REPUBLIC OF GHANA

NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

A Secure and Prosperous Ghana, with Regional, Continental and Global Reach and Influence

2020

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List of Abbreviations

AEC	Africa Economic Community
AFC	Armed Forces Council
AfCFTA	African Continental Free Trade Area
AQIM	Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb
AU	African Union
BOST	Bulk Oil Storage and Transport
CBT	Competence Based Training
CEPS	Customs, Excise and Preventive Service
CID	Criminal Investigation Department
CNII	Critical National Information Infrastructure
CNI	Critical National Infrastructure
CPESDP	Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Develoment Policies
CSA	Cyber Security Authority
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations
DISEC	District Security Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
FDA	Food and Drugs Authority
GAF	Ghana Armed Forces
GCAA	Ghana Civil Aviation Authority
GIS	Ghana Immigration Service
GMA	Ghana Maritime Authority
GNFS	Ghana National Fire Service
GPHA	Ghana Ports and Harbours Authority
GPS	Ghana Police Service
GRA	Ghana Revenue Authority
GSIM	Group for the Support of Islam and Moslems
HDI	Human Development Index
HIPPO	High-Level Independent Panel on Peace Operations
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organisation
ISCAP	Islamic State in Central Africa Province
ISWAP	Islamic State West Africa Province
JNIM	Jama'a Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin
KAIPTC	Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre
LPG	Liquefied Petroleum Gas
MDAs	Ministries, Departments and Agencies

MINUSMA	United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali
MNS	Ministry of National Security
MNC	Multi-National Corporations
MTNDPF	Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework
MOD	Ministry of Defence
MOFARI	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration
MOI	Ministry of Interior
MUJAO	Movement for Oneness and Jihad in West Africa
NADMO	National Disaster and Management Organisation
NAFCO	National Food Buffer Stock Company
NAFPCVET	National Framework for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism
NCC	Narcotics Control Commission
NCCE	National Commission for Civic Education
NCPS	National CyberSecurity Policy and Strategy
NCRC	National Crisis Response Centre
NCTC	National Cyber Security Centre
NDPC	National Development Planning Commission
NDS	National Defence Strategy
NES	National Electrification Scheme
NEWRS	National Early Warning Response System
NHIS	National Health Insurance Scheme
NIB	National Intelligence Bureau
NPC	National Peace Council
NPS	National Policing Strategy
NSC	National Security Council
NSS	National Security Strategy
RECs	Regional Economic Communities
REGSEC	Regional Security Council
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SGI	Security Governance Initiative
TOC	Transnational Organised Crime
TVET	Technical and Vocational Education and Training
UAV	Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
UN	United Nations
UNSCR	United Nations Security Council Resolution
WMD	Weapons of Mass Destruction

Foreword by the President of the Republic

The most important things for a nation are the peace and safety of its people, and its territorial integrity. It is when these are guaranteed that citizens can go about their lives normally, and strive to improve upon the quality of their circumstances. The existence of a National Security Strategy (NSS), that outlines national, regional and global perspectives of the security landscape, can help realise this objective.

Unfortunately, since the attainment of independence in 1957, some sixty-three (63) years, there is no record of such a strategy ever being compiled. I made a pledge to the Ghanaian people, in the run-up to the December 2016 general elections, to take all the necessary steps to preserve their safety, security and wellbeing. The National Security Strategy is aimed at guaranteeing this promise.

The Strategy underlines the unique characteristics of the risks and threats confronting Mother Ghana, in a world that is constantly undergoing changes in order to deal with numerous, emerging security challenges. It is further geared towards strengthening the state's response to current and future threats, and enhances our prevention, protection and response capabilities.

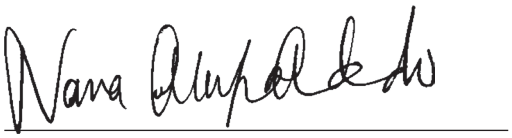
Once operationalized, the Strategy will optimise the effectiveness of the security and intelligence sector, by evolving the current systems and structures. It will prioritise the use of our resources, and promote effective decision-making, through an institutional system that will ensure integrated and efficient coordination in all spectrums of national security. It will also provide a new institutional structure, which will be equipped to tackle strategic security and crisis management issues requiring rapid, coordinated and comprehensive responses.

The implementation of the NSS will be driven systematically, transparently and accountably to ensure that all Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) deliver expected outcomes aimed at enhancing the country's resilience, cohesion and stability.

The provision of national security is a public service which must be the subject of state policy that is sustained over time, and capable of going beyond the time frames and political agendas of each

Government. The implementation of all the principles and ideas in the strategy is crucial to the national security and general well-being of the Ghanaian people.

The NSS is recommended to all Ghanaians, stakeholders, friends of Ghana, and key players as the strategic foundation for protecting and safeguarding the cohesion and stability of our country.



H.E. NANA ADDO DANKWA AKUFO-ADDO
PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC

Executive Summary

INTRODUCTION

1. The aspiration of Ghana to remain a sovereign, free, peaceful, democratic state and ensuring the survival, safety and wellbeing of the citizens that occupies its rightful place among the comity of nations as a respected and influential nation, is confronted by a number of existing and imminent potential security threats risks and challenges. The ever-evolving nature and scope of these threats, risks and challenges demand a comprehensive and dynamic new orientation to the concept and management of Ghana's national security. The traditional limited defensive scope and posture of Ghana's national security response to security challenges dictated by political instability are no longer neither adequate nor effective enough response to the currently evolving threat and risk profiles that challenge the country. Our historically traditional orientation of national security tends to give the notion that the sole purpose of the national security apparatus is to defend the territorial integrity and the sovereign rights of Ghana and the security of the regime. This orientation loses sight of the fact that such territorial defence is actually a means to ensure the security of the citizens of Ghana, to protect and to empower them to live in peace and dignity. In seeking to correct this traditional orientation, this NSS recognises the individual Ghanaian citizen and his local community as the primary referent objects of national security policy planning and delivery. In addition to the defence of Ghana's territorial integrity and sovereignty therefore, the safety, security and well-being of the citizens of Ghana is paramount in this NSS. A more pre-emptive, all-inclusive approach with a blend of both traditional national security responses and human security responses is therefore adopted in the strategy. Effectively ensuring national security and stability would in this context, require that Ghana adopts a comprehensive and integrated national security strategic framework that ensures constant monitoring of the threat situation, proactive prevention, mitigation and management of the threats, risks and security challenges to our national interests. It is within this context that this National Security Strategy (NSS) is formulated. Its formulation and implementation are based on the central tenet of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society involvement that is grounded in the principles of unity of purpose and coordination of effort to enhance social cohesion, tolerance, national security and national stability. This NSS therefore serves as the blueprint reference document for the coordination of the total national response effort to protect and safeguard the nation from threats, risks, challenges to its security and stability from both the domestic and international environments. The responses in this NSS to the threats, risks and security challenges posed to Ghana, seek to ensure the self-preservation of Ghana as a prosperous, stable and sovereign state, that is able to provide for the safety and well-being of her citizens and inhabitants.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

2. This National Security Strategy is based on the following strategic context.

a. **Domestic Security Landscape.** The domestic environment of Ghana is by itself as a society is a source of a number of threats to national security and stability. The nature and characteristics of the Ghanaian society, its diversity in demography, ethnicity, languages, cultural values, belief systems, the lack of a national youth orientation programme, socio-political history and economic potential are all factors that tend to pose challenges to Ghana's national security and stability. This section of NSS therefore seeks to give an overview of the disposition of the population of Ghana in the context of the above-mentioned factors and the implications thereof for achieving national security and stability with a healthy and tolerant population that lives in peace and dignity. Ensuring the survival, safety and welfare of the citizens is addressed in the response to domestic threats.

b. **Regional and Global Security Landscape.** The impact of the international environment is a primary consideration in both the traditional national sovereignty and self-preservation context of Ghana's national security and the human security perspective. This section of the NSS therefore appraises the security challenges to Ghana emanating from the regional, continental and global levels, captures how they impact on the security and stability of Ghana and what initiatives, measures and counter-measures are required to both prevent and mitigate these challenges. At the regional level, attention is highlighted to the social, political and security tensions and challenges in Ghana's neighbouring countries as well as the opportunities therein for cooperation to ensure regional peace and stability. At the global level, an assessment is made of the challenges and opportunities available to Ghana to ensure its peace, national security, national stability and development within the context of a rule-based globalised world.

3. **Strategic End State.** The ultimate goal of this strategy is to outline the context within which Ghana should mobilise and coordinate the efforts of all sectors of the Ghanaian society to respond to the security threats, risks and challenges confronting the country in order to ensure national stability and peaceful socio-economic development.

4. **Vision.** Our vision is to maintain Ghana as a law abiding, tolerant, socially cohesive, peace loving, people-centred, secure and prosperous constitutional democracy and a land of opportunity, with a resolve and the capability to protect our people, our culture and our values in order to ensure growth, development and prosperity that inure to the well-being of the citizenry while positioning the country appropriately to play a meaningful and influential role at the regional, continental and global levels.

5. **Mission.** Our mission is to engage in a whole-of government and a whole-of-society orientated approach, with a harmonious blend of human and traditional security to guarantee the national security and stability of Ghana by promoting tolerance, national cohesion and unity of purpose in order to facilitate sustainable development, prosperity and well-being in partnership and cooperation with other friendly states at the regional, continental and global levels.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

6. The primary aim of this NSS is to consolidate Ghana's fragmented policy initiatives on national security into one integrated and comprehensive national security policy framework. This consolidated NSS is therefore based on four mutually reinforcing strategic objectives:

a. **Preservation of the National Sovereignty of Ghana.** The preservation of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ghana entails the deployment of the full spectrum of Ghana's national power to protect and defend the population and her sovereignty, territorial integrity and national interests against existing or potential external and domestic threats for the safety and security of its citizens and possessions.

b. **Sustainable Development.** Ensuring that Ghana succeeds in its aim of sustained development is indeed within the context of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and efforts to pursue the seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals outlined therein. This strategic objective for sustainable development sets out Ghana's priorities in this regard. The development of a healthy Ghanaian human capital with emphasis on good health, education, skills training and entrepreneurship is a primary focus of this strategy in that fulfillment. The exploitation of Ghana's natural resources in a manner that serves the common good of the people is another area of focus.

c. **National Cohesion for Peace, Security and Stability.** Guided by the values of justice, equality, inclusion, tolerance and respect for universal human rights as stipulated in the 1992 Constitution, the strategic objective of national cohesion for peace, security and stability, focuses on the promotion and safeguarding of a societal environment of tolerance, stability, peaceful co-existence, good health and security of the citizenry in Ghana, as a means to ensuring sustainable development. This NSS therefore outlines measures that enhance participatory decision making, national cohesion, respect for human rights, a healthy environment and a zero tolerance for discrimination and prejudice in all forms as a means to ensuring national stability and the well-being of the citizenry.

d. **Enhancing Regional, Continental and Global Cooperation.** In the context of a rule-based globalised world and multilateral cooperation, threats and challenges to regional, continental and global security have implications for the national security of Ghana. This NSS therefore views Ghana's national security in the context of its obligations under legal instruments and frameworks for ensuring regional, continental and global peace and security at the levels of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN). This takes into consideration Ghana's obligations under international conventions, resolutions, protocols, partnerships and bilateral agreements, that Ghana is party thereof.

DOMESTIC, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL THREATS PROFILE

7. The domestic threats that confront Ghana and the regional and global threats that impact her are intricately intertwined and mutually reinforcing. The Post-Cold War global environment which is characterised by globalisation and interconnectedness both physically and in virtual space, has come with a wave of emergent global security threats and challenges, the impact of which are felt at the domestic level in Ghana. These security threats and challenges do not only require national counter-measures but regional and global counter-measures as well. Addressing this category of domestic security threats facing Ghana therefore calls for a comprehensive and innovative national security strategy that is grounded in local initiative and cooperation and collaboration with other friendly nations, economic and development partners, regional, continental and international organisations and institutions. In shaping response to these security threats and challenges, this NSS considers the international response architecture alongside the probability of incidence and an estimation of impact for each threat or security challenge situation.

8. The prioritisation of security threats and challenges that informs this NSS is based on a forecast for the next five (5) years running into the year 2025. Under domestic security threats and challenges, the youth bulge, unemployment and limited innovative capacity to create opportunity, unresolved historical ethnic and tribal rivalries, unresolved chieftaincy disputes, intolerance, governance deficit in the provision of basic social amenities to underprivileged communities, perception of injustice, party political rivalry and crime are considered to be the major drivers of the domestic threats to national security. These drivers tend to manifest threats such as civil disturbance, chieftaincy disputes, ethnic and political unrest; violent-extremism, armed banditry and kidnapping; cyberspace related criminal activity; economic crimes, including illegal exploitation of national natural resources; and corruption and public reaction to inadequacies in the supply of energy, healthcare delivery and other social

amenities. The drivers also manifest threats in the category of faith-based conflicts, and pressures on state authorities from groups pursuing agenda with tribal undertones. The drivers and threats, among others, are analysed and response options are outlined in chapters two and three of the NSS. At the regional level, Transnational Organised Crime (TOC), involving illegal trafficking in humans, narcotic drugs, counterfeit medicines, smuggling, illegal immigration and other border security challenges are considered. Violent-Extremism, terrorism, piracy and deficits in the provision of aviation and maritime security also feature in the threats and security challenges considered. In view of the phenomenal physical and virtual space global interconnectedness that currently characterise the global environment, the projected global threats are numerous and diverse. This NSS however considers this category of threats and security challenges as emanating principally from fluctuations in the global economy, global geopolitical disagreements, global trade and proliferation of small arms and light weapons, global terrorism, money laundering and terrorist financing, various other criminal acts and climate change.

STRATEGIC RESPONSE AND PROTECTION OF GHANA

9. Traditionally, the primary national interest of Ghana is the preservation and protection of her sovereignty and territorial integrity. In the context of a task and purpose, this strategy views this primary national interest as a means to the end of ensuring the protection, safety, empowerment and well-being of the citizens of Ghana. All levels and sectors of government are therefore considered to be part of the architecture that is required to deliver on the total national security effort that guarantees the security, safety and welfare of the people of Ghana. The contemporary and emergent security threat situation compels us to urgently re-calibrate our institutional responsibilities to these threats and challenges to national security and galvanise our efforts in a coordinated manner, in order to ensure national peace, stability and safety of the citizenry. An analysis of the dominant threats to our national security and stability requires that our NSS be focused on comprehensive national responses that are pre-emptive, multi-sectoral, mutually supporting and properly coordinated.

10. Our national response, as captured in this NSS, is therefore broken down into four tiers and is consistent with a threat portfolio categorisation. Tier One responses relate to both the traditional sovereignty and also human security threat and challenges. The response to the challenges deriving from the traditional national security threat focuses on the strengthening of our diplomatic, intelligence, military deterrence and law enforcement capabilities. Our capability to exercise our right of use of force as a State, against an enemy aggressor, or to protect our national territory, and our capability to pursue legal or diplomatic action internationally to successfully resolve a threat of

encroachment on the territorial integrity of Ghana all fall within this category of Tier One response. Domestically, our capability to enforce the law and ensure justice while providing internal security, preventing or combating violent-extremism and terrorism and protecting our use of cyberspace are some of the measures that determine success in this aspect of our Tier One response. As expected, our human security response under Tier One overlaps with the response to defend our sovereignty and is even much more cross-sectoral. It entails the requirement of mechanisms to identify the drivers of the various threats at both the national and local community levels and ascertain the extent of our vulnerability to the incidence of any of these threats. This facilitates the implementation of pre-emptive measures that seek to protect and empower the state or local communities as the case may be, with the appropriate level of resilience required to withstand the threat should it manifest at all. A focus on building a strong and robust national economy that fosters development and the provision of basic social amenities to all parts of Ghana; building a strong energy sector to serve as a catalyst for economic activity, the maritime industry, prioritisation of agricultural activity to ensure food security; and decentralisation of empower to local authorities so they are able to take on initiatives that ensure local economic development and well-being are all part of the Human Security aspects of the Tier One response.

11. Tier Two response seeks to address threats that are potentially imminent and require constant monitoring through early warning mechanisms. The efficacy of our Tier Two response derives from the operationalisation of pre-emptive capability for early warning and early response mechanisms that detect the drivers of this category of threats and security challenges and prevent their incidence. An early identification of our vulnerabilities to these security threats and challenges and pre-emptive action to build resilience also inform this response. Incorporating early warning mechanisms into our total response effort at all levels is therefore a requirement for success. In shaping both our Tier One and Tier Two responses, a culture of data collection and analysis, evidence-based and participatory research, monitoring and evaluation are to be promoted at all levels and linked to our intelligence capability to ensure effective detection, early warning and early pre-emptive response.

12. Tier Three response addresses threats and security challenges to regional and continental security. A clear national foreign policy on the role of Ghana in regional and continental peace and security initiatives informs the shaping of this response. The promotion of good relations and cooperation with the ECOWAS, AU and the UN, ratification, domestication and adherence to conventions, protocols, charters and declarations therefrom create the necessary medium for the implementation of this response. Tier Four response derives from the need to build strategic security capability and the development of the necessary international cooperation that enhance Ghana's ability to contribute to the response to threats that are global in nature and this includes global pandemics.

SAFEGUARDING NATIONAL COHESION AND STABILTY

13. Ghana has experienced a number of internal conflicts in the past; some of which have been violent. A number of these have either been as a result of chieftaincy disputes, disputes over land, inter-ethnic conflicts, faith-based differences, electoral disputes and political party differences. A peaceful, cohesive and stable country is a pre-requisite for sustainable development and the attainment of a good standard of living for the population. This NSS therefore places emphasis on measures that help build a cohesive, tolerant, peaceful and stable democracy that thrives on justice delivered in accordance with the rule and due process of law. In this vein the NSS seeks to promote trust-building between government and the citizenry at all levels through cooperation, joint planning and joint development, and implementation of initiatives particularly in the area of human security. Under this NSS, avenues are also to be specifically created through a national agenda on national orientation in the youth and to enhance liaison and cooperation between state security actors and non-state stakeholders at all levels. This is to include independent constitutional and statutory bodies, political institutions, women, youth, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), Traditional Authorities and Faith Based Organisations and the Private Sector to create national security awareness in the citizenry and enhance cooperation with state security agencies through reliance on inclusiveness, a joint sense of purpose, joint planning and implementation and coordination of effort in security matters; especially of human security. This national agenda also includes an initiative to commission a research project on national orientation training for the youth of Ghana. This is aimed at inculcating in the youth the love of country and its related values at an early age.

CHAPTER **ONE**

The Strategic Context of Ghana

1.1 INTRODUCTION

The strategic context upon which the National Security Strategy (NSS) of Ghana is formulated includes the domestic as well as the regional and global security landscapes. This NSS is therefore informed by a critical analysis of a number of domestic, regional and global factors over the long, medium and short terms to identify the underlying sources of Ghana's security challenges and to make projections for the future. The geographical location of Ghana, and the ethnic and demographic spread of its population, its standing in the comity of nations with respect to its standing and obligations under international law as a member of international organizations, the provisions of the 1992 Constitution in shaping individual rights and freedoms as well as the directive principles of state policy are all factors that shape the strategic context of Ghana's National Security.

Domestically, the threats and challenges to Ghana's national security are either crime-related, politically motivated, perceived injustice, or from our very ethnic, political, religious and social diversity. Violent and economic crime, governance deficit, impunity and misuse of office, a creeping culture over time of exclusiveness, nepotism and neglect of persons not part of one's party political lineage, vices of bribery, corruption, illegal trafficking, smuggling, money laundering and other economic crimes are some of the primary challenges that place our national security into context.

On the regional and global security landscapes, the contemporary regional and global threat profile and the available peace and security frameworks of the ECOWAS, AU and UN and how they impact on the security situation in Ghana, as well as the opportunities available to Ghana within the framework of ECOWAS, AU and the UN in a rule-based globalized multilateral world, frame the strategic context of Ghana's national security.

The strategic context for defining a framework for the National Security of Ghana, in addition to the domestic, regional and global landscapes, also considers the evolving nature of the threat portfolio overtime which points to the need for adaptive response mechanisms. The rationale for the NSS, the national values and interests of Ghana, the related strategic objectives and how they are to be attained therefore form an integral part of this strategic context.

1.2 DOMESTIC SECURITY LANDSCAPE

The 2020 population of Ghana is estimated at approximately 30.80 million people. This population is divided among ten (10) major ethnic groups although there are as many as hundred (100) different languages and dialects. With religious belief, Christianity, Islam and Traditional African forms of worship are the major forms religion. These groups are not homogenous and tend to have conflicting doctrines and practices which sometimes become sources of conflict. This diversity in ethnicity, language and religion, has often found expression in political cleavages and other competing interests translating sometimes into challenges to social and national cohesion as well as to national security. The promotion of social cohesion, mutual trust, tolerance and peaceful co-existence in the midst of diversity is thus a major imperative in this context for sustaining national security and national stability in Ghana. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana has been internationally acclaimed as ranking high with its tenets of respect for human rights, rule of law and freedoms, particularly in consideration of its provisions on fundamental human rights and freedoms, equality before the law and the gradual decentralization of governance to ensure citizen inclusion and participation in the making of policy decisions that affect their livelihoods. This NSS therefore seeks to rely on the provisions of the 1992 Constitution, to provide a clear and comprehensive human security informed courses of action that address these challenges. The focus of the strategy in this regard is to create public awareness of how matters of national security are to be handled, how to reassure the citizenry of their protection under the law and boost their trust, confidence and will to cooperate with Government and to participate in the achievement of our common national security objectives.

Although Ghana has had a history of being a relatively peaceful country within the West African sub-region compared to its neighbours, she is still quite challenged with a number of drivers of insecurity. The issue of a youth bulge and demographic dividend is one challenge that stands out. Ghana is currently experiencing a youth bulge of school leavers with inadequate employment opportunity to absorb them into the national economic value chain at appropriate levels. Some formative characteristics of the youth also derive from the fact that there has been for a long period, the lack of a national program for inculcating into the youth the spirit of nationalism, love of country, patriotism and other national values of Ghana. Training in employable skills has also suffered during the period at the expense of traditional formal education. The impact of these deficits on the youth quality of a sizable number of the youth portends an effect on the future capability of Ghana to sustain a peaceful and cohesive environment and this has become a matter of grave concern. This NSS seeks to address this challenge by exploring ways of introducing national youth orientation programs in school curriculum at all levels. The strategy also examines how training in skills that are required for economic development could be given priority alongside the traditional formal education of the youth.

In the area of employment opportunity generation, the assessment indicates that the agricultural sector holds a great deal of potential but currently lags far behind other sectors in the economy. The maritime sector also provides a good potential of employment opportunity for agriculture, with over two million people employed in artisanal fishing and as a result provides food security from fishing. This NSS therefore places particular emphasis on the need to identify, explore and come out with a definitive program that has the objective of making Agriculture a profitable, beneficial and attractive business endeavour in Ghana. It seeks a new perspective that looks at Agriculture as an endeavour that would require government nurturing for a 10-year period. This, it is expected, would not only substantially address the challenges of unemployment, food security and supply of raw materials to industry, but would save the country foreign exchange through the reduction of food imports.

With respect to breaches of the law, while some of the threats and security challenges facing Ghana are emergent and evolving, particularly in the area of cybercrime and its multiplier effect on other crimes, a number of the crimes that characterise our domestic security landscape have been with us for years. That they continue to pose appreciable threat to our national security requires that we review our response to them. The illegal trafficking and smuggling of narcotic drugs, humans, small arms and light weapons; counterfeit pharmaceuticals products; trade in stolen vehicles, and smuggling for the purposes of tax evasion have been with us for quite some time. The illegal exploitation of natural resources, including illegal mining, fishing and poaching have also virtually become a way of life in parts of Ghana in spite of efforts to prevent and combat them. This NSS seeks first to enhance the prevention capabilities of our Law enforcement agencies to address these crimes by creating deliberate disincentive measures that will deter perpetrators and limit such criminal activity. In this regard, the Ministry of National Security (MNS) is to initiate the establishment of a forum of state and non-state stakeholders, including private sector stakeholders, to review the situation and make recommendations to the Minister on appropriate preventive response measures that could prevent these crimes. Where a particular activity, such as small-scale mining by members of local communities could be turned into employment opportunity at the local level, the forum will be required to make proposals for the legal and operational framework within which this could be permitted and controlled. The appropriate law enforcement agencies that deal with particular criminal threats will also be required annually to submit to the MNS for coordination, their analysis and estimation of the prevention, mitigation and disruption initiatives that they consider should be embarked upon to address the crimes that they have a mandate to enforce the law against.

Good sanitation in the sphere of waste disposal has been a challenge that Ghana has grappled with for years. Although much progress has been made, a great deal remains to be done. The threat this poses to health and the environmental security of Ghana cannot be overemphasised. The lack of adequate refuse disposal mechanism in local communities results in indiscriminate refuse disposal into drains,

public spaces and other unauthorized locations. This is the bane of the challenge and threats of spread of disease and flooding due to choked drains. This NSS seeks to draw attention to this menace and to create the necessary awareness and facilitation to have it addressed appropriately. With the new digital address system now in place in Ghana, MMDAs in conjunction with service provider stakeholders and community leaders need to collaborate more to draw up refuse collection and disposal strategies and plans for their areas of responsibility using the digital address system to ensure effective monitoring of coverage. The establishment of a number of strategically located waste recycling plants in the country is another priority of this strategy for which the MNS will hold implementation deliberations with stakeholders.

1.3 REGIONAL AND GLOBAL SECURITY LANDSCAPE

The global security landscape is characterized by competing national interests, and a crave for resource control. There is the need for a continuous appraisal of the geo-strategic environment to ascertain its impact on the national and security interests of Ghana. The current extremely interdependent and hyper-connected global environment invariably blurs the distinction in time and space of the impact of factors that are internal or external. While proximity still matters, distance is no longer the central strategic consideration in assessing the impact and effect of this group of security threats. A clear appraisal of our own strengths, weaknesses and vulnerabilities is therefore a prerequisite to shaping our response to the impact of regional and global threats on our national security. Ghana has a total land area of approximately 92,098 sq miles (238,533 sq km) and shares borders with Cote d'Ivoire, Togo and Burkina Faso, with the Gulf of Guinea to the south. The language and ethnicity induced cross border relationships that exist between residents on both sides of the borders with our neighbours, and the poor security agency routine monitoring or access to and presence at many of our border areas challenge our capability to effectively secure the totality of our national borders. Our land border and maritime border security capability therefore calls for a review in order to enhance the capability of our border security agencies.

