

**PEACE AND STABILITY THROUGH BILATERAL DIPLOMACY BETWEEN
UGANDA AND SOUTH SUDAN**

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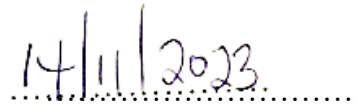
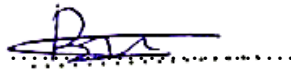
**A RESEARCH REPORT SUBMITTED TO THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES AND
SOCIAL SCIENCES IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE
AWARD OF MASTER IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF KAMPALA
INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY**

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DECLARATION

I, Akol Awien Elizabeth, guarantee the ownership of this research report being supervised by Assoc. Prof. Tarabinah Wilfred towards a Masters in International Relations; it contains no materials formerly in print by other persons.

Akol Awien Elizabeth



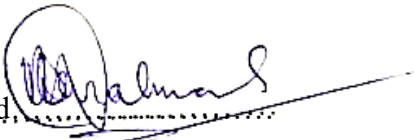
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APPROVAL PAGE

I confirm that the work reported in this research report is carried out by the candidate under my supervision.

Signed, 

Assoc. Prof Tarabinah Wilfred

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Date, 14/11/2023

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION	i
APPROVAL PAGE	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iii
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	vii
LIST OF TABLES	viii
LIST OF ACRONYMS	ix
ABSTRACT.....	x
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.0 Background	1
1.1 Background to the study.....	1
1.1.1 Historical perspective.....	1
1.1.2 Theoretical perspective	6
1.1.2.1 Stable Peace Theory (1978).....	6
1.1.3 Conceptual perspective	8
1.1.4 Contextual perspective	11
1.2 Statement of the problem	13
1.3 Purpose of the study.....	14
1.4 Research objectives.....	15
1.5 Research questions	15
1.6 Significance of the study	15
1.7 Scope.....	16
1.7.1 Geographical scope.....	16
1.7.2 Theoretical scope	17
1.7.3 Content scope	17
1.7.4 Time scope	17
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	20
2.0 Introduction	20
2.1 Theoretical review	20

2.1.1 Stable Peace Theory by Boulding (1978).....	20
2.2 Conceptual framework.....	22
2.3 Empirical review.....	23
2.3.1 Peace, stability and increased diplomatic engagement and enhancement	23
2.3.2 Peace and stability and enhanced economic cooperation.....	26
2.3.3 Peace and stability and trust-building	30
2.4 Relationship between peace and stability and bilateral diplomacy.....	32
2.5 Gaps in literature	37
CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY.....	38
3.1 Introduction	38
3.2 Research design	38
3.3 Study population.....	38
3.4 Sample size.....	38
Table 3.1: Population size and Sample size	39
Source: MOFA, 2020; South Sudanese Embassy, 2021.	39
Table 3.2: Population and sample size (Key informants)	39
Source: MOFA, 2020; South Sudanese Embassy, 2021.	39
3.5 Sampling procedure	39
3.6 Data collection methods.....	40
3.7 Research instruments	40
3.8 Validity and reliability of instruments	41
3.9. Reliability	41
3.10 Data gathering procedures.....	41
3.10.1 before the administration of the questionnaires	41
3.10.2 During data collection	42
3.10.3 During the administration of the questionnaire.....	42
3.10.4 After the administration of the questionnaire	42
3.11 Data analysis.....	42
3.12 Ethical consideration.....	43
3.13 Limitations of the study	43

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION	44
4.1 Introduction	44
4.2 Response rate.....	44
4.3 Demographic profile of the respondents	44
Table 4.1: Showing demographic profile of the respondents.....	45
4.3.1 Objective one: Assessing the effectiveness of peace and stability in promoting increased diplomatic engagement between Uganda and South Sudan.....	46
Table 4.2: Respondents views on increased diplomatic engagements	46
Table 4.3: Relationship between diplomatic engagements and peace & stability in Uganda and Sudan.....	47
4.3.2 Objective two. Investigated how peace and stability influences economic cooperation between Uganda and South Sudan.	48
Table 4.4 Showing respondents views on increased economic cooperation.....	48
Table 4.5: Correlation of economic cooperation on Peace and Stability	50
4.3.3 Objective three: Examined the influence of peace and stability in promoting trust- building between Uganda and South Sudan.	51
Table 4.6: Showing respondents views on trust-building	51
Table 4.7: Correlation of trust-building on peace & stability	52
4.3.4 Description of the independent variable.....	52
Table 4.8: Showing views of respondents on decreased corruption	53
Table 4.9: Showing respondents views on promotion of the rule of law	54
 CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	 56
5.0 Introduction	56
5.1 Discussion of findings.....	56
5.1.1 Objective one: To assess the effectiveness of peace and stability in promoting increased diplomatic engagement between Uganda and South Sudan.....	56
5.1.2 Objective two: To investigate how peace and stability influences economic cooperation between Uganda and South Sudan.	64
5.1.3 Objective three: To examine the influence of peace and stability in promoting trust-building between Uganda and South Sudan.	69
Correlation of trust-building on peace & stability	71
5.2 Conclusions	72
5.2.1 Objective one.....	72
5.2.2 Objective two.....	73

5.2.3 Objective three.....	74
5.3 Recommendations.....	74
5.3.1 Objective one.....	74
5.3.2 Objective two.....	75
5.4 Contribution of the study to the body of knowledge	75
5.5 Recommendations for further research	77
REFERENCES.....	78
APPENDICES	89
APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE SOUTH SUDANESE EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UGANDA AND SOUTH SUDAN OFFICIALS	89
APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS (SOUTH SUDANESE EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UGANDA AND SOUTH SUDAN OFFICIALS	95
APPENDIX III: KREJCIE AND MORGAN’S TABLE.....	96

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LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1: Population size and sample size	39
Table 3.2: Population and sample size (Key informants)	39
Table 4.1: Showing demographic profile of the respondents	45
Table 4.2: Respondents views on increased diplomatic engagements	46
Table 4.3: Relationship between diplomatic engagements and peace & stability in Uganda and Sudan	47
Table 4.4 Showing respondents views on increased economic cooperation	48
Table 4.5: Correlation of economic cooperation on peace and stability	50
Table 4.6: Showing respondents views on trust-building	51
Table 4.7: Correlation of trust-building on peace & stability	52
Table 4.8: Showing views of respondents on decreased corruption	53
Table 4.9: Showing respondents views on promotion of the rule of law	54

LIST OF ACRONYMS

APSA	African Peace and Security Architecture
ASF	African Standby Force
AU	African Union
CEWS	Continental Early Warning System
CPA:	Comprehensive Peace agreement
EAC	East African Community
Goss	Government of South Sudan
IDPs:	Internal displace persons
IGAD	Intergovernmental Authority on Development
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
LRA	Lord's Resistance Army
RPF:	Regional Protection Force
SPLM/A	Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army
UN	United Nations
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNMISS:	United Nations Mission in South Sudan
USAID:	United States Agency for International Development
JBVMM:	Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism

ABSTRACT

This study examined the impact of peace and stability on bilateral diplomacy between Uganda and South Sudan. The study was guided by three objectives: To assess the effectiveness of peace and stability in promoting increased diplomatic engagement between Uganda and South Sudan; investigate how peace and stability influences economic cooperation between Uganda and South Sudan; examine the influence of peace and stability in promoting trust-building between Uganda and South Sudan. In addition, the study was guided by Stable Peace Theory by Boulding (1978). The study adopted a descriptive correlation survey design, and a mixed method approach in data collection, whereby both quantitative (survey questionnaire) and qualitative (key informant interview) approaches were used to elicit data from the study. Quantitative approach, however, was the main source of data, whilst qualitative approach served as a supplementary source of data. Data was analysed at uni-variate, bi-variate and at multivariate level using means, standard deviation and Pearson Linear Correlation Coefficient (PLCC). From the study findings on the first objective of the study, the study concluded that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that by promoting increased trade and investment between the two countries, having more high-level of visits between the two countries, sustaining frequent communication between the two countries' leaders, then bilateral diplomacy in Uganda and South Sudan will be improved. On the second objective of the study, the study concluded that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that by promoting increased trade and investment, addressing insecurity issues and emphasizing greater cooperate on regional issues then, bilateral diplomacy between Uganda and South Sudan will be improved. Concerning objective three, the study concluded that majority of the respondents strongly agreed that by establishing regular high-level dialogue through regular meetings between the leaders of the two countries, as well as their ministers and other officials, then, bilateral diplomacy in Uganda and South Sudan will be improved. Lastly from the findings and conclusions, the study recommended that all the three constructs of peace and stability should be enhanced in Uganda and South Sudan through the establishment of regular high-level dialogue, respecting signed agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs), establishment of a free trade area, greater cooperation with regard to tourism, agriculture, and manufacturing, working together to attract foreign investments, establishing a joint truth and reconciliation commission, creation of a joint mechanism for conflict resolution, promoting education and understanding about each other's cultures and supporting civil society organizations that promote peace and reconciliation.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Background

This chapter presents the background, problem statement, purpose, objectives, research questions, hypotheses, significance and scope of the study.

1.1 Background to the study

1.1.1 Historical perspective

Good governance, respect for human rights, social fairness, economic advancement, and effective conflict resolution procedures are some of the factors that contribute to international peace and stability (Annan, 2000; Lobakeng, 2017; Adetula, Bereketeab & Obis, 2021). Through a range of diplomatic, economic, and military endeavours, the United States of America strives to improve world peace and stability in this way. Through diplomatic channels like the UN and other international organizations, the US seeks peace and stability. According to the U.S. Department of State (2022), it talks to foreign nations to resolve differences and promote international collaboration. In terms of economics, the US has been providing help for economic development to countries all over the world, particularly those who are in need or coping with political upheaval. As an illustration, USAID (2022) asserts that the US has helped Afghanistan with its reconstruction efforts and stabilize the country following years of conflict and unrest. Stability, a decrease in poverty, and economic growth are the goals of this help. The US military is regularly used to promote peace and stability, particularly in troubled regions of the world. For instance, according to the United States and the Global Coalition to Fight ISIS (2022), the United States has been battling ISIS in Syria and Iraq to prevent the group from destabilizing the region.

Additionally, US military members have participated in counterterrorism operations, humanitarian missions, and peacekeeping missions, according to the United States Mission to the UN (2022). Additionally, the US contributes to international peacekeeping efforts and assists the UN in its peacekeeping deployments. In a number of conflict zones across the world, American personnel have been deployed to support the maintenance of peace and stability. Additionally, the US promotes democratic institutions around the world and supports democratic nations. According to the USA, democratic governments are more stable and less prone to interstate warfare.

According to Chinese President Xi Jinping (2014), China's approach to peace and stability on the global stage is broad and complex. It is influenced by a variety of factors, such as historical knowledge, ideological considerations, and geopolitical circumstances. Multilateralism, diplomacy, non-interference, cooperative security, and regional stability are values that China adheres to (Xi Jinping, 2014). China's approach to promoting peace and stability is founded on the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of other countries. The sovereignty and territorial integrity of every nation must be respected, according to Chinese President Xi Jinping (Xi, 2014). "We must accept the right of each country in the world to independently choose its own path of development," he added.

Additionally, China emphasizes diplomacy and multilateralism as crucial tools for promoting peace and stability. Foreign Minister Wang Yi of China stated that "China supports multilateralism, opposes unilateralism, and encourages peaceful resolution of problems via communication and negotiation" (Wang, 2020). China concurs with the concept of cooperative security, which emphasizes trust, equality, cooperation, and mutual gain. Li Baodong, China's deputy foreign minister, stated that "cooperative security requires that we move beyond the zero-sum thinking and Cold War mentality, and construct a new form of international relations with win-win collaboration" (Li, 2015). In contrast, China seeks to promote stability within its own region when it comes to regional stability, particularly through its membership in organizations like the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the ASEAN Regional Forum. According to Hua Chunying, a representative for the Chinese Foreign Ministry, China is committed to cooperating with its neighbors to build a community with a common destiny for humanity and to enhance regional peace, growth, and prosperity (Hua, 2021).

Former South African President Thabo Mbeki advanced the idea of an African Renaissance and encouraged its integration into the thinking that underpinned a pan-African effort to reposition the continent in an emerging post-Cold War order, echoing the regionalist approach to peace and stability in the continent in the 1990s. The New Partnership for African Development (NPAD) was founded in 2001, the African Union (AU) was reborn in 2002, and the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) was introduced in 2002. These three initiatives represent the collective search for an African-initiated and -driven response to the atrocities of colonialism, imperialism, and globalization. The characteristic of "African answers to African problems," according to Lobakeng

(2017), was the search for "a feasible solution towards a united, wealthy, and peaceful Africa." In order to address the structural and emerging challenges to African peace, governance, and development as well as to place the continent on a path to greater global reckoning in the twenty-first century, it stressed the importance of African solidarity, norms, institutions, and processes.

From the continental view, the relationship between Uganda and South Sudan is significantly impacted by the African Union (AU), which has played a significant role in promoting peace and security in the region. According to Barnett and Ndungu (2017), the AU supported the establishment of the Joint Border Verification and Monitoring Mechanism (JBVMM) to monitor the border between South Sudan and Uganda and took part in peace negotiations between the warring factions in South Sudan.

Additionally, to assist and strengthen peace, security, stability, and good governance on the continent, the African Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) was created (United Nations, 2015). APSA is tasked with establishing and creating strong partnerships for peace and security with the AU, UN, and other international organizations. Important parts of APSA include the Peace and Security Council (PSC), the Panel of the Wise (PoW), the Peace Fund, the Continental Early Warning System (CEWS), the African Standby Force (ASF), and the Panel of the Wise (PoW). The PSC serves as a collective security and early-warning system for Africa, enabling quick and efficient responses to conflicts and catastrophes. It must establish the guidelines and take the appropriate actions in accordance with its mandate to ensure that any outside initiative to advance security and peace on the continent stays within the bounds of the Union's objectives.

Despite the fact that member states there have acknowledged that peace and stability are essential elements for economic development and that economic strategies must be complemented by initiatives that address human development, social infrastructure, health, the environment, and ethnic and political conflicts, West Africa has unfortunately been one of the most politically active and challenging regions of Africa. For instance, since the 1960s, the region has had one of the highest rates of coup d'états worldwide. As a result, violent conflicts brought on by civil wars, ethno-religious conflicts, and political crises, among others, have led to instability and reversals in the developmental accomplishments made by some countries. Obi (2009); Aning, Okyere &

Abdallah (2012) claim that the region has recently come to be associated with an increase in violent extremism and radicalization.

According to GIABA (2013), despite efforts to halt violent extremism and counter-terrorist activities in the region, new groups like the Ansar ul Islam in Burkina Faso are conducting their operations with a level of proficiency that becomes more cruel with each incidence.

Throughout West Africa, revolutions to democracy are also accompanied by new threats to peace and stability. Elections are marked by intense tensions that are stoked by things like ethnicity, which candidates frequently exploit; winner-take-all political contests that encourage parties and candidates to win at all costs; a relative lack of confidence in the impartiality of election management bodies; and allegations of electoral malpractice. Election disagreements frequently result in violent outbursts throughout the area, as seen in Burkina Faso in 2014 and 2015, Benin in 2019, Côte d'Ivoire in 2011, Guinea in 2012, 2013, and 2018, and Nigeria in 2015 and 2019. As a result, the public is frequently extremely anxious before polls. Unfortunately, there are still those politicians who want to long-term dominance, even if that includes manipulating and swaying constitutional revisions to extend their tenure past term limits. In a few nations in the region, such tactics are escalating the political stability crisis and undermining effective government.

In order to promote peace on a regional scale, the EAC member nations, according to Bam (2012), adopted the Protocol on Peace and Security as well as the EAC Conflict Prevention, Management, and Resolution Mechanism in January 2012. The EAC Peace and Security Protocol outlined more than 20 objectives for advancing regional peace and security, in addition to preventing genocide, managing disasters and responding to crises, managing refugees, reducing the spread of small arms and light weapons, and combating transnational and cross-border crimes. The Conflict Prevention, Management, and Resolution Mechanism also covers conflict prevention programs where early warning systems are essential to EAC's peace and security activities. One of the additional steps the EAC has established to lessen the chances of conflicts in the region is the East African Standby Force, which gives a regional response to disagreements. The Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) has also played a crucial role in promoting peace and stability in the region. Despite sharing a regional grouping, Uganda and South Sudan have struggled to resolve border

disputes and trade-related issues, which has impeded their economic cooperation (Kasozi & Yumkella, 2021).

Kenya's foreign policy and its role in promoting security and peace in the area cannot be understated. Being a part of the African Union, the United Nations, and the East African Community allows Kenya to actively participate in regional peace and security initiatives, particularly in the Horn of Africa. In the South Sudan peace process, for example, Kenya has also taken part in the mediation of regional issues. To put an end to the conflict in South Sudan, which has lasted since 2013, a peace conference was organized in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2018. The gathering brought together regional officials and members from the warring groups in South Sudan to discuss ways to resolve the crisis. Kenya and Uganda have consistently had good relations on a bilateral level. Kenya borders both countries, and trade and economic ties among the three countries are essential to the stability and development of the region.

In general, Kenya has been committed to promoting regional security and peace and has made valuable contributions to regional diplomacy and conflict resolution. One of the main problems harming the country's international relations and diplomacy in the area is the broken and entrenched ethnically based political splits, which continue to endanger the foundation of the nation's economy. This is due to the highly ethnic political checkerboard used in the country, which is built on historical injustices involving land and political marginalization in the pursuit of political domination (Government Printer, 2008b).

Bilateral diplomacy has been crucial in the case of Uganda in promoting stability and peace in both South Sudan and Uganda. Uganda has long-standing military deployments with the SPLM/A, according to International Crisis Group (2014) and the AU (2014). For instance, the rebel government of Uganda led by the National Resistance Movement/Army (NRM/A) had to contend with a revolt in the region's north. The survivors of the defeated Ugandan army who had taken refuge there later launched attacks against Uganda from their strongholds in Sudan.

Uganda, just like other sister regional countries is committed to peace and stability, however, most often it is being affected by insecurity caused by Allied Democratic Forces (ADF), a rebel

insurgent group in Uganda and the Democratic Republic of the Congo headed by Musa Seka Baluku who took over as the commander of the ADF following the 2015 arrest of its former leader, Jamil Mukulu, in Tanzania (Titeca & Vlassenroot, 2012). Recently, on June 16, 2023, ADF attacked and killed 39 students of Lhubirihii secondary school in Kasese district. This attack sent shockwaves in this normally peaceful East African country whose long-time leader cites security as a strength of his government. It is also a blow to the country's armed forces, who since 2021 have been deployed in parts of eastern Congo under a mission specifically to hunt down the ADF militants (New vision, June 17, 2023).

