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FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES**

Rule of Law and Security Sector Governance: What Emerging Security Sector Leaders Should Consider

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What is the rule of law?

As a principle:

The law applies to all, including those who govern

AND

The substance of the law affirms principles related to constitutionalism, civil liberties, human rights, fundamental freedoms.

As a process:

Everyday interactions between residents and state security/justice actors



Mutual respect, accountability, transparency

Popular trust in state security and justice institutions, institutional legitimacy



More sustainable and effective prevention and response to conflict, violence, crises

Examples from Core Sources



World Justice
Project

- Institutional checks & balances
- Consistent and clear laws
- Equal protection of freedoms/liberties
- Access to fair, affordable justice



Laws apply to “all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself:

Laws are :

- Publicly promulgated
- equally enforced and independently adjudicated
- constituent with international human rights norms and standards.



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- Executive compliance with law
- Impartiality of Justice System
- Transparent judicial processes
- Equality before the law
- Law enforcement
- Property rights

Rule of Law within Security Sector Governance: The Basics

What is it? “The practice of applying the principles of good governance to a state’s security sector. Sound and accountable SSG is based on the idea that the security sector should be held to the same high standards of public service delivery as other public sector service providers.”

- DCAF SSR Backgrounder, “Security Sector Governance: Applying the Principles of Good Governance to the Security Sector” (2015)

Seven Core Principles

Accountability

Transparency

Rule of Law

Participation

Responsiveness

Effectiveness

Efficiency

Key Institutions

Defense and security services

Parliament

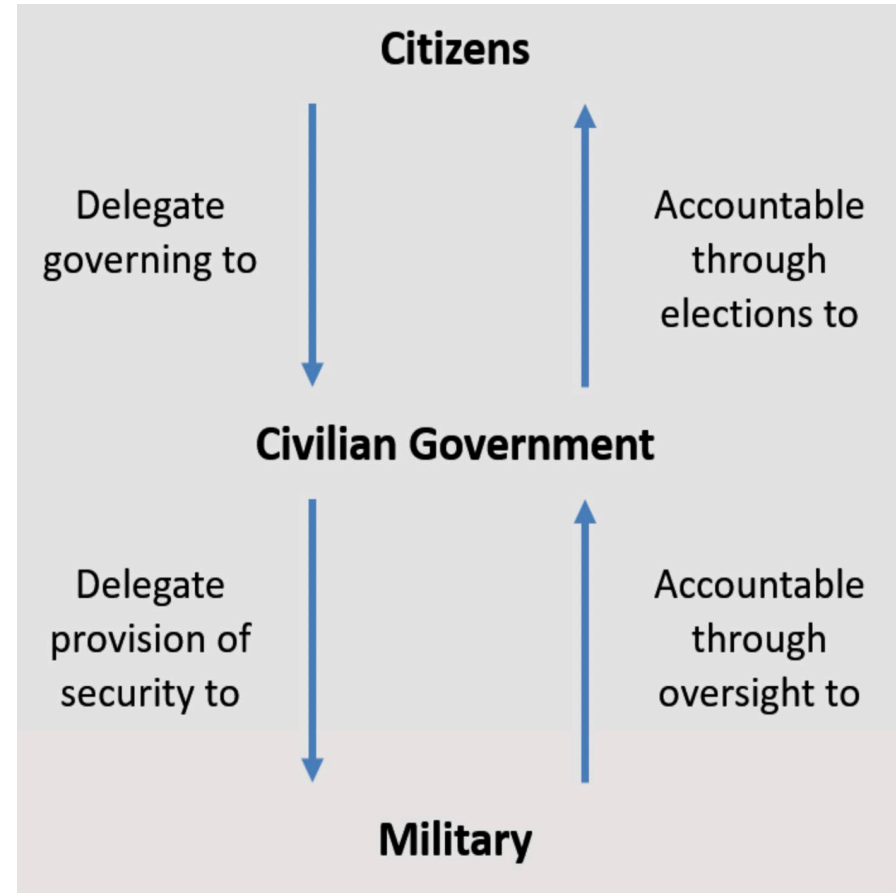
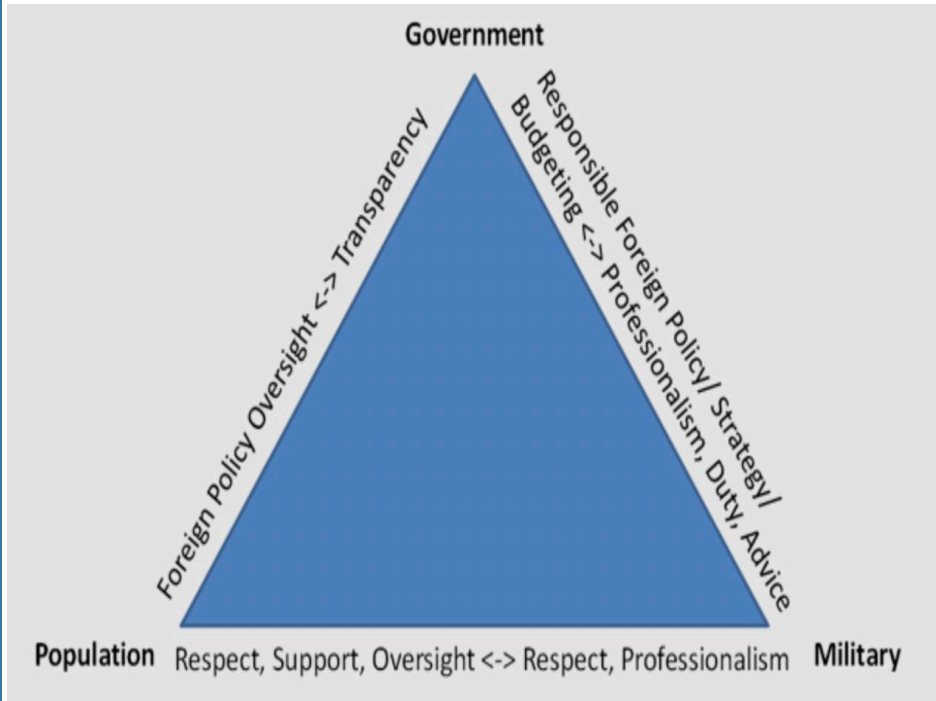
National security council

Judiciary

Independent commissions

Civil society, defined broadly

Linkages to Civil-Military Relations



Source: Jessica Blankshain, "A Primer on US Civil-Military Relations for National Security Practitioners," Air War University, July 2020

Linkages to Civil-Military Relations





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