



**AN ANALYSIS OF GHANA-HUNGARY SOCIO-ECONOMIC RELATIONS, 1959 -**

**2023**

**BY**

**SUNG-LA BOU BILLEY**

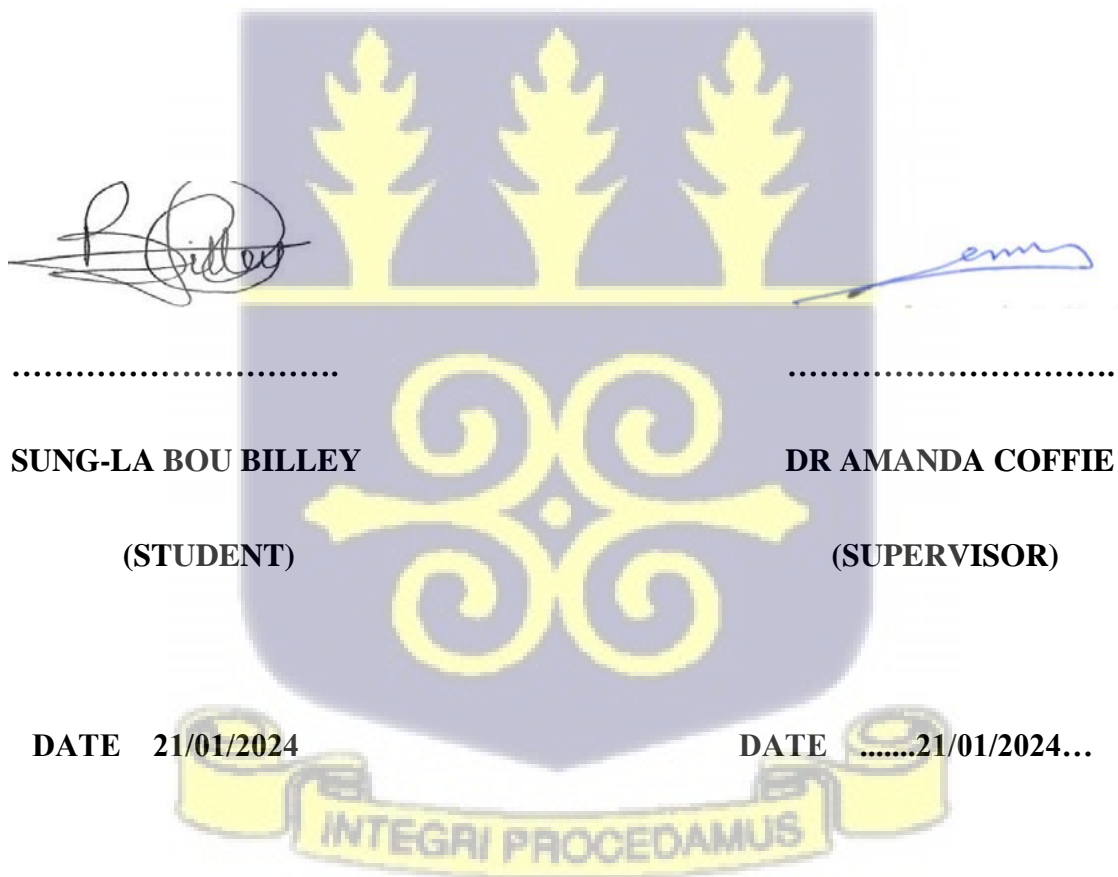
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**A THESIS SUBMITTED TO THE LEGON CENTRE FOR INTERNATIONAL  
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**DECLARATION**

I, Sung-la bou Billey, do hereby affirm that this dissertation presented herein is my own work submitted towards the award of the Master of Arts (MA) in International Affairs under the supervision of Dr. Amanda Coffie of the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy (LECIAD), University of Ghana and that, to the best of my knowledge, it contains no material previously published by another person nor material which has been accepted for the award of any other degree of the University, except where explicit acknowledgement has been made in the text.



## DEDICATION

In humble gratitude and profound reverence, I dedicate this dissertation to the Almighty God, the source of all wisdom and guidance and to my cherished family for their unwavering love and support throughout study.



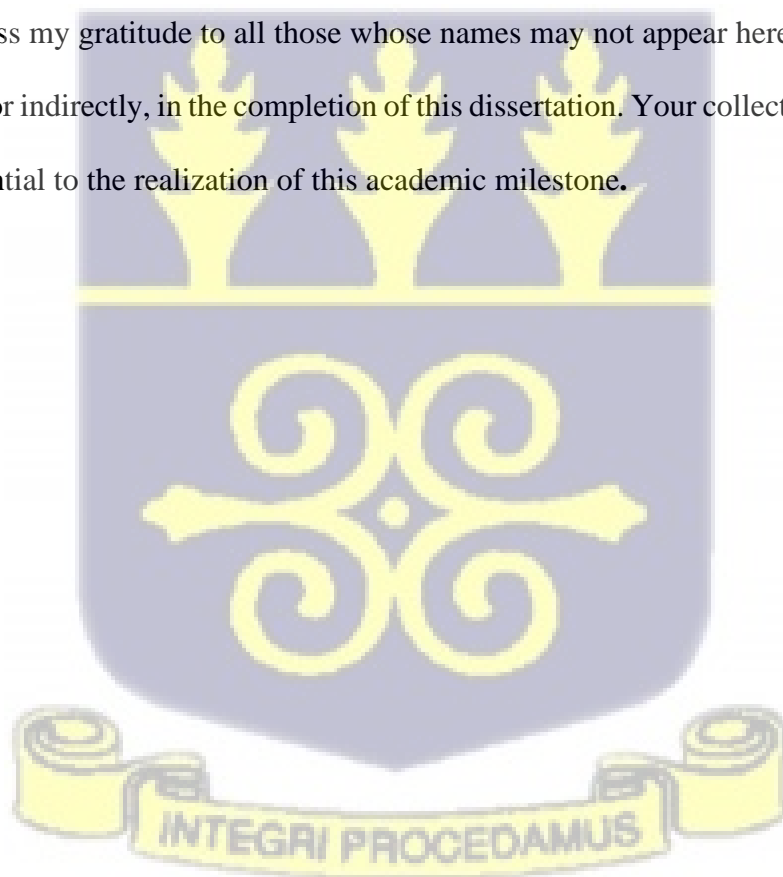
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## ABSTRACT

The diplomatic relationship between Ghana and Hungary dates back to Ghana's independence and the development of African socialism by Nkrumah in 1961. What began as good political relations between Ghana and Hungary suffered serious plights following the 1966 coup in Ghana that resulted in the closure of the Hungarian embassy on 15 December 1987. However, thirty years after its closure, the embassy reopened in 2016. The significant contributing factor to the political relations between Ghana and Hungary originates from the expansion of the Hungarian Foreign policy to include the "Global South" through bolstering its presence and political dialogues in Africa and Ghana. The study's main aim was to examine the socio-economic relations between Ghana and Hungary (1959-2023). The study adopted a qualitative approach and used a semi-structured guide to conduct key Informant Interviews. The study's findings in exploring socio-economic relations between Ghana and Hungary reveal a multifaceted and mutually beneficial partnership characterized by historical diplomatic ties, evolving economic collaborations, positive-sum game dynamics, and extensive cooperation across sectors, emphasizing the potential for sustained growth and development through continuous collaboration and leveraging of shared strengths. The study concluded that by continuing to leverage their strengths and collaborating in areas of common interest (trade, investment, water management, agriculture, education, health, sanitation, global peace, and security), Ghana and Hungary can achieve sustainable growth and development for both nations. The study recommended that Ghana and Hungary strive to fortify their existing partnerships to attain sustainable growth and development for both countries. By constructing fruitful partnerships and continuing to collaborate in areas of mutual interest, Ghana and Hungary can ensure that their collaboration remains mutually advantageous for years to come.

**Key words: Cooperation, Trade, Security, Diplomatic relations, Ghana, Hungary**

### LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ASEAN	-	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU	-	African Union
BMI	-	Body Mass Index
BNARI	-	Biotechnology and Nuclear Agricultural Research Institute
CSIR	-	Council for Scientific and Industrial Research
ECOWAS	-	Economic Community of West African States
EU	-	European Union
GAEC	-	Ghana Atomic Energy Commission
GDP	-	Gross Domestic Product
GHUNBC	-	Ghanaian-Hungarian Business Council
GIF	-	Gamma Irradiation Facility
HCI	-	Human Capital Index
HIPC	-	Heavily Indebted Poor Countries
IC	-	International Cooperation
ICT	-	Information and Communication Technology
IDA	-	International Development Association
IMF	-	International Monetary Fund
KNUST	-	Kwame Nkrumah University of Science and Technology
NAM	-	Non-Aligned Movement
NATO	-	North Atlantic Treaty Organisation
NEPAD	-	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGO	-	Non-Governmental organisation
ODA	-	Official Development Assistance
OECD	-	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

PEPP	-	Pureco Educational Partnership Program
SDGs	-	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	-	Small and Medium sized enterprises
TATU	-	Tamale Technical University
UN	-	United Nations
UNDP	-	United Nations Development Programme
UNECE	-	United Nations Economic Commission for Europe
UoG	-	University of Ghana
VNR	-	Voluntary National Review
WHO	-	World Health Organisation
WTO	-	World Trade Organisation



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## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.1 Introduction

Diplomacy, as defined by Bland (1957) is the “application of intelligence and tact to the conduct of official relations between the governments of independent states, sometimes extending also to their relations with vassal states, or more briefly still, the conduct of business between states by peaceful states” (p.1). From a divergent perspective, Bartson (1988) defines diplomacy by stating that the nature of diplomacy has now changed. Therefore, diplomacy is now “how states through their formal and other representatives, as well as other actors, articulate, coordinate, and secure particular or wider interests, using correspondence, private talks, exchanges of view, lobbying, visits, threats, and other related activities” (p.1). That is to say, that modern diplomacy is not only among sovereign states but non-state actors. The practice of diplomacy has substantially transformed over the years such that, unlike the ancient and medieval forms of diplomacy that thrived on the representation of states or other actors by official envoys, exchange of letters, and exchange of suitable and authorized ambassadors, the modern form of diplomacy is practised in many advanced distinct ways. Cooper, Heine, and Thakur (2013) identified five modes of modern diplomatic practice in their book. This includes shuttle diplomacy, track two diplomacy, multilateral diplomacy, celebrity diplomacy, and conference diplomacy.

According to Brahm and Burgess (2003), shuttle diplomacy's fundamental component is the employment of a third party (for example, NGOs, businessmen, and religious representatives) to relay information back and forth between two or more conflicting parties, acting as a trustworthy channel of communication less prone to the egotism of in-person or media-based contact. Henry Kissinger's actions in the Middle East in the early 1970s are thought to have given rise to the idea of shuttle diplomacy. In contrast to formal negotiations between state representatives, track two diplomacy entails unofficial and generally informal interaction

between non-governmental actors such as scholars, humanitarian organizations, and former government officials via visits, correspondence, and phone conversations. The idea of multilateralism is also incorporated into modern diplomacy, including coalition-building, public debating, intensive committee work, parliamentary processes that are the domain of politicians at home in their own country, and diplomatic caucusing comparable to political caucusing in national parliaments. Additionally, celebrity diplomacy occurs when international organizations like the United Nations (UN) use celebrities to raise awareness of world issues, including poverty, debt relief, and pandemic diseases (Wilson Centre, 2007). The interaction of three components—delegations from governments or international organizations, a conference secretariat, and a conference president—is referred to as conference diplomacy (Marshall, 2022).

The diplomatic relationship between Ghana and Hungary stems from Ghana's independence and the development of African socialism by Nkrumah in 1961. According to Ginelli (2018), Hungary, a socialist country, was viewed as a semi-periphery between colonizers and the colonized (peripheries) during the struggle against colonialism and imperialism. As a result, Hungary offered revolutionary resistance to the hegemonic centre through its location, bridge-building role, and cooperation with the periphery. It also served as the comprador "evil servant" against the periphery by maintaining the exploitative hierarchy of the hegemon-led global system (Geröcs and Pinkasz, n.d. cited by Ginelli, 2018). In pursuing his socialist agenda, Nkrumah visited Hungary in 1961, and the major outcomes of this visit were diplomatic negotiations that led to Ghana's first seven-year plan (1964-1970) and the Centre for Afro-Asian research to aid Ghana's development planning in the post-independence era.

What began as good political relations between Ghana and Hungary suffered serious plights following the 1966 coup in Ghana that resulted in the closure of the Hungarian embassy in Ghana on 15th December 1987 (Barath, and Magdolna, 2015). However, after thirty years of

its closure, the embassy was reopened in 2016. (Peace FM Online, 2016, October 21st). The major contributing factor to the political relations between Ghana and Hungary originates from the expansion of the Hungarian Foreign policy to include the “South” by way of bolstering its presence and political dialogues in Ghana and Africa at large in terms of trade, investment, water management, agriculture, education, health, sanitation, global peace, and security (AFRICABA, 2020). The President of Hungary, Mr Janos Ader, on 15th January 2022 declared that Hungary seeks to build cordial relations with Ghana due to Ghana’s political stability, peace, and reputation as one of the fastest growing economies in Africa. (Graphic online, 2022, January 15).

In 2017, the Vice President of Ghana at the official inauguration of the Embassy of Hungary acknowledged that, in recent years, the relationship between Ghana and Hungary has deepened, especially after the reopening of the Hungarian Embassy such that, both countries had engaged in the exchange of high-level visits and also signed a considerable number of bilateral agreements to boost various sectors of the Ghanaian economy like agriculture, education, culture, economic, and technical, just to mention a few (Ghana News Agency, 2017, December 1). As a particular instance, in 2017 Ghana and Hungary through a partnership launched the “Ghanaian-Hungarian Business Council” which is an efficient organization equipped with Ghanaian and Hungarian professionals that support, encourage, inform, protect, and promote trade and investment interests of both Ghana and Hungary and this is achieved through the good geographical location of Hungary, business-friendly environment, a favourable tax system, and government incentives (GHUNBC, 2019).