South Sudan became independent after a harmonized referendum result after seceding from Sudan on July 9, 2011. Thirty-six months later, on 15th December 2013, a civil war broke out, turning a dispute over political power into an ethnic conflict. This marked the beginning of the current civil war. According to Gambari (2010), the proliferation and intensity of conflict situations and war have hampered development efforts and threatened the peace in a neighbouring country. For example, South Sudan instability is further complicated by Thomas Cirillo Swaka, a South Sudanese political and the leader and commander-in-chief of the rebel National Salvation Front/Army (NAS), a rebel group opposing the government of the Republic of South Sudan. Notwithstanding, South Sudan still supports "peace and stability" at the international, continental, and sub-regional levels, like the majority of UN members (Blanchard, 2016; African Development Bank Group, 2013; Blanchard, 2016). Therefore, if this conflict is not carefully managed and resolved, it could result in more massive exodus of refugees, the proliferation of weapons and transnational crimes, as well as general insecurities. This demonstrates why the area needs peace and stability (Barnett & Ndungu, 2017; Gill, 2020).

1.1.2 Theoretical perspective

This study was based on the Stable Peace Theory (1978).

1.1.2.1 Stable Peace Theory (1978)

The stable peace theory was developed by Kenneth Boulding and published in his book "Stable Peace" in 1978. It provides a theoretical framework for understanding how nations may build and maintain peaceful relations over a significant amount of time. In contrast to simply the absence of

violence, Boulding views a stable peace as a state of equilibrium in which nations have developed institutions, practices, and values that promote respect for one another, cooperation, and peaceful conflict resolution (Risse-Kappen, 1991).

The theory bases its predictions on the following premises: that nations operate rationally, maximizing their own self-interest while also appreciating the significance of cooperation and collaboration in achieving shared objectives; Conflicts between Nations can have major consequences for both parties, and institutions and practices that encourage peaceful conflict resolution, like diplomacy and international law, can be formed and put into effect.

Boulding's Theory is significant in the context of this study since it argues unequivocally that bilateral diplomacy is necessary for achieving a sustainable peace. Bilateral diplomacy refers to direct talks between two nations where they can discuss their issues and mutual interests while looking for solutions. Through bilateral diplomacy, nations may boost their sense of purpose and mutual trust, which can assist to prevent crises and resolve disputes amicably. The Stable Peace Theory places even greater emphasis on the importance of stability and predictability in international relations. When nations can rely on one another to act consistently and conform to established rules and conventions, they are more likely to cooperate and avoid confrontation. Moreover, according to Boulding, stable peace can be achieved through institutionalized cooperation, social and cultural exchanges, and economic interdependence.

However, despite its widely acknowledged benefits, the theory is criticized of exaggerating the capacity of institutions and practices to avert wars and disregarding the power dynamics that exist between different states. Others argue that the notion is overly idealistic and ignores how nationalism, ideology, and religion have shaped international relations over time.

The Stable Peace Theory continues to be relevant today despite its ups and downs because it highlights the importance of collaboration, institutionalization, and diplomacy in achieving this goal and provides a useful framework for comprehending the conditions necessary for lasting peace between nations.

1.1.3 Conceptual perspective

The dependent variable in this study is bilateral diplomacy. The variable is conceptualized as the process of managing foreign affairs directly between two countries (Saeed, 2022). Similar to this, Byman & Shapiro (2021) describe bilateral diplomacy as the act of two nations directly negotiating and chatting to settle disputes or further shared goals. Bilateral diplomacy is the conduct of diplomatic relations between two governments or administrations on an equal basis with the goal of achieving specific goals and advancing shared interests, according to Jonsson & Hall (2005).

The term "bilateral diplomacy" refers to discussions between two countries that center on topics of shared interest or concern (Fischer, 2016). In order to advance shared interests, encourage collaboration, and settle conflicts, two governments manage their relations with one another through bilateral diplomacy (Berridge, 2015). The variable is further described by Wang (2017), as the transmission of diplomatic communications between two nations with the purpose of advancing their shared interests. Callahan (2011) characterized bilateral diplomacy as the interaction between two nations to discuss and negotiate issues of shared interest or concern.

In general, bilateral diplomacy can be extremely important in advancing world peace and stability for a number of reasons, including averting and resolving crises, fostering understanding and trust between nations, and resolving difficulties that both nations face together. Bilateral diplomacy can be a useful instrument in the prevention or resolution of international conflicts. Nations can recognize and address tension-causing factors through open dialogue and negotiation before they develop into more serious conflicts. Bilateral diplomacy can aid in the promotion of mutual trust and understanding on a global scale. The ability of nations to comprehend one another's interests and points of view can be improved through direct exchange and communication, which can subsequently result in more fruitful collaboration and conflict resolution. Through bilateral diplomacy, nations can cooperate to address issues like terrorism, climate change, and global health concerns. Cooperation among states can aid in addressing these problems more successfully, fostering world peace and stability.

Fischer (2016) asserts that in order to quantify bilateral diplomacy, it is required to evaluate the efficacy of two countries' relations in terms of a variety of different factors, including the economy,

culture, politics, and public opinion. Bilateral diplomacy is an important part of international relations and can advance world peace and stability when done properly. According to Boulding (1978), bilateral diplomacy may be more successful than multilateral diplomacy in resolving genuine conflict situations because it allows the parties to connect with one another directly and informally. Based on Boulding, there needs to be mutual respect, trust, and understanding if there is to be a lasting peace. Effective bilateral diplomacy can prevent an escalation by promoting a better knowledge of the other side's perspective and by creating a forum for informal and private dialogue. Successful bilateral diplomacy depends on the diplomacy's talent and subtlety as well as the parties' willingness to engage in genuine dialogue.

In this study bilateral diplomacy was measured in terms of three elements; namely: increased diplomatic engagement, increased economic cooperation and trust building.

The independent variables for this study are peace and stability. These factors typically have Johan Galtung (1976) in mind. Barnett (2006) describes peace and stability in a constrained region administered by a single state as integration, coherence, the emergence of commonality, as well as peaceful cohabitation. Zaum (2012) used the same definition of peace and stability: "activities done to identify and support structures which will tend to strengthen and solidify peace in order to avoid relapse into conflict." According to Call (2008), activities conducted at the national, municipal, or international levels to maintain peace in nations that have undergone conflict are referred to as acts of peace and stability.

Former UN Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali described peace and stability in this way: "activities taken to identify and support mechanisms which will tend to cement peace to avoid a relapse into conflict" (United Nations, 1992). The "creation of a new environment," most likely in a post-conflict situation, is related to peace and stability, according to the UN General Assembly in 1993. Additionally, according to the UNSGPGC 2007, maintaining peace and stability requires "a range of measures targeted to reduce the risk of conflict escalating or re-escalating by strengthening national capacities at all levels for conflict management and to lay the foundation for a sustainable peace and development."

The creation of a will to live together base on shared core values, interests, emotions, objectives, and expectations is necessary for there to be long-lasting stability and peace. Additionally, there must be complementarity, common security, reciprocal acceptance, cooperative contact, institutionalized problem-solving procedures, and complementarity (Gawerc, 2006; Mazrui and Wiafe-Amoako, 2016).

Similar to this, Omeje (2019) views peace and stability as a state-led effort to mobilize resources and work toward rebuilding social life in their countries on three interconnected levels: (a) rebuilding the state and its institutions for governance and service delivery; (b) rebuilding the economy to sustain the state and society; and (c) rebuilding the society to revive the fabric of social and cohesion.

The goal of peace and stability is to offer a comprehensive strategy for comprehending and addressing the wide spectrum of problems that imperil peace and security (Tschirgi, 2003; Bjorkdah, 2012). Averting and resolving violent conflicts, cementing the peace after the violence has subsided, and post-conflict reconstruction to prevent a recurrence to violent conflict are all parts of the peace and stability process. According to Tschirgi (2003) and Bjorkdah (2012), peace and stability are characterized by consideration of "the immediate and underlying causes of the temporary conflicts, including structural, political, socio-cultural, economic, and environmental issues".

For there to be peace and stability, people must accept the basic sociological components of society, such as culture, history, socioeconomics, structures, institutions, traditions, the legitimacy of the particular society, and moral and ethical standards. This transcends legal, administrative, and technological obligations. Tuluianu (2013) contends that the gradual, non-linear development of society is the only path to real, permanent peace. Furthermore, it goes without saying that outside interference could not achieve this fundamental social formation. East Africa and all of Africa must make meaningful internal nation- and state-building efforts if they are to maintain long-term peace and stability.

Given this, it is preferable to think of peace and stability as a "integrated process whose elements include prevention and resolution of conflict, consolidation of peace, once violence has been reduced through systemic mediation and reconciliation, and post-conflict reconstruction, with a view to avoiding lapses that lead to violent conflict" (Adetula, 2015).

Measuring peace and stability can be difficult since it involves taking into account a wide range of social, economic, and political context-related elements. However, in this study, the variables were broken-down in terms of three elements; namely: decreased corruption, promotion of the rule of law and promotion of democracy.

1.1.4 Contextual perspective

As two East African sisters, South Sudan and Uganda are likely to share friendly bilateral ties (Mwakikagile, 2009). As border disputes, resource competition, violence and war, and political issues appear to be eroding the two nations' links over time (Kyeyune & Mawa, 2021), peace and stability remain elusive (Kyeyune & Mawa, 2021). This is impeding the two nations' projected partnership. Both nations' lack of peace and security has detrimental effects that threaten their survival. While providing military and logistical support to the South Sudanese army throughout the conflict, Uganda was motivated by the Pan-Africanism spirit of assisting South Sudan to be politically stable. However, some observers perceived this as meddling in the country's internal affairs, which led to accusations of imperialism and hegemony (Kaitei & Ntaganira, 2019). Despite claims to the contrary, the two countries claim to maintain amicable and cordial relations; nonetheless, it appears that these ties have deteriorated as a result of intervention, as South Sudan sees Uganda's continued involvement in its internal affairs as a danger to its independence and sovereignty.

The two sibling countries have been severely impacted by the absence of peace and stability, according to the Global Peace Index (2021). For instance, political instability, civil wars, and other crises have affected both South Sudan and Uganda. The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) insurgency in the north, the Allied Democratic Forces (ADF) in the west, and livestock rustling in the north-east are only a few of the wars that Uganda has faced. Similar to Sudan, South Sudan has been engulfed in civil war since 2013, which has resulted in millions of people being displaced,

widespread violations of human rights, and a dire humanitarian catastrophe. Even though Uganda has won praise for its generosity, the influx of refugees has paradoxically strained relations with South Sudan and taxed Uganda's resources. South Sudan accuses Uganda of not doing enough to address the underlying problems that contributed to the conflict that forced its residents to flee (Kaitesi & Ntaganira, 2019; Lwanga, 2020).

Numerous empirical studies have looked at how the absence of peace and stability affects the bilateral ties between South Sudan and Uganda. According to a study by Abdi (2019), the bilateral relationship has been strained as a result of Uganda's involvement in the South Sudanese civil war. Additionally, a different study by Okumu and Musila (2018) discovered that the crisis in South Sudan has harmed trade ties between the two nations. These studies, however, neglected to mention the wider effects of the absence of peace and stability on the survival of both countries.

According to Global Peace Index (2021), Uganda and South Sudan both rank 129th and 161st out of 163 nations on the Global Peace Index, making them two of the least peaceful nations in the world. High levels of violence, political instability, and economic underdevelopment have been caused by the absence of peace and stability in both countries. As an illustration, the fighting in South Sudan is thought to have killed 400,000 people and cost the economy \$28 billion (World Bank, 2020).

As a result, if there is unrest or instability in any of the sister nations, these nations are likely to have negative effects that limit their ability to survive. These include slowed economic growth, few prospects for investment, and the eviction of millions of people. The political unrest and wars in both nations are likely to contribute to a rise in crime, the use of small guns, and violations of human rights.

Therefore, the unrest and instability in South Sudan and Uganda are a survival threat that is ticking time bomb. Both nations run the risk of becoming failed states with never-ending wars and suffering populations without peace and stability. Therefore, the study on peace and stability and bilateral diplomacy between Uganda and South Sudan is timely because it will uncover elements that could be contributing to cold bilateral relations between the two countries and to suggest remedies for these issues, such as promoting increased dialogue and trust-building measures

between the two countries, addressing the underlying causes of the conflict in South Sudan, and improving cross-border cooperation.

1.2 Statement of the problem

Promoting bilateral connections between nations requires peace and stability, according to Omeje (2019). Two African countries, South Sudan and Uganda, have a lengthy history of war that has harmed their bilateral ties. It is necessary to investigate the prognosticative value of peace and stability in fostering bilateral relations between the two nations because the lack of peace and stability in South Sudan has negatively impacted Uganda.

In a perfect world, Uganda and South Sudan's bilateral ties would be built on a foundation of peace and stability. This would entail regular meetings at the highest levels between the presidents of the two nations, ongoing commercial and economic relations, and solid security cooperation (Tesfaye, 2021). In this scenario, the two countries would cooperate to settle any disputes amicably and attempt to advance their shared interests. Strong bilateral relations would come from this, which would boost both nations' economies and raise their level of security. In this case, the two nations would cooperate to tackle problems like terrorism, poverty, and disease outbreaks, among others. And in the event of a dispute, any unresolved disputes would be settled by peaceful means, such as mediation or arbitration.

On the ground, though, things are very different. Thousands of people have died and millions more people have been displaced as a result of the long-running civil war in South Sudan. The World Bank's 2018 research, which determined that the South Sudanese civil conflict has cost the country economic damages totalling more than \$28 billion, serves as an example of this. Additionally, the crisis has spread to other nations, like as Uganda, where people have applied for asylum (UNHCR, 2021). Uganda has seen significant repercussions from the conflict, including greater economic stress and increasing insecurity. It has been challenging for Uganda to maintain strong bilateral ties with its neighbour due to the ongoing instability in South Sudan. Apart from the fact that South Sudan has endured a protracted civil war, tension- and violence-related incidents have been brought to light. For instance, South Sudan and Uganda have had several boundary conflicts over the years, with both countries claiming ownership of certain regions. These conflicts frequently result in armed conflict between the two countries' security forces. Additionally, South Sudan and

Uganda have had economic disputes throughout the years, with each country accusing the other of unfair trade practices. Additionally, throughout time, relations between the two countries have gotten worse diplomatically, with one government expelling diplomats and accusing the other of interfering in its internal affairs.

Both countries have suffered greatly as a result of South Sudan's lack of peace and stability (International Crisis Group, 2021). Refugees have strained Uganda's supply of resources, especially food, water, and health care. A decrease in tourism and investment has also been caused by the heightened security risks posed by rebel groups operating in the area. However, the fighting has prevented South Sudan from effectively utilizing its oil resources, which has resulted in underdevelopment and economic stagnation. South Sudan has found it challenging to invest in vital infrastructure, such as roads and hospitals, which are necessary for fostering bilateral relations because of the country's lack of economic development.

According to professional research, maintaining peace and stability is essential for fostering bilateral relations between nations. According to Ojo (2020), calm and stable settings foster strong economic links between nations, which can result in sustainable growth. According to data from the World Bank for 2021, nations with stable and peaceful settings expand their economies at rates higher than those in turmoil. This evidence emphasizes how crucial peace and stability are to fostering bilateral ties between South Sudan and Uganda.

The absence of peace and stability has also, according to empirical research, a negative impact on Uganda and South Sudan's bilateral ties. Uganda is now housing more than 1.4 million refugees, the most of them are from South Sudan, according to UNHCR (2021). Uganda's resources have been taxed by this flood of refugees, which has hurt the country's economy. In addition, Uganda has found it challenging to maintain strong bilateral ties with its neighbour due to the ongoing turmoil in South Sudan. Therefore, the data points to the necessity of peace and stability for fostering bilateral ties between the two nations (Amimo, 2019).

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of this study is to examine the role of bilateral diplomacy in promoting peace and stability between Uganda and South Sudan.

1.4 Research objectives

- (i) To assess the effectiveness of peace and stability in promoting increased diplomatic engagement.
- (ii) To investigate how peace and stability influences economic cooperation.
- (iii) To examine the influence of peace and stability in promoting trust-building between Uganda and South Sudan.

1.5 Research questions

- (i) How effective is peace and stability in promoting increased diplomatic engagement?
- (ii) How does peace and stability influence economic cooperation?
- (iii) In what ways does peace and stability promote trust-building?

1.6 Significance of the study

The study is important in a number of ways. First, it advances knowledge of the function of bilateral diplomacy in fostering peace and stability in conflict-prone areas.

The second is that it clarifies the challenges and opportunities for South Sudan and Uganda to advance peace and security through bilateral diplomacy.

Thirdly, the analysis can help guide policy choices that aim to strengthen bilateral ties between the two nations, which may benefit regional peace and stability. Consequently, while considering whether to pursue diplomatic initiatives, policymakers will find it quite valuable to carefully evaluate the unique context and circumstances.

By providing additional research in the area, this study adds to the body of knowledge previously available about the connection between bilaterism and peace. This study fills in the gaps in the body of knowledge on the subjects of peace and stability by investigating the factors that influence peace, reciprocal collaboration, and development in the context of the two countries.

The empirical results of this study will be of great value to the national governments of South Sudan, Uganda, and the EAC member states, as well as to peace academics and other parties interested in diplomacy. The study's results will be gathered into a needs assessment report that

will enable the aforementioned stakeholders to take the necessary action to achieve world peace, continental peace, and regional social cohesion.

The findings of this study will contribute to the body of knowledge on this subject by providing scholarly understanding of how to use diplomacy as a tool to advance peace and development. Finally, the study can be used as a starting point for more research on the efficiency of bilateral diplomacy in resolving disputes and fostering peace.

1.7 Scope

1.7.1 Geographical scope

The geographical scope of this research focuses on the bilateral diplomacy, peace and stability between Uganda and South Sudan. These two East African countries were chosen for several reasons.

First, South Sudan and Uganda have had political, economic, and social ties for a very long time (Uganda-South Sudan Bilateral Relations, 2021). Uganda had a crucial role in supporting the South Sudanese independence movement, which led to the establishment of South Sudan as an independent state in 2011. Since then, Uganda has continued to provide South Sudan with significant assistance in a variety of areas, including as commerce, infrastructure development, and security cooperation (Murumba, 2011; Muga, 2011). These two countries' bilateral relations make for intriguing research topics because of their extensive diplomatic and historical links.

Second, South Sudan and Uganda are both members of the East African Community (EAC), a regional intergovernmental organization made up of six nations in East Africa (Tribune, 2008; Norris, 2010; Sudan EAC, 2021). The EAC has made significant progress toward regional integration, but its member countries continue to face challenges like conflicts, economic inequality, and governance issues (Warner & White, 2018). Studying the bilateral ties between South Sudan and Uganda would help us better understand the dynamics of regional cooperation and integration in East Africa.

