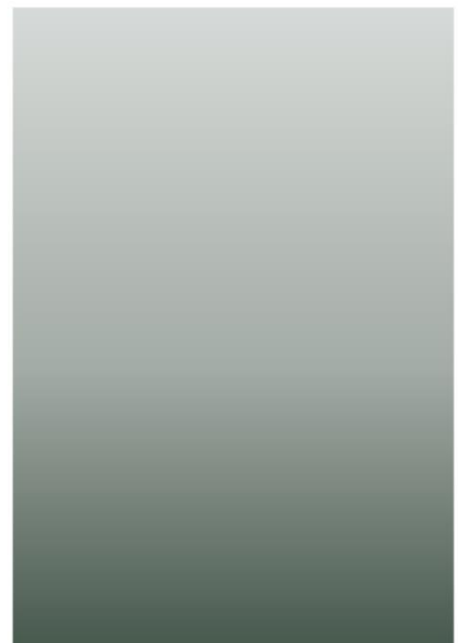




NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY (2024-2028)

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state security

National Intelligence Coordinating Committee
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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1. INTRODUCTION

Providing security for citizens is the critical pillar for the existence of a sovereign state¹ or nation state². This is a norm of any societies or nations throughout the world. Without security, there can be no freedom, no stability, and no prosperity. In parallel, the global order is changing. New centres of power are emerging and the world in the 21st century is becoming a multipolar world. Threats to global security are increasing including human-induced climate change that continues to pose a threat to global livelihoods and further impacts on the stability of many countries in the different regions.

Geopolitical contestation between states remains a dominant consideration in global security dynamics. As the modern world is undergoing a period of transformation, there is amongst many, an increase in the number of centres of world economic and political domains; the strengthening of the positions of new global and regional countries leading to changes in the security structure of the world order; the formation of new architectures of rules and principles of the world order.

For South Africa, almost three decades after our freedom was attained in 1994, the main project of our democratic dispensation remains to be ensuring a better life for all our citizens of our country. To achieve this, we see the state as an instrument of transformation and development to change and improve the lives of our citizens. In building the nation, the state seeks to shape and strengthen national identity; cultivate national pride and patriotism; address the injustices of the past, particularly the race and gender-based injustices; bridge the divides in our society to ensure social cohesion and stability; and grow the economy to promote the development and upliftment of our citizens.

The National Development Plan (NDP) approved in 2012 states that South Africa remains a highly unequal society where too many people live in poverty and limited work opportunities. To accelerate progress, deepen democracy and build a more inclusive society, South Africa must translate the political emancipation into economic well-being for all. To eliminate poverty and reduce inequality, the economy must be inclusive, grow faster and devise means that benefit all South-Africans as guaranteed in the Constitution.

If we are to translate political emancipation into economic well-being for all our citizens, we need in turn to understand the direct relationship between security and development. It must be emphasised that, an absence of security gives rise to low economic development, weak

¹ A sovereign-state refers to the legal authority and responsibility of an independent state to govern and regulate its political affairs without foreign interference.

² A nation-state refers to a sovereign territory with one group of individuals who share a common history.

state institutions and an incapacitated state. The converse also holds true; stability and security create conditions conducive to democracy, economic development, prosperity and the well-being of the citizens.

This NSS considers five key components to national security articulation, which are National Interest, National Identity, National Will, National Values and National Power. Although not articulated in a particular order or discussed as stand-alone items in the strategy, all the characteristics and requirements are inferred to. It must be understood that without these components it will be impossible to forge a sense of national security and identity as a country and this may lead to further erosion of patriotism and our survival as a nation.

Lastly, it is important to understand that this National Security Strategy is not about the setting up of a security state; rather about creating the proper conditions for national security, nation building, national identity and patriotism, wherein all South Africans are safe, free, prosperous, and our country can pursue, promote and protect her national interests amongst other nations in the world.

1.7 SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY PRIMARY OBJECTIVES

THE CONSTITUTIONAL PRINCIPLES

The Preamble to the Constitution articulates the values to which South Africans aspire:

- To heal the divisions of the past and establish a society based on democratic values, social justice and fundamental human rights.
- To improve the quality of life of all citizens and free the potential of each person.
- To lay the foundations for a democratic and open society in which government is based on the will of the people and every citizen is equally protected by law.
- To build a united and democratic South Africa able to take its rightful place as a sovereign state in the family of nations.

Furthermore, section 198 in Chapter 11 of the Constitution outlines the principles governing our national security:

National security must reflect the resolve of South Africans, as individuals and as a nation, to live as equals, to live in peace and harmony, to be free from fear and want and to seek a better life.

National security under the apartheid regime was militaristic and focused on the needs of the white minority at the expense of the majority. All security forces were used as repressive tools of the state in enforcing apartheid. This led to the militarization of South Africa. The

transition period and the outcome of the negotiated breakthrough saw the transformation of the securitized and militarized state that was marked by violent repression, and the denial of the basic rights and freedoms of the majority.

After our transition to democracy, we set about implementing our vision for a secure South Africa, and a citizenry free from fear and want. Whilst this was a significant change in the exercise of national security, the country found itself taking an incoherent and inconsistent approach to addressing many of the security threats faced. With time, government found itself operating in a contradictory, uncoordinated and fragmented manner.

In addition, as the world evolved from a bipolar into a unipolar, and now possibly to multipolar world, foreign governments reviewed their policies and approaches to security, developing new strategies to manage this new phenomena, South Africa is no exception to such developments. It is therefore necessary that the country re-gears itself to ensure the safety, security, stability and well-being of all our citizens and of our country in the 21st century. Some of these reasons informed the 2015 South African Defense Review, the need for which is based on the South African National Defense Force's growing regional and domestic responsibilities.

Furthermore, to this end, there is a need to ensure, at the disposal of our Head of State mechanisms and processes that are coherent, systematic and effective. This requires that we should ensure that this NSS is responsive to ever evolving global realities and developments. Therefore, it is imperative to understand that, this NSS is a political expression of the security challenges facing the Republic and subjects security services to political direction, supervision and oversight of elected political leadership in the National Executive and Parliament. This is to ensure that the policy positions that have been articulated over time in various documents are consolidated for ease of reference and coherent delivery of national security as a public good. In essence, this NSS seeks ways to ensure that if we do not resolve our security challenges faced as a nation such as poverty, inequality, unemployment and underdevelopment, we will find ourselves facing perpetual instability and we will lose our hard earned freedom and sovereignty.

Departing from the understanding that national security is the maintenance and promotion of peace, stability, development and progress. Simultaneously, this is the primary objective of government as a whole. Hence national security is the responsibility of not only the security and intelligence agencies of the state, but of all government departments, private sector, civil groupings, faith missions, media houses and citizenry at large. The maintenance and promotion of peace, stability, development and progress is also the objective of the nation as a whole, and hence the responsibility not only of government, but of society more broadly.

Since our national objectives and national security imperatives are linked and fundamentally inform each other, there is cause for setting up government structures that drive an integrated set of policies, and strategically manage a collective approach to mitigating threats to security and progress. When policies are developed and implemented without consideration of national security imperatives, national objectives are undermined.

It is important to have a common understanding of security, a common perspective of security dynamics, and a collective approach to threats in order to ensure security and stability, and thereby create the conditions for growth and development.

This National Security Strategy seeks to achieve these primary strategic objectives:

- To ensure that South Africans are safe (territorial and well-being), free (sovereign and democratic) and prosperous (wealth and economic inclusivity)
- To safeguard the integrity, sovereignty and political independence of South Africa's land, sea and airspace and the resources therein; showing similar respect for other countries, especially in the sub-region;
- Position South Africa to make use of the opportunities and mitigate the threats facing us in the 21st Century and beyond.
- Bring strategic direction and synergy to the work of the state so as to address duplication of effort, align government processes with key threats, seamlessly integrate government systems, ensure effective utilisation of state resources, and ensure collective interpretation of mandates
- Contribute by way of a shared national security understanding to the process of nation-building, and the emergence of a coherent and cohesive society working towards a better life for all
- Safeguarding the role of citizens and all stakeholders in national security matters.
- Start a definitive conversation with all South Africans around a common national vision of our security and how it ought to be safeguarded as well as educate and empower our citizens to exercise their duty of understanding and protecting our national security, and enlist them as active participants in this task.

