



Analysis of the reality of diplomatic relations the Iraqi and Asian Football Federations from the perspective of the Executive Committee members and the General Assembly

Análisis de la realidad de las relaciones diplomáticas entre las Federaciones de Fútbol de Irak y Asia desde la perspectiva de los miembros del Comité Ejecutivo y la Asamblea General

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Abstract

Objective: To develop and standardize a scale for diplomatic relations, and to understand the current state of diplomatic relations and sports partnerships through the responses of the Executive Committee and General Assembly members of the Iraqi Football Association.

Research methodology: The researchers adopted a descriptive approach using analytical and correlational methods. The research population included all members of the Executive Office and the General Assembly of the Iraqi Football Association for the 2024-2025 sports season, totaling (79) members. A scale consisting of (27) items was used, which is the scale in its final form. Note that the scale in its initial form was (38) items, and after completing the discriminatory validity, it became (30) items, and after the internal validity coefficient, the scale became (27) items.

Results: The Diplomatic Relations Scale showed a mean score of 118.75, significantly exceeding the hypothetical mean of 81 ($t=17.49$, $p=0.00$). This reflects a high level of engagement among the sample in adopting the dimensions of diplomatic relations. The items with the highest priority, according to the relative importance index, were as follows: Hosting international tournaments under the auspices of the Asian and International Federations (RII=0.98), Supporting the Anti-Doping and Drug Control Committee (RII=0.96), Implementing integrity and transparency in administrative and financial matters (RII=0.95), Supporting and promoting the values of justice and human rights in sports competitions (RII=0.95), Institutionally supporting women's football (RII=0.91).

Conclusions: The members of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly of the Iraqi Football Association are strongly committed to achieving effective representation on the committees of the Asian and International Football Federations.

Keywords

Diplomatic relations; Iraqi football federation; Asian football federation; football.

Resumen

Objetivo: Desarrollar y estandarizar una escala para las relaciones diplomáticas y comprender el estado actual de las relaciones diplomáticas y las alianzas deportivas a través de las respuestas de los miembros del Comité Ejecutivo y la Asamblea General de la Asociación Iraquí de Fútbol.

Metodología de investigación: Los investigadores adoptaron un enfoque descriptivo utilizando métodos analíticos y correlacionales. La población de estudio incluyó a todos los miembros de la Oficina Ejecutiva y la Asamblea General de la Asociación Iraquí de Fútbol para la temporada deportiva 2024-2025, con un total de 79 miembros. Se utilizó una escala compuesta por 27 ítems, que es la versión final. Cabe destacar que la escala en su versión inicial constaba de 38 ítems; tras completar la validez discriminante, se redujo a 30 ítems; y después de calcular el coeficiente de validez interna, la escala quedó en 27 ítems.

Resultados: La Escala de Relaciones Diplomáticas mostró una puntuación media de 118,75, significativamente superior a la media hipotética de 81 ($t=17,49$, $p=0,00$). Esto refleja un alto nivel de compromiso de la muestra con las dimensiones de las relaciones diplomáticas. Los temas de mayor prioridad, según el índice de importancia relativa (IIR), fueron los siguientes: Organización de torneos internacionales bajo los auspicios de las Federaciones Asiáticas e Internacionales (IIR=0,98), Apoyo al Comité Antidopaje y de Control de Drogas (IIR=0,96), Implementación de la integridad y la transparencia en asuntos administrativos y financieros (IIR=0,95), Apoyo y promoción de los valores de justicia y derechos humanos en las competiciones deportivas (IIR=0,95), Apoyo institucional al fútbol femenino (IIR=0,91).

Conclusiones: Los miembros del Comité Ejecutivo y de la Asamblea General de la Asociación Iraquí de Fútbol están firmemente comprometidos con lograr una representación efectiva en los comités de las Federaciones Asiáticas e Internacionales de Fútbol.

Palabras clave

Relaciones diplomáticas; federación iraquí de fútbol; federación asiática de fútbol; fútbol.



Introduction

Diplomatic relations are a branch of sports diplomacy, which itself is a major branch of public diplomacy. Public diplomacy utilizes sports as a tool to promote peace, build relationships, and foster cultural exchange between countries, organizations, and international sports institutions. It leverages sporting events to enhance international standing and soft power, aiming to achieve national interests through sports and cultural exchanges, meetings with ambassadors, and diplomatic representation. This fosters strategic relationships, including strengthening international ties with the Asian and International Football Federations, and promoting relations between countries while upholding national goals and aspirations (Zhao, 2022). "Sports diplomacy is a form of soft diplomacy involving informal engagements between non-governmental entities, often with governmental support, to promote understanding between nations. Sports are used as a means to bridge political divides and promote peace" (Vitale & Johnson, 2018). "Sports diplomacy is a form of soft diplomacy that involves informal engagements between non-governmental entities, often with governmental support, to foster understanding between countries. Sports are used as a means to bridge political gaps and promote peace" (Johnson & Vitale, 2018). Emphasizes the role of diplomatic relations in the sports field, particularly football, in fostering international cooperation and contributing to the projection of soft power on the international stage. She highlights the growing importance of sports as a tool of foreign policy, demonstrating its impact on global participation and international influence in the Arab world. She also points to its role in establishing sports partnerships with sports and social organizations, achieving fair competition and justice in sports, and supporting women's sports, all of which enhance opportunities for hosting sporting events and bolstering the national economy (Al-Saeed, 2025).

Diplomacy is one of the modern topics in the field of sports and plays an important role in strengthening relations between all countries, as well as sports, humanitarian and social organizations that have important roles or partnerships with sports federations and the Asian Football Confederation in particular. This contributes to creating an atmosphere of relations characterized by sports and humanitarian cooperation for the files of the sports federation and its external relations, which gives an impression to officials in the Asian and International Football Federations of Iraq's desire to play a geopolitical role by opening channels of dialogue with everyone and improving relations with conflicting countries on the one hand, and using the concept of soft power on the other hand, given the assets that Iraq possesses, including its geographical location, natural resources, infrastructure, support for foreign investments, overcoming difficulties for investment companies, the fan base that follows football, as well as the abundance of sports talents and its clear interest in supporting women's football. The link between sports, diplomacy, and global foreign policy has a significant positive impact on improving relations between countries through diplomatic conduct and effective communication, as well as geopolitical support, as seen in the 2018 Olympic Games. This demonstrated the significant sporting interaction between North and South Korea, despite the political tension and conflict between them. The Olympic stage witnessed considerable interaction between athletes and sports fans, clearly embodying diplomacy within a geopolitical framework and giving the world a clear picture of the true meaning of sports competition and its role in improving political relations between countries. It also showed that sports could act as a catalyst for relations and the initiation of dialogue between nations. (Lee & Krieger, 2024). Diplomatic relations in the sports field between the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries and other nations serve as a model for activating the role of diplomacy in sports. Furthermore, the political forces leverage these relationships to foster social, cultural, and political ties between the GCC countries and the international and Asian football federations, as well as with the policies of other countries. This has led to investment partnerships with both sports and non-sports organizations. A prime example is the Qatari government's successful bid to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Doha. This includes the presentation of the project to FIFA, the proposed mechanisms Doha offered to participating teams, and the provision of transportation and amenities for fans. These services were considered exceptional in terms of quality. This success was preceded by strong diplomatic relations and partnerships with sports federations and governments worldwide. In addition, Qatar maintains significant sporting ties with the Qatari Football Association, the GCC countries, and other nations. These ties have been built through Qatar's hosting of training camps for numerous countries, including Iraq and Yemen, for many years. Qatar has also hosted international tournaments under the auspices of the Asian and International Football Federations, in-



