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**Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution through Ministry of Foreign Affairs and
International Cooperation in Rwanda**

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Diplomacy and Conflict Resolution through Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rwanda



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Abstract

Purpose: The general objective of the study was to examine the effect of diplomacy practices on the conflict resolution in Rwanda. This study has the following specific objectives: To assess the effect of the public diplomacy on conflict resolution through MINAFFET. To establish the effect of economic diplomacy on conflict resolution through MINAFFET. To find out the effect of cultural diplomacy on conflict resolution through MINAFFET. This study assisted decision-makers, policy-makers, and government officials in enhancing their strategies for conflict resolution by providing insights into the effectiveness of public, economic, and cultural diplomacy through the MINAFFET.

Methodology: The study used a descriptive research design. A total of 121 MINAFFET employees were the target population. All members of the target population were included in the sample size for this survey, which follows the census approach. The researcher collected data using questionnaire. Statistical methods such as correlation and regression analysis, in addition to descriptive statistics such as means and standard deviations, were used by the researcher when dealing with quantitative data. For qualitative data, content analysis was used.

Findings: The model demonstrates a multiple correlation coefficient (R) of 0.873, signifying a robust positive correlation among public diplomacy, economic diplomacy, and cultural diplomacy with the dependent variable, conflict resolution via the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rwanda.

Unique Contribution to Theory, Practice and Policy: It is advised that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rwanda focus the enhancement of its diplomatic strategy via public, economic, and cultural avenues. This entails cultivating more vigorous public diplomacy efforts, advocating for economic interdependence as a mechanism for peace, and augmenting cultural contacts to enhance mutual understanding and collaboration among opposing factions.

Keywords: *Conflict Resolution, Cultural Diplomacy, Diplomacy, Economic Diplomacy, Public Diplomacy*

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INTRODUCTION

Diplomacy is the practice of negotiating between states with the goal of fostering collaboration, resolving disputes, and encouraging peaceful coexistence. Effective conflict resolution techniques are necessary for the settlement of conflicts, which are a typical occurrence in international diplomacy (Hart & Siniver, 2020).

For instance, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict encompasses geographical, historical, and religious disagreements that have persisted since the late 19th century. Key events include the 1947 UN partition plan and the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, leading to ongoing violence and failed negotiations. International efforts, including mediation by the US and the Quartet, have largely been unsuccessful. International law provides a framework, but violations are common. A thorough comprehension and successful settlement of conflicts need a multidimensional strategy (Adem & Adem, 2019).

China, a rapidly developing nation, has adopted a distinctive diplomatic approach, often emphasizing bilateral relations and non-interference in internal affairs. China actively promotes the BRI, a massive infrastructure development project, aiming to enhance economic cooperation and regional stability. However, the BRI has drawn criticism for its potential to create debt traps for participating nations. As China's global influence grows, its diplomatic strategies will likely evolve, raising questions about how it will balance economic interests with promoting peace and security (Dexue & Guiping, 2020).

Colombia provides a unique example of diplomacy and conflict resolution focused on internal peacebuilding. Following a decades-long civil war, Colombia adopted a model emphasizing transitional justice mechanisms and reintegration programs for former combatants. The 2016 peace agreement between the Colombian government and FARC is a notable achievement, facilitated by international actors like Cuba and Norway. However, challenges remain in fully implementing the agreement and ensuring lasting peace in Colombia (Mele, 2021).

In South Africa, diplomacy is shaped by a legacy of reconciliation. Post-apartheid foreign policy prioritizes human rights, democracy, and mediation in resolving continental conflicts. Drawing from its own history of reconciliation, South Africa actively engages in regional peacebuilding initiatives, notably contributing to the peace process in Burundi. Despite its commitment to continental peace, South Africa grapples with internal challenges like economic inequality and social unrest, occasionally constraining its resources for regional diplomacy. Balancing these internal exigencies with its continental peacebuilding commitment remains an ongoing challenge for South African diplomacy (Mkonza, 2022).