## **1.2 Statement of Problem**

Ghana in the post-independence era under the administration of Kwame Nkrumah (1957 to 1966) witnessed a major transition from colonialism to socialism characterized by forced industrialization implying that all sectors of the economy were state-run (Sackeyfio-Lenoch,

2016). Hungary being a socialist state as well and helping Global south countries fight for their independence, demonstrated their interest in Ghana and even established a Hungarian embassy in Ghana to coordinate diplomatic relations between Ghana and Hungary and both countries made genuine efforts to maintain this relationship by paying regular visits to each other. This marked the beginning of political ties between Ghana and Hungary. Following the hardships caused by Nkrumah's system of governance, particularly in cases where employees could not fight for better working systems in terms of wages and salaries, Ghanaians expressed massive disinterest in Nkrumah's government and that led to the military takeover, also known as the coup d'état in 1966. In 1966, the government that overthrew Kwame Nkrumah, the National Liberation Council reversed a considerable number of Nkrumah's policies and established another government transition from socialism to capitalism. This change in the system of governance, coupled with political instability, threatened, and dwindled diplomatic (political) relations between Ghana and Hungary and, as such, resulted in the closure of the Hungarian embassy in Ghana (Panford, 1997; Ginelli, 2018).

To attain its goals of modernization, economic transformation, and the search for new markets, Hungary replaced its political relations in Ghana with economic relations, which were coordinated through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in the late 1980s. This tallied with their foreign policy adjustments in 2011 to include the South. Researchers have concluded that the basis of Hungarian involvement in Ghana (and Africa at large) is based on four main elements, namely: education, research, culture, and trade, which are all socio-economic features (Tarrósy and Solymári, 2022). tracks the socio-economic relationship between Ghana and Hungary in terms of the tangible and intangible benefits accrued and the challenges impeding this relationship. The wide array of research available is those relating to specifications of what would be done instead of what has been done by far (Sullemana, 2021).

This research is aimed at critically assessing the socio-economic relations between Ghana and Hungary from 1959 to 2023, focusing on tangible and intangible benefits accrued during this transformative period. The study sought to explore the opportunities presented by the reestablishment of bilateral relations, going beyond a historical narrative. It is also aimed at identifying potential areas of cooperation to enhance the existing relationship. By delving into the multifaceted nature of Ghana-Hungary socio-economic relations, the study sought to contribute valuable insights into the significance and potential benefits of fostering stronger bilateral cooperation.

### 1.3 Questions

1. In what other areas do Ghana and Hungary cooperate (1959-2023)?
2. To what extent is the socio-economic relationship between Ghana and Hungary a positive-sum game?
3. What are the factors that have shaped Ghana's socio-economic relations with Hungary during the post-independence era?

### 1.4 Objectives

1. To identify other areas of cooperation between the two states (1959-2023).
2. To assess the extent to which the Ghana-Hungary socio-economic relations can be characterised as a positive sum game.
3. To discuss the factors that have shaped socio-economic relations between Ghana and Hungary.

### 1.5 Scope of Work

The study explores the socio-economic relations between Ghana and Hungary within the specified time frame of 1959 to 2023. This period was chosen to encompass significant historical developments, including Ghana's post-independence era under Kwame Nkrumah's

administration and Hungary's transition from a socialist state to a liberal democracy. The research delved into all crucial spheres of cooperation between Ghana and Hungary, including education, research, culture, trade, and other areas that may emerge during the analysis. By examining the diplomatic relations and international cooperation between the two countries, the study aimed to identify the tangible and intangible benefits accrued to both states. The study's focus on the specified period (1959-2023) allowed for a comprehensive analysis of the historical dynamics that have shaped the bilateral relationship between Ghana and Hungary. By understanding the opportunities and challenges within this time frame, the research seeks to provide actionable insights and recommendations for strengthening and sustaining the bilateral cooperation beyond 2020.

### **1.6 Rationale**

The study on diplomatic relations between Ghana and Hungary within the context of their socio-economic interactions holds significant importance due to its potential to contribute to the existing body of knowledge on Africa-European bilateral relationships. International cooperation between Ghana and Hungary has generated tremendous benefits for Ghana, therefore, undertaking this research to assess the relationship between the aforementioned countries is worth pursuing. In addition, this study sought to provide an updated version of previous works done in this field and as such, contribute to the existing literature on Ghana-Hungary relations, which connotes that the findings and recommendations can be used as the basis for further research work on Ghana-Hungary diplomatic relations. Finally, the findings and recommendations established in this work can help policymakers in the two countries in their formulation of policies that would further enhance international cooperation among these two countries and even beyond.

## 1.7 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework employed for this study is the theory of International Cooperation (IC). This choice of theory was based on its relevance in explaining cooperation between countries in the international system, particularly within the context of Ghana-Hungary socio-economic relations. By utilizing the IC framework, the research seeks to analyse the inter-relationship between Ghana and Hungary, focusing on their diplomatic and socio-economic interactions, and how these have led to mutual benefits for both states.

Robert Keohane defines Cooperation as a state “when actors adjust their behaviour to the actual or anticipated preferences of others, through a process of policy coordination” (cited by Milner, 1992:467). In this case, the behaviour of actors becomes their domestic policies or national interests. International cooperation theories refer to a collection of theories that seek to explain cooperation among countries in the international system. Milner (1992) employs pluralist theories, elite theories, institutional theories, and Marxist theories to explain the theory of international cooperation.

Pluralism, which was propounded by James Madison in 1787, essentially establishes the assumption that, in the international system, the prevalence of peaceful coexistence through competing ideas, interests, and policies from all the involved state and non-state actors is crucial to avert isolationism and enhance the ability of actors in the construction of meaningful decisions through effective negotiations (Longley, 2019). A key criticism associated with this theory is that, although pluralism promotes the active participation of all actors in the global system, it drifts away from reality as it fails to address the dominance of European and Western values and norms in international relations. In addition, pluralism has insofar failed to provide effective solutions to global challenges such as climate change and poverty (Keating, 2016).

The elite theory which was propounded by the Italian social theorists Gaetano Mosca and Vilfredo Pareto in the late 19th Century attempts to explain international cooperation by postulating that in the international system, affairs are inevitably best handled by the minority that constitutes a small section of the international system (Maloy, 2015). According to Shannon (2011), the ruling class constitutes a minority with consolidated power and unity, while the ruled class represents the majority, characterized by powerlessness and isolation. This theory was developed as a criticism of the Marxist ideology that a popular majority could result in democratization (Korom, 2015). A major criticism associated with the elite theory is that it derails all efforts to ensure decisions are collectively made in the global system (Walker, 1966).

The institutional theory also referred to as neoliberalism or liberal institutionalism assumes that the existence of international organizations such as the United Nations (UN), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the World Bank are crucial to obtaining international cooperation between countries (Asare, 2008). The institutional theory was postulated by Robert Keohane in 1984 in his book “After Hegemony” where he employed excerpts from the new institutional economics to theorize that states could attain peace in the international system through international organizations even in the absence of a single hegemon to harmonize the affairs of the global system, and by so doing, he refuted the “hegemonic stability theory” which was associated to neorealism (Keohane, 2020). One criticism associated with this theory is that international organizations have failed to prevent the occurrence of wars, thus, promoting peace in the international and a typical example is evident in the war between Ukraine and Russia (Devitt, 2011).

The theory of international cooperation is not without critiques, particularly from the neo-realist perspective. Neo-realists argue that in international relations, the gain of one actor may be regarded as a loss to another, potentially derailing efforts at cooperation (Rourke and Boyer, 2000). According to the realist school of thought, the international system is anarchic due to

the absence of sovereign authority to maintain law and order (Glaser, 1994). Although not the central focus of the research, acknowledging these critiques adds depth to the analysis of Ghana-Hungary socio-economic relations.

Adam Smith, in his 1776 book, *The Wealth of Nations*, attacked the above assumption of neo-realists that trade is a zero-sum game. Adam Smith (1999) argued in favour of trade being a positive sum game. The positive sum game concept posits that international interactions do not need to be zero-sum or win-lose scenarios, where one nation's gain leads another nation's loss.

Smith argued that countries differ in their ability to produce goods efficiently, hence, countries should concentrate on the production of goods for which they have an outright advantage and then trade these goods for those produced by other countries. He demonstrates that, by specializing in the production of goods in which each has an absolute advantage, both countries benefit by engaging in trade. Hence, the effects of trade between two countries is considered a positive sum game. This theory can be applied further to provide valuable perspective to understand and assess social, economic, and political relations.

The theory of international cooperation as a theoretical framework for the study offers a holistic understanding of the diplomatic interactions, cooperation efforts, and power dynamics between the two countries. The theory discussed in this passage examines how states and other actors work together to achieve mutually beneficial outcomes in the absence of a central authority (Dai, Snidal and Sampson, 2017). It considers factors such as the number of actors, power distribution, information availability, incentives structure, institutional design, and domestic politics that influence cooperation (Milner, 2011). Applying this theory to the cases of Ghana and Hungary allows for an analysis of their cooperation on various issues, including trade, development, security, and human rights. The study can assess how their cooperation is influenced by their interests, capabilities, preferences, identities, and strategies, as well as

regional and global contexts (Börzel, 2016). The theory of international cooperation can thus provide a comprehensive and rigorous framework for understanding the dynamics and outcomes of Ghana-Hungary relations.

## **1.8 Literature Review**

### ***1.8.1. International Cooperation between States***

The practice of international cooperation between states in the international system, which is termed diplomacy, is inevitable. This is because in myriad diverse ways states depend on each other for sustenance. It is for this reason that the liberal/neoliberal school of thought acknowledges that although the international system is anarchic, states are more likely to cooperate than fight each other. The notion and practice of globalization have also widened the scope of international cooperation and made it more efficient. The idea of international cooperation gained popularity in the early twentieth century following the end of the first and second world wars where states sought to build and maintain bilateral and multilateral relationships within the confines of international law which spells out the rules of international engagement (Gorman, 2017).

In more recent times, the idea of international cooperation has undergone several debates whereby a considerable number of states and researchers are of the view that international cooperation does not always benefit all the countries involved and that it is just a ploy by the powerful countries to easily exploit the less powerful states to satisfy their selfish interests. In their argument, Ian Hurd (2020) asserted that all forms of international agreements including treaties and international law are coined and implemented using force and domination where the core actors manipulate the peripheries into cooperating. To substantiate this assertion, it can be argued that major nations, by virtue of their influence in shaping international norms and policies, often take the lead in establishing both bilateral and multilateral alliances. This

implies that parties involved have the option to withdraw from the agreement whenever they experience dissatisfaction, as exemplified by the Ghana-Hungary relationship in 1966.

States in the international system cooperate on various issues, including politics and economics. To enable these states, establish and joint international organizations to discuss their issues of interest. Critics such as Shapiro (2017) and Hirschmann (2022) believe that states join these international organizations to pursue their national interests. As a result, these forms of international cooperation yield little to no impact. In their argument, Shai (2019) et al. stated that multinational organizations usually tow the lines of the powerful member states and reflect their desires through manipulation, dominance, and coercion (the countries with the highest contributions towards the organization's administration) to avoid confrontations. This explains why international organizations fail to prevent the outbursts of wars. To counter the assumption that political parties have achieved little to none concerning international cooperation in politics and economics, the OECD (2019) believes that international organizations have made substantial impacts. To state particular examples, OECD (2019) acknowledged that the “mutual acceptance of data system of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) helps governments and industry save more than EUR 309 million per year” and also, the quality of international rule-making in international organizations although faced with some challenges, involves all member states and have enabled member states of international organizations solve issues (such as achieving economic security) they otherwise could not have.

### ***1.8.2. Diplomatic Relations Between Developing States***

Diplomatic relations of developing states are usually based on the premise that developing countries lack the substantive military and economic power and they, therefore, tend to significantly depend on political instruments, most especially diplomacy (Gitelson, 1974). This notion could have justified the assumption that all diplomatic relations of developing countries

should involve at least one developed country. This is however not so. A considerable number of researchers have reviewed the conduct, potentials, and challenges of “south-south” diplomatic relations.

From the Brazilian perspective, Milani, and Klein (2021) argued that diplomatic activism in terms of maximizing the benefits associated with diplomacy to help promote equity in development and security among the developed and developing countries is what spikes diplomatic relations between developing countries. Although Brazil’s diplomatic activism has yielded tangible technical benefits, among others, it was heavily criticized by the study's respondents as being sporadic, unprofessional, and prone to uncertainties. Others also claimed that but for the Brazilian technical cooperation programs in African countries, Brazil would be irrelevant. This ignites the notion that diplomatic relations, either between exclusive developing countries or a combination of developing and developed countries, are always between a giver and a receiver who are both pursuing their national interest (foreign policy) in the long run and short run respectively. The scope of this research was broad and insightful however, what it failed to capture was why Brazil decided to attain its political activism priorities through other developing countries, such as Latin America and not developed countries.

the United Nations (UN) has acknowledged that “innovative forms of knowledge exchange, technology transfer, emergency response and recovery of livelihoods led by the South are transforming lives,” said the Secretary-General in November 2018, during the inauguration of the 10th South-South Development Expo at UN Headquarters in New York. In addition, trading activities, foreign direct investments, and remittances because of diplomatic relations between developing countries have witnessed massive improvements over the years (UN, 2019).

Alden and Vieira (2006) assert that developing countries have a higher tendency to be fully committed to international cooperation “as a means of overcoming their material deficiencies in terms of structural power”. Alden and Vieira (2006) focus on the trilateral partnership between India, Brazil, and South Africa, which was established by the Brasilia Declaration of 2003. Based on the writings of Cox (1981), cited by Alden and Vieira (2006), this trilateral partnership could be viewed as a counter-hegemony against the core country's dominance.