cluding hosting the tournaments and participating teams, supporting humanitarian and social organizations, and adopting a policy of combating terrorism. The policy of combating doping and drugs was adopted, as the Ethics Committee did not record any violations in the players' use of steroids or drugs, in addition to conducting periodic medical examinations for many players after the end of competitions. The Asian Football Confederation's doping and drug control program and its support for the Asian Football Confederation's sports sustainability project, as well as the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and its role in supporting the Roshan Football League and its support for many Saudi sports clubs and its adoption of the new sports professionalism system to attract elite athletes and provide facilities for the transfer of match rights and Arab and foreign media in preparation for hosting the World Cup (2030) by showcasing cultural and religious landmarks and accepting the cultures of others and the extent of the public's openness to receive celebrities of art and sports, in addition to hosting many sports and non-sports festivals under joint sponsorship with the Asian and International Football Federations and its adoption of a policy to support women's football, and for the first time they have the Roshan Professional Women's Football League. Among the studies that address this topic and are related to this research are:

1. The study by (Aboud, 2023). This study aimed to achieve several objectives, including: (demonstrating the impact of sports diplomacy on international cooperation and economic development in the Arabian Gulf region, and providing a clear understanding of the region's cultural and linguistic nature through the organization of sporting events). Its conclusions included (the Arabian Gulf states have benefited from sports, and football in particular, in developing their mutual relations with countries worldwide, especially those in Asia and Europe, and in fostering closer ties and understanding among their peoples, thus changing the global perception of this region).
2. The study by (Al-Alqami, et al., 2024). This study aimed to develop a proposed framework for the responsibilities and functions of a sports attaché in Egypt. The research question was: "What are the responsibilities and functions of the diplomatic sports attaché in Egypt?" The researchers used a descriptive analytical approach. The research sample consisted of 142 individuals, selected purposively from leaders working in the Ministry of Youth and Sports and its affiliated directorates in the sports field, faculty members working in the political field, members of the Egyptian Olympic Committee, board members of some sports clubs, employees of the Youth and Sports Department at the League of Arab States, and faculty members concerned with sports legislation and public relations. The researchers reached a number of conclusions, including that "supervision and participation in the implementation of bilateral agreements and treaties contributes to the continuity of diplomatic relations and sports partnerships." The recommendations included "utilizing the responsibilities and tasks of the diplomatic sports attaché to emphasize the broad and rapidly expanding international value of sports and its events in shaping the future of global sports."
3. Study (Rofe, 2016): The research paper aimed to explore the global dimension of sport as a phenomenon that transcends national borders, emphasizing the need for a global diplomatic framework to analyze the interactions between various actors in sport and diplomacy, including athletes, clubs, national associations, and international governance structures. This approach seeks to highlight the interconnectedness of sport and diplomatic practices in contemporary global affairs. The researcher used an analytical approach to describe the results, which confirm that planning for global diplomacy in the field of sport strengthens bilateral relations with partners and other international organizations, and that diversifying sports partnership across multiple sectors enhances the sustainability of these relationships.

Research Problem

The current reality of the Iraqi Football Association is characterized by limited sporting, administrative, and even diplomatic representation within the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and other continental federations. Furthermore, there is a lack of sporting partnership with the AFC and its affiliated organizations and committees in the Middle East and Europe. This stems from several factors, including:

1. The Iraqi Football Association's failure to host major sporting events under the auspices of the AFC as a form of diplomatic engagement.
2. The Iraqi Football Association's lack of involvement in fostering positive political relations in conflicting countries through the organization of sporting events and conferences.



Therefore, the researcher aims to develop a robust framework for the Iraqi Football Association's future actions, supported by significant government backing. This framework seeks to fulfill the Association's desire to regain its active role within the context of diplomatic relations. The research will assess the extent to which the Executive Committee and the General Assembly agree with this future action plan. This will be achieved through a questionnaire or assessment tool designed to evaluate the quality of the proposed Items, preceded by the approval of experts and specialists in the fields of sports management, sports testing, measurement and statistics, and sports training.

Research question: Which of the proposed Items received the highest results in each of the (Diplomatic Relations) scales and will represent the action plan of the Iraqi Football Association?

Research Objectives

1. To develop and standardize a scale for diplomatic relations.
2. To understand the current state of diplomatic relations and sports partnerships through the responses of the Executive Committee and General Assembly members of the Iraqi Football Association.
3. To provide an analytical description of the responses and opinions of the members of the Executive Office and the General Assembly of the Iraqi Football Association

Research Significance

1. To strengthen the Iraqi Football Association's diplomatic relations with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) to secure a seat on the AFC Executive Committee representing Iraq.
2. To improve political relations between countries experiencing political tensions and to play a geopolitical role by hosting sporting events.

Method

Research Methodology

Choosing the appropriate scientific methodology is a crucial aspect of any research study, as it clarifies the path used to achieve the research objectives and answer the research questions. The researcher employed a descriptive methodology using both analytical and correlational approaches.

Research Population and Sample

Selecting the population and its sample is a necessary procedure, as it represents the research plan and contributes to developing scientific scales, drawing conclusions, and generalizing findings. The research population consists of the members of the Executive Office and the General Assembly of the Iraqi Football Association for the 2024-2025 sports season. The research encompasses the entire research population, meaning that the research sample is the same as the research population, as it represents the core of the topic and comprises (79) members. It should be noted that the two samples (construction and standardization) are identical, with an approximately (30-45) day interval between their administration. This means that after the response of the construction sample, the researchers administered the same scale to the same sample after a period of (30-45) days to extract the standardized scores and their levels; this is called standardization of the scale.

Table 1. Shows the description of the research sample.

| No. | Research Population and Sample | Number | Pilot Study | Sample Excluded | Construction Sample | Standardization Sample | Application Sample |
|-----|--------------------------------|--------|-------------|-----------------|---------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | Executive Board | (13) | 2 | 1 | 50 | 50 | 20 |
| 2 | General Assembly | (66) | 6 | | | | |
| | Total | | | | 79 | | |

Tools and Methods Used in the Research

- Arabic and foreign references.