Rwanda has attracted significant international attention as a result of its contribution to numerous multinational peacekeeping and conflict management missions. Under President Paul Kagame's leadership, Rwanda has made strategic use of its experienced and professional military forces to enhance its regional and international status, despite its modest size and population. Reactions to Rwanda's involvement in UN and AU sanctioned multilateral operations have been positive, both inside and outside of Africa. Some of the concerns about Kagame's autocratic leadership and Rwanda's military engagement in the neighboring Democratic Republic of the Congo have been alleviated as a result of this. The United Nations has commended Rwanda for its deployment of more than 6,500 police and military personnel to aid in peacekeeping operations, especially in areas like Darfur in Sudan (UN Peacekeeping, 2019).

Problem Statement

Despite significant progress towards peacebuilding and regional cooperation since the 1994 genocide, Rwanda still faces diplomatic challenges that threaten lasting stability. While the country boasts economic development and social cohesion advancements, unresolved historical grievances and tensions with neighboring countries persist (Ziani & Boudouda, 2023). Examining the role of the Rwandan MINAFFET in conflict resolution is crucial to understand its effectiveness in addressing these issues.

Rwanda's ranking in the Global Peace Index (GPI) highlights the need for continued efforts towards peace and stability. The Institute for Economics & Peace (2023) ranks Rwanda 140th out of 163 countries, indicating a persistent need for improvement. This ranking reflects ongoing regional tensions and unresolved historical grievances. Moreover, 58% of Rwandans believe the country's relations with neighboring countries are somewhat bad or very bad. This public perception indicates a lack of effective diplomatic engagement on these issues.

Limited research explores the specific strategies and outcomes of MINAFFET's conflict resolution efforts. Studies have primarily focused on Rwanda's broader peacebuilding initiatives or the role of regional organizations like the African Union (AU) in mediating conflicts (Asiedu & Sika, 2020; Kimenyi *et al.*, 2019). Here, quantitative data from Rwandan-focused research can shed light on MINAFFET's effectiveness. Through diplomatic engagement, Rwanda facilitated dialogue between the DRC government and rebel groups, leading to a decrease in reported violence. However, the study also highlights ongoing challenges, such as trust deficits between parties and the complex geopolitical landscape of the Great Lakes region (Inganira *et al.*, 2022). While MINAFFET plays a central role in Rwandan diplomacy, research indicates potential benefits from increased collaboration with Civil Society Organizations (CSOs). Bannon and Carayannis (2019) explore the role of nonviolent action networks as a form of civil society engagement in Rwanda's peacebuilding. Their research highlights the potential of CSOs to enhance dialogue at the grassroots level, addressing local grievances that might be missed by traditional diplomatic channels.

This study aimed to bridge the research gap by examining the effectiveness of MINAFFET's diplomatic processes in conflict resolution. By analyzing data on specific cases handled by MINAFFET, the research identified strengths and weaknesses in its approach. It also explored the impact of MINAFFET's efforts on Rwanda's international relations and regional stability. A crucial aspect of this study was to investigate the potential for enhanced collaboration between MINAFFET and CSOs. By examining existing partnerships and exploring potential areas for cooperation, the research can contribute to a more comprehensive understanding of Rwanda's conflict resolution strategies.

MINAFFET has a complete strategy that not only focuses on traditional diplomacy but also underlines economic, cultural, and scientific cooperation. Depending on the Rwanda's strategic position, MINAFFET has a unique role in mediating regional conflicts or fostering peace talks, distinguishing its approach with a focus on stability and security.

General Objective

The general objective of the study was to examine the effect of diplomacy practices on the conflict resolution in Rwanda.

Specific Objectives

- i. To assess the effect of the public diplomacy on conflict resolution through Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.
- ii. To establish the effect of economic diplomacy on conflict resolution through Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.
- iii. To evaluate the effect of cultural diplomacy on conflict resolution through Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

Research Hypotheses

- i. There is no significant effect of public diplomacy on conflict resolution through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rwanda.
- ii. There is no significant effect of economic diplomacy on conflict resolution through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rwanda.
- iii. There is no significant effect of cultural diplomacy on conflict resolution through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rwanda.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Theoretical review

This study is grounded in four theoretical frameworks: Social Exchange Theory, Symbolic Interactionism, Social Stratification Theory, and Transformational Leadership Theory.

