



# AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

## NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION AND RULE OF LAW ROUNDTABLE

### ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION NOTE

- WHAT:** The Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) will hold a four-day roundtable to share good practices and innovate techniques to enhance the capability of national security leaders and defense/security oversight actors. This exchange will allow implementation of national security strategies within a framework of accountable defense/security resource management and the rule of law principles that enable healthy civil-military relations.
- WHERE:** Lusaka, Zambia
- WHEN:** 4-7 February 2025
- WHO:** The program will be designed for approximately 40 participants, chiefly from four countries: Zambia, Botswana, Tanzania, and Malawi. Participants will include senior-level officials from executive/coordination bodies, parliamentarians, civilian security officials who support the Minister of Defense, uniformed military officials who support the Chief of Defense, and officials from governmental oversight bodies. Invitations will also be extended to a limited number of key stakeholders with strategic interests in African security including senior U.S. officials from AFRICOM, the Department of State, the SADC Parliamentary Forum, the African Union, and senior officials from North Carolina National Guard Bureau program. The North Carolina National Guard has established a State Partnership Program with three of the four countries invited, Botswana, Malawi, and Zambia.
- WHY:** There is mounting evidence that peace and security are the two inseparable pillars to economic development. This has created the appetite at the highest level of government in Zambia, Botswana, Malawi, and Tanzania to draft and implement national security strategies to enable each country to effectively respond to security challenges and safeguard their national interests. The Africa Center has been requested to design a capacity development workshop to raise participants' awareness of the process of aligning sectoral security strategies with national security strategies, as well as to strengthen how defense/security policymakers and oversight officials work to ensure that strategies and the requisite resources to implement them are used effectively in service of the people. Through these avenues, the workshop will support key stakeholders in developing techniques to boost accountable civilian oversight of the defense and security resource management processes relevant to

national security goals. The involvement of both uniformed and civilian leaders in the workshop will also facilitate practical analysis of how healthy civilian and military relationships remain necessary to an iterative strategy-making and implementation process. The present workshop will provide the participants a technically advanced and contextually tailored curriculum that builds upon the foundations of Managing Security Resources program's civilian oversight module. It will furthermore build off of modules and conclusions drawn from country analyses that Zambian, Malawian, and Botswana participants conducted at the November 2023 Southern Africa Parliamentarians Forum, where stakeholders identified barriers and successes in legislative and executive branch oversight of the defense/security sector on the strategy and resource elements of national security.

**HOW:** The four-day, in-person roundtable will be conducted in English and follow strict rules of non-attribution. Tailored exchanges will help to identify concrete measures to address the challenges that Zambia, Botswana, Tanzania, and Malawi face in bridging the civil-military gaps in the implementation and oversight of national security strategy.