- Approved university-based scientific electronic resources.
- Personal interview questionnaire.
- Expert and specialist opinion survey questionnaire.
- Diplomatic Relations Scale.
- Field visits and pilot study.
- Two Dell computers for tabulating and statistically processing raw data.
- Nikon camera for documenting personal interviews, the pilot study sample, and the samples used for constructing, standardizing, and applying the scale.

Steps for Constructing the Scale:

1. Defining the Scale's Theoretical Framework: "This procedure involves ensuring that the idea, concept, or characteristic to be studied is based on a theoretical foundation that demonstrates its importance and helps the scale's developer understand the relevant theoretical aspects of the study, defining its axes and definitions" (Ahmed, 2006). This helps the researcher formulate Items in a way that facilitates obtaining information from the sample to achieve the research objectives, reach the most important conclusions that reflect the sample's performance, and arrive at useful and applicable recommendations.
2. Phenomenon Analysis: After defining the concept of the phenomenon to be measured, the process of analyzing the phenomenon begins. This aims to identify the basic components that comprise the phenomenon to be measured, ensuring the analysis is simple and comprehensive. The researcher conducts this analysis based on their readings of the research topic, related studies, and their personal experience in their field of specialization. This involves surveying knowledge sources to create a database of information related to the research topic and consulting experts in the researcher's field. The process culminates in compiling a list of the basic components of the phenomenon to be measured (Alawi & Radwan, 2000). This means the researcher must understand the scale's domains or dimensions, if any, and their relevance to the sample's field of work. This contributes to the sample's understanding of the topic of diplomatic relations and sports partnerships and their ability to answer questions, as clarity of domains and Items is a prerequisite for constructing a measurement.

Defining the Scale Items

After finalizing the items for the Diplomatic Relations scale, the researcher will present them to a group of experts and specialists to obtain the face validity coefficient using the chi-square (Chi-2) formula to assess the quality of fit for each scale item. The number of experts will be (31). Appendix (2)

The researcher began by providing appropriate instructions to the sample before they started answering. These instructions included the necessity for the sample to review and read the scale clearly and thoroughly, emphasizing that the respondent's name should not be included on the scale, and that only their academic degree, educational attainment, length of experience in their field, and whether the respondent represents the executive office or the general assembly should be stated. All information contained in the scale is subject to strict confidentiality and is used solely for scientific research purposes. The scale in its initial form consisted of 38 items. After face validity and discriminatory power testing, the scale became 30 items. When processed for internal consistency, the scale had 30 items, i.e., 30 correlation coefficients. Three items were excluded as they were not statistically significant, resulting in a final scale of 27 items.

Pilot Test

After completing the scale and before presenting it to the research sample, the researcher administered it to eight members of the research population on Sunday, November 23, 2025. This was done to assess the clarity of the scale items, clarify any unclear Items, explain terminology, understand the response instructions, and determine the best alternatives for the Iraqi Football Association's work. The pilot also aimed to identify any difficulties the sample might encounter in completing the scale items and to gain a better understanding of the support team's performance.



Exploratory Test - Applying the scale to the construction sample

After the researcher presents the scale to the pilot sample, it is ready to be administered to the construction sample. This was done on Tuesday, November 25, 2025, to determine the scale's scientific basis, namely its discriminatory power, consistency coefficient, and Cronbach's alpha coefficient. Factor analysis validity can be calculated using Kaiser-Meier's law, provided the value is greater than 0.5. The construction sample will consist of 50 members from the Executive Office and General Assembly of the Iraqi Football Association. The researcher emphasizes the importance of participants carefully reviewing the scale instructions and completing all required information before beginning to answer. Participants are advised to contact the researcher immediately if they have any questions or if any Item is unclear.

Statistical Analysis of Scale Items

This procedure is essential to identify items with discriminatory capabilities and their correlation with the total scale score, and to eliminate non-discriminatory items. The researcher employed the discriminatory power method (extreme groups) after dividing the sample responses into high and low scores, each representing a percentage of no less than 25% and no more than 33%. The researcher also used the internal consistency coefficient, which expresses the correlation between each item's score and the total scale score.

Extreme Groups (Discrimination Power)

This is defined as the ability of an item to differentiate between individuals by determining whether they score high or low on the trait or characteristic measured by the scale.

To determine the discriminatory power of the items after obtaining the responses from the construct sample, the researcher:

1. Calculated the total score for each individual by summing the item scores and extracting the score for each item.
2. The scores were divided into two groups after being ranked in descending order: the upper group, representing the individuals who scored the highest (0.25% to 0.33%) in the construction sample, and the lower group, representing the individuals who scored the lowest (0.25% to 0.33%) in the construction sample.
3. The researcher then divided the responses of the construction sample, after ranking them in descending order, into two groups: one group with scores of 0.26 (equivalent to 13 members in the upper group) and another group with scores of 0.26 (equivalent to 13 members in the lower group). Therefore, the total number of responses in the upper and lower groups was 26. This is illustrated in Appendix 3.

Internal consistency of scale items

This measure assesses the correlation of each item with the total score on the Diplomatic Relations Scale, as detailed in Appendix (4).

Statistical methods

1. Arithmetic mean.
2. Chi-square (Chi-2)
3. Percentage.
4. Weighted arithmetic mean.
5. Relative importance index (RII).
6. Standardized scores (Z-score, t-score)
7. Percentile score.
8. Hypothetical mean = Set of alternative values \leq Number of alternatives \geq Number of items
9. Standard deviation.
10. Skewness coefficient.



11. Independent samples t-test.
12. One simple t-test

Findings

Presentation, analysis of the results

Standardization of the Diplomatic Relations and Sports Partnership Scales

Statistical Description of the Diplomatic Relations and Sports Partnership Scales

The researcher extracted the required statistical coefficients to provide the statistical description of the two scales. These coefficients included the arithmetic means, standard deviations, and skewness coefficient, as well as the highest and lowest scores obtained by the standardization sample, which consisted of (50) members distributed among the members of the Executive Office and the General Assembly of the Iraqi Football Association.

Table 2. Shows the Statistical Description of the Diplomatic Relations and Sports Partnership Scales

| Number of Items | Mean | Median | Standard Deviation | Skewness Coefficient | Highest Score | Lowest Score |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 27 | 113.54 | 114.50 | 9.50 | -0.480 | 131 | 89 |
| 25 | 106.74 | 107.00 | 8.87 | 0.215 | 125 | 89 |

Raw and Standard Scores and Levels for the Diplomatic Relations and Sports Partnership Scale: After the researcher completed the scientific and field procedures for building the two scales, the researcher presented the two scales to the standardization sample of (50) members in order to obtain the raw scores and convert them into standard scores and levels capable of interpreting the responses and orientations of the sample and establishing scientific foundations to contribute to identifying the application sample in the future and indicating its standard levels later. Therefore, this procedure was very important. Thus, the researcher presented the two scales in (electronic and paper) form according to the preference of the sample and their administrative and technical activities in their sports clubs and executive office meetings, as well as general assembly meetings. The automation system of the Iraqi Football Association was used to facilitate the researcher's task and ensure the delivery of the forms to the sample and the receipt of responses, which are subject to complete confidentiality by setting a special password when accessing the sample's responses. The number of items for the Diplomatic Relations scale amounted to (27) items, and the highest score for the scale was (135) and the lowest score was (27), as shown in Appendix (5+6).