Social Exchange Theory

Social Exchange Theory founded by sociologist George Homans in the 1950s, this theory posits that social interaction is essentially a cost-benefit analysis. Individuals engage in social exchanges when the perceived rewards (emotional support, social status) outweigh the costs (time commitment, potential conflict). This approach sheds light on various social phenomena, from the formation and maintenance of friendships to the dynamics within organizations (Akramov & Kokanboeva, 2023). Recent researches examining online communities supports this notion. They found that users were more likely to actively participate when their contributions were valued and reciprocated by others, highlighting the importance of reciprocity in social exchange. Social Exchange Theory has also been applied to understand romantic relationships and the dynamics within organizations, demonstrating its broad applicability across social settings (Gharib *et al.*, 2020).

Social Exchange Theory highlights those diplomatic interactions are fundamentally driven by a cost-benefit analysis where countries and their representatives engage in diplomacy and conflict resolution when the perceived rewards outweigh the potential costs. This can be applied to the MINAFFET by emphasizing reciprocal actions and mutual benefits in diplomatic negotiations. By understanding and leveraging the motivations behind each party's actions, the ministry can enhance cooperation, build trust, and create sustainable agreements that benefit all involved, leading to effective conflict resolution.

Symbolic Interactionism

George Herbert Mead and Charles Horton Cooley's Symbolic Interactionism examines the ways in which people rely on and make use of symbols in their social interactions. Meaning

is not inherent but rather constructed through social interaction and shared symbols like language and gestures (Wang, 2023).

This theory helps understand how individuals develop their self-concept, navigate social situations, and create group cultures. For instance, examining how teenagers use social media platforms to project specific identities through carefully curated posts and online interactions, reflecting the role of symbols in shaping self-perception. Symbolic Interactionism's emphasis on the dynamic nature of meaning-making is further evident in research on emoji usage, which demonstrates how the interpretation of these symbols can evolve over time and within different social contexts (Digennaro & Visocchi, 2024).

Symbolic Interactionism indicates that diplomacy and conflict resolution are deeply influenced by the meanings and symbols created through social interaction. This theory can be applied to the MINAFFET by focusing on the importance of effective communication, shared symbols, and cultural understanding. By recognizing and addressing the symbolic meanings and cultural contexts of the parties involved, diplomats can navigate conflicts more effectively, build mutual respect, and create solutions that resonate with all stakeholders, thus facilitating successful conflict resolution.

Social Stratification Theory

Social Stratification Theory Pioneered by thinkers like Karl Marx and Max Weber, this theory examines how societies are divided into social classes or hierarchies based on factors like wealth, education, or power. It delves into the mechanisms that reproduce and challenge social inequalities, providing valuable insights into the persistence of social divisions (Hart & Siniver, 2020).

Social Stratification Theory helps explain disparities in access to resources, educational opportunities, and political influence. The theory demonstrates the lasting impact of social background on educational attainment, highlighting how social class can be a persistent source of stratification. Social Stratification Theory is also used to analyse how power is distributed within societies. For instance, examining how marginalized groups can leverage social media platforms to challenge traditional power structures. This demonstrates the theory's potential to inform our understanding of social change and the ongoing struggle for social mobility (Hart & Siniver, 2020).

Social Stratification Theory shows the role of power dynamics and social hierarchies in shaping diplomatic interactions and conflict resolution processes. This theory can be applied to the MINAFFET by addressing social and economic inequalities that may hinder effective diplomacy. By recognizing and mitigating these power imbalances, the ministry can create a more equitable platform for negotiations. This approach helps ensure that all parties have a voice in the conflict resolution process, leading to more inclusive and fair outcomes that promote long-term peace and stability.