1.8 SOUTH AFRICA'S SECONDARY AND PERIPHERAL NATIONAL SECURITY OBJECTIVES AND VALUES

In order to further ensure that the national security interests and values of South Africa are preserved, it is important for the country to pursue objectives that will further contribute to the safeguarding of these interests and values. In this light, South Africa's secondary and peripheral security objectives will be guided by the following principles and values:

- Consolidation of transition from apartheid to democratic era through pursuit of democracy, good governance and human security over the past practice of regime security; safeguarding the people from violence and crime; special emphasis on protection of women and children; hunger and deprivation; ensuring their participation in decision-making;
- Development of a coordinated national security system where all security institutions coordinate in addressing domestic, sub-regional and global security needs are in line with their remit and according to national security requirements; ensuring the security agencies are professional, efficient and sustainable under civilian control.
- Avoidance of excessive duplication of roles and conflict of interests, without precluding collaboration and complementarity
- Establishment of a system of recruitment of new personnel that is based on transparency and robust vetting processes that reflects South Africa's diverse ethnic, and religious balance that emphasises merit in the selection and promotion of personnel; and ensures timely and adequate remuneration in order to promote efficiency and loyalty to the state and people of South Africa;
- Ensuring gender mainstreaming at every level of security policy making and practices. Thus, gender awareness and sensitivity should be incorporated into training curricula of security agencies, private sector and the state at large.
- Creation of a system of Provincial Security Councils (PSCs) led by the Provincial Premier and Local Security Councils (LSCs) led by a Mayor or Municipal Manager – as part of the nation-building and security awareness efforts to ensure security coordination around the country. These structures should be coordinated with local government, civil society and other stakeholders. These Councils will also act as a focal mechanism for disaster and crisis management response;
- Promotion of global peace and security through bilateral and multilateral cooperation and institutions to meet the trans-national security threats and challenges requiring international collaboration;
- Full participation of South Africa's armed forces in international peace and security arrangements including, the SADC Standby Force, African Union Standby Force (ASF), UN Peacekeeping and others to contribute to global peace and security;
- Support for economic security and poverty reduction via policies with strong public-private partnerships; encouraging free trade and incentives for investment alongside

sound natural resource management, ensuring citizens benefit from exploitation of resources in their communities.

- The development of health and environmental security so the country's fragile environment is sustained because its preservation is integral to economic security and resource management.

All of the above national security objectives and values are crucial to the safeguarding of the national security interests of South Africa and must be carefully considered in the construction of specific institutions and in the effort to ensure that a coherent and efficient set of institutions are established and operate.

1.9 SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL SECURITY INTEREST

The country has a two-fold approach to defining the National Security Interest. Firstly it takes a departure point that the development and upliftment of South African citizens form the basis of the National Interest. The interests of our citizens are at the core of the Constitution, and a people-centred approach therefore informs our work as a state.

The country emphasises human development and human security within and beyond our borders. Therefore our National Interest is informed by a people-driven perspective that prioritises protecting and promoting the human rights of our citizens; enabling them to live free from fear and want; and eradicating poverty, thus building a society in which every citizen has access to adequate shelter, health care, education, security, work and opportunities to generate an income.

The second point of departure is that the democratic state has inherited a society shaped by the legacy of apartheid that still remains. This legacy presents a set of challenges that shape the present and future of our country. South Africa's transformation into a democratic state was informed by the liberation struggles of the latter half of the 20th century, and this collective experience informs how we understand and define our National Interest.

Therefore our National Security Interest:

- Reflects the long-term goals, values and aspirations of our citizens
- Provides strategic direction to policy makers
- Provides consistency to policy
- Provides the ongoing purpose we see ourselves serving

In order to ensure the development of our citizens, protect our country and planet, as well as ensure prosperity, we strive to eradicate poverty, because it is the source of instability; resolve conflicts through dialogue and negotiation, rather than through war; defend our freedom, the hard-won rights we have gained, and the institutions we have created;

globalise these rights and freedoms wherever and whenever possible; and promote the belief that the future of the world is based on the shared destiny of all peoples.

Against this background, our overarching National Security Interest is:

“To ensure that South Africans are safe (territorial and well-being), free (sovereign and democratic) and prosperous (wealth and economic inclusivity)”

Furthermore, as a secondary or tertiary interest, South Africa will recognise the need for the creation of an enabling environment for the full expression of the potentials of its citizenry, the development of its resources, including human capital, the preservation and promotion of its diverse cultural heritage and the forging of national identity. Lastly, the development of a professional national security architecture, police and the national defence force that will provide a credible deterrent to the likely domestic and external security threats; further ensuring all security agencies abide by and understand their responsibilities within the country's security new architecture and legal framework of the security legislation.

Furthermore, globalization, its discontents and the increase in interdependence have resulted in changes to the substance, form and content of national interest. As a consequence of the integration processes, the political and economic sovereignty of the state has been given a new substance, with a significant part of the particular national interests of the country now embedded in the framework of common interests.

South Africa's national interest will be asserted in spheres of engagements from global, continental and regional forums.

Accordingly, the Republic of South Africa considers the following as its general and ongoing national security interests:

- The preservation and generation of jobs through the enactment of legislations and prosecution of policies that engender and sustain agricultural and industrial activities, extraction/exploitation of natural resources and any other wealth-generating activity
- The promotion of social security and the enactment and promotion of laws and policies that protect the poor, the vulnerable, the unemployed as well as ensure fair, just and equitable redistribution of wealth
- The creation of a political environment where power is exercised by a civilian-led democratically elected leadership with the security forces under effective democratic civilian control and oversight, accepting and understanding their roles and legal remits, but without political interference in their operations
- The creation of a political-economic stability and recovery from South Africa's current state of lawlessness, impunity, state of despondency and other social ills

so that the fabric and the infrastructures of society are rebuilt to meet the citizens broader security needs, thereby enabling them to enjoy their legal, social, economic and political rights under the Constitution and laws of the country

- The maintenance of international peace and security, and the prevention and resolution of regional, inter-state and intra-state conflicts in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the norms and standards of international law
- The observance of democratic norms and values and their promotion in Africa and beyond
- co-operation between all international actor states, international organizations, further enhancement of co-operation in bilateral, regional and multi-lateral economic spheres
- the development of a safe and secure information space, protection of South African society from destructive information and psychological impact; sustainable development of the South African economy on a new technological basis
- environmental protection, natural resource conservation and environmental management, and adaptation to climate change
- strengthen the tradition and moral values and preserve the cultural and historical heritage of the South African people and their identity.
- Maintaining strategic stability, strengthening peace and security, and strengthening the legal foundations of international relations
- ensure practice of full democracy, political pluralism, the rule of law, freedom of enterprise, human rights and fundamental freedoms
- Maintaining peace and harmony in the country, fighting corruption, protecting citizens and all forms of property from unlawful infringements, developing mechanisms of interaction between state and civil society.

1.10 PILLARS OF THE NATIONAL SECURITY STRATEGY

The following are the eight pillars of South Africa's National Security Strategy:

PILLAR 1: PROTECTION OF SOUTH AFRICANS OR PUBLIC SECURITY (Well-Being of South Africans)

The objectives of this pillar is to ensure that the state protects the public and its well-being, protects the constitutional order of South Africa, ensure its sovereignty, independence, its territorial integrity by protecting fundamental human and civil rights and freedoms, strengthen civil peace and harmony, ensure political and social stability in society, improve the mechanisms of interaction between state and civil society, strengthen safety and security, fight corruption, protect citizens and all forms of property, protect the rights and freedoms of citizens, eradicate poverty, inequality, unemployment and racism by promoting social cohesion.

PILLAR 2: PROTECTION OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF REPUBLIC

This pillar is aimed at ensuring that the goals of defending the country are being achieved through the implementation of modern and funded defence review and updated defence policy through strategic deterrence and the prevention of military conflicts, the improvement of the military organization of the state, the forms of use and methods of action of the Armed Forces of the Republic of South Africa and increase of the mobilization readiness.

PILLAR 3: PROTECTION AND PROJECTION OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY

This pillar will ensure that the foreign policy of the Republic of South Africa creates favourable conditions for sustainable socio-economic development of the country, strengthens national security interests abroad, strengthens the position of the Republic of South Africa on matters of national interest and national security by ensuring that the country's position is coherent and redlines are understood.

PILLAR 4: PROTECTION OF THE ECONOMY OR ECONOMIC SECURITY

This pillar of the Strategy will ensure that the economic security of the Republic of South Africa is strengthened, the economic sovereignty of the country is protected and increase the competitiveness of the South African economy and its resistance to external and internal threats. It is further aimed at creating conditions for economic growth of the Republic of South Africa at a rate which will be on par with global growth or higher.

PILLAR 5: PROTECTION OF OUR CYBER SPACE AND ENVIRONMENT

This pillar aims at strengthening the sovereignty of South Africa in the information space. The Strategy is aimed at enhancing risk awareness, encourage the country stakeholders to assume responsibility for their cybersecurity and build the necessary capabilities.

PILLAR 6: PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF OUR TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

This pillar is aimed at ensuring that South Africa's scientific and technological development is independent and competitive.

PILLAR 7: PROTECTION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OR ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

This pillar will ensure environmental security of South Africa and the rational use of natural resources. It will further ensure the quality of the environment necessary for favourable

human life, conservation and restoration of the natural environment, balanced use of natural resources, and mitigation of the negative effects of climate change.

PILLAR 8: PROTECTION OF OUR CULTURE AND HERITAGE (CULTURAL SECURITY)

This pillar will ensure the strengthening of the cultural sovereignty of South Africa and preserving its unified cultural space and its heritage, through the protection of historical truth, preservation of historical memory, continuity in the development of the country and its historically established unity, and opposition to falsification of history.

