National Security Strategy Development Workshop
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Session 3: Lessons from Case Studies
Key Elements of National Security Strategy Process

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Outline

1. Mapping and Taking Stock

2. National Values and Interests

3. Definition of “National Security”

4. Rationale for Drafting National Security Strategy and its Scope

5. Key Steps: Initiation, Drafting, Consultation and Approval

6. Key Takeaways
Typical Elements of A National Security Strategy

**Vision and goals**
A clear and realistic description of the conditions for national security a state aims to establish over a specific period in the near future, and the goals and intended outcomes the policy seeks to achieve as a result.

**Values and principles**
A statement of the values and principles that should guide the implementation of the strategy, including international obligations such as respect for human rights and gender equality.

**National Interest and strategic environment**
A description of the state’s security priorities based on domestic context, priorities and obligations.

**International obligations**
A national perspective on international security and cooperation, including multilateral obligations and international legal commitments.

**Current and future threats, risks, challenges and opportunities**
A broad assessment of potential internal and external factors that may cause harm, loss or damage to vital interests, or prevent the implementation of the policy.

Mapping and Taking Stock

• What is the current status of human security and safety? Need for Security Sector Review and gap analysis.

• What are the existing policies and strategies related to national security?
  - How they have been formulated?
  - Have they been successfully implemented?
  - Are there gaps?
  - What is missing?
National Values

• They represent the legal and philosophical and moral basis for continuation as a nation.

• They provide the sense of national purpose for the nation.

• How are these values determined?

• They are usually reflected in the Constitution.

• National Security Strategy Development is a way of revisiting these values.
National Interests

• Any issue that has the potential to directly impact the pursuit of national goals. They are derived from national values.

• How to make concrete list of national interests? Are national interests determined by leaders or with citizens as well?

• How to prioritize and categorize these national interests?

• National Interests are context specific and do change overtime.
National Security Definition

- Traditional definition in military terms.

- State-centric definition

- National Security and National Intelligence (e.g. the composition of national security councils)

- Human security is gradually recognized but difficult to operationalize it.

- A modern concept of security includes three basic dimensions: state security (territorial defense), societal security (security and protection of citizen population) and human security (freedom from fear and want).
Rational, Purpose and Scope

• Why the national security strategy document was produced?

• Should the strategy be broad or narrow?

• Should the strategy address all security threats or only provide a general framework and guidance for sectoral strategies?
Key Steps: Initiation, Consultation, Drafting and Approval

Initiation
- Agree on scope and methodology
- Raise public awareness of the process

Consultation and drafting
- Undertake national dialogue and assessments
- Define emerging values, interests and goals
- Set up a drafting committee

Review and reconciliation
- Circulate initial drafts for input
- Reconcile differing views
- Develop and review a final draft

Approval and dissemination
- Seek executive approval
- Submit final document to parliament for debate (and possible approval)
- Formulate coherent strategy for public communication and dissemination

Key Takeaways

The Components for Success

Mission

Principles

Strategy

Leadership

Values

Vision

Source: www.slideshare.net/JohnPersico1/strategy-development-process