Transformational Leadership Theory

James MacGregor Burns first put this concept out in 1978 to distinguish between transformational leaders who depend on financial incentives to inspire their followers to achieve great things and transactional leaders who inspire their followers to aim high. According to the notion of transformational leadership, the most important function of organizational leaders is to act as catalysts for organizational change. When leaders and

followers collaborate to uplift spirits, motivate each other, and ultimately make a positive difference in people's lives and the company's overall performance, it's leadership that transforms (Hunter, 2023).

Through the use of a transformational leadership style, a leader who is persuasive may inspire his or her subordinates to work together to achieve the company's goals. While guiding a group toward a shared goal, transformational leaders make an effort to comprehend the specific developmental obstacles faced by each follower, provide new insights into old problems, and inspire their followers to beyond expectations. A transformational leader considers himself to be a catalyst for change, and as such, he works to bring about transformation on a personal and institutional level. When transformational leaders achieve effective governance, their subordinates will be led in the right way (Asbari, 2020). In addition to providing followers with clear goals to work toward, a transformational leader paints an inspiring picture of where they can all go together. In addition, they motivate their followers to challenge the status quo and effect positive change via imaginative and original approaches, which are subsequently acknowledged and appreciated (Bakker *et al.*, 2023).

Transformational Leadership Theory highlights that effective leadership can inspire and drive positive change within diplomatic and conflict resolution contexts. This theory can be applied to the MINAFFET by encouraging leaders to motivate and guide diplomatic efforts with a compelling vision for peace and cooperation. Transformational leaders can inspire their teams and stakeholders to challenge the status quo, innovate, and work collaboratively towards common goals. By enhancing an environment of trust, commitment, and shared purpose, these leaders can significantly enhance the effectiveness of conflict resolution initiatives, leading to more sustainable and impactful outcomes.

Empirical Review

Darnton (2020) looked at Resolving international conflicts via public diplomacy interventions. Do you think public diplomacy has the potential to end long-running wars? Some of the most formidable home challenges to achieving global peace have been highlighted by the rationalist and constructivist schools of thought. But according to Robert Putnam's reverberation theory, diplomats may increase their opponents' win-sets for collaboration by appealing to overseas audiences. Using historical data, this study examines a case that is very probable: The 1976–1977 failed attempt by Argentine Ambassador Oscar Camilión to bring about reconciliation between Argentina and Brazil. Public diplomacy played a minor role in the eventual resolution of the animosity between the two nations; the mission of Camilión was almost derailed by internal Argentine divisions that resulted in conflicting messages toward Brazil, and by the launch of a rival public relations operation by Brazilian leaders. This case provides insight into the murky waters of Argentine foreign policymaking under the military dictatorship and could teach historians and practitioners a thing or two about public diplomacy and conflict resolution.

Achot (2020) examined the impact of diplomatic relations on the settlement of the crisis in South Sudan, focusing on Juba City specifically. The study set out to accomplish three main goals: examine the role of diplomatic relations in the South Sudanese war, quantify the indications of institutional reaction in Juba City, South Sudan, and determine the interplay between these three elements in order to achieve a peaceful end to the conflict. Juba City Council served as a case study for the descriptive design, which combined qualitative and quantitative methods. The research had 182 participants. A combination of purpose and randomness characterized the sampling procedure. We used SPSS 20.0's descriptive analysis

feature to go through the data. The sample size was 140 respondents, all of whom were workers or beneficiaries of Equatorial State in South Sudan. According to the research, diplomatic relations, institutional response, and conflict resolution are all significantly correlated ($r = 0.632$, $p\text{-value} < 0.01$), and they account for 59% of the variation in conflict ($R\text{ Square} = .518$) in South Sudan's Central Equatorial State. This suggests that they can be used to predict the level of conflict resolution. So, the chance of conflict settlement in South Sudanese states and the Central Equatorial State will change by 343 for every unit change in institutional reaction, and by (.581) for every unit change in diplomatic relations procedures. The study shows that state and country leaders work to empower their population via education and promote an election process that helps with national regeneration and peace commitment. One way they do this is by establishing diplomatic relations with other international communities.