2. HIGH LEVEL THREAT ASSESSMENT

The events of the past few years have shown that many of the biggest threats faced by countries are nuanced and complex. They respect no borders or walls, and must be met with collective action. Pandemics and other biological risks, the escalating climate crisis, cyber and digital threats, international economic disruptions, protracted humanitarian crises, violent extremism and terrorism, and the proliferation of nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction all pose profound and, in some cases, existential dangers. None can be effectively addressed by one nation acting alone. And none can be effectively addressed with South Africa not taking part in their solution.

In order to deal with various threats to our national security, it is important that we develop means and measures to ensure our survival as a nation and in some instances we will be required to cooperate with other states or countries at the international level.

Below are the threats to our national security as they manifest globally, continentally, regionally and domestically:

2.1 GLOBAL THREATS

We are living at a time when the need for South Africa's engagement at the international level is greater than ever, however, democracies across the globe, including our own, are increasingly under siege. Democratic countries around the world have been challenged from within by corruption, inequality, polarization, populism, and illiberal threats to the rule of law. Nationalist and nativist trends – accelerated by the COVID-19 crisis – has produced an every-country-for-itself mentality that leaves South Africa as a country isolated, less prosperous, and less safe.

Globally, countries are also increasingly challenged from outside by antagonistic powers through the use of misinformation, disinformation, and weaponized corruption to exploit perceived weaknesses and sow division within and among nations, erode existing international rules, and promote alternative models of governance. Dealing with these threats is essential to our national security as a country.

Added to this conundrum, the world is undergoing profound change. Our international and security environment is becoming more multipolar and less stable, and is increasingly defined by the existential threats amongst others posed by the climate crisis. We are living in an era that is increasingly multipolar and marked by rising systemic rivalry. Like us, the overwhelming majority of states are committed to the United Nations Charter and a free international order based on international law.

However, as a result of most countries perception of systemic rivalry, some states seek to undermine this order and give effect to their revisionist notions of spheres of influence using hybrid strategies. These strategies include increased targeted attacks on the freedom of other states, and are trying to interfere in political processes, public debate and elections in those states. As South Africa we must effectively tackle these many different forms of hybrid threat through increased international cooperation.

In this fragile global security, the threat of attacks remains high. This risk is becoming greater due to radicalisation and experienced fighters returning from crisis zones and conflict areas. Although there have been major successes when it comes to combatting terrorist organisations, some groups continue to exist and are increasingly forming international networks. This is true with regard to their sophisticated financing systems and recruitment strategies of their supporters, in the planning of illegal activities.

Furthermore, these international networks make it easier for individuals to become radicalised through contacts, including in the digital sphere. Acts of terror committed by individual perpetrators (*"lone wolves"*) are posing yet another increasing challenge. In addition, new forms of extremism have arisen that risk dividing our society and tipping into violence. These are aimed at undermining and delegitimising democratic decision-making processes and state institutions. They often resort to extreme conspiracy ideologies, with these anti-democratic forms of extremism also jeopardise our security and our social cohesion as a nation.

International economic and financial relations are also ever more informed by considerations of power and influence. Many trade agreements are now fairer than they used to be. However, some states are increasingly putting the principles of free economic cooperation at risk and use their economic clout to advance their foreign and security policy agendas.

International economic and financial institutions are more frequently an arena in which political power struggles are fought, and are often the target of such manoeuvres. The old and untransformed financial institutions are adding financial burdens to developing countries this risking their national security and South Africa is not immune to that. Most developed countries and beneficiaries of the old and untransformed financials system and institutions view the emerging new, parallel institutions as a divergent to rules and is aimed to wilfully circumvent existing organisations. Further, they view such actions and developments as intended to erode the international rules for open and fair markets and undermine a stable financial system. Of concern to South Africa is that many states especially in Africa do not have the structures needed to combat corruption, tax evasion and economic and financial crimes effectively and this has an impact on our national security.

Economic security is inextricably linked to our overall national security vision of internal security, prosperity, development and external influence as it provides critical inputs to other security domains. It embodies our freedom and ability to pursue all policy choices to develop our economy to envisioned levels.

The world economy is going through a period of deep recession. Market volatility, the instability of the international financial system is increasing, and the gap between the real and virtual economies is widening. While the economic interdependence of countries and regions of the world remains high, the processes of forming new international production and supply chains are slowing down, investment flows are decreasing. The role of national states and regional agreements in the trade and economic sphere is increasing.

The intensified international competition with regard to technology can give rise to security risks if the free access to certain technologies is no longer guaranteed and one-sided dependencies arise. Chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear threats pose a risk that should not be neglected.

Furthermore, in cyberspace there are no geographical limits to crime, terrorism, espionage or sabotage; the potential damage is immense, and can only be ascribed to specific actors with considerable difficulty. In particular, ransomware attacks have become a serious threat to companies, public institutions and critical infrastructure.

Serious and transnational organised crime also poses a threat to almost all countries in the world and South Africa has been a major target. The perpetrators work through international networks, encrypt their communications and use cutting-edge technologies to look for new, profitable areas of activity. They increasingly resort to extreme violence. In South Africa, too, internationally active criminal groups, including those with clique structures, harm people and inflict suffering.

One of the fundamental challenges of this century is the climate crisis, which has been caused by human activity: increasing droughts, rising sea levels, altered precipitation patterns, the loss of biodiversity and the depletion of natural resources all threaten people's livelihoods and the very foundations of our economies. Climate-induced extreme weather events with devastating consequences are happening with greater frequency and intensity, also in South Africa: KwaZulu-Natal and the Western Cape including Limpopo and Gauteng are an example. This places critical infrastructure under additional pressure.

In many regions of the world, the climate crisis is fuelling conflict, contributing to hunger and other humanitarian emergencies. The climate crisis also exacerbates existing inequalities. It already has security ramifications today. Human security also depends on how we deal with this existential threat to vital resources. We cannot, however, completely eliminate these impacts; the best we can do is limit them. At the same time, a sustainable, green and

socially just transformation presents great opportunities, for it not only a means to clean energy and a secure food supply but also fewer dependencies

Poverty, unemployment and hunger, war and conflict, the impacts of the climate crisis and the destruction of natural habitats pose a constant threat to people in developing and newly industrialised countries in particular. Insecurity, social hardship, fears for the future, and a lack of options for personal development undermine many people's faith in their governments. Weakened governments and states are only able to a limited degree to provide public services and resolve conflicts. Unemployment, inequality and poverty is a key driver of conflict and social instability in the world and in South Africa and there is an urgent need that we address it.

One of the hallmarks of the sovereignty and independence of a nation is the vibrancy of its foreign policy and its integration with the overall national interests. Foreign policy often manifests three important components namely: the domestic environment impulses, relations with the external environment as well as national aspirations in the international arena.

2.2 CONTINENTAL AND REGIONAL THREATS

The African continent continues to have the largest number of armed conflicts of any region in the world. A range of factors have contributed to the conflict and instability on the continent. They include the continent's history of colonialism; the collapse of institutions in some states; disputes over natural resources; and the influx of weapons and small arms. This is expected to increase due to ongoing conflicts and wars in the world.

Conflict is prevalent in most regional security complexes, namely the Great Lakes region, the greater Horn of Africa, Northern Mozambique and West Africa. Disconcerting trends include cross-border violence, the expansion of ungoverned and ungovernable spaces, trans-national militancy, organised crime and trafficking, and the continuation of violence and instability after peace settlements. These result in family disintegration, reduced education, food insecurity, and weakened public health.

In SADC, the security challenges facing the region are political, social and developmental in nature with some traces of a terrorism threat. The regional project is being shaped by drivers of integration and disintegration. Drivers of integration include converging values, institutionalisation, subsidiarity, diplomacy and mediation. Drivers of disintegration include poverty and deepening inequality, instability, fragile statehood, democratic reversals, unequal trade relations, and global economic recession.

Further, three clusters of issues contribute to conflict and instability in SADC. First, poverty and under-development are the over-riding human security challenge. Second, issues of governance remain a challenge, among them troubled transitions to democracy, and the fact

that not all established democracies in the region experience improved human security, South Africa is among them.

Thirdly, violence and crime feature strongly in the region as both a cause and symptom of under-development, with expectations around water, land and food placing pressure on communities and governments, and aggravated in turn by rapid urbanisation and population growth.

The level and extent of terrorism as an asymmetric threat is contingent on the extent to which major demographic, socio-economic, developmental and governance issues are addressed.

Terrorism flows from the interaction between a lack of economic development, social deprivation, a loss of cultural identity, political repression and a dysfunctional state. It then requires a mobilising, unifying idea and appropriate agitators who abuse this idea to organise a terrorist force against an external enemy. If these root causes and terrorism are not ameliorated especially in some parts of the region, terrorism may become a more prominent security threat on the regional, continental and international level, reinforced by the illicit global economy with intersections between terrorist groups and trans-national crime syndicates.

2.3 DOMESTIC THREATS

South Africans continue to face serious threats to their wellbeing. Organised crime and general high levels of crime, food insecurity, biosafety and diseases, gender based violence terrorism are amongst such noted threats. An important point of observation is the demonstrable nexus between the global trends and local fragile environment. Nonetheless, the Government's approach is to ensure long lasting and inclusive solutions with a clear focus on the root causes rather than symptoms.