Thirdly, Significant political and security issues have recently plagued both South Sudan and Uganda (BBC News, 2018). While South Sudan battled a protracted civil war that had devastating effects on the country and its surrounds, Uganda coped with insurgencies in its northern and eastern

regions. Despite these obstacles, both nations have worked to advance stability and peace, especially through diplomatic relations and unconventional dispute resolution techniques. The factors that contribute to conflict and stability in the region can therefore be better understood by looking at their bilateral relationships.

1.7.2 Theoretical scope

The theoretical underpinning of the study was drawn from Boulding (1978), Stable peace theory. Boulding's definition of "stable peace" from 1978 offers a helpful framework for examining the likelihood of long-term peace and stability between South Sudan and Uganda. Using Boulding's theory, it is possible to assess the likelihood of establishing a lasting peace between South Sudan and Uganda that is based on respect and cooperation. In order to study the bilateral diplomacy, peace, and stability between South Sudan and Uganda, these three theoretical frameworks will be used. By applying this theory to the historical, structural, and strategic factors that have contributed to the conflict between the two countries, researchers might identify possible channels for cooperation and peace. In order to further these goals, they might also develop policy recommendations.

1.7.3 Content scope

The study's content centred on peace and stability in the form of decreased corruption levels, promotion of the rule of law and promotion of democracy as potential determinants of bilateral diplomacy, which was assessed in terms of increased diplomatic engagement, increased economic cooperation and trust building.

1.7.4 Time scope

It is crucial to look at the bilateral diplomacy, peace, and stability between South Sudan and Uganda from 2011 to the present. Some of the most important events in the history of the two countries' relationship occurred during this time period, including the creation of South Sudan as an independent state, the beginning of the subsequent civil war, and Uganda's involvement in peacekeeping missions.

As an illustration, South Sudan separated from Sudan in July 2011 after a protracted and bloody civil conflict. One of the first heads of state to recognize South Sudan's sovereignty was Uganda's

President Yoweri Museveni, who was instrumental in helping the fledgling nation. The establishment of closer ties between Uganda and its southern neighbor as a result of this action was seen as a huge boost to South Sudan's sovereignty.

The friendship between Uganda and South Sudan, however, was swiftly put to the test when the South Sudanese civil war broke out in 2013 (Human Rights Watch, 2014; The Guardian, 2021). The government of President Salva Kiir was at odds with rebel organizations led by his former deputy, Riek Machar, during the conflict. Uganda sent troops and provided military support on behalf of the government, intervening. Some people objected to this action, arguing that by involving Uganda, it only served to prolong the conflict.

Despite the fact that the two countries have signed a number of agreements to strengthen their economic and security cooperation, such as a memorandum of understanding on trade and investment and a military cooperation agreement that would allow them to collaborate on issues like intelligence sharing and joint military training exercises, there are still other unresolved issues that may be harming their bilateral relations (Daily Monitor, 2017; Xinhua News Agency, 2019).

This study is timely given that there are ongoing worries about the stability of the relationship between South Sudan and Uganda. Political experts, for instance, continue to hold the view that Uganda's worries about the extent of its involvement in South Sudan's domestic affairs are a part of a hidden strategy to strengthen its hegemony. Concerns have also been raised about the continued violence in South Sudan, which has compelled millions of people to escape their homes and led to a humanitarian crisis there.

1.8 Operational definition of key terms

Bilateral diplomacy: Bilateral diplomacy is the exchange of ideas, information, and other communication between two countries to foster cooperation and resolve conflicts. It involves negotiation, dialogue, and compromise to achieve common goals. Bilateral diplomacy can take place at various levels, from high-level summits between heads of state to negotiations between lower-level officials. According to Berridge (2014),

bilateral diplomacy is an important tool in international relations to establish and maintain relationships between states.

Peace and stability: When there is no fighting and there is no fear of armed conflict, this is referred to as a state of peace and stability. There are several ways to bring about peace and stability, such as diplomacy, conflict resolution, and peace-building. According to Miall *et al* (2011), progress in social, economic, and human development depends on peace and stability.

Trust-building: Building trust between nations is a process that fosters mutual confidence and lessens suspicion. It entails taking actions to show your dependability, honesty, and transparency. Building trust is crucial because it can foster a cooperative environment that fosters better relationships and more security. In order to resolve conflicts and promote peace, trust-building tactics are crucial, according to Kriesberg (2009).

Increased diplomatic engagement: Increased diplomatic engagement refers to countries' efforts to improve their interactions and communication with one another. Increased trade, cultural interchange, and diplomatic travel are a few examples of this. Increasing diplomatic interaction can aid nations in fostering understanding, resolving disputes, and fostering collaboration. More diplomatic activity, in accordance with Rizk (2013), can aid in lowering hostility and mistrust between nations.

Reduced conflict tension: When there are less tensions between states and fewer chances of conflict, the term "reduced conflict tension" is used (Carment & James, 2013). Many strategies, such as diplomatic efforts, mediation, and conflict resolution, can be used to accomplish this. Conflict tension reduction is crucial because it can stop confrontations from escalating, which can have disastrous effects. Conflict settlement is crucial for lowering tensions between states and averting bloodshed.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter analyses the body of previous research on the two study variables and their relationship. The theoretical overview is discussed at the beginning of the chapter, and the identification of research gaps forms the basis of the study's argument.

2.1 Theoretical review

Boulding (1978) Stable Peace Theory served as the foundation for this study, which underpinned the understanding of how states interact with one another globally.

2.1.1 Stable Peace Theory by Boulding (1978)

Boulding's idea, which was described in his 1978 book "Stable Peace," contends that peace is not only the absence of war but also the presence of positive social interactions characterized by trust and cooperation as well as the lack of violence or the threat of violence. Boulding argues that rather than being a static condition, peace is a dynamic process that requires constant maintenance and improvement through a number of techniques, including diplomacy, international law, and cultural interchange.

In accordance with Boulding's theory, institutions might be established to gather various social, political, and economic data, create indicators of social pressure and temperature, and predict "cold or warm fronts" in interpersonal relations. One of Boulding's most enduring ideas is the notion of power. He emphasized that when employed in everyday conversation, the word "power" is ambiguous. The ability to command, control, and enforce is referred to as coercive or hard power on the one hand. On the other side, it relates to soft power, which is the capacity to convince, defend, and inspire. Hard force has always been important in violent confrontations, even though soft power may be more important in situations that are managed peacefully (Boulding, 1978; 1989).

Boulding's Theory also makes the following presumptions: Human beings have a natural propensity for violence, but they also have the capacity to overcome this propensity and create a

more peaceful world; peaceful relations between nations are essential for the survival and well-being of all societies and, as such, should be promoted; and society is made up of a complex web of interconnected systems that function at different levels, including economic, political, social, and a variety of other levels.

The importance of creating predictable and stable links between states is also emphasized by Boulding's theory because doing so increases the likelihood of cooperation while decreasing the likelihood of conflict. He contends that stability can be attained by a variety of tactics, including as the development of international law, the establishment of norms and customs, and the creation of institutions and organizations that foster peaceful interactions between nations.

In this study, Boulding's theory was seen to be relevant because it emphasizes the value of strong social relationships among nations and the need for continual action to maintain and strengthen these links. A peaceful international system is seen to require stability and predictability, and bilateral diplomacy is acknowledged as a key strategy for achieving this. Moreover, the same theory, highlights the importance of bilateral diplomacy as a tactic for promoting peace and stability between nations. He argues that bilateral diplomacy, which is less formal and administratively burdensome than multilateral diplomacy, can be a more effective way to resolve conflicts and promote collaboration. Bilateral diplomacy involves direct communication and talks between two countries, which can promote confidence and a shared understanding of one another's objectives and concerns.

Boulding's approach has the flaw of ignoring ongoing conflicts in favor of concentrating entirely on the issue of preventing war through the reform of international institutions and the creation of a research and information capability. He puts more emphasis on prevention than on healing.

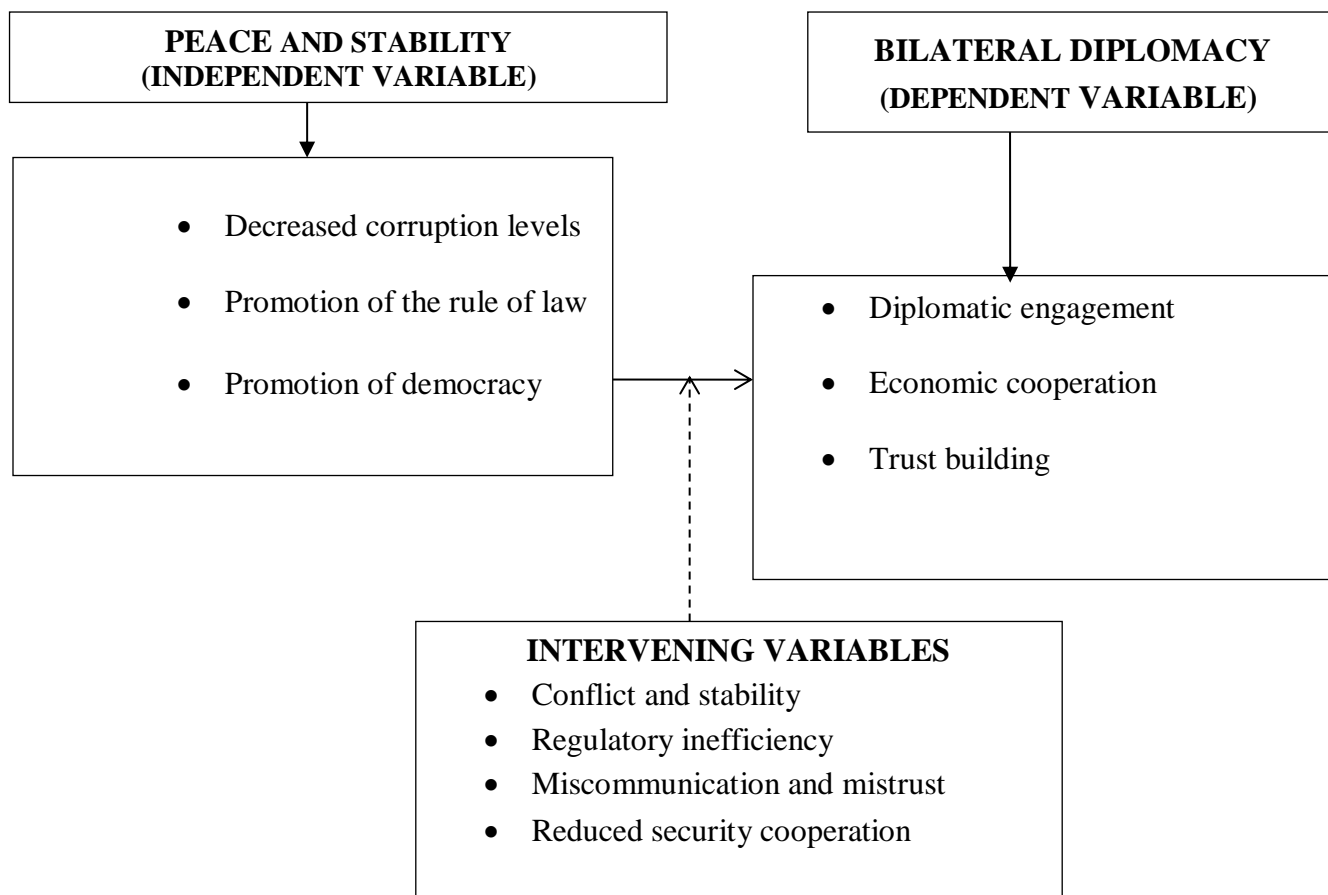
In order to better understand the complex dynamics of conflict and cooperation between states, the researcher, used Boulding's Stable Peace Theory. The theory highlights how important it is to create and maintain an international system that is stable and peaceful by promoting cooperative behaviour and reducing the likelihood of conflict. In conclusion, the researcher believed that by using this theory, it will have a deeper understanding of the complex dynamics of conflict and

cooperation between nations as well as how bilateral diplomacy may be used to promote peace and stability in the international system.

2.2 Conceptual framework

The study conceptual framework is shown in figure 2.1.

Fig.2.1: The link between peace and stability and bilateral diplomacy



Source: Constructed using ideas from Miall et al (2011), Berridge (2014) and Omeje (2019)

The independent variable (Peace and stability), which is thought to be related to the dependent variable (Bilateral diplomacy), is shown in the conceptual framework (Fig. 2.1) was conceived in terms of three concepts: reduced levels of corruption, promotion of the rule of law and promotion of democracy. According to the model, increased diplomatic engagement, increased economic

cooperation, and trust-building were the three constructs that were used to conceptualize bilateral diplomacy while decreased levels of corruption, the promotion of the rule of law, and the advancement of democracy were used to conceptualize peace and stability.

It is assumed that bilateral diplomacy has a good association with all three concepts of peace and stability. The framework also demonstrates the presence of intervening factors such conflict and instability, regulatory inefficiencies, misunderstandings and mistrust, and a decline in security cooperation. These might affect how the independent and dependent variables are related to one another.

2.3 Empirical review

This section reviewed literature related to the specific objectives of the study

2.3.1 Peace, stability and increased diplomatic engagement and enhancement

Enhancing global peace and stability has been seen as being largely dependent on increased diplomatic exchange. The role of diplomatic involvement in conflict resolution, prevention, and management has been well studied in the literature. Diplomatic engagement is the process of building and maintaining relationships between governments via dialogue, compromise, and collaboration. Increasing diplomatic engagement entails making more of an effort to achieve certain goals for stability and peace. This is line with theorist Rana (2015) who stressed the value of respectful interaction and respecting other countries' sovereignty in a study she conducted. Additionally, the study discovered that diplomatic efforts based on acceptance and respect can aid in the settlement of disputes, the lessening of tensions, and the development of long-lasting ties between nations. The study also emphasizes the value of multilateral agreements, international law, and diplomacy in resolving conflicts and preserving peace. These ideas can direct policymakers and diplomats in this study's environment as they work to advance peace, settle disputes, and strengthen bilateral cooperation for the good of all concerned nations.

The study titled "Practicing Peace and Conflict Diplomacy in a Complex World" by Sen, conducted in (2021), explores the role of diplomacy in the context of renewed great power competition and a weakening liberal international order. According to Sen, in a world characterized by renewed great power competition and a weakening liberal international order,

diplomacy can play several crucial roles in terms of: conflict prevention and resolution, managing power rivalries, strengthening multilateralism and preserving norms and international order.

According to Williams (2014), the effectiveness of increased diplomatic engagement in promoting peace and stability is hotly debated in the literature. While some academics contend that it is a useful tool, others express scepticism and contend that it might not always result in the desired results.

Increased diplomatic activity, according to those who favour it, can lead to better inter-national communication and understanding, which can reduce the chance of wars. Collaboration in areas of mutual interest can be facilitated by diplomatic engagement that aims to increase trust and confidence between states (Rana, 2015). For instance, increased diplomatic exchange between Iran and the United States led to the Iran Nuclear Deal, a successful agreement that prevented Iran from developing nuclear weapons (BBC News, 2015). Critics reply that establishing peace and stability through diplomacy may not always be successful. For instance, after years of diplomatic effort, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has not been resolved (Salam, 2017). According to detractors, diplomatic involvement can sometimes be used to delay a conflict.

Gray & Potter (2017) investigated the connection between diplomacy and the resolution of international trade disputes. They highlighted that nations continue to engage in significant diplomacy outside of international legal systems even when they use such instruments. But depending on prior state affinities, different diplomatic engagement strategies have different results. The study came to the conclusion that by averting conflicts, handling crises, and fostering international communication, successful diplomacy can help maintain peace and stability. Treaties, accords, and norms that aid in fostering collaboration, managing conflicts, and fostering trust can be established as a result of diplomatic efforts. Similarly, a study by Bapat & Morgan (2016) found that diplomatic engagement can be an effective tactic for resolving conflicts, particularly when there is a high level of interdependence between the states involved. The study came to the conclusion that venues for on-going communication, information exchange, and diplomatic engagement are provided via diplomatic channels such as embassies, consulates, and

international organizations. The coordination and execution of diplomatic strategy are made easier by diplomatic institutions like foreign ministries.

Along the same line, Day (2017) looked into the role that diplomacy and good offices have in averting conflict. The study found that, unlike in the past, where they frequently followed two different paths, maintaining peace and sustainable development must work hand in hand. It was also determined that the UN should use four factors: (1) permission; (2) timing; (3) knowledge/relationships; (4) leverage; and (5) sustainability—all of which are essential for successful preventative diplomacy. Therefore, it is crucial to take into account the unique context and dynamics of the relationship between the two nations while evaluating the study's relevance to peace, stability, and bilateral relations between Uganda and South Sudan. Day's study offers broad perspectives on the function of diplomacy and conflict resolution, but it may not be directly applicable to the bilateral relations between South Sudan and Uganda without a more in-depth examination of the particular elements at play in that situation. Peksen (2014) found in a different study, nevertheless, that diplomatic intervention might not always be effective in averting conflict. The study found that when there is a power imbalance between nations, diplomatic involvement may not be sufficient to prevent conflict. The paper claims that in these conditions, more extreme actions, such as economic sanctions or military action, may be needed.

The US-North Korea nuclear issue has been communicated with primarily through improved diplomatic relations between the two countries. However, Coning's (2019) study raises the prospect that this tactic might not be successful in yielding the desired outcomes. Coning argues that diplomatic involvement can occasionally be constrained by the range of topics that can be discussed, the lack of transparency, and the absence of third-party mediation. Denuclearization has dominated discussions of the US-North Korea nuclear dilemma, while other vital problems including violations of human rights and the humanitarian tragedy in North Korea have received little attention.

Coning also claims that the lack of transparency in bilateral conversations can undermine the process' credibility and make it difficult to win over the public to any agreements that may be reached. Thirdly, there is a danger that negotiations would stall in the absence of outside mediation since neither side would be willing to make concessions without some confidence that their

interests would be maintained. Coning's study raises important questions about how well diplomacy works to promote peace and stability. Although direct negotiations between two countries can be a successful method of resolving disputes, they are not a panacea and should be supplemented by additional measures, such as third-party mediation and a more thorough agenda that takes into account all pertinent issues.

The Institute for Security Studies (2017) looked into how the South Sudanese conflict affected Uganda's stability and security. In the report's conclusions, it was underlined how the conflict has affected Uganda in a number of ways, including the influx of refugees, the rise in violence and instability along the border, and the repercussions on the nation's development and economy. Despite having made substantial contributions to efforts to put an end to the crisis in South Sudan, notably by taking part in regional peace talks and providing shelter and assistance to refugees, the study also observed that these efforts have not yet been successful. However, the protracted conflict has severely depleted Uganda's resources and raised concerns about the possibility of unrest and carnage spreading. Based on empirical facts, they claimed in their study that the South Sudanese conflict has significantly impacted Uganda's stability and security and that its resolution will be necessary to progress peace and stability in the area. For a peaceful resolution of the war in South Sudan, the Institute for Security Studies urged deeper regional and international involvement. It also called for increased assistance for Uganda's efforts to control the refugee crisis and deal with the conflict's wider ramifications.

