Title of Article: International Competitiveness and Growth of the Nigerian Economy: A Structural VAR-Based Perspective

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Abstract: The empirical relationship between international competitiveness of the Nigerian economy and its consequences on economic growth dynamics was investigated in this study. To achieve this, the paper examined how competitive the Nigerian economy is in the face of international volatility. It also analyzed the extent to which uncertainties and volatility of the global economic environment impact the growth of the Nigerian economy. The structural vector autoregressive modeling framework was employed to answer the key research questions raised in the study. Using export performance and real effective exchange rate as proxies for international competitiveness of the Nigerian economy the study found that growth of real output contemporaneously responds positively to a positive shock to real effective exchange rate but responded in the opposite direction to a positive shock to export performance. The structural/orthogonalized impulse response analysis and the forecast error variance decomposition results were largely consistent with the short-run SVAR results. These results cast doubt on whether the Nigerian economy is internationally competitive.