



## **Session 2: The Rationale for National Security Strategy (NSS) in Africa**

Ms. Amanda Dory

# What Is National Security Strategy?

At a national level, NSS can provide

- Guiding vision of interests and values
- Plan to link goals and resources in a defined period of time
- Process to coordinate elements of national power (e.g., economic, security, political/diplomatic, informational)
- Theory of success
- Art of applying and creating power

# Why Have An NSS?

- 1) Develop logical pathway to link national goals and national resources over time
- 2) Create alignment of priorities and activities
  - Within government
  - Within society
- 3) Sustain stakeholder (*esp. citizens*) support
- 4) Enable accountability

# NSS Development in Africa

- Why is attention to NSS development growing?
- Possible answers:
  - Changing conception of security
  - Complicated threat environment
  - Post-conflict reconstruction
  - State-building
  - Nation-building
  - Changing political leadership

# What Makes a Good NSS?

A good NSS must reflect a country's unique strategic culture be implementable:

- It must be realistic
- It must be understandable
- It must be resource-informed
- It must articulate priorities, trade-offs, and associated risks

Questions?



[www.africacenter.org](http://www.africacenter.org)