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Effectiveness of mediation, negotiation, or arbitration on conflict resolution within political party members in Nigeria

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Article Info

Abstract
Conflict resolution within political parties is a critical aspect of maintaining stability and effective governance. In Nigeria, where political tensions can run high, finding effective methods to address disputes among party members is essential. This paper explores the effectiveness of mediation, negotiation, and arbitration as conflict resolution mechanisms within Nigerian political parties. Through a thorough analysis of existing literature and case studies, this study addresses three primary objectives. Firstly, the impact of mediation, negotiation, and arbitration on the overall cohesion and effectiveness of political parties in Nigeria was evaluated. The researcher argued that these conflict resolution methods can help parties address internal disputes in a constructive manner, leading to improved communication, trust, and collaboration among members. However, the success of these methods may vary depending on the willingness of parties to engage in the process and the expertise of the mediator or arbitrator involved. Secondly, factors that may hinder or facilitate the successful implementation of conflict resolution mechanisms within political parties were identified. Challenges such as power struggles, lack of transparency, and resistance to change can impede the effectiveness of mediation, negotiation, or arbitration. On the other hand, factors such as strong leadership, clear communication channels, and a commitment to conflict resolution can facilitate the successful implementation of these mechanisms. Finally, insights and recommendations for improving conflict resolution processes within political parties in Nigeria were provided. In conclusion, the study underscores the importance of effective conflict resolution methods in enhancing the cohesion and effectiveness of political parties in Nigeria. By addressing the identified objectives and implementing the recommended strategies, parties can navigate internal disputes more effectively and promote greater unity and stability within the political landscape.

1. Introduction

Conflict resolution is a process used to manage, determine, or settle disagreements arising among individuals, groups, organisations, and societies. Various approaches and strategies can be employed to achieve a peaceful and mutually agreeable solution. Conflict resolution is crucial for various reasons, impacting individuals, groups, and society as a whole. According to Stephen P. Robbins and Timothy A. Judge, conflict resolution is "the process of ending a conflict through cooperation and problem solving rather than through competition and force." (Robbins & Judge, 2018) [36]. Harvey Deutschendorf defines conflict resolution as "the process of resolving a dispute or a conflict by meeting at least some of each side's needs and addressing their interests." (Deutschendorf, 2020) [11], while Cate Malek describes conflict resolution as "the process of facilitating negotiations between disputing parties to help them find a mutually acceptable solution to their disagreement." (Malek, 2019) [21]

Effective conflict resolution skills help individuals navigate disagreements constructively in personal and professional relationships. This fosters mutual respect, trust, and cooperation, leading to stronger relationships and better collaboration

(Abdulraheem, 2019) [1]. Similarly, at the organisational and societal levels, conflict resolution helps maintain peace and harmony. It allows groups to address disagreements productively, preventing escalation into harmful conflicts that can disrupt productivity, collaboration, and social cohesion. Through conflict resolution, individuals and groups can openly discuss different viewpoints and perspectives. This fosters critical thinking, allows for the exploration of various options, and ultimately leads to well-informed and inclusive decision-making.

When diverse perspectives are valued and heard, it opens up possibilities for innovative solutions and creative problem-solving. Unresolved conflicts can be a significant source of stress and anxiety (Akpabio, 2015) [7]. Effective conflict resolution techniques help individuals manage their emotions effectively, reducing negative emotional states and promoting well-being.

The skills acquired through conflict resolution, such as active listening, empathy, and assertive communication, contribute to developing emotional intelligence, enabling individuals to manage their own and others' emotions effectively. Conflict can be seen as an opportunity for growth and learning. By navigating conflicts constructively, individuals and groups develop valuable problem-solving skills and build resilience in facing future challenges (Ganiyu, 2014) [15]. Conflict resolution fosters adaptability and flexibility, allowing individuals and groups to adjust to changing circumstances, find alternative solutions, and navigate different perspectives effectively. Effective conflict resolution goes beyond finding temporary solutions. It involves addressing the underlying causes of conflict, promoting social justice, and fostering peaceful coexistence within and across communities. By addressing the root causes of conflict and empowering individuals and communities with constructive ways to manage disagreements, conflict resolution contributes to achieving sustainable peace and development.

In conclusion, conflict resolution is not just about resolving immediate disagreements but about fostering healthy relationships, promoting positive social interactions, and building a more peaceful and sustainable future for individuals and societies (Balogun, 2018) [10].

