



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 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. This round 3 will bring together participants from Rounds 1 and 2 for peer learning across groups and discussion on the dynamic nature of national security strategies.

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: April 20-21, 1200 GMT
April 27-28, 1200 GMT
May 4-5, 1200 GMT

WHO: Countries that were invited in the first two rounds (**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, Zambia, Burkina Faso, Gambia, Senegal, Niger, Botswana, Ghana, Tunisia, South Africa, Madagascar, Nigeria, Liberia and Cape Verde), are invited to submit nominations for this April-May program. 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.