



## EMERGING SECURITY SECTOR LEADERS SEMINAR

4-6 June 2024 (Virtual), 17-28 June 2024 (Washington D.C.)

Implications of Megatrends: Threat/Risk Analysis and Proposed Solutions

### Writing Assignment

#### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this assignment is to identify major megatrends on the African continent and then conduct a country risk and vulnerability assessments (CRVA). Megatrends refer to major global, continental, or regional patterns, movements, or emerging dynamics, such as population changes, economic disruptions, and technological innovations, that can have direct/indirect implications on national security threats. CRVAs identify structural vulnerabilities, event-driven risks, and existing resilience factors to broader security threats occurring within a particular country or region and that are affected by megatrends. Such assessments leverage both qualitative and quantitative data to provide baseline assessments of the patterns and trends of security dynamics across human security pillars based on robust, and reliable empirical evidence.

This assignment provides an opportunity to derive insights from your experience as a security sector professional, think critically about responses to threats, and reflect on the steps your national leadership can take to address challenges within the context of megatrends. Specifically, participants are expected to assess their own country's structural vulnerabilities, event-driven risks, and resilience according to four human security pillars – 1) Security, 2) Economics, 3) Politics, Rule of Law and Governance, and 4) Population and Demographics – and provide actionable recommendations. You are encouraged to provide examples from your work experience and to revise your initial paper based on the information you will acquire during the course.

## PAGE LENGTH AND DUE DATES

### Paper Length:

- **Page Length:** Maximum 5 pages single spaced
  - **Section 1:** Maximum 1 page
  - **Section 2:** Maximum 3 pages
  - **Section 3:** Maximum 1 page
- **Font:** Times New Roman, 12pt font
- **Margins:** Normal (1" top, bottom, right and left)
- **Orientation:** Portrait

### Due Dates:

- **First Final Draft:** June 14 23:59 EST
- **Second Final Draft:** June 26 08:00 EST
- You will be assigned a "facilitator" on Wednesday June 05 who you are responsible for submitting your papers to via email.

## PAPER STRUCTURE

### Section 1: Continental Security Threats and Megatrends

#### Maximum One (1) Page

- Identify at least three (3) security threats facing the African continent today.
- Discuss the dynamics of major megatrends on the African continent and the implications these megatrends have on the security threats you have identified.  
*Note: There may be several megatrends shaping a threat.*
- **Section page length:** maximum 1 page (Times New Roman 12 font, single spaced). *Any additional information that is longer than a page will not be reviewed.*

## Section 2: Country Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (CRVA) Maximum Three (3) Pages

- Within your own country, identify and assess at least three (3) structural vulnerabilities, three (3) event-driven risks, and three (3) resilience factors occurring across four human security pillars: 1) Security, 2) Economics, 3) Politics, Rule of Law and Governance, and 4) Population and Demographics. *Please see Table 1 below as an example.*
- In identifying and assessing the vulnerabilities, risks, and resilience factors across the human security pillars, you are required to conduct a desktop study that leverages qualitative and quantitative information from a diversity of reliable data sources. In addition to your country's own publicly available national security assessments, such sources include, but are not limited to:
  - Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED);
  - Afrobarometer;
  - Mo Ibrahim Index of African Governance (IIAG);
  - ENACT's Organized Crime Index;
  - ECOWAS Warning and Response Network (ECOWARN);
  - Intergovernmental Authority on Development's (IGAD) Conflict Early Warning and Response Mechanism (CEWARN);
  - The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) Democracy Index;
  - Freedom House;
  - World Bank Data;
- **Section page length:** maximum 3 pages. *Any additional information that is longer than three (3) page will not be reviewed.*
- **Definition of Key Terms:**
  - **Vulnerabilities:** refer to "any structural factor that has the potential to be a conflict driver. These can include such things as youth unemployment, poverty, inequality, climate, patronage, demographic factors, etc."<sup>1</sup>
  - **Risks:** refer to "any event-driven factor that has the potential to be a conflict trigger. Risk factors can include specific controversies or events such as disasters or elections that may occur."<sup>2</sup>
  - **Resilience:** refers to "any social or institutional factor that has the potential to help mitigate or manage risks and vulnerabilities. These

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<sup>1</sup> "Country Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Benin," *ECOWAS Commission and USAID* (January 2018), p. 12

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

include political, cultural, and community leadership with significant social capital to influence conflict dynamics in a constructive way, including public sector, private sector, religious institutions, civil society, opinion leaders, development workers, etc. Resilience factors can include institutions that play a stabilizing role in the short, medium, or longer term.”<sup>3</sup>

- **Human Security:** refers to an approach states can use to identify and address widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of individuals.<sup>4</sup> Importantly, it is a framework that offers a holistic approach that governments and institutions can use to understand different threats that affect individuals’ lives.<sup>5</sup> Furthermore, it calls for “people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented responses that strengthen the protection and empowerment of all people.”<sup>6</sup>
- Based on these definitions, the CRVA framework assumes that risk factors emerge out of structural vulnerabilities, while resilience factors can help to mitigate, manage, or prevent those risks and vulnerabilities.
- The human security approach serves as a useful analytical and planning tool to examine and address the multidimensional causes and consequences of complex security challenges. Accordingly, the human security framework is useful for assessing the vulnerabilities, risks, and resilience factors within a country because it offers a holistic approach to understanding how diverse threats can affect individuals’ lives.

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<sup>3</sup> Ibid.

