



DUAL CITIZENSHIP AND NATIONALITY LAWS IN NIGERIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM: A LEGAL COMPARATIVE STUDY

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As globalization increases, dual citizenship has become more common, raising legal and policy concerns about national identity, security, and governance. This article compares how Nigeria and the United Kingdom (UK) approach nationality and dual citizenship. It also examines the history and legal frameworks of both countries, highlighting inconsistencies and policy challenges. At the same time, it explores how dual citizenship relates to economic growth, social inclusion, and legal certainty. By drawing on international best practices and human rights principles, the study suggests reforms that could make nationality laws fairer and more effective. A well-regulated approach to dual citizenship can strengthen institutions, improve governance, and contribute to social and economic development in both Nigeria and the UK.

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1. INTRODUCTION

The comparative legal approaches of Nigeria and the United Kingdom (UK) to nationality and dual citizenship present a compelling study in how historical, political, and constitutional legacies continue to influence contemporary citizenship regimes and the link towards sustainable development. At its core, the issue is not merely a technical matter of citizenship law, but a broader question of how states understand and manage belonging, loyalty, and the distribution of political and socio-economic rights in a pluralistic and mobile world.

Nationality and citizenship are foundational legal constructs that define the formal relationship between an individual and a sovereign state. While these terms are often used interchangeably in popular discourse, legal scholarship draws a critical distinction between them. Nationality, in its strictest legal sense, refers to the status of belonging to a state as recognized under international law.¹ It establishes a juridical bond that entitles individuals to diplomatic protection abroad and imposes upon them reciprocal obligations of allegiance and loyalty. Citizenship, by contrast, is a more elaborated and domestically defined status that encompasses the full spectrum of rights and responsibilities within a political community, including civil liberties, political participation, and the entitlement to social goods and services.² The regulation of nationality and citizenship regimes is deeply embedded in each state's constitutional and legislative architecture, shaped by complex intersections of historical legacies, colonial trajectories, post-colonial statecraft, and contemporary political imperatives.

In recent decades, the dynamics of globalization, international migration, transnational economic flows, and the rise of diasporic communities have exerted profound pressures on the traditional

¹ Laura van Waas and María José Recalde Vela, 'Nationality and Statelessness' (Oxford Bibliographies, last modified 12 January 2023) <<https://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/abstract/document/obo-9780199796953/obo-9780199796953-0013.xml>> accessed 12 June 2025.

² Carolina Ross, 'Redefining Citizenship in the 21st Century: Civil Liberties, Political Participation and Social Goods' (2023) 32(1) *Eur J Legal Stud* 109.

understanding of citizenship as singular, territorially bounded, and exclusive.³ One of the most salient responses to these pressures has been the increasing recognition and normalization of dual or multiple citizenships. This legal development allows individuals to simultaneously possess the citizenship status of more than one sovereign state, thereby enabling them to retain transnational affiliations and rights. However, this shift raises complex normative and practical questions about state sovereignty, legal pluralism, national security, and the equitable allocation of rights and obligations. The sustainability dimension of dual citizenship becomes especially relevant when viewed through the lens of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Dual citizenship, if effectively regulated, can enhance social inclusion, economic resilience, and civic participation among migrant and diaspora populations, fostering transnational networks that contribute to sustainable development both in countries of origin and residence. Conversely, poorly managed dual citizenship policies can exacerbate inequalities, strain governance capacities, and generate conflicts over loyalty and resource entitlement.

The UK's liberal stance on dual citizenship is informed by a long history of imperial expansion, decolonization, and multicultural accommodation. British nationality law, particularly following the enactment of the British Nationality Act 1981,⁴ reflects an effort to reconcile the country's historical obligations to former colonial subjects with its contemporary identity as a globalized, service-based economy. The acceptance of multiple national allegiances under British law enables individuals from Commonwealth nations and other jurisdictions to retain their original nationality while acquiring British citizenship. This policy has practical benefits: it facilitates labor mobility, attracts international talent, strengthens diaspora relations, and helps integrate migrants into the economic and civic life of the UK. From a sustainability perspective, this legal model promotes institutional adaptability, resilience in the face of

³ Mark J Castles and Alastair Davidson, *Citizenship and Migration in the Global Age* (2nd edn, Palgrave Macmillan 2020).

⁴ Rieko Karatani, *Defining British Citizenship: Empire, Commonwealth and Modern Britain* (Routledge 2020).

demographic change, and long-term social cohesion by legitimizing and protecting the transnational identities that many residents hold.

Nigeria, in contrast, demonstrates a more restrictive legal posture, especially concerning individuals who acquire Nigerian nationality by naturalization. By permitting dual nationality only for citizens by birth, the Nigerian Constitution expresses a deep-rooted concern with national security, political allegiance, and the integrity of state authority.⁵ This caution is informed by Nigeria's postcolonial struggles with internal conflict, identity politics, and the legacy of externally driven political interference. While understandable within its historical and political context, this restriction has significant implications for both individual rights and national development. It creates a tiered citizenship regime in which not all Nigerians enjoy the same rights of legal association, thereby reinforcing exclusionary tendencies and hindering the potential contributions of diaspora Nigerians who might otherwise wish to formalize their ties to the country through naturalization.

This legal dichotomy between the UK and Nigeria reveals a deeper challenge: how can citizenship law be structured to accommodate the realities of a globalized world while preserving national integrity and legal coherence? In addressing this question, one must consider the sustainability dimension of legal identity. Dual citizenship, when regulated equitably and inclusively, can serve as a tool for long-term national development. It enables the transnational transfer of knowledge, remittances, skills, and investments—resources that are crucial for economic growth and institutional strengthening. For Nigeria, where remittances constitute a significant portion of national income, limiting the legal avenues for diaspora engagement by restricting dual nationality to birth citizens undercuts a powerful engine of development.⁶ For the UK, permissive dual citizenship laws have helped sustain a dynamic labor

⁵ Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria 1999 (as amended), s 28

⁶ Ngene Innocent Aja, Fidelis C Nnaji and Victor Ikechukwu Okorie, 'Diaspora Remittances Inflows and Nigeria's Socio-Economic Development in the 21st Century' (2024) 17 *African Journal of Politics and Administrative Studies* 1 <<https://doi.org/10.4314/ajpas.v17i1.9>> accessed 12 June 2025.