While cross border crimes such as smuggling and trafficking remain a menace along our land borders and maritime jurisdictional space, a surge in piracy and armed robbery at sea has been recorded in the Gulf of Guinea in recent years. Although counter measures have been instituted through regional cooperation, the threat persists. In addition to threat to safe passage, this also threatens the safety of our off-shore oil drilling activity and the related investor confidence that is required to sustain it. This NSS makes a strong case for the critical examination of our naval capabilities in this regard with the aim of adequately resourcing our military and civil agencies to provide the required maritime protection. The on-shore oil and gas deposits in the Volta and Keta Basins present a positive economic prospect for Ghana. These deposits, however, are assessed as inherently imbued with a potential for regional

dispute as the Volta basin supposedly stretches into Burkina Faso while the Keta Basin is considered as stretching into Togo and Benin. This strategy seeks from the relevant stakeholder state institutions, clear technical recommendations to the NSC on the impact of this situation on the national security of Ghana.

The Sub-Saharan region, particularly the West African sub-region, is a key area of interest to Ghana's national security. Admittedly, security challenges in the form of terrorism, violent-extremism, inter-ethnic armed conflicts, inter-sectarian religious conflicts, armed attacks on innocent civilians and political upheavals have been more prevalent in our neighbouring countries than in Ghana. These however tend to have an impact on peace and security in the region as a whole. Achieving regional stability therefore requires that each country within the sub-region, including Ghana, takes steps at improving its own internal security situation. Although Ghana has not recorded any terrorist attack on its territory, it is to be noted that, some Ghanaians departed Ghana and joined the ISIS at the end of 2014 and early 2015. This act does not only point to the vulnerability of Ghana as a potential source of recruits for terrorist organizations but that there are present in the Ghanaian society, some drivers of radicalization and extremism. In addition, the very proximity of Ghana to incidents of terrorism although outside its borders, necessitates pre-emptive action. It is in this regard that Ghana has developed its National Framework for the Prevention and Countering of Violent-Extremism and Terrorism (NAFPCVET), and is part of the Accra Initiative. Ghana continues to maintain strong diplomatic relations with its neighbours and other African countries in this context of mutual support in maintaining regional and continental peace and security.

The ECOWAS Protocol on Free Movement of Persons, the Right of Residence and Right of Establishment as well as the Protocol on Community Citizenship although critical for the attainment of ECOWAS of the people that we all desire, pose a myriad of security challenges to Ghana that need addressing. These include an observed surge in transnational organised crime in Ghana as a result of the implementation of the protocols. The records indicate that under the auspices of these protocols, there has been an influx of migrants from neighbouring countries into Ghana. Apart from the warm traditional Ghanaian hospitality that informs the relations between these neighbours and the Ghanaian communities into which they settle, a number of these migrants have been noticed been noticed to be engaged in criminal activities such as kidnapping, illegal mining, cyber fraud, and prohibited foreigner retail trade. In a number of instances there have been clashes between these migrants and their Ghanaian counterparts over the illegality of their activities under local laws. The proliferation of cyber fraud in the Ghanaian social value system is largely attributed to such migrants. A critical examination of these ECOWAS Protocols is to be undertaken under the auspices of the MNS in order to clearly ascertain their implications and impact on the National Security of Ghana and the measures that should be undertaken to address the situation.

1.4 RATIONALE FOR GHANA'S NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

The aspiration of Ghana to remain a sovereign, free, peaceful and democratic state that occupies its rightful place among the comity of nations as a respected and influential nation is confronted by a number of existing and imminent potential security threats and challenges. The ever-evolving nature and scope of these threats, risks and challenges demand a comprehensive and dynamic new orientation to the concept and management of Ghana's national security. The traditional limited defensive scope and posture of Ghana's national security response to security challenges dictated by political instability and regime protection have become neither adequate nor effective enough response to the currently evolving threat and risk profiles that challenge the country. Our historically traditional orientation of national security tends to give the notion that the sole purpose of the national security apparatus is to defend the territorial integrity and the sovereign rights of Ghana and the security of the regime. This orientation loses sight of the fact that such territorial defence is actually a means to ensure the security of the citizens of Ghana, to protect and to empower them to live in peace and dignity. It has therefore become imperative to correct this traditional orientation, and recognize the individual Ghanaian citizen and his local community as the primary referent objects of Ghana's national security policy planning and delivery. In addition to the defence of Ghana's territorial integrity and sovereignty therefore, the safety, security and well-being of the citizens of Ghana is paramount in this NSS. A more pre-emptive, all-inclusive approach with a blend of both traditional national security responses and human security responses is therefore adopted. Its formulation and implementation are based on the central tenet of a whole-of-government and whole-of-society involvement that is grounded in the principles of unity of purpose and coordination of effort to ensure the self-preservation of Ghana as a prosperous, stable and sovereign state, based on social cohesion, tolerance, national security and national stability. It is this orientation underlines the rationale for a new NSS for Ghana.

Over the years, Governments of Ghana have had various policy frameworks for national security that have not been consolidated into a single documented national security strategy. This NSS therefore seeks to breach that gap by serving as the blueprint reference document for the coordination of the total national response effort to protect and safeguard the nation from threats, risks, challenges to its security and stability from both the domestic and international environments.

1.5 NATIONAL VALUES OF GHANA

Ghana is a constitutional democracy with a national motto of Freedom and Justice. The 1992 Constitution of Ghana, the Ghana National Anthem and the National Pledge clearly capture what the basic national values of the country are. For the purposes of this NSS, Ghana's national values

are grouped into four categories as follows: Patriotism and Love of Country with emphasis on Independence and Sovereignty, Loyalty, National Unity, Tolerance and Peaceful Co-existence, Integrity, Sense of Responsibility and Fearless Honesty; Human Dignity with emphasis on a Healthy Population, Justice, Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms, the Rule of Law, Equality, Equity, Social Justice, Inclusiveness, Non-discrimination, Protection of the Under Privileged, Protection of Women and Children's Rights; Good Governance with emphasis on Respect for the National Constitution and the Rule of Law, Democratic Practices, Discipline, Integrity, Transparency and Accountability and Creation of Opportunity; Sustainable Development with emphasis on Discipline, Integrity, Dignity of Labour, Self-Reliance, Free Enterprise, Participatory Decision-making and a Healthy Natural Environment.

1.6 NATIONAL INTEREST OF GHANA

The primary national interest of Ghana like many other countries is the preservation of its sovereignty, territorial integrity, security and the well-being of her people. Ghana's national interests hinge on the preservation of our national values within the context of the placement of Ghana within the comity of nations. Ghana's national interests in the context of this NSS are informed by this perspective.

1.7 VISION

Our vision is to maintain Ghana as a law abiding, tolerant, socially cohesive, peace loving, people-centred, secure and prosperous constitutional democracy and a land of opportunity, with a resolve and the capability to protect our people, our culture and our values in order to ensure growth, development and prosperity that inure to the well-being of the citizenry while positioning the country appropriately to play a meaningful and influential role at the regional, continental and global levels.

In the context of this NSS, the actualization of Ghana's vision relies of seven pillars as follows:

- Resourcing and strengthening our Military, Intelligence, Security and Law Enforcement capabilities. This is to be done through the recruitment and training of adequate number of Ghanaians to provide the required professional and competent manpower, as well as the provision of the required equipment, logistics and administrative support.

- Building trust and cooperation between Security services and local communities based on the creation of public awareness on the principles of unity of purpose and mutual support in ensuring safety, security and citizen well-being in Ghana.

- Taking a keen interest in the opportunities available to Ghana as a member of the ECOWAS, AU and the UN to build a strong national capacity to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism and also combat cybercrime within the territorial jurisdiction of Ghana.

- Promoting good governance, human rights, tolerance and peaceful co-existence as way of reducing conflict and ensuring national security and stability in Ghana.

- Developing the human potential of Ghanaians through universal education, skills training and exposure in order to acquire the entrepreneurship capacity that is required to sustain the national development agenda.

- Pursuing prudent economic, trade and investment policies that strengthen the overall national economy and create opportunity for employment and prosperity with an initial focus on food security, energy, health.

- Pursuing a progressive and dynamic foreign policy that facilitates cooperation with friendly countries, our development partners and other ECOWAS and AU member states.

1.8 MISSION

Our mission is to engage in a whole-of government and a whole-of-society orientated approach, with a harmonious blend of human and traditional security to guarantee the national security and stability of Ghana by promoting tolerance, national cohesion and unity of purpose in order to facilitate sustainable development, prosperity and well-being in partnership and cooperation with other friendly states at the regional, continental and global levels.

1.9 GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

The following core principles inform Ghana's National Security Strategy:

a. **Ensuring People-Centred Security.** Provide for a people-centric human security response approach to Ghana's national security in line with Article 1(1) of the 1992 Constitution which states that "The Sovereignty of Ghana resides in the people of Ghana in whose name and for whose welfare the powers of government are to be exercised in the manner and within the limits laid down in this Constitution."

b. **Good Governance and Social Cohesion.** The promotion of a culture of good governance that builds trust between government and the citizenry and enhance, social cohesion, a sense of common national purpose and active participation of the citizenry in the governance system.

c. **Prevention.** The early identification of the drivers of insecurity and pre-emptive action to avoid the incidence of a threat. The building of adequate resilience to reduce our vulnerability in case of surprise.

d. **All-Inclusive Approach.** Cross-sectoral joint formulation and implementation approach to involve security and intelligence services, MDAs private sector, and civil society organisations based on the sharing of information of operational intelligence value on a need to share basis.

e. **Human Rights and the Rule of Law.** Respect of the rule of law, fundamental human rights and freedoms and all the provisions of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana.

f. **Gender Mainstreaming.** In line with Ghana's commitment to meet the requirements for UN Security Council Resolution 1325, mainstream gender into all facets of the formulation and implementation of the strategy.

1.10 STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The primary aim of this NSS is to consolidate Ghana's fragmented policy initiatives on national security into one integrated and comprehensive national security policy framework that blends traditional national security responses with human security responses. It adopts a whole-of-government and whole-of- society approach and has the following strategic objectives:

1.10.1 Preservation of the National Sovereignty of Ghana. The preservation of the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ghana entails the deployment of the full spectrum of Ghana's national power to protect and defend the population and her sovereignty, territorial integrity and national interests against existing or potential external and domestic threats for the safety and security of its citizens and possessions.

1.10.2 National Cohesion for Peace and Stability. Guided by the values of justice, equality, inclusion, tolerance and respect for universal human rights as stipulated in the 1992 Constitution, the strategic objective of national cohesion for peace, security and stability, focuses on the promotion and safeguarding of a societal environment of tolerance, peaceful co-existence, good health and security

of the citizenry in Ghana, as a means to ensuring national stability and sustainable development. This NSS therefore takes cognizance of the diversity of the diversity of the Ghanaian society and outlines measures that enhance social cohesion through participatory decision making, respect for human rights, a healthy environment and a zero tolerance for discrimination and prejudice in all forms as a means to ensuring national stability and the well-being of the citizenry. The National Peace Council (NPC) and the National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) are the primary partners of the MNC in this endeavour.

1.10.3 Promote Sustainable Development. Ghana is pursuing its sustainable development agenda within the context of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the seventeen (17) Sustainable Development Goals outlined therein. While Ghana pays attention to all these seventeen goals, it also takes cognizance of the level of achievement already attained with respect of each sustainable development goal. This NSS therefore sets out in its strategic objective for sustainable development, Zero Hunger, Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions, Good Health and Well-being, Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable Clean Energy, Quality Education, Decent Work and Economic Growth, Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure as its eight priorities. Ghana's quest for the development of a healthy, educated and skilled human capital as a basis for entrepreneurship and economic development informs this prioritization. The creation of a conducive environment with equal opportunity for decent work, adequate and affordable supply of energy, clean water and good sanitation also shape this prioritization. In this regard, enabling factors such as increased investment in the agriculture and energy sectors, ensuring that the exploitation of Ghana's natural resources serves the common good of its people and the deepening of partnerships between the state and the private sector will receive priority attention.

1.10.4 Enhancing Regional, Continental and Global Cooperation. In the context of a rule based globalised world, international collective security and multilateral cooperation, threats and challenges to regional, continental and global security have implications for the national security of Ghana. Good relations and international cooperation are thus considered paramount to Ghana's efforts to ensure its national security and stability. This NSS therefore views Ghana's national security in the context of its obligations under legal instruments and cooperation frameworks for ensuring regional, continental and global peace and security at the levels of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), African Union (AU) and the United Nations (UN). This takes into consideration International law and Ghana's obligations under international continental and regional conventions, resolutions, protocols, partnerships and bilateral agreements, that Ghana is party thereof.

1.11 DESIRED END, WAYS AND MEANS

The desired end of this NSS is to accomplish the vision and mission set out herein. The adaptation of a whole-of-government and a whole-of society approaches as well as regional and international cooperation defines the basic ways in which this NSS is to implanted. The focus is on prevention, mitigation and the building of resilience at the national and local levels, out of social cohesion and a national sense of common purpose to respond to human security threats. The means to support the implementation of this strategy is to derive primarily from the Government of Ghana with cross-sectoral budgetary provision and cooperation, and also from the private sector of Ghana and Ghana's Development partners.

CHAPTER **TWO**

Domestic, Regional and Global Threats, Risks and Challenges Confronting Ghana

2.1 INTRODUCTION

The domestic security threats, risks and challenges that confront Ghana are intricately intertwined with other regional and global security threats and challenges and are mutually reinforcing in their impact. The Post-Cold War environment of globalization and interconnectedness in both physical and virtual space also comes with a wave of emergent security threats, risks and challenges to nation states globally and these are also felt at the domestic level in Ghana. This mix of domestic, regional and global security threats, risks and challenges does not only require national measures to address but cooperation and collaboration with regional, continental and international organisations and institutions. For the purposes of this NSS, the threats, opportunities and challenges to the national security of Ghana are reviewed under three levels, domestic, regional and global while the responses to them are categorized under three tiers in consideration of the probability of their occurrence and the degree of their impact. The essence has been to clearly identify the risk that every threat and opportunity situation presents to our national security interests, in the development of our prioritized national security risk register, and to evolve risk management mechanisms that address the probability and consequence of each threat and opportunity. The criterion for the consideration of such domestic threat, opportunity, risk or challenge in this NSS is therefore premised on their propensity to offer an opportunity that enhances the attainment of our national security interests or jeopardise or otherwise negatively influence our national security or other critical national interest and result in social disruption that would be prejudicial to our national stability.

2.2 DOMESTIC LEVEL THREATS, RISKS AND CHALLENGES

The domestic level security threats, risks and challenges that this NSS focuses on those that have their origins from the domestic environment and present an opportunity to enhance the attainment of our national security objectives or have the potential to jeopardise our national security by threatening one or more of our national interests to such an extent that this results or could result in social disruption prejudicial to the stability of the country, if they are not pre-empted, prevented, or mitigated.

2.2.1 Civil Conflicts.

The peace and stability of Ghana continues to be threatened to various degrees by conflict around issues such as chieftaincy disputes, land litigation, ethnic clashes, farmer-herder disputes, sectarian religious disputes and scarce-resource-driven clashes in a number of our local communities. The National Peace Council (NPC) estimates for the year 2020, indicate that there are currently over 200 such domestic conflict situations throughout the country. While some of these conflicts have remained latent for years, others have a history of erupting periodically into violent clashes, leading to deaths, injury to persons, damage to property, and displacement of communities. The national risk assessment that informs this NSS indicates that while most of these conflicts and violent clashes are isolated, some of them have the potential to spread along ethnic or religious lines and thereby threaten our national interests and pose the risk of substantially disrupting our national social cohesion to the prejudice of the stability of the country. To that extent, these conflicts are of national security interest.

2.2.2 Party Political Violence.

Inter political party relations in Ghana has an inherent history of acrimony that dates back to the period of the struggle for independence. The 1992 Fourth Republican Constitution has however, provided a framework within which the expression of such acrimony in the form of violent clashes has been considerably reduced to isolated cases often by overenthusiastic political party supporters. In the era of the Fourth Republican Constitution therefore, party political and election disputes have been settled in line with the rule of law through the courts and it is important that culture is reinforced to avoid a deterioration that could threaten our national security interests and substantially disrupt our national social cohesion to the prejudice of the stability of the country.

Our national risk assessment indicates that mistrust in the electoral process itself is a major driver of this threat and risk of party-political violence. In spite of previous examples of opposition parties winning elections in Ghana, the suspicion of collusion between the ruling party and the Electoral Commission to rig elections for the ruling party continues to drive the situation towards dispute and potential violence. The emergence of belligerent political vigilante groups in the country is, in this regard, a major threat to our national security interests and could substantially disrupt national social cohesion to the prejudice of the stability of the country. Considering the continued evolving nature of these vigilante groups and the impunity with which they tend to carry out their unlawful acts, the menace is likely to escalate if robust measures are not implemented to address the phenomenon. Response as determined by this NSS includes the need for Parliament to examine what legislative response measures are required to enhance transparency in our election processes as well as to truncate the formation and running of political party vigilante groups in the country. The Electoral Commission is also to identify the sources of public mistrust in its electioneering systems and processes and take

necessary action or make recommendations for addressing them. The capability and authority of the Law enforcement agencies to physically prevent party vigilante groups from engaging in violent activity is also to be reinforced.

2.2.3 Cyberspace Threats and Risks.

Our society is becoming increasingly dependent on Information and Communication Technology (ICT). This brings to the fore a number of cyberspace challenges, threats and risks to our national security. In addition to the fact that the governance of cyberspace is becoming increasingly uncertain and unpredictable, traditional information systems that are much more easily monitored because they are programmed to conduct specific tasks in accordance with fixed protocols, are increasingly making way for Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning systems that are capable of making decisions and tasking themselves based on previous knowledge, without human intervention. They thus pose an emergent threat to our national security interests with a potential for grave consequences for our national security. It is therefore vital to constantly examine how our protection measures secure our dependence on cyberspace and computer technology. It has become necessary that we critically examine our capability to protect our national security interests in cyberspace and how that protection is organised at all levels of national endeavour in the context of structure, mandate, training, deployment and responsibility in order to maximise the opportunity it offers and effectively counter the threat that it poses to our national security. International best practice needs to be a guide in this regard especially as to how the response effort should be structured and managed.

Currently, cybercrime has evolved to substantial levels in Ghana and is still evolving. This threatens to undermine the opportunity of the digital dividend that the country should reap from our investment in ICT, as a force multiplier to our efforts at rapid growth and socio-economic transformation. Our national risks assessment register indicates that Ghana is currently confronted with existing and potential cyber space risks and challenges for which prevention and mitigation capabilities have to be reinforced and re-shaped by government in order to build adequate resilience to the threat. The non-realization that appropriate response is an intelligence function is one fundamental flaw in our current response structuring arrangement. Critical infrastructure, utility systems, government and private business communication, data and financial systems including those of the security services, banks and other financial institutions as well as data on individual citizens are all identified as primary vulnerable targets. Cybercrimes such as identity theft, internet and credit card fraud, business scams, lottery scams, hacking, phishing, spreading hate messages and inciting extremism, grooming and distribution of child pornography are all identified as prevalent in Ghana and present a substantial threat to national security with a potential, upon further escalation, to eventually disrupt national social cohesion to the prejudice of the stability of the country.

The blacklisting of Ghanaian addresses on a number of international digital financial and payment platforms derives from our current substantial level of cyberspace vulnerability. At the global level, the 2018 Global Cybersecurity Index by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) ranked Ghana 89 with an index score of 0.437. Similarly, the global, National Cyber Security Index (NCSI), which measures the preparedness of countries to prevent cyber threats and manage cyber incidents, ranks Ghana 88 out of 160 countries with an index score of 31.17 percentage points. Ghana's Digital Development Level (DDL) was also assessed to be 45.25 percent, an indication that our cyber security development lags behind our digital development by 14.08 percentage points. The lack of a synchronized and adequate preventive and mitigating capability to manage and deal with the risk posed by threats from our growing digital capacity has exposed a number of our institutions, Ministries, Departments, and Agencies (MDAs), private companies and the banking sector to various acts of fraud. The ongoing national digitalisation of both the public and private sectors of our economy therefore will only widen the existing gap if we do not take immediate steps to enhance our cyber security capability. It is therefore imperative that priority attention is given to addressing our cyberspace vulnerabilities and reinforcing our protective capabilities in order to reduce the threat that is posed to our national security interests in cyberspace, and the risk of a social disruption to the prejudice of national stability.

2.2.4 Security Threats and Risks to the Economy.

The frailties of the Ghanaian economy make it necessary that a discussion of the domestic security threats, risks and challenges it faces be premised on the evolving and uncertain global economic and financial environment. At the global level, there is an ongoing turbulence for a shift in the international financial and economic order and neither the eventual result, nor the economic and security-related consequences of this shift have as yet become entirely clear. China's current substantial global economic vitality is having a tremendous impact on the economies of many countries in Africa, including Ghana. While China is increasingly questioning the rules on which the liberal market order is based and attempting to remould them in its favour, it is also investing in setting up parallel institutions and new networks that could affect the global economic balance of power and therefore the existing economic and financial institutional order. This would have implications for our national economic security interest. The emergence of the use of cryptocurrencies which operate independent of central bank control also poses a primary risk to the security of our economy stemming from the fact that their use is a particularly effective way of conducting financial transactions outside legally established procedures and could have an impact on the stability of the national financial system. The risk of their use in laundering the proceeds of crime, and to fund terrorist activities are of major concern and would require legislative control mechanisms which could include licensing and other regulatory measures such as reporting. A major national security concern is capital flight, tax evasion and avoidance, illicit financial transfers and flows, and the downright theft of resources of Ghana which may lead to foreign capture of the economy and the paradox of radical poverty in the midst of plenty.

Locally, managing the security risks that portend a disruption of the national economy is the primary concern of this NSS in terms our national economic security interests. The impact on our national economic security interest of a weak revenue collection system, a high public sector wage-bill, rising public debt, losses and debt accumulation in the energy and utilities sector, a low level of demographic dividend, economic crime and economic sabotage have been identified as some of the threats informing the national security risks to our national economic stability. Activities such as counterfeiting, money laundering, large-scale smuggling at the borders, transfer profits by multinational firms operating in the country, and the emergence of Ponzi schemes and weak corporate financial governance are captured on our national security risk register as major threats to the Ghanaian economy. The pressure on government to intervene and to guarantee payment to depositors in times of crisis such in the Menzgold and other Ponzi schemes and also the recent private sector financial institutions crisis puts a great deal of pressure on the national economy to the detriment of our national economic security. As is typical of the many other primary economies of Africa, a fundamental structural fault line and significant security risk to our national economic interest stems from our perennial balance of trade and balance of payments deficits. The combination of our inability to achieve basic food self-sufficiency and our weak industrial and manufacturing sectors make us heavily dependent on importation and this puts tremendous pressure on the exchange rate of the Cedi and other economic variables. This creates an end state risk of public discontent and lack of fulfilment which has the potential for social disruption prejudicial to the security and stability of the state.

2.2.5 Disruption of Critical National Infrastructure.

Ghana's Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) comprises all of the processes that are so vital to the smooth functioning of our society that any disruption thereof will have substantial consequences for Ghana. As these critical processes are mutually dependent, the failure of just one of them could have a variety of knock-on effects for critical national infrastructure as a whole. In many cases, the dependence between critical processes is not immediately and obviously clear. Due to the importance of these critical processes for social continuity, any serious disruption thereof could result in national security being jeopardised. The failure of critical processes could particularly impact the national security interests of 'Physical Security', 'Social and Political Stability' and 'Economic Security', although it could potentially affect practically all national security interests and all of the underlying impact criteria. As a result, the failure of CNI could amplify other predominant risks to national security. The opposite also applies, as practically all of the threats or risks could affect critical national infrastructure. Recent analyses particularly emphasise cyber threats from state-sponsored actors with the goal of disrupting or even sabotaging critical systems. There is a clearly increasing trend in the use of autonomous systems in all kinds of sectors, such as the electricity sector, the financial sector and the industrial

sector. These systems often require communication and interaction through mostly internet between various entities and are unable to work in isolation. As a result, the systems are vulnerable to undesired outside interference.

2.2.6 Armed Banditry and Kidnapping.

The activities of armed criminal groups remain a major threat to the personal security interests of Ghana that peaks in activity periodically, particularly during election periods or as soon as a new government assumes office. This includes armed robbery at homes and at sea, workplaces and on the highways as well as kidnapping for ransom and for ritual purposes. The impact of these activities of banditry on the national security interest to safeguard the safety of individuals and businesses, as well as the negative impression it tends to gives to would be investors about Ghana is a major security risk for which the current response requires review. Attention is to paid particularly to reviewing our intelligence capability to identify and pre-emptively dismantle the various criminal groups involved.

2.2.7 Youth Bulge, Unemployment and Poverty.

As health care delivery has improved overtime so has a reduction in the infant mortality rate. This has invariably led to a corresponding increase in the number of youths per the population and thus creating a youth bulge. The demographic dividend that this increase in the potential national manpower of the country is expected to yield however tends to be undermined by our inability to absorb the youth into productive sectors of the local, national, formal and informal economies. The possible impact of this situation is a major risk to our national security interests across board. Available figures indicate that unemployment in Ghana averaged 5.41 percent from 1991 until 2017. During this period, an all-time peak of 10.40 percent was recorded in 2000 while an all-time low of 2.20 percent was recorded in 2013. In recent times, our employment rate has been recorded as having increased from 2.30 percent in 2016 to an estimated 2.40 percent in 2017. While the size of Ghana's working-age population was 15.9 million in 2013, up from 11.1 million in 2000, the size of the actual labour force increased from 8.3 million to about 12.7 million during the same period. This trend of a deficit in the working population to labour force ratio captures the situation of unemployment in Ghana. The scale of poverty, the propensity for a crime wave increase and the resort to party-political vigilantism have all been attributed to youth unemployment. A large number of the employed youth are not in jobs commensurate with their qualification, as such tend to be also poorly remunerated. Poverty and youth unemployment have thus turned out to be a prominent threat the national security interests of Ghana. The absence of long term educational and skills training programmes that foster entrepreneurship and employment creation in a digital global environment appears to be at the root of this situation and this NSS seeks to address that.

