Session 3: National Security Strategy Implementation: Exploring Processes

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NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY:
Definition, Objectives and Development

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SUMMARY

- INTRODUCTION

- DEFINING A STRATEGY

- OBJECTIVES OF A STRATEGY

- DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGY

- CONCLUSION

INTRODUCTION

▶ The government is **still and always** responsible for security matters

▶ **The roles, the missions and the allocation of resources** to traditional security agencies **must be reevaluated** on behalf of **Human Security**

▶ **Proper management** of security is a critical issue

▶ **State-sponsored violence,** if **not well-managed and monitored, may become a force in itself**

▶ Of course, **governments** must be **adequately protected against external aggression and internal subversion**

▶ However, the **lives** of ordinary people **must not be stifled by government repression**, violent conflict or rampant crime

▶ Each country must ask itself **if it needs security agencies, and if so, what type of security agencies are needed to accomplish which missions with what level of resources, and how they will be managed**

DEFINING A STRATEGY

- **A calculated relationship between ends, means and resources**

- A rational approach used by a country to **mobilize all its goods and resources to protect its interests**

- **Reconsideration of the usefulness** of a national security strategy in African countries

- A strategy is **much more useful in weak and threatened countries** than in wealthy and secure countries

- **A planning tool** that offers countries the ability to shape their own future

- **A solid framework for allocating scarce resources**

- **National security is much more than just military security.**

OBJECTIVES OF A STRATEGY

▶ Strategy refers to a **plan (approach)** to provide **scarce resources (means)** to achieve **the nation's goals (objectives)**

▶ **Without a strategic framework that defines priorities, it is difficult to evaluate proposed measures to ensure the nation's security and prosperity**

▶ Strategy **addresses three objectives:**

  ▶ **Connects** *objectives*, **policy goals** (interests and objectives), **to the** *limited resources* **available**

  ▶ **Assists in clarifying** policy objectives **by helping set priorities in light of limited resources**

  ▶ **Conceptualizes resources** as means to achieve **a policy**

▶ *Resources* are not *means* unless the strategy includes some reflection on the way in which they will be organized and utilized.

DEVELOPMENT OF A STRATEGY

▶ **The development and implementation of a strategy is a dynamic process**

▶ The suggested model (US) is **not the only one and may not be the best**

▶ However, it **may provide a basis** on which to examine a logical process

▶ The steps in the model are:

  ▶ The country has a **vision** of the future

  ▶ This vision lets the country **identify its interests**

  ▶ **Prioritize** its interests

  ▶ **Simultaneously evaluate the threats** or obstacles to these interests

  ▶ **Determine** specific measures or **instruments of power**

  ▶ **Periodically revisit, reevaluate and readjust** the plan.

CONCLUSION

- **Strategy takes economic, political, social, environmental, and legal dimensions into account**

- **The frame of reference** comes from **committed political will**

- It stems from a **process** that must lead to a wide-ranging and inclusive **discussion**

- **It includes an evaluation of the context**, since that context is global and changes quickly, as well as an evaluation of threats to the country and the country's interests and opportunities

- **Ensures that the government addresses threats and risks and provides the means to confront them**

- **Without a strategy, the security sector runs the risk of becoming nothing more than a mechanism for repression** at the service of government elites.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

QUESTIONS AND/OR COMMENTS?

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