Conflict resolution is crucial in various aspects of life, fostering positive outcomes on individual, interpersonal, and societal levels. Effective conflict resolution promotes understanding, respect, and cooperation. By addressing disagreements constructively, individuals and groups can build stronger bonds and cultivate healthier relationships (Fagbola, 2013) [13]. Navigating conflict requires clear communication, active listening, and creative problem-solving skills. As individuals gain experience in conflict resolution, these skills become transferable, improving communication and problem-solving across diverse situations (Igbaga, 2018) [16]. Diverse perspectives are valuable assets during conflict resolution. Exploring different viewpoints can spark creative solutions and lead to innovative outcomes that might not be possible through individual or homogenous thinking. Unresolved conflicts can be a significant source of stress and negatively impact mental and physical health. By addressing and resolving conflicts effectively, individuals and organisations can create a more positive and stress-free environment, fostering overall well-being (Adeyemo & Adeniyi, 2017) [5]. Conflict resolution skills applied across social, political, and international levels can be instrumental in promoting peace, justice, and

tolerance. By addressing conflicts constructively, Nigeria Political space can move towards a more peaceful and equitable world.

Conflict resolution is not just a way to manage Disagreements; it is a crucial skill that contributes significantly to individual well-being, positive relationships, and a more just and peaceful society.

However, there have been some arguments for and against the concept of conflict resolution based on varying positions from different literatures and texts. Some authors presented their arguments for conflict resolution. According to Otite & Albert, 2019, effective conflict resolution mechanisms help address disagreements constructively, preventing factions and power struggles from dividing the party. This promotes cooperation and fosters greater unity, improving overall functionality and appeal. (Otite & Albert, 1999)

Mediation and negotiation encourage open dialogue and the consideration of different viewpoints. This can lead to more inclusive decision-making, representative of the diverse ideologies and interests within the party. (Wallensteen, 2017) [38].

In terms of enhancement of public image, demonstrating effective conflict management showcases a mature and functional party to members and the public. This builds trust and credibility, potentially attracting more support. (Fisher *et al.*, 2017) [14]. Ignoring or mishandling internal conflict can escalate into public disputes and even violence. Proactive conflict resolution deters escalation, preserving the party's focus and preventing instability on a wider scale. (Kriesberg, 2013) [20]

On the other hand, some argue that actively resolving internal dissent might be seen as a sign of weakness or indecisiveness. Strong leadership, instead of collaboration, could be viewed as more appealing to certain sectors of society. (Druckman & Wagner, 2017) [12]

While, some argue that political parties are fundamentally based on ideologies and core beliefs. Conflict may be necessary to maintain ideological purity and prevent the party from becoming too diluted by accommodating diverse views. (Rose, 2014) [37]. Conflict resolution through mediation and negotiation can be time-consuming and costly. Some parties may lack the resources or willingness to invest in these processes, particularly for smaller-scale internal disputes. (Moore, 2016) [23]. Some researchers believed that conflict resolution, if truly democratic, could challenge existing leadership structures and established hierarchies within the party. Some entrenched figures may resist change to maintain their power. (Druckman & Wagner, 2017) [12]

Mediation, negotiation, and arbitration are all alternative dispute resolution methods that can be used to resolve conflicts outside of the traditional court system. Each method has its own advantages and effectiveness in different situations. Mediation involves a neutral third party, called a mediator, who helps facilitate communication and negotiation between the conflicting parties. The goal of mediation is to help the parties reach a mutually acceptable agreement. Mediation is often effective in resolving conflicts where the parties are willing to communicate and work towards a resolution (Adebayo, 2015) [2]. It can be particularly useful in situations where ongoing relationships need to be preserved, such as in family disputes or workplace conflicts.

Negotiation is a process in which the parties involved in a dispute communicate directly with each other to try to reach

a resolution. Negotiation allows the parties to have more control over the outcome of the conflict, as they are responsible for finding a solution together (Adeniyi, 2017) [3]. Negotiation can be effective in resolving conflicts when both parties are motivated to find a solution and are willing to compromise.

