

International Relations in Era of Digital Technology: The Change and Implications for African Nations

Eugene N. Nweke¹

¹ Ebonyi State University, Department of Political Science, Abakaliki, Nigeria

ndufield@yahoo.com

International relation in Africa is not isolated from the impact of digital technology rather the wave of digital revolution across the globe has introduced new thinking in the comity of nations. This thinking reflects concern on e-diplomacy as new way for nation-nation engagement. The increasing diplomatic engagement and other international relations through digital technology has brought the world to a global village. In the same vein, the preponderance of digital technology as a tool for international interactions and relations among States, International institutions, organisation (governmental and non-governmental) and leaders than ever has increased the participation and knowledge sharing in global discussion. While the benefits of digitalization of foreign relations include integration, improved access and inclusiveness, the developing nations especially African nations are confronted by digital divide. The divide has created digital imbalance and the existence of “information haves” and “information have nots”. On the side of the have-nots are most African nations. The gap created as a result of imbalance in the use of digital technology is changing the nature of Africa’s international relations from initial emerging strong nations at independence to a bulk backsliding nations. This changing nature therefore deserves attention especially as African nations are becoming more dependent on developed countries to acquire digital equipment including manpower that enhance the digital participation of African nations in comity of nations. This paper, at first instance, therefore sets to examine the cause of digital divide and how it has impacted on Africa nations and leaders in international engagement. Secondly, the paper will further explore the forces of digital drive and challenges of integrating African nations into centre of digital diplomacy and engagement. However the third section reviews the link between international engagements in order to make certain if there are benefits and gaps in applying digital technology to stimulate international interaction of African nations.