Gray and Gills (2016) examined South-South cooperation as a subdivision of the existing Global capitalist development model. Here they cited an example that developing countries still need to seek membership in the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to avert marginalization even though the WTO places significant constraints on developing countries. This does not correspond to the South-South Cooperation as they seek to promote a fairer global trading system. Also, in terms of whether there is a rise in the Global South and a decline in the Global North, Bond (2015) emphatically states that “the possibility of future debt repayment crises as a result of the end of the boom in commodity prices, thus challenging the hype surrounding Africa Rising”.

According to Nayyar (2013), “a near-colonial pattern of trade exists within the developing world, involving the export of primary commodities to China and the import of manufactured goods from China, a pattern that can hardly be viewed as conducive to industrialization, let alone indicative of a partnership for development”. This is to say that, even among developing countries, the benefits accrued through diplomatic relations are not distributed equally, as some developing countries enjoy more benefits than others. This notion is however countered by the works of Fantu Cheru (Gray and Gills, 2016), which stated that Chinese investments have substantially supported developing countries.

### ***1.8.3. Hungary's Foreign Policy***

The foreign policy of a state refers to the decisions of the incumbent government outside its territory; thus, what a government decides to do or not do within the international system is its foreign policy. The foreign policy of Hungary, according to Szent-Ivanyi (2020), is characterized by the establishment of friendly relations between authoritarian states such as Russia and China, which is also known as the “eastern opening policy”, as well as a decline in Western orientations. Szent-Ivanyi states that this is a negative characteristic as it is prone to yield harmful results for Hungary in the long run. This has heightened levels of mistrust and dissatisfaction with Hungary’s foreign policy among the citizens.

From a similar perspective, Inotai (2022) addresses Hungary’s pro-east and anti-west foreign policy and the dangers associated with it. In addition, Inotai (2022) highlights that the Ukrainian war has substantially limited its schemes and that it is now crucial for Hungary to realign with the West (Anton Bendarzsevszkij, research director at conservative think tank the Danube Institute cited by Inotai, 2022).

Varga (2000) focused on the development of the Hungarian Foreign Policy within a ten-year period that is from 1990 to 2000 and sought to analyse the foreign policy programs of the three different governments within this period. The author acknowledged that the three main points of focus in the Hungarian foreign policy from 1990 to 2000 included the North Atlantic and European orientation which ushered Hungary from Soviet orientation to Western European civilizations. The second focus was on the regional policy that sought to establish peaceful relations with its neighbours. The final focus was bent on supporting ethnic Hungarians in the neighbouring states. Despite slight variations in foreign policy between the three governments, the author contends that there remained consistency in concerns of national interest.

Jeszenszky (2007) focused on Hungary's foreign policy dilemmas after regaining sovereignty in 1991. The author asserts that Hungary has undergone a challenge of having enduring dilemmas concerning the right foreign policy path to take. In this article, the author contends that the dilemmas Hungary faced were coupled with the tasks it had to perform which included "staving off foreign invasions (Germans, Mongols, Ottoman Turks, and Russians, man Turks, Russians); preventing a dangerous combination involving hostile neighbours; and finding supporters, allies among the richer, more advanced western and northern (often Protestant) powers in the fights for the rights and independence of the nation". Additionally, in the 1830s, a new dilemma surfaced following the rise of nationalism, which was geared towards preserving the territorial integrity of Hungary amidst the non-Hungarian nationalities and their co-nationals beyond the borders.

Moldicz (2021) also sought to examine the 2021 foreign policy of Hungary by analysing its external relations. The author acknowledged the pragmatic nature of the Hungarian policy towards the economic and political interests of the country. In an attempt to analyse Hungary's foreign relations with the United States of America (U.S.A), the author stated that the two countries disagree on two key issues concerning Hungary's energy supply and Hungary's good relations with China. Regarding Hungary's relationship with the European Union and Russia, the writer asserts that Hungary "dances" between European Union and Russia, constantly shifting between the "two depending on power shifts and Hungary's narrow economic interests". The author further stated that Hungary's relations with Ukraine are based on political interests and the quest to protect the rights of the Hungarian citizens living in Transcarpathia.

#### ***1.8.4. Ghana's Foreign Policy***

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration in Ghana outlines the general principles that underpin Ghana's foreign policy as the promotion and protection of the interest of Ghana; the establishment of a just and equitable international, economic, political, and social

order; the promotion of respect for international law and treaty obligations; the promotion of the settlement of international disputes through peaceful means; the adherence to the principles enshrined in the Charter and aims or ideals of the United Nations, the African Union, the ECOWAS, the Commonwealth and the Non-Aligned Movement.

In their article, Botchway and Hlovor (2022), attempt to review Ghana's foreign policy condition from the pre-independence era to the COVID-19 pandemic. The authors cited the general assumption made by many researchers, which is the notion that Ghana's foreign policy is excessively influenced by external factors and not Ghana's national interests, as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs claims. They, however, acknowledged that there have been counterarguments against this assumption. The article again points out a substantial error in Ghana's 1992 constitution, which has failed to clearly define the national interests of Ghana and the dire consequences of this error. The article further suggests that the closure of borders during the late President Atta-Mills' "Dzi wo fie asem" policy implementation, coupled with the closure of borders in Ghana during the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic breaches Ghana's foreign policy objective of good neighbourliness. This article, however, fails to admit the extreme consequences that would have accompanied Ghana's refusal to close down its borders. The first two cases of COVID-19 in Ghana were all imported cases in March 2020 (Kenu, Frimpong & Koram, 2020). which makes it right to state that, had Ghana closed its borders in 2019 following the outbreak of COVID-19 in China, hundreds of Ghanaians would still be alive. Another critique associated with this article is that several neighbouring countries, if not all, had also closed their borders during the pandemic. Therefore, even if Ghana had opened its borders at the time, it would have made no difference as people would still not be able to travel. This would have only disturbed other countries' lock-down procedures as some people would have tried eloping from their countries in one way or another.

Kumah-Abiwu (2016) also sought to determine the relationship between leadership and personality traits and foreign policy making by focusing mainly on J. J. Rawlings' foreign economic policy in Ghana. After using various theories and analytical schemes, the author concluded that to a certain extent, the leadership and personality traits of Rawlings which were characterized by dictatorship, radically shaped Ghana's foreign economic policy decisions from the West to the East in the early 1980s. This research is however contradictory in terms of Ghana's foreign policy moving from the East to the West or vice versa.

Gebe (2008) focused on Ghana's foreign policy at independence and its implications for the 1966 coup d'état. The author stated that Nkrumah's pan-African agenda and radicalism right after independence led him to adopt socialism and a one-party state governance system, consequently leading to Nkrumah building friendly relations with communists and the Eastern European States which created hostile relations between Ghana and the liberal democracies of Europe and North America. Again, the author stated that due to Nkrumah's pan-African agenda, Ghana's foreign policy after independence was established with the aims of freeing the African continents from colonialism and also to promote continental unity and although Nkrumah practised anti-west ideology, Ghana still relied on the funds and investments of the West to enhance development in Ghana. The author further asserts that Nkrumah's removal from office in 1966 redirected the foreign policy of Ghana as fundamental ideologies shifted to pro-West and capitalism.

While there is ample research on international cooperation and diplomatic relations between developed and developing countries, limited attention has been given to the dynamics of diplomatic interactions between two developing states like Ghana and Hungary. This presents an opportunity to delve deeper into the complexities and nuances of their bilateral relationship, examining the mutual benefits, challenges, and the socio-economic dimensions of their interactions. This study aimed to provide fresh insights into the diplomatic relations and socio-

economic interactions between Ghana and Hungary, contributing to the understanding of developing state relations in the global context and offering valuable perspectives for policymakers in both countries and beyond to enhance their cooperation and socio-economic engagement.

## **1.9 Methodology**

This section represents a critical aspect of this study and provides the reader with an understanding of the methodologies utilized throughout the study. This section describes the study's research design, research strategy, study population, sample procedure and size, data sources, and other techniques employed to achieve the study's goals. These included data gathering instruments, data collection techniques, data analysis techniques, and any ethical concerns made during the research.

### ***1.9.1. Research Design***

The research design of any research endeavour may be considered the study's skeleton since it gives the required direction for the structure the research is to follow and demonstrates how all the primary components of the study work together to achieve its objectives and aims (Donnelly & Trochim, 2005). According to Yin (2014, p.29), a study's research design "... deals with a logical problem and not a logistical problem." Thus, the research design may be defined as a collection of decisions made in advance that comprise the master or comprehensive plan outlining the processes and methods for the collection and interpretation of data. The research design as a master plan defines the master plan that describes the processes for conducting the study, including when, from whom, and under what conditions data were collected to provide the most valid and correct responses to research questions.

Saunders et al. (2012) characterized exploratory, explanatory, and descriptive as the three major purposes of all research endeavours. Exploratory research strives to discover new

information about a social phenomenon; explanatory research seeks to identify relationships between a study's variables; and descriptive research seeks to explain existing phenomena (Saunders et al., 2012). Given the aims of the study, which are to explore the socio-economic ties between Ghana and Hungary, the design of the study will pursue an exploratory design.

### ***1.9.2. Research Approach***

A qualitative approach was used to collect and analyze the data for the study. A quantitative approach to research is a method that entails a systematic process of gathering, analyzing, and interpreting numerical data to comprehend, elucidate, and forecast events (Cresswell, 2014). Similarly, Burns and Grove (2003) described the qualitative approach as the subjective, methodical exploration of life circumstances and experiences to give them significance. According to Tewksbury (2011), qualitative research enables a researcher to get a profound, unfurling meaning and a deeper knowledge of topics that cannot be reached or achieved by statistics study or a quantitative technique. In accordance with Tewksbury's (2011) statements, Hammersly (2013) reiterated that qualitative research employs a somewhat flexible data-driven methodology that lays significant emphasis on the significance of context and subjectivity in the research process. Qualitative research is predominately comprised of emergent questions and processes, the collection of data from the participant's environment, data analysis constructed inductively from particulars to broad themes, and the researcher's interpretation of data. Individuals that engage in this type of study, according to Cresswell and Poth (2016), support a distinctive approach to research that emphasizes individual meanings and respects an inductive methodology.

Utilizing a qualitative research technique is crucial to this study because it allows the researcher to spend meaningful time with respondents (Hammersby, 2013). It also enables researchers to gain a deeper understanding of some barriers that were not expressly identified or stated among the study objectives. There are several research methods, including ethnography, survey, case

study, and grounded theory, among others. For the purposes of this investigation, the case study method was employed. Stake (1995) defines the case study technique as an in-depth examination of a particular action, process, group or, individual, or event.

A qualitative research technique was employed because it facilitates a more in-depth understanding of the barriers and challenges that may arise in diplomatic relations between the two countries. It enabled the researcher to engage meaningfully with respondents, gaining valuable insights into their perspectives and experiences.

### ***1.9.3. Sources of Data***

The research acquired information from primary and secondary sources. Primary sources of data were obtained from respondents who were drawn from the Hungarian Embassy, academia, and foreign policy expert.

Secondary data sources included analysis of books, journals, articles, official reports, documents and technical/policy brief government publications from governments, Non-governmental Organisations and policy institutions.

### ***1.9.3. Sampling Technique and Size***

As defined by Boateng (2014), sampling technique refers to the procedures used to efficiently select a sample from the population under investigation. According to Lindelof and Taylor (2017), the use of a sampling strategy assists scholars or researchers in determining the right number of respondents required for a study and in providing reasons for the selection of respondents under examination. According to the authors, the use of a sample approach is most advantageous to researchers since it reduces the likelihood of the researcher wasting time and resources (Lindlof & Taylor, 2017).

The study adopted a purposive sampling approach to determine the research participants. According to Green and Thorogood (2014), purposive sampling approach enables researchers

to pick respondents or participants who demonstrate a broad range of behaviours, information, or experiences that are relevant for getting deeper insights into the phenomena of interest to the study. In contrast to the convenience sampling technique, which also permits the selection of respondents based on their availability, the purposive sampling technique involves the deliberate selection of respondents based on their possession of particular characteristics, characteristics, or expert knowledge pertinent to the study's objective (Kumekpor, 2002; Wimmer & Dominick, 2006).

A sample is "... a fraction of the population under study" (Banerjee et al., 2007; Sekeran, 2000). In qualitative research such as this, Smith et al. (2009) gave a participant range of three to sixteen. In contrast, Mason (2010) found in a more recent study that a sample size of 5 to 50 is sufficient to obtain saturation. Following these parameters, four respondents or participants were chosen for this study. This sample size range allowed for the development of cross-case generalizations, while keeping the researcher from becoming bogged down in data and allowing for the identification of individuals within the sample, as opposed to their being submerged into an anonymous component of a greater whole (Robinson & Smith, 2010). The sample respondents for the study included a respondent from the Hungarian Embassy, two academics from the University of Ghana, and one Foreign Policy expert who was well conversant with matters relating to Ghana – Hungary relations.

Key informant interviews were utilized for this analysis due to their significance in providing valuable insights into the intricacies of the topic. By interviewing individuals with expertise or involvement in these relations, firsthand knowledge about the dynamics, challenges, and achievements that have characterized this bilateral partnership will be gained. The use of key informant interviews as a research method provides valuable insights and deepens understanding in various fields, proving indispensable in uncovering nuanced perspectives and enhancing the quality of research findings (Kun et al., 2013; Hicks et al., 2021). The

advantages of using key informant interviews include obtaining rich qualitative data through open-ended questions, which allows for in-depth exploration of complex issues surrounding Ghana-Hungary relations. Additionally, key informants provide unique perspectives based on their experiences and knowledge gained from working directly with stakeholders involved in these relations (Sinulingga, Nasir, & Trisni, 2021).

#### ***1.9.4. Data Collection Instrument***

#### ***1.9.5. Data Analysis***

Thematic analysis will be used to analyse the interview data effectively and efficiently. Thematic analysis, according to Braun and Clarke (2006), is a fundamental technique for analysing qualitative data that consists of six (6) steps: getting acquainted with the data, creating initial codes, looking closely for themes, evaluating themes, classifying, and labelling themes, and preparing the report.

