question identifies those responsible for implementing particular aspects of the national instrument.
- **What?** This question identifies the specific activities to be undertaken in line with the chosen thematic priorities.
- **Where?** This question identifies the geographical area(s) where priority activities are to take place.
- **When?** This question determines the specific timeframes for the various parts of the implementation process.
- **Which funding?** This question prompts leaders to identify sources of funding for specific activities.
- **Whose leadership?** Drawing on the structures established by the national instrument, this question ensures that responsibility for specific activities is clear.

iv. Keeping the process on the national agenda

Given the complexity of the consultative development of a national instrument on AfCFTA, national and other entities may have to make substantial efforts to keep the process on the national agenda. The periods between validation and adoption, and then between adoption and implementation, are particularly important in this sense.

The following measures may help to sustain momentum for the development and implementation of the instrument:

- Ensuring the government body entrusted with leading the process is equipped with the necessary capacities and decision-making powers to maintain the pace of the process;
- Advocacy by other national, regional and international entities with their relevant governmental counterparts and, if applicable, with parliament for swift adoption and implementation. A national champion may be identified to pursue the process;
- Expressions of commitment and support for implementation from other national, regional and international entities during the process;
- The making and honouring of financial commitments for implementation;
- Ensuring that national, regional and international entities' planning and programming is in line with the instrument, even if not yet adopted, giving effect to expressed commitments.

CONCLUSION

It is evident from the above that domestication of treaties in Nigeria is a constitutional function, supported by case law. The analysis reveals also that between 1960 and May 2021, Nigeria has triggered four out of 5 different methods of domestication of treaties on different subjects. Due to the complexity of AfCFTA and its Protocols, all the four options are open for possible consideration or a combination of domestication by Reference and Hybrid may be plausible.

THANK YOU