Katumba (2020) evaluated the merits of resolving the South Sudan crisis via diplomatic channels. Research of the efficacy of diplomatic approaches to resolving the South Sudanese conflict was the primary motivation for the project. Using a cross-sectional research technique, 78 people were surveyed and analyzed. The study's author learned that mediated discussions and negotiations have become the standard methods for resolving political disputes using a diplomatic approach. The two fighting groups within the SPLA/M, SPLA/M and SPLA/M-IO, were able to conclude peace accords as a result of this. The combat troops have been kept together thanks to this. When it comes to promoting and maintaining good governance, peace, and calm in the nation, diplomacy is very crucial. The researcher argues that South Sudan can secure its political, social, and economic future by fostering regional cooperation and peace through friendly working connections with regional peace brokers like IGAD, the East African Community (EAC), the South African Development Community, the Nile Basin Initiative, and others.

Ociepka and Arendarska (2021) studied the role of networks in international relations and cultural diplomacy as one. The paper employs a network approach to examine cultural diplomacy in the context of Russia's 2014 invasion of Crimea and conflict in eastern Ukraine via the cultural institutions of EU member states. This research assumes that as a result of the global attention given to the situation in Ukraine, EU member states felt compelled to forge stronger ties amongst their cultural organizations. The authors tested the hypothesis that cultural diplomacy was seen as a network by analyzing cultural diplomacy papers from every EU member state. They did this by using the concepts of problem networks, synergy, and network structure. Poland, Austria, Germany, the UK, and the Netherlands did not establish the expected links between their cultural diplomacy centers, according to the study. In contrast, Russia and a few of EU members kept in touch throughout the global crisis.

While existing literature offers valuable insights into the potential impact of diplomacy practices on conflict resolution, there remains a gap in understanding how specific diplomatic approaches, such as public, economic, and cultural diplomacy, directly contribute to resolving conflicts in Rwanda. Future research should aim to address this gap by examining the effectiveness of diplomacy practices within the Rwandan context and their implications for conflict resolution outcomes.

METHODOLOGY

The study used a descriptive-research survey design, which involves collecting data to define a particular setting and the people living in it. Exploratory investigations often use descriptive

survey designs for data collection, data summarization for presentation and interpretation, and conclusion drawing.

The target population was 121 employees of the MINAFFET. The sample size for this survey was the whole target population, since it was conducted using the census technique. The study used all the population of MINAFFET, giving everyone an equal opportunity to participate in the study. Therefore, data were collected from every single individual or unit within the entire target population. By doing so, the researcher obtained highly accurate and comprehensive data, ensuring that the findings are directly applicable and potentially generalizable to the entire population without the need for sampling techniques.

The questionnaires were disseminated by the research assistants who were prepared for the field test. For the closed-ended questions, respondents indicated their degree of agreement with specific statements and respond to predetermined inquiries, allowing for a comprehensive exploration of the research topic.

Descriptive statistics were implemented to formulate conclusions. Inferential statistics, specifically regression analysis and correlation, were implemented for this objective. SPSS 25.0, the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences, was employed to analyze the data.

FINDINGS & DISCUSSIONS

This chapter discusses the results. Questionnaires were used to collect data from the field.

Regression analysis and Pearson correlation were used to ascertain the connection between the variables.

Inferential Statistics

The purpose of inferential statistics is to draw conclusions from a statistical sample. Correlation analysis, hypothesis testing, confidence intervals, and regression analysis are all examples of tools used in inferential statistics.