Arbitration involves a neutral third party, called an arbitrator, who listens to both sides of the conflict and makes a decision that is binding on the parties. Arbitration is often used when the parties cannot reach a resolution on their own and need a final decision to be made. Arbitration can be effective in resolving conflicts quickly and efficiently, as it provides a clear and final outcome (Adeyemi, 2020) [4]. Overall, the effectiveness of mediation, negotiation, or arbitration in resolving conflicts depends on the specific circumstances of the conflict and the willingness of the parties to engage in the process. Each method has its own benefits and limitations, and it is important to choose the most appropriate method based on the nature of the conflict and the needs of the parties involved.

Research has shown that ADR mechanisms, including mediation, negotiation, and arbitration, can be effective in resolving conflicts within political parties. A study by Obi *et al.* (2017) found that mediation was successful in resolving conflicts within political parties in Nigeria by facilitating communication, promoting understanding, and helping parties find common ground. Another study by Mohammed *et al.* (2019) highlighted the importance of negotiation in resolving political conflicts in Nigeria and emphasised the need for parties to engage in dialogue and compromise to reach a resolution. The effectiveness of mediation, negotiation, and arbitration on conflict resolution within political party members in Nigeria cannot be overstated. These ADR mechanisms provide structured and neutral platforms for resolving conflicts and can help parties reach mutually agreeable solutions that preserve relationships and promote cooperation.

Political parties in Nigeria are often plagued with internal conflicts that disrupt their operations and hinder their effectiveness in representing the interests of the people. These conflicts can arise due to power struggles, ideological differences, personality clashes, and other factors within the party (Babawale, 2018) [9]. The traditional methods of resolving conflicts within political parties, such as meetings, discussions, and interventions by party leaders, often fall short in providing lasting solutions. The use of alternative dispute resolution methods, such as mediation, negotiation, or arbitration, has been proposed as a more effective way to address internal conflicts within political parties. However, there is limited research on the effectiveness of these methods in resolving conflicts within political party members in Nigeria.

Political parties in Nigeria often experience internal conflicts that disrupt their effectiveness, cohesion, and public image. These unresolved conflicts can lead to factionalism within parties, loss of voter/member confidence, and potentially contribute to political instability on a wider scale. However, current mechanisms for resolving internal conflicts within political parties may be inadequate or ineffective. Moreso, traditional conflict resolution methods within Nigerian political parties tend to focus on adversarial approaches, which can result in win-lose outcomes and further damage relationships. This can hinder democratic processes within the party and limit future cooperation.

Similarly, there is a lack of in-depth research exploring the effectiveness of mediation, negotiation, and arbitration as alternative dispute resolution (ADR) methods within political parties in Nigeria. Understanding their potential and limitations may offer more constructive ways to navigate internal conflicts. More research is needed to understand the interplay between mediation, negotiation, and arbitration practices, and the unique socio-political context of Nigeria. This will identify factors that may encourage or hinder successful implementation of these methods within the political sphere. Therefore, the paper seeks to examine effectiveness of mediation, negotiation, or arbitration on conflict resolution within political party members in Nigeria.

Objective of the Study
The objective of this study is to assess the effectiveness of mediation, negotiation, or arbitration in resolving conflicts within political party members in Nigeria.
Specifically, the study seeks to:
1. Examine the impact of these conflict resolution methods on the overall cohesion and effectiveness of political parties in Nigeria;
2. Identify any factors that may hinder or facilitate the successful implementation of these conflict resolution mechanisms within political parties and
3. Provide insights and recommendations for improving conflict resolution processes within political parties in Nigeria.

Literature review- Concept of Conflict resolution
Conflict resolution is the process of resolving disputes or disagreements between parties in a peaceful and constructive manner. It involves finding a solution that satisfies the needs and interests of all parties involved. Conflict resolution can occur in various settings, such as interpersonal relationships, organisations, communities, or even at the international level. One key aspect of conflict resolution is the ability to manage emotions and communicate effectively with the other parties. This often requires active listening, empathy, and the ability to see the situation from the other party's perspective. By understanding each other's viewpoints and concerns, parties can work together towards a mutually acceptable resolution. According to the International Institute for Conflict Prevention & Resolution (CPR), (2021) [19] successful conflict resolution often involves multiple steps, including:
1. Identifying the underlying issues and interests of all parties involved.
2. Developing and evaluating potential solutions that address the needs and interests of all parties.
3. Negotiating and discussing these solutions in a constructive and respectful manner.
4. Reaching a consensus or agreement that is acceptable to all parties.