Statistical Description of the Diplomatic Relations Scale (Application Sample)

The researcher administered the Diplomatic Relations Scale to a sample of (20) members to gather their responses, assess the quality and value of the Items, determine their relative importance, and prioritize them in order to develop a future action plan.

Table 3. Statistical Description of the Application Sample's Responses to the Diplomatic Relations Scale

| Number of Items | Mean | Median | Standard Deviation | Skewness Coefficient | Highest Score | Lowest Score |
|-----------------|--------|--------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------|
| 27 | 118.75 | 119.50 | 9.65 | -0.245 | 135 | 98 |

Presentation and discussion of the results of the Diplomatic Relations Scale (application sample)

Table 4. Number of frequencies, percentages, arithmetic means, standard deviations, relative importance value, and t-value for one set of items on the Diplomatic Relations Scale

| Item No. | Statistics | Strongly Agree | Agree | Sometimes | Disagree | Strongly Disagree | Mean (\bar{X}) | SD | RII | RII Level | t-value | Sig. | Rank |
|----------|------------|----------------|-------|-----------|----------|-------------------|--------------------|------|------|-----------|---------|------|------|
| 1 | Frequency | 4 | 7 | 7 | 2 | 0 | 3.65 | .930 | 0.73 | | 3.11 | 0.00 | 26 |



| | Percentage | %20 | %35 | %35 | %10 | %0 | | | | Above Average | | | |
|----------------------------|------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|--------|------|-------|---------------|-------|------|-----------|
| 2 | Frequency | 14 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.70 | .470 | 0.98 | High | 16.17 | 0.00 | 1 |
| | Percentage | %70 | %30 | %0 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| 3 | Frequency | 9 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4.35 | 0.67 | 0.87 | High | 9.00 | 0.00 | 17 |
| | Percentage | %45 | %45 | %10 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| 4 | Frequency | 12 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4.40 | 0.82 | 0.88 | High | 7.62 | 0.00 | 15 |
| | Percentage | %60 | %20 | %20 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| 5 | Frequency | 7 | 9 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4.15 | 0.74 | 0.83 | High | 6.90 | 0.00 | 22 |
| | Percentage | %35 | %45 | %20 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| 6 | Frequency | 7 | 11 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4.25 | 0.63 | 0.85 | High | 8.75 | 0.00 | 20 |
| | Percentage | %35 | %55 | %10 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| 7 | Frequency | 2 | 9 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 3.50 | 0.94 | 0.7 | Above Average | 2.36 | 0.02 | 27 |
| | Percentage | %10 | %45 | %35 | %5 | %5 | | | | | | | |
| 8 | Frequency | 11 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.55 | 0.51 | 0.91 | High | 13.58 | 0.00 | 10 |
| | Percentage | %55 | %45 | %0 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| 9 | Frequency | 14 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4.55 | 0.82 | 0.91 | High | 8.39 | 0.00 | 12 |
| | Percentage | %70 | %20 | %5 | %5 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| 10 | Frequency | 11 | 9 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.55 | 0.51 | 0.91 | High | 13.58 | 0.00 | 10 |
| | Percentage | %55 | %45 | %0 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | Frequency |
| 11 | Frequency | 12 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.60 | 0.50 | 0.92 | High | 14.23 | 0.00 | 8 |
| | Percentage | %60 | %40 | %0 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| 12 | Frequency | 7 | 12 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4.30 | 0.57 | 0.86 | High | 10.17 | 0.00 | 19 |
| | Percentage | %35 | %60 | %5 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| 13 | Frequency | 11 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4.50 | 0.60 | 0.9 | High | 11.05 | 0.00 | 13 |
| | Percentage | %55 | %40 | %5 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| 14 | Frequency | 12 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.60 | 0.50 | 0.92 | High | 14.23 | 0.00 | 8 |
| | Percentage | %60 | %40 | %0 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | 8 |
| 15 | Frequency | 11 | 4 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 4.20 | 1.10 | 0.84 | High | 4.85 | 0.00 | 21 |
| | Percentage | %55 | %20 | %20 | %0 | %5 | | | | | | | |
| 16 | Frequency | 7 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 4.05 | 0.94 | 0.81 | High | 4.97 | 0.00 | 25 |
| | Percentage | %35 | %45 | %10 | %0 | %10 | | | | | | | |
| 17 | Frequency | 14 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.70 | 0.47 | 0.94 | High | 16.17 | 0.00 | 6 |
| | Percentage | %70 | %30 | %0 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| 18 | Frequency | 8 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 4.15 | 0.81 | 0.83 | High | 6.32 | 0.00 | 23 |
| | Percentage | %40 | %35 | %25 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| 19 | Frequency | 8 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 4.15 | 0.81 | 0.83 | High | 6.32 | 0.00 | 23 |
| | Percentage | %40 | %35 | %25 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | Frequency |
| 20 | Frequency | 10 | 8 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4.40 | 0.68 | 0.88 | High | 9.20 | 0.00 | 14 |
| | Percentage | %50 | %40 | %10 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| 21 | Frequency | 9 | 9 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 4.35 | 0.67 | 0.87 | High | 9.00 | 0.00 | 17 |
| | Percentage | %45 | %45 | %10 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | Frequency |
| 22 | Frequency | 17 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4.70 | 0.80 | 0.94 | High | 9.48 | 0.00 | 7 |
| | Percentage | %85 | %5 | %5 | %5 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| 23 | Frequency | 15 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.75 | 0.44 | 0.95 | High | 17.61 | 0.00 | 3 |
| | Percentage | %75 | %25 | %0 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| 24 | Frequency | 16 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4.75 | 0.55 | 0.95 | High | 14.22 | 0.00 | 5 |
| | Percentage | %80 | %15 | %5 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| 25 | Frequency | 8 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 4.35 | 0.58 | 0.87 | High | 10.28 | 0.00 | 16 |
| | Percentage | %40 | %55 | %5 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| 26 | Frequency | 15 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.75 | 0.44 | 0.95 | High | 17.61 | 0.00 | 3 |
| | Percentage | %75 | %25 | %0 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | Frequency |
| 27 | Frequency | 16 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4.80 | 0.41 | 0.96 | High | 19.61 | 0.00 | 2 |
| | Percentage | %80 | %20 | %0 | %0 | %0 | | | | | | | |
| Diplomatic relations scale | | | | | | | 118.75 | 9.65 | 23.75 | High | 17.49 | 0.00 | |

Discussion

The hypothetical mean of the scale is 81, and the hypothetical mean of Item 3 is 3. The RII level is 0-0.20 (weak), 0.21-0.40 (acceptable), 0.41-0.60 (moderate), 0.61-0.80 (above average), and 0.81-1 (high).