2.2.8 Energy Threats.

Various governments of Ghana have sought, through numerous policies, to transform the Ghanaian society in order to improve the living standards and well-being of the citizenry. The diversification of the economy in order to create opportunity, modernizing agriculture to ensure basic food sufficiency, adding value to the raw materials that Ghana produces and growing the manufacturing, health care and utilities sectors are themes that have featured in the development policies of most governments of Ghana. The energy requirement to support these policies has however tended to lag behind in the requirement thereof over the years. Although increasing power generation and supply have been ongoing over the period, the rate of expansion has not kept pace with the growing requirement for excess capacity that could support our envisaged transformation. It is this gap between the power supply and the projected demand for energy that could drive the required industrial and socio-economic transformation in a sustainable manner that poses a threat to our national security interests. Energy is a basic commodity whose deficit in supply has debilitating implications on the whole of society. At the level of national social-cohesion also, the impact of deficits in energy supply could instigate a social disruption to the prejudice of national stability.

The major national security risks emanating from the energy sector include the ability to access the huge capital investment required for the generation and transmission of power to our required levels whether by the public or private sector. Other important threat and risk centres include, public perception and reaction to increases in electricity tariffs relative to per capita income or the minimum wage, the possible disruption of critical infrastructure and services if the rate of demand continues to out run supply and the effective protection of critical energy infrastructure and installations. Operational and managerial inadequacies in regulatory control and enforcement measures within utility companies also negatively affect the cost of production and distribution. This also poses a threat to the sustainability of energy supply and increases our vulnerability as a nation.

2.2.9 Governance Deficit.

Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, justice, inclusion, transparency and accountability are basic tenets of good constitutional democratic governance which inspire the building and consolidation of that mutual trust between the government and the citizenry that sustains social cohesion, national security and stability. The absence of any of these basic tenets tends to engender mistrust. A number of the security threats and risks that confront the country particularly in the area of human security, are as a result of some perceived or actual deficit in one or the other of these tenets of good constitutional democratic governance. Mismanagement, injustice, state capture by a group of political elite, weak and ineffective institutions all tend to negatively affect the quality of governance and could spiral into various forms of indiscretion that could be indicators of bad governance. Issues such

as the imbalanced allocation of resources and opportunities to identity groups, poor service delivery, systemic exclusion and marginalisation as well deprivation could lead to citizen frustration and feeling of hopelessness which could in turn lead to a rejection of the generally accepted social norms and values, and in fact the status quo. The failure by political leadership across board to reach consensus and implement constitutional reforms such as deepening decentralisation through Metropolitan, Municipal and District levels erodes the confidence of the population and good governance practice. These issues can lead to extremist behaviour which could further degenerate into violent extremism. Both extremism and violent extremism are risks to our national security interests.

2.2.10 Bribery and Corruption.

Bribery and Corruption have ranked rather high on our national security risk register over the years considering its prevalence and negative impact on our national security interests. Bribery and corruption are assessed as having become virtually systemic in the Ghanaian society. Abuse of office in the form of corruption and bribe taking by public office holders has become a major threat to the country's security by virtue of its capacity to deny the state of huge sums of public revenue and quality of work or goods and services supplied. Corruption in Ghana comes in various shades and forms and cuts across the national politics, administration and bureaucracy as well as the private sector with considerable debilitating consequences for the growth and socio-economic development of the country. Bribery, nepotism, fraud, embezzlement, kickbacks from the award of public contracts are all major forms of corruption that defy our existing response mechanisms considerably and create risks to our national security interests. The situation tends to erode the confidence of the citizenry as well as that of our development partners in the Ghanaian public system. The risk to our national security that this entails derives from the assessment that an escalation in the situation could lead to national social disruption. This NSS therefore seeks to enhance the efficacy of our existing anti-corruption response mechanisms and facilitate the introduction of additional innovative regulatory, monitoring, reporting and law enforcement mechanisms that would better protect our national security interests.

2.2.11 Ecological and Environmental Hazards.

The preservation of our natural environment and ecology is essential to our national security interest in order to ensure our self-preservation. Activities such as the menace of uncontrolled and illegal mining and exploitation of our forest resources, the introduction of hazardous chemicals into our water bodies during mining and fishing as well as the indiscriminate dumping of refuse all contaminate and degrade our natural environment and impact negatively on the attainment of our national security objectives to ensure our self-preservation. Consequences such as deforestation, soil degradation, desertification, drought, destruction of fresh water and marine life, wetlands degradation, flooding, erosion, fire outbreaks, air and water pollution, and the lack of safe water supply impact negatively

on the livelihood and survival of our citizens. Ghana is endowed with extensive natural resources. The natural resources and natural environment upon which so much of the country's economic activity and the population's livelihood depend, are at risk of depletion or destabilization at a rather alarming rate due to our own behaviour and attitudes. The situation requires a re-examination of our collective understanding of the essence of maintaining the environment and ecosystem that support our very livelihood in their natural state. Our very attitudes towards the natural environment and existing response mechanisms to breaches need to be reviewed through public awareness creation programs, the introduction of efficient, innovative and deterrent interventions in the interest of our very self-preservation.

2.2.12 Health Threats.

Adequate preventive and curative health care delivery is a primary requirement for our collective survival as a people. Factors such as poor sanitation, poor preventive health practices particularly in our high population density areas in peri-urban areas, tend to put tremendous stress on our already constrained health care delivery system. The current prevalence of diseases such as hypertension, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, hepatitis, mental disease, malaria, meningitis, cholera, measles and such other diseases place a great deal of constraint on our health care delivery system. Global epidemics such as viral infections, as manifest in H1N1, HIV/AIDS, Ebola, Coronavirus (COVID-19) have devastating impact on our national security interests. Both our internal and external national security is threatened by the spread of disease in many ways. Increases in rates of morbidity and mortality invariably place huge strain on our public health delivery system, the psychology of the citizenry and the attitude of the nation's workforce which could lead to social disruption that could be prejudicial to our national security and stability. Our health security situation therefore requires a well-coordinated cross sectoral risk analysis and assessment in order to correctly place the threats and risks thereof appropriately on our national security risk register and evolve appropriate response mechanisms and capabilities to address them.

2.2.13 Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

The illicit flow, proliferation, stockpiling, and circulation of small arms and light weapons, (SALW) pose a serious threat the physical security of the citizenry and in consequence to the peace, security and economic development and stability of the country. A 2014 small arms baseline survey conducted in Ghana estimated that 2.3 million small arms made up of foreign and locally manufactured weapons were circulating in the country. The easy transportation of SALW across our porous borders in the West African sub-region is a source of threat that creates risks to our national security in this regard. The consequence of the uncontrolled availability of SALW on the exacerbation of violent conflict and

crime within our society cannot be overemphasized. Reviewing and augmenting the capacity of the Ghana National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons is therefore a key objective of this NSS for which stakeholder consultations are to be held in order to re-shape our collective response capability.

2.2.14 Fake News and Hate Speech.

Ghana's national motto is Freedom and Justice. Our fourth Republican Constitution reinforces this motto in its several provisions on fundamental freedoms and human rights including freedom of speech and freedom of association. Admittedly, to a large extent, the cultural attributes of the Ghanaian society has tended to create a situation of indiscipline out of our quest to build a society of freedom and justice. The general public perception of what freedom of speech entails, the proliferation of Frequency Modulated radio stations and television stations across the country, and the widespread use of the social media within the context of the aforementioned general perception of what freedom and justice entails therefore holds both threats and opportunities which translate into risks to the adherence to our national values and the attainment of our national security interests and objectives to have a free, disciplined and socially cohesive Ghanaian society. Fake news, deliberate disinformation, hate speech and 'yellow journalism', with sensational headlines often find their ways into the mainstream as well as social media with very little or no deterrence. The negative effect of this situation on the achievement of our national security interests and objectives derives from the exploitation of the diversity of the Ghanaian society to misinform and mislead the readership as a basis for creating distrust and inflaming party-political and other hostility. The impact on our national social-cohesion is of particular concern. This NSS therefore seeks to review the situation through appropriate stake holder consultations in order to revolve response mechanisms that seek to reduce the harmful impact thereof on our national security interests and objectives.

2.2.15 Natural Disasters.

This predominant risk occurs as a result of the power of nature, usually in the form of a catastrophe caused by natural phenomena. Flooding, wildfires or earthquakes could have severe consequences for society. The same applies to extreme weather, such as heavy storms and rainfall. Another risk relating to extreme weather is concurrence: the simultaneous occurrence of two separate phenomena, such as peak discharge of the major rivers such the spilling of the Bagre Dam in Burkina Faso. In such cases, water would surge into Ghana and the rivers would be unable to drain it away, resulting in a high risk of flooding in some parts of northern Ghana. Climate change constitute an important national security development, as it is likely to result in more extreme weather events and increase the likelihood of natural disasters in the long term.

2.3 REGIONAL LEVEL THREATS AND RISKS

2.3.1 Transnational Organised Crime.

Transnational Organised Crime (TOC) in the West African region, is normally carried out by regional criminal networks and presents a cunning potent threat to our national security interests and objectives. TOC is carried out both in the physical and virtual space and tends to thrive on the support and connivance of sections of the population who are not directly members of the criminal network, but who stand to benefit personally from cooperation with the members of the network. Some border residents and border officials are normally complicit as facilitators in TOC for personal benefit. Drug trafficking, Internet fraud, human trafficking, smuggling, money laundering, cross-border terrorist activities including use of parts of our territory as safe haven, recruitment of our youth and activities to raise finances in support terrorist activity, illegal cross-border movement of firearms, armed robbery at sea, theft of petroleum products on-board ships, illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing and maritime piracy are some of the TOC activities that have become prevalent in the West African sub-region and the Gulf of Guinea and which have a direct impact on the national security interests and objectives of Ghana. In addition to enhancing international collaboration and reviewing our existing capabilities to address these challenges, the Government of Ghana will also examine the peculiar circumstances of border residents order to maximise the opportunity there is in order to incorporate them into the country's TOC response mechanisms through appropriate incentives. As part of government's decentralization program, the local authorities are also to play a crucial role in checking TOC in their areas of responsibility.

2.3.2 Border Security Challenges.

Ghana's borders are quite porous with a number of unapproved crossing points along the boundaries with our neighbouring countries. The ethnic-spread across borders in many places poses a basic challenge to the control of movement of persons and basic necessities across such borders from country to the other. This creates a vulnerability that criminal gangs tend to exploit for illegal commercial activity. Although the main approved border points including the sea ports benefit from numerous official control measures, these are subject to abuse by the staff for their personal benefit. The establishment of joint border posts with our neighbours has also yielded rather little result in places that the concept has been piloted. In consideration of the threat posed to our border security and the risk thereof to our national security interests, the introduction of more effective technological remedies such as digitization for contemporaneous monitoring, and reporting in order to reduce the human factor risk has become a priority issue that Government seeks to implement as part of this NSS.

2.3.3 Violent Extremism and Terrorism.

Over the last two decades, transnational terrorist networks have been expanding their reach into sub-Sahara Africa from the Maghreb region and Arabian Peninsula. Beginning with the twin bombings in Kenya and Tanzania in 1998, terrorism now engulfs the entire sub-Sahara Africa with the Sahel, West Africa and East Africa as the epicentres. The gradual spread of the terrorist activities from the Sahel region and the Lake Chad Basin into northern Burkina Faso and Niger is an indication of the ability of these terrorist groups to penetrate further towards the coastal countries of West Africa. Although Ghana has no recent history of terrorism, groups associated with Al-Qaida and the ISIS particularly Jama'a Nusrat al-Islam wal-Muslimin (JNIM)/Group for the Support of Islam and Moslems (GSIM), Islamic State West Africa Province (ISWAP) and Boko Haram, the Islamic State in Central Africa Province (ISCAP) present a threat to the whole Central and West Africa sub-regions and that puts Ghana at risk. The upsurge in terrorist attacks particularly in locations in Burkina Faso, which are close to the border with Ghana exposes the vulnerability of Ghana both to a potential attack and to being rendered a source of recruitment of terrorist fighters. Reports suggesting that these terrorist groups and their affiliates have an ultimate intent to expand their geographical areas of operation further south in order to dominate the whole West African sub-region are worrying. The potential risk that this poses to Ghana's national security informs the related response initiatives that Ghana has already taken in its National Framework for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism (NAFPCVET) and those put forth in this NSS. Ghana also continues to cooperate with her neighbours within the context of the ECOWAS Counter-Terrorism Framework and the Accra Initiative to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism within her territory.

2.3.4 Maritime Security.

Ghana remains a comparatively lower-risk territory for maritime crime compared to other more piracy-prone nations in the Gulf of Guinea. However, Ghana's projected expansion of its maritime oil exploration and drilling industry, comes with associated maritime risks to our national security interests and objectives in that regard. Increased growth in exploration and production of oil and gas entails an increase in the traffic of vessels which could be exposed to targeting by the pirates and armed robber networks which currently operate within the Gulf of Guinea. Enhancing the early warning and response capabilities of our Ghana Maritime Authority, the surveillance and response capacities of our Navy and Air Force to dominate our territorial waters are therefore primary considerations of this NSS. This is to be done within the context of the principle that maritime security is inherently linked to cooperation with our regional neighbours with who we share the Gulf of Guinea. The vulnerability of the coastal frontier (Gulf of Guinea) also stems from its long stretch with beach able areas for small boats that are suitable for terrorists' landings and criminal activity including drug trafficking

and smuggling. In consideration of the threat posed to maritime security and the risk thereof to our national security interests, an effective technological system such as ground to air satellites and radars for monitoring will be deployed for reporting in order to reduce the human factor risk as a priority issue that Government seeks to implement as part of this NSS.

2.3.5 Humanitarian Issues.

The relative national stability that Ghana has enjoyed over long periods, has for several years now, made her a welcome destination for refugees and displaced persons from the West African sub-region and beyond. Ghana is currently playing host to an estimated fourteen thousand (14,000) refugees and displaced persons from the sub-region, a substantial number of whom are not properly documented. For purposes of identification and citizenship, such non-registration poses a potential risk to our national security even if we tend to take it for granted. Historical antecedents indicate that a number of such refugees and displaced persons do inter-marry with the local citizens and soon claim some Ghanaian citizenship rights. Another risk that non-registration poses is the potential that it facilitates the turning of refugee camps into safe havens for wanted criminals and terrorist fighters.

The fact that these refugees tend integrate with local communities and compete with local citizens for scarce resources such as water, food, housing, farming land and medical services creates a source of conflict that has a risk of escalation. The pressure of their presence on the demand for security, education, health care, sanitation, transportation and other services also increases the constraint on resources of both the local and central authorities. The capacity of the Ghana Refugee Board to properly document all refugees and displaced persons who enter Ghana is to be pursued under this NSS.

2.3.6 Implications of Sub-Regional and Continental Legal Instruments and Protocols.

The African Economic Community (AEC) Treaty was signed in 1991 in Abuja, Nigeria and came into operation in 1994 with the ultimate purpose of creating a single market and production base for Africa. The Regional Economic Communities (RECs) are to be its building blocks. Currently the establishment of the AEC is at the stage where the RECs on which it relies for its actualization are establishing their various free trade areas and customs unions. Alongside this, the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has been established. The AfCFTA seeks to create a single continental market for goods and services, with free movement of business persons and investments, and thus pave the way for accelerating the establishment of the continental Customs Union. The ECOWAS Protocol relating to Free Movement of Persons, Residence and Establishment also stipulates the right of ECOWAS citizens to enter, reside and establish economic activities in the territory of other member states. Although the first two phases of non-visa movement of persons and right of residence have been implemented, the

third phase, establishment, is currently outstanding. Other regional instruments include the Yaoundé Code of Conduct, Lome Maritime Charter and the Gulf of Guinea Commission.

These legal instruments and protocols have strategic risk implications, both upside and downside for the national security interests of Ghana. Adequate mechanisms will be required particularly to control criminality and other infractions of our national laws while avoiding tension and maintaining good relations with our neighbours. The government therefore prioritizes a cross sectoral examination of the implications of these legal instruments and protocols and will formulate a specific strategy for their harmonious and successful implementation.

2.4 GLOBAL LEVEL THREATS AND RISKS

2.4.1 International Geopolitics and Fluctuations in the Global Economy.

The basic tenets of Ghana's foreign policy include the promotion of the establishment of a just and equitable international, economic, political and social order in the context of international peace, cooperation and adherence to international law. In this context, international geopolitics and fluctuations in the global economy tend to have very important bearings on the national security interests of Ghana. This NSS therefore seeks to institute under the auspices of the MNS, a culture of a cross-sectoral quarterly consideration of a report to be generated by the intelligence community on the impact of contemporary international geopolitics and fluctuations in the global economy on the national security interests of Ghana. The submission and review of the report which is to carried out quarterly is to foster common understanding and common purpose in the pursuit of our national security objectives in the milieu of a competitive rule-based globalized world. The MNS is to work out the implementation details.

2.4.2 Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction.

As a country that has ratified and adheres to the provisions of the African Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Treaty, Ghana take cognizance of the incalculable negative consequences of the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction (WMD) on the national security interests of Ghana. In this regard, of priority interest in this NSS is the proliferation of Biological, Chemical and Radiological weapons and their delivery systems. This prioritization derives from the low cost of their production and the emergent risk to our national security that they could become a weapon of choice to terrorist groups in the future. Ghana's partnership with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons is to be further strengthened in this regard. The training at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre for first responders to chemical attacks in the ECOWAS sub-region is also to be sustained and expanded.

2.4.3 Global Terrorism.

Although there are a number of global world views that propagate terrorism and violent extremism, the pursuit of ideological, political, religious and sometimes social-cultural goals stands out. Global terrorism tends to thrive on the concept of good ends justify any means. Even in the absence of any local grievances therefore, and simply by virtue of a particular world view and the concept that drives it, Ghana could be vulnerable to a terrorist attack or have some of its citizens radicalized and recruited to pursue a terrorist agenda. Ghana's anti-terrorism statutory laws provide considerable pre-emptive response to the risk that we face in this context. In addition to this, priority is to be given to the full implementation of the provisions of Ghana's NAFPCVET.

2.4.4 Climate Security.

Climate Security has become a major area in the global security discourse in recent years. Indeed, climate-related security risks do have fundamental implications for the management of peace and security globally. Climate security as a concept advocates that climate change is the ultimate threat multiplier that could aggravate already fragile situations, contribute to further social tensions, social upheaval and eventually disruption. The effects of climate change tend to amplify the impact of existing national security risks that endanger the security of humans, ecosystems, the economy, infrastructure and societies as a whole. In line with the foregoing, there is an emerging global consensus that climate change has the potential to stress the economic, social and political systems that underpin each nation state. Climate change indeed worsens the risks of food insecurity and malnutrition and increases the frequency and intensity of disasters such as droughts, floods and storms which in turn have adverse effects on livelihoods.

With respect to Ghana's existing national security architecture to address climate-related security risks, one could say that pre-emptive response has yet to be integrated into the system to involve all relevant stakeholders with job specification and a coordination mechanism. Admittedly, climate security presents a new security dimension that needs to be made an integral part of our national security planning. A pre-emptive approach that focuses on institutional policies and behavioural change to involve local community awareness creation is to be adopted. The mandate of the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) is therefore to be reviewed to include climate security. Stakeholder consultation meetings are to held under the auspices of the MNS to identify stakeholders and develop a climate security strategy that assigns specific roles to stakeholders and creates a coordination mechanism to ensure effective implementation of the strategy.

2.4.5 Espionage.

The activities of hostile foreign intelligence agencies have always been of great concern when it comes to espionage. The quest of foreign interests to obtain information on our vital national political, security, economic, military and other secrets or sensitive information that they could use to their advantage over us or to threaten our national security interests, calls into question, our capacity to protect our interests in this regard. In today's terms, the challenge is even further exacerbated as the functionaries in this arena now include private networks and individuals who operate for profit in cyberspace as clients or operatives of foreign interests. The deliberate creation of national cyber armies is yet another effort in this regard. While our intelligence community has appreciable capacity to deal with issues of espionage with regard to human intelligence, the same cannot be said of our capability in cyberspace. Alongside the strengthening of the capabilities of our intelligence community therefore, special attention is to be paid to the recruitment, training and deployment of cyber security experts within all MDAs, MMDAs, as well as within all institutions that make up our national security architecture.

2.4.6 Unwanted Interference and Influence by State-Sponsored Actors.

Overt and covert interference and influencing activities by foreign governments jeopardise national security. These activities include covert attempts by foreign governments to control their diaspora communities, often using tactics such as intimidation and blackmail. This impacts the national security interest of 'Social and political stability'. This category also includes undesirable influencing activities and disruptive operations with the goal of directly compromising, weakening, undermining and destabilising Ghana, our democratic rule of law and our open society. This could affect our national security interests 'International Rule of Law,' 'Social and political stability' and, in the event physical violence is used, 'Physical security'. Activities by state-sponsored actors to undermine the Ghanaian society through unwanted influencing activities and disruptive operations may be conducted by means of hybrid operations, among other methods. Hybrid attacks are nothing new, although the scale and frequency of these attacks by increasingly assertive states is unprecedented. As part of the constant international competition between various countries, covert hybrid operations to undermine other societies are employed increasingly often. Vulnerabilities in society and the political system are being exploited; given the right circumstances and the right combination of influencing activities, this can have major consequences for our critical national infrastructure. Furthermore, developments in digital and information technology can facilitate these influencing and undermining activities.

CHAPTER **THREE**

Strategic Responses and Protection of Ghana

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The primary national security interest of Ghana is promoting the security, safety and wellbeing of her people, the preservation of her sovereignty, and the defence of her territorial integrity. In generating appropriate response to Ghana's national security challenges, threats and risks therefore, the national security interests of Ghana and the related national security objectives are the primary consideration. Traditionally, in consideration of the threats and risks that were considered to be of national security concern, response was generally viewed from the perspective of external and internal threats. In that categorisation, the Ghana Armed Forces (GAF) has had the constitutional responsibility of defending the country against external aggression while the Ghana Police Service has had the responsibility of providing internal security. The evolution over time of the global, regional and domestic nature and characteristics of the national security threat and risk situation has consigned this strict categorisation of internal and external responsibility to history. The threats and risks to national security have expanded in scope considerably over time, and the related response is now shared in terms of the involvement of the whole-of-government and the whole-of-society. For the purposes of outlining Ghana's responses to her national security challenges, the threats and risks to our national security are considered under the theme clusters of:

- Security, Safety and Health;
- The Economy;
- The Environment;
- Governance; and
- Socio-cultural matters.

The likelihood of incidence, including frequency and duration, and the impact on incidence of a threat thereof are the primary inputs prioritising our response activity. This informs the four-tier categorisation of our threats, risks and responses in this NSS.

3.2 THREATS AND RISK PROBABILITY- IMPACT MATRIX

The threats identified and the risks assessed in Chapter Two of this NSS are all important and significant. For the purposes of prioritising our response effort however, it is necessary to consider them under the criteria of the probability of their occurrence and the negative impact or opportunity they are able to create. While Tier 1 responses derive from threats and risks that have a high probability of occurrence or manifestation with high levels of impact and therefore require top priority active response to avoid disruption; Tier 2 responses derive from high impact and low probability threats and risks which require constant careful monitoring and the building of resilience. As illustrated in the schematic below, Tier 3 responses entail medium priority with regular review of the related threats and risks. Tier 4 responses entail periodic review of the threat, risk and opportunity situation.

Table 3.1: Probability-Impact Matrix Schematic.

Probability/Impact	High Impact	Low Impact
High Probability	Tier 1 Top Priority; Active Response	Tier 3 Medium Priority, Regular Review
Low Probability	Tier 2 Constant Monitoring & Building of Resilience	Tier 4 Low Priority, Periodic Review

- Tier 1. Clear and present threats and opportunities requiring highest priority attention and active response.
- Tier 2. Major but potential or imminent threats and opportunities requiring constant monitoring, effective early warning systems and the strengthening of resilience mechanisms.
- Tier 3. Persistent but relatively low-impact risks unlikely to pose an existential threat in the immediate period and requiring short interval periodic review.
- Tier 4. Potential risks that are currently considered as less probable and with less opportunity and potential to inflict harm. They require monitoring and periodic review.

Based on the Probability-Impact matrix, the specific threats identified and risks assessed are grouped under four tiers as shown in Table 3.2.

Table 3.2: Probability-Impact Matrix.

Probability/Impact	High Impact	Low Impact
High Probability	**Tier 1: Clear and Present Threats and Risks** • Internal Conflict • Violent Extremism &Terrorism • Seasonal Floods and Fires • Health Care Delivery - Pandemics • Maritime Security and Piracy • Management of National Economy • Fluctuations in the Global Economy • Sustainable Energy Supply • Corruption • Integrity of Cyberspace • Espionage • Youth Employment • Sanitation	**Tier 3: Persistent Threats and Risks** • Defence of Sovereignty and Territorial Integrity • Sub-regional and Continental Security Protocols • Regional Instability • Humanitarian Catastrophe • Migration Challenges • Border Security Challenges
Low Probability	**Tier 2: Major Potential Threats and Risks** • Governance Challenges • Sustainable Food Security • Transnational Organised Crime • Climate Change -Long term • Natural Disasters -Earthquake, Drought • Ecological and Environmental Hazards • Drastic Demographic Change • Arms Proliferation • Appropriate Education System • Labour Upheavals • Aviation Security Breach/ Incident	**Tier 4: Other Potential Threats and Risks** • Other Global Uncertainties • Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction • Global Security Issues

3.3 RESPONSE AND RESILIENCE TO THREATS AND RISKS

The primary purpose of National Security management is to avoid social disruption and that responsibility is a shared one although structures such as the National Security Council, Parliament and the MNS provide direction, legitimacy and coordination of effort respectively. individual MDAs, Intelligence Agencies, the Military, Law Enforcement and revenue protection services all have primary responsibility to protect the integrity of the valued assets and processes that they are assigned, and to ensure that their exposure to security risks does not result in social disruption. This entails the setting up and operation of early warning systems and mechanisms that help build resilience at all levels in consideration of both the prevailing as well as potential threats and risks. Before a situation deteriorates into a potential or national crisis with reference to Tiers 1 and 2 of the Probability Matrix, the National Peace Council (NPC) established by Act 818 of Parliament should exercise the convening role to facilitate dialogue to avert, and prevent an escalation with the potential of widespread violence from local to national levels.

In times of national emergency or crisis requiring immediate assistance or relief, the NSC provides response direction in accordance with its functions under the law and indicates who holds the main effort in line with the mandates of MMDAs and who holds the supporting efforts, while the MNS is responsible for overall coordination. The essence of the collection of information, identification and analysis of the threat, assessment of the risks and opportunities, and early warning systems and mechanisms for the dissemination of the needed intelligence is to forestall surprise. Strategic decision-making, early and effective pre-emptive response as well as effective leadership and coordination are always essential. In the particular instance of a national defence crisis, the NSC, chaired by the President as the Commander-In Chief, provides overall direction, whilst the main effort lies with the GAF. In the event of a national disaster however, it is the NADMO that has the main effort and leads the operational response under the control of Ministry of Interior. Overall direction is still provided by the NSC and coordination of the total effort is done by the MNS on behalf of the NSC. This NSS provides for a coordinated multi-sectoral approach to national security management and the building of national resilience. This approach is reflected throughout the generation and application of response in this chapter.