market, fostered social diversity, and supported global economic partnerships.⁷

Moreover, sustainable development depends not only on economic performance but also on inclusive governance, legal certainty, and societal trust in state institutions. A restrictive approach to nationality may breed legal uncertainty, particularly where enforcement is inconsistent or politically manipulated. It may also alienate individuals who feel forced to choose between identities, reducing their willingness to engage civically or economically with a country that limits their recognition. On the other hand, an inclusive legal framework that permits dual nationality encourages individuals to maintain and deepen their ties to multiple states, fostering a sense of belonging, shared responsibility, and reciprocal contribution. In practical terms, a more balanced legal approach to dual citizenship in both Nigeria and the UK would promote sustainable governance by expanding the legal space for plural identities without compromising core state interests. This involves designing robust legal mechanisms that ensure transparency in naturalization processes, protect against abuse, and define the rights and responsibilities of dual nationals in clear, enforceable terms. It also requires states to reimagine national identity not as a zero-sum construct, but as a layered and dynamic relationship shaped by mutual investment and inclusive participation. Ultimately, the comparative treatment of dual citizenship in Nigeria and the UK is not just a matter of legal divergence—it is a reflection of each state’s vision of itself and its role in a rapidly interconnected world.⁸ Thus, dual citizenship is not merely a legal status—it is a mechanism through which states can promote sustainable, inclusive development and adapt to the evolving realities of global citizenship.

In light of these legal and policy challenges, this article provides a comparative analysis of dual citizenship and nationality laws in Nigeria

⁷ Jonathan Wadsworth, ‘The UK Labour Market and Immigration’ (2020) 213 *National Institute Economic Review* R35 <<https://doi.org/10.1177/0027950110380324>> accessed 12 June 2025.

⁸ Stephen Kwaku Asare, ‘Dual Allegiance, Dual Incentives, Disqualifications from Holding Public Office, and Abusive Judicial Review’ (2025) 33 *African Journal of International and Comparative Law* <<https://www.eupublishing.com/doi/abs/10.3366/ajicl.2025.0513>> accessed 12 June 2025.

and the UK. It explores the historical evolution, current legal frameworks, and practical implications of these laws while identifying key gaps and inconsistencies. The article also examines the broader connection between dual citizenship and sustainable development, emphasizing the need for reforms that promote economic integration, social inclusion, and legal certainty. By drawing insights from international best practices and human rights principles, this article proposes legal reforms that can enhance the effectiveness and fairness of nationality laws in both jurisdictions.

2. CONCEPTUAL CLARIFICATION

The concepts of sustainable development and dual citizenship may appear to belong to disparate fields—one rooted in global development policy and environmental governance, and the other in legal studies and migration. However, their intersection reveals deeper insights into the ways individuals and states engage with global challenges. Sustainable development, as defined by the Brundtland Commission and enshrined in the United Nations' 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), emphasizes the interdependence of economic growth, social inclusion, and environmental protection.⁹ Dual citizenship, on the other hand, refers to the legal status where individuals are recognized as citizens of two or more countries simultaneously, with associated rights and responsibilities. As transnationalism grows, dual citizenship emerges not only as a legal status but as a socio-economic bridge that can directly and indirectly support the goals of sustainable development.

One of the most significant contributions of dual citizenship to sustainable development lies in the field of human capital. Dual citizens, particularly those who have migrated from developing countries to more industrialized nations, often acquire skills, education, and experience that are highly valuable. Many retain strong ties to their countries of origin and participate in what scholars term “brain circulation”—as opposed to the older model of “brain drain.” Through academic collaboration,

9 World Commission on Environment and Development, *Our Common Future* (Oxford University Press 1987); United Nations General Assembly, 'Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' (21 October 2015) UN Doc A/RES/70/1

entrepreneurship, and mentoring, these individuals contribute to capacity-building in sectors like healthcare, technology, and education—advancing SDGs such as Quality Education (SDG 4) and Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure (SDG 9). This circulation facilitates a flow of expertise that can uplift communities and build sustainable, knowledge-based economies.

Dual citizens play a pivotal role in global financial flows through remittances and diaspora investments. According to the World Bank, remittances to low- and middle-income countries reached over \$600 billion in recent years, far surpassing official development assistance. These funds are often used to support basic needs—healthcare, education, housing—and can help families escape poverty, directly contributing to SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being). Beyond individual transfers, diaspora networks also fund infrastructure projects, start-ups, and social enterprises in their home countries. Governments such as those of India, Nigeria, and the Philippines have created formal channels for diaspora investment, recognizing that the economic involvement of dual citizens can catalyze sustainable and inclusive development.

Many countries with significant emigrant populations have institutionalized diaspora engagement strategies that integrate dual citizens into national development planning. These include voting rights, investment incentives, dual nationality laws, and even special ministries or agencies tasked with diaspora affairs. Such frameworks aim to harness the potential of dual nationals not only as sources of capital but as advocates and change agents who can influence development policy, innovation, and democratic practices. In doing so, they contribute to stronger institutions and governance—core to SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions). The ability of dual citizens to navigate multiple legal systems and cultures also fosters a pluralistic and inclusive approach to national development, promoting civic engagement across borders.

The transnational identity of dual citizens often fosters a global consciousness that can support environmental sustainability and climate action. Exposure to environmental standards, green technologies, and climate activism in one country can inspire dual citizens to promote

similar practices in another. This can translate into knowledge exchange on issues like renewable energy, sustainable agriculture, and urban planning—key areas of SDG 7 (Affordable and Clean Energy) and SDG 13 (Climate Action). Furthermore, dual citizens can act as mediators between local and global environmental priorities, pushing for responsible resource management and policy alignment between countries. Their unique position enables them to participate in shaping a sustainable, interconnected world, reinforcing the ethic of global citizenship promoted by the UN.

Despite these opportunities, the relationship between dual citizenship and sustainable development also raises critical ethical and equity concerns. Access to dual citizenship is often uneven, favoring individuals from economically developed or politically stable countries. This privileges transnational elites and exacerbates global inequalities, challenging the SDG 10 goal of Reduced Inequalities. Furthermore, some dual citizens may disengage from the social responsibilities of their home countries while benefiting from rights and economic opportunities. In conflict zones or authoritarian contexts, the unequal availability of dual citizenship can create political tensions, social fragmentation, or perceptions of national disloyalty. Thus, for dual citizenship to truly serve the aims of sustainable development, policies must ensure equitable access and foster inclusive engagements.