Item No. 2 (Holding international tournaments under the auspices of the Asian and International Football Federations) has a relative importance index value of 0.98 and is Item number 1. The sample fully recognizes that the participation in managing and organizing international sports tournaments in Iraq is a significant indicator, demonstrating the capacity of the Iraqi Football Association and the government authorities supporting sports to adopt this project. It also reflects the ability of the country's economically viable sports infrastructure to host participants and guests from numerous countries. This demonstrates the institutional cohesion of the sports sector in Iraq and lends it international credibility. Hosting international tournaments tangibly and demonstrably enhances a country's diplomatic standing and strengthens its relationships with officials and decision-makers, whether in national, continental, or international federations. In this respect, the researcher partially agrees with the studies by (Al-



Saeed ,2025: Zhao ,2022) regarding the necessity of leveraging soft power and geopolitical relations to cultivate diplomatic ties and capitalize on them by hosting important international tournaments or matches.

Item No. (27) (Supporting the Anti-Doping and Drug Control Committee at Home and Abroad) has a relative importance index value of (0.96), ranking No. (2).

This Item indicates a strong consensus among the sample and their commitment to combating doping and drugs, considering it a moral and social obligation reflecting their institutional values before being a legal obligation. It also reflects their commitment to the provisions of the UNESCO Convention against Doping in Sport of 2005 and the extent to which member states, including Iraq, are keen to fully adhere to it, as it represents national policy (government and people). It is worth noting that not a single case of doping or drug use has been recorded among players, whether national or foreign, in the local league, or even among players of our national teams representing the country in international competitions, since the start of the Iraqi League and the current Iraqi Stars League. This strengthens Iraq's diplomatic role with officials in continental and international sports affairs.

The genuine commitment of national sports federations to international standards and their effective adherence to anti-doping and anti-narcotics programs in national and international sporting events directly impacts the international image of the sports federation and the country it represents, as well as the fair and legal competition among athletes. The Ethics Committee of the Iraqi Football Association has not recorded any violations related to players using performance-enhancing drugs or narcotics, in addition to conducting regular medical examinations for many players after the conclusion of competitions.

Item No. (23 + 26) (Applying integrity and transparency to administrative, financial, and legal matters within the Iraqi Football Association). (Protecting sports competitions from manipulation of results or administrative corruption). Relative importance index value (0.95). Sequence No. (3 + 3 repeated). The sample is keen to keep pace with the global and governmental trend towards implementing a governance system and supporting transparency and disclosure of funding sources for sports federations and their clubs participating in league competitions. This aligns with the governance standards advocated by FIFA and achieves the principle of financial fair play and accountability in their sports management and financial policies. Disclosing funding sources contributes to strengthening the institutional work of national sports federations and the investment companies that sponsor and support them, thus enhancing the protection of sports competitions and establishing deterrent penalties regarding administrative corruption or match-fixing. All evidence confirms that since the inception of the Iraqi League and the Iraqi Stars Championship, there has been no match-fixing or even a hint of administrative corruption related to sporting results.

The application of governance, transparency, and competition protection standards strengthens the principles of integrity and fosters trust between the members of the national federation's executive office and its subcommittees, on the one hand, and the members of the general assembly representing all competing sports clubs, on the other. Despite this, national federations still face challenges in cooperating with continental and international federations to promote these principles through knowledge and experience transfer, transparency in dealings with all parties, and the provision of training programs for implementing governance standards and demonstrating good faith. (Zhao, 2022). This was indeed demonstrated on Wednesday, March 25, 2026, with the holding of fair, transparent, and widely monitored elections for the Iraqi Football Association's Elections and Appeals Committees. Representatives from the Asian and International Football Federations were present, along with members of the general assembly and all media outlets.

Item No. (24) (Supporting and promoting the values of justice and human rights in local and international sports competitions). Relative importance index value (0.95), sequence No. (5). The researcher points to the federation's keenness and the growing understanding among the sample group regarding the protection of competitions and related matters. This includes the arbitration committees, the disciplinary and appeals committees, and competition-related events. These are subject to the principle of oversight and ensuring fairness for all through the independence of the two committees and support for their decisions. Furthermore, the competitions and referees committees are supported and given full scope and freedom to operate in order to achieve fairness among competitors and solidify integrity,



embodied in protecting sports competitions from manipulation. Transparency International has observed a "significant increase in the phenomenon of match-fixing at the global level" (Transparency International, 2021). Therefore, sports federations with robust internal control mechanisms are best positioned to confront this trend. The research findings reveal that the sample group is fully aware of the seriousness of this issue. However, our research underscores a crucial fact: no instances of match-fixing have been detected in sports competitions, and no complaints have been filed with the (Disciplinary and Ethics) Committee regarding this matter.

Item No. (17) (Supporting the Iraqi Football Association's statutes for the International Governance Standards Initiative). Relative Importance Index value (0.94), Item No. (6). The researcher points to the active role played by the Iraqi Football Association in establishing a partnership with the Spanish Football Federation and La Liga in managing and organizing the Iraqi Stars League. This partnership included conducting development courses for all personnel involved, covering everything from player registration and financial contract Items to the transfer of funds between clubs, players, and coaches, and adherence to registration, release, and transfer deadlines, etc. This demonstrates a commitment to adopting best practices and adhering to the governance standards of the Asian and International Football Federations, as well as complying with the Iraqi government's directives regarding governance and digital transformation to support transparency and oversight.

The researcher agrees with DiMaggio & Powell's theory of the similarity of sports organizations in gradually transferring a particular experience to one another. They summarize the issue in three important terms: coercion (regulatory pressures), imitation (emulating successful models), and standardization (following prevailing professional expectations). Our research results reflect a degree of institutional convergence, as the Iraqi Football Association is moving towards adopting the Asian Football Confederation's governance models under three-dimensional pressures: regulatory pressure from the Asian and international football federations, emulation of successful models such as the Spanish Football Federation, and standardization through sports training, conferences, technical cooperation, governance requirements, and digital transformation. (DiMaggio & Powell, 1983).