There is an emergence of disregard for the authority of the State by some in the South African society. This results in lawlessness and is exacerbated by the slow and inefficient application of justice. It creates opportune conditions for criminal elements and negative forces to operate. The threats to socio-economic stability is caused by, among others, violent community protests as well as instability in the labour, transport and education sector.

An increase in organised crime in the country continues to be a threat to the well-being and safety of all South Africans. Crime syndicates may change tactics to employ even more dangerous and sophisticated weapons systems. The proliferation of illegal firearms and ammunition will affect a crime-marred environment. Illegal firearms continue to be key contributors to violent crimes in South Africa including cash-in-transit heists, gang-related

wars, wildlife trafficking, illicit mining, narcotics-related crimes as well as murder. Also discerned is the continued proliferation of illegal explosives that are widely used to perpetrate syndicated crimes including cash and ATM heists as well as robberies. Legislative impediments coupled with incoherent approaches adopted by the various law enforcement agencies will continue to hamper efforts to address the scourge of drugs.

Gangsterism is rife and is a common occurrence in South African townships and this has been attributed to poverty, inequality and unemployment. If the problem of gangsterism is not addressed, gangs will continue to occupy social spaces and create no-go areas and in turn fuel vigilantism as community's attempt to reclaim spaces and protect themselves from crimes perpetrated by gangs.

Extortion has become rife in South Africa impacting negatively on citizens and businesses. Furthermore, the issue of substance abuse, has become an enormous social problem in South Africa. Alcohol, marijuana, nyaope, cocaine, tik and heroin are some of the most frequently used substances in the country. There is an urgent need for South Africans to educate themselves about the dangers of the implications of substance abuse on morale fibre.

South Africa's democratic, post-apartheid era has seen progress in social cohesion between communities and a transformation in social relations across racial, cultural and linguistic lines. Despite this progress, marked divisions remain and relations appear more strained during times of political and economic uncertainty. Strong racial, tribal and socioeconomic divisions are still evident, leading to questions around identity and disturbances in terms of social cohesion. A breakdown in social cohesion may contribute to the enabling factors surrounding violent extremism.

The triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment are a foremost challenge to the country. This weighs heavily on the social, political and economic fabric of the country. The official unemployment rate is one of the highest in the world. The economy is not big enough to absorb the working force. Weak economic prospects and higher inflation means unemployment is set to rise even further. The country is experiencing weak economic growth which has been unfolding over the past several years even during periods where there has been no load shedding.

The Commission for the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of cultural, Religious and Linguistic Communities (CRL Rights Commission) in 2017 confirmed allegations of the mushrooming of charismatic churches commercialising religion and exploiting people's belief systems. These churches violated the constitutional rights of congregants and broke the laws of the country. There are gross unethical practices among churches in South Africa, both regarding the human rights and dignity of congregants, financial integrity and adherence to the laws of the country.

South Africa has unacceptably high levels of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) in comparison with other countries. Violence against persons because of sexual orientation and or gender identity remains a shameful and reprehensible phenomenon, which diminishes each person's dignity and basic human rights.

In many instances, women are the victims of gender-based violence. Increased social awareness, activism and reporting on the matter in recent years have exposed the pervasiveness of the scourge within South African society. Violence against women occurs in domestic and intimate settings and non-domestic settings as in the myriad rape, kidnapping, assaults with grievous bodily harm and murder cases that constantly become known. The trend of GBVF is also detrimental to the familial and social fabric of South African communities.

The increasing unemployment, poor skills and other lack of opportunities are national security concern to the country. The country's youth is experiencing a number of challenges that results into them engaging in nefarious activities such as crime, drug abuse, alcohol abuse, gender violence and more. Furthermore, they are also wittingly and unwittingly used by other forces for personal agendas such as political protests against the state or general crime such as sabotage to critical infrastructure and more. Above all, lack of or failure for government to intervene in the future of the South African youth through proper skilling and conducive environment to realise their dreams is the greatest threat not only on the country's national security, but to the survival of the South African nation.

Furthermore, job opportunities are just too few in the country, whilst there is an oversupply of graduates, with skills that are not required by the market. Universities in South Africa need to align university education with market demand. Filling labour market gaps is not the only purpose of a university, but people still need employment, and this requires delicate planning and design. South Africa is training too many people in certain fields and not enough people with the right skills sets, hence the global skills gaps.

There is a need to change our approach to vocational education, such that it should not be perceived as an undesirable alternative. South Africa needs to value vocational skills more and better compensate vocational careers. The youth must be informed more about the diverse job opportunities and help them make more informed educational and career choices. South Africa should invest in its vocational education and training capacity too.

The ongoing deep systemic challenges within the migration and border security environments continue to pose significant national security threats. The ongoing increase in the number of foreign migrants in South Africa leads to tensions between locals and foreign nationals, whereby competition for economic opportunities and basic public resources such as housing, social grants as well as health and education services, is heightened. The

number of foreign nationals entering South Africa illegally has increased as the country struggles to implement effective immigration and border control measures.

The other concerning challenge is the lack of monitoring and uncontrolled movement of refugees and asylum seekers exacerbating threats to security. It can trigger situations that can lead to public violence and acts of terror because of competition for resources. This creates pressures on the socio-economic structures and leads to acts of violence against foreigners. Illegal migrants create “No-Go” areas in South Africa that violates the sovereignty of the country and undermines the authority of the state.

It enables organised crime and support smuggle networks that can be exploited by insurgents and other non-state actor with ulterior motives. More jobs, more services in the urban cities and the lack of employment opportunities in rural areas has caused many South Africans to migrate to larger cities which has brought about uncontrolled urbanisation. As a result, some problems arise such as increased unemployment, inadequacy of infrastructure/services and some environmentally and more.

The rapid development of information and communication technologies is accompanied by an increase in the likelihood of threats to the security of citizens, society and the state. The use of information and communications technology is expanding. The use of communication technologies to interfere in the internal affairs of states, undermine their sovereignty and violate their territorial integrity, posing a threat to international peace and security.

The number of cyber-attacks on South African information resources is increasing. Most of these attacks are carried out from the territories of foreign states. Activity of special services of foreign states to conduct reconnaissance and other operations in the South African information space is intensified. Armed forces of such states are practicing actions to disable critical information infrastructure facilities of the Republic of South Africa.

In order to destabilize the social and political situation in South Africa, inaccurate information is distributed, including deliberately false reports about the threat of terrorist acts. Materials of terrorist and extremist organizations, calls for mass disturbances, extremist activities, participation in mass (public) events like the 2021 July lootings or “national shut downs” are held in violation of the established order. Propaganda for a criminal lifestyle, consumption of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances, and other illegal information are posted on the information and telecommunications network "Internet" for purposes of sowing public discontent towards the state and its institutions. The main target of such destructive influence is our young people, the unemployed and disgruntled South Africans.

3. THREAT RESPONSE AND MITIGATION

It was highlighted above that the threats we face are complex, interlinked and constantly evolving. They arise simultaneously domestically as well as in the external environment. Security can no longer be considered the sole responsibility of the security structures of the state, as the root causes need to be addressed by all relevant government entities and by society as a whole. Hence, to effectively deal with the threats to our national security, government and society need to collaborate and coordinate their efforts.

One of the main factors driving the development of this National Security Strategy is the message that national security is the responsibility of each and every patriotic South African. Government alone is not responsible for all societal ills, and government alone cannot address the subsequent consequences. The whole of society has a responsibility for our national security, such that all may live free from fear and want. This requires a collaborative effort by society as a whole, so that in the long term we develop a shared national security consciousness and are able jointly to address the challenges we face.

3.1 ADDRESSING THREATS TO OUR NATIONAL SECURITY

A point has been made throughout this strategy that poverty, inequality and unemployment and lately load shedding as well as the high levels of crime are a threat to the stability and the security of South Africa.

There is a necessary interface between security on the one hand, and our social and upliftment challenges on the other. This interface is, however, indirect in nature. We take as our departure point that government's outcomes-based approach is the main instrument for addressing the triple threats of poverty, inequality and unemployment. The measures that seek to address these threats, which lie at the heart of much of the instability we are experiencing as a country, are long-term in nature and consist of the programmes of the clusters and line-functional departments.

In essence, this NSS takes an approach that we ought not to directly securitize the work in these areas. However, the security services must:

- Act to ensure that the government departments and institutions that deliver these services are themselves secured.
- Ensure that their information is protected.
- Address any attempts to disrupt or divert government's programmes in these areas.
- Address manifestations of instability that might arise from non- or inadequate delivery

If democratic South Africa's major project is to create a better life for all, then our people are both the object of this project as well as a major resource for achieving it. Therefore, the security of our people is a key element of our National Security Strategy.

One other critical government intervention is to focus on the implementation of the country's legislative framework and various strategies and or plans that have been developed over the years in response to threats to South African national security.