TIER ONE RESPONSES

3.4 STRENGTHENING CAPABILITY OF INTELLIGENCE AGENCIES

The timely availability of accurate information for national security risk management decision- making is a very critical part of the national security response delivery process. A professionally efficient,

well-resourced and coordinated intelligence community, with appropriate parliamentary oversight is a sine qua non requirement for effective response delivery. This NSS therefore focuses on addressing all current shortcomings within the intelligence community in order to enhance its ability to deliver on the mandates of its individual agencies. Currently, the oversight responsibility of parliament over the intelligence agencies is quite ineffective. In spite of international best practice of a Parliamentary Committee for Intelligence and Security, Ghana has a Parliamentary Select Committee for Defence and Interior. This arrangement tacitly deprives parliament the structure required for exercising oversight responsibility over the intelligence agencies who neither come under the Ministry of Defence nor the Ministry of Interior. The MNS will under this NSS, initiate discussions with parliament with the aim of addressing this anomaly.

Ghana's intelligence community has also remained incomplete for quite some time now and this needs to be addressed. Although, we have agencies responsible for internal and external intelligence as is spelt out in the Security and Intelligence Agencies Act (Act 526); we still do not have an agency responsible for communication intelligence. This is a major flaw that needs addressing. In this regard, the 1992 Constitution and the Act 526 have clearly been overtaken by developments in the international security and intelligence community. The advent of the internet, the pervasiveness of cyberspace activity and the threats and risks therefrom to our national security, make it a priority existential requirement that we establish a third civilian intelligence agency with statutory functions similar to those of the UK's Government Communications Headquarters.

The internal structuring, skills requirements, equipment and manpower levels of the Intelligence Agencies is to be reviewed to enhance their efficiency and to enable them keep up with the requirements of the contemporary digital and cyberspace-dominated global intelligence community. Cyber security will receive special priority attention in this endeavour. In line with this, current legislation on communication and cyberspace security is to be reviewed and consolidated to appropriately serve the attainment of our national security objectives. The effective performance of the intelligence functions of monitoring, surveillance, collection and processing of information and the timely dissemination of intelligence require appropriate training of staff and the availability of required tools, equipment and systems. A needs assessment is to be conducted across all our intelligence agencies to ascertain their current requirements in these areas in order to provide for them as a matter of urgent national security priority. The following specific measures will also be pursued to strengthen the capabilities of the intelligence agencies.

a. The concept of a Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) is to be further refined to consolidate inter-agency cooperation within our intelligence agencies;

b. The Ghana Prisons Service is to establish an intelligence unit within the Service. Officers from this unit are to participate in the deliberations and activities of the JIC;

c. Cross sectoral deliberations are to be held under the auspices of the MNS to develop a strategy for the creation of security awareness in the citizenry with respect to our current top priority national security threats, risks and opportunities with particular emphasis on violent extremism, terrorism and sanitation. The intent is to reduce public vulnerability to these threats and enhance our collective resilience;

d. Increase of our international counter-intelligence cooperation at the bi-lateral, regional and continental levels, with the objectives of enhancing our training and intelligence sharing opportunities;

e. Review with the participation of stakeholders including the private sector, our current methods for the collection and disposal of waste, in order to come up with recommendations for a national policy that modernizes our current approach to sanitation and addresses the hazard currently posed to the health of the citizenry and the pollution of the environment;

f. Review the operation of our Structural Vulnerability Assessment System with the aim of making it an integral part of the national security Early Warning System and the development of a national structural vulnerability strategy.

g. A National Intelligence Analysis Centre will be created at the MNS to collate and process valuable information from other sources including open sources, as a complementary effort to intelligence provided by the intelligence agencies.

3.5 STRENGTHENING THE INTERNAL SECURITY CAPABILTY OF GHANA

In line with the national security objective of guaranteeing the safety and security of the people of Ghana, a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach is to be adopted to enhance our collective capability to make Ghana a safe and secure place to live and work in. This will be pursued and attained through the prioritisation of the building of social-cohesion, peaceful co-existence, respect for human rights and dignity in the enforcement of the law by our Law Enforcement personnel. The focus of this endeavour is the protection, and empowerment, of the citizenry to develop confidence in the ability of the state to protect them and safeguard their welfare and personal well-being under the rule of law in a national environment of peace, prosperity and development.

Creating a safe and secure environment by itself requires effective policing in order to enforce the law and maintain order. The GPS is the institution with the primary statutory responsibility to maintain law and order and to ensure the internal security of the country. The GPS is supported by other security and intelligence agencies depending on the situation. This NSS places emphasis on a combination of intelligence-led and evidence-based policing as the primary orientation of our law enforcement agencies to maintain law and order. The involvement of local communities in this effort under community policing arrangements is also to be reinforced as a means of providing the required intelligence and evidence to the law enforcement agencies. To ensure success in this endeavour, and in addition to conducting a needs assessment of all the law enforcement agencies with the view of building their equipment, manpower and other capacities to adequate levels during the duration of this NSS, the following will also need to be undertaken:

- Review of the process and requirements for recruitment into the GPS to ensure that recruitment into the GPS is targeted at the specific branch or department into which the potential recruit is eventually expected to serve in;
- Review of the training and course packages of the GPS with the aim of developing training and course packages that focus on intelligence-led and evidence-led policing, and enhance career skills, expertise and prospects of service personnel in conformity with our current circumstances.
- Review of the implementation of the national security Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) project with the intention of developing a plan for its full implementation.

Maintaining law and order while respecting human rights and the rule of law is fundamental to ensuring internal security under a constitutional democracy. In this context, internal security will be promoted by creating an enabling political environment hinged on good governance, rule of law, human rights, credible and peaceful political transitions and the domination and control of the territory of Ghana, including securing our maritime boundaries, controlling our aviation corridors and protecting our Critical National Infrastructure (CNI). The NSC will provide the strategic direction to ensure that the relevant agencies take the requisite steps to ensure that a safe and secure environment prevails in the country. The MNS will coordinate the intelligence and information required for the related strategic decision-making by the NSC. The effectiveness of law enforcement in ensuring the internal security of the country requires that it be grounded in the criminal justice system. The roles played by the relevant agencies in the criminal justice system therefore have to be complementary. The GPS, the Judiciary Service and the Ghana Prisons Service are the key players in the criminal justice system and they are to be supported by the NIB which is the primary internal intelligence agency. Considering the important role that these three key institutions play in the criminal justice system, priority attention

will be given to the building of the capacities of the GPS, the Ghana Prisons Service and the Judiciary Service. In this regard, the criminal intelligence and forensic capabilities of the GPS are to receive particular attention just as the building of the criminal intelligence capability of the Ghana Prisons Service. The needs assessment to be conducted as indicated, is to help identify the priority areas for improvement in the judicial service.

As part of the capacity building and modernisation program for the GPS within the next four years, GPS capabilities will be improved in areas to include: recruitment and training, equipment modernisation, cybercrime investigation capability, command and control as well as communication and intelligence networking. Community policing is also to be enhanced. This is to boost cooperation between the public and the Police in support of a shift of emphasis from reactive to preventative and proactive measures in the response to threats to internal insecurity. The intelligence-driven approach that the GPS will adopt is also serve as a trust building force multiplier in its community policing effort through a focus on new ways of cooperation and intelligence sharing between residents of local communities and the Police. In this regard, government through the Ministry of Interior will enhance the capacity of the CID for large scale identity capture to promote data-driven approaches to preventing and investigating crimes. The GPS, GAF, GIS, other security agencies, citizens, non-state actors, government agencies, traditional institutions, faith-based organisations, educational institutions and the private sector are to be brought together in a collaborative effort to address the challenges of crime, reduction of the public fear of crime, maintenance of public safety and application of proactive measures that address antisocial behavioural patterns before they evolve into more serious forms of criminality. The state of internal security of Ghana will be measured by improved public perception of security, public confidence and trust in the security agencies, particularly the ability of the GPS, to drastically reduce the incidence of crime and other forms of insecurity that confront the population. The following specific measures shall be pursued by government to strengthen the internal security of Ghana:

a. Government will commission a review of the structure, command and control of the GPS to reflect the decentralisation policy of government. A National Policing Strategy (NPS) is to be developed out of this endeavour;

b. The GPS shall have its recruitment system, training and equipment levels reviewed in order to the improve their capability to cope with the changing internal security environment as first responders in the fight against crime;

c. Regularize collaboration and harmonisation of effort among the intelligence agencies to further promote the exchange of information in the handling of matters of internal security;

d. Develop comprehensive criminal case management standards for investigation, prosecution, reporting and closure of all criminal cases;

e. Improve the efficiency of the GPS through regulatory reform that fosters closer working relations and collaboration with the Directorate of Prosecutions at the Attorney General's Department as well as with the judiciary;

f. Establish a permanent framework under the auspices of the MNS, for inter-Ministerial cooperation on the coordination of the implementation of NSC directives on internal security;

g. Develop a professional, party politically neutral orientation in the GPS and other security and intelligence agencies in their handling of matters of our internal security; and

h. Re-focus the orientation and purpose of our internal security effort on the creation of a safe and secure environment for the purpose of improving the living standards and well-being of our people and the prosperity and development of our country;

3.6 BUILDING A ROBUST ECONOMY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF GHANA

Our vision to develop Ghana into a safe and secure country of sustainable development, prosperity and opportunity that plays a meaningful and influential role among the comity of nations is largely dependent on a robust, viable and prosperous economy. Building a robust economy for national development requires that the country be secured and stable. There is therefore a strong symbiotic linkage between ensuring our economic security and our overall national security and stability as captured in the thematic clusters of this NSS as comprising Security, Safety and Health; the Economy; the Environment; Governance; and Socio-cultural matters. To develop the economy and ensure our national economic security, the government will further stabilise and diversify the economy, and rapidly improve the rate of its growth. This will increase the available job opportunities for the numerous youth ready to enter the labour market annually and also reduce poverty. Within the framework of a Ghana Beyond Aid Agenda, the government will continue to uphold the concept of free enterprise and create a conducive and equitable business environment for accelerated private sector investment in the economy. This is expected to facilitate the rapid expansion of the economy, absorb the otherwise unemployed manpower and result in an efficient, dynamic and internationally competitive economy.

As a primary effort to ensure our economic security therefore, the government aims at increasing its investment in the people of Ghana. The building of our human capital while expected to result in an increase in productivity, will be done in tandem with the expansion of the economy through private sector investment to propel growth and economic transformation that creates productive job opportunities for our available manpower. The development of required critical infrastructure also derives its focus from the priorities of each of the five thematic clusters of this NSS. In addition to the building of our human capital therefore, the improvement of our health care facilities and supply of potable water, enhancing our capabilities at providing security and safety to our citizens and property, the reliable supply of energy, reliable communication inclusive of safe and reliable transportation and the protection of our natural environment are urgent imperatives for which the required critical infrastructure will be provided. In adopting this approach, government is cognizant of the fact that the implementation of the government policy of free access to secondary level education which is ongoing and expansion in tertiary education, while building our human capital, creates a youth bulge with rising levels of education who need to be absorbed into productive sectors of the economy. Our national annual employment estimates indicate that while over 220,000 young Ghanaians enter the labour market annually, only an estimated 20,000 of them get jobs in the formal sector. There is therefore a huge proportion of the youth entering the labour market who are compelled to seek opportunities in the informal sector or are rendered unemployed. Although these youth are our primary manpower resource for driving our economy forward, they could also, as result of unemployment, become a deep reservoir of potential recruits for radical and extremist groups. A stable and prosperous economy that creates ample good jobs for its youth is therefore to be pursued as essential for the overall national security of the country.

To ensure our economic security with respect to social cohesion, government will implement a number of poverty reduction programmes and rural development initiatives which will ensure that no citizen is left behind. While ongoing social programmes are to be strengthened, particular attention is to be paid to the capability of our health delivery system to face up to the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic, improvement of public attitude to virus situation and promotion of the overall wellness of our population. Response to the threats and risks to our economic security are in line with the broader Ghana Beyond Aid Strategy, which aims at building a: Wealthy; Inclusive; Sustainable; Empowered; and Resilient Ghana. Our effort at ensuring Ghana's economic security derives from the need to foster the sustainable inclusive development of Ghana that leaves no one behind, as a means to ensuring peace and stability in our country.

Ghana now hosts the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in Accra. This presents an opportunity to improve and maximise our economic and trade relations internationally. The opportunities provided

through AfCFTA are to be explored for partnerships that are based on mutually beneficial investment, trade and economic terms that would help us advance much faster in the achievement of our economic, and therefore national security objectives. Continued strengthened good and friendly diplomatic relations with our West African neighbours, our fellow African Union member states as well as other friendly nations around the globe are to be relied upon, for the required cooperation that will facilitate the achievement of our desired goal of economic prosperity, enduring peace and national stability for the people of Ghana.

3.7 PREVENTING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND RADICALISATION OF VULNERABLE GROUPS

Violent Extremism and Terrorism constitute a major security threat to Ghana. This assertion is heightened by the activities of extremist and terrorist groups in the Sahel Region and particularly in Ghana's northern neighbouring country, Burkina Faso. As a result, Ghana has taken a number of measures to prevent Violent Extremism and Terrorism in the country. In accordance with the requirements of the UN Security Council Resolution 1373 on the responsibilities of UN member states in the fight against terrorism, Ghana enacted her Anti-Terrorism Act in 2008. The Act provides a definition of a terrorist act, criminalises terrorism and prescribes punishments for the offence. Ghana has also developed a National Framework for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism (NAFPCVET) in 2019. The NAFPCVET established the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) with a Fusion Centre to coordinate national efforts at preventing and countering violent extremism and terrorism. In line with Ghana's national security objectives, the country has adopted a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach with strong inter-agency platforms and mechanism at the strategic and operational levels to ensure the prevention and countering of violent extremism and terrorism in the country. The NCTC is to coordinate periodic and timely threat analysis and risk assessments with inputs from all stakeholder agencies, and share the related information as required for the generation of both preventative and reactive response. The Government will promote international cooperation and collaboration in the fight against terrorism in line with the 2006 UN Counter Terrorism Strategy and the 2015 UN Secretary General's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism and the implementation of the Accra Initiative aimed at mobilising our West African neighbours in the fight against terrorism and criminal activities across our common national borders.

The Ministry of Finance, the Bank of Ghana and the Financial Intelligence Centre (FIC) are to institute measures that will prevent and disrupt acts of terrorist financing within the country. The communication industry in Ghana including local and Information and Communication Technology

companies are all partners of government in the effort to prevent and counter violent extremism and radicalisation in the country. The capability of our criminal justice system to successfully prosecute terrorism cases to include investigation and evidence collection will be enhanced through training and partner assistance. Our capabilities in the areas of Land Border Security, Maritime Security, Aviation Security and Cyber Security will all be enhanced in support of our fight against violent extremism and terrorism. The following specific measures shall be pursued to prevent Violent Extremist, Terrorism, and the radicalisation of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups:

a. The establishment of a NCTC with a Fusion Centre at the MNS to coordinate all counter-terrorism related operations within the country;

b. The adoption of government policies that aim at addressing the underlying human security and governance issues that give rise to extremism in the first place.;

c. Strengthening of cooperation between and among religious sects to prevent inter and intra-faith radicalisation emanating from doctrinal and interpretational differences;

d. Create public awareness and inculcate in the youth, the understanding that Ghanaian value of tolerance and peaceful coexistence under a constitutional democracy constitutes our greatest asset and best defence against radicalisation and violent extremism;

e. Promote Gender mainstreaming and inclusiveness in political, governance and decision-making processes to bridge existing gender gaps and render ethnic, cultural religious and gender based extremist narratives of discrimination and marginalisation unattractive; and

f. Develop anti-radicalisation programmes with alternative narratives to pre-emptively dissuade the youth from tendencies of radicalization through extremist teaching and misinterpretation of religious text and self-radicalisation through the use of the cyber space.

3.8 HEALTH SECURITY

The provision and access to basic healthcare under an efficient health delivery system is imperative for the health security of the country. The object of government in ensuring the health security of the citizenry is to provide for the preventive, restorative, rehabilitative and protective health care to the entire population of Ghana at affordable cost. The Ghana National Health Insurance Scheme (NHIS) which was established in 2003 is the primary means by which the Government of Ghana seeks to deliver timely quality healthcare services that are affordable and accessible to the citizenry. To ensure our health security, a program will be launched to encourage every Ghanaian to enrol into

the health insurance scheme as prescribed in the NHIS amended Act, 2012 (Act 852). Health security remains a key pillar in the government's human security and human development agenda and is an integral part of the overall strategic national security objectives of Ghana. Ghana remains committed to cooperation with the World Health Organization, the African Union Centre for Disease Control and other related partners in the introduction and implementations of prescribed interventions during times of outbreaks of major health hazards or pandemics whether with national, regional or global characteristics. Two fundamental strategies are possible under such situations:

- Mitigation measures to slow down the rate and spread of infection, to reduce peak healthcare demand while protecting those most at risk of severe disease from infection; and
- Suppression, which aims to reverse the epidemic by reducing case numbers to low levels and maintaining that situation indefinitely.

Ghana will continue to use its tertiary medical schools and colleges to train skilled manpower to drive the health security agenda of the country. Special incentive packages are to be introduced to attract and retain Health professionals in the country. The National Ambulance Service will be employed as part of the national capacity to prevent and respond to public health emergencies. In conjunction with MMDAs under the government decentralisation programme, health care facilities in rural communities will receive special attention to ensure the improvement of their pharmaceutical, maternity and health care delivery services.

The proliferation of counterfeit and fake medicines has become a menace that is of national security concern. Measures will therefore be taken under the auspices of the Food and Drugs Authority (FDA) to better control the importation of medicines into the country in order to eliminate counterfeit and fake medicines. In this regard, a group of expert stakeholders including the private pharmaceutical industry in Ghana is to be assembled by the Ministry of Health and the Pharmacy Council to explore how to facilitate the local production of frequently required essential medicines by the pharmaceutical industry in Ghana. Drug abuse and the use of narcotic drugs especially among the youth have several negative impacts on our national security interests. Traditionally the use of cannabis has been the major anxiety in the use of narcotic drugs in Ghana. Over time however, various other hard drugs such as cocaine and amphetamines have come into use in the Ghanaian society. The use of West African countries, including Ghana as transit points for the trafficking of cocaine and other hard drugs, is known to have contributed to their use in Ghana. The use of these drugs poses the risk of eventually destroying the lives of a number of our youth and depriving the country of their contribution to the national development effort. The users also often become a burden not only on the health delivery

system but on society as a whole. More worrying however is the recent rise in the misuse of much cheaper drugs among the youth. Tramadol is a typical example. The low cost of drugs such as tramadol makes their use among the youth much more prevalent. The impact of tramadol on its users has been observed to also include a resort to violence in many cases. As a response to this situation, and while the Narcotics Control Commission and the FDA are required and urged to augment their existing counter-measures, a team of experts is to be assembled as a matter of urgency by the Ministry of Health in consultation with the MNS and relevant stakeholders, to review the situation and submit recommendations on the possible courses of action that should be taken to address the menace.

As part of the response to the threats and risks to our National Health Security, government is to develop a 5-year National Health Security Policy that outlines the efforts required to pursue a cost effective and efficient healthcare delivery system for the people of Ghana.

3.9 ENHANCING CYBER SECURITY

Our society is becoming increasingly dependent on Information and Communication Technology (ICT). This brings to the fore a number of cyberspace challenges, threats and risks to our national security. In addition to the fact that the governance of cyberspace is becoming increasingly uncertain and unpredictable, traditional information systems that are much more easily monitored because they are programmed to conduct specific tasks in accordance with fixed protocols are increasingly making way for Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) systems that are capable of making decisions and tasking themselves based on previous knowledge, without human intervention. This poses an emergent threat to our national interests with a potential for grave consequences for our national security. It is therefore vital to constantly examine how effectively our current protection measures secure our dependence on cyberspace and computer technology. It has become necessary that we critically examine our capability to protect our national security interests in cyberspace and how that protection should be organised at all levels of our national endeavour. The structure, mandate, training, skills and deployment of our response architecture requires re-examination with the view to maximising the opportunity that the use of cyberspace offers us and how effectively we could counter the threats and risk that it poses to our national security. International best practice could serve as a guide in this regard especially as to how the response effort should be structured and managed.

In consideration of the threats, opportunities and challenges to our cyber security as outlined in this NSS, Ghana shall develop a comprehensive cybersecurity legislation that will provide a comprehensive legal framework for Ghana's cybersecurity. A National Cybersecurity Strategy (NCS) will also be developed to provide strategic direction for reducing our risks in the use of cyberspace. The strategy

shall identify and outline in detail, the threats we face and the opportunities open to us in our use of cyberspace, review our current capacity to address the threats and evolve structural, command and control, regulatory and any other measures that will reduce our vulnerabilities in the use of cyberspace. It will also address the cybersecurity requirements for protecting our critical infrastructure, including our Critical National Information Infrastructure (CNII). A Cyber Security Authority shall be established to oversee the protection of our CNII and regulate the cybersecurity ecosystem. Protecting CNII and cyberspace from cybercriminals, including terrorists, is a shared responsibility that requires active collaboration between government and all stakeholders. In elaboration of the theme of the NCS, the objectives will be to monitor and enforce the implementation of the legislative framework regulating cybersecurity in Ghana in line with international standards and international best practice. Government will also continue to build public trust and support the improvement of security in the use of the internet for e-government and e-commerce services to enhance service delivery and facilitate economic development through ICT innovation and advancement. The following measures will be pursued to enhance cybersecurity in Ghana:

a. Inter-Ministerial collaboration shall be pursued in the coordination of effort to safeguard Ghana's cyber security;

b. Existing protective frameworks will be reviewed in order to develop initiatives that enhance our management of cyber risks and rapid response to incidents;

c. A National Cyber Security Technical Working Group comprising all relevant agencies involved in cybercrime response and cybersecurity in the country shall be established to ensure effective operational coordination and response to cybersecurity incidents;

d. A National Computer Emergency Response Team (National CERT) and Sectoral Computer Emergency Response Teams shall be set up to mitigate cybersecurity incidents within the CNII and the national security establishment;

e. The CSA shall coordinate cybersecurity response at the national level;

f. The CSA shall identify and analyse the vulnerabilities of the CNII of Ghana and develop robust measures and swift response structures to reduce these vulnerabilities and to mitigate the risk of cyber-attacks that threaten our national security;

g. Government shall review Ghana's current laws relating to cyberspace in order to pass a consolidated legislation that addresses the dynamic nature of the threats emanating from our use of cyberspace and harmonises our domestic legislation with international law to ensure effective international collaboration and response to our cyber threats;

h The CSA shall lead the national cybercrime and cybersecurity awareness creation effort to improve the cybersecurity culture of the citizenry; and

j. The CSA will lead national efforts to promote cybersecurity research and development activities by building capacity amongst research/academic institutions and the private sector to enhance the growth of the cybersecurity industry in Ghana to become self-reliant in protecting our CNII.

3.10 STRENGTHENING MARITIME SECURITY

Ghana's maritime territory is prone to a multiplicity of threats as a result of its long coastline and the large expanse of its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The requirement for potent Naval and Air Force capabilities to dominate this territory cannot be overemphasised. Our maritime security architecture will therefore be built around the Ghana Navy, the Ghana Air Force and the Ghana Maritime Authority (GMA). Maritime security requires strong inter-agency collaboration. Other national agencies and stakeholders operating in our ports and maritime facilities such as the intelligence agencies, GRA, GPHA and the GPS shall therefore also be in support. Collaboration and coordination in the planning and conduct of naval and commercial operations is to be sustained to attain effective security within the maritime territory. Government will strengthen the legal and policy frameworks of the maritime security environment to secure prosecutions and convictions that are both punitive and deterrent in nature. This shall be undertaken through the joint collaboration of the MNS, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Transport, and the Ministry of Justice.

At the regional level, Ghana will continue to participate in the regional initiatives to provide maritime security under the auspices of the Maritime Organization for West and Central Africa (MOWCA) and other sub-regional initiatives. Our role in the ECOWAS Integrated Maritime Strategy will also be strengthened, through enhanced collaboration among the Navies in the West African Region with emphasis on intelligence sharing. This will be complemented with decisions and policies adopted by the Accra Initiative. Ghana's maritime security objective will be further enhanced through the implementation of the following measures:

a. Government will equip and adequately resource the Ghana Navy to protect Ghana from any threat to our national security within our maritime territory. The Ghana Navy shall be the lead agency or the on-scene commander acting in collaboration with other agencies in any incident or emergency in our maritime territory;

b. A National Maritime Strategy shall be developed to clearly delineate our approach to ensure the adequate protection of our maritime territory, the assets it holds and the regional cooperation that it entails;

c. Effective administration and safety of the maritime environment of Ghana in compliance with international law will be maintained;

d. The maritime security infrastructure as well as development of human and institutional capacities will be expanded; and

e. Implementation of the provisions of the International Ship and Port Facility Security Code, especially with respect to Flag and Port State control functions will be ensured.

3.11 BUILDING A STRONG ENERGY SECTOR

Promoting energy security is fundamental to Ghana's economic growth and development. The future economic growth of the country will depend on availability of energy from sources that are affordable, accessible and environmentally sustainable. Ghana aspires to attain a well-rounded energy mix which combines renewable energy with non-renewable fuels. To this end, government will develop the capabilities and infrastructure of the country to maximise the efficiency of our hydro power stations and establish more power plants driven by our natural gas resources, as well as accelerate the development of wind, solar and nuclear-based electricity infrastructure to support a massive industrialisation drive of the country. Ghana as an emerging crude oil producing and exporting nation is putting in place systems to optimise the country's local national refinery and to further develop its refinery capacity.