<sup>4</sup> “What is Human Security,” *United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security*, <https://www.un.org/humansecurity/what-is-human-security/>

<sup>5</sup> “Country Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Benin,” ECOWAS Commission and USAID (January 2018), p. 13

<sup>6</sup> “What is Human Security,” *United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security*, <https://www.un.org/humansecurity/what-is-human-security/>

**Table 1 Example of Vulnerabilities, Risks, and Resilience Assessment**

<b>Human Security Pillars</b>	<b>Vulnerabilities</b>	<b>Risks</b>	<b>Resilience</b>
<b>Security</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public distrust and perceptions of corruption within the security forces</li> <li>- Porous borders</li> <li>- Large ungoverned territories</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cross-border arms/drug/human trafficking/smuggling</li> <li>- Resource-based conflicts (e.g., cattle rustling)</li> <li>- Proliferation of armed/terrorist groups</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sanctioning security officials found guilty of misconduct</li> <li>- Joint patrols of police, military, gendarmerie along border territories</li> <li>- Existence of community-oriented countering violent extremism strategies</li> </ul>
<b>Economics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Currency fluctuation</li> <li>- Lack of economic diversity</li> <li>- High youth unemployment</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Illicit economic activity/cross-border smuggling</li> <li>- Economic recession</li> <li>- Youth migration for opportunities abroad ('brain drain')</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Economic reforms</li> <li>- Cross-border economic activities</li> <li>- Micro-financing schemes</li> <li>- Government subsidies for key industries (e.g., agriculture)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Politics, Rule of Law and Governance</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Public perception of government nepotism and corruption in the judicial system</li> <li>- Underrepresentation of marginalized communities, including women and youth in political decision-making</li> <li>- Lack of public trust in judicial institutions</li> <li>- Limited state presence and authority at the periphery of the state</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Mob justice and vigilantism</li> <li>- Widespread impunity</li> <li>- Growing youth recruitment by militant groups</li> <li>- Proliferation of separatist ideologies</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Vibrant civil society organizations</li> <li>- Strong social cohesion</li> <li>- Policy reforms to strengthen the rule of law and justice sector</li> <li>- Strong traditional alternative dispute mechanisms</li> </ul>
<p><b>Population and Demographics</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Youth bulge</li> <li>- Youth unemployment</li> <li>- Climate change</li> <li>- Low literacy rates</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Competition over scarce natural resources</li> <li>- Natural disasters (e.g., droughts)</li> <li>- Increased criminality</li> <li>- Internal displacement of</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Government initiatives to provide funded public secondary education</li> <li>- Existence of civil society groups providing assistance to</li> </ul>

		communities/influx of refugees	unemployed youth  - Growth of grassroots organizations addressing climate change
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**Section 3: Recommendations**  
**Maximum One (1) Page**

- Given the vulnerabilities, risks and resilience factors/elements you identified for each of the four human security pillars, propose actionable recommendations on how best to respond.
- Depending on the vulnerabilities, risks and resiliences you identified, consider:
  - How are the risks accounted for in your National Security Strategy (NSS), if applicable, or other strategic planning documents in your country?
  - What role, if any, can regional and international responses play?
  - Should your country leverage donor assistance and on what terms?
- **Section page length:** maximum 1 page (Times New Roman 12pt font, single spaced). *Any additional information that is longer than a page will not be reviewed.*
- Example:
  - Given the vulnerabilities, risks and resilience factors identified under the 'security' pillar in Table 1 above, below are recommended responses:
    - Fully implement community-oriented countering violent extremism strategies.

### Grading Rubric

Criteria				Total Assessment
Threats and Megatrends  (10 points)	Exemplary=10	Emerging=5	Below Standard=0	
	Identifies and details at least three (3) relevant security threats and the implications that megatrends have on these threats.	Identifies less than three (3) threats and/or does not effectively link these threats to megatrends.	Fails to identify relevant threats and megatrends.	
CVRA  (30 points)	Exemplary=30	Emerging=20	Below Standard=0	
	Effectively assesses at least three (3) relevant structural vulnerabilities, three (3) event-driven risks, and three (3) resilience factors across all four human security pillars.	Assesses less than three (3) vulnerabilities, risks, or resiliencies, or assessments are only partially relevant.	Fails to conduct assessment of vulnerabilities, risks, and resiliencies or assessments are irrelevant and fail to meet requirements stipulated in section 2 of rubric.	
Recommendations  (20 points)	Exemplary=20	Emerging=10	Below Standard=0	
	Recommendations proposed are realistic, actionable, and are relevant to the vulnerabilities, risks and	Recommendations are partially relevant, realistic, and actionable.	Fails to propose actionable and realistic recommendations.	

	resiliencies identified.			
Assignment Rubric (20 points)	Exemplary=20	Emerging=10	Below Standard=0	
	Fulfills all instructions as detailed in section breakdowns.	Partially fulfills instructions, missing some elements.	Does not fulfill instructions.	
Page Length (10 points)	Exemplary=10	Emerging=5	Below Standard=0	
	Fulfills all instructions about page length detailed in section breakdowns.	Submission is five (5) pages long, but not all individual sections meet page length requirements specified in section breakdowns.	Submission does not meet page length requirements	
Spelling & Grammar (10 points)	Exemplary=10	Emerging=5	Below Standard=0	
	Mechanics reflect careful editing.	A few errors, but they are not a distraction.	Errors distract throughout.	
				Total /100