The study began by reading many verbatim transcripts to understand participants' responses and contextual details. After that, initial codes were generated to categorize important text pertinent to the research questions and objectives. This helped find relevant data parts. Continuous comparison helped the researcher to find repeated patterns and topics in the dataset. This helped in organising the data into relevant subject groupings, improving analysis coherence and organization. Classifying and labelling the topics followed the study's research objectives. The results were grouped and supported with interview quotes. This method helped effectively communicate findings to the intended audience. Thus, the interview responses were analysed to develop and establish common themes for each research question and objectives.

#### ***1.9.6. Ethical Considerations***

All applicable research ethics were considered and respected over the course of this investigation. Respondents were sufficiently informed of the research's sole academic goal, as

well as their freedom to withdraw from the study at any time. They were also assured of the privacy of the data they supply as well as their anonymity during the research.

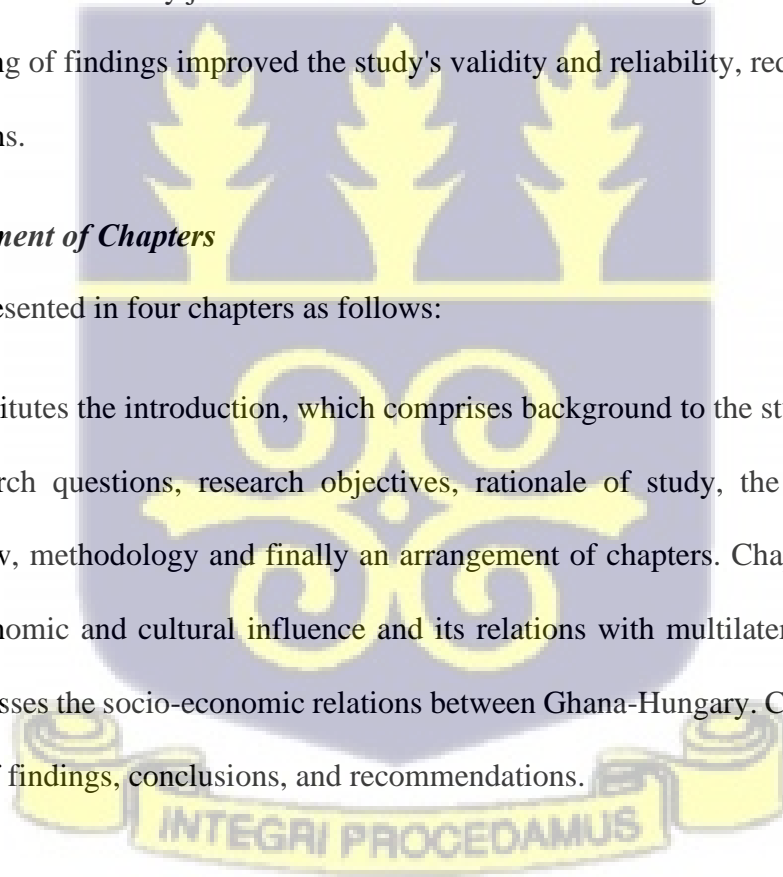
### ***1.9.7 Limitation of the Study***

This study tried to understand Hungarian Foreign Policy but faced difficulties. The broad span of the topic, which is complicated and ever-changing, made it challenging to cover in a single study. It was important to take a deliberate and selective approach to focus on specific policy concerns, which may have affected the analysis's comprehensiveness. The choice of case study was constrained by the lack of local Hungarian Foreign Policy specialists, which limited the scope and depth of opinions and interviews. The researcher consulted leading foreign policy experts and relevant scholarly journals to overcome this constraint. Rigorous triangulation and cross-referencing of findings improved the study's validity and reliability, reducing the effects of the limitations.

### ***1.9.8. Arrangement of Chapters***

The study is presented in four chapters as follows:

Chapter 1 constitutes the introduction, which comprises background to the study, statement of problem, research questions, research objectives, rationale of study, the scope of work, literature review, methodology and finally an arrangement of chapters. Chapter 2 covers the Hungary's economic and cultural influence and its relations with multilateral organisations. Chapter 3 discusses the socio-economic relations between Ghana-Hungary. Chapter 4 captures the summary of findings, conclusions, and recommendations.



## CHAPTER TWO

### THE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL INFLUENCE OF HUNGARY AND ITS MULTILATERAL ENGAGEMENTS

#### 2.0 Introduction

Hungary, a landlocked country situated in Central Europe, has a rich history and diverse cultural heritage that have significantly shaped its economic and cultural influence both within its borders and on the global stage. With a strategic location, vibrant traditions, and a resilient economy, Hungary has emerged as an influential player in the region and a key participant in various multilateral engagements.

The economic and cultural influence of Hungary, coupled with its active participation in multilateral engagements, has played a pivotal role in shaping global cooperation, fostering regional stability, and driving national development. The erosion of loyalty between countries is seen as a potential consequence when illiberalism impacts bilateral development policies in the involved nations (Szent-Iványi & Kugiel, 2020). This highlights the significance of Hungary's approach to maintaining strong cooperative ties with other countries.

#### 2.1 The Evolution of Hungary as a Middle Power

The concept of middle powers likewise most political concepts lacks one widely accepted definition. As a result of this, a considerable number of international relations scholars have attempted to define what or who a middle power is. Generally, a middle power country is a sovereign state that has a substantial level of influence and international recognition in the global system, however, in the hierarchy of the international system, a middle power is incomparable to a superpower as the powers of the former exceeds that of the latter. Considered the father of the concept of middle powers, Giovanni Botero, a mayor of Milan in the 15th century, defined a “middle power” as an actor with sufficient strength and authority to stand on his own without the need for help from others. Giovanni Botero, a mayor of Milan in the

15th century, defined a “middle power” as an actor with sufficient strength and authority to act independently without any form of external aid from others (cited by Shin, 2015). Additionally, Glazebrook (2009) asserts that the concept of a “middle power” is used all over the international system by states to avoid the mere classification of states into “great” and “small”. That is to say that the classification of states into great and small puts a considerable number of sovereign states which do not necessarily fall into the superpower category but have proven to be possessing a level of strength and influence not evident in the small powers.

Jordaan (2003) postulates that middle powers can be broadly classified into traditional and emerging and further discusses the key characteristics of both divisions. Traditional middle powers which originated during the Cold War are stable social democracies that believe that all people are equal and deserve equal rights and opportunities. As a result of this, traditional middle powers such as Canada, Australia, Norway, Sweden, The Netherlands, and Denmark are the five most egalitarian industrialized states in the global system. Also, due to their indomitable quality of living in the international system, traditional middle powers constitute the fundamental world economies such that according to the United Nations Development Programme’s (UNDP) Human Development Index (2022), Norway, Sweden, Australia, and The Netherlands are all among the top ten nations in terms of human development (World Population Review, 2022). Another key feature of traditional middle powers is that they sometimes lack adequate power to become dominant in their regions. An example of such is the Canadian economy which is intertwined and excessively reliant on the American economy. Traditional middle powers are also equivocal towards regional integration and cooperation. A clear example of this was witnessed by the protests following the referendums in 1972 and 1994 to decide whether Norway should join the European Union (Albert, 2022).

The key characteristics of traditional and emerging middle powers are in contrast to each other. Unlike the traditional middle powers, the emerging ones are contemporary which only emerged

after the Cold war and are challenged with undemocratic practices such as human rights abuses as are the case of Nigeria, Malaysia, and Turkey. They are also noted for their unequal distribution of wealth influenced by their internal classification of society into elites and masses where the elites are properly integrated into the world economy due to their high incomes. Furthermore, emerging middle powers such as South Africa and Nigeria are highly dominant and influential in the African region unlike the dormant nature of traditional middle powers in their respective regions. In terms of regional integration and cooperation, emerging powers are usually considered the proposers and inaugurators of their establishments as witnessed in the joint effort of Nigeria and South Africa in the establishment of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and the efforts Malaysia geared towards the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN).

According to Baç (2017), the general features of middle power states whether emerging or traditional involve attending to issues which are not of great concern to great powers, and they include the creation and maintenance of world order, creation of international institutions, multilateral foreign policy, great commitment attached to international issues such as nuclear non-proliferation, global economic order, debt relief, banning of land mines.

## **2.2 Hungary's Growing Cultural and Economic Influence**

Hungary is a landlocked Central European country that draws much of its cultural identity from Budapest, which was the second capital of the Austro-Hungarian Empire during the monarchy's reign from 1867 to 1918. The Danube River, which was once called the "Queen of the Danube" divides Hungary into two. Hungary is a member of a good number of international organizations, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), the European Union (EU), the United Nations (UN), and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. A substantial percentage of Hungary's nearly 10 million citizens

mostly speak Hungarian or the Magyar language as the official language. English and German are the two most commonly learnt foreign languages. (US News, 2022).

Hungary was a centrally planned economy until 1990, when it transitioned to a market economy and is considered a high-income country by the World Bank. The country's top trading partners include Germany, the United States of America, and Austria. Hungary's most important economic sectors are the agriculture and food industry, water management, automotive industry, manufacturing of machinery, transport, and electrical equipment. Since the wave of immigration to Europe began to increase in 2015, Hungary has made significant efforts to protect the Schengen borders which has in recent years tensed its relations with certain global leaders of pro-immigration stance. The political climate in Hungary aligns with the growing national based political movements across Europe, but the federalist liberals often term this national-based thinking as populist.

The World Bank has declared Hungary a high-income mixed country with a very high human development index and skilled labour force (Global Tenders, 2022). To track the social, economic, and environmental development of Hungary, the World Bank employed myriad indicators. According to the World Bank Data Report, social indicators such as poverty headcount ratios at \$2.15 a day, total population, population growth, net migration, and Human Capital Index (HCI) showed positive indices indicating either stabilization or an enhancement in Hungary's social development except for life expectancy at birth and education which needs more improvement. The World Bank (2022) defines the poverty headcount ratio as the percentage of the population living below the national poverty lines, the standard a nation thinks is sufficient to attain basic needs. In 2016, the poverty headcount ratio in Hungary was 1.3%; however, in 2019 this percentage decreased to 0.3%. According to Lindenbaum (2020), Hungary was able to attain this through well-calculated, intentional, and innovative procedures. As a significant instance, aside from Hungary adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

Development in 2015, it presented its Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the U.N High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2018 focusing primarily on the people with low incomes in the society. Due to such actions taken, Hungary's poverty level is below the EU average of 17.2% (MTI, 2016).

Life expectancy at birth has significantly improved from 2000 when it was 71 years to 76 years in 2022, which is still below the EU's average life expectancy rate (Eurostat, 2022). Despite this, more work needs to be done in this sector. According to the Hungarian Central Statistical Office, in 2021, 68% of males and 62% of females considered themselves to be in excellent health conditions, however, upon examination of their body mass index (BMI), more than one-third of Hungary's adult population were considered overweight and one-fourth, obese. The leading cause of death in Hungary was cancer, specifically breast and prostate cancer. Healthcare in Hungary is free and universal, meaning the entire population is involved. However, access to quality healthcare is a major problem due to challenges such as outdated healthcare facilities, inadequate healthcare tools, and equipment, a high rate of migration among doctors, and inadequate funds (International Insurance, 2022). Aside from access to adequate healthcare facilities, which primarily determines the life expectancy at the birth rate, lifestyle, diet, and exercise also play critical roles in determining and prolonging life expectancy at birth. Hungary is also noted to have a high alcohol consumption rate, which is a contributing factor to the poor health in the region (Statista, 2022).

Hungary as of 2021 had a population size of 9.7 million with a population growth rate of -0.4%. This declining population growth rate is considered a serious challenge by Hungarian officials, who have consequently put measures in place to provide incentives such as cars, mortgages, and tax bills for prominent families to motivate couples to give birth to more children to fill the gap (Kennedy, 2019). From a different perspective, this can be said to have

influenced the low unemployment rates in the region which as of 2021 is 4.1% as the population is less than the available resources.

The educational system of Hungary is compulsory, free, and accessible to all, irrespective of gender, between the age of 6 and 16 years due to the high levels of commitment attached to equality by the government of Hungary. The main language of instruction in primary and secondary schools in Hungary is Hungarian, even though bilingual education is used in some areas of significant ethnic minorities such as Roma, Serbs, and Croats. Despite the efforts of the government to boost the educational sector of the economy, the sector is faced with a considerable number of challenges including a lack of funding for teachers, brain-drain of Hungarian teachers, and the unwillingness of excellent graduates to enroll in the teaching field (Web Solutions, 2022).

In terms of Gross Domestic Product (GDP), Hungary had an annual GDP growth rate of 7.1% and an inflation rate of 5.1% in 2021. An overall increase in GDP causes inflation which when left uncontrolled could result in hyperinflation. A considerable number of economists have however agreed that about a 1% to 2% increase in inflation annually is permissible and favorable to the country's economy. From 2020 to 2021, the inflation rate of Hungary amounted to 1.8% which is beneficial to its economy (Barnes, 2021). This explains why the economy of Hungary is substantially boosted by trading activities including retail and wholesale. The economic situation of Hungary is favourable for entrepreneurs and investors as its 9% corporate tax rate is 9% which the lowest in the OECD. (EU official website).

The World Health Organisation defines Human Development Index (HDI) as “a summary composite measure of a country's average achievements in three basic aspects of human development: health, knowledge, and standard of living (WHO, 2022). In 2019, Hungary's HDI value was 0.854 and this placed Hungary in a very high human development category,

thus, 40 out of 189 countries and territories. This shows that Hungary's development is geared towards improving the quality of life of its citizens.

### **2.3 Hungary's Relationship with other Multilateral Organizations**

Bennis (2020) states that in practicing their diplomacy, middle power states usually perform international policy tasks through multilateralism. That is to say that they mostly operate and assume international leadership on specific issues by collaborating with other states or through international organizations. They do this due to their individual insufficiency in terms of human and financial resources, as well as the willingness to partner with other states and international organizations that share the same positions and interests. As a middle power state itself, Hungary is no exception to this. Hungary cooperates with myriad countries and international organisations for the realization of specific set goals. This section seeks to discuss Hungary's contribution, relevance, and challenges with regards to their relationship with the UN, WHO (World Health Organization), World Bank, and NATO.