Table 1: Correlations

		Public Diplomacy	Economic Diplomacy	Cultural Diplomacy	Conflict Resolution
Public Diplomacy	Pearson Correlation	1	.522**	.541**	.715**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.000
	N		107	107	107
Economic Diplomacy	Pearson Correlation		1	.471**	.724**
	Sig. (2-tailed)			.000	.000
	N			107	107
Cultural Diplomacy	Pearson Correlation			1	.711**
	Sig. (2-tailed)				.000
	N				107
Conflict Resolution	Pearson Correlation				1
	Sig. (2-tailed)				
	N				

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

Source: Primary Data, September 2024

Table 1 presents the correlation analysis results assessing the relationships between the independent variables: public diplomacy, economic diplomacy, and cultural diplomacy, and the dependent variable, conflict resolution through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rwanda.

The Pearson correlation coefficient between public diplomacy and conflict resolution is 0.715, indicating a strong positive relationship. Similarly, the Pearson correlation coefficient between economic diplomacy and conflict resolution is 0.724, reflecting a strong positive relationship. The Pearson correlation coefficient between cultural diplomacy and conflict resolution is 0.711, demonstrating another strong positive relationship.

All these relationships are statistically significant at the 0.05 level, highlighting the significant impact of these diplomacy practices on conflict resolution through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation.

The results are consistent with DeLisle (2020), who underlined the need of a collaborative approach to conflict resolution in the context of the United States' diplomatic initiatives. This comparison demonstrates the efficiency of Rwanda's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, with important positive connections between diverse diplomacy approaches and conflict resolution, similar to the multilateral and bilateral strategies used by the United States.

Table 2: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.873 ^a	.763	.756	.12940

a. Predictors: (Constant), Cultural Diplomacy, Economic Diplomacy, Public Diplomacy

Source: Primary Data, September 2024

Table 2 provides the model summary for the regression analysis assessing the collective impact of the independent variables: public diplomacy, economic diplomacy, and cultural diplomacy on the dependent variable, conflict resolution through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rwanda.

The model shows a multiple correlation coefficient (R) of 0.873, indicating a strong positive relationship between these predictors and conflict resolution. The R Square value of 0.763 indicates that approximately 76.3% of the variance in conflict resolution can be explained by these independent variables collectively, demonstrating a significant degree of explanatory power.

The findings comply with Dexue and Guiping's (2020) observation that, while China's diplomatic approach prioritizes bilateral relations and economic cooperation through initiatives such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), it must also address the complex interplay between economic interests and conflict resolution. Similarly, the regression analysis shows an important beneficial relationship between different types of diplomacy and conflict resolution in Rwanda, emphasizing the necessity of comprehensive policies in promoting regional stability.

Table 3: ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	5.540	3	1.847	110.285	.000 ^b
	Residual	1.725	103	.017		
	Total	7.264	106			

a. Dependent Variable: Conflict Resolution

b. Predictors: (Constant), Cultural Diplomacy, Economic Diplomacy, Public Diplomacy

Source: Primary Data, September 2024

Table 3 presents the ANOVA results for the regression model assessing the impact of the independent variables: public diplomacy, economic diplomacy, and cultural diplomacy on the dependent variable, conflict resolution through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rwanda.

The F-statistic value is 110.285, which reflects the ratio of the model mean square to the residual mean square. The significance level (Sig.) is 0.000, indicating that the model is statistically significant. This result suggests that the independent variables collectively have a significant impact on conflict resolution, highlighting the importance of diplomatic efforts in achieving effective conflict management.

The results are consistent with Mogotsi (2021)' assertion that Senegal's proactive diplomatic measures and focus on tradition and discussion serve as critical tools for conflict prevention and resolution. Similarly, the ANOVA findings show that public, economic, and cultural diplomacy had an important influence on conflict resolution in Rwanda, demonstrating the efficacy of diplomatic efforts to manage disputes and promote peace in the area.

Table 4: Coefficients

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.449	.220		2.040	.044
	Public Diplomacy	.275	.052	.320	5.234	.000
	Economic Diplomacy	.325	.049	.390	6.679	.000
	Cultural Diplomacy	.306	.051	.354	5.978	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Conflict Resolution

Source: Primary Data, September 2024

Table 4 provides the coefficients that offer valuable insights into the relationships between the predictors (public diplomacy, economic diplomacy, and cultural diplomacy) and the dependent variable (conflict resolution) through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in Rwanda.