Ghana will take measures to focus and expand our renewable energy potentials and consolidate mini grid electrification for island and lakeside communities within the framework of the National Electrification Scheme. Ghana has tremendous potential for solar power generation. Solar power generation will therefore be prioritised in order to advance off-grid standalone solar systems for isolated residential and non-residential facilities. The Ministry of Energy will continue to encourage the participation of the private sector in energy security planning through a national renewable energy master plan. Financing models will therefore be adopted with the involvement of local banks and the private sector that would contribute to providing affordable energy to the rural population. The following additional measures shall be pursued to secure the Energy Sector for the country:

a. A National Energy Security Strategy will be developed to address all potential energy threats to Ghana and outline the strategic response to these threats;

b. Petroleum production and strategic storage capacity will be expanded while petroleum products bulk distribution infrastructure to all parts of the country is extended;

c. Pricing of petroleum products at cost recovery levels will be ensured while maintaining uniform national prices for petroleum products. Base ex-refinery prices of petroleum products on import parity prices of petroleum products or other cost-effective pricing formula will be maintained. There will be regulation of transportation and distribution charges for petroleum products to ensure reasonable profit margins for transporters and distributors and apply cross-subsidies between petroleum products to achieve specific national development objectives;

d. Power generation capacity expansion will be sustained, while the transmission and distribution infrastructure to meet the projected growth in power demand in the short to medium term is rehabilated and reinforced;

e. The regulatory agencies for the regulation of all activities related to upstream, midstream and downstream oil and gas industry in Ghana will be strenghtened. Favourable regulatory and fiscal regimes to ensure strict enforcement of technical regulations and operational standards will be created;

f. The strategic exploitation of domestic natural gas discoveries through fiscal incentives, financial support, and creation of a favourable and effective regulatory environment will be supported and public-private partnership financing of natural gas infrastructure encouraged;

g. Regional initiatives for integrating energy infrastructure to expand and accelerate cross-border energy trade and investments will be supported. There will be secure supplies of cheaper fuels such as natural gas from Ghana's domestic natural gas resources and the West Africa Gas Pipeline Project for power generation;

h. Ghana's oil and gas resource endowment will be managed to ensure the sustainability of the reserves and of the environment. Revenues must be handled transparently to ensure equity for the benefit of present and future generations. The use of revenue from the oil and gas sector must go to complement other sectors of the economy. There must be Ghanaian content and Ghanaian participation in all aspects of the oil and gas industry value chain. Policies will be developed and incentives provided to encourage exploration and production companies to pursue aggressive exploration so as to replace reserves and sustain oil and gas production;

i. Support will be sustained for regeneration of woody biomass resources through legislation, fiscal incentives, and attractive pricing and pursue the implementation of the cylinder recirculation model to enhance the promotion of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) as the main cooking fuel in the country;

j. Promotion of Ghana as an attractive destination for investment, technology and hub for refined petroleum products in the West Africa sub-region will be ensured

k. It will be ensured that at least 50% of Ghanaians have access to safe, clean and environmentally friendly LPG for increased domestic, commercial and industrial usage by 2030;

l. Gas suppliers and facility operators will be made to institute contingency measures to allow for constant and reliable power supply, in order to minimise interruptions to gas supply during power outages; and

m. Stock strategic liquid fuel for all thermal plants that are Dual-Fired to serve as strategic reserve capacity to be used only during periods of gas supply interruptions. The Ministry of Finance will ensure that adequate funds are released to BOST to stock six (6) weeks of strategic fuel resources at any given situation.

3.12 STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE FOOD SECURITY

The deficit in our food production and supply and our strong appetite for imported consumables translate into a rather high national food import bill that places tremendous strain on our national economy. Government agrees with suggestions that prioritising investment in local food production and introducing appropriate regulatory control measures on the importation of foods are possible courses of action that could be pursued to address our food security challenges. This NSS therefore seeks to narrow down these approaches to the specific measures that government would take to address the negative impacts of these threats on the national security objectives of availability, affordability and access to food as a means of ensuring our national food security. To address the threats to our food security therefore, government will pursue the following specific measures and initiatives:

- Introduce incentives targeted at making food production a relatively profitable business endeavour in order to make agriculture attractive to the youth;
- Set clear targets for the attainment of self-sufficiency in the production of our priority food requirements including rice, maize, sorghum, poultry and other meat products and vegetable oils;

- Increase government investment in the mechanisation of agriculture and small-scale irrigation infrastructure as a means of increasing and sustaining our food production;
- Review the concept of Agricultural Mechanization Centres so that each MMDA in food production areas is able to provide mechanised land preparation, irrigation, harvesting and storage services to farmers within the area of responsibility of the MMDA;
- Develop a fertilizer and animal feed industry in Ghana using tax concessions as an incentive to attract investment;
- Intervene as a facilitator in matters of access to land for farming;
- Remove all customs duty and import tariffs on agricultural machinery and inputs;
- Pursue public-private partnership initiatives to produce and make agricultural inputs, machinery and accessories available, accessible and more affordable to farmers;
- Provide low interest loans to farmers for the production of selected priority food commodities;
- Create a team of experts to review the concept of a commodities market for agricultural products and make recommendations to government;
- Review the operations of the National Food Buffer Stock Company (NAFCO) with the intention of improving its delivery capacity;
- Seek technical partnership participation in a program for the technological modernisation of livestock and poultry farming in Ghana;
- Review and upscale the Planting for Food and Jobs program of government;

3.13 ADDRESSING LABOUR SECURITY

Employment and unemployment related issues are major national security challenges in Ghana. The overall objective of labour security in Ghana is to create decent work opportunities for the employed and unemployed in order to maximise our productive capacity while ensuring the dignity of labour. To achieve this, government will continue to explore opportunities in both the formal and informal sectors of the economy to accelerate growth in the number of jobs available in the country. Initiatives such as the Youth Employment Programme, the Nation Builders Corps and Skills Training Initiatives will be further enhanced as interventions in both the national job creation effort and our quest to maximize our demographic dividend from the youth bulge. While government will improve investment in job creation, efforts to enhance efficiency and industrial peace and harmony between labour and employers will also be given priority. Regular consultations aimed at improving labour conditions

and the minimum wage of workers are to be held within the framework established by the National Tripartite Committee. To address Ghana's labour security holistically, the following specific measures are to be implemented by government within the medium to long term:

- Develop a robust database that disaggregates and profiles the specific needs of our labour market and the capacity deficits for purposes of more effective planning;
- Review and re-design tailor-made innovative interventions to address emergent employment requirements in the labour market;
- Set up a team of experts under the auspices of the Ministries of Education, Labour and Industry to review the essential skills requirements of our labour force for the next 10 years and make recommendations to government for acquisition of these skills by youth;
- Dedicate effort and resources to training in the acquisition of those critical skills required to produce the required labour force that can support our effort at industrialization;
- Prioritize investment in the installation of Computer Numerically Controlled (CNC) machines in our technical and polytechnic institutions for the training of the machinists that we require as fabrication manpower in our quest to build a modern technology-based manufacturing industry in Ghana;
- Facilitate the creation of Skills Training Centres by the MMDAs in the local communities within their areas of responsibility, to implement youth apprenticeship programmes in skills acquisition for local small-scale manufacturing;
- The Ministry of Education is to give priority to industrial skills training in its education and training reform agenda;
- The National Labour Commission is to promote alternate dispute resolution mechanisms for the settlement of industrial disputes in work places in order to ensure early resolution of disputes, industrial peace and harmony.
- Develop and implement an integrated National Occupational Safety and Health System.
- Improve labour migration governance through building the capacity of stakeholder institutions and coordination.
- Collaborate and coordinate with relevant public and private bodies to improve social protection planning and delivery to the vulnerable in the country.

TIER TWO RESPONSE

3.14 EARLY WARNING AND RESPONSE SYSTEM

A National Early Warning and Response System (NEWRS) is to be established as a function with appropriate observation, collection and monitoring tools that will enable it to provide early warning to aid risk reduction and preventative response decision-making in matters of threats to our national security. The system will be operational with inclusion of the expertise of CSOs, Think Tanks and partnership-selected key institutions such as Traditional and Faith-Based organisations to provide a whole-of-Ghana approach and mechanism to Early Warning and Responses. The NEWRS will be established under the MNS to augment our existing national capability to monitor, collect, collate and analyse information, for purposes of providing early warning on situations that threaten the attainment of our national security objectives. The NEWRS is to operate as a decentralized system with assigned personnel in regional and district security council operations rooms to provide the necessary early warning information to the NEWRS to ensure meaningful responses from Early Warning analysis and alerts.

3.15 REDUCING VULNERABILITIES OF CRITICAL NATIONAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Our Critical National Infrastructure (CNI) include those vital systems and assets, both physical and virtual, whether public or private whose disruption, incapacitation or destruction would have significant national security implications for our country or result in social disruption. CNI need to be clearly identified and prioritized for purposes of ensuring their protection. The objectives of identifying and prioritising CNI are to institute appropriate measures for the protection of each CNI or group of CNIs, reduce their vulnerabilities and enhance the resilience of each CNI to potential hazards; and to minimise the impact and effect of sabotage, attacks or disaster on the CNI. This entails the conduct of periodic reviews and risk assessments on each CNI to ensure the adequacy of its protection and safety.

For the effective protection of all our CNI, the MNS is to coordinate the effort by all MDAs to update the inventory of all CNIs in the country annually. The MNS is also to develop a CNI protection plan to include response duty in case of an attack and immediate action drills during an emergency. The plan shall assign roles and responsibilities to all stakeholders such as the GPS, GNFS, NADMO, GAF as well as other Security, Safety and Intelligence agencies and MDAs as well as issue caution to the general public by appropriate notices. Similar contingency plans are to be developed in all Regions and Districts for the effective protection of all CNI throughout the country. Coordinating instructions will also be issued indicating mechanisms and processes for the facilitation of synchronized activity across National, Regional and MMDA levels. The following specific measures will be put in place to ensure the reduction of the vulnerabilities of CNIs and the enhancement of their resilience:

- Identify all the critical national infrastructure/assets of Ghana, create a classified inventory of their type and location and periodically analyse their vulnerabilities to possible attacks or other hazards;
- Develop and implement holistic preventative measures for the protection and the reduction of the vulnerabilities of critical national infrastructure/assets on inventory to prevent their possible damage or destruction; and
- Provide standing orders to inform all REGSECs, METROSECs, MUSECs and DISECs of the risks posed to CNI in their areas of responsibility, their routine responsibilities in ensuring that they remain protected and their roles in time of an emergency;

3.16 SAFEGUARDING THE NATIONAL LAND BORDERS OF GHANA

Effective border management will enhance Ghana's security and facilitate travel and trade for development. Poor border management can present serious security risks to our national security. Inadequacies in our border management system could enable the enemies of Ghana, smugglers, traffickers and criminal networks to carry out their intentions/criminal activities across our borders. A robust Border Management System with technological capacity for monitoring, screening, searching and surveillance is required for the effective domination of our borders. The GIS is the lead agency in our land border management system and the government is committed to equip the Service appropriately to deliver on its mandate in collaboration with the other security and intelligence agencies deployed at our borders.

Identifying the manpower and equipment deficiencies of the GIS was one the major subject matters of a recent needs assessment of our Border Management System. The government is committed to addressing the shortcomings identified through this needs assessment exercise and will provide for them to ensure effective domination of our borders. The following specific measures are to be adopted in order to enhance security at our national borders:

a. A comprehensive Land National Border Security Strategy to be developed to respond to the emerging border challenges;

b. Strengthening land border security on all fronts to clearly identify all persons entering and leaving Ghana and to prevent possible terrorist attacks and the entry of members of criminal networks who engage in illegal activities including drug trafficking, arms trafficking, trafficking in persons and illicit goods;

c. Establishing Military Forward Operating Bases at strategic locations internally from where to support the operations of statutory border security agencies;

d. Strengthening the presence of the GPS in border communities in conjunction with the GIS and the intelligence agencies to protect the law-abiding citizens and ensure the adherence to law and order;

e. Collaborating with regional and international partners to monitor the movement of terrorists and members of criminal networks across the sub-region;

f. Strengthening and intensifying joint patrols and information sharing with counterparts in neighbouring countries to secure the borders of Ghana against cross border crimes.

3.17 REDUCING THE VULNERABILITY OF INLAND TRANSPORT SYSTEM

Ghana's inland transportation includes its road transport network, rail transport and transportation on the Inland Waterways. For the purposes of this NSS, domestic air transportation is discussed under aviation. Security and safety of our inland transport system promotes public confidence, facilitates economic activity and is key to our socio-economic development. The movement of persons, distribution of food, industrial and commercial goods and the basic necessities of life are all facilitated by the guaranteed safety and security of our inland transport system. A transportation system that is safe and efficient is regarded by the population as a vital and integral part of their economic and social life. The effective functioning of our inland transport system is therefore a major national security priority. Road transport is the major means of inland transportation in Ghana and provides for the bulk of movement of persons and goods across the country. The persistently high rate of accidents on our roads and the resultant figures of fatalities and injuries have however drawn attention to what should be done to improve the situation.

Ghana National Road Safety Commission (GNRSC) monthly road accident figures indicate that for the month January 2020 alone, Ghana recorded a total of 1,998 vehicle accidents resulting in 222 fatalities and 1,396 injured persons. In addition to road safety management challenges, the GNRSC also mentions unsafe roads, unsafe vehicles, unsafe road user behaviour and poor enforcement of road traffic regulations as the primary causes of the high rate of accidents in Ghana. In addition to road accidents, there have also been a number of recorded incidents of armed robbery on the highways thus creating both safety and security concerns. The GNRSC also cites poor emergency response to accidents as contributing to the number of fatalities. Reducing the number of accidents on our roads is the immediate concern of government. The Ministry of Transport will therefore convene a board of experts and stakeholders to review the existing National Road Safety Strategy and make

recommendations on the appropriate Courses of Action that should be taken to reduce the spate of accidents on our roads. Although the cases of armed robbery recorded on our roads in 2020 have rather few, the existing measures to provide security on the roads will be further enhanced.

Ghana's rail transportation is operated by the Ghana Railway Company which is responsible for all our rail assets and infrastructure. Our rail infrastructure has not changed much in reach since independence, although a great deal of rehabilitation of the existing railway lines has been done over the years. The initial rail lines were constructed mainly to provide services between the mineral and timber rich areas and the ports. The railways of Ghana have however over the period, also served to convey workers, other passengers, freight and merchandise between communities. Although some concern has been expressed about the safety and security of the commuters who travel on our trains, the need for expansion of our railway infrastructure to augment our road transportation has been a greater anxiety. Our risk assessment indicates that an expanded rail transport offers several advantages over road transport in ensuring the security and safety of our inland transportation. Government will therefore re-visit the outstanding initiatives to expand our rail transport system with the view to prioritising them for implementation.

Transportation services on Ghana's Waterways are provided by the government and the private sector in smaller boats propelled by outboard motor engines. Although transportation on the waterways have been very safe over the years, private transport on the waterways have been characterised by several accidents resulting in the loss of many lives. In addition to existing regulatory measures by the Ghana Maritime Authority to ensure the safety of private transport on the waterways which appear to be working, further measures are required to guarantee the safety of the many Ghanaians who are compelled to travel in these smaller boats on our waterways. The deployment of naval assets on the waterways for emergency, safety and rescue services, is an option that is under consideration. To reduce the vulnerability of our inland transport system, the responsible Ministries assisted by the MNS are to implement the following additional measures:

- Review the mandate of the GNRSC in order to ascertain the benefits of giving its officers inspection and enforcement powers. The Commission will in the interim is required to draw up quarterly public awareness creation programmes for funding consideration;
- The NRSC is encouraged to explore the possibility of developing partnerships with local NGOs in its public awareness creation programmes;
- Review the state of manpower and equipment levels of the MTTU of the GPS across the country with the view of improving their capability to deliver on their mandate.

- Explore the use of technology, including CCTV, radar emplacements, drones and other electronic monitoring devices at vulnerable locations to serve both as deterrent and for active monitoring to detect breaches of road traffic regulations including over speeding, and armed robbery on the highways;
- The GPS and GNRSC in conjunction with local communities are to build a database of portions on our main highways that are prone to accidents and attacks by robbers in order to evolve the required counter-measures for those specific locations;
- Conduct a reality check on our railway lines to ascertain their vulnerability both to accidents and attack;

3.18 ENVIRONMENT SECURITY

Ecosystems thrive in a balanced state of natural seasonal renewal and are indispensable for human survival and well-being. Unnatural environmental or ecological changes therefore affect the living organisms which depend on the natural environment. In recent years, there has been serious global concern about the adverse impact of human activity on ecological systems and the consequences of changes in the natural environment on human well-being. The notion of Environment security is therefore about the dynamics and interconnections between humans and the environment including natural resources. A primary concern is that these interconnections between humans and the environment often result in the damage, degradation, pollution and contamination of the environment or the overuse of the renewable resources that the environment provides for our well-being. Such adverse consequences on the environment tend to have dire implications for our health and well-being. The environment is a key source of the resources that we require to ensure our survival. Its preservation is therefore a matter of national security interest and that is the mission of environmental security. Environmental Security includes the prevention and restoration action to address issues of environmental damage and degradation, pollution, contamination and resource scarcities which could lead to a number of hazards including social disorder and environmentally induced conflicts. The environment is a strategic resource that needs to be harnessed and exploited without destabilising the ecosystem. In order to achieve national stability, social harmony and the well-being of the population of Ghana, it is therefore important that we protect our environment. The government of Ghana is committed to the protection and conservation of our environment and the sustainable exploitation of our natural resources is one of the primary policy measures of the Government of Ghana to protect our biodiversity. In order to consolidate our national approach to environmental protection, the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation in collaboration with the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources is to initiate the review of Ghana's Environmental Security Strategy in conjunction with the MNS.

The menace of seasonal floods in parts of the country has in the past affected local communities, caused deaths and destroyed properties including farmlands and infrastructure. The damage caused by floods in some parts of Ghana could be traced to building in water ways and the disposal of waste into drains. To address this situation, and in addition to measures that are to be taken under a Government sanitation improvement programme to modernise our waste collection and disposal, Government will enforce the law on building as well as adopt a community-based approach involving NADMO, local authorities and local communities in collaboration with the meteorological services, CSOs and the private sector to mitigate the threat of floods. The intent is to create local community awareness of the need to take recommended measures that help mitigate the impact of seasonal rains and build the required resilience to prevent or mitigate the effect of flooding. The meteorological services would be required to provide the appropriate early warning to inform final preparations.

The forests in Ghana abound in high ecological and economic benefits. However, the wanton illegal exploitation of our forests, including the forest reserves, through illegal logging, illegal mining in forest areas, and bushfires degrades the environment, threatens our environmental security, our human security and our national interests. The situation has also led to some resource-scarcity induced conflict in some parts of the country. To mitigate this threat, Ghana will, as a matter of priority, strengthen the manpower, training and equipment capabilities of the Forestry Commission and other associated agencies to stop the deforestation and combat the associated land degradation. In addition to our reliance on hydro-electric power as Ghana's primary source of power, the Government has prioritised the development and use of renewable energy sources such as solar and wind power. The widespread use of LPG is also being promoted through the popularisation of improved and affordable gas stoves for use in rural communities in order to minimise the reliance on the use of fuel wood. In addition, farm waste such as cocoa pods, rice husks, coconut husks and maize stock will be converted into energy fuel to provide electricity and reduce the pressures on our forests and trees.

Pollution is a major challenge to our environmental security. A number of major rivers and streams which were otherwise sources of drinking water and fish to local communities are now highly polluted with lethal chemicals, including mercury, through illegal mining activity. The communities which used to rely on these water bodies have not only been deprived of their sources of water and fish, but the remaining fish and other living organisms in these water bodies are threatened by chemical poisoning. Another major challenge of pollution is the indiscriminate dumping of waste, including plastics and other non-biodegradable waste, into the environment, our drains and water courses and anywhere convenient. In addition to measures to halt illegal mining and the pollution of our rivers and streams, a technical advisory team of stakeholders and experts will be composed to make recommendations to Government on the modernisation of our sanitation system to include the collection and disposal of

waste. The mandate of the technical advisory team is to include the making of policy recommendations to Government on the use and disposal of plastics.

The environmental security of Ghana cannot be pursued in isolation. Ghana therefore remains committed to its obligations under international law for the protection of the natural environment, reducing climate change, reduction of increased carbon dioxide levels and action against global warming. The sustainability of Ghana's environmental security is therefore linked to the total global effort and will be achieved through the cooperation with our global and regional partners.

3.19 RETHINKING EDUCATION SECURITY

Education is key in the development of the manpower that the country requires to pursue its national progress. Ensuring a high quality of education that is appropriate to our circumstances and making it available for the development of the potential manpower of the country is therefore crucial for the attainment of our national security objective of sustainable development. Our national security interests cover the wide scope of our requirements in the areas of health, security and safety, socio-economics, politics, culture, industry, diplomacy and the arts, among other spheres of our national endeavour. Education and skills training in that context, form the backbone for the development of the required manpower that enables us to realise our national security interests. The Government therefore takes the education and skills training of our youth as basic requirements that guarantee our competitiveness, socio-economic development, survival and happiness as a people.

The primary aim of Government in ensuring our education security is to reform the educational system itself and align it with our requirement for competencies that deliver high productivity, socio-economic development and national stability. Educational reforms are therefore to be introduced progressively. Already, as an improvement on our already existing policy of Free Compulsory Universal Basic Education (FCUBE), the government has in 2017, introduced the Free Senior High School Education policy as part of this progressive reform. This policy is indeed to create opportunity for all Ghanaian youth without discrimination of the vulnerable and disadvantaged in society to attain secondary education.

In furtherance of this concept of progressive educational reform and in addition to a commitment to improve the quality and motivation of teachers, the Government is currently focused on the content and curriculum of our education at all levels. The issues of gaps in our educational system, in the areas of civic education and development of the youth into patriotic citizens with creative skills and competences in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) in line with our requirement for industrialization, are of great concern to the government and are to be pursued as part of this

NSS. Ghana will prioritise the development of an educational curriculum that adequately prepares our children and youth to become patriotic citizens who are problem solvers, creative thinkers with the right entrepreneurial aptitude and attitude, and skills and competencies that boost their confidence to contribute fully to our national development agenda. The following specific measures are to be implemented under the NSS in fulfilment of this agenda:

- Revise the educational curriculum from Kindergarten to Senior High School levels as a strategic endeavour to create the basis for prioritising the competencies we require in our manpower at the end of tertiary education;
- Sustain the Free Senior High School policy and make it work;
- Continue to create the necessary infrastructure required to support education at all levels based on equity, access, quality standards, skills development and a commitment not to leave any child behind;
- Develop a five-year strategic plan for Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) to guide the alignment of the Ghana National TVET under the Ministry of Education and ensure a well-organised, coordinated system for standardisation in certification based on Competency Based Training (CBT). The policy is intended to provide a world-class industry led TVET system which promotes a globally competitive work force for social and economic transformation in Ghana and equip the youth with TVET skills to enable them enter gainful self or wage employment;
- Review the curriculum and the training of teachers at all levels to be in line with our required priority of competencies, and institute incentive programs to attract and retain qualified persons in the teaching field at all levels. In line with this, government will pursue the implementation of the UNESCO Road Map for Implementing the Global Action Programme on Education and Sustainable Development and the UNESCO nine-point plan;
- Introduce a new Tertiary Education Policy reform to improve on the academic performance and governance of tertiary educational institutions. The aim is to provide clear guidance for the ultimate structure, planning, development, regulation, operations, overall governance and accountability of the tertiary educational system in Ghana;
- Introduce security education in the curriculum at all levels of education in the country;
- Create a safe and secure environment within which Ghanaian youth can undertake their studies under conditions that brings the best out of them and develop them into patriotic nation loving citizens;

3.20 AVIATION SECURITY AND AIRSPACE MANAGEMENT

An unlawful disruption in the security of Ghana's civil aviation could have disastrous life threatening and economic consequences for the country. Safeguarding our civil aviation industry is therefore of vital importance to our national security interests. Unlawful disruption could be out of acts of sabotage, threat to life or equipment, terrorism, hacking of cyber-based systems and processes as well as acts that could bring Ghana's aviation industry into international disrepute. This requires that all airports in Ghana and the equipment and systems that support them be protected and secured. Passengers, staff, aircraft, and airport property, equipment and systems are all vulnerable assets that require protection from accidental or malicious harm, crime and other threats targeting airports in the country. As indicated in the Ghana Civil Aviation Protection Strategy, the Ghana Airports Authority (GAA) is to be assisted by all other security and intelligence agencies in accordance with the provisions of the strategy, to protect and secure the civil aviation of Ghana.

Our airspace could also be violated to the detriment of our national security. The key stakeholders concerned with the safety and security of our aviation sector include the MNS, Ministry of Aviation, the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), the Ghana Airports Authority (GAA), and the Ghana Air Force. The Ghana Air Force, the Ghana Civil Aviation Authority (GCAA), the Ghana Airports Authority (GAA) together have responsibility for the protection of our airspace with the Ghana Air Force as the agency with lead operational responsibility. The monitoring, surveillance, protection and defence capabilities of the Airforce and the agencies that support it in the protection of our airspace are to be reviewed and upgraded to be commensurate with the threat that they face and the response that is required to combat the threat. A needs assessment is therefore to be conducted and submitted for budgetary consideration. The GAA, GCAA and the Ghana Air Force are to work in collaboration with the MNS and the Ministry of Aviation to update the national policy for the regulation of ownership and safe use of drones and Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) within the airspace of the country in accordance with ICAO rules.

While the role of stakeholder ministries is to coordinate policy generation and implementation on aviation security in the country, the operational stakeholders will ensure that operational response to potential and actual threats is in accordance with ICAO standards as they take appropriate steps to guarantee the safety of the airspace of Ghana and the security of our airport facilities and assets. The commitment of Government is to provide for the acquisition of the required modern equipment and standard of professional training and expertise that ensure the capabilities of the agencies with operational responsibility for the safety and security of our airspace, airports and aviation assets are up to the required standards for delivery on their mandate to ensure our aviation security

3.21 RESEARCH IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Government of Ghana has initiated a policy to place Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) at the centre of the country's socio-economic development agenda, and to make STI the fulcrum around which national development revolves. This is in accordance with our national security interest for sustainable socio-economic development. Over the years, Ghana has invested heavily in the development of physical infrastructure (buildings, equipment and facilities) and human capacity development through education and training of researchers, engineers and technicians. This has been followed with guaranteed long-term employment and incentives including specialisation and professional certification in various areas of science and technology. In the recent past, the country has also taken steps to enhance private sector Research and Development and technology transfer. Some of these have already resulted in some beneficial entrepreneurial activities of their own. Despite these efforts and the limited successes so far attained, the linkages between the public research institutions, the academia and the private sector remain very weak. The transformation of research outputs and innovations into socio-economic value remains limited. Similarly, there has been limited support from the private sector in knowledge generation, technological innovation and application towards private sector growth and expansion.