2.3.2 Peace and stability and enhanced economic cooperation

Increased economic cooperation is frequently cited as being very beneficial in fostering peace and stability in the global system (El-Anis, 2018). This is because encouraging common economic interests can diminish the incentives for states to go to war, which can result from growing economic interdependence between governments (Berridge, 2015; Fischer, 2016). By encouraging nations to collaborate to address shared economic issues, economic cooperation can also increase stability. Despite the fact that the advantages of economic collaboration are well established, there is conflicting empirical data on the links between economic cooperation, stability, and peace.

Accordingly, it was discovered in the study by Prantl & Goh (2022) how complicated and multifaceted the relationships between economic cooperation, stability, and peace are. Economic cooperation can enhance peace by reducing the likelihood of war between states. States' interests become more closely aligned and dependent on one another as a result of economic cooperation. As a result of this convergence of interests, States are highly motivated to avoid conflict and collaborate in order to address shared economic concerns. For instance, the European Union (EU), which was established in part to promote peace and stability in Europe, had as one of its objectives the formation of a single economic market. Alesina and Dollar (2000) concluded in their earlier analysis that through promoting economic interconnectedness and collaboration, the foundation of the EU has been helpful in lowering the likelihood of war between member nations, which is consistent with the argument we've made.

Through the creation of incentives for states to collaborate in order to address shared economic challenges, economic cooperation can also help to maintain stability. States may become unstable as a result of economic problems like economic recessions, inflation, and currency fluctuations. States can encourage stability in the global system by working together to address these issues. For instance, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was founded to support stability in the global financial system by offering economic support to nations experiencing financial crises. By offering financial support to nations that are experiencing economic difficulties, the IMF has been helpful in fostering stability (Guzman & Simmons, 2005).

Unquestionably, Ansara & Regan (2017) studied how economic cooperation might promote stability and peace in societies that have gone through conflict. The authors stressed the various ways that economic cooperation can foster peace, including by fostering interdependence, increasing confidence and reducing conflicts, as well as through fostering economic growth. The European Union was utilized as a case study in Dominguez-Folgueras & Pelopidas' (2018) study to assess the relationship between economic cooperation and the suppression of violence. The authors assessed how different EU economic cooperation initiatives affected the likelihood of conflict. They discovered that while economic cooperation might be a useful tool for preventing conflicts, it is insufficient on its own and needs to be complemented by other measures such as political dialogue and security cooperation.

Correspondingly, after the government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) signed a peace agreement, Vargas and Ibanez's research from 2018 examined the economic advantages of peace in Colombia. To compare the economic outcomes of communities affected by the conflict with those that were not, the authors used a difference-in-differences methodology. Their research showed that the peace accord significantly boosted economic activity, especially in industries like agriculture and tourism. These findings are significant in the context of the current study because they show how economic growth and development can result from peace, providing chances for communities that were previously harmed by violence and instability. Furthermore, the absence of violence and armed conflict provides farmers and agricultural labourers with a secure environment in which to work, allowing them to make improvements to their land and boost output. Additionally, the presence of peace and stability draws travellers from both within the country and beyond, increasing the number of tourism-related enterprises and job possibilities. Furthermore, the study's good economic findings have repercussions for bilateral relations. For instance, Colombia's economic gains from peace could improve its reputation and appeal to foreign investors, encouraging bilateral commerce and economic collaboration. The peace agreement's stability creates a favourable climate for corporate development and investment, which can help to improve diplomatic ties with other countries.

Similar to this, Owen's (2018) study looked at the connection between calm intergovernmental relations and economic interdependence. To study this connection, the author used both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The study's key finding was that economic interdependence has the ability to reduce the chances of conflict by encouraging government collaboration and deterring hostile behaviour. It was also additionally established that economic interdependence encourages diplomatic discussion and negotiation between countries since mutually advantageous economic links provide incentives for amicable conflict resolution. These results show that, in the setting of economic interdependence, bilateral diplomacy is essential for preserving peace and stability. The results of Owen's study can offer important insights into a contemporary study on bilateral diplomacy, peace, and stability. They contend that international cooperation and peace can be fostered through economic interdependence. Countries have an incentive to participate in diplomatic conversations and sustain peaceful relations by building economic links. To reduce

potential vulnerabilities and tensions, the study's cautionary comment emphasizes the necessity for careful management of interdependent relationships.

Crook & Lamb (2017) also set out to examine how economic cooperation could enhance Southeast Asia's peace and stability. In order to reduce tensions and promote cooperation among member states, the authors assessed how well various regional economic initiatives, such as the Association of Southeast Asian States (ASEAN) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), performed. They also examine how economic cooperation is impacted by the South China Sea conflict and other specific conflict scenarios. They came to the conclusion that economic cooperation is a reliable indicator of peace and stability.

However, Crook & Lamb were quick to refute that economic cooperation might also have negative effects on peace and security. Economic cooperation's distributional effects, which can result in winners and losers, can cause political tensions and conflict. Additionally, political stability may be threatened by the implications of economic cooperation, including dependence on other nations and a loss of sovereignty. Therefore, even if economic cooperation might promote peace and stability, authorities must carefully monitor its distributional effects to ensure that it does not jeopardize political stability.

The South Sudanese nation obtained independence in 2011, and the United States Institute of Peace (2018) looked at how the two countries' relations have altered since then. The Institute also examined South Sudan and Uganda's historical relationships, economic interdependence, challenges and conflicts that have arisen since South Sudan's independence, and the country's ongoing bloodshed. The Institute noted a number of significant factors that have impacted Uganda's relations with South Sudan, including security issues, economic factors, and political dynamics. In order to enhance relations between the two countries, the Institute presented suggestions for establishing stronger economic relationships, resolving security challenges, and encouraging more coordination on regional and international matters.

2.3.3 Peace and stability and trust-building

According to Xu (2021), Building trust between nations is crucial for creating more peace and stability, especially in the context of fruitful bilateral cooperation. The dynamics of trust-building and how it impacts stability and peace have been the subject of several empirical investigations. This critical and analytical synthesis will consult several significant researchers to evaluate the challenges of trust-building and its effects on bilateral relations.

In a key study in this area, Herz (1950) made the case that confidence is essential for peaceful coexistence of governments. Herz claims that states must demonstrate their willingness to make "gradual reciprocal concessions," or that they would honour their commitments, in order to build trust. This process is aided by open communication and transparency, as well as a shared understanding of each other's goals and interests.

Jervis (1976) argues that states must "learn and adapt" in order to build trust in a manner similar to this. According to Jervis, states can build trust through cooperating, such as through joint military exercises, and by demonstrating their dedication to maintaining international conventions and agreements. Over time, these interactions could increase mutual trust and understanding, leading to more secure and satisfying relationships.

In addition to this older research, more recent studies have looked at the components of successful state-to-state trust formation. For instance, Gartzke & Zhang (2015) investigated into the role that economic interdependence plays in the growth of trust between China and the United States. They find that common interests and cooperative incentives can be fostered by economic interdependence, increasing the likelihood of trust-building and reducing the likelihood of conflict.

In a different study, Batta (2019) examined the impact of public diplomacy on increasing trust between Pakistan and India. Batta discovered that increasing awareness, limiting unfavorable assumptions and biases, establishing trust, and championing the value of education and cultural interchange can considerably improve people's knowledge of one another's points of view and support attempts to establish trust. The role of diplomacy in promoting stability and peace between South Sudan and Uganda was previously examined by Abok (2014). He argues that the long-

standing mistrust and animosity between the two countries is due to historical conflicts and territorial disagreements. But with the end of the Sudanese civil war and the subsequent independence of South Sudan in 2011, the two countries have moved to improve their bilateral relations. Abok identifies a number of factors, including shared economic interests, a desire for regional peace, and diplomatic initiatives taken by both countries, that have contributed to this progress. He notes that Uganda has been particularly important in facilitating peace talks and negotiations between the warring groups in South Sudan. This has assisted in reducing violence and advancing stability in the nation. Nevertheless, Abok noted some of the challenges and impediments that continue to prevent South Sudan and Uganda from working together bilaterally. Some of these include ongoing border disputes, security concerns, and accusations of intervening in one another's internal affairs.

African Arguments (2021) examined the kind of ties that exist between Uganda and South Sudan. Due to the influx of refugees, the possibility of violence spreading, their shared history, and economic linkages, the South Sudanese conflict has an impact on Uganda's security and stability. The report's conclusions recommended that both countries address their historical transgressions, advance economic cooperation, and bolster security collaboration. The analysis came to the conclusion that the dynamics in the larger East African region can be influenced by the connection between Uganda and South Sudan, and that the success or failure of such efforts can have an impact on regional peace and stability.

Tang (2014) examined the role that the Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) had in building confidence between China and the US. The author claims that building trust requires a gradual process that includes talking to each other, working as a team, and solving problems. In his investigation of the importance of trust in international relations, Krotz (2017) discovered a similar thing. The author has learned through the study of international relations that building and maintaining trust is essential for the emergence and upkeep of international cooperation and security. Similar to this, Davis (2019) looked at the value of fostering multilateralism in a study. The author argued that building trust is essential for the functioning of international organizations and provided advice on how to improve trust-building efforts as well as how to avoid particular

behaviours. Moreover, a detailed analysis of the literature on trust and peace-building by Rosert & Milic (2019) revealed that building trust is crucial to achieving peace.

Additionally, Ruggeri & Dijkstra (2020) looked at the US-North Korea trust-building process by drawing lessons from the normalization of US-Vietnam relations. The authors showed that building trust requires a lengthy, iterative process. Additionally, they stressed how important it is to demonstrate leadership, communicate effectively, and take steps to enhance confidence as essential components of fostering favourable government cooperation.

Overall, it appears that these studies all agree that building trust is a challenging and complex process that requires a number of requirements to be met, including open communication, transparency, mutual interests, a willingness to compromise, and maintaining the commitments. Building trust effectively can enhance stability and peace, particularly when it comes to bilateral interactions.

2.4 Relationship between peace and stability and bilateral diplomacy

Bilateral diplomacy is an essential component of international relations since it allows two countries to communicate on a range of concerns, including economic, political, social, and cultural ones. The upkeep of good relations between states, the promotion of peace, and the bolstering of stability are the primary objectives of bilateral diplomacy. Nations can undertake diplomatic relations in a variety of ways, such as through official visits, discussions, agreements, and treaties. Recent empirical research has focused on the effectiveness of bilateral diplomacy in promoting peace and stability in many regions of the world. The following piece offers a critical analysis of the relationship between peace and stability and bilateral diplomacy.

In light of this, Ahmed and Islam (2020) looked into how bilateral diplomacy promoted peace and stability in South Asia. According to the paper, bilateral diplomacy between India and Pakistan, two nuclear-armed nations with a contentious past, has been essential in reducing tensions. The authors note that the two countries have engaged in a variety of bilateral diplomatic actions, such as consultations, agreements, and peace talks, all of which have contributed to easing tensions and advancing regional stability.

Much like the earlier study Anwar & Mushtaq's (2020) inquiry investigated the impact of bilateral diplomacy on Middle Eastern peace and stability. The paper claims that bilateral diplomacy has been essential in settling regional disputes, particularly the Israel-Palestine conflict. The authors noted that many bilateral agreements between Israel and some Arab countries have been made, geared to reducing regional tensions and promoting stability. Additionally, the research highlights the role that bilateral diplomacy plays in addressing regional security concerns including terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

Similar to this, a 2019 study by Ali & Ganguly aimed to examine how bilateral diplomacy helped India and Pakistan resolve their differences. The researchers used a qualitative study approach and drew on secondary data sources, including academic literature, official documents, and news stories. Despite the fact that India and Pakistan have engaged in bilateral diplomacy over the years, the study found that it has not been effective in resolving the problems between the two countries. Power asymmetry because India is the dominant power in the region, which results in a power imbalance in bilateral relations, lack of trust between India and Pakistan, which makes it difficult for them to engage in fruitful diplomacy, domestic political considerations in both countries, which frequently take precedence over diplomatic efforts constrained agenda: The two countries have avoided discussing other potential causes of friction in favor of talking only about Kashmir and terrorism. Based on these findings, the study recommended that India and Pakistan should widen their agenda to include more possible sources of conflict, such as commerce and water sharing. The researchers also recommend that both countries must work together to boost trust through cultural and economic exchanges. The paper also recommended that third countries, such as the US and China, ought to encourage India and Pakistan to engage in substantive diplomacy and, when needed, help to facilitate conversations.

Similar to this, a 2018 study by Kabir & Ahmed focused on the conditions of Bangladesh and Nepal while examining the role of bilateral diplomacy in promoting peace in South Asia. The researchers employed a comparative study methodology to examine secondary data from academic literature, policy papers, and press stories in addition to interviewing important informants in each nation. In order to promote peace and settle problems in both Bangladesh and Nepal, the findings

claimed that bilateral diplomacy has been essential. In Bangladesh, bilateral diplomacy between Bangladesh and India facilitated the settlement of a protracted border dispute and improved commercial ties between the two countries. Bilateral diplomacy between Nepal and India successfully ended the ten-year Maoist insurgency in Nepal while simultaneously advancing the country's economic development. According to the study, a number of factors, including political will, steps to enhance confidence, and third-party mediation, were responsible for the success of bilateral diplomacy in promoting peace in Bangladesh and Nepal. Based on these findings, the report recommends that South Asian countries prioritize bilateral diplomacy as a means of promoting peace and resolving differences. Thus, it was determined that nations should engage in confidence-boosting activities like economic and cultural cooperation in order to create trust and improve relations. The research also exhorts international organizations, such as the United Nations, to continue supporting regional peace-building initiatives by mediating negotiations and providing technical assistance as needed.

Mehta & Choudhury (2018) examined the role of bilateral diplomacy in South Asian conflict resolution with a particular emphasis on relations between India and Bangladesh. The researchers used a qualitative study approach and drew on secondary data sources, including academic literature, official documents, and news stories. The paper claims that India and Bangladesh have engaged in a range of bilateral diplomatic initiatives to resolve differences and promote cooperation between the two countries. The researchers identified a variety of factors that supported the success of bilateral diplomacy in India-Bangladesh relations, including political will, economic collaboration, cultural exchanges, and third-party mediation. The research recommends that India and Bangladesh maintain bilateral diplomacy as a high priority for resolving differences and promoting cooperation based on these findings. Accordingly, the findings recommended that both nations cooperate in order to boost confidence through increased economic and cultural exchanges. According to the study, international institutions like the United Nations should step up their efforts to bring about peace in the region by offering technical support and, if required, mediating conversations. The study's conclusion advised both nations to keep up their efforts in negotiations and in-depth discussions of unsolved issues, such as the sharing of water resources.

Furthermore, the study by Koser & Scanlan (2017) aimed to look into how bilateral diplomacy contributes to Southeast Asian conflict resolution. The researchers used a qualitative research approach to examine secondary data from academic literature, policy papers, and news reports in addition to interviewing significant informants in the area. In order to resolve conflicts and promote cooperation in Southeast Asia, the findings claim that bilateral diplomacy has been essential in a number of cases, namely: in the Philippines and Indonesia: Bilateral diplomacy between the Philippines and Indonesia facilitated collaboration on marine security and assisted in resolving conflicts over fishing rights in the Celebes Sea; Malaysia and Thailand: As an example of successful bilateral diplomacy in the area, bilateral relations between Malaysia and Thailand helped to settle a protracted border dispute and advance cross-border economic cooperation. Based on these findings, the findings suggested that Southeast Asian countries should give bilateral diplomacy top priority as a way to settle differences and promote cooperation. It was recommended that nations should engage in confidence-boosting activities like economic and cultural cooperation in order to develop trust and strengthen ties. The research also indicated that outside parties, such as the Association of Southeast Asian States (ASEAN), should continue supporting regional peace-building initiatives by facilitating negotiations and provide necessary technical assistance. The study ends by recommending countries to keep trying to resolve current problems through in-depth dialogue and negotiation.

In a similar spirit, Iqbal & Hafeez's (2017) study aimed to examine how bilateral diplomacy contributes to South Asian peace-building with a focus on the relations between India and Sri Lanka. The researchers used a qualitative study approach and drew on secondary data sources, including academic literature, official documents, and news stories. According to the report, bilateral diplomatic efforts to resolve differences and enhance peace-building between the two countries have been made by both India and Sri Lanka. Their empirical investigation identified a variety of factors that contributed to the effectiveness of bilateral diplomacy in India-Sri Lanka relations, including political will, economic collaboration, cultural exchanges, and international support. Based on these findings, the findings recommends that India and Sri Lanka continue to place a high premium on bilateral diplomacy as a means of resolving differences and furthering peacebuilding. The researchers advise that both countries should work to increase trust by increasing their economic and cultural interactions. The studies also recommended that external

factors, such as the United Nations, support efforts to achieve regional peace by providing technical assistance and, if necessary, facilitating negotiations. The report concluded by advising both countries to remain committed to using meaningful communication to settle any outstanding issues, such as the sharing of water resources.

Li's (2016) research also intended to look into how bilateral diplomacy helped China and Japan resolve their differences. The researcher used a qualitative research methodology to evaluate secondary data from scholarly works, court documents, and news items. The study came to the conclusion that cooperation between China and Japan has been fostered and issues have been resolved largely through bilateral diplomacy. The researcher cited a number of instances of effective bilateral diplomacy between the two countries, such as: the 1972 normalization of diplomatic ties, which paved the way for greater economic cooperation between China and Japan and helped to resolve long-standing issues; the 1998 China-Japan Joint Communiqué, which helped to ease tensions between the two countries and promoted cooperation in areas like environmental protection. The 2014 "four-point accord" China and Japan's disagreements over islands in the East China Sea were resolved through bilateral dialogue.

Li discovered that there were various obstacles to bilateral diplomacy in China-Japan ties, including the following, notwithstanding the benefits obtained from bilateral diplomacy in restoring peace and stability in a number of countries: concerns relating to history: intractable issues in bilateral ties today include historical issues like Japan's aggression in China during World War II; Geographic problems: territorial issues between the two nations have gotten worse, including as the disagreement over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands and shady politics. Maintaining diplomatic efforts when domestic politics affect the bilateral relationship in both nations can be challenging. Based on these findings, the report proposes that China and Japan must give bilateral diplomacy top priority as a means of resolving conflicts and fostering collaboration. Thus, the study made the recommendation that the two countries should continue their discussions and negotiations and study finally contends that international actors, such as the US, should boost regional peace-building efforts by facilitating negotiations and provide necessary technical

assistance. The study's conclusion urged both countries to keep working to resolve outstanding concerns through serious dialogue and negotiation.