2.1 Theoretical and Legal Framework

a. Nigeria

The Nigerian Constitution of 1999 delineates the parameters of citizenship, particularly concerning dual nationality. Section 28(1) explicitly states that individuals who are not citizens by birth must forfeit their Nigerian citizenship if they acquire or retain the nationality of another country. This provision mandates that naturalized Nigerians renounce any other citizenship upon acquiring Nigerian nationality.¹⁰ Critics argue that this stipulation is both discriminatory and outdated, especially considering Nigeria's extensive diaspora and the dynamics of a

¹⁰ Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999 (as amended) s. 21(8).

globalized economy. Elvis Asia contends that such restrictions may deter skilled individuals from fully engaging in Nigeria's socio-economic development, thereby hindering the nation's progress in an interconnected world.¹¹

Furthermore, Nigeria lacks a comprehensive policy regarding the rights of dual citizens, particularly in the political arena. The ambiguity surrounding the eligibility of dual citizens to hold public office has led to legal challenges and inconsistent judicial interpretations. In the case of *Ogbeide v. Osula*,¹² the Court of Appeal held that a Nigerian citizen by birth does not forfeit their citizenship upon acquiring another nationality and, therefore, cannot be disqualified from contesting elections solely on the basis of holding dual citizenship. However, subsequent tribunal decisions have contradicted this stance, leading to a lack of uniformity in the application of the law. Asia emphasizes the need for clearer legal frameworks to address these inconsistencies and to ensure that dual citizens are not unjustly excluded from political participation.

The current legal framework's ambiguity has significant implications for Nigeria's democratic processes. The absence of explicit guidelines regarding the political rights of dual citizens creates uncertainty and may discourage qualified individuals from participating in governance. Asia advocates for constitutional reforms that clearly define the rights and limitations of dual citizens, particularly concerning eligibility for public office. Such reforms would not only promote inclusivity but also harness the potential contributions of Nigeria's diaspora, thereby enriching the nation's political landscape.¹³

The acquisition of nationality is primarily governed by two doctrines: *jus soli* and *jus sanguinis*. *Jus soli*, or the "right of the soil," confers nationality based on birth within a state's territory, a principle prevalent in countries like the United States and Canada. Conversely, *jus*

¹¹ Elvis Asia, 'The Right of Dual Citizens to Hold Political Offices in Nigeria: A Different Perspective' (2019) Law Future Partners.

¹² *Ogbeide v. Osula* [2004] 12 NWLR (Pt. 886) 86.

¹³ Nigerians in Diaspora Commission, 'National Policy on Diaspora' (NIDCOM, 2021), <<https://nidcom.gov.ng/national-policy-on-diaspora/>> accessed 9 February 2025.

sanguinis, or the "right of blood," grants nationality through descent, irrespective of the place of birth, a practice common in many European nations.¹⁴ Modern legal frameworks have evolved to incorporate mechanisms such as naturalization, allowing non-nationals to acquire citizenship after fulfilling specific residency and integration criteria. Additionally, Reuters submitted that the recognition of dual or multiple citizenships has become more prevalent, reflecting the complexities of globalization and individual identities.¹⁵ However, the acceptance of dual citizenship varies across jurisdictions, influenced by historical, political, and security considerations.¹⁶ For instance, while the United Kingdom permits dual citizenship, Nigeria imposes restrictions, particularly on naturalized citizens, prohibiting them from retaining their original nationality upon acquiring Nigerian citizenship.¹⁷ This divergence underscores the intricate balance states maintain between embracing global interconnectedness and preserving national sovereignty.

b. The United Kingdom

The United Kingdom's approach to dual citizenship is notably progressive, particularly under the British Nationality Act 1981, which permits British citizens to hold multiple nationalities without restrictions on dual citizens running for public office.¹⁸ However, recent legislative developments have introduced complexities, especially concerning

¹⁴ Patrick Weil, 'Access to Citizenship: A Comparison of Twenty-Five Nationality Laws' (2001) 17(1) National Journal of Citizenship and Immigration 1, <<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/citizenship-studies/article/access-to-citizenship>> accessed 9 February 2025.

¹⁵ Greta Gilbertson, 'Citizenship in a Globalized World' (2006) Migration Policy Institute <<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/citizenship-globalized-world>> accessed 28 April 2025.

¹⁶ Reuters, 'Sweden Seeks to Change Constitution to Revoke Citizenship' (Reuters, 15 January 2025), <<https://www.reuters.com/world/europe/sweden-seeks-change-constitution-be-able-revoke-citizenships-2025-01-15/>> accessed 9 February 2025.

¹⁷ UK Government, 'Dual Nationality' (Gov.uk, 2025), <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/dual-citizens/dual-nationality>> accessed 9 February 2025.

¹⁸ British Nationality Act 1981, c 61, <<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1981/61>> accessed 9 February 2025.

national security-based citizenship revocation. The Nationality and Borders Act 2022 has expanded the government's authority to deprive individuals of their British citizenship, even without prior notice in certain circumstances. Racheal argued that this has sparked significant debate regarding the balance between national security imperatives and the rights of dual citizens, with particular concern for those from ethnic minority backgrounds.¹⁹

The Nationality and Borders Act 2022 grants the Home Secretary the power to revoke British citizenship if it is deemed "conducive to the public good," a provision that has been applied in cases involving national security concerns, such as terrorism or espionage.²⁰ Notably, the Act allows for citizenship deprivation without prior notification if such notice is not reasonably practicable or in the interest of national security, diplomatic relations, or other public interests. This has raised concerns about potential human rights violations and the risk of rendering individuals stateless, particularly affecting dual citizens from ethnic minority communities. According to the United Nations Human Rights Organization (UNHRO), it is argued that these powers may be applied disproportionately, leading to arbitrary deprivation of citizenship and undermining the principles of due process and equality before the law.²¹ The case of Shamima Begum, a British-born woman of Bangladeshi descent who was stripped of her citizenship after joining Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) in Syria, exemplifies the contentious nature of these powers and their potential impact on individuals with dual nationality.²²

¹⁹ Rachel Pougnet, 'Citizenship Deprivation in the Courts: Unveiling States' Constitutional Structures' (2023) 19(3) *European Constitutional Law Review* 415, <<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1574019623000196>> accessed 9 February 2025.