3.2 MITIGATION OF GLOBAL THREATS

To mitigate threats against state and public security, the following actions need to be taken:

- Develop and promote foreign relations based on common security paradigms with our contiguous neighbours, constructive engagement with all nations in furtherance of our national security objectives, national interests and international obligations.
- We will conduct our foreign policy on mutual benefits with our partners without being disadvantaged. This vision will be driven by realism, reciprocity, bilateralism, multilateralism, regionalism and constructive engagement even with those nations that do not agree with us.
- Adopt a policy of non-aggression with our neighbours but ensure preparedness to defend our national interest by all means.
- We will ensure that our foreign policy will be anchored around our national security interests that support and protect our people, territorial integrity, sovereignty, economy, natural resources, technology and innovation and our culture as a nation.
- Our foreign missions and our diplomats will be expected to deliver on this mandate and further communicate the reciprocity thereto should our national security interests be under threat.
- Adoption of an open, participatory engagement with the South African public on foreign policy issues and initiatives.
- Optimize our comparative national advantages to promote our national image, culture and competitiveness abroad.
- Stimulate public discourse on our foreign policy initiatives.
- Conduct periodic reviews of foreign policy goals based on scenario analysis of our national interests in various spheres of interest.
- We will continue to advocate the centrality of the UN in conflict resolution across the globe.
- We will continue to call for the reform of the UNSC in order to make it inclusive of the current global environment.
- We will call for greater cooperation and collaboration between the AU and UN as well Regional Mechanisms in enhancing peace efforts on the continent. We will champion the tightening of sanctions against unconstitutional changes of government globally and in the continent.

- We will call for the greater collaboration between the EU and AU as well as regional mechanisms in dealing with insecurity in the continent utilising the European Peace Fund in particular to fund peace missions.
- Develop domestic legal framework for the enforcement of international conventions, protocols, treaties, agreements and obligations acceded to or made by South Africa.
- Contribute to international peace and security by humanitarian intervention and Peace Support Operations (PSOs) in conflict situations around the world subject to the attainment of our national interests.

3.3 MITIGATION OF CONTINENTAL AND REGIONAL THREATS

To mitigate threats emanating from the continent and the region, the country will ensure the following:

- Ensure protection and defence of the state border of South Africa and protection of the territorial sea, exclusive economic zone and modernization of border infrastructure, improvement of mechanisms for border, customs, sanitary and epidemiological and other types of control.
- We will continue to advocate for the strengthening of mediation and conflict resolution mechanisms in the continent.
- We will strengthen our bilateral relations with SADC member states, to assert our influence in the region and advance national interest. This will further assist in countering negative forces that seek to undermine South Africa's interests in the region.
- We will continue to engage in peace initiatives and the mitigation of conflicts in the region, due to the implications these have on the country, as evidenced by the one-directional migratory patterns to the country. Such initiatives should be coordinated through the SADC regional body.
- We will strengthen our border and domestic security, to safeguard our territorial integrity in view of the possible escalation of the regional terrorism threat.
- We will combat illegal migration, strengthening control over migration flows, social and cultural adaptation and integration of migrants.
- As a member of the African Union Peace and Security Council (AUPSC) we will remain seized with developments in the hotspots areas in the continent.
- South Africa will advocate for constructive engagement to develop a continental strategy that seeks to enhance African self-reliance, inter-connectedness, adaptation and resilience when confronted with global shocks and extreme climate events.

3.4 MITIGATION OF DOMESTIC THREATS

To mitigate threats against the state and ensure public security and the well-being of South Africans, the following actions will be taken:

Counter-Terrorism and Violent Extremism

- Mitigation of radicalism, prevention of extremist and other criminal manifestations, especially among minors and young people.
- Prevention and suppression of offenses and crimes committed with the use of information and communication technologies, including money laundering, terrorist financing, organization of illegal distribution of drugs and psychotropic substances, and use of digital currencies for illegal purposes; implementation of the principle of inevitability of punishment for the commission of a crime.
- Increase the level of anti-terrorist protection of places where citizens live, build and increase life support facilities.
- Use public communication capability to educate South Africans on security related matters, the manifestation of threats to communities and the role and functions of the SANDF in preventing and/or addressing these threats. These efforts must simultaneously inculcated programmes for nation building, national values and instil trust in government to deliver on the social compact.
- Expediently review the National Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This should include activities related to terror financing characterised by vulnerabilities in the border security environment, exploitation of the cash economy, as well as challenges presented by new financial technologies etc. must be investigated.

Well-Being and Safety

- Educate the society about security-related matters required to defend and protect South Africa and its people.
- Detection and suppression of crimes related to illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition, explosives, as well as narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and their precursors.
- Improving road safety.
- Increasing the effectiveness of measures to prevent and eliminate natural and man-made emergencies.
- Ensuring protection of the population from dangerous infectious diseases capable of causing a sanitary and epidemiological emergency.
- Predicting the effects of climate change on the state of hazardous industrial facilities, hydraulic structures, transport complex, and life support facilities.
- Enhance health intelligence.

Gangsterism and Extortion

- Disorganise and fundamentally disable the criminal economy linked to gangsterism including drug and firearm supply lines or other identified commodities in the criminal economy.
- Dislodge and terminally weaken the capacity of gangs in identified areas.
- Increase the confidence of citizens in the law enforcement and judicial systems of the country and improve the system of public control and mechanisms for the participation of citizens and organizations in ensuring state and public safety.
- Investigate all gangs, including prison gangs, which fits the definition of a criminal enterprise as defined by the Prevention of Organised Crime Act, 1998 (Act 121 of 1998).

Youth Security and Development

- Strengthening of youth participation in decision making process at all levels of governance.
- The development and improvement of entrepreneurial skills and competencies with a view to increasing employment opportunities for youth.
- Strengthening family systems, institutional and legal framework for youth development.
- Re-introduction of compulsory military service training for all South African youth upon reaching legal age.
- Strengthen vocational and technical education for talent and skills development for the youth. This will be achieved through increase in the number of technical and vocational schools and provision of adequate equipment for the schools as well as massive training for the tutors.
- Establish and fund mass employment-based programmes and projects such as agriculture, construction, infrastructure etc. in order to boost youth development. In this regard, the collaboration of the private sector will be solicited in order to guarantee the absorption of the youths once trained.
- Encourage and develop leadership potentials in the youths through the establishment of functional leadership and development centres in all local government areas.
- Promotion of national unity through social integration of youth and facilitating socio-economic development.
- Create an enabling environment for the youth to creatively and imaginatively express themselves.

Economy

- We will ensure the sustainable development of the real economy, the creation of high-tech industries, new sectors of the economy, markets for goods and services on the basis of promising high technology.
- Reduce crime and corruption in public and private sector.
- We will ensure that we overcome the critical dependence of the South African economy on imported technologies, equipment and components through accelerated implementation of advanced South African technological developments and localization of production in South Africa.
- We will strengthen the leading positions and competitive advantages achieved by the South African in the aviation, shipbuilding, rocket and space industries, engine construction, nuclear power complex, as well as in the field of information and communication technologies.
- We will ensure an intensive technological renewal of basic sectors of the economy (industry, construction, communications, energy, agriculture, mining), accelerated development of South African machine-building, including instrumentation and machine-tool construction, the priority use of domestic products in solving the problems of economic modernization.
- We will modernize the production base of defence industry organizations
- We will ensure the expansion of the production of medicinal drugs and medical devices.
- We will ensure the creation and production of domestic vaccines against topical infectious diseases.
- We will ensure to overcome the critical dependence on imports in the field of breeding, selection, seed and aquaculture (fish farming).
- We will ensure the energy security of South Africa, including the provision of sustainable heat and the energy supply of the population and subjects of the national economy, increasing the energy efficiency of the economy and the efficiency of public administration in the sphere of the fuel and energy complex.
- We will develop the technologies for generating electricity from renewable and alternative energy sources, development of low-carbon energy.

Technology and Cyber security

- Prevent destructive information and technical influence on South African information resources, including critical information infrastructure facilities of the country.
- Creation of conducive conditions for effective prevention, detection and suppression of crimes and other offenses committed through the use of information and communication technologies.

- Increased security and resilience functioning of the unified telecommunications network of the country, the South African segment of the Internet, and other significant objects of information and communication infrastructure, as well as preventing foreign control over their functioning.
- Reduce the number of leaks of restricted access information and personal data to the minimum possible level, as well as reducing the number of violations of the requirements established by South African law to protect such information and personal data.
- Ensuring the protection of constitutional rights and freedoms of South Africans in the processing of personal data, including the use of information technology.
- Countering the use of the information infrastructure of the country by extremist and terrorist organizations, special services and propaganda structures of foreign states to carry out destructive information influence on citizens and society.
- Improvement of means and methods of information security based on the use of advanced technologies, including artificial intelligence and quantum computing technologies.
- Ensuring the priority use of South African information technologies and equipment that meet information security requirements in the information infrastructure of the country, including when implementing national projects (programs) and solving tasks in the field of digitalization of the economy and public administration.
- The formation of a secure environment for the circulation of reliable information, increasing the security of the information infrastructure of South Africa and the sustainability of its functioning.
- Development of a system for forecasting, identifying and preventing threats to the information security of the country, determining their sources, and promptly eliminating the consequences of the implementation of such threats.
- Strengthening cooperation of South Africa with foreign partners in the field of information security, including for the purpose of establishing an international legal regime of security in the use of information and communication technologies.
- Bringing reliable information about domestic and foreign policy of South Africa to the South Africans and international public; development of interaction between public authorities, civil society institutions and organizations in carrying out activities in the field of information security of the country.

