

REVIEWER'S REPORT

Manuscript No.: IJAR- 55974

Title: International Collaboration in the Global South: Evidence and Implications from the Nigerian Context.

Recommendation:
Accept after minor revision

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality		✓,		
Techn. Quality		✓,		
Clarity	✓,			
Significance	✓,			

Reviewer Name: Dr Abdul Haseeb Mir

Detailed Reviewer's Report

The manuscript entitled “International Collaboration in the Global South: Evidence and Implications from the Nigerian Context” presents a timely and substantive contribution to debates on development cooperation, South–South collaboration, and the evolving political economy of the Global South. By situating Nigeria at the center of a rapidly changing global landscape marked by the rise of BRICS, multipolarity, and challenges to Western dominance, the article addresses an issue of clear scholarly and policy relevance

The study is grounded in an extensive review of policy documents, secondary data, and relevant theoretical perspectives, particularly dependency theory and multipolarity frameworks. This combination allows the author to move beyond purely descriptive accounts and to situate Nigeria's international collaborations within broader historical and structural patterns of inequality, colonial legacies, and global power asymmetries. The discussion of South–South and triangular cooperation is well contextualized, drawing appropriately on classic reference points such as the Bandung Conference and more recent scholarship on BRICS and Global South agency. In this respect, the manuscript succeeds in framing international collaboration not merely as technical cooperation, but as a politically charged process shaped by competing interests and hegemonic pressures.

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One of the article's key strengths lies in its empirical richness. The examination of Nigeria's engagements with China, Brazil, the European Union, and multilateral institutions provides concrete illustrations of how international collaboration operates in practice. The use of IMF and World Bank data, alongside figures depicting GDP (PPP) trends and comparative economic weight between BRICS+ and the G7, strengthens the empirical grounding of the analysis and supports the claim that the global economic center of gravity is shifting toward the Global South. The Nigerian case is convincingly presented as emblematic of both the opportunities and the contradictions inherent in contemporary Global South cooperation.

The manuscript also makes a notable normative contribution by questioning whether South–South cooperation always delivers on its promise of solidarity and mutual benefit. The engagement with scholars such as Gray and Gills, Hopewell, and Acharya introduces a valuable critical dimension, highlighting internal hierarchies within the Global South and the risk of reproducing asymmetric relationships under new configurations. This critical reflexivity strengthens the article's analytical depth and prevents it from adopting an overly celebratory tone.

Nevertheless, the manuscript would benefit from a small number of revisions before publication. While the critical stance toward Western interventionism, neocolonialism, and hegemonic practices is theoretically defensible, certain sections adopt a strongly normative and emotive tone that departs from conventional academic style. Moderating this language and clearly distinguishing between empirical evidence, interpretation, and normative critique would enhance the manuscript's scholarly balance and credibility. Additionally, some geopolitical claims—particularly those concerning military interventions and external motivations—would benefit from tighter sourcing or more cautious phrasing to avoid the appearance of overgeneralization.

From a structural and stylistic perspective, the article is generally well organized, but minor improvements in clarity and concision are recommended. Certain sections are repetitive, and some arguments could be sharpened through tighter synthesis rather than extended elaboration. These are, however, editorial issues rather than substantive flaws and can be addressed without major restructuring of the manuscript.

Overall, the article offers a thoughtful, well-documented, and analytically engaged examination of international collaboration in the Global South through the Nigerian case. Its strengths in topical

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relevance, theoretical awareness, and empirical illustration outweigh its minor stylistic and tonal shortcomings. Subject to minor revisions focused on tone refinement, analytical precision, and language polishing, the manuscript is suitable for publication and would make a valuable contribution to the literature on development cooperation and Global South international relations.

Recommendation: Accepted for publication with minor revisions.