Conflict resolution is not about winning or losing, but about finding a solution that benefits everyone involved. It requires compromise, communication, and a willingness to work together towards a common goal (Oladele, 2019) [32]. Overall, conflict resolution is essential for maintaining healthy relationships, fostering cooperation, and preventing further escalation of conflicts. By resolving conflicts peacefully and effectively, parties can build trust, strengthen relationships, and create a more harmonious environment for everyone involved.

Conflict resolution is a key concept in many fields, including psychology, sociology, and organisational behaviour . It refers to the methods and processes used to find a peaceful resolution to conflicts and disputes between individuals, groups, or organisations. Conflict resolution is essential for maintaining healthy relationships, fostering collaboration, and promoting positive outcomes in various settings. There are several different approaches to conflict resolution, including negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and collaborative problem-solving. Negotiation involves the parties involved in the conflict discussing the issues and reaching a mutually acceptable solution through compromise and communication (Olusanya, 2021) [34]. Mediation involves a neutral third party facilitating communication and guiding the parties toward a resolution. Arbitration involves a neutral third party making a decision on the conflict, which is binding for both parties. Collaborative problem-solving involves the parties working together to identify and address the underlying issues causing the conflict (Olowu & Alemika, 2017) [33].

Conflict resolution is crucial for maintaining positive relationships and promoting productive interactions. Research has shown that unresolved conflicts can lead to negative outcomes such as decreased job satisfaction, lower performance, increased stress, and damaged relationships. On the other hand, effective conflict resolution can lead to improved communication, increased trust, enhanced teamwork, and better problem-solving skills. In conclusion, conflict resolution is a vital concept in various fields and is essential for fostering healthy relationships and promoting positive outcomes. By understanding and applying effective conflict resolution strategies, individuals, groups, and organisations can successfully address and resolve conflicts in a constructive and productive manner.

Mediation, Negotiation and Arbitration

Mediating,in a conflict situation, is essential for transformating from conflict to attainment of peace. Mediation may lead to win-win as opposed to win-lose to ensure the achievement of de-escalation and containment of conflict. But the decision of the mediating group may not be binding. Negotiation also may not bring about desired de-escalation if the two combatants do not agree to the terms of the negotiation. An Arbitration Commission may judge a dispute and give an award as its decisions which in most cases are binding, but the problem is for the disputants to agree to the arbitration of the panel to resolve the dispute between them (Manuwa, 2018) [22].

Impact of Mediation, Negotiation, or Arbitration on the Overall Cohesion and Effectiveness of Political Parties in Nigeria

Mediation, negotiation, and arbitration play a crucial role in the overall cohesion and effectiveness of political parties in Nigeria. These processes are essential in resolving conflicts, fostering communication, and ensuring that party members work together harmoniously towards a common goal.
Firstly, mediation can help political parties in Nigeria resolve internal disputes and disagreements in a peaceful and constructive manner. By providing a neutral third party to facilitate discussions and find common ground, mediation can prevent conflicts from escalating and damaging the party's unity (Okonkwo, 2012) [31]. This, in turn, promotes a sense of cohesion among party members and helps them

focus on their shared objectives rather than internal rivalries. Mediation can be a useful tool for facilitating communication and resolving conflicts between different factions within a political party. By bringing all parties to the table and allowing them to express their grievances and concerns, a mediator can help to find common ground and reach a compromise that is acceptable to all parties. This can help to prevent the escalation of conflicts and promote unity within the party (Ogunsanwo and Adelakun, 2019) [28].
Similarly, negotiation is also a valuable tool for political parties in Nigeria to reach consensus on important issues and make joint decisions. Through negotiation, party leaders and members can exchange ideas, compromise on differences, and find solutions that are acceptable to all stakeholders. This collaborative approach fosters a sense of teamwork and solidarity within the party, enhancing its overall effectiveness in pursuing its political agenda. Negotiation can also be an effective way to resolve disputes within a political party. By engaging in open and honest discussions, party members can work together to find solutions to their disagreements and reach agreements that benefit all parties involved (Ojo, 2018) [29]. Negotiation can help to build trust and cooperation among party members, leading to a more cohesive and effective party structure.
Arbitration, on the other hand, can be utilized by political parties in Nigeria to settle disputes that cannot be resolved through mediation or negotiation. By submitting contentious issues to a neutral arbitrator for a binding decision, parties can avoid prolonged conflicts and legal battles that may undermine their cohesion and effectiveness (Ogunkoya, 2020) [26]. Arbitration ensures that disagreements are resolved swiftly and fairly, allowing parties to move forward and focus on their organisational goals. Arbitration can be a final resort for resolving disputes within a political party. When mediation and negotiation have failed to produce a resolution, arbitration can provide a neutral third party to make a binding decision on the matter. This can help to prevent conflicts from dragging on and disrupting the party's operations, and can ensure that decisions are made in a fair and impartial manner.
Overall, the use of mediation, negotiation, and arbitration in political parties in Nigeria can contribute to their overall cohesion and effectiveness by promoting dialogue, fostering collaboration, and resolving conflicts in a peaceful and orderly manner. These processes help parties maintain internal harmony, facilitate decision-making, and enhance their ability to work together towards shared objectives. By embracing these conflict resolution mechanisms, political parties in Nigeria can strengthen their organizational structures, promote unity among their members, and ultimately improve their performance and impact on the political landscape.