Item No. (22) (Supporting the Disciplinary and Appeals Committees to operate independently of internal and external pressures). Relative Importance Index value (0.94). Item No. (7). The researcher means by the term "support" or the independence of its work, free from pressure from members of the Executive Office or the General Assembly, as well as pressure from the sports media. The decisions of the Disciplinary Committee are based on the internal regulations enacted by the Federation and approved by all members (the Executive Office and the General Assembly), and ratified by the Asian and International Football Federations. Its members are specialists in public and sports law, meaning they are experts in their respective fields. Their decisions are subject to numerous discussions and interpretations among its members and are announced through the official channels of the Iraqi Football Association. The Committee has the right to summon relevant parties in complaints submitted by those involved in sports disputes or legal violations related to competitions or financial contracts. Its decisions are subject to appeal before the Appeals Committee, which enjoys the same powers as the Disciplinary Committee. Its decisions are independent, final, and not subject to appeal, and are binding on all, according to the statutes of the Iraqi Football Association. Its members are specialists in public and sports law, particularly in resolving sports disputes related to competitions and financial violations within sports clubs. This reinforces the principle of respecting the law and the statutes, which were established to ensure... A roadmap of action is required, binding on all parties involved in managing football competitions within the Iraqi Football Association. This strengthens the Association's role within the Gulf and continental federations, as well as the Asian and International Football Federations.

The researcher agrees with Pieth's emphasis on the concept of "functional independence" for the Appeals and Disciplinary Committees. This independence is crucial for fostering institutional, legal, and legislative awareness, enabling the understanding and application of legal texts to all parties involved in disputes, free from political, financial, and personal pressures. Pieth submitted a report on institutional reform to FIFA, which aligns with the researcher's assertion that the lack of independence and functional support represents a flaw in the sports governance system practiced by sports institutions. True reform, he argues, lies in the complete independence of these two committees. (Pieth, 2014).

Item No. (11 + 14) (Demonstrating a desire for serious representation on the committees of the Asian Football Confederation). (Holding conferences and meetings at the senior management level of the Iraqi and Asian Football Federations). Relative importance index value (0.92). Item No. (8 + 8 repeated).

In Item No. (11), the researcher emphasizes the sample's awareness and desire for representation on the active committees of the Asian Football Confederation. This awareness represents an important strategic dimension in striving to win membership on these active committees. Some important and ambitious indicators have emerged, including the membership of the Federation President on the Technical Committee. Additionally, two members of the Executive Office obtained membership on the Media and Women's Football Committees of the Asian Football Confederation. This represents an important foundation for creating a solid base of diplomatic relations with partners on the committees emanating from the Asian Football Confederation, paving the way for activating other proposed dimensions and playing an active role in all committees to achieve the desired goals.

The researcher agrees with the findings of Salam Al-Obaidi's study, which demonstrated that weak representation on the Asian Football Confederation's committees hinders sports development and administrative work in sports-related organizations, particularly those involved in football. This underscores a significant understanding of the importance of this sports diplomacy and the need to strengthen it. (Al-Obaidi, 2020).

The researchers disagree with the study of (Al-Alqami, et al., 2024). as the researchers concluded that it is necessary to demonstrate the effectiveness of senior management through the formation of committees for diplomatic relations that take upon themselves the coordination of activating technical and administrative representation in the technical, administrative and arbitration committees in the Asian Football Confederation, while the study of concluded that activating the sports attaché in diplomatic missions is necessary to improve diplomatic relations in the sports field, and the possibility of forming them independently, away from the control of the executive office.

Holding meetings and conferences at the highest leadership or administrative levels within sports institutions is a fundamental methodology in sports diplomacy. This indicates the sample group's understanding of the crucial role played by the Iraqi Football Association's senior management in reaching important sports agreements (technical and administrative) with partners in other sports federations and their affiliated committees, as well as with the Asian Football Confederation. The researcher agrees with Murray, confirming the strong conviction among the research sample that effective institutional engagement within sports federation committees, as well as the Asian and International Football Federations, at the executive committee level and with the federation president, represents a significant awareness that transcends mere formalities or fleeting media appearances. It embodies an important diplomatic dimension, reflecting the institutional weight required for negotiation, forging important partnerships and effective sports agreements, and attempting to shape the international sports decisions needed by the Iraqi Football Association. (Murray, 2018).

Item No. (8) (The Iraqi Football Association's commitment to providing continuous support to women's sports teams). Relative importance index value (0.91), Item No. (10).

The attention given to women's football, the significant support provided, and the continuous follow-up by the Women's Committee and the Executive Office represent a high-level civilized and diplomatic approach, as well as a global trend towards achieving gender equality in sports institutions. This is because it sends important signals to everyone regarding the extent of institutional interest and support for sports teams of all age groups and both genders. This approach forms a fundamental pillar in the FIFA Forward Strategy agenda and the Asian Football Confederation's Women in Sport agenda. Everything mentioned by the researcher represents a fundamental standard for the dimensions of sports diplomacy and good governance, which aligns with the views of that "the effective integration of women's sports teams within the institutional sports system is a high-level civilized and diplomatic indicator" (Giulianotti & Robertson, 2009). The researcher agrees, "The indicators of success National sports federations in international rankings are increasingly including criteria for institutional support of women's teams (Fasting & Sand, 2015). This is what the Iraqi Football Association is keen on and seeks to achieve by urging sports clubs to provide support for women's football in their clubs. The federation should instruct the competitions committee to organize Iraqi women's football league competitions, which will create an important base for the national women's football teams, as well as complying with the Asian



licensing standards for sports clubs in their support of women's football in their clubs as one of the conditions and requirements for obtaining the Asian license.

The sincere commitment of national sports federations, their fundamental engagement at the international level and their actual adherence to anti-doping and anti-drug programs in national and international sporting events directly reflects on the international image of the sports federation and the country it represents, and on fair and legal competition among athletes.

Conclusions

- The members of the Executive Committee and the General Assembly of the Iraqi Football Association are strongly committed to achieving effective representation on the committees of the Asian and International Football Federations.
- The Iraqi Football Association's seriousness in hosting international tournaments under the auspices of the Asian and International Football Federations represents an important strategy for achieving diplomatic presence.
- The Iraqi Football Association's adoption of development, training, and administrative reform programs with the Asian Football Confederation contributes to achieving sports partnership and keeps pace with the elements of Iraqi sports administration.
- The Iraqi Football Association's commitment to combating doping and drugs represents an ethical commitment that supports international confidence.
- The Iraqi Football Association is committed to achieving sporting justice through the application of sports laws and supporting the Disciplinary and Appeals Committees in order to protect sports competitions from manipulation and administrative corruption, which enhances the confidence of international bodies. 6. Implementing the principles of governance and digital transformation, and achieving transparency and integrity in administrative and financial matters, in line with the Iraqi state's strategy and the international directives of the Asian and International Football Federations.
- The research sample demonstrated significant interest, high awareness, and institutional maturity regarding the importance of human rights and achieving fairness in local and international sports competitions.

Recommendations

- Establishing a Sports Diplomacy Committee directly linked to the Executive Office of the Iraqi Football Association.
- Forming follow-up and implementation committees to implement the proposed action plan, under the supervision of the Supreme Committee (Sports Diplomacy).
- Developing a semi-annual plan to host continental and international sports championships and conferences in Iraq, and to enhance soft power.
- Emphasizing the Iraqi Football Association's desire to increase its representation on the working committees of the Asian and International Football Federations.
- Adopting governance and financial and administrative transparency programs, with the assistance of the Federal Board of Supreme Audit and in cooperation with the Asian Football Confederation. 6. Emphasizing the independence of the Disciplinary and Appeals Committees and providing legal and administrative protection for their decisions.