According to the Permanent Mission of Hungary United Nations New York, Hungary as part of its relations with the UN performs political, social, economic, and security functions towards the realization of the aims and objectives of the UN, while promoting the national position of Hungary. In terms of political roles, Hungary seeks to create a more responsive, effective, efficient and credible United Nations and, therefore fully support the reform efforts of Secretary-General Guterres by embracing the initiatives to modernize, simplify and restructure the UN bureaucracy and its main substantive pillars to become more efficient, more relevant and more responsive to evolving challenges and needs, arising from the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Hungary is also responsible for strengthening preventive diplomacy as well as building trust and reconciliation. Preventive diplomacy includes all measures aimed at preventing existing disputes from escalating into conflicts and at preventing conflicts, if they occur, from spreading. Hungary's preventive diplomacy focuses on peace and security, human

rights, and inclusive development (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Union and Cooperation 2022).

Regarding peace and security, Hungary, as a founding member of the ACT (Accountability, Coherence, Transparency) Group, supports the UN Security Council by promoting Security Council action against genocide, crimes against humanity and war crimes. As a particular instance, Hungary has troops and policemen in Lebanon, Western Sahara, Cyprus and Kosovo who efficiently contribute to UN peace operations. Hungary is also relevant in the field of arms control, disarmament, non-proliferation, counterterrorism and fighting violent extremism.

In protecting the human rights of people, Hungary engages in humanitarian programs through the UN human rights council that seek to protect the rights of persons belonging to national, religious (especially Christians) and ethnic minorities usually considered as the vulnerable in the society. Hungary also promotes gender equality and women empowerment by advocating for women's participation in local, national, and global decision-making structures, including electoral processes. Additionally, Hungary through a combined effort with the UN, other states, and international organisations work towards achieving the various SDG targets aimed at eradicating modern slavery, human trafficking, forced labor, in particular when it targets women and children. Hungary also provides humanitarian assistance to the less endowed population. For instance, since 2010 the Government of Hungary has increased its Official Development Assistance (ODA) by 150% and also provided higher education opportunities for foreign students in Hungary under the Stipendium Hungaricum Scholarship Programme.

With regards to sustainable development, Hungary as part of its contributions to the UN is actively working towards the attainment of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Climate Agreement. To this end, Hungary has organized summits including the

Budapest Water Summit series in 2013, 2016 and 2019 to discuss sustainable water resource management (Permanent Mission of Hungary United Nations New York, n.d.).

Aside the UN, Hungary collaborates with the WHO, which is a specialized agency of the UN responsible for global public health on a wide variety of issues. Hungary is a member of the WHO European region and has worked with WHO since the WHO Country Office was established in Budapest in 1991. A considerable number of Hungarian experts are committed to the activities of the WHO in other European countries, particularly in the areas of nutrition, evidence-informed policy-making, health financing, tuberculosis prevention and health system performance assessment. Hungary since 2001 has effectively pioneered the WHO–United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) Protocol on Water and Health. Hungary was also one of the main countries responsible for making primary preparations towards formation of the SDGs in 2015 and by so doing made the achievement of universal health coverage its basic priority (Lazeri, 2018). Amidst all efforts of the Hungarian government to collaborate with the WHO to ensure a global adequate healthcare system, Hungary is challenged by the increasing levels of deaths caused by non-communicable diseases, and unhealthy nutrition. To address this, WHO together with the Hungarian government have laid down measures including the Public Health Product Tax introduced in 2011, the Public Catering Decree, approved in 2014, as well as the ongoing work on the ban of trans-fats in Hungarian foods (WHO, 2018).

Hungary joined the World Bank in 1982 and has since become a development partner of the World Bank contributing to the International Development Association (IDA), the Bank's concessional window (World Bank, n.d.). The IDA is the part of the World Bank that helps the world's poorest countries. It provides zero to no interest loans and grants for programs that boost economic growth, reduce inequalities, and improve people's living conditions (IDA, 2021). The Hungarian government has it as part of its priorities to provide aid to poor and

heavily indebted countries in the world. To do this, Hungary participates in the regular replenishments of the capital and resources of the IDA, and it contributes to IDA's Multilateral Debt Relief Initiative and the IMF-World Bank's Debt Relief under the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) initiative as well (Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Hungary, 2018).

The Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stuart Peach during his visit to Hungary in 2020 commended Hungary for their wide array of contributions towards NATO's collective security and especially for being "one of the largest troop contributors to the KFOR mission and also active in their Resolute Support Mission" (NATO, 2020).

According to Bergmann and Cicarelli (2020), Hungary is characterised as a staunch partner of the NATO since it became a member in 1999. Hungary is again noted for its loyalty and solidarity towards the NATO considering that it always aims to achieve set targets by the NATO. For instance, Hungary is on track to reach the goal of 2 percent defense spending by 2023. A major aim of the NATO is to increase military capabilities as such, any state that shares the same ideology is considered as a true member of the NATO.

#### **2.4 Conclusion**

This chapter discussed Hungary as a middle power as well as Hungary's growing cultural and economic influence. It was concluded that Hungary was a high-income state with an appreciable GDP growth rate and level, inflation rate, employment rate, and poverty rate. It was also identified that Hungary practiced a universal and free healthcare and education system for its citizens; however, it was faced with major challenges such as inadequate funding which made the efforts of the Hungarian government not fully worthwhile. Moreover, the discussions showed that the lifestyle of the Hungarians including a high alcohol consumption also contributed to Hungary's relatively low life expectancy caused by non-communicable diseases such as cancer and obesity. Finally, Hungary's relationship with other multilateral organisations was discussed. In view of that Hungary's contribution, relevance, and challenges

regarding the UN, WHO, World Bank, and NATO were thoroughly discussed. It was realized that Hungary contributed to these organizations through their sub-organizations by providing humanitarian aid to the vulnerable in societies in myriad states in the international system notwithstanding that Hungary also had its numerous challenges that it has to cater for.



## CHAPTER THREE

### ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC INTERACTIONS BETWEEN HUNGARY AND GHANA FROM 1959 TO 2023

#### 3.0 Introduction

This chapter analysed the socio-economic interactions between Hungary and Ghana from 1959 to 2023. Additionally, it highlights the necessity for both nations to take advantage of developing robust relationships with one another to benefit economically through a thematic approach. Considering reviewed literature findings as well as interviews conducted with two academic professionals from University of Ghana, a representative from Hungarian Embassy along with a foreign policy specialist expert have been presented and discussed accordingly.

#### 3.1 Socio-economic relations between Ghana and Hungary

The section looks into every aspect that characterise Ghana and Hungary's relationships, examining the complicated patterns of socioeconomic interactions between the two countries. Ghana and Hungary, as emerging global players, have developed diplomatic ties that go far beyond economic transactions, involving joint ventures in technology, banking, education, and healthcare. This section seeks to uncover the historical course of their relationship, probing the diplomatic complexities that have resulted in a strong economic collaboration. It examines the interplay of socioeconomic elements in order to provide light on the processes influencing Ghana and Hungary's current and future possibilities.

##### 3.1.1 Socio-Economic Collaborations and Bilateral Relations

For a considerable amount of time, Ghana and Hungary have shared diplomatic relations. Over the years, they have renewed their socio-economic ties (Ginelli, 2017). Multiple projects in Ghana benefited from Hungary's investments worth tens of millions of dollars with many reciprocal visits by officials between both countries further strengthening their connection

(GBN, 2016). Being pan-Africanist and socialist along non-aligned lines made Ghana an influential centre for international planning experts while also being contested ground during the Cold War ideological battles (Ginelli, 2022). Various factors drove political-economic relationships between decolonized nations as well as Eastern European socialists. Due to rapid economic transformation within its borders alongside social and political changes taking place simultaneously; Eastern European socialists' financial dealings with Ghana became crucial at that point in history (Ginelli, 2017).

During a discussion with the respondent from the Embassy of Hungary, the respondent highlights the evolving nature of economic collaborations between Hungary and Ghana, emphasizing a significant transformation over the years:

*Throughout the years, Hungary has undergone a significant transformation in its economic collaborations with Ghana as both nations have striven to establish an unwavering bond founded on mutual confidence and collaboration which led to the reopening of embassy of Hungary in Accra in 2016. An enduring affiliation between Hungary and Ghana commenced during the 1960s when technical aid from Hungary began bolstering development initiatives across Ghana's boundaries (Respondent from the Embassy of Hungary, Accra, 8 March 2023). (Respondent from the Embassy of Hungary, 2023)*

This paints a picture of a dynamic and evolving relationship between Hungary and Ghana, transitioning from historical affiliations and technical aid to a present characterized by significant economic transformation and the establishment of a strong, enduring bond. The reopening of the Hungarian embassy serves as a concrete representation of the commitment to deeper collaboration and mutual confidence between the two nations. This aligns with the broader literature on international relations, where countries adapt their economic collaborations to changing geopolitical and economic landscapes (Keohane & Nye, 2001).

Over the years, Hungary has broadened its economic partnership with Ghana to encompass multiple areas like renewable energy, investment, and infrastructure development. Regarding this cooperation agreement signed by both countries' mixed committee in place, tens of millions have been invested into several projects over time (Koney, 2023). With a focus on deepening their ties through various means such as financial and technical support for numerous developments associated with cyber security or innovative revenue generation models; significant progress has occurred that had put a spotlight on housing improvements within Ghana (Budapest Business Journal 2015;GNA 2022) Through reciprocal visits between foreign ministers from each country relations are stronger than ever before which further fuel Hungary's desire towards working alongside Ghanaian officials specialized in matters pertaining to security(GBN 2016).

In addition, the respondent from Hungary's embassy, who looks at recent advances in Ghana-Hungary socioeconomic relationships, highlighting the discovery of new opportunities for partnerships and businesses made a point that:

*In recent times, the relationship between Ghana and Hungary in terms of socio-economic collaborations has been progressively advancing. The two countries have been discovering novel prospects for joint ventures and commerce which have contributed to bolstering their bond. In a bid to enhance ties between them, Hungary has given help to Ghana concerning different areas, notably agricultural production output capacity, educational improvements as well as healthcare advancements among others. Opportunities abound that are yet untapped regarding trade partnerships- these if taken advantage of could be advantageous mutually. Ghana boasts rich natural resources such as cocoa produce capacities along with gold reserves plus timber assets while on the other hand Hungarians claim expertise within various technologies including manufacturing processes. If I may opine -I believe there exists avenues whereby cooperation can take place amongst both nations specifically touching upon said thematic points thereby generating stronger economic foundations allowing long-term benefits for all involved stakeholders (Respondent from the Embassy of Hungary, Accra, 2023).*

This reflects positive developments in Ghana-Hungary relations, highlighting collaboration in various socio-economic sectors, the exploration of untapped opportunities, and the potential for mutually beneficial cooperation with a focus on specific thematic areas.

Hungary and Ghana have a history of bilateral relations that dates to the 1950s (Ginelli, 2017). Following the revitalization of bilateral relations, Hungary has partnered with the Ghanaian government on several projects and invested tens of millions of euros in the country (Ginelli, 2017). In recent years, the two countries have focused on joint economic and technical initiatives (Koney, 2023). In 2022, bilateral trade between Hungary and Ghana reached 16.2 million dollars (Koney, 2023). The sides intend to sign the currently negotiated Investment Protection Agreement and the Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation, which may further strengthen bilateral trade relations (Koney, 2023). Hungary supported Ghana with 418.97 million forints in 2020 and 1.09 billion forints in 2021 through the Hungary Helps Program, which manages nine projects in Ghana directly (Koney, 2023). The two countries have also signed an agreement on cooperation within the framework of the Stipendium Hungaricum (Koney, 2023). The Joint Programming Document for Ghana 2021-27 was adopted on December 16, 2021, and takes the form of the European Union's (EU) Multiannual Indicative Programme for Ghana (EU, 2022). The document has been developed by Team Europe partners, including Hungary, and has been prepared in close consultation with Ghanaian authorities, civil society organizations, local authorities, private sector representatives, the United Nations (UN), and other partners (EU, 2022). The strategic goal of the Joint Programming in Ghana is to support Ghana's economic transformation agenda, boost strategic sustainable investments, decent job creation, and private sector development (EU, 2022). The EU partners jointly commit to support priority areas such as green growth for jobs, smart and sustainable cities, and good governance and security.

The respondent from the Hungarian Embassy describing the collaborative initiative of the Ghanaian-Hungarian Business Council, highlighting its objectives, participants, and contributions to fostering commerce and investment between Hungary and Ghana made a remark stating that:

*A collaborative effort involving Hungary and Ghana is the Ghanaian-Hungarian Business Council, which aims to cultivate commerce and investment between both nations. Boasting participation from commercial leaders of either country, this council facilitates opportunities for cooperation while exchanging knowledge and expertise in their respective fields. By fostering interaction amongst businesses hailing from two distinct regions, it has served as a conduit towards establishing closer business relations whilst ensuring regular trade delegations occur between these countries (Respondent from the Embassy of Hungary, Accra, 8 March 2023).*

This view highlights a strategic collaborative effort, embodied in the Ghanaian-Hungarian Business Council, with the specific aim of cultivating commerce and investment. This aligns with key principles and strategies discussed in the literature on international business and economic diplomacy.

Similarly, the foreign policy expert added that:

*The nation of Hungary has extended its technical expertise to Ghana, specifically in the domains of water management and irrigation. This much-needed support has resulted in a marked increase in agricultural yield while concurrently mitigating issues related to limited access to potable water within the country. Moreover, Hungary's involvement with Ghana extends beyond agriculture-related pursuits; there have been concerted efforts aimed at promoting sustainable economic growth by fostering renewable energy options instead fossil-fuel-based ones which have traditionally dominated this sector (Foreign policy expert, Accra, 10 March 2023).*

His comments depicts Hungary's impactful contribution to Ghana in the domains of water management, irrigation, and sustainable economic growth. The focus on practical outcomes, such as increased agricultural yield and improved water access, underscores the tangible benefits of international collaborations. Additionally, the emphasis on diversification and

renewable energy aligns with broader sustainability goals and reflects a comprehensive approach to fostering economic development.