²⁰ UK Government, 'Nationality and Borders Bill: Deprivation of Citizenship Factsheet' (Gov.uk, 2022), available at; <<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/nationality-and-borders-bill-deprivation-of-citizenship-factsheet/nationality-and-borders-bill-deprivation-of-citizenship-factsheet>> accessed 9 February 2025.

²¹ United Nations Human Rights Office, 'United Kingdom: Nationality and Borders Bill Undermines Rights of Victims, Migrants and Refugees – UN Experts' (OHCHR, 2022), <<https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2022/01/united-kingdom-nationality-and-borders-bill-undermines-rights-victims>> accessed 9th February 2025.

²² *Shamima Begum v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2021] UKSC 7.

In contrast, Nigeria maintains a more restrictive stance on dual citizenship, especially concerning naturalized citizens. The Nigerian Constitution permits dual citizenship only for individuals who are Nigerian by birth, explicitly prohibiting naturalized citizens from retaining their original nationality. According to Udochi, this restriction reflects concerns about national loyalty and security but has been criticized for being discriminatory and outdated, particularly in the context of Nigeria's extensive diaspora and the benefits of global interconnectedness.²³ Moreover, Nigeria lacks clear policies regarding the political rights of dual citizens, leading to legal ambiguities and challenges. For instance, there have been cases where political figures with dual citizenship have faced legal obstacles concerning their eligibility for public office, resulting in inconsistent judicial decisions and uncertainty about the rights of dual citizens in the political sphere.²⁴

The comparative analysis between the UK's inclusive model and Nigeria's restrictive approach highlights significant gaps. While the UK allows full political participation for dual citizens, its expanded citizenship revocation powers raise concerns about human rights and potential governmental overreach. Conversely, Nigeria's stringent policies limit the rights of naturalized dual citizens and lack clarity regarding their political participation, potentially hindering the nation's engagement with its diaspora and the benefits that such engagement could bring. Addressing these issues requires a nuanced approach that balances national security considerations with the protection of individual rights and the promotion of inclusivity.²⁵

²³ Udochi Onyeike, 'Dual Citizenship Policy in Sub-Saharan Africa: Between National Security and Diaspora Engagement' (2023) Social Science Open Access Repository (SSOAR), <https://www.ssoar.info/ssoar/bitstream/handle/document/91189/ssoar-2023-udochi-Dual_citizenship_policy_in_sub-saharan.pdf> accessed 9 February 2025.

²⁴ 'The Right of Dual Citizens to Hold Political Offices in Nigeria: A Different Perspective' (Citizenship Rights in Africa Initiative, 26 August 2019), <<https://citizenshiprightsafrika.org/the-right-of-dual-citizens-to-hold-political-offices-in-nigeria-a-different-perspective-elvis-asia/>> accessed 9 February 2025.

²⁵ Whitaker BE, 'The Politics of Home: Dual Citizenship and the African Diaspora' (2011) 45(4) International Migration Review 755, <<https://pages.charlotte.edu/beth-whitaker/wp-content/uploads/sites/39/2012/02/whitaker-IMR-2011.pdf>> accessed 9 February 2025.

2.2 Link to Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Dual citizenship and nationality laws significantly influence a nation's demographic composition, economic development, and social cohesion. In the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those focusing on reduced inequalities (SDG 10), decent work and economic growth (SDG 8), and peace, justice, and strong institutions (SDG 16), the policies governing dual citizenship in Nigeria and the United Kingdom (UK) play pivotal roles. Nigeria's legal framework permits dual citizenship for individuals by birth but restricts it for those who acquire another nationality voluntarily. This policy aims to preserve national allegiance and prevent divided loyalties. However, scholars argue that such restrictions may impede the nation's progress toward SDG 10, which emphasizes reducing inequalities. By limiting dual citizenship, Nigeria potentially excludes its diaspora from contributing to national development, thereby missing opportunities for economic growth and knowledge transfer. Oweibia et al. highlight that integrating the Nigerian diaspora through more inclusive citizenship laws could enhance socio-economic development and support the achievement of the SDGs.²⁶

Unlike countries with restrictive nationality laws, the United Kingdom permits dual citizenship without requiring individuals to relinquish their British nationality. This permissiveness is rooted in the British Nationality Act 1981, which contains no provision that automatically strips British citizenship upon acquiring another nationality. Courts have reinforced this stance, recognizing that citizenship today encompasses complex ties of allegiance, identity, and residence. In *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, ex parte Abu-Rideh*,²⁷ it was affirmed that holding dual nationality does not, in itself, compromise loyalty to the Crown or the security of the state, illustrating the UK's pragmatic approach to multiple allegiances. This legal

²⁶ M Oweibia, UG Elemuwa and E Akpan, 'Analyzing Nigeria's Journey Towards Sustainable Development Goals: A Comprehensive Review From Inception To Present.' (2024), <<https://doi.org/10.12688/f1000research.148020.1>> accessed 9 February, 2025.

²⁷ *R v Secretary of State for the Home Department, ex parte Abu-Rideh* [2001] EWHC Admin 807

position aligns with broader common law principles valuing individual autonomy and freedom of movement. For instance, the case of *Pham v Secretary of State for the Home Department*²⁸ highlighted that deprivation of citizenship must meet stringent fairness and proportionality standards, particularly when it would result in statelessness, reinforcing the security of dual nationality status. Furthermore, British policy assumes that citizenship is a relationship between the individual and the state that can coexist with similar relationships with other states, recognizing globalization's impact on personal and economic ties. Thus, the UK's framework respects and legally protects the plural national affiliations of its citizens without automatic penalty. This inclusive approach aligns with SDG 10 by promoting reduced inequalities, as it enables individuals to maintain cultural and economic ties across nations. The UK's policy facilitates the free movement of people and capital, contributing to SDG 8, which focuses on promoting sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth. The UK's Voluntary National Review (2019) underscores the importance of inclusive policies in achieving the SDGs, noting that embracing diversity through such laws can strengthen social and economic frameworks.²⁹ Legal identity, as emphasized in SDG 16 (specifically under target 16.9), is crucial for ensuring access to rights and services. It discusses the significance of legal identity in the context of the SDGs, noting that restrictive nationality laws can lead to statelessness and exclusion, thereby hindering progress toward inclusive societies.³⁰ In Nigeria, the limitations on dual citizenship may result in individuals, particularly those in the diaspora, facing challenges in legal recognition, which can impede their ability to contribute to national development. Conversely, the UK's accommodating approach to dual citizenship

²⁸*Pham v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2015] UKSC 19

²⁹ United Kingdom, 'Voluntary National Review of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals,' (2019), accessed 9 February, 2025.