Government recognises an urgent need for collaboration among Government, public research institutions under the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), the universities and the general academia on the one hand, and the private sector on the other hand to foster knowledge exchange, technology transfer and transformation of research outputs and innovations into commercial products and services. This is a new and transformative arrangement that will facilitate the creation of industries and jobs, grow the economy and quicken the pace of Ghana's socio-economic development and industrialisation. Government therefore seeks to ensure the consolidation of the partnership between Government, Public Research Institutions, Academia and the Private Sector in arrangement where the partners act as collaborators to drive and grow research and innovation, and support the transformation of research output and innovations into industrial products and services.

The Government of Ghana has also initiated the policy of moving Ghana's economic development strategy beyond the raw commodity-based model. Another theme therefore is the need to create decent jobs for our growing young and increasingly educated population who are not attracted by traditional agriculture or low-paying informal sector jobs. These twin objectives are at the heart of the nation's Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies, and also of the "Ghana Beyond Aid" agenda. The objectives are to be pursued through an accelerated industrialisation strategy that leverages our national comparative and competitive advantages with a focus on the following:

- Availability of land and good climate for agriculture;
- Abundant natural resources such as bauxite, iron ore, oil and gas;
- A large and growing youth population that is increasingly educated who can communicate with external and international partners.
- A democratic and politically stable country with a strong legal tradition that is attractive to international investors;
- A strategic coastal location in West Africa with a sizable sea port that is close to Europe and America, and positions Ghana well to become a business hub, producing and exporting manufactured goods and modern services to the rest of Africa, Europe, America and beyond; and
- The recently launched AfCFTA and Ghana's role as the host country for the Secretariat.

TIER THREE AND FOUR RESPONSES

3.22 DEFENCE OF THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF GHANA

Article 210 (3) of the 1992 Constitution under the Armed Forces of Ghana states that:

> "The Armed forces shall be equipped and maintained to perform their role of defence of Ghana as well as such other functions for the development of Ghana as the President may determine"

The preamble to the Armed Forces Act of 1962, Act 105, the Act of Parliament that establishes the Armed Forces of Ghana captures the role of the Armed Forces more explicitly as follows:

> "WHEREAS by Article 53 of the Constitution it is provided that no armed force shall be raised except under the authority of an Act of Parliament:
>
> AND WHEREAS by Article 8 of the Constitution it is also provided that the President shall be Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces:
>
> AND WHEREAS by Article 54 of the Constitution it is further provided that the powers of the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces shall include the power to commission persons as

officers in these Forces to order any of the said Forces to engage in operations for the defence of Ghana, for the preservation of public order, for relief in cases of emergency or for any other purpose appearing to the Commander-in-Chief to be expedient:"

The mandate of the Ghana Armed Forces to defend Ghana is therefore derived from constitutional and statutory provisions. In the traditional sense, the defence of Ghana would imply the defence of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ghana against an armed external aggression by a hostile state. In view of developments in international law, the post-cold war changing regional and global threat situations this reasoning neither comprehensively nor appropriately informs the concept of defence of the state any longer in terms of the primary risk to our sovereignty. There is now a number of emergent threats and varied actors that threaten our sovereignty and should therefore define the defence of Ghana. The contemporary threats and risks indicate that response to the most probable risks to our sovereignty and territorial integrity would require the effort of other instruments of the state power in a comprehensive and coordinated response to protect our sovereignty and not solely the military. Our risk assessments indicate that constructive engagement and the application of soft power in the context of defence crisis management should characterise our strategic response to the defence of Ghana, which could be physical or virtual. In line with this assessment, non-kinetic, non-militaristic, legal, cyber security and diplomatic measures are to be infused into our response generation as first line of engagement in the defence of our sovereignty. When it becomes necessary to deploy the GAF physically however, they will be deployed in accordance with the provisions of the 1992 Constitution of Ghana, the Armed Forces Act and our national security and defence strategies.

In accomplishment of the other roles assigned to the GAF in the Armed Forces Act, the GAF will support the GPS to maintain or restore law and order in Ghana. The GAF will also provide Military Aid to Civil Authority (MACA) in times of disaster, humanitarian crisis, peace operations or as the Commander-in-Chief may deem expedient. In these operations, winning the hearts, minds, confidence and cooperation of the people for whose benefit the GAF is deployed shall be the guiding principle.

The Government is committed to its constitutional responsibility to equip and maintain the GAF. In this regard, the GAF is to be transformed into a modern armed force with training and equipment that can defend Ghana against our current and evolving threat and risk situations. Particular attention will be paid to modernising the technical intelligence capability of the GAF, its cyber security capability, as well as its counter-terrorism capacity. In view of the long stretch of our land and maritime borders, and the likelihood of insecurity along our international borders, particularly from non-state actors, the current disposition of the GAF will be reviewed with the establishment and location of new regiments and units across the country for the purpose of effective coverage of the national territory. With this

new disposition, the GAF would be better placed to support the GIS and the GPS when required either for an internal function or in a border security support role. The MOD is to make proposals for the establishment of a Military Industrial complex for Ghana. This is to be pursued as part of our national economic strategy based on the "Ghana Beyond Aid Agenda." A National Defence Strategy will be developed to provide strategic direction for the running of the defence sector.

3.23 FOREIGN POLICY OF GHANA

The foreign policy of Ghana is focused on her relationship with regional, continental and global partners and their alignments with our overall national interests. Foreign policy often manifests in three important components: the domestic environment; relations with the external environment, as well as national aspirations in the international arena. Maintaining the linkages between these components is critical to strengthening our relationship with regional and global partners in order to achieve our foreign policy objectives. Ghana's diplomatic network remains crucial to strengthening relationships with regional and global partners. The country will continue to extend the reach of our diplomacy to nurture existing partnerships and alliances while building new ones. This will be guided by our foreign policy approaches which include: the pursuit of external relations based on constructive engagement with all nations in furtherance of our national interests and objectives; commitment to international peace and security; optimisation of our comparative national advantages to promote our national image and competitiveness abroad; and the continuation of a policy of non-aggression with our neighbours while ensuring preparedness to defend our national interests by all legitimate means. The extension of our diplomatic reach and network will be underpinned by optimisation of the contributions of our foreign missions to our domestic aspirations. We will also adopt an open, participatory engagement with the population on foreign policy issues and initiatives; and periodic reviews of foreign policy goals.

Tackling terrorism and violent extremism is paramount to the national interest of Ghana. This can be effectively achieved through bilateral and multilateral collaboration. In furtherance of this, we will continue to support the initiatives of ECOWAS, AU and the UN in an effort to prevent and counter violent extremism and terrorism. To provide practical support to the fight against terrorism and other forms of transnational organised crimes in West Africa and the Sahel region, Ghana remains committed to ECOWAS, AU and UN endorsed initiatives to prevent, counter and combat such threats. Ghana is committed to the ideals of the Accra Initiative which is meant to galvanise West African States to respond to emerging threats confronting the sub-region. The approach of the Accra Initiative grouping will be based on soft power approaches including dialogue, mediation, as well as gathering and dissemination of timely and actionable intelligence. Ghana will continue to promote bilateral and

multilateral economic, scientific and technical cooperation to boost trade and economic relations with friendly nations towards economic prosperity. Ghana will strengthen existing bilateral and multilateral economic relations with regional and international partners. We will constantly review existing bilateral relations with other states to diversify such relations to ensure Ghana derives maximum benefits from the establishment of diplomatic missions. This would call for a thorough analysis of every proposal to open diplomatic missions anywhere in the world. We will revise our Foreign Policy to conform with contemporary international relations and international security best practices.

3.24 PARTICIPATING IN INTERNATIONAL PEACE OPERATIONS

Ghana has participated actively in international peace operations since the establishment of the UN operations in the Congo in 1960. Since then, Ghana continues to contribute Military and Police personnel to various theatres of conflict for peace operations globally. The active participation of Ghana in UN peace missions remains a fundamental pillar of the foreign policy of Ghana. The country has deployed military contingents, unarmed military observers, staff officers, police formed units and advisers to more than 30 missions globally. Ghanaian troops constituted the pioneering West African military units deployed in peacekeeping efforts in Liberia, Sierra Leone and Ivory Coast. The mission in Liberia under ECOMOG in 1990 will later become UNMIL when it was UN assumed responsibilities there. Also, military units participated in the ECOWAS peace deployment in Sierra Leone which was later transformed into UN Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone. The Ghanaian troops participated in the ECOWAS mission in Cote d'Ivoire and later transferred into the UN Operations. Later, the contingent from Ghana participated in the ECOWAS mission in Mali which was later taken over by the UN Mission. We will continue to promote global peace and international security through our commitment and missions to international peace efforts under the ECOWAS, AU and UN. The country will work to improve the visibility of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) as a centre of excellence to build the capacity of peacekeepers at the regional and continental levels. Peace operations will continue to be a priority pillar of the Foreign Policy of Ghana and her international diplomacy. The collaborative effort of the MOD, MNS, Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration and other relevant stakeholders is important to advance the peace operations initiative of the country.

3.25 DIASPORA ENGAGEMENTS

The Ghanaian diaspora community constitute a viable source of mobilisation for the development of the country. Contributions and significant donations by the diaspora have helped the acceleration

of development of some other African countries. Ghana will exploit this opportunity to explore and attract Ghanaians in the diaspora for progressive interventions through remittances and other categories of support leading to their contribution to the overall national interest. Government will support Ghanaians in the diaspora to be more proactive to governance and the developmental agenda of the country. A National Diasporal Authority will be established to help strengthen engagements with various groupings of the Diaspora. Based on the success of the 'Year of Return' activities organised in 2019 for the Ghanaian diaspora community, Government will institute an annual event to solidify activities of the diaspora every year. This will enhance their support for realising our national interest priorities.

3.26 DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Development cooperation with Ghana's neighbours and other countries in the continent is a positive step at fostering mutual peace and security in the region and the continent. Ghana will continue to offer development support to neighbouring and other countries in the continent. We will strengthen our capacity to provide technical and specialist support to needy countries under which Ghana will assist with the provision of judicial staff, teachers, health personnel and other human support to help in developmental services and capacity building. Ghana will continue to offer training assistance to states in the continent for strategic and operation levels training at the KAIPTC, the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College and the Legon Centre for International Affairs and Diplomacy. This will foster cooperation and help to deepen democracy in Africa. As part of Ghana's support for democratic consolidation, we will continue to deploy election monitors and observers for the conduct and assessment of elections in Africa and Commonwealth countries outside Africa. The contribution of Ghana towards international security is not limited to the provision of military and police personnel for peace operations, but also entails mediation and negotiations in crisis situations. Mediation has become an effective approach for resolving disputes, especially intra-state conflicts in Africa, because it is more cost effective and provides a more progressive option for conflict/dispute resolution. Ghana will continue to provide its resources, both human and training, towards mediation efforts to regional and global security. We are committed to support the ECOWAS, AU, UN and other regional organisations to advance the agenda of global peace and security.

3.27 SECURITY AND DEFENCE ENGAGEMENTS

Ghana is determined as a sovereign country to build security and defence strategic relationships with key countries and play an active role in international and regional organisations. The key objectives of

our security and defence engagement are: to develop understanding of national security requirements; prevent conflict; develop capability, capacity and interoperability; promote prosperity; and build and maintain access and influence. An important pillar for promoting our regional, continental and global interest is the use of security and defence diplomacy. We will use diplomacy as one of our security and defence missions to dispel hostility, build and maintain trust and assist in the development of democratically accountable institutions to make a significant contribution to conflict prevention and resolution. The GPS, GAF and other security and intelligence agencies have the capability to respond to conflict situations in partnership with other states and our regional partners. Government will invest in security, intelligence and defence capabilities to enable the country to respond appropriately to regional and continental security threats and to achieve interoperability with regional and continental partners. The MOD in particular will be empowered to prioritise defence engagements which will include providing training opportunities to our allied Africans in training institutions and conducting bilateral and multilateral exercises with partners. Equally, other security agencies will be supported to prioritise their engagements with other Africa states. Government will continue to engage with bilateral and multilateral international partners in training support and joint exercises, education and training, arms procurement and exchange of intelligence and classified information.

3.28 PARTNERSHIP WITH INTERNATIONAL GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS

Partnership and cooperation with international governmental organisations at the global, continental and regional levels is paramount for the success of the NSS. This will involve collaboration with the United Nations, African Union, Economic Community of West African States, the Accra Initative Grouping and other related organisations

3.28.1 United Nations.

Ghana, as a sovereign nation, has an obligation towards ensuring the effective performance of the functions of the United Nations (UN) which was established in 1945 as the foremost global multilateral institution responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security. Ghana will leverage the multilateral forum to maximum advantage in pursuit of our national interest and overall security. We stand to benefit enormously from the cooperation in multinational fora, particularly on issues such as cyber security, terrorism, human, drug and arms trafficking, human rights and other issues which impinge directly or indirectly on national and global security. The UN cannot succeed without the active collaboration and support of Member States including Ghana. As a Member State, we will ensure that our financial obligations to the UN are met to strengthen the global body's capacity and efficiency towards achieving its goals and aspirations. Ghana is committed to implement all protocols

and resolutions agreed at the UN to which it is a party. The country will implement the UNSG's Plan of Action to Prevent Violent Extremism as a critical national security pillar. Already Ghana has published a National Framework for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism and Terrorism which is in line with the Counter-Terrorism Strategy and Action Plan of the UN. Ghana is determined to support, as a matter of priority, the strengthening of the UN mechanisms for conflict prevention; and peace operations as highlighted in the HIPPO report on Global Peace Operations of 2015. As a traditional contributor of Troops and Police to UN Peace Operations, Ghana will continue to participate in such missions to assist the UN to fulfil its key mandate of maintaining international peace and security.

3.28.2 African Union.

Ghana played a pioneering role in the establishment of the African Union (AU) which was originally established as the Organisation of African Unity in 1963. The main objectives of the AU are to achieve greater unity, cohesion and solidarity between African nations; to defend the sovereignty, territorial integrity and independence of its Member States; and to accelerate the political and socio-economic integration of the continent. Ghana is committed to the strengthening of the capacity of the AU to meet its objectives of ensuring peace, stability, economic integration and good governance in Africa and will play an active role in the activities of the AU. We shall continue to support the AU Peace and Security Council as a collective security and early warning arrangement intended to facilitate timely and efficient responses to conflict and crisis situation in Africa. We will continue to actively support the AU Convention on the Prevention and Combatting Terrorism and its protocols; and the prevention and suppression of sexual violence against women and children among others. Ghana will continue to contribute troops to AU sponsored peace operations; and collaborate with Member States in the fight against terrorism and transnational organised crime. We will also ratify and implement the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralisation, Local Governance and Local Development as a means of human security approach to national security. The promotion of free and fair-trade relations to support the AU's efforts to ensure socio-economic integration is a priority area for Ghana's support and cooperation with all Member States. As a practical response, Ghana won the bid to establish the headquarters of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) with effect from the year July 2020. We will use the presence of the AfCFTA headquarters in Ghana to leverage close cooperation in trade, commerce and related areas.

3.28.3 Economic Community of West African States.

The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) was established in 1975 to promote cooperation and integration of West African States in order to create an economic and monetary union for enhancing economic growth and development. The main objective of ECOWAS therefore is to help

raise the living standards of the people of the sub-region, and to maintain and enhance economic stability and foster relations among Member States. ECOWAS as a leading multilateral institution in West Africa has over the years addressed political and socio-economic challenges of Member States using the organs, protocol and institutions at the disposal of the Commission. We acknowledge that the peace and stability of our country could be threatened by insecurity in our neighbouring countries. The geo-political impact of violence and insecurity in our neighbouring countries could undermine the socio-economic development of our country. Our collective effort at preventing any insecurity is therefore paramount as a sub-region. Since 1990, ECOWAS has undertaken Conflict Prevention and Conflict Management responsibilities to support conflict states. The ECOWAS successful intervention in Liberia in 1990 was the beginning of such an initiative. This was later replicated in Sierra Leone, Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea Bissau, Mali and the Gambia. Ghana will continue to support ECOWAS objectives for regional integration, good governance, peace and stability as well as trade and economic integration among Member States. The creation of a West African Monetary Zone projected with its own currency is among policies the country has shown immense support over the years. Ghana will continue to cooperate with ECOWAS to streamline the implementation of the protocol on free movement of goods and persons across the borders of Member States. We will continue to work with Member States for a unified approach on curbing transnational organised crimes and measures against violent extremism and terrorism, cybercrime, piracy and other cross border threats. Ghana will play an active role and collaborate with all States to develop a sub-regional security strategy for a comprehensive framework to confront emerging security threats in the region.

3.28.4 The Accra Initiative.

The Accra Initiative was established in 2017 as a result of consultations between Ghana, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire and Togo as an inter-governmental security mechanism among them. The main objective of the Accra Initiative is to enhance security and intelligence cooperation between member states. The Group has had its membership increased to seven with the inclusion of Benin, Mali and Niger. We will jointly initiate mechanisms to prevent the activities by terrorists and other violent militant groups from operating within our territories or using them as launching areas to attack others. Ghana will collaborate with all members of the Accra Initiative in the spirit of mutual respect, trust and equality. We shall approach the cooperation with Member States with absolute sincerity and commitment in the exchange of information and intelligence and expertise in areas of interest to the countries. Specifically, we shall undertake to cooperate, exchange information and intelligence, and develop common strategies in the following areas:

a. National, Regional and International Security developments;

b. Transnational organised crimes, including trafficking of human organs and human beings, drug trafficking, smuggling, arms trafficking, money laundering, cybercrime, kidnapping, environmental crimes, child labour and migration, irregular armed groups, violent extremism, piracy and maritime security, livestock theft and other economic crimes;

c. Modern methods of detecting, profiling and combatting the activities of persons involved in criminal activities;

d. Capacity-building in the area of information and communication technologies and sharing of information on measures to enhance cyber security, countering cyber-terrorism and combatting cybercrime, with particular emphasis on advanced electronic techniques for monitoring, intercepting and detecting information, as well as the security and protection of computer data systems and networks;

e. Identify Non-Governmental Organisations, corporations or individuals and groups that may be used clandestinely to destabilise a member country; and

f. Apprehend nationals of any country within our jurisdictions who are engaged in criminal, illegal or suspicious activities.

Ghana will support the Accra Initiative Group with an institutional framework for cooperation among member countries. In order to promote peace and socio-economic development, we will leverage the Accra Initiative to counter threats and promote the creation and sustainability of a peaceful environment within our territories.

CHAPTER **FOUR**

Safeguarding National Cohesion for Peace and Stability

4.1 INTRODUCTION

Ghana has experienced a number of violent sectarian civil conflicts and disputes in various parts of the country in the past. Chieftaincy disputes, Inter-ethnic rivalries, land ownership disparities, religious disagreement, political party rivalries and election related belligerence have been the causes of some of these violent conflicts. Safeguarding and preserving a peaceful environment in Ghana is the primary aim of the NSS. A peaceful country is a pre-requisite for the accelerated national development Ghana seeks to attain in order to improve the living standards of the population. This NSS therefore seeks to build national and social cohesion, establish trust between the government and the citizenry, and build a national purpose of peaceful co-existence and security across the Ghanaian polity. Government cooperation and partnership with independent constitutional and statutory bodies, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), political institutions, women and youth groups, traditional authorities and faith based organisations on matters of human security policy formulation and implementation is to be relied upon to attain the support of the whole-of society for a national agenda to enhance national consciousness, forge national unity and cohesion as well as sustain the peace and security of the country under this NSS.

4.2 CONFLICT PREVENTION AND PEACE BUILDING

As part of measures to promote national unity, national cohesion and peaceful co-existence, Government shall strengthen the already existing capacity of the security, intelligence and emergency services for early detection of the drivers of outbreaks of violence in our communities using given indicators. A pre-emptive and preventative approach is to be adopted to avoid the outbreak of violent conflicts in our communities. The National Peace Council (NPC) is to be a major partner of Government in the conflict prevention and peace building agenda espoused in this NSS. Regional and District Peace Councils already exist across the country as part of the national peace architecture. The current state of the Peace Councils at regional and district levels is to be assessed with the intent to enhance their capacity to serve as the principal agencies for peace building at the regional and local levels. As part of this NSS, Government shall provide the necessary resources to the NPC at all levels in order to attain

the required capacity to deliver on its mandate. In addition to their regular responsibilities, the conflict prevention and peacebuilding activities of the NPC architecture in their various areas of geographical responsibility under this NSS shall be focused in the short and medium term on the following priority areas:

- Compilation of a list and details of disputes and conflicts that are likely to erupt into violence to include community mediators, gate keepers, influencers and facilitators;
- Establishment of a database and creation of a network of influential stakeholders in conflict prevention and peacebuilding;
- Promotion of public awareness of the values of mutual trust, tolerance, confidence building, negotiation, mediation, dialogue, reconciliation with emphasis on indigenous mechanisms for peace building and considering our cultural diversity, and encourage their use;
- Creation and dissemination of innovative context specific models for conflict prevention, management, resolution, and peacebuilding;
- Facilitation of the implementation of agreements and resolutions reached between parties in conflict and same registered in the courts in accordance with Ghana's Alternate Dispute Resolution requirements.

As part of the implementation of this strategy, and in conjunction with the NPC, a national framework is to be developed that lays out guidelines for the prevention and resolution of conflicts and disputes and for peace building in identified potential conflict areas in the country. The NPC is to collaborate with REGSECs, METROSECs, MUSECs, DISECs and the respective Regional House of Chiefs, as the case may be, to shape these guidelines and make them applicable to the context of their areas of responsibility. Other stakeholders that the NPC will need to have to collaborate with as partners include the Law Enforcement and Intelligence Agencies, Traditional Leaders, Religious bodies, CSOs, Youth and Women Groups, Community Groups, the Private Sector, the Media and other community gate keepers, influencers and facilitators in order to build the required consensus and social cohesion that facilitate their work.

4.3 PROMOTING RELIGIOUS TOLERANCE

The provisions of the 1992 Constitution prohibit religious discrimination and provides for individual freedom to profess and practice one's religion of choice. The right of worship in a religion of one's choice is therefore a highly placed non-discrimination value that upholds tolerance in the diversity

of our society. Although a secular state, Ghana is a highly religious country and the various religious denominations have mass following across all ages of the population. The denominations therefore have a formidable platform for mobilising public opinion and promoting national cohesion, national unity and peaceful co-existence. Leaders of religious groups, particularly the two dominant religions, Christianity and Islam, will be encouraged to preach peace and national cohesion in their sermons as well as intervene to resolve intra and inter religious conflicts with the aim of promoting religious harmony and carrying their message that forges peace and unity. The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs will lead in the introduction and effective coordination of initiatives on inter-faith dialogues and cooperation to enhance national unity. The religious denominations and institutions will be encouraged and supported through awareness creation programmes to educate the leaders and influencers on the implications of extremist ideology, to play their roles to prevent violent extremism as stipulated in the Ghana NAFPCVET. Government will work closely with all religious denominations and their representative institutions to prohibit extremist religious ideologies and preaching in churches and mosques as a means of preventing the radicalisation of our youth and the vulnerable in our communities. The specific entry points shall be through the leadership of the Catholic Bishops Conference, Christian Council of Ghana, Ghana Pentecostal Council, National Council for Christian and Charismatic Churches, the Office of the National Chief Imam, Council of Muslim Ullemas, Regional Chief Imams, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission, Ahlul-Sunnah wal Jama'a Muslim Mission, the Tijaniyya Muslim Mission, Ghana Council for Religion for Peace, leaders of Traditional Religious denominations and other identifiable faiths groupings.

4.4 GENDER, WOMEN AND NATIONAL SECURITY

Women have a critical role in the building and sustenance of durable peace in any society. The security, stability and prosperity of Ghana relies on our ability to mainstream gender into what we do at all levels of our national endeavour. The Government in this regard, is committed to ensuring that as provided for in our Constitution, women enjoy the same rights as men, and are afforded equal opportunity to fully participate in our political, social, economic, security and all spheres of life at all levels from local through to national.

Government will reinforce the use of gender mainstreaming as a public policy concept for assessing the different implications for people of different genders with regard to all planned policy action, including legislation and programmes in all areas and levels in the country. The mainstreaming of gender to achieve gender parity across the Ghanaian society is expected to create more leadership opportunities for women and lead to national stability. In the context of the NAFPCVET, women and

the youth will be given lead roles in Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution as a means of ensuring social inclusion, sustainable peace, security, social-cohesion and national stability in the country. Policy and statutory provision will be made for women and youth representation in REGSECs, METROSECs, MUSECs, DISECs as well as Regional and District Peace Councils.

Ghana is fully committed to the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 (UNSCR 1325) on Women, Peace and Security and the related International and Regional Instruments such as the Beijing Platform for Action, the CEDAW Protocol, the African Charter on Human and Peoples Rights and all the UNSCR on Women, Peace and Security. Ghana's current National Action Plan on for the implementation of UNSCR 1325 is based on the four pillars: Participation, Prevention, Protection; and Resolution/Recovery. This Action Plan recognises the important role and contribution of women in peace building and conflict resolution processes in the country. The following additional measures will be implemented to accelerate the gender mainstreaming in matters of national security and stability:

a. Integration of gender issues into all national security policies and decisions to maximise the contribution of women;

b. Establishing, under the auspices of our NAFPCVET, closer links between the MNS and CSOs concerned with gender and security matters, to create a platform of cooperation for the sensitisation of the public on matters of gender and security and help build national consensus on security and gender issues;

c. Initiating policy for clear quotas for women in our security agencies in order to build trust and improve the provision of security and justice for women;

d. Support for the Women Peace and Security Institute of the KAIPTC to undertake capacity building and research on women, peace and security.

4.5 YOUTH, PEACE AND SECURITY

The youth constitute the bulk of the human resource that we require for our socio-economic development as a country. They youth also represent the future of the country. Current estimates indicate that 70% Ghana's population is under 40 years and 57% is under 25 years. While this is the case, Ghana as a nation has not been able to sustain the momentum of raising our youth through deliberate programmes that inculcate in them the basic values of our nation and build them into responsible hard working, nation loving, disciplined and law-abiding citizens. We have also not paid enough sustained attention to ensuring that all our youth have the opportunity to be educated and have the necessary

avenues that enable them to develop their individual talents at an early age and acquire skills that will afford them work opportunity for future lives as responsible and respected Ghanaian citizens in a competitive world. The challenges of the lack of a proper national orientation, education and skills training as well as employment opportunities, create a situation of frustration and hopelessness in the youth leading to a build-up in the breakdown of trust between them and the Government. This trend tends to lure the youth into joining criminal gangs and resorting to criminal activity for their livelihood and psychological therapy. The use of narcotic drugs, armed robbery, cybercrime, recruitment into violent-extremist and terrorist groups are some of the alternate avenues open to the youth under these circumstances. These however pose tremendous risks to our security interests of developing a peaceful, secure and safe country of opportunity growth and prosperity.