The role of the Ghanaian administration is indispensable when it comes to endorsing and smoothing economic connections with Hungary. The notion named "Opening to South" from Hungarian representatives, which strives for building up two-sided business bonds with nations in Africa and Middle East before 2023, has contributed largely towards tighter collaboration between these countries (Koney, 2023). To amplify their commercial relations even more so, both sides have initiated a Joint Economic as well Technical Commission along with signing agreements on Investment Protection as Avoidance of Double Taxation (Koney, 2023). Henceforth, the endeavours made by Ghanaians regarding establishing relationships consisting of diplomacy while maintaining them are responsible greatly for promoting alongside facilitating trade links concerning these neighbouring territories.

During a discussion with the first Academic from the University of Ghana emphasizing the critical role of the government in fostering economic relations between Ghana and Hungary, it was conveyed by the interviewee that:

*The role of the government is paramount in promoting and facilitating economic relations between Ghana and Hungary. This entails building conducive conditions for trade, including setting up policies as well as regulatory frameworks that promote investment across borders. An equally crucial aspect is fostering strong associations with influential stakeholders within Hungarian territories via diplomatic avenues along trade missions to pinpoint potential opportunities which can lead to increased cooperation economically between both countries. Furthermore, support services from various governmental organizations such as agencies responsible for advancing trading activities with businesses interested in exploring expansion into Hungary quest to get resources, they need so effortlessly make headway into new markets abroad without stress or hassles. (First Academic from the University of Ghana, Accra, 14 March 2023)*

This highlights the indispensable role of the government in promoting and facilitating economic relations between Ghana and Hungary. This includes creating favorable conditions

for trade, engaging in diplomatic efforts, and providing support services to businesses seeking expansion. His view aligns with established principles in international relations and economic diplomacy, underscoring the multifaceted role of governments in shaping cross-border economic activities (Daniels et al., 2018; Buckley & Casson, 1998; Cavusgil et al., 2014).

The respondent from the Hungarian Embassy who underscored the significant role of Hungary's economic diplomacy in fostering relationships not only with Ghana but also with other nations globally duly acknowledged that:

*The enhancement of relations between Hungary and Ghana, as well as other nations around the globe is largely fuelled by Hungary's economic diplomacy. The aforementioned diplomatic approach operates on a framework that incorporates various economic tools including trade agreements, investment initiatives, and cultural exchanges to foster intimate relationships among countries while simultaneously pursuing strategic foreign policy objectives. (Respondent from the Embassy of Hungary, Accra, 2023).*

His view highlights Hungary's use of economic diplomacy as a powerful means to enhance relations with Ghana and other nations globally. The inclusion of various economic tools in its diplomatic framework demonstrates a multifaceted approach. The pursuit of intimate relationships and the alignment with strategic foreign policy objectives emphasize the depth and purpose of Hungary's economic diplomacy.

The second Academic from the University of Ghana who describes Hungary's efforts to enhance mutual understanding with Ghana through cultural exchanges and soft power initiatives suggested that:

*By means of cultural exchanges and other initiatives that wield soft power, Hungary has endeavoured to enhance mutual comprehension between Ghana and itself. This includes playing the host nation for students and researchers from Ghana in a bid to expand their acquaintance with Hungarian culture as well as society while availing themselves of opportunities to share knowledge plus expertise with relevant counterparts hailing from Hungary. In so doing, such sort of intercultural engagements serves the purpose of constructing international bridges capable at furnishing ground conducive enough for*

*prospective collaborations among nations in question* (**Respondent from the Embassy of Hungary, Accra, 8 March 2023**).

His view summarises Hungary's approach involves leveraging soft power through cultural exchanges and hosting initiatives to enhance mutual comprehension with Ghana. The emphasis on direct interaction, knowledge exchange, and building international bridges aligns with diplomatic strategies aimed at fostering positive and collaborative relations between nations. The analysis connects these efforts to broader concepts in cultural diplomacy, soft power, and intercultural engagement in international relations.

### **3.1.2 Opportunities for Future Collaboration and Economic Growth**

There exists a wealth of potential within the socio-economic ties between Hungary and Ghana, presenting an opportunity for both countries to profit from greater collaboration in the years ahead. The Hungarian administration's "Opening to the South" initiative - which endeavours to cultivate economic relations with African as well as Middle Eastern nations by 2023 - has resulted in increased partnership activity between these two states (Koney, 2023). It is discernible through recent data reflecting improved trade turnovers coupled with support offered by Hungary towards Ghana that prospects are ripe for further cooperation and alliance building moving into future undertakings.

In an interview with an Academic, he highlights the potential for collaboration and economic growth between Ghana and Hungary, specifically in the technology sector. He notes:

*The burgeoning technology sector in Ghana presents a ripe opportunity for collaboration with Hungary's established expertise in IT and innovation. Joint ventures and knowledge exchange could foster economic growth for both nations, tapping into the potential of digital advancements and creating a robust tech ecosystem.* (**First Academic from the University of Ghana, Accra, 14 March 2023**)

The respondent from the Hungarian Embassy also underscored the potential for collaboration between Hungary and Ghana in the field of renewable energy and the green economy. He notes:

*Given Hungary's strength in renewable energy and Ghana's commitment to sustainable development, there is a promising avenue for collaboration in the green economy. Collaborative projects in renewable energy, such as solar and wind power initiatives, could not only contribute to economic growth but also address environmental challenges and promote long-term sustainability (Respondent from the Embassy of Hungary, Accra, 8 March 2023).*

His view suggests that the collaboration between Hungary and Ghana in renewable energy is perceived as a win-win scenario, benefiting both nations economically while actively contributing to environmental sustainability and addressing global challenges.

Adding to the above, another respondent from the Hungarian Embassy

*Exploring agricultural partnerships between Ghana and Hungary holds immense potential for economic growth. Hungary's advanced agricultural practices and technology could enhance productivity in Ghana, while the rich agricultural resources of Ghana could provide Hungary with new markets and investment opportunities, fostering a mutually beneficial collaboration in the agribusiness sector (Respondent from the Embassy of Hungary, Accra, 8 March 2023).*

This view underscores the potential for economic growth through agricultural partnerships between Ghana and Hungary. The focus on technology transfer, leveraging natural resources, and creating mutual benefits aligns with established principles in international business and economic collaboration. The analysis connects these concepts to broader ideas in economic development and international trade, emphasizing the potential for synergistic collaboration between the two nations.

### **3.2 Ghana and Hungary Socioeconomic Relations As A Positive Sum Game**

The section looks into the dynamic and mutually beneficial relationships between these two countries, depicting their relationship as a win-win situation for both parties. This section

delves into the many facets of socioeconomic ties, emphasising joint efforts, shared benefits, and the common quest of success. It tries to explore the methods in which Ghana and Hungary manage their collaboration to generate beneficial outcomes that go beyond mere cooperation to build a synergy encouraging collective growth and development by analysing diplomatic, economic, and cultural exchanges. This section tries to highlight the inherent positivity and potential for continuous collaboration within the framework of Ghana and Hungary's socioeconomic ties through a detailed assessment of numerous elements.

### **3.2.1 Economic Cooperation and Development Initiatives**

The foundation of the relationship between Ghana and Hungary is built upon advantageous partnerships, promising to deepen cooperation for the respective benefit of both states which demonstrates a positive sum game. By investing tens of millions in multiple projects with the Ghanaian government, Hungary has proven itself a reliable partner (GNA, 2022). Ministers on both sides have held discussions regarding expansion across several sectors including ICT manufacturing financial services water management environmental protection pharmaceuticals and trade (HEA, 2022). Both countries are committed to expanding ties throughout various economic domains intended for each other's population advantage (Kyei., 2022), which demonstrates that educational possibilities such as scholarship programs helped assure developmental input from Hungary into Ghana (GBN, 2016). The Hungarian government has given Ghanaian students the opportunity to study at Hungarian universities as part of the Stipendium Hungary Scholarship Program. Between 2017 and 2021, it was 50 students per year then it was increased to 100 per year in 2022. The clear advantages resulting from this union involve education development and combined benefits arising from trading activities, making it a mutually beneficial partnership.

The respondent from the Hungarian Embassy, projecting Hungary's recent efforts to support Ghanaian businesses and industries through various measures put forth that:

*In recent years, Hungary has proffered numerous supportive measures to Ghanaian businesses and industries. The Hungarian Export-Import Bank (EXIM) is one channel through which this support reaches beneficiaries looking for funds to spread their enterprises or finance new initiatives in the economy of Ghana. With such financing available, local companies have received a lifeline that helps them grow exponentially thereby churning out more jobs that escalate economic growth in Ghana as well. Technical assistance by experts from Hungary represents yet another form of help extended by the Central European country towards enhancing productivity and efficiency within various sectors - agriculture being just an example among others like manufacturing etcetera cherished by Ghanaians businessmen who benefit significantly here from. Moreover, SMEs frequently receive generous backing from Budapest since they exemplify key drivers behind job creation and rapid business expansion causing palpable change all over Accra (Respondent from the Embassy of Hungary, Accra, 8 March 2023).*

He emphasised Hungary's varied aid to Ghana's enterprises and sectors, which includes financial help through EXIM, technical expertise, and targeted support for SMEs. The emphasis on economic growth, job creation, and visible transformation shows Hungary's positive impact on Ghana's economic landscape. This analysis relates the presented data to broader themes in international finance, economic growth, and the importance of SMEs in emerging economies.

The respondent from the Hungarian Embassy highlighting on Hungary's engagement in international humanitarian efforts through the Hungary Helps Program, focusing on various projects and initiatives in Ghana since 2019 further pointed that:

*Through the Hungary Helps Program, Hungary's international humanitarian program that aims to provide effective support in crisis areas and areas hit by man-made or natural disasters. It has donated a number projects in Ghana since 2019 which include: Expanding of the Northern Community Eye Hospital in Tamale. The Extension of Newill Academy KG and primary school in Koforidua in 2020-2022. Trainings for the Newill's teachers and building internet and IT infrastructure in the school in partnership with the MASHAW, the Israeli development agency in 2022. Emergency relief for Apiate community when the explosion happened in January 2022. Building Sport facility for the Don Bosco Child Protection Centre in Ashaiman in July 2021, which*

*contributes to the training and social rehabilitation of young people who were forced to flee their homes. In 2021 the Hungary Helps Program provided 1,500 desks for twenty impoverished primary schools to improve educational conditions in Wulugu and Guabuliga. In Binduri, in the northern region of Ghana, the Hungary Helps Programme also supported the training of 1,500 women to develop their entrepreneurial skills so that they could set up their own small businesses. Since 2019 the Hungary Helps Volunteer Program sent volunteers emergency nurse to University for Development Studies (UDS) and Tamale Teaching Hospital, and Agricultural and food engineers to UDS, teachers to Newill Academy and Don Bosco Child Protection Centre. The Hungary helps programme will be providing of the UDS laboratory with vacuum evaporator in Tamale and the Meat Unit with meat processing tools and equipment in Nyankpala. Hungary donated 0.8 million doses Covid-19 vaccines in 2021 and 0.4 million doses in 2022 (Respondent from the Embassy of Hungary, Accra, 8 March 2023).*

The respondent's view reflects Hungary's multifaceted engagement in humanitarian efforts in Ghana through the Hungary Helps Program. The initiatives span various sectors, addressing immediate needs during emergencies, contributing to education and infrastructure development, empowering communities through skills training, and responding to public health challenges such as the COVID-19 pandemic. This highlights Hungary's holistic approach to international humanitarian assistance and its positive impact on diverse aspects of Ghanaian society.

Furthermore, the foreign policy expert commenting on the dual impact of Hungary's financial commitments in Ghana, emphasizing the role they play in fostering economic growth and simultaneously creating opportunities for Hungary's expansion within West Africa also added that:

*While considering the other side, Hungary's financial commitments in Ghana have a crucial role to play in fostering growth and advancement of the Ghanaian economy which could result in newer prospects for local businesses and industries. This will pave way for new job opportunities as well as rising economic output that holds promise towards long-term development of Ghana. Simultaneously, by investing into its expansion plans within West Africa via Ghanaians markets, Hungary can benefit from an access to novel business ventures thereby expanding its market horizons while benefiting diversifying*

*export markets reducing dependency on European traditional ones. This would further emphasize upon building stronger diplomatic ties between these two countries hold significant importance with regards strengthening bilateral relations over time since such investments portray adherence to partner nations' progress thus aiding trust-building efforts (Foreign policy expert, Accra, 10 March 2023).*

This explains the dual impact of Hungary's financial commitments in Ghana, illustrating how these investments contribute to the economic growth of Ghana while providing Hungary with strategic advantages in terms of market diversification and diplomatic relations.

The second Academic from the University of Ghana, indicated that:

*The largest agricultural university in Central Europe, the Hungarian University of Agriculture and Life Sciences (MATE) has research-based partnership with the UoG, CSIR, KNUST, TATU and Cape Coast University. The focus is generally the ErasmusPlus based research exchange programmes as well as soil, seed, feed and food researches. The MATE opened recruitment office in Accra in 2021. The largest university of Hungary, the Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE) has partnership with the UoG since 2022 (Second academic from the University of Ghana, Accra, 14 March 2023).*

This indicates a robust academic and research collaboration between Hungarian and Ghanaian institutions, focusing on agriculture, life sciences, and broader academic domains. The partnerships reflect a commitment to knowledge exchange, capacity building, and addressing critical issues in agriculture and related fields. This analysis aligns with trends in international academic collaboration and research partnerships.

