

## REFLECTING ON THE SYNDROME OF NON-DOMESTICATION OF INTERNATIONAL TREATIES IN NIGERIA: CHARTING THE WAY FORWARD

*Babalola Abegunde\**

### ABSTRACT

When a government signs a treaty, it is bound internationally to observe and perform the obligations contained therein, and not to act in any manner that is inconsistent with the treaty provisions. It is consistent with the elementary principle of international law '*pacta sunt servanda*' (which means agreements are binding). Over the decades, Nigeria has signed and ratified a whole lot of treaties covering various areas of life and human endeavour, unfortunately the impact of some of these treaties are not felt within Nigeria because they have not been domesticated (incorporated) into a local or national statute. The purpose of this paper is to holistically appraise, the factors responsible for non-domestication of treaties in Nigeria and the effects thereof, among others. The methodology adopted in the work is the doctrinal research method, which is a legal research approach of analysing both primary and secondary sources of data relevant to the subject matter. The significance of this work is that it will fill some gaps left out by existing literature, it will also enrich the existing literature on treaties. It is the finding of this paper, that there is gross under-domestication of treaties in Nigeria, hence, a mass of treaties already signed and ratified remain undomesticated, thereby depriving Nigerians of the expected benefits thereof. Therefore, beyond domestication, States need to demonstrate will power, in the area of enforcement. It concludes with some recommendation on the way forward.

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\* Senior Lecturer & Head, Department of Public Law, Ekiti State University, Ado-Ekiti, Nigeria.