Factors that hinder or facilitate the successful implementation of conflict resolution mechanisms within political parties in Nigeria

Conflict resolution within political parties in Nigeria is crucial for the sustenance of democracy and the smooth functioning of the party system. However, there are certain factors that can either hinder or facilitate the successful implementation of conflict resolution mechanisms within these parties.
One of the factors that hinder the successful implementation of conflict resolution mechanisms is the lack of internal party democracy and transparency. In many Nigerian political

parties, power is often concentrated in the hands of a few influential individuals, leading to a lack of accountability and transparency in decision-making processes. This can result in disputes and conflicts within the party, which may not be resolved effectively due to the lack of trust in the party leadership (Okafor, 2017) [30]. Additionally, the lack of institutionalised conflict resolution mechanisms within political parties also hinders the successful resolution of conflicts. Many parties do not have formal procedures or structures in place to address disputes and conflicts among party members. This can lead to conflicts escalating and becoming more difficult to resolve, ultimately damaging the party's cohesion and effectiveness.

On the other hand, there are certain factors that can facilitate the successful implementation of conflict resolution mechanisms within political parties. One of these factors is a commitment to internal party democracy and inclusivity. Parties that prioritise internal democracy and allow for meaningful participation of members in decision-making processes are more likely to have effective conflict resolution mechanisms in place.

Furthermore, the presence of strong and independent party institutions can also facilitate the successful implementation of conflict resolution mechanisms. Political parties that have well-established mechanisms for handling disputes and conflicts, such as internal ombudsman offices or disciplinary committees, are better equipped to address conflicts in a timely and efficient manner.

Several factors can either hinder or facilitate the successful implementation of conflict resolution mechanisms within political parties in Nigeria. Some of these factors include:

1. Leadership: Strong and effective leadership within a political party can facilitate the successful implementation of conflict resolution mechanisms. Leaders who prioritise conflict resolution and invest in building a culture of dialogue and compromise can help parties effectively resolve internal disputes (Ogunloye, 2016) [27].

2. Institutionalisation: Political parties that have well-defined structures and processes for handling conflicts are more likely to successfully implement conflict resolution mechanisms. Institutionalisation of conflict resolution mechanisms ensures that disputes are addressed in a fair and transparent manner (Nnanna, 2018) [24].

3. Communication: Effective communication within a political party is essential for successful conflict resolution. Open and honest communication can help parties address misunderstandings and grievances before they escalate into full-blown conflicts (Nwankwo, 2019) [25].

4. Intra-party democracy: Political parties that prioritise internal democracy and inclusivity are more likely to successfully resolve conflicts. When all party members have a voice in decision-making processes, disputes are less likely to arise (Amadi, 2016) [8].

5. Power dynamics: Power dynamics within political parties can either hinder or facilitate the successful implementation of conflict resolution mechanisms. Parties with centralised leadership structures or dominant factions may struggle to resolve conflicts in a fair and balanced manner (Ajayi, 2017) [6].

6. External support: External support from civil society organisations, international partners, or mediation experts can facilitate the successful implementation of conflict resolution mechanisms. These actors can provide technical assistance, training, and resources to help parties effectively address internal disputes (Igwe, 2019) [17].

7. Political culture: The prevailing political culture in Nigeria can either hinder or facilitate the successful implementation of conflict resolution mechanisms within political parties. A culture of impunity, violence, and winner-takes-all politics can make it difficult for parties to resolve disputes in a peaceful and democratic manner (Ihuoma, 2016) [18].

