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NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY: Definition, Objectives and Development

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SUMMARY

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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?