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?