In conclusion, the successful implementation of conflict resolution mechanisms within political parties in Nigeria depends on a combination of leadership, institutionalisation, communication, intra-party democracy, power dynamics, external support, and political culture. By addressing these factors, parties can build stronger and more resilient organisations that can effectively manage internal conflicts , enhance their democratic credentials, and contribute to the overall stability of Nigeria's political system.

Insights and Recommendations for Improving Conflict Resolution Processes within Political Parties in Nigeria

The following insights were discussed from the point of argument of the researcher:

1. Lack of a clear and transparent conflict resolution mechanism within political parties often leads to prolonged disputes and divisions.
2. Power struggles and competition for resources within parties are common sources of conflicts.
3. Personal egos and ambitions often take precedence over party interests, leading to conflicts.
4. Poor communication and lack of trust among party members exacerbate conflicts.
5. External interference and influence from vested interests can also fuel conflicts within political parties.

The following recommendations were made based on the researcher's argument from the literature reviewed for this paper:

1. Introduce and enforce internal dispute resolution mechanisms: Political parties in Nigeria should establish and enforce robust internal conflict resolution mechanisms to address disputes among party members. This could include setting up a standing committee or tribunal to arbitrate internal conflicts and grievances.

2. Conduct training on conflict resolution: Political parties should organize regular training sessions for party members on conflict resolution techniques and strategies. This would help members better understand how to effectively resolve disputes and prevent conflicts from escalating.

3. Foster open communication: Political parties should encourage open and transparent communication among party members to foster better understanding and collaboration. This could include organizing regular meetings and forums for members to discuss their concerns and resolve conflicts in a constructive manner.

4. Promote inclusivity and diversity: Political parties should strive to create a more inclusive and diverse environment that welcomes different viewpoints and perspectives. By embracing diversity, parties can reduce the risk of internal conflicts arising from grievances related to representation and inclusion.

5. Implement a code of conduct: Political parties should establish a clear code of conduct that outlines acceptable behavior and procedures for resolving conflicts. This could help set clear expectations for party members and provide a

framework for addressing disputes in a fair and transparent manner.

6. Seek external mediation: In cases where internal conflict resolution mechanisms are ineffective, political parties can consider seeking external mediation from neutral parties or organizations. This could help parties navigate complex disputes and reach mutually acceptable resolutions.

Summary

Conflict resolution is a critical aspect of maintaining cohesion and effectiveness within political parties in Nigeria. This study examines the effectiveness of mediation, negotiation, and arbitration in resolving conflicts among party members, with a focus on their impact on party unity and functionality. The research reveals that while these conflict resolution methods can help address intra-party disputes and foster cooperation among members, their success is often hindered by various factors. These include the lack of trust among party members, political rivalries, and the influence of external actors. Additionally, the lack of institutional support and weak enforcement mechanisms within political parties also pose challenges to the successful implementation of these conflict resolution mechanisms.

To improve conflict resolution processes within political parties in Nigeria, it is essential to address these hindrances and create a conducive environment for dialogue and compromise. This can be achieved through the establishment of formal grievance redress mechanisms, the training of party officials in conflict resolution skills, and the promotion of a culture of inclusivity and transparency within party structures. Overall, effective conflict resolution is crucial for the sustainability of political parties in Nigeria. By enhancing the capacity of parties to manage disputes and promote internal cohesion, mediation, negotiation, and arbitration can contribute to the overall stability and effectiveness of the political system.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the effectiveness of mediation, negotiation, and arbitration on conflict resolution within political party members in Nigeria plays a crucial role in maintaining the overall cohesion and effectiveness of political parties. These conflict resolution methods help in addressing issues and concerns within the party, facilitating constructive dialogue, and ultimately promoting unity and cooperation among members.

However, factors such as lack of impartial mediators, power struggles, and resistance to change can hinder the successful implementation of these mechanisms. It is essential for political parties to : establish clear guidelines and procedures for conflict resolution, train party members on effective communication and negotiation skills, and ensure the involvement of neutral third parties to facilitate fair and impartial resolutions. To improve conflict resolution processes within political parties in Nigeria, it is recommended for parties to promote a culture of transparency, accountability, and inclusivity, create platforms for open dialogue and feedback, and invest in capacity building and training programs for party members. By prioritising effective conflict resolution mechanisms, political parties can strengthen their internal cohesion, enhance their decision-making processes, and ultimately contribute to a more stable and functional political landscape in Nigeria.

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