Hungary has been an indispensable ally in Ghana's pursuit of economic development objectives. Multiple projects have seen Hungary working closely with the Ghanaian government, its investment totalling tens of millions into the country (GNA, 2022). The Hungarian Eximbank have given the government of Ghana loans to cover water treatment plants, hospital development projects. The Hungarian government in 2017 offered 100 million dollar tied aid loan for the Ghanaian government. With regard to their relationship reaching

beyond various sectors including manufacturing and pharmaceuticals for citizens' benefit on both sides; security cooperation centred around cyber threats as well housing solutions using local materials utilizing special technology provided by Hungary have other areas where they intend to be involved going forward (GBN, 2016). Furthermore, innovative approaches related to revenue generation models suitable to Ghana's current developmental state were also introduced by them during this period (GBN, 2016). These include scholarship schemes and opportunities aimed at furthering educational progress within Ghana attributed towards such enhancement according to reports (GBN 2016; GNA, 2022). The Pureco Educational Partnership Program (PEPP) supports the Ghanaian primary and secondary schools with Pipe-it-up board games, the education of the young Ghanaian water engineers and experts with trainings and financial sources (GNA, 2022). Therefore, it can be asserted that Hungary's active engagement in various domains, including trade relations and educational support initiatives, has significantly contributed to the government's efforts to achieve economic growth that aligns with the aspirations and expectations of its citizens. This mutually beneficial approach has led to commendable results in fostering overall economic development and improving the well-being of the people.

The first Academic from the University of Ghana stated that:

*Aids provided by Hungary to Ghana's economic development ambitions come in the form of technical support and capacity-enhancing programs. In particular, with a focus on agricultural sector interventions which include equipping farmers with machinery and implements as well as facilitating training excursions for them. Such provisions have proven useful towards bettering Ghana's food security situation while also reducing instances of impoverishment among farming communities across rural regions there; that is not all though - renewable energy has received backing from Hungarian initiatives too! Projects such as solar power plant constructions or wind-turbine farms are just some examples attributable to their involvement aimed at promoting sustainable growth prospects locally whilst simultaneously decreasing reliance levels pinned-on fossil-fuel reserves elsewhere within this country known globally today through its economy-full aspirations being*

*realized increasingly each day itself* (First Academic from the University of Ghana, Accra, 14 March 2023).

This portrays Hungary's aid to Ghana as a multifaceted effort, encompassing support for agriculture, renewable energy, and broader economic development. The emphasis on sustainability, poverty reduction, and global recognition aligns with contemporary development principles and international cooperation for shared economic aspirations.

The second Academic from the University of Ghana expressed that:

*Ghana, a nation in Africa with bustling marketplaces and communities requiring access to services has benefitted from Hungary's generous support towards infrastructure development. To create better opportunities for Ghanaians living within the country by improving roadways, building bridges and leading other critical infrastructure projects funded solely by Hungary have proven invaluable as they foster economic growth through jobs creation while elevating standards of living throughout Ghanaian locales. Since 2015 an important milestone was reached when both nations signed a cooperative agreement which signalled closer relationships between them aimed at fostering trade investment alongside technical assistance all key areas that promote not only Ghana's economy but its sustained progress too* (Second Academic from the University of Ghana, Accra, 14 March 2023).

This depicts Hungary's impactful contribution to Ghana's development through infrastructure projects, emphasizing economic growth, job creation, improved living standards, and the establishment of closer relationships through a cooperative agreement. This aligns with principles of international development cooperation and bilateral relations.

### **3.2.2 Diplomatic and Collaborative Endeavors for Mutual Prosperity**

A partnership has been formed between Hungary and Ghana to deal with issues in their regions' economies. They have agreed to cooperate extensively for the benefit of their respective

citizens, expanding across various sectors. In addition, Hungary is working closely with Ghana on security matters like cyber security while also investing in production units as a way of providing local housing solutions through locally sourced materials (B&FT Online 2023). Innovative models are being introduced by Hungary for revenue generation that could be quite valuable within the context of operations specific to Ghana. Also, since 2021, the Hungarian Agrofeed Ltd. has delivered animal feed premixes for Ghanaian farmers and transfer knowledge and technology to its Ghanaian partners. For years, the Hungarian Bábolna Tetra Ltd. has delivered poultry day-old-chicks (parents' stocks, layers, broilers) to Ghanaian poultry farms. The Joint Economic and Technical Commission is another initiative undertaken by both countries aimed at bolstering economic ties along these lines; furthermore, there's intention on signing agreements safeguarding investments from double taxation which would ultimately reinforce bilateral trade relations even further (B&FT Online 2023). In water and sanitation, the Pureco Ltd. Has a water project partnership with the Zoomlion Ghana Ltd. Since November 2022, the Pureco Africa Ltd. as independent provider started to operate the Puraid drinking water purification system in the Eastern Region. There are other water management projects in progress in Greater Accra Region and in the central part of Ghana. Also, there is an inter-ministerial water management partnership between the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Hungary and the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources of Ghana (GBN, 2016). All things considered, such collaboration efforts made available via this Hungarian-Ghanaian union will prove pivotal towards addressing various regional/global economic challenges currently faced today regarding areas such as: trading ventures or investment opportunities specifically geared toward fortification against potential tax liabilities where applicable among others distinct concerns encountered daily basis alike.

The respondent from the Hungarian Embassy conveyed the foundational elements and the spirit of the partnership between Ghana and Hungary. He made mention of:

*The basis of the partnership between Ghana and Hungary is firmly established in a deep-rooted foundation consisting of reciprocal esteem and reliance. We acknowledge the necessity to tackle regional as well as worldwide economic problems via cooperation, while being resolute in utilizing our individual competencies coupled with available resources towards realizing this objective. Our current concatenated efforts have resulted in discernible headway concerning promoting financial development along with mitigating pivotal difficulties related to infrastructure investments, education advancement, alongside fostering trade relations among others. It would be always an honour for us to maintain this joint undertaking whilst expanding on shared accomplishment we've attained so far without hitches or delays whatsoever (Respondent from the Embassy of Hungary, Accra, 8 March 2023).*

This portrays a partnership between Ghana and Hungary characterized by mutual respect, a shared commitment to addressing economic challenges, utilization of individual strengths, and tangible progress in key areas. The expressed commitment to maintaining and expanding the partnership suggests a positive and collaborative relationship between the two nations.

The foreign policy expert stated that:

*The nations of Hungary and Ghana share a unified objective centred on furthering economic growth while also tackling challenges that impact their respective regions as well as global economies. To attain this mission, these two countries have collaborated congruously in the pursuit of cooperative opportunities with emphasis placed mainly upon trade, investment security matters and energy-related concerns. Given such endeavours are based on mutual strength being utilized by both entities we are confident our collective efforts will yield desired outcomes creating greater prosperity for all involved parties concerned (Foreign policy expert, Accra, 10 March 2023).*

The economic relationship between Hungary and Ghana can further blossom, with promises of mutual growth in trade and investment. Both countries have shared interests across a diverse range of sectors including pharmaceuticals, water management, environmental protection services as well as financial technologies (HEA 2022; Kyei 2022). To date Hungarians have invested substantially sums into several projects with the government under their belt (Dapatem 2022; HEA 2016; GBN, 2016), thanks to Ghana's reputation for stability coupled with remarkable surges in its economy (Dapatem, 2022). It is evident that both countries will persist

in strengthening their connections, built upon their existing ties, with the aim of mutually benefiting from their harmonious cooperation.

### **3.3 Other areas of cooperation between Ghana and Hungary**

#### **3.2.1 Economic Collaboration and Partnership**

Hungary and Ghana are engaged in diplomatic ties that have borne fruit in various fields. The collaboration of both countries spans vast domains such as technology, finance, water management, drug manufacturing among other wide-ranging industries indicative of their fruitful partnership. However unlimited potentials lie untapped awaiting further cooperation from an ever-improving relationship with promising growth prospects offering opportunities to thrive together mutually beneficially. Hungary remains a robust participant within the flourishing bilateral relations investing massive amounts towards several projects alongside the government of Ghana (B&FT Online 2023; HEA 2022; Kyei 2022). Besides previous treaties touching on waste elimination measures or visa-free diplomacy for holders possessing service passports signed by representatives from either side indicate newer horizons foreseeing greater collaborations yet to come to fruition obligingly soon (B&FT Online 2023; Kyei ,222).

Hungary and Ghana have reached an agreement to broaden their cooperation and explore different sectors aside from their trade and investment partnership. These sectors include pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, information, and communication technology (ICT), financial services, water management, and environmental conservation (B&FT Online, 2023; HEA, 2022; Kyei, 2022). The objective of this expansion is to create numerous opportunities for growth and collaboration between these two nations. Furthermore, Hungary has extended educational opportunities and scholarship programs to Ghana, which have been instrumental in the country's development (HEA, 2022). The Central European Knowledge Center for Africa Business Studies (Africa Knowledge Center) established in 2019 has helped build, strengthen and develop the diplomatic, economic and cultural relationships between the Hungary and

Ghana with conferences at the Parliament of Hungary, several online meetings and forums for companies, entrepreneurs, civil organizations, volunteers and representatives of various organizations (Kyei, 2022). This educational initiative has significantly contributed to the enhancement of human capital in Ghana, serving as a cornerstone for a brighter future. Also, the Gamma Irradiation Facility (GIF) of the Ghanaian Biotechnology and Nuclear Agricultural Research Institute (BNARI) built in 1994 was upgraded in 2010 by the Hungarian Isotope Institute which has since provided training and technical support. The Ghana Atomic Energy Commission (GAEC) initiated further partnerships in May 2023 to promote collaboration with the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture in order to exchange professional experience, enhance research and training cooperation with universities, sharing Hungarian experience in the planning process of the nuclear power plant in Ghana, involving a partner for the research and business development of GIF and continuing cooperation with the companies the Hungarian Isotop Institute (B&FT Online, 2023). Moreover, to further bolster the economic ties between Hungary and Ghana, both nations have established a Joint Economic and Technical Commission (B&FT Online, 2023). This commission aims to improve and enhance the already existing economic relationship between the two nations. The partnership intends to promote mutual economic benefits, offering an excellent opportunity for both countries to leverage each other's expertise and resources for their development.

In addition, the two countries are interested in signing agreements on Investment Protection and Avoidance of Double Taxation. The agreements seek to create a better business environment for investors from both nations, promote bilateral trade relations, and reduce the impact of taxation on investments (Koney, 2023). There are projects initiated in the framework of the Go Africa Program in Hungarian – Turkish – Ghanaian partnership that aims to build and develop regional public hospitals and potable water purification plant in Ghana. For years, the Hungarian ANY Security Printing Co. Ltd has delivered security solutions, both products

and technologies to the Ghanaian ministries, authorities, and companies (Koney, 2023). Hungary has a strong fascination with the stability, tranquillity, and speedy advancement in economy manifested by Ghana. Because of this fact, there are very high prospects for growth as well as mutual assistance across different areas between these two nations that indicates great promise for future relations. Through this growing partnership, Hungary and Ghana can expect to reap mutual benefits in various areas such as trade, technology transfer, and knowledge sharing, thus providing advantages for their citizens.

The respondent from the Hungarian Embassy gave a highlight of the complementarity between the economies of Hungary and Ghana, highlighting the mutual benefits derived from their differences indicated that:

*Hungary and Ghana possess economies that complement each other, thereby rendering mutual benefits. Hungary boasts a petite yet exposed economy possessing strong manufacturing prowess coupled with industrious service provision; on the contrary, Ghana harbours' a progressively expanding populace alongside an abundance of natural resources contributing to economic proliferation. In recent years there has been consistent growth in trade relations between these two nations including investments by Hungarian firms unto various industrial sectors such as energy production, agriculture operations among others whilst simultaneously enkindling interest from Ghanaians towards Hungary's dynamic ICT industry along with construction and real estate enterprises (Respondent from the Embassy of Hungary, Accra, 8 March 2023).*

The response of the respondent emphasizes the synergies between Hungary and Ghana's economies, noting their differences as sources of mutual benefit. The ongoing growth in trade relations, Hungarian investments in various sectors, and Ghanaians' interest in specific industries illustrate the dynamic and multifaceted nature of their economic collaboration.

The foreign policy experts also noted that:

*Among the African nations, Ghana stands out as a vigorously burgeoning economy. Its potential for growth knows no bounds and is among the highest on*

*the continent. Hungary holds membership in what is arguably Europe's most powerful union; thus it represents an excellent gateway by which companies hailing from Ghana can break into European markets with ease. Meanwhile, Hungarian firms stand to gain significantly if they establish their operational base within Africa through exploiting opportunities provided chiefly by Ghana who boasts of being a fertile market for trade activities in this world region encompassing magnificent promise at large (Foreign policy expert, Accra, 10 March 2023).*

This response highlights Ghana's robust economic standing in Africa and positions Hungary, through its EU membership, as a strategic gateway for Ghanaian companies into European markets. Simultaneously, it underscores the potential for Hungarian firms to benefit from Ghana's prominence as a fertile market within the African region, emphasizing the mutual advantages that can be gained through their economic collaboration.

The first Academic from the University of Ghana noted that:

*The partnership between Ghana and Hungary in terms of their economy has shown great promise for further development. In recent times, we have witnessed a noticeable surge of collaboration, investment, and bilateral trade across various sectors; hence an indication that both nations share significant potential to expand renewable energy solutions, technology advancements as well as infrastructure growth. To unlock this enormous capacity will require the building of resilient partnerships among government agencies, academic institutions together with businesses from both countries while promoting sustainable economic advancement within the geographical area which requires unwavering commitment on all sides thus necessitating continuous conversation plus cooperation can be achieved overall (First Academic from the University of Ghana, Accra, 14 March 2023).*

The respondent's view paints a positive picture of the economic partnership between Ghana and Hungary, citing recent developments and highlighting shared potential in key sectors. The emphasis on building resilient partnerships and promoting sustainable economic advancement underscores the commitment required for the ongoing success of their collaboration.