2.5 Gaps in literature

A systematic literature review, which involved looking for and evaluating previous studies on a certain issue, revealed that there were no studies that addressed a specific context or circumstance. The majority of the studies explored were context- or region-specific. For instance, Iqbal & Hafeez's (2017) study sought to examine the role of bilateral diplomacy in peace-building in South Asia with a focus on India-Sri Lanka relations, while Li's (2016) study evaluated the function of bilateral diplomacy in resolving disputes between China and Japan. Not many studies were found that specifically focused on the bilateral relations between Uganda and South Sudan, with the exception of two: the African Arguments (2021) study, which examined these relations as being marked by a fraught relationship, and the Abok (2014) study, which focused on diplomacy for peace and security between the two countries. Despite the fact that these studies focused on bilateral diplomacy and connected it to peace and stability, not many studies were found that specifically focused on the bilateral relations between Uganda and South Sudan.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter covers the procedures and strategies the researcher used to guide the investigation. This chapter covers the research design, population sample size, sampling techniques, data collection methods, research instruments, validity and reliability, data gathering and analysis procedures, and the study's limitations.

3.2 Research design

This inquiry made use of the descriptive survey design. This was chosen because, especially when employing averages, correlations, and regressions, it helps researchers to swiftly quantify their findings (Stangor, 2011). Both qualitative and quantitative methodologies were applied in this investigation. According to Amin (2005), it is possible to integrate qualitative and quantitative methodologies, especially when a study is looking at people's opinions.

3.3 Study population

According to data from Worldometer 2020-UN, there are 11,193,725 people living in South Sudan. Uganda has a population of 43.7 million people (UBOS, 2021). The target population for this study consisted of representatives from the South Sudanese Embassy in Uganda, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (of Uganda), and Ministry of Foreign Affairs personnel (South Sudan). The target population for this study is a total of 132 respondents, according to estimates. These groups are the focus of the study because of their positions and areas of competence, which make them directly involved in diplomatic actions and processes in one way or another.

3.4 Sample size

The sample size of responders was determined using a table from the 1970 work of Krejcie and Morgan. These include representatives from the South Sudanese embassy in Uganda, the Ugandan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the South Sudanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Table 3.1: Population size and Sample size

Category	Population Size	Sample Size	Sampling technique
South Sudanese Embassy officials	50	44	Simple Random Sampling
Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials (Uganda)	50	44	Simple Random Sampling
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (South Sudan)	50	44	Simple Random Sampling
Total	150	132	

Source: MOFA, 2020; South Sudanese Embassy, 2021.

Table 3.2: Population and sample size (Key informants)

Category	Population Size	Sample Size	Sampling technique
South Sudanese Embassy officials	5	5	Purposive Sampling
Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials (Uganda)	5	5	Purposive sampling
Ministry of Foreign Affairs officials (South Sudan)	5		Purposive sampling
Total	15	15	

Source: MOFA, 2020; South Sudanese Embassy, 2021.

3.5 Sampling procedure

A simple random sample is one of the methods researchers used to choose a sample from a larger population and it was used to make generalizations about a population. In addition, to ensure efficient representation and unbiased selection, a purposeful sampling procedure was used to pick South Sudan Embassy personnel, Ministry of Foreign Affairs representatives in both South Sudan and Uganda, among others. Purposive sampling was utilized to select individuals with a depth of knowledge and a firm grasp of international relations and diplomacy.

3.6 Data collection methods

Data was acquired via surveys, interviews, and documentary techniques.

The questionnaires were used to collect data because they are useful, enable quick and simple quantification of results by a researcher or by a computer program, and permit the collection of enormous volumes of data from a large number of people in a relatively cost-effective manner (Sekaran, 2003). In order to obtain information regarding facts, attitudes, behaviours, and other issues, questionnaires are a useful tool. An interview guide was established to guide the interview schedule. The researcher would interview key informants to learn their perspectives on the study's variables, which included bilateral diplomacy, peace and stability in Uganda, and South Sudan. The strategy is effective in probing and directing respondents toward the questions' elaborations and clarifications. In order to allow for a respondent's uninterrupted response, the interview guide will include open-ended questions.

Additionally, the interview was used to acquire extra data that the questionnaires, particularly closed-ended ones, would have missed (Amin, 2005). Some of the documents used in the study included official government records (from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and reports, dissertations, books from the library, and newspapers that are relevant to the study, in line with this documentary review guide.

3.7 Research instruments

One of the study instruments (SAQs) is the Self-Administered Questionnaire (SAQ). Because SAQs are the ideal choice for surveys with a large number of respondents, they were used (Amin, 2005). Additionally, (SAQs) are a perfect fit for the target respondents because of their high levels of English literacy. SAQs are also less expensive and time-consuming than other methods (Alston & Bowels, 1998).

The research instrument used for this study consisted of the following: Part 1 of the questionnaire was used to collect pertinent data on the respondent's profile, including (sex, age group, and education level); Part 2 of the questionnaire covered data relating to bilateral diplomacy, peace and stability in Uganda and South Sudan.

3.8 Validity and reliability of instruments

The study confirmed the reliability of the tool using expert judgment, and the researcher ensured that the coefficient of reliability is at least 70%. (Amin, 2005). On questionnaire design, the researcher sought the supervisor's expert opinion. When the questionnaire has been reviewed, the appropriate adjustments were made while keeping in mind the objectives of the study. The formula used in calculating the validity of the instrument was:

$$CVI = \frac{\text{no of items declared valid}}{\text{total no of items}}$$

$$CVI = 35/40 = 0.875$$

The average CVI for the items under the questionnaires was 0.875 which is high enough (above the recommended index 0.7 according to Amin, 2005) to declare the instrument content valid. Validity is important because it helps to ensure that the researcher is using questions that truly measure the issues related to the study.

3.9. Reliability

The consistency with which a research instrument generates results or data after repeated trials is what determines its reliability (Mugenda & Mugenda, 2015). Reliability of the instrument was established through a test-retest technique. Here the researcher administered the questionnaire to 10 respondents from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Embassy of South Sudan in Uganda) twice in the space of two weeks, the filled questionnaires were compared for consistence in answers given and it was established that the answers given were consistent and almost similar. It should be noted that the above 10 respondents were not included in the final sample of the study.

3.10 Data gathering procedures

3.10.1 before the administration of the questionnaires

An introduction letter will be given by Kampala International University's Directorate of Higher Degrees and Researcher (DHDR). The researcher was able to ask the required organizations and the communities where the study was done for their permission with the aid of this letter.

3.10.2 During data collection

After receiving the details regarding probable respondents, the researcher selected a few research assistants. These assistants received training and instructions on how to gather data from possible responders at various institutions and locations. The researcher was in charge of introducing the research assistants at the selected institutions and locations before the data gathering process gets started.

3.10.3 During the administration of the questionnaire

Respondents were able to fill out questionnaires that the researcher gave during data collection. The researcher's research assistants were able to speed up the process of collecting data from all institutions and localities. Please answer to the questionnaires within two weeks, as requested. The researcher and research assistants continued to visit the respondents to ensure that they complete the surveys within the given two weeks and to remind them of the deadline for collecting all the instruments. The researcher handed the tools back after making sure all of the questions were addressed.

3.10.4 After the administration of the questionnaire

Data tallying and coding started as soon as all the research instruments have been gathered. Frequencies and percentages were utilized to assess the profile of the respondents, while means were used to ascertain their opinions on South Sudan-Uganda relations, international relations, and peace and stability. Correlation and regression analysis was used to ensure relationships between the two research variables.

3.11 Data analysis

The statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) software, version 16, was utilized to analyze the data for this study. The responses to bilateral diplomacy, peace, and stability in South Sudan and Uganda, as well as the demographic characteristics of respondents, were determined using frequency, percentages, and means. Data on bilateral diplomacy, peace and stability in Uganda and South Sudan was determined and interpreted using this range as shown below.

Mean Range	Response Mode	Interpretation
4.50-5.00	Strongly Agree	Very High
3.50-4.49	Agree	High
2.50-3.49	Neutral	Undecided
1.50-2.49	Disagree	Low
1.00-1.49	Strongly disagree	Very Low

3.12 Ethical consideration

Before starting the study, the researcher obtained consent from the subjects in order to avoid unethical activity, such as withholding information that could result in inaccurate research conclusions.

The research's findings were kept private to prevent respondents and their institutions from harm and exploitation.

3.13 Limitations of the study

Some respondents might be reluctant to complete and return the questionnaires because they are meant to be self-administered. The researcher was able to overcome this obstacle by establishing a relationship with the respondents and continually reminding them to complete the questionnaires within the given time frame.

The difficulty in obtaining some of the data required for this inquiry is another constraint. In this case, the researcher convinced the respondents to participate in the study on the grounds that it was purely for educational purposes.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

The study set out to study the relationship between peace and stability through bilateral diplomacy in Uganda and South Sudan using primary data. A total of 124 respondents were given closed ended questionnaires with varying aspects about peace and stability in Uganda and South Sudan. A further 15 respondents were engaged in focus group discussions using open ended questions. The results of the analysis, presented by objectives, using a combination of statistical tools like frequency tables, descriptive statistics and thematic analysis for the qualitative outcomes.

4.2 Response rate

The minimum sample size required was 132 respondents, the study retrieved 124 which indicated 94% retrieval rate.

4.3 Demographic profile of the respondents

The results in

Table 4. below indicate that out of the 124 respondents that provided responses to the study, 83(67%) of these respondents were Male whereas 41 (33%) of them were female. Similarly, the data indicates that 19 (15%) of them were aged below 26 years, 61 (49%) of them were aged 26 – 35years of age; 30 (25%) of them were aged 36 to 45 years and rest were above 55 years of age.

Table 4.1: Showing demographic profile of the respondents

Age Distribution	Below 26	19	15%
	26 to 35	61	49%
	36 to 45	30	25%
	Above 55	14	11%
Sex	Male	83	67%
	Female	41	33%
Level of education	Certificate	31	25%
	Diploma	37	30%
	Bachelors	56	45%
	Masters	12	10%
Duration of work (Years)	Below 6	56	45%
	6 to 10	43	35%
	11 to 15	19	15%
	16 to 20	6	5%
Department	Directors	36	29%
	Head of Department	40	32%
	Administrator	48	39%

Source: Primary data, 2023

Furthermore, the data indicates that out of the 124 respondents, 31 (25%) had certificate as their highest level of qualification, 37 (30%) of them had diploma as their highest level, 56 (45%) of these respondents had a bachelor's as their highest level and the last component, Masters, were 12 (10%) of the overall respondents in the study. It should also be noted that the study was conducted

from a total of 124 respondents. The other respondents were provided engaged in a series of interviews which are also presented subsequently in the study.

4.3.1 Objective one: Assessing the effectiveness of peace and stability in promoting increased diplomatic engagement between Uganda and South Sudan

Table 4:2: Respondents views on increased diplomatic engagements

No.	Item	Count	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly
1	Increased communication: This may involve more frequent meetings between government officials, more dialogue between diplomats, and more exchanges of information.	124	5%	5%	10%	25%	60%
2	Expansion of diplomatic missions: Countries may increase the number of diplomatic missions they have in other countries, or may establish new embassies, consulates, or other types of diplomatic offices.	124	5%	10%	10%	25%	50%
3	More bilateral agreements: Increased diplomatic engagement often leads to more bilateral agreements between countries. These agreements may cover a range of issues, from trade and economic cooperation to security and defence.	124	5%	8%	10%	40%	37%
4	Greater cooperation: As diplomatic engagement increases, countries may become more willing to cooperate on a range of issues, from addressing global challenges like climate change and terrorism, to working together on regional security and stability.	124	10%	19%	15%	35%	30%
Mean = 4.07; SD = 0.26							

Source: Primary data, 2023

The results in Table 4.2 present a summary of the responses on the effects of diplomatic engagements on peace and stability in South Sudan and Uganda. The results summarized in Table 4:2 above indicate that majority, 85%, of the respondents believe that increased communication plays a central role in promoting Peace and Stability. A further 75% of the surveyed respondents also believe that expansion of diplomatic missions between the two countries goes a very long way towards promoting Peace and Stability in South Sudan and Uganda.

The results further indicate that 77% of the respondents believe that there is need for more bilateral agreements between South Sudan and Uganda. These bilateral agreements increase diplomatic engagement which often leads to more bilateral agreements between countries. These agreements may cover a range of issues, from trade and economic cooperation to security and defense. The result was further corroborated by the views of key informants (interviews). For example one key informant had this to say:

“Bilateral agreements between countries may involve a need to agree on the level of investment in security, joint security drills and agreements to engage/disengage in conflict, security support in instances of conflict. All these are very essential and

can only be reached through bilateral agreements. If such agreements are binding and wholly respected, there will be promotion of peace and stability in South Sudan and Uganda.” – Key informant

The study further revealed that 65% of the respondents believe that greater cooperation is essential in building sound Peace and stability in the two countries. They believe that as diplomatic engagement increases, countries may become more willing to cooperate on a range of issues, from addressing global challenges like climate change and terrorism, to working together on regional security and stability. The overall effect is significant as it was associated with a mean score of 4.07 (SD = 0.26). This highlights the significance of Diplomatic engagements on Peace/Stability.

Table 4.1: Relationship between diplomatic engagements and peace & stability in Uganda and Sudan

	Peace stability	and Diplomatic engagements
Peace and stability	1	
Diplomatic engagements	0.64*	1

The results in Table 4.1 present a Pearson correlation analysis describing the relationship between Diplomatic engagements on Peace & Stability for the states of South Sudan and Uganda. The Pearson correlation coefficient indicates that there is moderately strong positive relationship between the level of diplomatic engagements and Peace/Stability in Uganda and South Sudan. The implication of this significant result is that as more diplomatic engagements take place; the level of Peace/Stability improves. The relationship was significant at the 0.05 level.

4.3.2 Objective two. Investigated how peace and stability influences economic cooperation between Uganda and South Sudan.

Table 2.4 Showing respondents views on increased economic cooperation

No.	Item	Count	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly
1	Increased trade: A rise in the volume of trade between two or more countries is a clear indicator of economic cooperation. An increase in trade can be driven by the removal of tariffs and non-tariff barriers, preferential trade agreements, and the establishment of free trade zones.	124	20%	25%	10%	35%	10%
2	Joint investment: Collaboration in investment can involve the creation of joint ventures or the acquisition of assets in another country. Such initiatives can indicate a desire to work together towards common economic goals.	124	5%	10%	10%	25%	50%
3	Shared infrastructure: The development of shared infrastructure, such as ports, highways, and railways, can facilitate economic cooperation by reducing the cost of doing business and improving market access.	124	20%	20%	10%	27%	23%
4	The harmonization of regulatory frameworks, such as product standards and intellectual property laws, can promote economic cooperation by reducing barriers to trade and investment.	124	3%	9%	5%	45%	35%
5	Trade agreements: The signing of trade agreements between countries can indicate a willingness to work together towards mutual economic benefits. These agreements can involve the reduction of tariffs and other trade barriers, as well as the establishment of common standards for products and services.	124	11%	10%	5%	34%	40%
6	Investment flows: Increased investment flows between countries can also indicate a strengthening of economic cooperation. This can involve foreign direct investment (FDI), where companies invest in operations in other countries, or portfolio investment, where investors purchase stocks and bonds in foreign companies.	124	11%	19%	15%	35%	20%
7	Bilateral and Multilateral Trade Agreements: Countries signing trade agreements to reduce barriers to trade, such as tariffs and quotas, can be a sign of increased economic cooperation. These agreements also establish trade-related institutions and mechanisms for dispute resolution.	124	11%	29%	15%	25%	20%
8	Common market: Countries that create a common market, where goods, services, capital, and people can move freely across borders, can indicate a high level of economic cooperation. A common market often requires countries to harmonize regulations, laws, and standards, creating a level playing field for businesses.	124	15%	19%	15%	26%	25%
Mean = 3.45; SD = 0.42							

Source: Primary data, 2023

The results in Table 2.4 present a summary of the responses obtained regarding economic cooperation and its role in promoting Peace and Stability. The study results indicate that the results were ambivalent (undecided) on the role of increased trade on Peace/Stability. An equal number (40%) agreed and disagreed to this notion.

Collaboration in investment can involve the creation of joint ventures or the acquisition of assets in another country. Such initiatives can indicate a desire to work together towards common economic goals. From the study, 75% of the respondents agreed that if South Sudan and Uganda were involved in joint investment endeavors, there would be an overall improvement in Peace/Stability between the two countries.

The development of shared infrastructure, such as ports, highways, and railways, can facilitate economic cooperation by reducing the cost of doing business and improving market access. The study results indicate that 50% of the respondents agreed that investment in joint infrastructure projects would lead to Peace and Stability. Responses from interviews (key informants) also recounted that:

“Whereas joint infrastructural projects are very central to development, it is hard to know if these may lead to Peace/Stability. Pockets of rebel groups can potentially use such infrastructure as targets or destroy them to curtail economic progress. Also, now that these countries are not at war, how would such joint infrastructural projects foster peace/stability? Any instability between these countries if it ever develops needs to be tackled directly through dialogue” – Key informant

The harmonization of regulatory frameworks, such as product standards and intellectual property laws, can promote economic cooperation by reducing barriers to trade and investment. The respondents were asked if they believed such harmonization would promote Peace/Stability. An overwhelming 80% of the respondents agreed that yes, harmonization of regulatory frameworks promoted Peace/Stability.

The signing of trade agreements between countries can indicate a willingness to work together towards mutual economic benefits. These agreements can involve the reduction of tariffs and other trade barriers, as well as the establishment of common standards for products and services. The

results indicate that 74% of the respondents were in agreement that trade agreements between the two States can support Peace/Stability efforts. Increased investment flows between countries can also indicate a strengthening of economic cooperation. This can involve foreign direct investment (FDI), where companies invest in operations in other countries, or portfolio investment, where investors purchase stocks and bonds in foreign companies. However, only 55% of the respondents believed that investment flows between the two countries would promote Peace/Stability in South Sudan and Uganda.

Countries signing trade agreements to reduce barriers to trade, such as tariffs and quotas, can be a sign of increased economic cooperation. These agreements also establish trade-related institutions and mechanisms for dispute resolution. The study findings indicate that only 45% of the respondents believe that Bilateral and Multilateral Trade Agreements between countries can foster Peace and Stability. A closely similar view was held regarding common markets where only 55% of the respondents believed that common markets can bring about Peace and Stability. The responses from interviews on this aspect indicated that:

“Peace/Stability is not entirely economic problem and thus cannot be fully attained through economic solutions but through concerted political dialogues coupled with bilateral agreement of security and economic nature. Binding economic pacts like common markets, bilateral agreements and related measures can promote economic activity may not be so central in promoting Peace/Stability. In fact, without proper regulation, free movements on goods between countries may lead to instability especially when illicit goods are involved” – Key informant

Table 4.5: Correlation of economic cooperation on Peace and Stability

	<i>Peace and stability</i>	<i>Econ cooperation</i>
Peace and stability	1	
Econ cooperation	0.55	1

The correlation results shown in Table 4.5 above indicate that there is a weak but positive relationship between economic cooperation and the level of Peace/Stability between countries.