<<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5d28c296ed915d2feeac499e/UK-Voluntary-National-Review-2019.pdf>>

³⁰ Manby, B, 'The Sustainable Development Goals and 'legal identity for all': 'First, do no harm', (2019), LSE Research Online Documents on Economics, London School of Economics and Political Science, accessed 9 February, 2025.<<https://eprints.lse.ac.uk/108197/>>

supports the provision of legal identity for all, facilitating broader participation in societal and economic activities.

Furthermore, remittances from citizens abroad, who often hold dual citizenship, play a significant role in the economies of developing countries. A study highlights the potential of remittances in driving development and achieving the SDGs in Africa. By restricting dual citizenship, Nigeria may inadvertently limit the flow of remittances, which are vital for economic development and poverty reduction (SDG 1).³¹ In contrast, the UK's permissive dual citizenship laws may encourage greater economic contributions from its diaspora, supporting various SDGs, including those related to economic growth and reduced inequalities.³² The comparative analysis of dual citizenship and nationality laws in Nigeria and the UK reveals significant implications for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Inclusive and flexible nationality laws, as exemplified by the UK, appear to foster greater economic and social benefits, aligning with the objectives of the SDGs. Nigeria's more restrictive approach may need reevaluation to harness the potential contributions of its diaspora fully and to advance its progress toward sustainable development.³³

Despite the recognized benefits of dual citizenship, legal frameworks in both Nigeria and the UK present significant challenges and gaps that require urgent reform. Nigeria's constitutional restrictions on dual citizenship for naturalized individuals may be viewed as discriminatory, limiting their legal identity and participation in national life. The absence of clear policies on the political rights of dual citizens, such as whether they can hold public office, further exacerbates legal

³¹ Adarkwa M, 'Sustainable development goals (SDGs) and remittances in Africa: The possibilities and the limitations,' (2022) 8(1) *Cogent Social Sciences*, 2037811 available at <<https://doi.org/10.1080/23311886.2022.2037811>> , accessed 9 February, 2025.

³² Ivan Montiel and Alvaro Cuervo-Cazurra, 'Implementing the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals in International Business' (2021) 52(5) *Journal of International Business Studies* 999, available at; <<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1057/s41267-021-00445-y>> accessed 9 February 2025.

³³ 'Migration and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development' (Overseas Development Institute, 2017) <https://cdn-odi-production.s3-website-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/media/documents/12422.pdf>> accessed 9 February 2025.

uncertainty. Meanwhile, the UK's increasingly stringent nationality policies, particularly under the Nationality and Borders Act 2022, raise concerns about citizenship deprivation based on national security considerations. The UK government's expanded powers to strip individuals of their British nationality, sometimes without prior notification, have sparked debates about due process, human rights, and the disproportionate impact on ethnic minority dual citizens.

3. GAPS IN EXISTING LAWS WITH RESPECT TO INTEGRATING SUSTAINABILITY

3.1 Gaps in the Legal Frameworks.

The legal frameworks governing dual citizenship in Nigeria and the United Kingdom (UK) contain significant gaps that affect the rights, obligations, and legal status of individuals holding multiple nationalities. These gaps create uncertainties, inequalities, and administrative challenges that impact governance, diplomatic relations, and individual rights. For instance, Inconsistencies in Nigeria's Constitutional Provisions on Dual Citizenship permits dual citizenship only for individuals who are Nigerian by birth, explicitly denying this right to naturalized citizens. Section 28(1) states that a person who is not a Nigerian by birth but acquires Nigerian citizenship through naturalization must renounce any other nationality within a prescribed period. This provision creates a two-tier citizenship system where naturalized Nigerians face legal discrimination. Hence, such restrictions contradict international best practices and violate fundamental human rights by restricting an individual's ability to maintain links with their country of origin.

Another major gap is the vague definition of "Nigerians by birth." The Constitution refers to individuals whose parents or grandparents "belong to a community indigenous to Nigeria," without providing a clear list of such communities. This ambiguity has led to arbitrary decisions on nationality claims, particularly for individuals of mixed heritage or those from border regions. The Open Society Foundations highlight that this lack of clarity can result in wrongful

denials of citizenship rights, leading to potential cases of statelessness.³⁴ Also, the exclusion of dual citizens from political participation enables Nigeria's laws to impose political restrictions on dual citizens, limiting their ability to hold public office. Section 28(2) of the Constitution prohibits dual citizens from holding elective positions or high government offices unless they renounce their foreign citizenship. This restriction disproportionately affects the Nigerian diaspora, many of whom acquire foreign citizenship but wish to contribute to national development. The implication of this is that excluding dual citizens from political participation weakens democratic engagement and discourages the diaspora from investing in Nigeria's governance and economic growth.³⁵

Furthermore, there is a notable gap in the aspect of lack of clear guidelines on rights and obligations of dual citizens in the UK. While the UK allows dual citizenship without restriction, it lacks a comprehensive framework outlining the rights and responsibilities of dual nationals. Unlike countries that explicitly regulate issues such as taxation, military service, and diplomatic protection, UK law remains largely silent. This legal gap creates confusion, particularly when a dual citizen faces legal conflicts between the UK and their other country of nationality. It has been pointed out that such legal uncertainties can lead to disputes over jurisdiction and diplomatic protection, especially when the other country does not recognize dual citizenship.³⁶ One area of concern is taxation. The UK does not require dual citizens to declare foreign income unless they reside in the UK, but this policy often clashes with the tax obligations imposed by their other country of nationality. This inconsistency creates

³⁴ Open Society Foundations, 'Citizenship Law in Africa: A Comparative Study,' (2016), available at <<https://www.opensocietyfoundations.org/uploads/f124bc3c-70e5-4680-a534-8a2f7e3e194c/citizenship-law-in-africa-a-comparative-study-20160101.pdf>> accessed on 9th February, 2025.