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Appendix

Appendix 1. Identifies the research gap in previous studies related to the research topic:

| Comparison fields | Research Critique |
|--------------------------|---|
| Geographical Environment | The previous studies were conducted in geographical settings different from the Iraqi context. Even Aboud's study focused on the Arab Gulf region, which naturally differs from Iraq in terms of its environment and the surrounding operational conditions. |
| Research Objective | The objectives of all previous studies focused on establishing sports partnerships with local sectors and organizations and creating diplomatic relations with their counterpart organizations abroad. In contrast, the current study focuses on examining diplomatic relations with the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and its affiliated committees, identifying the nature of these relationships, and establishing connections with political and sports diplomatic missions to play an effective role in international affairs through sports. It also seeks to enhance the position of the Iraqi Football Association within both the AFC and FIFA. |
| Research Methodology | Previous studies relied on the descriptive approach using various methods, including analytical and comparative approaches. The current study adopts the descriptive approach using both analytical and correlational methods. |
| Research Population | The research populations in previous studies varied considerably; however, none of them addressed a national football association or its executive board and general assembly members. The current study specifically focuses on these groups and considers them the core of the research. |
| Statistical Methods | None of the previous studies employed the discrimination power index or internal consistency measures when establishing the scientific foundations of scale construction. The current study incorporates these procedures as indicators of validity in scale development. Furthermore, the researcher focuses on using the Relative Importance Index (RII) to assess the importance of the scale items and to determine the relationship between the two scales. Factorial validity may also be examined after determining the value of the Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin (KMO) measure. |
| Research Variables | Previous studies did not address the variable of diplomatic relations within the field of sports, particularly in relation to football and the Asian Football Confederation. The current study specifically incorporates this variable and considers it the central focus of the research. |

Appendix 2. Shows the chi-square (chi-2) value, which indicates the face validity of expert and specialist responses to the Diplomatic Relations Scale.

| Item No. | Agree | Disagree | Chi-Square (chi-2) Value | Significance Value (p) | Significance Level |
|----------|-------|----------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------------------|
| 1 | 30 | 1 | 27.12 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 2 | 27 | 4 | 17.06 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 3 | 26 | 5 | 14.22 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 4 | 27 | 4 | 17.06 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 5 | 26 | 5 | 14.22 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 6 | 30 | 1 | 27.12 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 7 | 26 | 5 | 14.22 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 8 | 22 | 9 | 5.45 | 0.020 | Accepted |
| 9 | 29 | 2 | 23.51 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 10 | 26 | 5 | 14.22 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 11 | 26 | 5 | 14.22 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 12 | 29 | 2 | 23.51 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 13 | 30 | 1 | 27.12 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 14 | 28 | 3 | 20.16 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 15 | 27 | 4 | 17.06 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 16 | 30 | 1 | 27.12 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 17 | 29 | 2 | 23.51 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 18 | 28 | 3 | 20.16 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 19 | 28 | 3 | 20.16 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 20 | 25 | 6 | 11.64 | 0.001 | Accepted |
| 21 | 26 | 5 | 14.22 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 22 | 29 | 2 | 23.51 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 23 | 25 | 6 | 11.64 | 0.001 | Accepted |
| 24 | 31 | 0 | 31.00 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 25 | 26 | 5 | 14.22 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 26 | 28 | 3 | 20.16 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 27 | 31 | 0 | 31.00 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 28 | 30 | 1 | 27.12 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 29 | 28 | 3 | 20.16 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 30 | 28 | 3 | 20.16 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 31 | 29 | 2 | 23.51 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 32 | 30 | 1 | 27.12 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 33 | 28 | 3 | 20.16 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 34 | 29 | 2 | 23.51 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 35 | 28 | 3 | 20.16 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 36 | 29 | 2 | 23.51 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 37 | 26 | 5 | 14.22 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 38 | 30 | 1 | 27.12 | 0.000 | Accepted |

(Significant at a significance level of ≥ 0.05)



Appendix 3. Show the discriminatory power of the Diplomatic Relations Scale

| Item No. | Upper Group | | Lower Group | | t-value | Sig. | Significance |
|----------|-------------|-------|-------------|-------|---------|-------|--------------|
| | Mean | SD | Mean | SD | | | |
| 1 | 3.77 | 0.725 | 2.31 | 0.855 | 4.701 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 2 | 1.77 | 1.235 | 1.38 | 0.506 | 1.039 | 0.309 | Rejected |
| 3 | 3.54 | 0.776 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 4.924 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 4 | 3.77 | 0.725 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 5.842 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 5 | 3.31 | 1.251 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 3.157 | 0.004 | Accepted |
| 6 | 1.77 | 1.235 | 1.38 | 0.506 | 1.039 | 0.309 | Rejected |
| 7 | 3.08 | 1.320 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 2.501 | 0.020 | Accepted |
| 8 | 3.54 | 1.050 | 1.85 | 0.801 | 4.621 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 9 | 3.31 | 1.316 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 3.045 | 0.006 | Accepted |
| 10 | 3.62 | 0.870 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 4.882 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 11 | 3.69 | 0.751 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 5.500 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 12 | 3.54 | 1.050 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 4.170 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 13 | 3.62 | 0.870 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 4.882 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 14 | 3.77 | 0.725 | 2.08 | 0.862 | 5.416 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 15 | 3.69 | 0.855 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 5.162 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 16 | 1.15 | 0.555 | 1.31 | 0.480 | 0.756 | 0.457 | Rejected |
| 17 | 3.54 | 0.877 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 4.629 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 18 | 3.46 | 0.519 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 5.447 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 19 | 3.23 | 0.927 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 3.593 | 0.001 | Accepted |
| 20 | 1.15 | 0.555 | 1.31 | 0.480 | 0.756 | 0.457 | Rejected |
| 21 | 3.54 | 0.660 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 5.283 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 22 | 3.46 | 0.967 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 4.163 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 23 | 3.38 | 0.870 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 4.185 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 24 | 3.62 | 0.650 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 5.579 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 25 | 3.23 | 1.166 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 3.118 | 0.005 | Accepted |
| 26 | 3.38 | 1.121 | 1.92 | 0.862 | 3.726 | 0.001 | Accepted |
| 27 | 3.38 | 1.121 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 3.600 | 0.001 | Accepted |
| 28 | 3.62 | 0.768 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 5.196 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 29 | 3.31 | 1.032 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 3.584 | 0.001 | Accepted |
| 30 | 1.15 | 0.555 | 1.31 | 0.480 | 0.756 | 0.457 | Rejected |
| 31 | 3.23 | 0.927 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 3.593 | 0.001 | Accepted |
| 32 | 3.54 | 0.660 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 5.283 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 33 | 3.77 | 0.725 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 5.842 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 34 | 3.85 | 0.689 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 6.231 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 35 | 3.92 | 0.760 | 2.00 | 0.816 | 6.218 | 0.000 | Accepted |
| 36 | 2.62 | 1.446 | 3.38 | 1.660 | 1.260 | 0.220 | Rejected |
| 37 | 4.38 | 1.121 | 3.69 | 1.316 | 1.444 | 0.162 | Rejected |
| 38 | 4.23 | 0.725 | 4.31 | 0.630 | 0.289 | 0.775 | Rejected |