The implication is that as economic cooperation between states increases, the level of Peace/Stability also improves but at a lower level.

4.3.3 Objective three: Examined the influence of peace and stability in promoting trust-building between Uganda and South Sudan.

Table 4.6: Showing respondents views on trust-building

No.	Item	Count	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly
1	Increased diplomatic engagement: When countries engage in regular and constructive dialogue, it can indicate a willingness to build trust and resolve issues through peaceful means.	124	7%	18%	10%	40%	25%
2	Conflict resolution: If countries are able to resolve their conflicts peacefully, it can demonstrate a commitment to building trust and maintaining stability in the region	124	7%	10%	10%	38%	35%
3	Sharing of intelligence: When countries share intelligence and cooperate on security matters, it can indicate a level of trust and a willingness to work together towards shared security goals.	124	10%	9%	15%	35%	31%
4	Cooperation in international organizations: If countries work together effectively in international organizations, it can demonstrate a commitment to shared values and goals.	124	5%	10%	10%	25%	50%
5	Cultural exchange programs: Cultural exchange programs can provide an opportunity for people from different countries to interact and learn about each other's cultures, which can help to build understanding and trust.	124	20%	25%	10%	35%	10%
6	Joint projects and initiatives: When countries collaborate on joint projects and initiatives, it can demonstrate a willingness to work together and build mutual trust.	124	11%	29%	10%	30%	20%
7	Treaty commitments: If countries commit to international treaties and agreements, it can demonstrate a willingness to uphold international norms and principles, which can contribute to building trust.	124	3%	9%	23%	40%	25%
Mean = 3.57; SD = 0.37							

Source: Primary data, 2023

When countries engage in regular and constructive dialogue, it can indicate a willingness to build trust and resolve issues through peaceful means. The study revealed that 65% of the respondents believe that increased diplomatic engagements are essential towards peace building and thus influence Peace and stability. Further analysis indicates that 63% of the respondents agree that conflict resolution is essential towards trust building. When countries engage in regular and

constructive dialogue, it can indicate a willingness to build trust and resolve issues through peaceful means.

The study also shows that 66% of the respondents believe that sharing intelligence are pivotal in trust building. Furthermore, 75% of the respondents believe that cooperation in international organizations helps builds trust which in the end brings up Peace and Stability. Only 45% of the respondents believe that cultural exchange programs promote trust building which eventually fosters Peace and Stability.

When countries collaborate on joint projects and initiatives, it can demonstrate a willingness to work together and build mutual trust. The study reveals that 50% of the respondents believe that joint projects and initiatives foster trust and 65% of the respondents believe that treaty commitments build trust which eventually improves Peace and Stability.

Table 4.7: Correlation of trust-building on peace & stability

	<i>Peace and stability</i>
Peace and stability	1
Trust building	0.58

The results of the correlation analysis summarized in Table 4.7 above indicate that there exists a positive but weak relationship between trust building and Peace/Stability. This relationship was significant at 0.05 level of significance. The implication is that as the trust between countries grow the level of Peace and Stability is set to grow as well.

4.3.4 Description of the independent variable

In this sub theme the independent variable is presented in line with the conceptualization shown in figure 2.1 under conceptual framework. Accordingly, peace and stability were measured using the aspects of decreased corruption levels, promotion of rule of law and promotion of democracy. In line with the conceptual framework, section E, F and G of the questionnaire (appendix 1) reflected the items under the above sub themes. Under each section, the respondents were required

to rate themselves on the given items using a scale ranging from a minimum of one (for strongly disagree (1) to a maximum of five (5) (for strongly agree) respectively.

Table 4.3: Showing views of respondents on decreased corruption

No.	Item	Count	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly
1	Corruption erodes public trust in government institutions and can create a perception that the government is not working in the best interests of its citizens. By reducing corruption, governments can restore public trust and confidence in their institutions, which can help to prevent social unrest and promote stability.	124	5%	10%	10%	25%	50%
2	Corruption can contribute to crime and violence by creating a black market for goods and services and facilitating criminal activities such as drug trafficking and money laundering. By reducing corruption, governments can help to reduce crime and violence, which can promote stability.	124	2%	8%	20%	31%	39%
3	Corruption can undermine economic development by creating an uneven playing field for businesses and deterring foreign investment. By reducing corruption, governments can promote economic growth, create jobs, and improve living standards, which can reduce social tensions and promote stability.	124	17%	28%	10%	30%	15%
4	Corruption can divert resources away from social welfare programs, such as healthcare and education, and prevent them from reaching those who need them the most. By reducing corruption, governments can ensure that social welfare programs are more effective and reach those who need them, which can reduce social tensions and promote stability.	124	3%	9%	23%	40%	25%
5	Corruption undermines the rule of law by creating an environment in which powerful individuals and businesses can act with impunity. By reducing corruption, governments can strengthen the rule of law, promote accountability, and prevent abuses of power, which can promote stability.	124	20%	25%	10%	35%	10%
Mean = 3.53; SD = 0.55							

Source: Primary data, 2023

The study considered decreased corruption, promotion of rule of law and promotion of democracy as the constructs to Peace and Stability. 75% of the respondents believe that Corruption erodes public trust in government institutions and can create a perception that the government is not working in the best interests of its citizens. A further 70% believe that corruption can contribute to crime and violence by creating a black market for goods and services and facilitating criminal activities such as drug trafficking and money laundering. Corruption undermines economic development by creating an uneven playing field for businesses and deterring foreign investment though only 45% of the respondent agreed to this notion. The study reveals that corruption can divert resources away from social welfare programs, such as healthcare and education, and prevent

them from reaching those who need them the most as pointed out by the respondents (65%). 45% of the respondents also believe that corruption undermines the rule of law as it creates an environment. The overall mean for corruption was at 3.53 (SD = 0.55) which is indicating that corruption is generally high.

Table 4.4: Showing respondents views on promotion of the rule of law

No.	Item	Count	Strongly Disagree	Disagree	Neutral	Agree	Strongly
1	The rule of law provides a framework for establishing legal procedures and institutions that can resolve disputes and promote stability. This can help prevent violent conflicts between individuals, groups, or even states.	124	5%	10%	10%	25%	50%
2	Encouraging trust and confidence: When the rule of law is applied fairly and consistently, it helps to build trust and confidence among individuals and communities. This can help prevent tensions and conflicts that can lead to violence.	124	20%	25%	10%	35%	10%
3	Providing a sense of security. The rule of law helps to establish security and predictability by ensuring that people are protected by law and that their rights are respected. This can help to prevent violence and instability.	124	23%	30%	15%	22%	10%
4	Corruption can undermine the rule of law and promote instability. By promoting transparency, accountability, and the rule of law, corruption can be reduced, and the stability of a region can be increased.	124	10%	15%	10%	45%	20%
5	Access to justice is crucial for promoting peace and stability in a region. When people feel that their grievances can be addressed fairly through the legal system, they are less likely to resort to violence to seek redress.	124	10%	19%	19%	30%	22%
6	The rule of law can provide a stable and predictable business environment that can attract investment and promote economic growth. This can help to reduce poverty and promote stability in a region.	124	21%	29%	15%	25%	10%
Mean = 3.05; SD = 0.43							

Source: Primary data, 2023

Regarding rule of law, the study reveals that 75% of the respondents believe that it provides a framework for establishing legal procedures and institutions that can resolve disputes and promote stability. 45% of the respondents believe that when the rule of law is applied fairly and consistently, it helps to build trust and confidence among individuals and communities. A further 32% believe that provides a sense of security. 65% of the surveyed respondents believe that corruption can undermine the rule of law which eventually promotes instability.

52% of the respondents believe that access to justice is crucial in regards to promotion of peace and stability in the region and lastly, 35% of the respondents believe that promotion of rule of law can establish a stable and predictable business environment that goes a long way in attracting investment opportunities as well as promoting economic growth. Overall, the results indicate that

there evidenced and intentional efforts made towards promotion of rule of law in the region (Mean = 3.05; SD = 0.43).

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the discussion of findings, conclusions and recommendations drawn from the findings of the study (Chapter four).

5.1 Discussion of findings

The section also focuses on the discussion of the study findings which are presented based on the objectives of the study.

5.1.1 Objective one: To assess the effectiveness of peace and stability in promoting increased diplomatic engagement between Uganda and South Sudan.

The results in Table 4.2 presented the responses on the effects of diplomatic engagements on peace and stability in South Sudan and Uganda. The results indicated that majority (85%) of the respondents believe that increased communication plays a central role in promoting peace and stability.

Diplomatic engagement involves a process of building and maintaining relationships between governments via dialogue, compromise, and collaboration. Increasing diplomatic engagement entails making more of an effort to achieve certain goals for stability and peace. The study findings are line with the views of theorist Rana (2015) who stressed the value of respectful interaction and respecting other countries' sovereignty in a study she conducted. Additionally, the study discovered that diplomatic efforts based on acceptance and respect can aid in the settlement of disputes, the lessening of tensions, and the development of long-lasting ties between nations. The study also emphasizes the value of multilateral agreements, international law, and diplomacy in resolving conflicts and preserving peace. These ideas can direct policymakers and diplomats in this study's environment as they work to advance peace, settle disputes, and strengthen bilateral cooperation for the good of all concerned nations.

Relatedly, Li's (2016) research also intended to look into how bilateral diplomacy helped China and Japan resolve their differences. The study came to the conclusion that cooperation between China and Japan has been fostered and issues have been resolved largely through bilateral diplomacy. The researcher cited a number of instances of effective bilateral diplomacy between the two countries, such as: the 1972 normalization of diplomatic ties, which paved the way for greater economic cooperation between China and Japan and helped to resolve long-standing issues; the 1998 China-Japan Joint Communiqué, which helped to ease tensions between the two countries and promoted cooperation in areas like environmental protection. The 2014 "four-point accord" China and Japan's disagreements over islands in the East China Sea were resolved through bilateral dialogue.

Li discovered that there were various obstacles to bilateral diplomacy in China-Japan ties, including the following, notwithstanding the benefits obtained from bilateral diplomacy in restoring peace and stability in a number of countries: concerns relating to history: intractable issues in bilateral ties today include historical issues like Japan's aggression in China during World War II; Geographic problems: territorial issues between the two nations have gotten worse, including as the disagreement over the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands and shady politics. Maintaining diplomatic efforts when domestic politics affect the bilateral relationship in both nations can be challenging. Based on these findings, the report proposes that China and Japan must give bilateral diplomacy top priority as a means of resolving conflicts and fostering collaboration. Thus, the study made the recommendation that the two countries should continue their discussions and negotiations and study finally contends that international actors, such as the US, should boost regional peace-building efforts by facilitating negotiations and provide necessary technical assistance. The study's conclusion urged both countries to keep working to resolve outstanding concerns through serious dialogue and negotiation.

Additionally, the study findings revealed that a further 75% of the surveyed respondents also believe that expansion of diplomatic missions between the two countries goes a very long way towards promoting peace and stability in South Sudan and Uganda. The findings are in agreement with a study undertaken by Bapat & Morgan (2016) who found that diplomatic engagement can be an effective tactic for resolving conflicts, particularly when there is a high level of

interdependence between the states involved. The study came to the conclusion that venues for on-going communication, information exchange, and diplomatic engagement are provided via diplomatic channels such as embassies, consulates, and international organizations. The coordination and execution of diplomatic strategy are made easier by diplomatic institutions like foreign ministries. Along the same line, Day (2017) looked into the role that diplomacy and good offices have in averting conflict. The study found that, unlike in the past, where they frequently followed two different paths, maintaining peace and sustainable development must work hand in hand. It was also determined that the UN should use four factors: (1) permission; (2) timing; (3) knowledge/relationships; (4) leverage; and (5) sustainability—all of which are essential for successful preventative diplomacy. Therefore, it is crucial to take into account the unique context and dynamics of the relationship between the two nations while evaluating the study's relevance to peace, stability, and bilateral relations between Uganda and South Sudan.

The results further indicate that 77% of the respondents believe that there is need for more bilateral agreements between South Sudan and Uganda. These bilateral agreements increase diplomatic engagement which often leads to more bilateral agreements between countries. These agreements may cover a range of issues, from trade and economic cooperation to security and defense. The findings are further corroborated by the views of key informants (interviews). For example one key informant had this to say:

“Bilateral agreements between countries may involve a need to agree on the level of investment in security, joint security drills and agreements to engage/disengage in conflict, security support in instances of conflict. All these are very essential and can only be reached through bilateral agreements. If such agreements are binding and wholly respected, there will be promotion of peace and stability in South Sudan and Uganda.” – Key informant

In line with the above, Ahmed and Islam (2020) looked into how bilateral diplomacy promoted peace and stability in South Asia. According to the study, bilateral diplomacy between India and Pakistan, two nuclear-armed nations with a contentious past, has been essential in reducing tensions. The authors note that the two countries have engaged in a variety of bilateral diplomatic actions, such as consultations, agreements, and peace talks, all of which have contributed to easing

tensions and advancing regional stability. Similarly Anwar & Mushtaq's (2020) inquiry investigated the impact of bilateral diplomacy on Middle Eastern peace and stability. The study claims that bilateral diplomacy has been essential in settling regional disputes, particularly the Israel-Palestine conflict. The authors noted that many bilateral agreements between Israel and some Arab countries have been made, geared to reducing regional tensions and promoting stability. Additionally, the research highlights the role that bilateral diplomacy plays in addressing regional security concerns including terrorism and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (WMDs).

Similar to this, a 2018 study by Kabir & Ahmed focused on the conditions of Bangladesh and Nepal while examining the role of bilateral diplomacy in promoting peace in South Asia. The researchers employed a comparative study methodology to examine secondary data from academic literature, policy papers, and press stories in addition to interviewing important informants in each nation. In order to promote peace and settle problems in both Bangladesh and Nepal, the findings claimed that bilateral diplomacy has been essential. In Bangladesh, bilateral diplomacy between Bangladesh and India facilitated the settlement of a protracted border dispute and improved commercial ties between the two countries. Bilateral diplomacy between Nepal and India successfully ended the ten-year Maoist insurgency in Nepal while simultaneously advancing the country's economic development. According to the study, a number of factors, including political will, steps to enhance confidence, and third-party mediation, were responsible for the success of bilateral diplomacy in promoting peace in Bangladesh and Nepal. Based on these findings, the report recommends that South Asian countries prioritize bilateral diplomacy as a means of promoting peace and resolving differences. Thus, it was determined that nations should engage in confidence-boosting activities like economic and cultural cooperation in order to create trust and improve relations. The research also exhorts international organizations, such as the United Nations, to continue supporting regional peace-building initiatives by mediating negotiations and providing technical assistance as needed.

Mehta & Choudhury (2018) examined the role of bilateral diplomacy in South Asian conflict resolution with a particular emphasis on relations between India and Bangladesh. The researchers used a qualitative study approach and drew on secondary data sources, including academic

literature, official documents, and news stories. The study claims that India and Bangladesh have engaged in a range of bilateral diplomatic initiatives to resolve differences and promote cooperation between the two countries. The researchers identified a variety of factors that supported the success of bilateral diplomacy in India-Bangladesh relations, including political will, economic collaboration, cultural exchanges, and third-party mediation. The research recommends that India and Bangladesh maintain bilateral diplomacy as a high priority for resolving differences and promoting cooperation based on these findings. Accordingly, the findings recommended that both nations cooperate in order to boost confidence through increased economic and cultural exchanges. According to the study, international institutions like the United Nations should step up their efforts to bring about peace in the region by offering technical support and, if required, mediating conversations. The study's conclusion advised both nations to keep up their efforts in negotiations and in-depth discussions of unsolved issues, such as the sharing of water resources.

Furthermore, the study further revealed that 65% of the respondents believe that greater cooperation is essential in building sound peace and stability in the two countries. They believe that as diplomatic engagement increases, countries may become more willing to cooperate on a range of issues, from addressing global challenges like climate change and terrorism, to working together on regional security and stability. The findings corroborates studies such as that of Ahmed and Islam (2020) who looked into how bilateral diplomacy promoted peace and stability in South Asia. According to the study, bilateral diplomacy between India and Pakistan, two nuclear-armed nations with a contentious past, has been essential in reducing tensions. The authors note that the two countries have engaged in a variety of bilateral diplomatic actions, such as consultations, agreements, and peace talks, all of which have contributed to easing tensions and advancing regional stability.

In a similar spirit, Iqbal & Hafeez's (2017) study aimed to examine how bilateral diplomacy contributes to South Asian peace-building with a focus on the relations between India and Sri Lanka. The researchers used a qualitative study approach and drew on secondary data sources, including academic literature, official documents, and news stories. According to the report, bilateral diplomatic efforts to resolve differences and enhance peace-building between the two

countries have been made by both India and Sri Lanka. Their empirical investigation identified a variety of factors that contributed to the effectiveness of bilateral diplomacy in India-Sri Lanka relations, including political will, economic collaboration, cultural exchanges, and international support. Based on these findings, the findings recommends that India and Sri Lanka continue to place a high premium on bilateral diplomacy as a means of resolving differences and furthering peace-building. The researchers advise that both countries should work to increase trust by increasing their economic and cultural interactions. The report concluded by advising both countries to remain committed to using meaningful communication to settle any outstanding issues, such as the sharing of water resources.

The study findings as per the Pearson correlation analysis describing the relationship between Diplomatic engagements on Peace & Stability for the states of South Sudan and Uganda indicates that there is moderately strong positive relationship ($r=0.64^*$) between the level of diplomatic engagements and Peace/Stability in Uganda and South Sudan. The implication of this significant result is that as more diplomatic engagements take place; the level of peace/stability improves. The relationship was significant at the 0.05 level.

Increasing diplomatic engagement entails making more of an effort to achieve certain goals for stability and peace. The findings are in line with theorist Rana (2015) who stressed the value of respectful interaction and respecting other countries' sovereignty in a study she conducted. Additionally, the study discovered that diplomatic efforts based on acceptance and respect can aid in the settlement of disputes, the lessening of tensions, and the development of long-lasting ties between nations. The study also emphasizes the value of multilateral agreements, international law, and diplomacy in resolving conflicts and preserving peace. These ideas can direct policy makers and diplomats in this study's environment as they work to advance peace, settle disputes, and strengthen bilateral cooperation for the good of all concerned nations.