4. THE PROJECTION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S NATIONAL POWER

Every state in the global system has values and ideals that it cherishes and would go to war for than to compromise. South Africa is not different. Our interests revolve around our people and their safety, our sovereignty, our territorial integrity, our economy and natural resources and lastly our democratic order and our constitution. The ability of any given state to protect and advance its national interest is a function of its power position in the comity of nations. Therefore, the core objective of this NSS is how to utilize the resources at our disposal to ensure our national security interest.

In the main, national power is recognised or simply refers to the capacity and the resources the state has to secure its desired values such as peace, economic development, and global influence amongst others. In pursuit of national interest whether security or otherwise, the ability of the state to marshal critical capabilities to secure its goals and objectives in relation to other sovereign states is what determines its national power.

Furthermore, the determinants of any given national power could be examined within three major factors, namely:

The base factors or geo-demographic factors:

Subsumed here are three categories of factors, namely, spatial factors which include the territorial surface and dimension of a state, as well as its location and strategic position, types of frontiers, power and attitudes of its neighbors, and the geotechnical distance of the state from other powers' military reach. Secondly, there are material factors which are likewise subsumed by the base factors. The material factors refer to the dimension and facility of arable land and natural resources of energy and raw materials. The third of the base factors is the population factor: density, ethnic homogeneity, cultural and educational levels, distribution of technical and organizational skills, as well as the population size.

The means factors:

Similar to the above, the means factors are divided into three categories, namely, military, economic, and political factors. The economic factor refers to the per capita production, Gross National Product (GNP), industrial production, total revenue and expenditure of the central government, government's spending as a percentage of GNP, gross domestic capital formation, the value of accumulated national capital, annual growth of GNP (which determines the economic strength and could be compared with per capita GNP), development of the whole economy, level of the industrial, technical and commercial

sectors, level of development of international trade, the technological relationship of dominance, subordination, independence, and interdependence. The military means could be assessed by looking at total defense expenditure, the extent to which military structure is dependent on or independent of foreign trade and aid, the quantity and quality, as well as the type of weapons and systems of combat, and the quality of military organization and discipline. On its part, the political means involve knowing the government's expenditure for foreign aid, support of factions and movements, Foreign Service, foreign intelligence, foreign political penetration, the quality of operational organizations, and the systems for political strategy.

The capacity means:

These are concerned with the capacity of a state for collective action. The three dimensions involved in these are the social, psychological, and political capacities. The social dimension is about a state's degree of social integration, degree of national cohesion, popular unity, degree of social organization, institutional flexibility and solidarity, and the social discipline of the populace. The psychological dimension refers to the national character of the population, their flexibility, moral spirit, inventiveness, perseverance, and adaptability. The political aspect refers to the quality of command, diplomacy, bureaucracy, policy and rule.

4.1 SOUTH AFRICA'S BASE FACTORS OR GEO-DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS AS PROJECTION OF NATIONAL POWER

South Africa has a population of approximately 62 Million that serves as an asset and a contributing factor to our national power to pursue our national interest. Over 39.8-million people are in the working-age category and we also have more than 62% of our population which is young and under the age of 35. Through this strategy and in pursuit of the country's national interest this factor will be a tab through which investment in youth programs and other programs at the state's disposal will be utilized; to ensure that our citizens are empowered and are collectively working towards the development of the country. Added to this advantage is that most of our population is highly urbanized and this offers the country more options as a cosmopolitan country to attract greater investment and further be able to export our South African culture regionally, continentally and globally.

South Africa, being on the southern part of the African continent with the total land area: 1 219 090 km² and surrounded by two oceans makes us attractive to foreign trade and a gateway into the continent. Furthermore, South Africa possess about 79.4% of agricultural land which will be exploited to make the country the breadbasket of the continent if not the entire world. About 9.9% of the land is arable with 0.3% for permanent crops, 62.2% for permanent pasture whilst 7.6% is forest and lastly we have 16 700 km of land that is under irrigation. This is a crucial element to our country to unleash its potential and fight poverty, inequality and unemployment.

4.2 SOUTH AFRICA'S MEANS AS PROJECTION OF NATIONAL POWER

South Africa's peaceful political transition is seen as one of the most remarkable political feats over the past century. The magnitude of constitutional and institutional re-design had a deep transformative impact on the entire government system and the region. As a result, South Africa is considered a 'stable, multi-racial democracy with a vibrant civil society'. South Africa has also encouraged global peace strategies. The historic political transformation of the country to become a democracy is perceived as a unique contribution and also serves as an advantage to pursue national security interests.

Our economy boasts an extensive and modern infrastructure network, which is being expanded further as a large investment programme which is rolled out by the public sector in collaboration with the private sector. Together with various other forms of industrial support from the South African government and other public sector institutions, this provides an attractive pull factor for investors.

The South African economy has the potential to achieve a higher growth trajectory through the unlocking of competitive advantages in key sectors of the economy as well as implementation of institutional and governance reforms to support a sustained recovery in business and investor confidence. South Africa's ZAR 6.64 trillion economy (USD 405.8 billion*) is the 33rd largest** in the world and represents approximately 12% of the African continent's total gross domestic product (GDP). Furthermore:

- The economy is highly diversified from a sectoral perspective and the most developed and technologically advanced economy on the African continent.
- South Africa has one of the most open economies in the world (exports and imports of goods and services collectively represented circa 65% of GDP in 2022), with preferential access to numerous global markets.
- Fixed investment activity is spread across all broad sectors of the economy, with the financial services, real estate and business services sector claiming large shares on an annual basis.
- The private sector accounted for around 73% of overall fixed investment expenditure, on average, over the past 3 years.
- Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows have increased substantially since the onset of democracy, with FDI stock representing 44.9% of GDP in 2021, as compared to 6.6% in 1994.

South Africa's contribution to peace on the continent is another element of our national power we will continue investing in as it plays an important role in negotiating the shift from 'non-intervention' to 'non-indifference' in Africa. South Africa's future is tied to the economic development of Africa as a whole and the establishment of stability and peace throughout the continent.

Lastly, strategically, South Africa has a defensive posture, as part of our national power projection and to preserve our national security interest, we will continue to maintain appropriate offensive military capabilities. The South African National Defense Force together with the security structures will be maintained as a balanced, modern and flexible force employing advanced technologies appropriate to operations in the African environment. All the security establishments will thus be appropriately equipped, resourced and multi-role trained to execute successful operations across the spectrum of potential conflicts. Informed by this National Security Strategy, National Interest and our Foreign Policy interests.

5. CONCLUSION

South Africa remains a stable country, however it faces a number of potential threats to its national security and interests. The country's NSS illustrates the capabilities and resources needed to address these challenges towards promoting and protecting the country's national interests and security.

South Africa must remain prepared to engage the Southern African region, the African continent, and the world as the international environment becomes uncertain, complex and ambiguous, and marred with border disputes, intra-state conflicts, violent extremism, and proxy wars amongst others.

The risks to our national security through instability and insecurity are the under-pinning, causal issues that if unmitigated lead to the national security threats we have articulated above.

Therefore, the NSS has identified a number of risks that give rise to threats to our national security:

- Domestically, the risks are:
 - factors that undermine the integrity and functioning of the state
 - the physical vulnerability of our people
- Risks arising from abroad are:
 - geopolitical contestations and conflict
 - economic inequality and marginalisation of the developing world
 - issue of access to resources
 - conflict and instability
 - changing demographics
 - foreign agendas

Between 2024-2028 the following are assessed to be the risks that will likely impact on South Africa's national security and need to be planned for and mitigated through government programmes and whole of society:

- Economic hardship or low economic growth which were further exacerbated by the impact of COVID-19 pandemic and the implications of the war in Ukraine.
- Social instability mainly due to social hardships mainly driven by unemployment, poverty, inequality, poor service delivery, shrinking black middle class, poor governance, crime, trust deficit between the government and public and lawlessness.

- Political instability will increase due to challenges at local government level informed by unstable coalitions and political bickering; criminal targeted assassinations, corruption, and unconstructive political discourse amongst all political parties that is divorced to greater national interest.
- Terrorism and violent extremism will also remain another threat to the country.
- The cyber threats are expected to increase significantly and will vary. They will include cyber terrorism, fraud and organised crime, espionage, and disruption of government services as they become increasingly digitized. Cyber risks will underpin many of the other risks we face.
- International military conflict will increase. Although it is unlikely that there will be a direct military threat to South Africa, there is a greater possibility of international military crises drawing in the country like in Mozambique
- Our ability to respond effectively will be made harder by the growing use of asymmetric and hybrid tactics by states, combining economic coercion, disinformation, proxies, terrorism and criminal activity, blurring the boundaries between civil disorder and military conflict.
- Disease, particularly pandemic influenza, emerging infectious diseases and growing Antimicrobial Resistance, threatens lives and causes disruption to public services and the economy. South Africa's vulnerability will be increased by our large population and open society.
- Major natural disasters such as severe weather and major flooding will increase due to climate change and will cost lives, cause disruption to Critical National Infrastructure and provision of essential services, and will have a significant economic cost.