(Significant at a significance level of ≤ 0.05). Degrees of freedom (26-2) = 24

Appendix 4. Show the internal consistency of the Diplomatic Relations Scale

| Item No. | Correlation Coefficient | Sig. | Item No. | Correlation Coefficient | Sig. |
|----------|-------------------------|-------|----------|-------------------------|-------|
| 1 | 0.137 | 0.344 | 2 | 0.883 | 0.000 |
| 3 | 0.927 | 0.000 | 4 | 0.823 | 0.000 |
| 5 | 0.717 | 0.000 | 6 | 0.845 | 0.000 |
| 7 | 0.824 | 0.000 | 8 | 0.870 | 0.000 |
| 9 | 0.870 | 0.000 | 10 | 0.870 | 0.000 |
| 11 | 0.871 | 0.000 | 12 | 0.882 | 0.000 |
| 13 | 0.896 | 0.000 | 14 | 0.877 | 0.000 |
| 15 | 0.831 | 0.000 | 16 | 0.038 | 0.791 |
| 17 | 0.063 | 0.663 | 18 | 0.803 | 0.000 |
| 19 | 0.804 | 0.000 | 20 | 0.836 | 0.000 |
| 21 | 0.776 | 0.000 | 22 | 0.840 | 0.000 |
| 23 | 0.818 | 0.000 | 24 | 0.883 | 0.000 |
| 25 | 0.774 | 0.000 | 26 | 0.776 | 0.000 |
| 27 | 0.873 | 0.000 | 28 | 0.880 | 0.000 |
| 29 | 0.901 | 0.000 | 30 | 0.865 | 0.000 |

(Significant at a significance level of ≤ 0.05).

Appendix 5. Shows the raw and standardized scores for the standardization sample of the Diplomatic Relations Scale.

| Standard Score | Raw Score | Standard Score | Raw Score | Standard Score | Raw Score | Standard Score | Raw Score |
|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|----------------|-----------|
| 100 | 134.54 | 73 | 123.20 | 46 | 111.86 | 23 | 100.52 |
| 99 | 134.12 | 72 | 122.78 | 45 | 111.44 | 22 | 100.10 |
| 98 | 133.70 | 71 | 122.36 | 44 | 111.02 | 21 | 99.68 |
| 97 | 133.28 | 70 | 121.94 | 43 | 110.60 | 20 | 99.26 |
| 96 | 132.86 | 69 | 121.52 | 42 | 110.18 | 19 | 98.84 |
| 95 | 132.44 | 68 | 121.10 | 41 | 109.76 | 18 | 98.42 |
| 94 | 132.02 | 67 | 120.68 | 40 | 109.34 | 17 | 98.00 |
| 93 | 131.60 | 66 | 120.26 | 39 | 108.92 | 16 | 97.58 |
| 92 | 131.18 | 65 | 119.84 | 38 | 108.50 | 15 | 97.16 |



| | | | | | | | |
|----|--------|----|--------|----|--------|----|-------|
| 91 | 130.76 | 64 | 119.42 | 37 | 108.08 | 14 | 96.74 |
| 90 | 130.34 | 63 | 119.00 | 36 | 107.66 | 13 | 96.32 |
| 89 | 129.92 | 62 | 118.58 | 35 | 107.24 | 12 | 95.90 |
| 88 | 129.50 | 61 | 118.16 | 34 | 106.82 | 11 | 95.48 |
| 87 | 129.08 | 60 | 117.74 | 33 | 106.40 | 10 | 95.06 |
| 86 | 128.66 | 59 | 117.32 | 32 | 105.98 | 9 | 94.64 |
| 85 | 128.24 | 58 | 116.90 | 31 | 105.56 | 8 | 94.22 |
| 84 | 127.82 | 57 | 116.48 | 30 | 105.14 | 7 | 93.80 |
| 83 | 127.40 | 56 | 116.06 | 29 | 104.72 | 6 | 93.38 |
| 82 | 126.98 | 55 | 115.64 | 28 | 104.30 | 5 | 92.96 |
| 81 | 126.56 | 54 | 115.22 | 27 | 103.88 | 4 | 92.54 |
| 80 | 126.14 | 53 | 114.80 | 26 | 103.46 | 3 | 92.12 |
| 79 | 125.72 | 52 | 114.38 | 25 | 103.04 | 2 | 91.70 |
| 78 | 125.30 | 51 | 113.96 | 24 | 102.62 | 1 | 91.28 |
| 77 | 124.88 | 50 | 113.54 | 23 | 102.20 | 0 | 90.86 |
| 76 | 124.46 | 49 | 113.12 | 22 | 101.78 | — | — |
| 75 | 124.04 | 48 | 112.70 | 21 | 101.36 | — | — |
| 74 | 123.62 | 47 | 112.28 | 20 | 100.94 | — | — |

Appendix (6) shows the standard levels of the Diplomatic Relations Scale

| Raw Score Range | 27-45 | 46-64 | 65-83 | 84-102 | 103-121 | 122 and Above |
|-----------------|----------|-------|---------------|---------------|---------|---------------|
| Normative Level | Very Low | Low | Below Average | Above Average | High | Very High |

Figure 1. Shows the relative importance (RII) value for (10) Items in the Diplomatic Relations scale

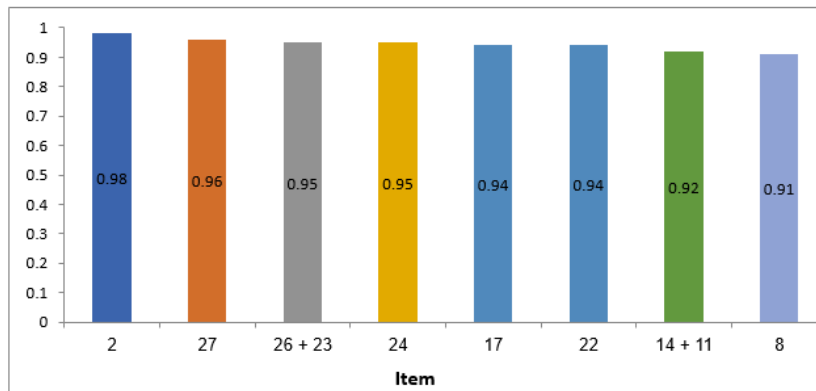


Figure 2. Shows the arithmetic and hypothetical mean of the diplomatic relations scale