Increased diplomatic activity, according to those who favour it, can lead to better inter-national communication and understanding, which can reduce the chance of wars. Collaboration in areas of mutual interest can be facilitated by diplomatic engagement that aims to increase trust and confidence between states (Rana, 2015). For instance, increased diplomatic exchange between Iran and the United States led to the Iran Nuclear Deal, a successful agreement that prevented Iran from

developing nuclear weapons (BBC News, 2015). Critics reply that establishing peace and stability through diplomacy may not always be successful. For instance, after years of diplomatic effort, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has not been resolved (Salam, 2017). According to detractors, diplomatic involvement can sometimes be used to delay a conflict.

The findings are in agreement with Gray & Potter (2017) who investigated the connection between diplomacy and the resolution of international trade disputes. They highlighted that nations continue to engage in significant diplomacy outside of international legal systems even when they use such instruments. But depending on prior state affinities, different diplomatic engagement strategies have different results. The study came to the conclusion that by averting conflicts, handling crises, and fostering international communication, successful diplomacy can help maintain peace and stability. Treaties, accords, and norms that aid in fostering collaboration, managing conflicts, and fostering trust can be established as a result of diplomatic efforts. Similarly, a study by Bapat & Morgan (2016) found that diplomatic engagement can be an effective tactic for resolving conflicts, particularly when there is a high level of interdependence between the states involved. The study came to the conclusion that venues for on-going communication, information exchange, and diplomatic engagement are provided via diplomatic channels such embassies, consulates, and international organizations. The coordination and execution of diplomatic strategy are made easier by diplomatic institutions like foreign ministries.

In the same line, Day (2017) looked into the role that diplomacy and good offices have in averting conflict. The study found that, unlike in the past, where they frequently followed two different paths, maintaining peace and sustainable development must work hand in hand. It was also determined that the UN should use four factors: (1) permission; (2) timing; (3) knowledge/relationships; (4) leverage; and (5) sustainability—all of which are essential for successful preventative diplomacy. Therefore, it is crucial to take into account the unique context and dynamics of the relationship between the two nations while evaluating the study's relevance to peace, stability, and bilateral relations between Uganda and South Sudan. Day's study offers broad perspectives on the function of diplomacy and conflict resolution, but it may not be directly applicable to the bilateral relations between South Sudan and Uganda without a more in-depth examination of the particular elements at play in that situation. Peksen (2014) found in a different

study, nevertheless, that diplomatic intervention might not always be effective in averting conflict. The study found that when there is a power imbalance between nations, diplomatic involvement may not be sufficient to prevent conflict. The study claims that in these conditions, more extreme actions, such as economic sanctions or military action, may be needed.

The US-North Korea nuclear issue has been handled primarily through improved diplomatic relations between the two countries. However, Coning's (2019) study raises the prospect that this tactic might not be successful in yielding the desired outcomes. Coning argues that diplomatic involvement can occasionally be constrained by the range of topics that can be discussed, the lack of transparency, and the absence of third-party mediation. Denuclearization has dominated discussions of the US-North Korea nuclear dilemma, while other vital problems including violations of human rights and the humanitarian tragedy in North Korea have received little attention.

Coning also claims that the lack of transparency in bilateral conversations can undermine the process' credibility and make it difficult to win over the public to any agreements that may be reached. Thirdly, there is a danger that negotiations would stall in the absence of outside mediation since neither side would be willing to make concessions without some confidence that their interests would be maintained. Coning's study raises important questions about how well diplomacy works to promote peace and stability. Although direct negotiations between two countries can be a successful method of resolving disputes, they are not a panacea and should be supplemented by additional measures, such as third-party mediation and a more thorough agenda that takes into account all pertinent issues.

The Institute for Security Studies (2017) looked into how the South Sudanese conflict affected Uganda's stability and security. In the report's conclusions, it was underlined how the conflict has affected Uganda in a number of ways, including the influx of refugees, the rise in violence and instability along the border, and the repercussions on the nation's development and economy. Despite having made substantial contributions to efforts to put an end to the crisis in South Sudan, notably by taking part in regional peace talks and providing shelter and assistance to refugees, the study also observed that these efforts have not yet been successful. However, the protracted conflict has severely depleted Uganda's resources and raised concerns about the possibility of

unrest and carnage spreading. Based on empirical facts, they claimed in their study that the South Sudanese conflict has significantly impacted Uganda's stability and security and that its resolution will be necessary to progress peace and stability in the area. For a peaceful resolution of the war in South Sudan, the Institute for Security Studies urged deeper regional and international involvement. It also called for increased assistance for Uganda's efforts to control the refugee crisis and deal with the conflict's wider ramifications.

5.1.2 Objective two: To investigate how peace and stability influences economic cooperation between Uganda and South Sudan.

The study results indicate that the results were ambivalent (undecided) on the role of increased trade on peace/stability. An equal number (40%) agreed and disagreed to this notion. However, different studies indicate that increased economic cooperation is frequently cited as being very beneficial in fostering peace and stability in the global system (El-Anis, 2018). This is because encouraging common economic interests can diminish the incentives for states to go to war, which can result from growing economic interdependence between governments (Berridge, 2015; Fischer, 2016). By encouraging nations to collaborate to address shared economic issues, economic cooperation can also increase stability. Despite the fact that the advantages of economic collaboration are well established, there is conflicting empirical data on the links between economic cooperation, stability and peace.

Collaboration in investment can involve the creation of joint ventures or the acquisition of assets in another country. Such initiatives can indicate a desire to work together towards common economic goals. From the study, 75% of the respondents agreed that if South Sudan and Uganda were involved in joint investment endeavors, there would be an overall improvement in Peace/Stability between the two countries.

The development of shared infrastructure, such as ports, highways, and railways, can facilitate economic cooperation by reducing the cost of doing business and improving market access. The study results indicate that 50% of the respondents agreed that investment in joint infrastructure projects would lead to Peace and Stability. The findings are in congruence with the responses from interviews (key informants), for example one had pointed out that:

“Whereas joint infrastructural projects are very central to development, it is hard to know if these may lead to Peace/Stability. Pockets of rebel groups can potentially use such infrastructure as targets or destroy them to curtail economic progress. Also, now that these countries are not at war, how would such joint infrastructural projects foster peace/stability? Any instability between these countries if it ever develops needs to be tackled directly through dialogue” – Key informant

Similar to the above, Owen's (2018) study looked at the connection between calm intergovernmental relations and economic interdependence. To study this connection, the author used both qualitative and quantitative approaches. The study's key finding was that economic interdependence has the ability to reduce the chances of conflict by encouraging government collaboration and deterring hostile behavior. It was also additionally established that economic interdependence encourages diplomatic discussion and negotiation between countries since mutually advantageous economic links provide incentives for amicable conflict resolution. These results show that, in the setting of economic interdependence, bilateral diplomacy is essential for preserving peace and stability. The results of Owen's study can offer important insights into a contemporary study on bilateral diplomacy, peace, and stability. They contend that international cooperation and peace can be fostered through economic interdependence. Countries have an incentive to participate in diplomatic conversations and sustain peaceful relations by building economic links. To reduce potential vulnerabilities and tensions, the study's cautionary comment emphasizes the necessity for careful management of interdependent relationships.

The signing of trade agreements between countries can indicate a willingness to work together towards mutual economic benefits. These agreements can involve the reduction of tariffs and other trade barriers, as well as the establishment of common standards for products and services. The results indicated that 74% of the respondents were in agreement that trade agreements between the two States can support Peace/Stability efforts. Increased investment flows between countries can also indicate a strengthening of economic cooperation. This can involve foreign direct investment (FDI), where companies invest in operations in other countries, or portfolio investment, where investors purchase stocks and bonds in foreign companies. However, only 55% of the respondents

believed that investment flows between the two countries would promote Peace/Stability in South Sudan and Uganda.

Countries signing trade agreements to reduce barriers to trade, such as tariffs and quotas, can be a sign of increased economic cooperation. These agreements also establish trade-related institutions and mechanisms for dispute resolution. The study findings indicate that only 45% of the respondents believe that Bilateral and Multilateral Trade Agreements between countries can foster Peace and Stability. A closely similar view was held regarding common markets where only 55% of the respondents believed that common markets can bring about Peace and Stability.

Increased economic cooperation is frequently cited as being very beneficial in fostering peace and stability in the global system (El-Anis, 2018). This is because encouraging common economic interests can diminish the incentives for states to go to war, which can result from growing economic interdependence between governments (Berridge, 2015; Fischer, 2016). By encouraging nations to collaborate to address shared economic issues, economic cooperation can also increase stability. Despite the fact that the advantages of economic collaboration are well established, there is conflicting empirical data on the links between economic cooperation, stability, and peace.

Relatedly, in a study by Prantl & Goh (2022) shows how complicated and multifaceted the relationships between economic cooperation, stability, and peace are. Economic cooperation can enhance peace by reducing the likelihood of war between states. States' interests become more closely aligned and dependent on one another as a result of economic cooperation. As a result of this convergence of interests, States are highly motivated to avoid conflict and collaborate in order to address shared economic concerns. For instance, the European Union (EU), which was established in part to promote peace and stability in Europe, had as one of its objectives the formation of a single economic market. Similarly, Alesina and Dollar (2000) concluded in their earlier analysis that through promoting economic interconnectedness and collaboration, the foundation of the EU has been helpful in lowering the likelihood of war between member nations, which is consistent with the argument we've made.

Through the creation of incentives for states to collaborate in order to address shared economic challenges, economic cooperation can also help to maintain stability. States may become unstable as a result of economic problems like economic recessions, inflation, and currency fluctuations.

States can encourage stability in the global system by working together to address these issues. For instance, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) was founded to support stability in the global financial system by offering economic support to nations experiencing financial crises. By offering financial support to nations that are experiencing economic difficulties, the IMF has been helpful in fostering stability (Guzman & Simmons, 2005).

Additionally, Ansara & Regan (2017) studied how economic cooperation might promote stability and peace in societies that have gone through conflict. The authors stressed the various ways that economic cooperation can foster peace, including by fostering interdependence, increasing confidence and reducing conflicts, as well as through fostering economic growth. The European Union was utilized as a case study in Dominguez-Folgueras & Pelopidas' (2018) study to assess the relationship between economic cooperation and the suppression of violence. The authors assessed how different EU economic cooperation initiatives affected the likelihood of conflict. They discovered that while economic cooperation might be a useful tool for preventing conflicts, it is insufficient on its own and needs to be complemented by other measures such as political dialogue and security cooperation.

However, the responses from interviews on the above aspect were at variance with the views pointed out by scholars such as Prantl & Goh (2022); Alesina and Dollar (2000) among others. For example one had this to say:

“Peace/Stability is not entirely economic problem and thus cannot be fully attained through economic solutions but through concerted political dialogues coupled with bilateral agreement of security and economic nature. Binding economic pacts like common markets, bilateral agreements and related measures can promote economic activity may not be so central in promoting Peace/Stability. In fact, without proper regulation, free movements on goods between countries may lead to instability especially when illicit goods are involved” – Key informant

The correlation results shown in Table 4.5 indicated that there is a weak but positive relationship ($r = 0.55$, $P\text{-value} < 0.05$) between economic cooperation and the level of Peace/Stability between countries. The implication is that as economic cooperation between states increases, the level of

Peace/Stability also improves but at a lower level. The findings find support in the views of Owen's (2018) study which looked at the connection between calm intergovernmental relations and economic interdependence. The study's key finding was that economic interdependence has the ability to reduce the chances of conflict by encouraging government collaboration and deterring hostile behavior. It was also additionally established that economic interdependence encourages diplomatic discussion and negotiation between countries since mutually advantageous economic links provide incentives for amicable conflict resolution. These results show that, in the setting of economic interdependence, bilateral diplomacy is essential for preserving peace and stability. The results of Owen's study can offer important insights into a contemporary study on bilateral diplomacy, peace, and stability. They contend that international cooperation and peace can be fostered through economic interdependence. Countries have an incentive to participate in diplomatic conversations and sustain peaceful relations by building economic links. To reduce potential vulnerabilities and tensions, the study's cautionary comment emphasizes the necessity for careful management of interdependent relationships.

More so, Crook & Lamb's (2017) study set out to examine how economic cooperation could enhance Southeast Asia's peace and stability. In order to reduce tensions and promote cooperation among member states, the authors assessed how well various regional economic initiatives, such as the Association of Southeast Asian States (ASEAN) and the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), performed. They also examined how economic cooperation is impacted by the South China Sea conflict and other specific conflict scenarios. They came to the conclusion that economic cooperation is a reliable indicator of peace and stability. However, Crook & Lamb were quick to refute that economic cooperation might also have negative effects on peace and security. Economic cooperation's distributional effects, which can result in winners and losers, can cause political tensions and conflict. Additionally, political stability may be threatened by the implications of economic cooperation, including dependence on other nations and a loss of sovereignty. Therefore, even if economic cooperation might promote peace and stability, authorities must carefully monitor its distributional effects to ensure that it does not jeopardize political stability.

The South Sudanese nation obtained independence in 2011, and the United States Institute of Peace (2018) looked at how the two countries' relations have altered since then. The Institute also

examined South Sudan and Uganda's historical relationships, economic interdependence, challenges and conflicts that have arisen since South Sudan's independence, and the country's ongoing bloodshed. The Institute noted a number of significant factors that have impacted Uganda's relations with South Sudan, including security issues, economic factors, and political dynamics. In order to enhance relations between the two countries, the Institute presented suggestions for establishing stronger economic relationships, resolving security challenges, and encouraging more coordination on regional and international matters.

5.1.3 Objective three: To examine the influence of peace and stability in promoting trust-building between Uganda and South Sudan.

When countries engage in regular and constructive dialogue, it can indicate a willingness to build trust and resolve issues through peaceful means. The study revealed that 65% of the respondents believe that increased diplomatic engagements are essential towards peace building and thus influence Peace and stability. Further analysis indicates that 63% of the respondents agree that conflict resolution is essential towards trust building. When countries engage in regular and constructive dialogue, it can indicate a willingness to build trust and resolve issues through peaceful means. The above findings find support in the ideas held by Xu (2021), who contended that building trust between nations is crucial for creating more peace and stability, especially in the context of fruitful bilateral cooperation. However, the dynamics of trust-building and how it impacts stability and peace have been the subject of several empirical investigations. A key study in this area, Herz (1950) made the case that confidence is essential for peaceful coexistence of governments. Herz claims that states must demonstrate their willingness to make "gradual reciprocal concessions," or that they would honor their commitments, in order to build trust. This process is aided by open communication and transparency, as well as a shared understanding of each other's goals and interests.

The study findings also shows that 66% of the respondents believe that sharing intelligence are pivotal in trust building. Furthermore, 75% of the respondents believe that cooperation in international organizations helps builds trust which in the end brings up Peace and Stability. The findings find support in the views of Jervis (1976) who argues that states must "learn and adapt" in order to build trust in a manner similar to this. According to Jervis, states can build trust through cooperating, such as through joint military exercises, and by demonstrating their dedication to

maintaining international conventions and agreements. Over time, these interactions could increase mutual trust and understanding, leading to more secure and satisfying relationships.

More so, only 45% of the respondents believe that cultural exchange programs promote trust building which eventually fosters Peace and Stability. The findings are in line with the study of Batta (2019) which examined the impact of public diplomacy on increasing trust between Pakistan and India. Batta discovered that increasing awareness, limiting unfavourable assumptions and biases, establishing trust, and championing the value of education and cultural interchange can considerably improve people's knowledge of one another's points of view and support attempts to establish trust.

On the aspect of when countries collaborate on joint projects and initiatives, it can demonstrate a willingness to work together and build mutual trust. The study reveals that 50% of the respondents believe that joint projects and initiatives foster trust and 65% of the respondents believe that treaty commitments build trust which eventually improves peace and stability. This finds support in the views of Gartzke & Zhang (2015) who investigated the role that economic interdependence plays in the growth of trust between China and the United States. They find that common interests and cooperative incentives can be fostered by economic interdependence, increasing the likelihood of trust-building and reducing the likelihood of conflict.

Relatedly, the role of diplomacy in promoting stability and peace between South Sudan and Uganda was previously examined by Abok (2014). He argues that the long-standing mistrust and animosity between the two countries is due to historical conflicts and territorial disagreements. But with the end of the Sudanese civil war and the subsequent independence of South Sudan in 2011, the two countries have moved to improve their bilateral relations. Abok identifies a number of factors, including shared economic interests, a desire for regional peace, and diplomatic initiatives taken by both countries, that have contributed to this progress. He notes that Uganda has been particularly important in facilitating peace talks and negotiations between the warring groups in South Sudan. This has assisted in reducing violence and advancing stability in the nation. Nevertheless, Abok noted some of the challenges and impediments that continue to prevent South Sudan and Uganda from working together bilaterally. Some of these include ongoing border disputes, security concerns, and accusations of intervening in one another's internal affairs.

African Arguments (2021) examined the kind of ties that exist between Uganda and South Sudan. Due to the influx of refugees, the possibility of violence spreading, their shared history, and economic linkages, the South Sudanese conflict has an impact on Uganda's security and stability. The report's conclusions recommended that both countries address their historical transgressions, advance economic cooperation, and bolster security collaboration. The analysis came to the conclusion that the dynamics in the larger East African region can be influenced by the connection between Uganda and South Sudan, and that the success or failure of such efforts can have an impact on regional peace and stability.

Correlation of trust-building on peace & stability	
	<i>Peace and stability</i>
Peace and stability	1
Trust building	0.58

The results of the correlation analysis summarized in Table 4.7 above indicate that there exists a positive but weak relationship between trust building and Peace/Stability. This relationship was significant at 0.05 level of significance. The implication is that as the trust between countries grow the level of Peace and Stability is set to grow as well. The study findings are in agreement with Xu (2021), who noted that building trust between nations is crucial for creating more peace and stability, especially in the context of fruitful bilateral cooperation. Correspondingly, Tang (2014) examined the role that the Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) had in building confidence between China and the US. The author claims that building trust requires a gradual process that includes talking to each other, working as a team, and solving problems.

Additionally, in his investigation of the importance of trust in international relations, Krotz (2017) discovered a similar thing. The author has learned through the study of international relations that building and maintaining trust is essential for the emergence and upkeep of international cooperation and security. In the same vein, to the above, Davis (2019) looked at the value of fostering multilateralism in a study. The author argued that building trust is essential for the functioning of international organizations and provided advice on how to improve trust-building efforts as well as how to avoid particular behaviours. Moreover, a detailed analysis of the literature on trust and peace-building by Rosert & Milic (2019) revealed that building trust is crucial to achieving peace.

Relatedly, Ruggeri & Dijkstra (2020) looked at the US-North Korea trust-building process by drawing lessons from the normalization of US-Vietnam relations. The authors showed that building trust requires a lengthy, iterative process. Additionally, they stressed how important it is to demonstrate leadership, communicate effectively, and take steps to enhance confidence as essential components of fostering favourable government cooperation.