³⁵ Okojie J, 'Diaspora Engagement and Political Participation in Nigeria: A Case for Dual Citizenship Rights' (2020) Cogent Social Sciences, <<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23311886.2022.2037811>> accessed 9 February, 2025

³⁶ Spiro P, 'Dual Citizenship as Human Right' (2010) 8(1) International Journal of Constitutional Law 111-130.

financial burdens and legal complications for dual citizens who must navigate multiple tax systems without clear guidance.³⁷

The unregulated impact of dual citizenship on national security in both jurisdictions has also posed a huge gap to the extent that neither Nigeria nor the UK has robust policies to address the potential security risks associated with dual citizenship. In Nigeria, there are no clear regulations on how dual citizens are treated in matters of national security, such as intelligence roles, military service, or counterterrorism. The UK, despite its permissive stance on dual citizenship, has faced debates over whether dual nationals involved in criminal or extremist activities should have their British citizenship revoked. The case of Shamima Begum, a British-born citizen who was stripped of her nationality, highlights the legal uncertainties surrounding citizenship revocation laws.³⁸ Research has shown that revoking citizenship without due process risks rendering individuals stateless, violating international human rights law.³⁹

The lack of reciprocity and recognition of dual citizenship between Nigeria and the UK has continued to pose a gap. Although the UK allows its citizens to hold multiple nationalities, Nigeria does not extend the same privileges to all categories of citizens. This creates diplomatic and legal conflicts when individuals hold both Nigerian and British citizenship but are subject to different legal treatments in each country. According to the International Organization for Migration, the lack of reciprocal agreements on dual citizenship creates difficulties for

³⁷ Faist T and Gerdes J, 'Dual Citizenship in an Age of Mobility' (2018) Migration Policy Institute, available at: <<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/sites/default/files/publications/faist-final%5B1%5D.pdf>> accessed on 9 February, 2025.

³⁸ *Shamima Begum v Secretary of State for the Home Department* [2024] EWCA Civ 152.

³⁹ Macklin A, 'Citizenship Revocation in the United Kingdom and the Rule of Law' (2018) Cambridge University Press, available at: <<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-journal-of-law-in-context/article/citizenship-revocation-in-the-united-kingdom-and-the-rule-of-law/>> accessed 9 February, 2025.

individuals seeking legal protection, property rights, and business opportunities across both countries.⁴⁰

There is also the issue of absence of legal provisions addressing the economic contributions of dual citizens. Both Nigeria and the UK fail to provide explicit legal mechanisms to harness the economic contributions of dual citizens. While the Nigerian diaspora contributes significantly to remittances—amounting to over \$19 billion in 2022⁴¹—there are no legal structures that incentivize investment or economic participation by dual citizens. Similarly, the UK does not have specific policies that encourage British dual citizens to invest in their countries of second nationality, missing opportunities for economic diplomacy and development partnerships. The gaps in Nigeria’s dual citizenship laws create discrimination between categories of citizens, restrict political participation, and lack clear provisions for economic engagement. In the UK, while the permissive approach avoids direct restrictions, the absence of clear regulations results in legal ambiguities, especially concerning diplomatic protection and financial obligations. Addressing these gaps requires legal reforms that promote inclusivity, clarity, and reciprocity in both jurisdictions.⁴²

3.2 Dual Citizenship and Economic Sustainability

The legal regulation of dual citizenship has far-reaching implications for sustainable development, particularly in the areas of economic growth, social integration, and political participation. Countries that adopt inclusive citizenship policies tend to benefit from increased diaspora engagement, including remittances, foreign direct investment, and transnational entrepreneurship. Dual citizenship can facilitate

⁴⁰ International Organization for Migration, ‘Migration Law and Policy’ (2021), <<https://publications.iom.int/books/migration-law-and-policy>> accessed 9 February, 2025.

⁴¹ Research Team at Nairametrics, ‘Nigeria Records \$19.8 Billion in Diaspora Remittances in 2022’ (Nairametrics, 19 May 2023) <<https://nairametrics.com/2023/05/19/nigeria-records-19-8-billion-in-diaspora-remittances-in-2022/>> accessed 12 June 2025.

⁴² Harrison Shum, ‘Dual Citizenship: The Economic Benefit for Governments’ (2019) 10(1) *Leviathan* 53, <<https://journals.ed.ac.uk/leviathan/article/download/4230/6079>> accessed 9 February 2025.

economic integration by allowing individuals to move freely between jurisdictions, invest in multiple economies, and contribute to cross-border innovation and trade. For instance, the Nigerian diaspora is estimated to contribute significantly to the country's economy through remittances, which reached \$21 billion in 2022 according to the World Bank.⁴³ However, Nigeria's restrictive approach to dual nationality for naturalized citizens may hinder the full participation of the diaspora in national development efforts.

The nexus between dual citizenship and economic sustainability has garnered significant scholarly attention. Proponents argue that dual citizenship can serve as a catalyst for economic development by facilitating diaspora engagement, enhancing remittance flows, and attracting foreign direct investment (FDI). David Leblang posits that migrants are more inclined to remit funds to their countries of origin when dual citizenship policies are accommodating, thereby bolstering the home country's economy.⁴⁴

In the context of Nigeria, the government has acknowledged the economic potential of its diaspora by establishing the Nigerian Diaspora Commission, aiming to harness the resources and expertise of Nigerians abroad. Despite this initiative, constitutional constraints persist. Specifically, Section 28 of the Nigerian Constitution mandates that naturalized citizens renounce their previous nationalities, a stipulation that may deter diaspora members from fully engaging in Nigeria's economic activities. This legal framework potentially limits the country's ability to attract investments and remittances from its extensive global diaspora.

⁴³ World Bank, 'Migration and Development Brief 38: Remittances Remain Resilient But Are Slowing' (World Bank, 2022) available at; <<https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2022/11/30/migration-and-development-brief-38-remittances-remain-resilient-but-are-slowing>> accessed 9 February 2025

⁴⁴ David Leblang, 'Harnessing the Diaspora: Dual Citizenship, Migrant Return Remittances' (2017) 50(1) *Comparative Political Studies* 75.