Other threats to our national security will include changes in technology, antimicrobial resistance, a range of cyber related threats, acquisition of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, advanced conventional weapons by state and non-state actors, chemical and biological attacks against South Africa or its forces.

5.1 CULTURE OF PREPAREDNESS

According to this Strategy, the entire nation shares common responsibilities for national security. In order to help prepare the nation to carry out these responsibilities, a culture of preparedness that permeates all levels of our society from individual citizens, businesses and non-profit organizations to provincial state, local governments, communities, officials and other forms of authorities needs to be fostered.

This culture rests on two principles. The first principle of our culture of preparedness is a shared acknowledgement that creating a prepared nation will be an enduring challenge. As individual citizens, we must guard against complacency and as a society we must balance the sense of optimism that is fundamental to the South African character with a sober

recognition that future catastrophes will occur. The certainty of future calamities should inform and motivate our preparedness and we will continue to emphasize the responsibility of the entire nation to be flexible and ready to cope with a broad range of challenges.

The second principle is the importance of individual and collective initiative to counter fundamental biases toward reactive responses and approaches. Our culture, therefore, must encourage and reward innovation and new ways of thinking as well as better align authority and responsibility so that those who are responsible for a mission or task have the authority to act. The maintenance of national security is a national project requiring the effective harnessing of all the capacities of the nation. The primary responsibility for countering threats to national security rests with the State. The capacities of the State involve a multitude of players at national, provincial and local level – not just in the executive arms of government, but also in a range of institutions, regulatory bodies and parastatals.

The capacity to counter threats to national security also lies outside of the State. The private sector has a crucial role in countering threats, especially to the economy, to the citizens and to the peace.

Civil society, in its broadest sense, is also a key capacity for countering threats. Political formations, community organisations, NGOs, religious organisations, academia, the media and many others have a critical role to play in countering threats to national security.

Outside South African borders, there is a range of international capacities that may counter threats to national security – including multilateral institutions such as the United Nations (UN), the African Union (AU), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) as well as BRICS Plus and NAM with whom South Africa is in alliance, private sector and civil society entities.

South Africa's National Security Strategy is intrinsically linked to the political, economic, social and strategic transformation of the SADC region and the whole of Africa, through the African Union, as well as the rest of the world. When tensions arise, South Africa must be a part of the response stability, especially in Africa.

The changing international environment is very significant for South Africa's National Security Strategy. It demands that the country focuses on her ability to influence emerging risks and capitalize on opportunities. The changing environment will also require consistent and creative bilateral engagement to reinforce South Africa's efforts in multilateral relations.

There is therefore, a need to forge stronger partnerships with countries in the region. The NSS emphasize the need for insightful intelligence and need for collaboration in all spheres. More than any other activity of government, national security must integrate with domestic policies. There is a need for an effective continuum starting from the welfare of the people

through favourable business environment and good governance up to the international arena. More than ever, effective national security is about integrated responses to complex challenges both at home and abroad.

Innovation becomes important as terrorism, insurgency, cross border crimes, kidnapping, smuggling, illegal bunkering, financial crime, maritime insecurity, pastoralists and farmers conflicts, digital and cyber related threats as well as attacks on critical national infrastructures are growing and changing rapidly. South Africa needs to ensure that defence against these security challenges keeps pace.

South Africa's pursuit of innovation will build on solid pillars of national security. The country needs to build a strong armed force, collecting and assessing intelligence. There is a need to strengthen security sector reforms especially within the South African Police Service to ensure effective law enforcement and resilient communities. The current security challenges of crime, lawlessness, violent protests, infrastructure crimes, financial crimes, illicit mining, extortion, and more; must be effectively fought and won. Other nations have faced similar challenges and succeeded.

This National Security Strategy is designed to chart the way forward by outlining the threats confronting our country. It is also a mechanism that is required to fight crime, impunity and terrorism so that South Africa will become a peaceful, dependable, strong, reliable and prosperous country where citizens live in peace with their neighbours and work together harmoniously for the progress and economic development of the country

The implementation of this Strategy will contribute to the preservation of the people of South Africa, the development of human potential, the improvement of the quality of life and well-being of citizens, the strengthening of the country's defence capability, the unity and cohesion of South African society, the achievement of national development goals, and the enhancement of the competitiveness and international prestige of the Republic of South Africa.

In this regard, to ensure South Africa addresses some immediate threats to its national security, the following challenges need to be prioritised:

- Illegal migration/ border management
- Service delivery
- Corruption
- Poverty, unemployment, inequality
- Health Epidemics
- Illicit mining
- Organised crime and human trafficking
- Illicit financial flows
- Substance abuse

- GBVF
- Extortion and damage to critical infrastructure
- Cybersecurity
- Mushrooming of charismatic churches
- Climate change
- Energy and water security
- Violent extremism

ANNEXURE 1

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES OF THE NSS PILLARS

The eight pillars NSS's objectives are highlighted below:

PILLAR 1: PROTECTION OF THE PEOPLE OF SOUTH AFRICA OR PUBLIC SECURITY (Well-Being of South Africans)

- Combat violent and syndicated crime
- Counter terrorism and extremism
- Protect fundamental human and civil rights and freedoms,
- Strengthen civil peace and harmony
- Ensure political and social stability in society
- Improve the mechanisms of interaction between state and civil society
- Strengthen safety and security
- Protect citizens and all forms of property
- Protect the rights and freedoms of citizens
- Eradicate poverty, inequality, unemployment and racism by promoting social cohesion

PILLAR 2: PROTECTION OF THE TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF REPUBLIC

- Implementation of modern and funded defence review and updated defence policy
- Improvement of the military organization of the state
- Create conditions for peaceful socio-economic development of South Africa and to ensure its military security
- Review the capacity and budgets of the security services
- Regulate the private security industry
- Address espionage and protective security challenges

PILLAR 3: PROTECTION AND PROJECTION OF OUR SOVEREIGNTY

- Create favourable conditions for sustainable socio-economic development of the country
- Strengthen national security interests abroad
- Strengthen the position of the Republic of South Africa on matters of national interest and national security by ensuring that the country's position is coherent and redlines are understood
- Ensure that our foreign missions are capacitated and staffed with competent and right skills
- Secure the land borderline

- Secure South African airspace
- Secure the maritime border

PILLAR 4: PROTECTION OF THE ECONOMY OR ECONOMIC SECURITY

- Ensure that the economic security of the Republic of South Africa is strengthened
- Ensure the economic sovereignty of the country is protected
- Increase the competitiveness of the South African and its resistance to external and internal threats
- Create conditions for economic growth of the Republic of South Africa at the rate of which will be at par to global growth or higher
- Ensure the implementation of large-scale investment and innovation programs and projects contributing to the consolidation of scientific, technical, industrial and resource potential of South Africa
- Saturation of the domestic market with South African-made goods and the emergence of new advanced scientific competencies create the basis for long-term economic development of the country and further strengthen national security
- Counter corruption
- Ensure proper migration management
- Protect South Africa's strategic resources
- Eradicate the illicit economy
- Licencing of Mining Operations – reserved for citizens
- Licencing for Small Scale Farming operations – reserved for citizens

PILLAR 5: CYBER SECURITY

- Strengthen the sovereignty of South Africa in the information space
- Enhance the risk awareness to all government departments, private sector and the South African citizens
- Assume responsibility for cybersecurity and build the necessary capabilities
- Address cyber-security challenges

PILLAR 6: PROTECTION AND PROMOTION OF OUR TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

- Intensify its efforts to specifically promote research and development and thereby also protect these fields from illegitimate interference
- Increase the country's skills in evaluating foreign technologies
- Develop key scientific and technological competences
- Boost the country's engagement in setting technological norms and standards

- Ensure South Africa's scientific and technological development independence and competitiveness.

PILLAR 7: PROTECTION OF OUR ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES OR ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY

- Ensure environmental security of South Africa
- Ensure rational use of natural resources
- Ensure the quality of the environment necessary for favourable human life, conservation and restoration of the natural environment, balanced use of natural resources
- Mitigate the negative effects of climate change
- Improve disaster management
- Licencing of Mining Operations – reserved for citizens
- Licencing for Small scale farming operations – reserved for citizens

PILLAR 8: PROTECTION OF OUR CULTURE AND HERITAGE (Cultural Security)

- Protection of historical truth
- Preservation of historical memory, continuity in the development of the country and its historically established unity
- Opposition to falsification of history
- Strengthening of civil unity, all-South African civil identity, inter-ethnic and inter-religious and all traditional identities and practices of the country
- Strengthening the institution of the family, preserving traditional family values and the continuity of generations of South Africans
- Implementation of state information policy aimed at strengthening the role of South African traditions, spiritual, moral and cultural-historical values
- Development of the system of education, training and upbringing as the basis for the formation of a developed and socially responsible personality, striving for spiritual, moral, intellectual and physical perfection
- Support of public projects aimed at patriotic education of citizens, preservation of historical memory and culture of the peoples of the Republic of South Africa
- Preservation of the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the South African people, popularization of achievements of South African science and technology, literature, artistic culture, music and sports, including by finalizing curricula of educational institutions
- Develop a spiritual, moral and patriotic education of citizens based on historical and contemporary examples, development of collective

principles of South African society, support of socially significant initiatives, including charitable projects and volunteer movement