5.2 Conclusions

A number of conclusions were drawn. These were based on the findings of the study, and discussions guided by the objectives.

5.2.1 Objective one

Concerning objective one, which was aimed at assessing the effectiveness of peace and stability in promoting increased diplomatic engagement between Uganda and South Sudan, the researcher concludes that respondents of the two countries perceive themselves as having a somewhat high level of agreement with the effectiveness strategies so far taken by the two sister countries in promoting peace and stability amongst themselves. This was reflected by creating a favourable environment for increased diplomatic engagement in the spheres of: increased trade and investment between the two countries, more high-level of visits between the two countries, frequent communication between the two countries' leaders, positive public opinion in both countries and rhetoric used by the leaders of both countries.

On the other hand, much as the levels of effectiveness of promoting peace and stability and diplomatic engagement between Uganda and South Sudan was generally fair for the respondents of both two countries, there are still issues of ineffectiveness that hinder the promotion of peace and stability and diplomatic engagement among the sister countries. Some of these reasons include: the presence of on-going conflict or instability in South Sudan which has created a climate of insecurity and mistrust between the two countries, lack of political will on the part of the leaders of both countries to make peace and stability a priority, absence of strong economic incentives for the two countries to cooperate, historical and cultural tensions between the two countries and the involvement of third parties such as Sudan and the United Nations has made it difficult to reach a

negotiated settlement. Nevertheless, despite some of the weaknesses, peace and stability are essential ingredients for successful diplomatic engagement. Therefore, if the two countries can continue to build on this progress, it is possible that they can achieve a lasting peace.

5.2.2 Objective two

Based on the findings on the second objective of the study, which was to investigate how peace and stability influences economic cooperation between Uganda and South Sudan, the researcher concludes that the respondents of the two countries perceived themselves as having a somewhat high level of agreement with successes so far taken by the two sister countries in enhancing economic cooperation amongst themselves. This was reflected by creating a favourable environment for increased diplomatic engagement in the spheres of: increased trade and investment: When there is peace and stability, businesses are more likely to invest in a country. This can lead to increased trade between countries, which can create a foundation for economic cooperation. Improved security: When there is peace and stability, there is less risk of violence and crime. This can make it easier for businesses to operate in a country and for people to travel and invest and enhanced cooperation on regional issues: When countries are at peace, they are more likely to cooperate on regional issues. This can lead to increased economic cooperation, as countries work together to develop shared infrastructure and markets.

On the other hand, much as levels of economic cooperation between Uganda and South Sudan was generally fair for the respondents of both two countries, there are still issues that affect desired economic cooperation among the sister countries. Some of these reasons include: The absence of economic incentives: There are no strong economic incentives for the two countries to cooperate. This is because the two countries have different economies and do not have a lot of trade between them.

Nevertheless, despite some of the weaknesses, peace and stability are a prerequisite for economic cooperation between Uganda and South Sudan. Therefore, when there is peace and stability, businesses are more likely to invest in a country. This can lead to increased trade between countries, which can boost economic growth. Job creation: Peace and stability can lead to job creation. This is because businesses are more likely to create jobs in countries where there is peace

and stability. This can help to reduce unemployment and poverty. This leads to a general stand that improving or enhancing peace and stability can significantly lead to economic cooperation between Uganda and South Sudan.

5.2.3 Objective three

Based on the findings on the third objective of the study, which was to examine the influence of peace and stability in promoting trust building between Uganda and South Sudan, the researcher concludes that the respondents of the two countries perceived themselves as having a somewhat high level of agreement with successes so far taken by the two sister countries in promoting trust building amongst themselves. Although trust building is a long-term process that requires sustained effort, notwithstanding, by establishing regular high-level dialogue through regular meetings between the leaders of the two countries, as well as their ministers and other officials, will significantly help to build trust and understanding between the two sides.

5.3 Recommendations

After the presentation and discussion of findings, together with the conclusions derived therefrom, the study ends with making recommendations and suggestions for further studies. The recommendations arose from the significant findings of the study.

5.3.1 Objective one

With regard to findings on the first objective, the researcher recommends that if bilateral diplomacy is to blossom in Uganda and South Sudan, there must be enhanced peace and stability effectiveness levels. This can be done by establishment of regular high-level dialogue: This can be done through regular meetings between the leaders of the two countries, as well as their ministers and other officials. This will help to build trust and understanding between the two sides. Signing of agreements and memorandums of understanding (MoUs): This can help to formalize the cooperation between the two countries in areas such as trade, investment, security, and development. Increased people-to-people exchanges: This can be done through cultural exchanges, sports, tourism, and other activities. This will help to promote understanding and goodwill between the two peoples. Mediation by third parties: This can be done by organizations such as the African Union, the United Nations, and the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD). This can help to facilitate dialogue and negotiations between the two

countries. Support from the international community: The international community can provide financial and technical assistance to help the two countries achieve peace and stability. This can help to create a more conducive environment for diplomatic engagement.

5.3.2 Objective two

With regard to findings on the second objective of the study, the researcher recommends that if bilateral diplomacy is to thrive in Uganda and South Sudan, there must be concerted efforts to promote economic cooperation amongst the two sister countries. These can be addressed by: establishing a free trade area: This would allow goods and services to flow freely between the two countries, investing in joint infrastructure projects: This would help to improve transportation, communication, and other essential services. Cooperating on tourism, agriculture, and manufacturing: This would create jobs and boost economic growth. Working together to attract foreign investment: This would bring in capital and expertise and sharing information and expertise on economic development: This would help to improve the efficiency of businesses and governments.

5.3.3 Objective three

With regard to findings on the third objective of the study, the researcher recommends that if bilateral diplomacy is to thrive in Uganda and South Sudan, there must be concerted efforts to promote trust building amongst the two sister countries. These can be addressed by: Establishing a joint truth and reconciliation commission: This would help to address the legacy of the conflict and promote healing and forgiveness. Creating a joint mechanism for conflict resolution: This would help to resolve disputes peacefully and prevent future conflict. Promoting education and understanding about each other's cultures: This would help to break down stereotypes and build mutual understanding. Supporting civil society organizations that promote peace and reconciliation: These organizations can play a vital role in building trust and cooperation between the two countries.

5.4 Contribution of the study to the body of knowledge

A study on peace and stability through bilateral diplomacy in Uganda and South Sudan can

contribute to the body of knowledge in the field of diplomacy and international relations in a number of ways.

First, it can provide new insights into the role of bilateral diplomacy in promoting peace and stability. The study can examine the specific mechanisms and strategies that have been used to promote peace and stability through bilateral diplomacy, and the challenges and obstacles that have been encountered. This can help to inform future efforts to use bilateral diplomacy to promote peace and stability in other contexts.

Second, the study can provide a case study of how bilateral diplomacy can be used to resolve a specific conflict. The study can examine the specific factors that contributed to the success of bilateral diplomacy in this case, and the lessons that can be learned from this experience. This can help to improve our understanding of how bilateral diplomacy can be used to resolve other conflicts.

Third, the study can contribute to the development of new theories and frameworks apart from Stable Peace Theory by Boulding (1978) that underpinned this study for understanding the role of diplomacy in promoting peace and stability. The study can identify the factors that facilitate or hinder the effectiveness of bilateral diplomacy in promoting peace and stability, and develop new models and theories to explain these findings. This can help to improve our understanding of how diplomacy can be used to promote peace and stability in a variety of contexts.

Fourth, the study can help to raise awareness of the importance of bilateral diplomacy in promoting peace and stability. The study can highlight the successes and challenges of bilateral diplomacy in this area, and the lessons that can be learned from this experience. This can help to encourage governments and other stakeholders to invest in bilateral diplomacy as a tool for promoting peace and stability.

In a nutshell, the implication of this study for other African countries is that the findings of a study on peace and stability through bilateral diplomacy in Uganda and South Sudan could have implications for other African countries. For example, the study could identify the factors that are necessary for successful bilateral diplomacy in promoting peace and stability. This information

could be used by other African countries to develop their own bilateral diplomacy strategies. Additionally, the study could provide lessons learned from the experience of Uganda and South Sudan. These lessons could be applied to other African countries that are facing similar challenges.

5.5 Recommendations for further research

Apart from the recommendations suggested, this study did not look at other dimensions of bilateral diplomacy, such as mediation and conflict resolution, good governance, security cooperation, domestic reforms among others which can be researched on using the theory that underpinned this study. This can be explored by others.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE SOUTH SUDANESE EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UGANDA AND SOUTH SUDAN OFFICIALS

Dear Respondent,

My name is **Akol Awien Elizabeth** I am a Master of International Relations and Diplomatic Studies student at Kampala International University. In partial fulfilment of the requirements of this course, I am conducting my academic research entitled “**PEACE AND STABILITY AND BILATERAL DIPLOMACY BETWEEN UGANDA AND SOUTH SUDAN**”. The University has permitted me to carry out this research and I will treat your opinions with confidentiality. Your honesty is both critical and paramount when responding to the questionnaire.

Thank you so much for your cooperation.

Section A: Background Information

Please mark the applicable option with a tick [✓]

1) Age (years)

Below 26 [] 26-35 [] 36-45 [] 46-55 [] Above 55 []

2) Sex

Female [] Male []

3) Level of Education

Masters [] Bachelors [] Diploma [] Certificate []

Others [] (Specify)

4) What is your post/department of occupation?

Directors [] Head of Department [] Administrator

Any other, please specify.....

Your period of work in the sector (years)

Below 6yrs [] 6-10yrs [] 11-15yrs [] 16-20yrs [] Above 20yrs []

Direction: Please tick your best preferred choice on the space provided after each item. **For sections B, C, D, E, F, G and H, use the scale/ranking below to tick in the box that corresponds with number that best indicates your opinion on the statement or question.**

1- Strongly Disagree; **2-**Disagree; **3-**Neutral; **4-**Agree; and **5-**Strongly Agree

SECTION B: Bilateral Diplomacy**Increased diplomatic engagement**

No.	Item	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Increased communication: This may involve more frequent meetings between government officials, more dialogue between diplomats, and more exchanges of information.					
2.	Expansion of diplomatic missions: Countries may increase the number of diplomatic missions they have in other countries, or may establish new embassies, consulates, or other types of diplomatic offices.					
3.	More bilateral agreements: Increased diplomatic engagement often leads to more bilateral agreements between countries. These agreements may cover a range of issues, from trade and economic cooperation to security and defense.					
4.	Greater cooperation: As diplomatic engagement increases, countries may become more willing to cooperate on a range of issues, from addressing global challenges like climate change and terrorism, to working together on regional security and stability.					

SECTION C: Increased economic cooperation

No.	Item	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Increased trade: A rise in the volume of trade between two or more countries is a clear indicator of economic cooperation. An increase in trade can be driven by the removal of tariffs and non-tariff barriers, preferential trade agreements, and the establishment of free trade zones.					
2.	Joint investment: Collaboration in investment can involve the creation of joint ventures or the acquisition of assets in another country. Such initiatives can indicate a desire to work together towards common economic goals.					
3.	Shared infrastructure: The development of shared infrastructure, such as ports, highways, and railways, can facilitate economic cooperation by reducing the cost of doing business and improving market access.					
4.	The harmonization of regulatory frameworks, such as product standards and intellectual property laws, can promote economic cooperation by reducing barriers to trade and investment.					
5	Trade agreements: The signing of trade agreements between countries can indicate a willingness to work together towards mutual economic benefits. These agreements can involve the reduction of tariffs and other trade barriers, as well as the establishment of common standards for products and services.					
6	Investment flows: Increased investment flows between countries can also indicate a strengthening of economic cooperation. This can involve foreign direct investment (FDI), where companies invest in operations in other countries, or portfolio investment, where investors purchase stocks and bonds in foreign companies.					
7	Bilateral and Multilateral Trade Agreements: Countries signing trade agreements to reduce barriers to trade, such as tariffs and quotas, can be a sign of increased economic cooperation. These agreements also establish trade-related institutions and mechanisms for dispute resolution.					
8	Common market: Countries that create a common market, where goods, services, capital, and people can move freely across borders, can indicate a high level of economic cooperation. A common market often requires countries to harmonize regulations, laws, and standards, creating a level playing field for businesses.					

SECTION D: Trust-building

No.	Item	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Increased diplomatic engagement: When countries engage in regular and constructive dialogue, it can indicate a willingness to build trust and resolve issues through peaceful means.					
2	Conflict resolution: If countries are able to resolve their conflicts peacefully, it can demonstrate a commitment to building trust and maintaining stability in the region					
3	Sharing of intelligence: When countries share intelligence and cooperate on security matters, it can indicate a level of trust and a willingness to work together towards shared security goals.					
4	Cooperation in international organizations: If countries work together effectively in international organizations, it can demonstrate a commitment to shared values and goals.					
5	Cultural exchange programs: Cultural exchange programs can provide an opportunity for people from different countries to interact and learn about each other's cultures, which can help to build understanding and trust.					
6	Joint projects and initiatives: When countries collaborate on joint projects and initiatives, it can demonstrate a willingness to work together and build mutual trust.					
7	Treaty commitments: If countries commit to international treaties and agreements, it can demonstrate a willingness to uphold international norms and principles, which can contribute to building trust.					

SECTION E: Decreased corruption

No.	Item	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Corruption erodes public trust in government institutions and can create a perception that the government is not working in the best interests of its citizens. By reducing corruption, governments can restore public trust and confidence in their institutions, which can help to prevent social unrest and promote stability.					
2.	Corruption can contribute to crime and violence by creating a black market for goods and services and facilitating criminal activities such as drug trafficking and money laundering. By reducing corruption, governments can help to reduce crime and violence, which can promote stability.					
3.	Corruption can undermine economic development by creating an uneven playing field for businesses and deterring foreign investment. By reducing corruption, governments can promote economic growth, create jobs, and improve living standards, which can reduce social tensions and promote stability.					
4.	Corruption can divert resources away from social welfare programs, such as healthcare and education, and prevent them from reaching those who need them the most. By reducing corruption, governments can ensure that social welfare programs are more effective and reach those who need them, which can reduce social tensions and promote stability.					
5.	Corruption undermines the rule of law by creating an environment in which powerful individuals and businesses can act with impunity. By reducing corruption, governments can strengthen the rule of law, promote accountability, and prevent abuses of power, which can promote stability.					

SECTION F: Promotion of the rule of law

No.	Item	1	2	3	4	5
1.	The rule of law provides a framework for establishing legal procedures and institutions that can resolve disputes and promote stability. This can help prevent violent conflicts between individuals, groups, or even states.					
2.	Encouraging trust and confidence: When the rule of law is applied fairly and consistently, it helps to build trust and confidence among individuals and communities. This can help prevent tensions and conflicts that can lead to violence.					
3.	Providing a sense of security. The rule of law helps to establish security and predictability by ensuring that people are protected by law and that their rights are respected. This can help to prevent violence and instability.					

4.	Corruption can undermine the rule of law and promote instability. By promoting transparency, accountability, and the rule of law, corruption can be reduced, and the stability of a region can be increased.					
5.	Access to justice is crucial for promoting peace and stability in a region. When people feel that their grievances can be addressed fairly through the legal system, they are less likely to resort to violence to seek redress.					
6.	The rule of law can provide a stable and predictable business environment that can attract investment and promote economic growth. This can help to reduce poverty and promote stability in a region.					

SECTION G: Promotion of democracy

No.	Item	1	2	3	4	5
1.	Encouraging peaceful resolution of conflicts: Democracies can put in place institutional frameworks that encourage peaceful resolution of conflicts through negotiations and dialogue, rather than resorting to violence.					
2.	Democracies promote transparency and accountability in governance, which can reduce corruption and promote stability.					
3.	Democracies provide legal and institutional frameworks that protect human rights, such as freedom of expression and the right to a fair trial. This can reduce grievances and promote stability.					
4.	Democracies encourage participation of citizens in political decision-making, which can reduce frustration and grievances that can lead to instability and violence.					
5.	Providing stable and predictable political environments: Democracies provide stable and predictable political environments that can attract investment and promote economic growth. This can help reduce poverty and promote stability in a region					
6.	Reducing the likelihood of authoritarianism: Democracies provide institutional checks and balances that prevent the concentration of power in the hands of a few individuals or groups. This can reduce the likelihood of authoritarianism, which can lead to instability and violence.					

**APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KEY INFORMANTS (SOUTH SUDANESE
EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UGANDA AND
SOUTH SUDAN OFFICIALS**

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is **Akol Awien Elizabeth**. I am a Master of International Relations and Diplomatic Studies student at Kampala International University. In partial fulfillment of the requirements of this course, I am conducting my academic research entitled “**PEACE AND STABILITY AND BILATERAL DIPLOMACY BETWEEN UGANDA AND SOUTH SUDAN**”. The University has permitted me to carry out this research and I will treat your opinions with confidentiality. Your honesty is both critical and paramount when responding to the questionnaire.

Thank you so much for your cooperation.

The information got from you will be kept confidential and will be used strictly for academic purposes.

1. How can increased diplomatic engagement be achieved?
2. What role do diplomats play in increased diplomatic engagement?
3. How can increased economic cooperation be achieved?
4. How can the rule of law be strengthened to promote peace and stability?
5. How can the promotion of the rule of law be achieved?
6. How can trust building among states be achieved?
7. What role do diplomats play in trust building among states?
8. How can trust building among states contribute to global peace and security?
9. How can low levels of corruption be achieved in the country?
10. How can decreased corruption be achieved?

Thank you for Cooperation

APPENDIX III: KREJCIE AND MORGAN’S TABLE

N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S
10	10	100	80	280	162	800	260	2800	338
15	14	110	86	290	165	850	265	3000	341
20	19	120	92	300	169	900	269	3500	246
25	24	130	97	320	175	950	274	4000	351
30	28	140	103	340	181	1000	278	4500	351
35	32	150	108	360	186	1100	285	5000	357
40	36	160	113	380	181	1200	291	6000	361
45	40	180	118	400	196	1300	297	7000	364
50	44	190	123	420	201	1400	302	8000	367
55	48	200	127	440	205	1500	306	9000	368
60	52	210	132	460	210	1600	310	10000	373
65	56	220	136	480	214	1700	313	15000	375
70	59	230	140	500	217	1800	317	20000	377
75	63	240	144	550	225	1900	320	30000	379
80	66	250	148	600	234	2000	322	40000	380
85	70	260	152	650	242	2200	327	50000	381
90	73	270	155	700	248	2400	331	75000	382
95	76	270	159	750	256	2600	335	100000	384

Note: “N” is population “S” is sample size : Source: Amin, 2005

Elizabeth after viva

by Akol Awien Elizabeth

Submission date: 14-Nov-2023 06:33PM (UTC+0300)

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