Under the circumstances, Government is committed to harnessing the huge collective potential in our youth for our socio-economic development in a secure, equitable and peaceful environment. A National Youth Leadership Development Strategy (NYLDS) is therefore to be developed and its programmes integrated into our educational system. These programmes will cover civic education, skills and leadership training and will be implemented at all levels of our educational system. From Junior High School through to tertiary levels, cadet corps are to be established to focus on building the value of discipline and endurance in our youth. The Ministry of Education and the National Youth Authority are to collaborate in the development of this strategy.

Ghana is committed to the implementation of the provisions of UN Security Council Resolution 2250 (UNSCR 2250) as a way of enabling the youth to participate in the making of decisions that affect them in order to build mutual trust between Government and the youth. The approach of Government is to engage the youth as agents of the change that the Ghanaian society requires. Government will therefore institute mechanisms for inclusive representation of the youth in decision-making at all levels of Government - local, regional and national, as well as participation in in all institutions and mechanisms for the prevention, management and resolution of conflicts and disputes, peace building, and the prevention of extremism which can be conducive to violent-extremism and terrorism. Government policies will also focus on short and medium-term measures to provide relief to the youth with regard to the challenges they face with lack of employment opportunities and poverty as well as the prevention of radicalisation and extremist behaviour. Avenues will be created for skills training and acquisition in specialist and artisanal fields to bridge the gap in employment and to integrate the youth into the nation's workforce for national development. The following additional measures will be adopted to enhance the contribution of the youth to national unity, peace, security and stability:

a. Incorporate the youth in initiatives by the NPC, Houses of Chiefs, CSOs and Religious Organisations to prevent and resolve conflicts and disputes for purposes of building national unity and national cohesion;

b. Establish structures to strengthen the youth participation in decision making process at the district, regional and national levels of governance; and

c. Create innovative curricula in our educational system that target civic education and the development of leadership skills.

The National Youth Strategy will recognise the youth as a key resource that can be tapped for the benefit of the country. The strategy will address issues affecting young people by including broad-based policies that would provide a broad framework within which all stakeholders, including private and CSOs, will contribute to youth development.

4.7 SECURITY AND PRESERVATION OF GHANA'S POLITICAL SYSTEM

The security and preservation of Ghana's political system as shaped by the 1992 Constitution is a critical national interest the undermining of which could lead to social disruption. Issues and policies that build confidence and trust in our political system are therefore paramount in sustaining it and ensuring national stability. In this regard, while ensuring the national security of Ghana, due cognizance will be given to the protection of the rights of the population to live in a society where their basic human rights are respected in accordance with the provisions of the 1992 Constitution. The key objective of ensuring our political security is to unify the national aspirations of the population and its inherent groups through the building of inclusiveness and consensus devoid of marginalisation and discrimination in order to sustain confidence in our political system. Political stability is a critical condition for building a vibrant economy that will ensure sustainable development. The Government will therefore take appropriate measures to create a stable political environment that attracts investments and induces development in order to guarantee the necessary public confidence that enhances national unity and cohesion and ensures the political stability of the country at all times. Such an environment will include an unfettered political space for free and vibrant media practice without hindrance in whatever form.

The issue of participation in governance has also been a subject touching on the confidence of the population in our current political system with many diverse opinions being expressed within the Ghanaian society. The current system of government has been called a winner takes all system by a section of our population. There are, however, no existing guidelines for an alternative or a precedent that has been successful under our Fourth Republican Constitution. While the matter remains under

discussion with the hope that consensus will be reached, the Government has decided to continue to pursue to realisation, the avenue provided by the 1992 Constitution to decentralise governance in order to ensure the participation of the citizenry in decision making on matters that directly affect their livelihoods. The decentralisation agenda of Government is primarily aimed at forging confidence in our political security by ensuring that members of each political party, even when not in power, would be involved in decision making at the local MMDAs level in those areas from which it draws its electoral support. That, it is considered would address the winner takes all anxiety considerably. Under this new system of decentralization, the citizens of each district will have the opportunity to elect District Chief Executives of their choice in place of the current system where Chief Executive Officers of MMDAs are appointed by the Government. The Government will rely on the decentralisation process to accelerate and entrench local governance and local economic development as part of our political system. The implementation of the Government's decentralisation programme will be guided by the provisions of the African Charter on the Values and Principles of Decentralisation, Local Government and Development.

To further boost confidence in our political system, Government is guided by the right of every Ghanaian to live in dignity and it is the responsibility of the state to ensure this. Policies that protect the vulnerable in society, particularly women, children, the disabled, the unemployed and the aged, so that they are able to maintain a dignified standard of living, well-being and good health throughout their lives, are crucial to sustaining confidence in our political system. Government will fulfil its obligations in this regard by developing the necessary social welfare action programmes that address the situation. A National Social Security Strategy will be developed and adopted by Government to roll out policies and programmes to support our people and to ensure that no Ghanaian lives a life of misery and destitution.

The following other measures are to be adopted to ensure the security and preservation of our political system and ensure national stability:

a. Promotion of political stability along with economic growth to increase investments and the pace of development;

b. Development and implementation of policies that enhance national confidence in multi-party democracy characterised by free, fair, transparent and credible elections devoid of violent conflict, as prescribed in the 1992 Constitution of Ghana;

c. Pursuit of policies that promote inclusiveness, national unity, common sense of purpose and social-cohesion by ensuring that the diversity of the Ghanaian society is always respected without discrimination or marginalisation;

d. Promotion of good governance based on the respect for the rule and due process of law, equal rights and opportunity, transparency and accountability;

e. Resourcing the NCCE to intensify public education efforts to create awareness of our national interests and our priority national security objectives;

f. Engaging the leadership of the political parties periodically, to brief them on our national security anxieties and the role that the political parties are to play to ensure national security and safety;

4.8 PARTNERSHIP WITH INSTITUTIONS

The collaboration and partnership with various independent constitutional institutions, statutory bodies and civil society organisations is paramount for the safeguarding of the national cohesion and the stability of Ghana.

4.8.1 The Council of State.

The Council of State was established under the 1992 Constitution of Ghana as an eminent constitutional body that is representative of the Ghanaian society to primarily advise the President of the Republic. The Constitution provides specific instances where the President must necessarily seek the advice of the Council. The composition, membership and functions of the Council place it on a vital apex position to promote national unity and national cohesion for the sustenance of peace and stability in the country. Government will continue to brief the Council and rely on its advice on matters of national security, national unity, national cohesion and national stability.

Government will continue to provide the necessary support to the Council to enable it carry out its functions. The Council will be encouraged to collaborate with the NPC, CSOs, Executive, Parliament, the Judiciary, the National House of Chiefs, Religious Institutions, the Youth and Women Groups and other relevant stakeholders to build national unity and to promote peace and security in the country.

4.8.2 The Parliament of Ghana.

The Parliament of Ghana is the elected legislative body of the country. Its members are the representative of the people of Ghana on whose behalf they hold their deliberations. Government will ensure that parliament has oversight responsibility over all parts of the national security architecture by correcting gaps in this requirement where gaps do exist. Parliament will also be encouraged to

play a critical role in Conflict Prevention, Peace Building and Post-Conflict Reconstruction to aid Government efforts. Government will be accountable to Parliament as the representatives of the people while Parliament will be relied upon to promote national security, unity and stability under this NSS by bringing the security anxieties and priorities of the people they represent to the attention to MNS so that they could be pre-emptively addressed. It is expected that Parliament will continue to prompt Government on issues that relate to the human security of the people its members represent and cooperate with Government to resolve these anxieties.

Government under this NSS, will continue to cooperate with Parliament and support its work in passing the necessary laws that ensure the enhancement of our national security and stability. In particular, Parliament will be required to review its current select committee on Defence and Interior in order that it could more effectively exercise its oversight responsibility over the Intelligence Agencies. In line with the whole-of-society approach of this NSS, Parliament will be encouraged to consider the implementation of mechanisms that increase dialogue between Legislators, the Government, the Judiciary, CSOs, Religious Institutions, Traditional Rulers and other key stakeholders in order to enhance the attainment of our national security objectives at national, regional and district levels, especially the security and safety of the citizens and communities of Ghana.

As a constitutional democratic state, Ghana needs to develop wider capacity for Alternate Dispute Resolution to augment the court system. It would therefore be beneficial to institute programmes that encourage Parliamentarians to acquire or enhance their skills and understanding on matters of national security, conflict prevention, peace building and post conflict reconstruction. Parliamentarians are uniquely positioned to play leadership roles in their societies and to strengthen peace building at the constituency level. Initiatives for the training of Parliamentarians in these areas will be supported by government in coordination with the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to assist Members of Parliament to understand the underlying causes of conflicts and how they could be resolved. The training will also assist Parliament to play a more effective role in preventing, mediating and resolving conflicts and disputes as well as building the peace, and reconciling communities in which there are disputes and conflicts.

4.8.3 Role of Houses of Chiefs.

The Houses of Chiefs in Ghana are constitutional bodies of the State and form an important component of the governance system, as all Ghanaians live under one traditional authority or the other. The traditional system of governance is part and parcel of our history and culture. The chiefs are as concerned about the safety and well-being of their towns, villages and subjects as the political leaders

are of the communities and the citizens. The chiefs have an important role in providing leadership, traditional justice and preserving our culture, traditions and values. They therefore serve as the vanguard in resolving communal conflicts and disputes. The unifying role of traditional rulers ensures that citizens live in a peace even as our communities are becoming more diverse. The position of the Chiefs and Queenmothers gives them a better understanding of the remote and immediate causes of inter-ethnic, intra-ethnic or religious disputes in our local communities and better positions them to handle these disputes and conflicts at the first instance, when they occur within their traditional areas or chiefdoms. The establishment of the National and Regional Houses of Chiefs further enhances our national social cohesion by providing a forum for dialogue and common understanding among our chiefs. Government is committed to cooperating with Houses of Chiefs to render services to society. In the context of this NSS therefore, Government will support and facilitate the activities of Houses of Chiefs with focus on the following areas in order to build and sustain national cohesion and national unity:

- Prevention of violent conflicts, the resolution of disputes and peace building within their traditional areas;
- Cooperation and liaison with the NPC and its structures at the Regional and District levels as a means of preserving of peace and security at the local community level;
- Cooperation and liaison with REGSECs, METROSECs, MUSECs and DISECs for coordinated response to situations of violent conflict and insecurity;
- Cooperation with Government in inspiring respect for law and order within local communities, explanation of Government policy on matters of security to members of local communities and the mobilisation of the support of the population for the implementation of the human security initiatives of Government.

The various Houses of Chiefs will be encouraged to collaborate with the NPC, REGSECs and DISECs to adopt conflict prevention and resolution mechanisms to promote national stability and unity.

4.8.4 Role of Civil Society Organisations.

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are non-profit, non-state actors with distinct expertise, independence and impartiality that pursue selected themes for the benefit of civil society depending on their particular area of interest. CSOs normally act in partnership with the state to address the anxieties of civil society. Others act as pressure groups that draw public attention to perceived or real

shortcomings of Government so as to cause the Government to address those shortcomings or speak to them for the benefit of the civil society There are a number of CSOs in Ghana which operate with mandates in the domain of peace and security and do partner with the state to promote peace, human security, national unity and stability. Many CSOs aim to address the structural causes of conflict and violence and to promote human security and peaceful co-existence through engagement with both civil society and state authorities. CSO activities target both government and civil society and include engaging state authorities on policy issues through dialogue and advocacy to make state structures more responsive to the needs of civil society, and promoting monitoring and sensitization programs to create public awareness on issues that affect civil society. These activities contribute to the human security of local communities and help build national cohesion, unity and stability. The Government of Ghana will partner CSOs working in the sphere of security to address the various human security and conflict issues that emerge in our society. This will include, but not limited to, conflict prevention and resolution, security concerns resulting from matters related to human rights, provision of critical social facilities, security sector reform, election monitoring, gender equality and post-conflict reconstruction. The CSOs in Ghana will be encouraged to undertake the following key roles to preserve the peace and security of the country:

a. Pivotal role in early warning and response framework to provide ground monitoring, collection and analysis of data to be fed into the national security early warning system;

b. Advocacy on the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) to raise public awareness of the associated dangers;

c. Lead role or participant in peace talks in settling conflicts or disputes within the country. CSOs will help create the right conditions for talks, build confidence, shape the conduct of the content of negotiations and influence the sustainability of agreements in conflict and dispute areas in the country;

d. Promote reconciliation in post conflict situations. Enhance local ownership of peacebuilding initiatives and contribute towards democratisation processes; and

e. Work closely with the MNS, NPC and the Houses of Chiefs in implementing conflict prevention mechanisms. Serve as a credible bridge between Government and civil society as part of measures to promote national unity and cohesion.

4.8.5 Role of National Commission for Civic Education.

The National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE) is a constitutional body responsible for the education of Ghanaians on civic issues. Civic education deals with how government is organized and how it functions as well as the responsibilities and rights of citizens in the society. Civic education is a vital tool for promoting active and responsible citizenship. Ghana's democratic process therefore requires the active participation of its citizens to be successful. The Government is committed to ensuring that all citizens of Ghana are active citizens and not spectators. This requires active participation in the governance process. The NCCE has been considerably underfunded in the past and this has affected its effectiveness. National cohesion, peace and security in the country can be achieved with the development of responsible and law-abiding citizens. Imparting knowledge to the individual citizen on his or her rights, responsibilities and obligation towards the nation, and instilling in them the spirit of nationalism, loyalty, patriotism, national values, discipline, courage and diligence are essential in improving the standard of citizenship. Government under the auspices of this NSS is committed to adequately resourcing and empowering the NCCE to carry out its role of civic education in order to increase the proportion of the Ghanaian population that are active citizens. This is expected to improve citizens' awareness of their rights and responsibilities as law abiding citizens and their participation in governance to ensure inclusiveness, build national cohesion, a common sense of purpose and stability. In order to assist the NCCE carry out its mandate, government will therefore do the following:

- In conjunction with the NCCE, identify the priority areas for civic education activity in the country for the next 5 years and establish a framework including the projected budgetary requirements to implement them;
- Encourage the NCCE to set short term goals and targets to be achieved within the lifespan of this NSS;
- Facilitate the cooperation between the NCCE, CSOs, Ghana Statistics Board, MDAs and the MMDAs for the compilation of information required on the existing situation and the existing gaps like inequalities between different groups of the population in order to facilitate the work of the NCCE;
- Government will resource and support the NCCE to play its vital role of enhancing citizen participation and positive contribution to the society; in the process, NCCE will identify the existing gaps and make recommendations to enhance the sense of national belonging and unity of the country at all times.

4.8.6 Role of the Media.

The media plays a very important role in informing and shaping the perceptions of citizens in every country and Ghana is no exception. Considered as the fourth estate of the realm, the media has the role of reporting on all aspects of governance to the citizenry and serving as a check on public office holders. Due to the unique role it plays and its ability to disseminate information swiftly and to all segments of society, the media can be a tool for good or for bad. Considering the provisions of the 1992 Constitution and the fact that Ghana has a culture of freedom of the press and freedom of the media, a great deal of information tends to be reported on both the traditional media and social media some of which could be considered as disinformation. This notwithstanding, Government is committed to upholding press freedom in Ghana and encouraging professionalism within the media for the benefit of our national security and stability. Under the auspices of this NSS, therefore, Government will focus on supporting the media to use its platform to create public awareness on the requirement of national unity and stability. Government considers the media as a partner in the monitoring, detection and punishment of criminal, unconstitutional or undemocratic acts by Government officials in Ghana. The mass media will be relied upon to help to disseminate important Government policy and decisions to all parts of the country. The government will also facilitate training for media personnel on reporting on issues of conflict, crisis, peace and security in order to ensure that media reports do not rather inflame such situations that are otherwise being deescalated into an eruption of violence. The media will therefore be encouraged to always play a positive role in the society, especially during crises or conflicts, using its platforms to promote conflict resolution and management. The role of the media in fighting corruption, promoting peaceful co-existence and national security will be emphasised. Government will also support the National Media Commission (NMC) to perform its responsibility as a constitutional regulatory body to promote a free, open and vibrant media in the country. Media freedom, above all, will be encouraged while best practice in journalism will demonstrate the richness of Ghana's diversity in a tolerant environment in which disagreements and differences of various opinions are embraced as a strength to Ghana's democratic practice.

CHAPTER **FIVE**

Implementation and Monitoring of the National Security Strategy

5.1 LEAD GOVERNMENT AGENCY

The NSC chaired by the President of the Republic of Ghana, shall provide strategic direction for the implementation of the NSS. The Minister for National Security shall be responsible to the NSC for the day to day implementation of the NSS and the coordination of the successful implementation of all the activities it prescribes. The MNS will thus serve as lead Government ministry for the implementation of the Strategy. The Minister shall, therefore in addition to co-ordinating the activities of all stake holders in the implementation of the NSS, also issue from time to time notices and coordinating instructions for the successful implementation of the strategy.

5.2 COORDINATION AND COOPERATION

For the purposes of the day to day coordination of the implementation of this NSS, there shall be established at the Ministry of National Security, a NSS Implementation Committee. The Committee shall be chaired by the Minister for National Security. Members of the committee shall include the NSS desk officers from the MDAs, Security and Intelligence Services and other state agencies as may from time to time be required. The NSS Implementation Committee shall meet quarterly to assess the level of implementation of the NSS, deliberate on emerging issues and make recommendations to the NSC. The Minister for National Security shall present quarterly reports of the meetings of the NSS Implementation Committee to the NSC for deliberation and action.

5.3 CRISIS RESPONSE

The Joint Intelligence Committee (JIC) at the MNS chaired by the National Security Coordinator, provides routine intelligence assessments to the MNS from its operations room. In time of crisis, a crisis response mechanism shall be activated on the authority of the NSC to initiate the augmentation of the operations room staff with liaison officers from the National Crisis Response Centre (NCRC), Security, Intelligence, Emergency Services and any other agency, depending on the particular threat, to constitute a crisis response management team. This team shall continually assess the crisis situation and offer advice to the NSC on the handling of the crisis. The MNS shall establish a Joint National Operations Centre to serve as an integrated Fusion Centre for all operations authorised by the NSC under the control and direction of the National Security Coordinator.

5.4 CRITICAL THINKING GROUP

The MNS shall establish a Critical Thinking Group of Ghanaian experts in Security and Intelligence, Development Planning and other fields relevant to the maintenance of national stability and the prevention of a social disruption. The group shall establish a network to deliberate on issues of concern raised by the Minister and make recommendations to him on the matter. The group will also meet periodically at the instance of the Minister to review the national security situation or any aspect thereof and make recommendations to the MNS. The group shall meet at least twice every year.

5.5 JOINT UNITS

The risk assessment that shapes this NSS points to the need to remove duplication while we create desired redundancy in our response architecture. This requires the consolidation of national security response on an issue-focused and cross-government approach in order to maximise the mix of efficiency and effectiveness to optimal levels. In line with the precedent of existing structuring of high-performing cross-government teams, such as the REGSECs, METROSECs, MUSECs and DISECs which operate at the regions and districts of Ghana as committees of the NSC, it has been decided to establish at the national level, other committees of the NSC to address national security issues as follows:

a. **Ministerial Security Coordinating Committee.** A Ministerial Security Coordinating Committee shall be established by the National Security Council for coordinating various aspects of the NSS. The Committee will deliberate on the prevailing situation in the country with regard to matters of national security and stability and advise the National Security Council. The Committee may co-opt other Ministers or invite experts to brief the Committee depending on the particular issues that characterise the prevailing situation.

b. **Joint Intelligence Committee Centre.** Hosted by the MNS, it will serve as the interagency deliberative body responsible for intelligence and risk assessments. It will have representation from all the security and intelligence agencies at the highest level.

c. **Vetting Service.** We will also establish, in 2020, a single provider of government National Security Vetting Services, based on a national model, to ensure we remain resilient against the insider threat.

5.6 BUDGETING AND FUNDING

Specific budgetary provisions are to be made by MDAs, MMDAs, Security and Intelligence Agencies for the allocation of funds in the National Budget for the implementation of the NSS. These budgetary provisions are to be in accordance with the roles, tasks and responsibilities assigned in the NSS or its implementation plan and shall be coordinated by the Ministry of National Security to ensure consolidation and harmony. A Security Fund shall be created by the Ministry of Finance in consultation with the MNS to support the implementation of the NSS in emergency and crisis situations.

5.7 MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The implementation of the NSS shall be subject to continuous monitoring and evaluation by all state stakeholders including MDAs and MMDAs, to ascertain that the implementation plan itself and roles and activities assigned to stakeholders therein remain relevant and that the implementation is going on as planned. Annual reports on the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation of the NSS shall be submitted to the Minister of National Security for consideration by the NSC.

5.8 OVERSIGHT RESPONSIBILTY OF PARLIAMENT

While the coordination of the implementation of the NSS is the responsibility of the MNS on behalf of the NSC, Parliament shall have oversight responsibility to ensure that the implementation is conducted in accordance with the law and that the necessary budgetary allocations that are made for its implementation are properly utilized. The Minster for National Security shall in this regard brief Parliament annually on the implementation of the NSS.

5.9 REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

The Minister for National Security in consultation with the NSC shall appoint a Review Committee of competent Ghanaian nationals to review the NSS every four years. The National Development Planning Commission shall be represented in this Review Committee.

ANNEXES

ANNEX A

Roles and Responsibilities of Ministries

1. MINISTRY OF NATIONAL SECURITY

The Ministry of National Security (MNS) shall be the lead government agency for the implementation and coordination of the NSS. The MNS shall coordinate the activities of the Government Ministries, Departments, Security and Intelligence Agencies in the implementation of the NSS. The MNS shall coordinate the provision of resources for the implementation of the strategy among the relevant MDAs, conduct regular risk and vulnerability assessments and issue threat level reports to the NSC and the relevant MDAs, as and when necessary, for the appropriate action to neutralise imminent threats. The MNS shall develop a National Intelligence Strategy to guide intelligence gathering and early warning systems in the country. In conjunction with relevant Ministries and Agencies, the MNS will use the media to educate the public on threat levels, including issuance of threat level indicators, and liaise with the Agencies towards mitigation of threats. The MNS will also develop a benchmarking framework for the monitoring and evaluation of the implementation and review of the NSS. The MNS shall initiate the activation of the Ghana Boundary Commission in collaboration with the Ministries of Lands and Natural Resources, Interior and Aviation to intervene in Land, Maritime and Aviation border disputes. The Ministry of Finance shall establish a Security Fund in collaboration with the MNS to support the implementation of human security interventions and emergency security operations. A Joint National Operations Centre shall be established by the MNS to serve as an integrated Fusion Centre for all operations directed by the NSC.

2. MINISTRY OF THE INTERIOR

The Ministry of the Interior (MoI) shall provide policy oversight for Law Enforcement, Border Security/ Control, Disaster Management, Narcotics Control and Prisons Management for the implementation of the NSS, as stated under paragraphs 3.5, 3.7, 3.15, 3.16 and 3.27 of the NSS. The Ministry shall ensure that strategic directions issued by the NSC are implemented by all agencies to ensure the creation of a secured environment for the population. The Ministry shall collaborate with the MNS and the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the necessary resources required by the GPS to strengthen the internal security of Ghana are provided and the provision of resources for the GIS and NADMO to ensure the security of our borders and our preparedness towards artificial and natural disasters is made. The Ministry will ensure that the following strategies are developed for the approval by Cabinet:

a. National Policing Strategy for the GPS.
b. Land Border Security Strategy for the GIS.

c. National Disaster Strategy for NADMO.
d. Narcotics Control Framework.
e. Small Arms and Light Weapons Strategy.
f. Prisons Reformation Strategy for the Ghana Prisons Service.
g. National Fire Prevention and Response Strategy for the Ghana National Fire Service.

3. MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) shall ensure that it provides policy direction and oversight for the GAF to protect the people and territory of Ghana from both external aggression and internal insurrections as stated in paragraphs 3.7, 3.10, 3.15, 3.16, 3.22 and 3.27 of the NSS. The MoD shall ensure that the GAF will be deployed in accordance with its defined roles and responsibilities in the 1992 Constitution of Ghana and guided by the NSS. The MoD will ensure that at any time the GAF is used for power projection, peace operations and any other situations, the GAF will adhere to the Rules of Engagement, Human Rights Law and the Concept of Operations. The MoD shall collaborate with the MNS and the Ministry of Aviation to provide security along our maritime boundaries and aerospace using the Ghana Navy and the Ghana Air Force respectively. The MoD shall liaise with the MNS and the Ministry of Finance to ensure that the GAF is appropriately equipped to undertake its tasks as spelt out in the NSS. The MoD shall be the lead government agency to develop a National Defence Strategy for approval by Cabinet.

4. MINISTRY OF FINANCE

The Ministry of Finance (MoF) shall be responsible for building a robust economy for national development to ensure the security and stability of the country. The MoF shall support the NSS with annual budgetary allocation to all MDAs for the implementation of the NSS. The MoF in consultation with the MNS should develop a matrix based on phased annual allocations to resource and equip all intelligence and security agencies to undertake their responsibilities as specified in the NSS, based on short, medium and long term strategies. The Ministry shall provide adequate resources for the implementation of human security interventions identified by the MNS as a prevention mechanism against internal threats such as radicalisation of the youth by potential extremists in the rural communities. The MoF shall collaborate with the MNS, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Defence to draw up an annual phased strategy of providing resources and equipping the GPS, GAF, GIS and the intelligence agencies within a four-year period as stated in paragraphs 3.6, 3.7, 3.10, 3.11 and 3.22 of this strategy. In particular, funding should be provided for the gradual recruitment of personnel for the GPS as a measure to meet the international standard of policing. The Ministry shall collaborate with the Ministry of Energy with funding to establish strategic fuel reserves for the country. The MoF shall establish a Security Fund in consultation with the MNS to support the implementation of National Security emergency operations and human security interventions.

5. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND REGIONAL INTEGRATION

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration (MoFARI) has the overall responsibility for the coordination of the delivery of NSS in relation to the Foreign Policy and Diplomacy; International Peace Operations and Cooperation with the UN, AU and ECOWAS and international bodies and development partners. The MoFARI shall be responsible for coordinating Diaspora Engagements; Development Cooperation; and Security and Defence Engagements. The MoFARI shall deploy instruments of diplomacy to enhance the implementation of the NSS in all international engagements undertaken on behalf of the Government of Ghana. The Ministry shall revise the Foreign Policy of Ghana for approval by Cabinet to conform to contemporary global foreign policy strategies and Ghana's strategic contribution for achieving international peace and security.

6. MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

The Ministry of Justice shall support the NSS by providing the necessary legal advice to Government, the NSC and other MDAs responsible for the implementation of the strategy. The Ministry shall support the GPS in particular to provide a secured environment and ensure safety of the population at all times. The Ministry shall coordinate with the Judiciary for fair and speedy trial of criminals, violent extremists and terror suspects in accordance with the rule of law. The Ministry shall lead in developing an integrated criminal justice database and provide leadership in the development of a coordinated response for the investigation and prosecution of crimes and terror cases among the Attorney-General's Department, the GPS and other Law Enforcement Agencies. The Ministry shall continue to monitor and update legislations already developed to address Tiers 1 to 4 responses to the NSS. The Ministry shall collaborate with relevant ministries to finalise the non-justice sector bills including the Affirmative Action Bill, the Cyber Security Bill, Gas Bill, and the Petroleum Hub Development Cooperation Bill.

7. MINISTRY OF HEALTH

The Ministry of Health shall develop strategies for the provision of efficient basic healthcare to promote health security in the country as stated in paragraph 3.8 of the NSS. The Ministry will ensure that healthcare is delivered timely, affordable and accessible using the National Health Insurance Scheme. The Ministry should establish a framework for intervening during major health threats or pandemics with global and regional implications. The Ministry shall draw policies to attract and retain health professional to provide skilled world class healthcare system in the country. The Ministry shall ensure that the National Ambulance Service has the national capacity to prevent and respond to public health emergencies. With the COVID-19 experience the Ministry shall develop plans to establish at least 4 Infectious Disease Centres in the country. A four-year National Health Policy shall be developed by the Ministry of Health for approval by Cabinet. This shall include the construction of hospitals in all metropolitan, municipal and district capitals in the country. The policy should address all potential health threats and outline the appropriate response to the threats to ensure an effective and efficient healthcare delivery system for the people of Ghana.

8. MINISTRY OF ENERGY

The Ministry of Energy shall support the NSS as the lead Ministry for all energy and petroleum matters, as stated in paragraph 3.11 of this strategy. The Ministry shall promote energy as the fundamental base to Ghana's economic growth and development. The Ministry should be guided by innovation to ensure that the country's energy security is assured. The Ministry shall seek for new energy production systems to move away from the dependence on hydro power and thermal energy sources. The Ministry shall implement a national renewable energy Master Plan through policy supports and investment. It shall put in place systems to optimise the country's local national refinery and develop new refining capacities. The Ministry shall develop strategies to ensure that at least fifty percent of Ghanaians have access to safe, clean and environmentally friendly LPG for increased domestic, commercial and industrial usage. It will also take steps in coordination with the MoF to stock strategic liquid fuel for all thermal plants that are Dual-Fuelled to serve as strategic reserve capacity to be used during periods of gas supply interruptions. BOST should be instructed by the Ministry to stock six weeks of strategic fuel resources at any given situation as the national fuel reserve. A National Energy Strategy shall be developed for the approval of cabinet by the Ministry to address all potential energy threats and outline the strategic response to the threats to enhanced energy security in the country.

9. MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS

The Ministry of Communications shall constantly examine current protection measures to secure Ghana's dependence on cyberspace and computer technology. The Ministry, as the entity responsible for all telecommunications and cybersecurity, shall provide the appropriate guidelines and policies for the protection and security of line and mobile telephones and the cyberspace of Ghana, as stated in paragraph 3.9 of this strategy. The Ministry shall lead relevant Agencies and stakeholders to develop mechanisms in order to apprehend and control the activities of cyber criminals and other cyber threats. The Ministry shall take measures to ensure that both State and Non-State Actors have access to a greater range of technology which can be used both to protect and to attack national security. The Ministry will be the lead agency to develop a National Cybersecurity Strategy to give direction to respond to the ever-increasing Cybersecurity threats confronting the country. In addition, a Communications Strategic Plan shall be developed for the approval of cabinet by the Ministry to guide the operations of all telecommunication companies in the country.

10. MINISTRY OF FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MoFA) shall initiate approaches with specific measures to address the negative impact threats of national security objectives of availability, affordability and access to food as a means of ensuring national food security. The Ministry shall develop frameworks to focus on enhancing both physical and economic access to food that meets the dietary needs and food

preferences of Ghanaians as stated in paragraph 3.12 of this strategy. The Ministry shall also promote the development of agriculture to attain food and crop sufficiency and to generate employment. Within a short to medium term, the MoFA shall introduce measures to attain self-sufficiency in major foods such as rice, maize, soya, chicken and vegetables to drastically reduce imports. The MoFA shall apply concrete measures to invest in the mechanisation of agriculture and the expansion of irrigation infrastructure and irrigable area to mitigate the risk of poor rainfall in some seasons. The MoFA shall establish storage facilities to form the basis for strategic food reserves through the operations of the National Food Buffer Stock Company. The MoFA shall develop a National Food and Agriculture Strategy to include the Planting for Food and Jobs agenda with its associated modules such as Rearing for Food and Jobs, Planting for Export and Rural Development, Green Houses and Mechanisation modules.

11. MINISTRY OF EMPLOYMENT AND LABOUR RELATIONS

The Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations shall explore opportunities in both the formal and informal sectors of the economy to accelerate growth in the number of jobs available in the country. The Ministry will contribute to the implementation of the NSS by making strategic efforts directed at generating employment for Ghanaians, and drive skill acquisition processes at all levels as stated in paragraph 3.13 of this strategy. The Ministry shall explore both formal and informal sectors of the economy to accelerate growth and improve investment, to enhance efficiency and promote peace within the labour front. The Ministry shall review existing employment interventions to respond to the needs of the labour market and beneficiaries. It shall develop a National Employment Policy based on inter-sectoral and integrated approach towards achieving full, decent, productive and freely chosen employment for all Ghanaians. In addition, the Ministry shall undertake the following:

a. Coordinate the development of a National Human Resource Policy.
b. Develop an Integrated National Occupational Safety and Health Policy.
c. Coordinate the development of a Formalisation Framework to reduce informality.

12. MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

The Ministry of Education (MoE) shall ensure that high quality education is made available to Ghanaians for the development of the potential manpower of the country for the crucial attainment of our national security objective as provided in paragraph 3.19 of the NSS. The Ministry shall provide an enabling environment for education to be free from, and devoid of, any form of extremist ideology. The MoE shall develop curricula to address the needs consistent with national unity and human development objectives at the grassroots. The MoE shall aim at revising the educational curriculum within 12 months at the kindergarten to Senior Secondary level with the objective to expand or improve the level of quality education, make basic education free and compulsory, and also strategically reduce the length of pre-tertiary education. The Ministry will fine-tune the Free Senior High School policy aimed at

increasing enrolment and reducing the financial burden on parents. The MoE shall develop a National Education Strategy to incorporate reforms for tertiary education, framework for Technical Vocational Education and create a safe and secure environment within which the Ghanaian youth can undertake their studies among other reforms and initiatives.

13. MINISTRY OF INFORMATION

The Ministry shall work with the MNS and other stakeholders to develop information strategies to educate identifiable groups and the general public on the strategic objectives and relevance of the NSS. The Ministry shall engage in media campaigns at the local and international levels to disrupt active threats confronting the country as stated in paragraph 4.13. The Ministry shall develop an Information Assurance and Awareness strategy to collaborate with stakeholders to combat the spread of radical extremist messages.

14. MINISTRY OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

The Ministry of Trade and Industry shall collaborate with the MoF and other stakeholders to organise the private sector and other related associations to promote a friendly investment atmosphere and develop trade guidelines that will discourage terrorist financing and illicit transaction as stated in paragraph 3.6. The Ministry, in coordination with the MNS and the Ministry of Information shall organise fora to educate investors on the tenets of the NSS to assure them that Ghana is a secured investment destination for business. The Ministry shall develop a national strategy to promote local economic development in all the Districts of Ghana in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development.

15. MINISTRY OF AVIATION

The Ministry of Aviation shall institute measures at safeguarding Ghana's Civil Aviation industry and the protection of our airspace to preserve our national security as stated in paragraph 3.20. The Ministry shall ensure that the combination of human and material resources is applied to safeguard civil aviation against unlawful interference. The Ministry will work with the MNS, MoD, GCAA and other relevant agencies to secure the airspace of Ghana. The Ministry shall engage the Ghana Air Force to use its resources to ensure that the integrity of the airspace of Ghana is protected at all times. The Ministry shall collaborate with the MNS to develop a National Aviation and Aerospace Strategy for the approval of cabinet to address all potential aviation and aerospace threats to enhance the aviation and aerospace security of Ghana.

16. MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT

The Ministry of Transport shall ensure the safety and security of our inland transport system to promote public confidence. The Ministry is responsible for national transport policies and programmes that will

enhance the security of the entire transport system in the country including road, rail and maritime through continuous response to identified threats and security needs as stated in paragraph 3.17 of their strategy. The Ministry shall adopt a risk management approach and develop measures designed to mitigate vulnerabilities and threats in the transportation system. The Ministry shall lead the process of reviewing all legal and policy frameworks guiding road, rail and maritime transportation to capture the safety and security of the transportation systems. The Ministry shall coordinate with the MNS and MoD to develop a National Maritime Security Strategy to enhance maritime security in the country. The protection of our waters and maritime boundaries will be the key objective of the strategy.

17. MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

The Ministry shall ensure environmental protection and the conservation of natural resources of the country. It shall ensure that the environment is used as a strategic resource that will be harnessed to achieve stability, social harmony and the well-being among the population of Ghana as stated in paragraph 3.18 of the NSS. Measures shall be taken by the Ministry to achieve environmental security through the sustainable exploitation of natural resources in order to protect the biodiversity of Ghana. The Ministry shall adopt a societal-oriented approach to mitigate the threat of flooding in parts of the country which has the potential to affect communities, farmlands and infrastructure. The Ministry will take measures to strengthen the capacity of the Forestry Commission and other associated agencies to combat land degradation and deforestation as a priority national agenda. The Ministry will aim at using the forests as a natural buffer against ecological disaster. The Ministry in consultation with local authorities will adopt measures to prioritise the use of renewable energy source such as solar, gas, wind, and improved cook stove for use in the rural communities to minimise the use of fuel wood. In collaboration with the Ministry of Energy, the Ministry will encourage the use of farm waste such as cocoa pods, rice husks, coconut husks and maize stock for conversion into energy to provide electricity and reduce the pressures on our forest reserves. The Ministry shall develop a 4-year National Environmental Strategy to address all potential threats to the environment and outline the strategic response to the threats to enhance environmental security in the country.

The Ministry shall initiate a policy to place Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) at the centre of the country's socio-economic development agenda and make it the fulcrum around which national development revolves as stated in paragraph 3.21 of this strategy. The Ministry will form new partnership between Government, Public Research Institutions, Academia and the Private Sector to drive and grow research and innovation, and support the transformation of research output and innovations into industrial products and services.

18. MINISTRY OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

The Ministry in consultation with the MNS and other relevant stakeholders shall develop policies to support the Regional Coordinating Councils (RCCs) and Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies (MMDAs) to place the safety and security of the people and local communities as a priority. The relative roles of REGSECs and DISECs should be monitored closely as they work in collaboration with RCCs and MMDAs. The Ministry shall develop a National Waste Management Policy in consultation with the Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources to outline measures at resolving all issues related to Waste Management in order to prevent epidemics such as cholera in our communities as stated in paragraph 3.18 of this strategy. The Ministry shall play a lead role to develop strategies for Local Economic Development (LED) for implementation by all Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies. In collaboration with the MoF and the Ministry of Trade and Industry, appropriate strategies shall be developed to encourage the establishment of small scale industries and businesses in the local communities to accelerate local development.

19. MINISTRY OF ROADS AND HIGHWAYS

The Ministry shall develop strategies to intervene in various cities and communities where poor roads can become security concerns. The Ministry in collaboration with the MNS shall develop a strategy for human security emergency interventions in areas or communities where poor roads can be a source of agitation and dissatisfaction among the communities. In cooperation with the MoF, MoD and the MNS, the GAF Engineer Corps can be used for emergency road and bridge construction in communities in urgent need of road repairs as a human security intervention initiative. The Ministry shall collaborate with the MNS and MoD for appropriate resources to be provided to the GAF for emergency road constructions and repairs as part of measures for the implementation of the NSS.

20. MINISTRY OF GENDER, CHLDREN AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection shall ensure proper provision, coordination and regulation of support to all categories of women, children, persons with disabilities, families and other vulnerable groups to prevent imbibing terrorist ideologies and insecurity related indoctrination. The Ministry shall develop resilience in handling and managing social welfare services for victims in welfare centres and institutions for rehabilitation, re-unification and proper re-integration into society. The Ministry shall also develop gender mainstreaming strategies to bridge the gap between men and women and also boys and girls as stated in paragraph 4.4 of this strategy. Such strategies should aim at rendering extremist narratives of discrimination and marginalisation unattractive. The Ministry shall develop a National Policy for addressing potential threats and outline the strategic response to the threats to enhance security and the social protection of Ghanaians.

21. MINISTRY OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The acquisition of lands in the country has become a major security threat. The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources shall develop strategies and policies on how the acquisition and development of lands should be carried out. The policies shall address the issue of unplanned buildings in the cities/towns leading to haphazard structures and buildings in most cities in the country. The Ministry will collaborate with Real Estate Developers and relevant stakeholders to ensure that buildings are constructed in an orderly manner to avoid congestion and lack of accessibility within communities and built-up areas. The Ministry shall develop strategies to make land acquisition and registration less cumbersome and devoid of the indiscipline in the land market which leads to fraud, conflicts, frustrations and anxiety. The Ministry will collaborate with the Ministries of Local Government and Chieftaincy to draw up plans to prevent land disputes between prospective landlords and landowners. The Ministry shall collaborate with the MNS, MoFARI and MoI to activate the Ghana Boundary Commission to help in settling potential international land and maritime boundary disputes as stipulated in Act 795 of Parliament. The Ministry shall undertake the following:

a. Develop a framework for the management and distribution of mining revenues to the local mining communities
b. Develop a policy for monitoring on the handling and storage of explosives for large scale mining and quarries
c. Develop a strategy for the mangement of forest resources to ensure peaceful co-existence with local communities.

22. MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING

The housing deficit in Ghana is becoming an emerging security threat in the country. The Ministry shall take the necessary measures to evolve a strategy to mobilise private funding for several projects with an overall aim of encouraging the construction of low and lower-middle-cost housing options. The Ministry shall collaborate with relevant stakeholders to develop a policy of a Mortgage and Housing Financial Scheme to provide local currency mortgages through selected banks to offer low-cost, long term housing finance to workers of all categories. The Ministry shall also encourage the introduction of a formal social housing scheme which will rely on low-cost private mortgages to encourage development. The Ministry shall develop a National Housing Policy to address all potential threats of housing and outline the strategic response to the threats to enhance the peace and stability of the country.

23. MINISTRY OF YOUTH AND SPORTS

The Ministry of Youth and Sports shall develop strategies to cater for the needs of the youth and introduce a coordinating mechanism for empowerment programmes in agriculture, in conjunction

with the Ministry of Food and Agriculture, through skill acquisition, vocational studies and counselling, as stated in paragraph 3.12 and 4.5 of this strategy. The Ministry will introduce sporting activities under the auspices of the National Sports Authority to provide favourable platforms for engaging the youth and other street children as a way of preventing them from being lured as potential recruits by extremist groups. The Ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Health shall develop a framework for encouraging regular exercises and the use of gyms by Ghanaians to help reduce the rate of lifestyle diseases among the population resulting from lack of exercises. The Ministry shall use the National Youth Authority in collaboration with the National Employment Agency initiatives as tools of engagement to build community cohesion, unity and resilience. The Ministry shall develop a National Youth Strategy to address potential threats to the youth and outline a strategic response to enhance the peace and stability of the country.

24. MINISTRY OF CHIEFTAINCY AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

The Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs shall support the implementation of the NSS with programmes to educate all chiefs, queen mothers and religious leaders on the implications of activities leading to insecurity, and the effects of extremist ideologies from mutating into terrorism in various traditional communities. The Ministry shall develop a National Dialogue Strategy for Traditional Leaders and Religious Groups to help in safeguarding national cohesion and unity, and the peace, security and stability of the country as stated in paragraph 4.3 and 4.8.3. In particular, the Ministry shall seek the support of chiefs and religious groups to help prevent the radicalisation of the youth and the vulnerable in the communities, the churches and the mosques. The entry points for the Ministry shall be through the leadership of the Catholic Bishops Conference, the Christian Council of Ghana, Ghana Pentecostal Council, National Council for Christian and Charismatic Churches, Ahmadiyya Muslim Mission, Al-Sunnah Muslims, Tijaniyya Muslim Group, Ghana Council for Religion for Peace, Practitioners of African Traditional Religion and other identified groupings.

25. MINISTRY OF PLANNING

The Ministry of Planning, which has the responsibility of formulating a National Coordinated Programme of Economic and Social Development Policies (CPESDP), shall ensure that the tenets of the NSS are reflected in the Coordinated Programme as well as in the corresponding Medium-Term National Development Policy Framework (MTNDPF). The Ministry in collaboration with the National Development Planning Commission (NDPC), shall provide further guidance to the Critical Thinking Group on aspects of the work pertaining to Development Planning and the advancement of the national development agenda. The Ministry shall collaborate with the MNS to determine the areas of vulnerability and risks from non-achievement of the development aspirations of the general public.

26. MINISTRY OF SANITATION AND WATER RESOURCES

The Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources shall support the NSS by drawing up a strategy to prevent indiscriminate dumping of waste including plastics and other non-biodegradable waste into the environment, or drains and water courses and anywhere convenient. The Ministry shall collaborate with the Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation to initiate measures to review the Environmental Security Strategy of Ghana. The Ministry shall also coordinate with the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development to develop a National Waste Manangement Policy for implementation by the Metropolitan, Municipal and District Assemblies.

27. MINISTRY OF TOURISM, ARTS AND CULTURE

The Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture shall support the MNS by developing contingency plans in collaboration with relevant agencies to ensure that issues and activities related to tourism, arts and culture is undertaken in a secured environment. The Ministry shall develop risk mitigation frameworks through stakeholder consultations to ensure the safety of domestic and inbound tourists. The Ministry shall pursue an aggressive governance framework with stakeholders to engender broad participation in the tourism decision-making process to provide well-balanced world-view options in tourism infrastructure and provide facilities to ensure that Ghana is a preferred destination for tourists. The Ministry shall therefore facilitate a coordinated medium for nuclear regulatory control, safety instructions, and information sharing among relevant authorities and other stakeholders to prevent and respond to tourists who are at risk of radio-nuclear hazards. The Ministry shall formulate a Tourism Security Plan in consultation with relevant agencies for major tourist sites for protecting domestic and international tourists.

ANNEX B

Task Matrix for Ministries

Srl	Ministry	Activity	Timelines	Remarks
1.	Ministry of National Security	a. Develop National Intelligence Strategy.	30 June, 2021	
		b. Develop Benchmark for the Monitoring and Evaluation of the NSS.	1 March, 2021	
		c. Annual presentation of Progress Report for the implementation of the NSS to Parliament.	31 December each year	Prior submission to the NSC.
		d. Establish a Critical Thinking Unit.	1 March, 2021	
		e. Establish a Joint National Operations Centre	1 March, 2021	
2.	Ministry of Finance	a. Financial Plan to support the implementation of the NSS.	31 March, 2021	In coordination with MNS.
		b. Provision of resources based on phased strategy to the Security and Intelligence Agencies.		In consultation with the MNS, MoD and the Ministry of Interior.
		c. Provide funding to the Ministry of Energy for establishing Strategic Fuel Reserve.	30 June, 2021	
		d. Establish a Security Fund	30 June, 2021	
3.	Ministry of Interior	a. Develop National Policing Strategy.	30 June, 2021	
		b. Develop Land Border Security Strategy.	30 June, 2021	
		c. Develop National Disaster Strategy.	30 June, 2021	
		d. Develop National Narcotics Framework.	30 June, 2021	
		e. Develop Small Arms and Light Weapons Strategy.	30 June, 2021	
		f. Develop Prisons Reformation Strategy for the Ghana Prisons Service.	30 June, 2021	
		g. Develop National Fire Prevention and Response Strategy for the Ghana National Fire Service.	30 June, 2021	
4.	Ministry of Defence	a. Develop National Defence Strategy.	30 June, 2021	
		b. Provide support to the Ministry of Aviation for Aerospace Security.	As and when required.	In collaboration with MNS and Ministry of Aviation.
		c. Provide support for the Maritime Security of Ghana.	As and when required.	In collaboration with MNS and Ministry of Transport.

Srl	Ministry	Activity	Timelines	Remarks
5.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Regional Integration	Revision of the Foreign Policy of Ghana.	30 June, 2021	In collaboration with the MNS and relevant stakeholders
6.	Ministry of Justice	a. Develop Integrated Criminal Justice Database.	30 June, 2021	
		b. Revision of all Anti/Counter Terrorism Laws.	30 June, 2021	
7.	Ministry of Health	a. Develop National Health Policy.	30 June, 2021	
		b. Develop Guidelines for the operations of the National Ambulance Service.	31 March, 2021	
		c. Develop National Framework for intervening in pandemics.	31 March, 2021	
8.	Ministry of Energy	a. Develop a National Energy Strategy.	30 June, 2021	
		b. Establish National Strategic Reserve for Liquid Fuel.	30 June, 2021	
		c. BOST to establish 6-Week Strategic Reserve Capacity for Fuel.	31 March, 2021	Collaborate with MoF for funding.
		d. Implement National Master Plan for Renewable Energy.	31 March, 2021	
9.	Ministry of Communications	a. Develop a National Cybersecurity Strategy.	30 June, 2021	
		b. Establish a National Cybersecurity Authority.	31 March, 2021	
		c. Set-up National Computer Emergency Centre.	31 March, 2021	
10.	Ministry of Food and Agriculture	a. Develop National Agriculture and Food Strategy.	30 June, 2021	
		b. Establish Strategic Food Reserves.	30 June, 2021	
		c. Initiate measures to attain Food sufficiency in major foods.	30 June, 2021	
11.	Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations	a. Develop National Employment Policy.	30 June, 2021	
		b. Review Employment interventions to respond to needs of the Labour Market.	30 June, 2021	
		c. Develop a National Human Resource Policy.	30 June, 2021	
		d. Develop an Integrated National Occupational Safety and Health Policy.	30 June, 2021	
		e. Coordinate the development of a Formalisation Framework to reduce informality.	30 June, 2021	
12.	Ministry of Education	a. Develop National Education Strategy.	30 June, 2021	
		b. Fine-tune Free Senior High School Policy.	30 June, 2021	

Srl	Ministry	Activity	Timelines	Remarks
13.	Ministry of Information	Develop Information Assurance and Awareness Strategy for the NSS.	30 June, 2021	In collaboration with the MNS and stakeholders.
14.	Ministry of Trade and Industry	Develop a National Strategy to promote Local Economic Development in all Districts of Ghana.	30 June, 2021	In collaboration with MoF and Local Government and Rural Development.
15.	Ministry of Aviation	Develop a National Aviation and Aerospace Strategy.	30 June, 2021	In coordination with MNS and MoD.
16.	Ministry of Transport	a. Develop a National Maritime Security Strategy	30 June, 2021	In coordination with MNS.
		b. Develop a National Transport Policy (Road, Rail and Maritime)	30 June, 2021	
		c. Initiate the review of all legal frameworks guiding Road, Rail and Maritime Transportation.	30 June, 2021	
17.	Ministry of Environment, Science, Technology and Innovation	a. Develop a 4-year National Environment Strategy.	30 June, 2021	
		b. Initiate a Policy to place Science, Technology and Innovation at the centre of the National Socio-Economic Development Agenda.	30 June, 2021	
18.	Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development	a. Develop National Waste Management Policy.	30 June, 2021	
		b. Initiate the development of strategic plans by all MMDAs for Local Economic Development in the local communities.	30 June, 2021	In coordination with the MoF and the Ministry of Trade and Industry.
19.	Ministry of Roads and Highways	Develop a National Roads Policy/ Strategy.	30 June, 2021	
20.	Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection	a. Develop a National Strategy for Social Protection.	30 June, 2021	
		b. Develop a National Policy for Adoption.	30 June, 2021	
21.	Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources	a. Develop National Strategy for the Acquisition of Lands in Ghana.	30 June, 2021	
		b. Initiate the operationalisation of the Ghana Boundary Commission.	1 March, 2021	In collaboration with MNS.
		c. Develop a framework for the management and distribution of mining revenues to the local mining communities.	30 June, 2021	
		d. Develop a policy for monitoring on the handling and storage of explosives for large scale mining and quarries.	30 June, 2021	
		e. Develop a strategy for the management of forest resources to ensure peaceful co-existence with local communities.	30 June, 2021	

Srl	Ministry	Activity	Timelines	Remarks
22.	Ministry of Works and Housing	a. Develop a National Housing Policy.	30 June, 2021	
		b. Develop a policy of Mortgage and Housing Financing Scheme for Workers.	30 June, 2021	In collaboration with the MoF and Ministry of Employment and Labour Relations.
23.	Ministry of Youth and Sports	a. Develop National Sports Policy.	30 June, 2021	
		b. Introduce a National Fitness Policy to encourage regular exercise by Ghanaians.	31 March, 2021	In collaboration with the Ministry of Health.
24.	Ministry of Chieftaincy and Religious Affairs	Develop a National Dialogue Strategy for Traditional and Religious Leaders.	30 June, 2021	
25.	Ministry of Planning	a. Incorporate the NSS in the CPESDP and the MTNDPF.	30 June, 2021	In collaboration with NDPC.
		b. Provide technical input to the Critical Thinking Group.	31 March, 2021	In collaboration with MNS and NDPC.
26.	Ministry of Sanitation and Water Resources	Develop a National Waste Policy.	30 June, 2021	In consultation with the Ministry of Local Government.
27.	Ministry of Tourism, Arts and Culture	a. Develop a Risk/Threat Management Policy for Tourism.	30 June, 2021	In consultation with MNS, MOI and MESTI
		b. Formulate a Governance Framework for tourism decision-making process.	31 March, 2021	In consultation with MNS, MOI and MESTI
		c. Formulate a Tourism Security Plan for all major tourist sites	30 June, 2021	In consultation with MNS and MOI

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