



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 discuss what a national security strategy document should look like and to explore how it should relate to sectoral, regional and international strategies. It will build on previous seminars. Participants from Round 1 will be offered the opportunity to join this round to expand their understanding of the key challenges and opportunities during the process of crafting and reviewing a national security strategy.

Key questions will include:

- a. What are the lessons learned for developing a national security strategy that is capable of anticipating and addressing future security threats, including pandemics?
- b. What are some key phases and elements of the national security strategy development process?
- c. What are practical steps for initiating, drafting and approving a national security strategy?
- d. How can one advance inclusive and participatory national security strategy development, including the perspectives of women and youth?

WHERE: Online, via Zoom for Government

WHEN: **March 9-10, 1200 GMT**
March 16-17, 1200 GMT
March 23-24, 1200 GMT

For those who are interested in attending, there will be an additional three-week module in this series in April and May 2021.

WHO: In addition to round 1 participants, (from **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, the following countries are invited to submit nominations for this round 2 program: **Burkina Faso, Gambia, Senegal, Niger, Botswana, Ghana, Tunisia, South Africa, Madagascar, Nigeria, Liberia, Cape Verde**. 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 external forces, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and recession. These factors continue to demonstrate the need to analyze security threats and develop effective national security strategies to achieve citizen-centric national security. A national security strategy is a powerful strategic communications tool. It articulates the strategic vision for the country, and clearly conveys intent to both friends and foes alike. This vision should provide a clear picture of national goals to be achieved over a given time period. The document should be based on a realistic assessment of current and projected internal and external threats.

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 a subsequent virtual workshop in April and May that will focus on the key implementation considerations of a national security strategy.