The constant term (α) is 0.449, indicating the expected level of conflict resolution when all diplomacy practices are at zero. The unstandardized coefficients (B) show how conflict resolution changes for each unit increase in the corresponding predictor while keeping other variables constant.

Public diplomacy has a coefficient of 0.275, suggesting that a one-unit increase in public diplomacy corresponds to a 0.275 improvement in conflict resolution. Economic diplomacy

shows a coefficient of 0.325, indicating that a one-unit increase leads to a 0.325 enhancement in conflict resolution, highlighting its significant contribution. Cultural diplomacy exhibits a coefficient of 0.306, signifying that a one-unit increase results in a 0.306 improvement in conflict resolution, emphasizing the importance of cultural engagement.

All predictors have statistically significant p-values ($p=0.000<0.05$), confirming their individual impact on conflict resolution. These results highlight the essential role of public, economic, and cultural diplomacy in fostering effective conflict resolution in Rwanda.

The results align with those of Cascais (2021) and Hanlon (2021), who stated that Rwanda's increasing military diplomacy shows a change in its foreign policy orientation, with a focus on bilateral interactions in conflict management. Similarly, the coefficients show that public, economic, and cultural diplomacy considerably improves conflict resolution, emphasizing Rwanda's comprehensive diplomatic efforts to solve regional security problems and promote peace.

Limitations of the Study

The researcher compared findings with other studies in similar contexts either locally or internationally to assess if similar patterns emerge, aiding in contextual understanding. Suggest further studies in different organizations or geographical regions to test the applicability of findings beyond the current context.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusions

The study looked at three major types of diplomacy: public diplomacy, economic diplomacy, and cultural diplomacy. The results demonstrated a strong agreement among respondents that these diplomatic methods are crucial in improving conflict settlement outcomes.

Respondents strongly agreed that public diplomacy is successful in shaping public opinion, which is critical for conflict resolution. They noted that MINAFFET's strategic communication activities helped to resolve disputes by building favorable public attitude and raising knowledge of conflict-related problems. This interaction was seen to improve communication between opposing parties and the general public, hence improving the entire conflict resolution process.

Economic diplomacy findings were equally positive, with respondents agreeing that activities like trade promotion and development assistance were critical for conflict resolution. Participants said that economic participation promoted stability and reconciliation among various groups, emphasizing the beneficial effect of financial assistance in reducing tensions. This reinforces the view that economic diplomacy not only helps to alleviate acute conflicts, but also builds the basis for long-term peace.

Cultural diplomacy emerged as another crucial area in which respondents strongly agreed. Many others emphasized the value of cultural exchange programs, educational partnerships, and creative collaborations in fostering peace. Respondents highlighted that these activities promote understanding and collaboration among opposing groups, indicating the importance of cultural involvement in bridging gaps and improving conversation.

The results lead to the rejection of the null hypothesis ($p\text{-values} < 0.005$) on the influence of diplomatic techniques on conflict resolution. The findings revealed a substantial positive

association between public diplomacy activities and successful conflict resolution, leading to the rejection of the hypothesis connected to public diplomacy. Similarly, the notion of economic diplomacy's involvement in conflict resolution was rejected, demonstrating its importance in creating stable connections between warring groups. The null hypothesis for cultural diplomacy was also refuted, since successful cultural initiatives were shown to improve understanding and collaboration in conflict resolution efforts.

Recommendations

MINAFFET is recommended to utilize social media effectively to disseminate information and gather public feedback, ensuring that diverse voices are heard and contributing to a more inclusive dialogue on conflict resolution.

MINAFFET should implement public awareness campaigns that educate citizens on conflict resolution mechanisms and the importance of public diplomacy, promoting community involvement and engagement in peacebuilding initiatives.

MINAFFET is recommended to support artistic collaborations that facilitate dialogue and reconciliation through the arts, leveraging cultural expressions to bridge divides among communities.

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