Conversely, the United Kingdom's permissive stance on dual citizenship has been instrumental in fostering economic ties with its diaspora and foreign nationals. The British Nationality Act 1981 allows citizens to retain their British citizenship while acquiring another, thereby encouraging the inflow of capital, skills, and business networks. This policy framework has been linked to increased FDI and innovation, as individuals with dual citizenship can seamlessly navigate and contribute to multiple economies.⁴⁵

3.3 Dual Citizenship in Relation to Social and Political Sustainability

From a social and political perspective, dual citizenship plays a critical role in fostering inclusive governance, social cohesion, and legal identity, aligning with global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SDG 10 (Reducing Inequalities) emphasizes the importance of eliminating legal and institutional barriers that prevent individuals from enjoying full rights in their respective countries.⁴⁶ Inclusive nationality laws can help mitigate discrimination against dual citizens, particularly in employment, business, and political representation. Similarly, SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) advocates for legal frameworks that promote transparency, stability, and equal access to justice.⁴⁷ Ensuring that dual citizens are not arbitrarily disenfranchised or subject to nationality revocation on vague security grounds is essential for upholding the rule of law and protecting fundamental human rights.

Beyond economic considerations, dual citizenship carries profound social and political implications. Socially, it can enhance

⁴⁵ Misbah Faiz, Naukhez Sarwar, Adeel Tariq, Ricardo Vinícius Dias Jordão and Mumtaz Ali Memon, 'Strategic Human Capital Analytics and New Venture Performance: Role of Dual-Nationality Founding Member' (2024) *Journal of Intellectual Capital* 151 <<https://doi.org/10.1108/JIC-02-2024-0033>> accessed 12 June 2025.

⁴⁶ Nabukeera Madinah and Aina Obe Bolatito Shamsuddin, 'The Impacts of SDGs 10—Reduce Inequality within and Among Countries: An Exploratory Discourse' (2023) 44(10) *Journal of Harbin Engineering University* 247, <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/374502350_The_Impacts_of_SDGs_10-Reduce_Inequality_within_and_Among_Countries_An_Exploratory_Discourse> accessed 9 February 2025.

⁴⁷ Ankit, 'Local Self-Governments and SDG-16: A Case for Cross-Region Marriages in Rural Haryana, India' (2023) 18(1) *Journal of Comparative Social Work* 60.

multiculturalism and social cohesion by acknowledging and accommodating individuals' multifaceted identities. Politically, dual citizenship can expand democratic participation, allowing individuals to engage in the political processes of multiple nations. The United Kingdom's acceptance of dual citizenship reflects its commitment to an inclusive and multicultural society. This policy enables individuals to maintain cultural and familial ties across borders, fostering a sense of belonging and social harmony. Politically, dual citizens in the UK enjoy the right to participate in elections and hold public office, thereby enriching the democratic process with diverse perspectives.

In contrast, Nigeria's restrictive approach, particularly towards naturalized citizens, may impede social integration and political engagement. The constitutional requirement for naturalized citizens to renounce their previous nationalities can create barriers to full societal participation, potentially leading to social alienation. Politically, these restrictions may limit the pool of individuals eligible for public office, thereby constraining the diversity of representation in governance structures. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, adopted in 2018, underscores the importance of inclusive citizenship laws, advocating for the elimination of barriers that prevent migrants from fully participating in society.⁴⁸ Nigeria's current stance on dual citizenship, particularly concerning naturalized individuals, appears misaligned with these international norms, suggesting a need for legal reforms to promote greater inclusivity.

⁴⁸ United Nations General Assembly, 'Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration' (19 December 2018) UN Doc A/RES/73/195 <https://www.un.org/en/development/desa/population/migration/generalassembly/docs/globalcompact/A_RES_73_195.pdf> accessed 9 February 2025.

4. LEGAL APPROACHES FOR ADDRESSING THE CHALLENGES: RECOMMENDATIONS.

4.1 Reforming the Nigeria's Citizenship Policies.

To address the challenges identified in Nigeria's dual citizenship laws and align them with global best practices, the following recommendations can be taken into consideration;

a. Amend the Nigerian Constitution to Permit Dual Citizenship for Naturalized Citizens

A fundamental reform necessary for enhancing Nigeria's dual citizenship framework is the amendment of Section 28(1) of the 1999 Constitution. This provision currently requires naturalized Nigerians to renounce their previous nationality, creating an unequal system where only Nigerians by birth can enjoy the benefits of dual citizenship. This restriction is counterproductive, as it discourages skilled professionals and economically influential individuals from acquiring Nigerian nationality due to the requirement to forfeit their original citizenship. To foster inclusivity and maximize diaspora contributions, the Constitution should be amended to allow naturalized citizens to retain their original nationality. This reform would align Nigeria's legal framework with international best practices, as many developed nations, including the United Kingdom, permit naturalized citizens to hold dual nationality. By removing this restriction, Nigeria can attract a broader talent pool, increase foreign investments, and enhance cultural and economic exchanges between its citizens and the global community.

b. Define and Expand the Political Rights of Dual Citizens.

The ambiguity surrounding the political rights of dual citizens has led to inconsistencies in legal interpretations and hindered their participation in governance. While the Constitution restricts dual citizens from holding certain political offices, it does not provide comprehensive guidelines on the full extent of these limitations. The lack of clarity has led to multiple legal disputes and discouraged Nigerians in the diaspora from seeking public office. To address this issue, Nigeria should introduce a

constitutional amendment or legislative framework that clearly defines the political rights of dual citizens. This reform should specify which political positions dual citizens can hold and establish a transparent process for renouncing foreign citizenship if required for specific offices. By doing so, Nigeria would create a more inclusive political environment that encourages competent and experienced individuals from the diaspora to contribute to governance and national development.

c. Simplify and Regulate the Process for Renunciation and Reacquisition of Nigerian Citizenship

The current legal procedures for renouncing and reacquiring Nigerian nationality are bureaucratic and often lack transparency, making it difficult for individuals to navigate these processes. Many Nigerians who have renounced their citizenship for personal or professional reasons may wish to reacquire it later, but the absence of a well-defined legal framework creates unnecessary obstacles. To resolve this issue, Nigeria should establish a structured legal framework that outlines clear procedures for renunciation and reacquisition of citizenship. This framework should include standardized application processes, reasonable timelines, and clear eligibility criteria. Additionally, public awareness campaigns should be conducted to inform citizens of their rights and the necessary steps involved. A well-regulated system would ensure that individuals who wish to maintain or restore their legal ties with Nigeria can do so without unnecessary administrative burdens.