ANNEXURE 2

KEY TYPE OF THREATS

Assassination: affecting primarily the elimination of key players in the state

Corruption: as it directly affects the integrity of the state, political, economic and security processes

Coup d'état: involving attempts by the armed forces of the state to violently overthrow the constitutional order

Crime: including organised crime, violent and property crime

Cyber Attack: the use of the internet and other ICT infrastructure to launch attacks on the state and economic systems and information

Disease: including major epidemics and pandemics

Espionage: emanating from foreign states or entities, or from domestic entities opposed to the democratic order, including industrial and economic espionage

Human-made Disaster: including nuclear, chemical or biological incident by intention or accident, as well as large-scale industrial or other incidents

Illegal Immigration: involving the threat to territorial integrity involving persons

Industrial Action: insofar as it threatens economic security and political stability

Instability: involving political upheaval through protests and demonstrations on the domestic or foreign front impacting on South Africa's democratic order or foreign interests

Interference: involving illegitimate attempts by foreign or domestic entities to interfere with or influence state or democratic processes

Natural Disaster: including climatic, weather or other disaster

Non-Compliance: with government laws and regulations and international agreements and systems

Obstruction: involving domestic or foreign obstruction of, or resistance, to state interventions to achieve its project

Sabotage: involving attempts to disrupt or damage state infrastructure

Sanctions: including boycotts or other forms of sanction emanating from the foreign environment

Smuggling: threat to territorial integrity involving goods

Social Violence: including political, criminal, inter-group violence

Subversion: involving foreign or domestic attempts to subvert democratic processes and institutions

Systems Failures: insofar as they affect information, communications, transport, power, water and other systems

Terrorism: indiscriminate violence against non-combatants emanating from abroad or domestically, from whatever political, ideological or religious source

Unfair Competition: involving foreign entities unfairly competing with South Africa's economic and political interests

Unilateralism: involving failure of the international multilateral institutions, systems and processes through the unilateral actions of state players

War: including full-scale war, invasion, inter- and intra-state conflict

ANNEXURE 3

DEFINITIONS

In this strategy, unless the context indicates otherwise, the following terms, words and concepts shall have the meaning assigned thereto:

“Access” means the ability or opportunity to gain knowledge of classified information.

“A threat to national security” is a set of conditions and factors that create a direct or indirect opportunity to effect damage to the national interests of the Republic of South Africa.

“Big Power Agenda” refers to the "ability (of the news media) to influence the importance placed on the topics of the public agenda

“Charismatic Churches” is a form of Christianity that emphasizes the work of the Holy Spirit, spiritual gifts, and modern-day miracles as an everyday part of a believer's life.

“Citizenship” A legal status and relation between an individual and a state that entails specific legal rights and duties.

“Climate Change” refers to long-term shifts in global temperatures and weather patterns.

“Classification” means the act or process whereby information is determined to be classified information.

“Communication security” means the transmission of data from the point of origin to the destination without changing the sequence or content of the data to the detriment of the organisation.

“Confidentiality” means the principle that information is not made available or disclosed to unauthorised individuals, entities or processes.

“Corruption” means corruption is a form of dishonesty or a criminal offence which is undertaken by a person or an organisation which is entrusted in a position of authority, in order to acquire illicit benefits or abuse power for one's personal gain.

“Critical information infrastructure” means physical and computer-based systems and assets that are so vital to the Republic that its incapacity or destruction would have a debilitation impact on national security, national economic security, telecommunications, energy, banking and finance, transportation, water systems and emergency services.

“Critical infrastructure” are infrastructures that are identified and defined as per the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act (8 of 2019) including but not limited to infrastructure of the State, parastatal or private installations whose security is declared to be vital to the functioning of the South African State, its economy and the wellbeing of its people.

“Critical service” means a service identified by an Organ of State as a critical service through a threat and risk assessment, the compromise of which will endanger the effective functioning of that Organ of State.

“Cyberspace” means a physical and non-physical terrain created by and/or composed of some or all of the following: data, computers, computer systems, networks and users.

“Cybersecurity” means the sum total of tools, policies, security concepts, security safeguards, guidelines, risk management approaches, actions, training, best practices, assurance and technologies that can be used to protect the cyber environment and organisation and user assets.

“Economic Inclusion” Economic inclusion implies giving all members of society, vulnerable and underserved groups, access to labour markets, finance, entrepreneurial expertise, and economic opportunities.

“Energy Security” means the uninterrupted availability of energy sources at an affordable price.

“Ensuring national security” - implementation of public authorities in interaction with civil society institutions and organizations political, legal, military, socio-economic, and informational, organizational and other measures aimed at countering threats to national security.

“Espionage” means the unlawful and intentional communication, delivery or making available of classified information to directly or indirectly benefit a foreign state and non-state actors.

“Extremism” is defined as a phenomenon that embraces or promotes a radical political or religious views.

“Food Insecurity” means the availability of food in a country and the ability of individuals within that country to access, afford, and source adequate foodstuffs.

“Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF)” GBV – gender based violence refers to any type of harm that is perpetrated against a person or group of people because of their factual or perceived sex, gender sexual orientation and/or gender identity.

“Global Threats” means unprecedented convergence of security threats and instability emanating from outside South Africa’s borders such as international organised crime, terrorism, cybercrime, illegal migration and communicable diseases among others.

“Inequality” means wide varieties of economic inequality; most notably income inequality measured using the distribution of income and wealth.

“Infectious Diseases” are disorders caused by organisms — such as bacteria, viruses, fungi or parasites.

“Illicit Economy” means the underground economy where transactions occur illegally away from official’s eyes.

“Information and Communications Technology (ICT)” means any technology that is used to store, communicate and manipulate data, information, knowledge, understanding and ultimately intelligence.

“Information security” refers to all the measures taken to protect information, systems, documentation, computer-generated information and facilities from accidental or deliberate threats to confidentiality, integrity or availability and includes, but is not limited to:

- (a) Document security;
- (b) Physical security measures;
- (c) ICT security;
- (d) Personnel security;
- (e) Business continuity planning;
- (f) Contingency planning;
- (g) Security screening;
- (h) Technical surveillance counter-measures;
- (l) Dealing with information security breaches;
- (j) Security investigations; and
- (k) Administration and organisation of the security function at Organs of State.

“National intelligence structures” means the national intelligence structures as defined in section 1 of the National Strategic Intelligence Act, 1994 (Act 39 of 1994).

“National Interest” means the interest of a nation as a whole held to be an independent entity separate from interests of subordinate areas and other nations³.

“National Security Council (NSC)” including Presidency, DIRCO, Finance, COGTA, the three intelligence services, the NSA⁴.

“National security structures” means broader security structures within the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster charged with dealing with security. These include the State Security Agency, the South African Police Services, the Department of Correctional Services, the South African National Defence Force and any other co-opted department.

“National security system” - a set of public authorities and tools at their disposal, which implement the state policy in the sphere of national security.

“National Threats” means anything that threatens the physical well-being of the population or jeopardises the stability of the nation.

“Nationalism” is an ideology that emphasizes loyalty, devotion, or allegiance to a nation or nation-state and holds that such obligations outweigh other individual or group interests.

“National security of the Republic of South Africa (hereinafter - national security)” - the state of protection of national interests of the Republic of South Africa from external and internal threats, which ensures the implementation of constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens, decent quality and standard of living, civil peace and accord in the country, protection of the sovereignty of the Republic of South Africa, its independence and national integrity, the socio-economic development of the country.

“Network” means a system of two or more computers that can exchange data or information.

“Organ of State” means an Organ of the State as defined in section 239 of the Constitution.

“Patriotism” is the feeling of love, devotion, and sense of attachment to one's country.

“Personal information” means information relating to an identifiable, living, natural person, and where applicable, an identifiable, existing juristic person.

³ Refer to *“Framework Document on South Africa's National Interest and Advancement in a Global Environment”*

⁴ Refer to Presidential Proclamation 13 of 2020 published in Government Gazette dd 10 March 2020

“Poverty” means a state or condition in which a person lacks the financial resources and essentials for a certain standard of living.

“Security breach” means an event that violates the rules intended to safeguard the security of a process, system, information or service, or the negligent or intentional transgression of or failure to comply with security measures.

“Sovereignty” means the authority of a state to govern itself.

“State” means a nation or territory considered as an organized political community under one government.

“State security matter” includes any matter that has been classified in terms of any national law and that is dealt with by the security structures or that relates to the functions of the Agency or to the relationship existing between any person and the Agency.

“Strategic National Priorities of the Republic of South Africa” (hereinafter - strategic national priorities) - the most important directions of national security and sustainable development of the Republic of South Africa

“Terrorist and related activities” means terrorist and related activities as defined in section 1 of the Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorist and Related Activities Act, 2004 (Act No. 33 of 2004).

“Territorial Integrity” means the principle under international law that gives the right to sovereign states to defend their borders and all territory in them of another state.

“Unemployment” means people above a specified age not being in paid employment or self-employment but currently available for work during the reference period.

“Water Security” means the state of having reliable access to a sufficient quantity of clean water.