The second Academic from the University of Ghana indicating the current economic bond between Hungary and Ghana and highlighting the existing strengths and opportunities for further growth added that:

*Despite the already existing strong economic bond between Hungary and Ghana, there are ample opportunities for further growth and expansion in forthcoming years. Each country has exclusive advantages along with specific areas of expertise that can be exploited to foster progress on critical matters such as innovation, security trade, investment among others. The fundamental key to unlocking this promising potential lies within both nations' willingness to scale-up their partnership by identifying new engagement avenues while deepening collaborations through joint research projects or building programs not forgetting targeted investments in strategic sectors like cyber-security or violent extremism initiatives tailored towards mutual benefit yielding renewed prosperity within the region at large (Second Academic from the University of Ghana, Accra, 14 March 2023).*

The above view underscores the potential for continued growth in the economic bond between Hungary and Ghana, emphasizing the need for proactive measures, collaboration, and strategic investments to unlock and capitalize on the promising opportunities.

### **3.2.2 Future Growth and Opportunities**

The relationship between Ghana and Hungary has experienced momentous development and expansion in recent years, with both nations acknowledging the significance of collaboration and partnership as pivotal to economic progress. The breadth and diversity of the collaborative ventures between these two countries are prodigious, spanning across a wide array of industries such as fabrication, medicinal science, eco-preservation efforts, monetary provisions as well as information technology and communication. These sectors exhibit gargantuan opportunities for progress, expansion, and harmonious engagement, and both countries have manifested their pledge to delve into and broaden their cooperation within these areas.

Through the creation of collaborative commissions, scholarship initiatives, and agreements on investment security and tax avoidance, both nations have built a robust foundation for future collaboration. The dedication to the provision of educational opportunities and scholarship

programs has been exceedingly significant in elevating human capital growth in Ghana and constructing a resilient groundwork for future development. Moreover, the establishment of collaborative initiatives has resulted in the creation of a platform for regular dialogues and cooperation, facilitating the exchange of expertise, commissions, and resources to foster mutual economic benefits.

It is evident that both Ghana and Hungary grasp the importance of collaboration and partnership as instrumental to economic progress and growth. Through ceaseless efforts to explore and amplify their cooperation in numerous sectors, both nations can anticipate mutual advantages and contributions towards each other's growth and development. This blossoming partnership is expected to generate more openings for trade, technology transfer, and the sharing of knowledge, which will benefit the populace of both countries. Consequently, the outlook for Ghana and Hungary's partnership and collaboration across diverse sectors appears auspicious.

### **3.4 Conclusion**

The analysis conducted during this study exposed several areas of collaboration that have been established between these two nations: namely industrial manufacturing, medicinal drugs production, ecological preservation measures implementation financial services administration and data transmitting technological advances integration. Through cooperation in domains both states were able to garner joint benefits including but not limited to know-how exchange activities as well as technology transfer matters besides trade dealings. As an added advantage for human capital development, initiatives launched across said countries scholarship programs alongside the formation of mutual commissions further strengthened relations while augmenting prospects. Furthermore, considering diverse business arrangements initiated within a myriad of sectors, it can be anticipated with some certainty that cooperative ventures

are likely strengthening partnerships, fostering shared growth, facilitating sustainable progress geared towards each other's success. This research proposes firm recommendations relating specifically to promulgating international coordination through alliances, thus promoting sociological economic evolution.



## CHAPTER FOUR

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter provides a summary of the findings of the research, as well as the conclusions, lessons learnt, obstacles faced, and some recommendations for policymakers about international cooperations. The conclusions of the research are based on the interviews that were conducted, and they include some observations and recommendations made from the research.

#### 4.1 Summary of Findings

This study sought to critically assess the socio-economic relations between Ghana and Hungary (1959-2023). In addition, the examine the mutual benefits the relations accrue to both countries and other areas of cooperation between the two states. The summarised and notable findings of the study are shown here. It further addresses the need for both countries to take advantage of the benefits which can accrue from developing stronger relations with each other. These findings are based on interviews with respondents and secondary data retrieved from the existing body of research in alignment with the following objectives set forth at the beginning of the research:

1. To discuss the factors that have shaped socio-economic relations between Ghana and Hungary.
2. To assess the extent to which the Ghana-Hungary socio-economic relations can be characterised as a positive sum game.
3. To identify other areas of cooperation between the two states (1959-2023).

#### **4.1.1 To discuss the factors that have shaped socio-economic relations between Ghana and Hungary**

On the first objective which was to discuss the factors that have shaped socio-economic relations between Ghana and Hungary:

The research found out that Ghana and Hungary have maintained diplomatic relations since the 1950s, with socio-economic ties being renewed over the years through projects and investments, fostering a strong bond between the two nations. It was found out by the research that the evolving economic collaborations between Hungary and Ghana have transitioned from historical affiliations and technical aid to a present characterized by significant economic transformation, as evidenced by the reopening of the Hungarian embassy in Accra in 2016. Furthermore, the research disclosed that Hungary's economic partnership with Ghana has expanded to include various sectors like renewable energy, investment, and infrastructure development, with tens of millions invested in collaborative projects and a focus on deepening ties through financial and technical support for developments in areas such as cybersecurity and innovative revenue generation models.

The study also revealed that Ghana and Hungary have seen positive developments in their relations, with collaborative initiatives such as the Ghanaian-Hungarian Business Council contributing to the cultivation of commerce and investment, fostering closer business relations, and ensuring regular trade delegations between the two countries. Additionally, it was found out by the research that Hungary has extended technical expertise to Ghana in water management and irrigation, resulting in increased agricultural yield and efforts to promote sustainable economic growth through renewable energy initiatives. Moreover, the research uncovered that the Ghanaian government plays a pivotal role in endorsing and smoothing economic connections with Hungary, emphasizing the importance of diplomatic efforts, trade missions, and the establishment of Joint Economic and Technical Commissions.

Furthermore, the research disclosed that Hungary's economic diplomacy, utilizing various economic tools like trade agreements and investment initiatives, significantly contributes to enhancing relations not only with Ghana but also with other nations globally. It was found out by the research that Hungary's efforts to enhance mutual understanding with Ghana involve leveraging soft power through cultural exchanges, hosting initiatives, and intercultural engagements to construct international bridges and create a conducive ground for prospective collaborations. The study also revealed that the "Opening to the South" initiative by the Hungarian administration has resulted in increased partnership activity, improved trade turnovers, and ripe prospects for further cooperation and alliance building between Hungary and Ghana in the years ahead.

**4.2. To assess the extent to which the Ghana-Hungary socio-economic relations can be characterised as a positive sum game.**

Based on the above objective which was to assess the extent to which the Ghana-Hungary socio-economic relations can be characterised as a positive sum game:

The research found out that the relationship between Ghana and Hungary is grounded in advantageous partnerships, showcasing a positive sum game that promises to deepen cooperation across various sectors. Hungary's significant investments in multiple projects with the Ghanaian government demonstrate its reliability as a partner, with discussions spanning ICT, manufacturing, financial services, water management, environmental protection, pharmaceuticals, and trade. The commitment to expanding ties, including educational initiatives like the Stipendium Hungary Scholarship Program, reflects a comprehensive approach aimed at mutual benefit and developmental input from Hungary into Ghana.

Additionally, the research revealed that Hungary's multifaceted support to Ghanaian businesses and industries, including financial assistance through the Hungarian Export-Import Bank (EXIM), technical expertise, and targeted support for SMEs. This multifaceted support

contributes to economic growth, job creation, and visible transformation in Ghana, showcasing Hungary's positive impact on the economic landscape.

Furthermore, the study uncovered that Hungary's active engagement in international humanitarian efforts through the Hungary Helps Program, detailing various projects and initiatives in Ghana since 2019. These initiatives span diverse sectors, addressing immediate needs during emergencies, contributing to education and infrastructure development, and empowering communities through skills training, showcasing Hungary's holistic approach to international humanitarian assistance.

The research also found out that Hungary's financial commitments in Ghana and emphasized the dual impact of these investments. Hungary's financial support is recognized as crucial in fostering Ghana's economic growth and creating opportunities for Hungary's expansion within West Africa. This dual impact is seen as contributing to the long-term development of Ghana and strengthening diplomatic ties between the two nations.

The academic perspectives from the University of Ghana emphasized the robust academic and research collaboration between Hungarian and Ghanaian institutions, particularly in agriculture, life sciences, and broader academic domains. This collaboration reflects a commitment to knowledge exchange, capacity building, and addressing critical issues in agriculture and related fields.

In summary, the research found out the multifaceted nature of the partnership between Ghana and Hungary, encompassing economic collaboration, humanitarian efforts, financial commitments, academic partnerships, and diplomatic endeavours. The findings suggest a positive and mutually beneficial relationship, with both countries actively working towards shared economic and developmental objectives.

#### **4.1.3 Other areas of cooperation between Ghana and Hungary.**

On the third objective which was to identify other areas of cooperation between the two states (1959-2023):

The research findings indicate that Hungary and Ghana have established diplomatic ties resulting in fruitful collaborations across various sectors. The study revealed that the collaboration spans technology, finance, water management, drug manufacturing, and other diverse industries, showcasing a robust and multifaceted partnership. Furthermore, it was found out by the research that there are untapped potentials awaiting further cooperation, offering promising growth prospects and mutually beneficial opportunities for both nations.

The research also found out that Hungary and Ghana have expanded their collaboration beyond trade and investment to include sectors such as pharmaceuticals, manufacturing, information and communication technology (ICT), financial services, water management, and environmental conservation. This expansion aims to create numerous opportunities for growth and collaboration, as uncovered by the research. The study also disclosed that Hungary's educational initiatives and scholarship programs in Ghana have significantly contributed to human capital enhancement, serving as a cornerstone for future development.

Additionally, the research uncovered that Hungary and Ghana have established partnerships in various sectors, including upgrading the Ghanaian Biotechnology and Nuclear Agricultural Research Institute's Gamma Irradiation Facility (GIF) with Hungarian support. The study revealed ongoing collaborations between the Ghana Atomic Energy Commission and the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture, emphasizing research, training, and the exchange of professional experience. Furthermore, it was found out by the research that both nations have established a Joint Economic and Technical Commission to improve their existing economic

relationship, promoting mutual economic benefits and leveraging each other's expertise and resources.

The research also revealed the complementarity between Hungary and Ghana's economies, emphasizing Ghana's prominence in Africa and Hungary's role as a gateway for Ghanaian companies into European markets. The research also uncovered the potential for Hungarian firms to benefit from Ghana's market, indicating mutual advantages through their economic collaboration.

Moreover, the research found out that there is a positive outlook on the economic partnership between Ghana and Hungary, as noted by the academic from the University of Ghana. The study revealed a noticeable surge in collaboration, investment, and bilateral trade across various sectors, pointing to shared potential in renewable energy solutions, technology advancements, and infrastructure growth. The research also emphasized the need for continuous conversation and cooperation for sustained economic advancement.

In conclusion, the research findings underscore the momentous development and expansion of the relationship between Ghana and Hungary, with both nations recognizing collaboration and partnership as pivotal to economic progress. The study reveals extensive opportunities for progress, expansion, and harmonious engagement across diverse industries, shaping an auspicious outlook for their partnership and collaboration in the future.

#### **4.5 Conclusion**

The study through a qualitative case study approach extensively explored the socio-economic relations between Ghana and Hungary. The study examined the complex historical, political, and economic factors that shaped their bilateral relationship. Exposed by the study was the intricate quality of Ghana-Hungary interconnectivity, shedding light on what instigated beneficial returns to both nations because of this alliance.

The study's findings revealed that the relationship between Ghana and Hungary has resulted in mutual benefits for both countries. The joint provision of commodities and amenities, along with the fostering of artistic and instructive interdependence, has resulted in a boost to economic and societal progression within each country. The two countries, Ghana and Hungary, have effectively capitalized on their assets to realize a joint goal of progress and advancement.

The study also identified several areas of cooperation between Ghana and Hungary that have the potential for further growth and development. Amongst several other domains, specific sectors encompassing agriculture, energy production, tourism, and technology merit distinction. The investigation highlighted that through collaborative efforts in these domains, each nation can optimize their capacity for expansion and advancement.

Finally, the research provided evidence of an excellent basis and promising prospects for advancement in the Ghana-Hungary connection. Nonetheless, a significant aspect that was underscored is the necessity for both nations to persist in their cooperation efforts towards confronting any obstacles down the road. To persevere a durable and mutually beneficial association amid concerned entities, it is essential to undertake appropriate measures that facilitate continuous collaboration. The study concluded that Ghana and Hungary can achieve sustainable growth and development for both nations by continuing to leverage their strengths and collaborating in areas of common interest.

#### **4.6 Recommendation**

The study recommends the following:

Collaboration and mutual reinforcement between Ghana and Hungary are crucial factors in effectively addressing any future challenges. To ensure the success and benefits of this partnership in the long run, it is essential for both countries to maintain continuous and open

communication, fostering an ongoing exchange of ideas and insights. These steps will strengthen the foundation of the relationship and promote a productive and sustainable cooperation between Ghana and Hungary.

Secondly, Ghana and Hungary possess numerous areas of cooperation that possess the potential for further progress and expansion. Both entities should scrutinize these prospects, such as trade and investment, to maximize the advantages of their partnership. By identifying other areas of common interest, the two nations can broaden their cooperation and achieve superior economic and social development.

Thirdly, cultural and educational cooperation should be fortified to boost understanding and collaboration between Ghana and Hungary. Both states should continue to stimulate this cooperation by endorsing educational and cultural exchange programs.

Fourthly, private sector participation should be stimulated through lucrative incentives such as tax breaks and investment openings. The private sector can have a substantial impact on economic development between Ghana and Hungary.

Lastly, Ghana and Hungary should strive to fortify their existing partnerships to attain sustainable growth and development for both countries. By constructing fruitful partnerships and continuing to collaborate in areas of mutual interest, Ghana and Hungary can ensure that their partnership remains mutually advantageous for years to come.



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