



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

AN INTRODUCTION TO NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION VIRTUAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM SERIES

INFORMATION NOTE

WHAT: The Africa Center for Strategic Studies will conduct a virtual academic program on the development and implementation of national security strategy in Africa. This virtual academic program will provide a forum for a multidisciplinary group of senior officials to explore National Security Strategy Development (NSSD) concepts and processes and to address questions such as:

- a. How have security and strategy evolved in Africa? What security, whose security and what is national security? What is strategy and what is the difference between strategy and policy?
- b. What are the challenges and opportunities for developing people-centered national security strategy development including addressing women and youth?
- c. What are the desirable methodology, processes and elements of national security strategy development?
- d. What are the lessons learned for developing national security strategy capable of anticipating and addressing future security threats including pandemics?

WHERE: Online, via Zoom for Government

WHEN: **January 19-20, 1200 GMT**
January 26-27, 1200 GMT
February 2-3, 1200 GMT

For those who are interested in attending, there will be additional modules in this series in March 2021 and April 2021.

WHO: The following countries are invited to submit nominations for this program: Algeria, Angola, Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Eswatini, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe,

Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan, Togo, and Zambia. Each country is invited to nominate up to four representatives, including at least one senior female official with experience and responsibility in national security strategy development, strategic planning, and policy drafting or whose experience in other sectors would significantly enhance the national security strategy process.

Nominees could be drawn from the following institutions:

- (i) security sector (defense, national security service/agency, interior);
- (ii) development/diplomacy sector (finance/economy, foreign affairs, gender); and
- (iii) executive/coordination bodies (office of the president/prime minister, national Security Council, office of national security advisor).

WHY: The African security landscape continues to face dynamic domestic challenges as well as unprecedented externalities, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. These factors continue to demonstrate the need to analyze security threats and develop effective national security strategies to achieve citizen-centric national security. This includes the way national security is perceived, planned, managed, and delivered and the importance of including gender and other social and demographic elements.

HOW: This program will reflect the Africa Center's experience and expertise in the design, implementation, and monitoring of security sector strategies in Africa. It will consist of a three-week series of plenary sessions that focus on practical applications and case studies that emphasize sound practice, as well as small group discussions. Plenary sessions will be 90 minutes of moderated discussion and virtual Question and Answer with leading experts. Ninety-minute discussion group sessions will explore these issues more deeply. All sessions will be conducted in English, French, Portuguese, and Arabic. Participants will have the option of attending subsequent virtual workshops in March and April that will focus on later stages of the national security strategy development process as well as key implementation considerations. These workshops will include participants from additional countries that have embarked upon these processes.