d. Enhance Legal and Institutional Support for Diaspora Engagement

Nigeria has one of the largest diaspora populations in the world, and their contributions—through remittances, investments, and knowledge transfer—are crucial to national development. However, restrictive citizenship laws and administrative inefficiencies limit their ability to engage fully with the country. To maximize diaspora contributions, Nigeria should establish a dedicated legal and institutional framework that facilitates diaspora engagement. This could include the creation of a Diaspora Citizenship Advisory Council responsible for advocating for dual citizens' rights, simplifying investment processes, and

providing legal support for Nigerians abroad. Furthermore, policies should be implemented to incentivize diaspora-led economic initiatives, such as tax incentives for investments in key sectors like technology, education, and healthcare. By creating an enabling environment for diaspora participation, Nigeria can harness the full potential of its global citizenry for national progress.

e. Align Nationality Laws with International Human Rights Standards

Nigeria's restrictive dual citizenship laws do not fully align with international human rights principles, particularly those outlined in treaties such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The requirement for naturalized citizens to renounce their original nationality contradicts the principles of equality and non-discrimination. Additionally, limitations on political rights for dual citizens raise concerns about equal representation and participation in governance. To promote inclusivity and protect fundamental rights, Nigeria should revise its nationality laws in accordance with international best practices. This could involve ratifying and implementing relevant international treaties on citizenship and nationality rights. Strengthening Nigeria's commitment to international human rights standards would enhance its global reputation and foster a legal system that supports diversity and inclusivity.

4.2 Reforming the UK's Citizenship Policies

While the United Kingdom's approach to dual citizenship is generally permissive, certain aspects of its citizenship policies require reform to uphold individual rights and align with international human rights standards.

a. Introduce Stronger Legal Safeguards against Arbitrary Nationality Revocation

The UK's current legal framework grants the Home Secretary significant discretion to revoke citizenship, particularly on grounds of national security. However, concerns have been raised regarding the potential for arbitrary deprivation of citizenship without adequate

procedural safeguards. The Nationality and Borders Act 2022 has been criticized for expanding the grounds for deprivation and reducing the requirement to notify individuals, thereby increasing the risk of statelessness. To address these concerns, it is imperative to establish robust legal safeguards that ensure due process in citizenship revocation cases. This includes clear criteria for deprivation, mandatory notification, and the provision of a fair hearing before an independent tribunal. Such measures would protect individuals from unjust deprivation of nationality and uphold the UK's commitment to human rights.

b. Enhance Protections for Dual Citizens Facing Deportation or Statelessness

Dual citizens in the UK may face deportation or deprivation of citizenship, leading to statelessness, particularly if their second nationality is not recognized or is revocable. The case of Shamima Begum underscores the complexities and potential human rights implications involved in such decisions. Critics argue that the current policies may not adequately protect individuals from becoming stateless or being deported to countries where they have no genuine ties. Reforming the UK's policies to enhance protections against statelessness is crucial. This includes ensuring that any decision to deprive an individual of citizenship does not render them stateless and providing clear legal avenues for appeal. Additionally, policies should be in place to protect individuals from deportation to countries where they may face persecution or lack meaningful connections.

c. Develop Clearer Pathways for Naturalized British Citizens to Retain Nationality Post-Brexit

The UK's departure from the European Union has introduced uncertainties for naturalized British citizens, particularly those who hold citizenship of EU member states. The lack of clear guidelines on retaining dual nationality post-Brexit has led to confusion and legal challenges. The Migration Policy Institute highlights the need for comprehensive policies that address the rights and obligations of dual citizens in the post-Brexit

context.⁴⁹ To mitigate these uncertainties, the UK should develop clear and accessible pathways for naturalized citizens to retain their British nationality while holding citizenship of an EU country. This includes providing detailed information on the implications of dual citizenship post-Brexit and ensuring that individuals are not disadvantaged due to their dual status. Implementing these law reform recommendations would address the existing gaps in the dual citizenship and nationality laws of Nigeria and the United Kingdom. Such reforms would promote inclusivity, protect individual rights, and align the countries' legal frameworks with international standards, ultimately contributing to national development and social cohesion.

5. CONCLUSION

This article has critically analyzed the legal frameworks governing dual citizenship and nationality in Nigeria and the United Kingdom, highlighting key differences, gaps, and areas for reform. The analysis reveals that while the UK adopts a more inclusive approach to dual citizenship, recent trends in nationality revocation raise significant human rights concerns. The increased use of revocation powers, particularly on national security grounds, has generated debates on due process, proportionality, and the risk of statelessness. These concerns necessitate a more balanced approach that ensures the protection of individual rights while maintaining national security. Legal reforms should introduce clearer safeguards against arbitrary deprivation of nationality, ensuring compliance with international human rights obligations. In contrast, Nigeria's nationality laws remain restrictive, particularly concerning naturalized citizens who hold dual nationality. The limitations placed on their political participation and access to certain rights hinder their ability to contribute meaningfully to national development. Furthermore, these restrictions discourage diaspora engagement, thereby limiting potential economic and social benefits that could arise from a more inclusive nationality regime. Reforming Nigeria's nationality laws to grant equal rights to naturalized dual citizens would enhance their integration into

⁴⁹ Manby, B and Momoh, S, *Report on Citizenship Law: Nigeria*, (2020), European University Institute.

society and strengthen their role in national progress. Such reforms should be accompanied by legal clarity to avoid ambiguities in the interpretation and application of citizenship laws.

Both countries would benefit from aligning their nationality laws with global best practices that promote inclusivity, legal certainty, and a balanced approach to national security concerns. In the UK, this entails reinforcing procedural safeguards in nationality revocation cases and ensuring that individuals are not rendered stateless. Nigeria, on the other hand, should consider constitutional and legislative amendments that eliminate discriminatory provisions against naturalized dual citizens. Enhancing transparency in nationality policies and reducing bureaucratic barriers can also encourage greater engagement from the diaspora, contributing to sustainable development. Overall, nationality laws play a crucial role in shaping national identity, social cohesion, and economic participation. As globalization continues to influence migration patterns, legal frameworks should adapt to reflect the realities of transnational identities. By undertaking targeted reforms, both Nigeria and the UK can foster legal stability, promote economic growth, and uphold human rights, ensuring that nationality laws serve as tools for inclusivity rather than exclusion.