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***National Security Reform and the National Security Strategy of the United Kingdom***

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**Cabinet**Office

# National Security Reform and the National Security Strategy of the United Kingdom

Making  
government  
work better



## National Security Strategy: The Remit

‘The Government will publish a National Security Strategy setting out our approach to the range of security challenges and opportunities we face, now and in the future and both at home and overseas. The strategy will set the framework for taking forward those issues across a range of departments and agencies, and provide the basis for deciding on changes in priorities to reflect changed circumstances.’

*The Governance of Britain, July 2007*

‘Let me confirm to the House that in future we will publish a national security strategy, and that the first will be published and presented in the autumn to Parliament for debate and decision in this House.’

*The Prime Minister, 25 July 2007*



# National Security Strategy: Initial Questions

- How should we **define** national security?
- What should a National Security Strategy be for, who is the **audience**?
- What should be **covered** in it?
- What relevant strategies **already exist** (including risk/threat analyses and wider horizon scanning work)?
- Where are there **gaps** in our strategies/policies, and is there any need to **adjust** our priorities?
- What **announcements/initiatives** might usefully form part of published NSS later on publication?



# National Security Strategy: Guiding Principles

- The NSS should be **broad** in scope.
- The NSS should not be viewed through the prism of one issue, e.g. terrorism.
- It should cover topics not traditionally thought of as security issues, e.g. Climate Change.
- It should reflect the priorities over the short term (next five years) and longer term (beyond the next twenty years).
- It should **clearly articulate** security challenges to the public.
- It should **act as a framework** for taking security issues forward across Government.



# National Security Strategy: a Broad Approach.

- Terrorism
- Proliferation
- Global/regional policies, priorities and means
- Conflict prevention/failed and failing states
- Development, including health
- Climate change (especially security effects)
- Resource security/competition – energy, food?
- Hedging against inter-state conflict
- Globalisation/economic shocks
- Mass Migration
- Promotion of economic stability
- International organisations/international security framework (Organised crime)
- Espionage
- Natural disasters
- Pandemics
- Protection of critical national infrastructure/resilience
- Core national capacities, eg Defence Industrial Strategy (?) – **ruled out.**
- Demographics/UK workforce (?) – **ruled out.**
- Immigration/assimilation/social cohesion



# National Security Strategy: Meeting the Challenge

**We need to mobilise all the resources available:**

- the **hard power** of military, police and security services
- the **persuasive force** of diplomacy and cultural connections
- the **authority** of strengthened global institutions
- the **power of ideas**



# National Security Strategy: Whitehall Stakeholders

- No 10
- The Cabinet Office (incl. OD Sec, CCS, Assessments Staff)
- The Home Office (incl. OSCT)
- FCO
- Our embassies abroad, via the FCO
- MOD
- DfID
- HM Treasury DEFRA
- BERR (energy security/export controls) – TC/MW
- DCLG
- Ministry of Justice
- Cabinet Office Comms Group & No 10 Press Office
- HMRC
- The Security and Intelligence Agencies
- SOCA



## Main recommendations for the centre of government

- Strengthen the work of horizon-scanning and forward planning
- Strengthen the capability to offer a strategic perspective on security priorities and improve connections between defence, development, foreign and domestic security strategies
- Create a national security forum, including representatives from government, politics, academia and others, to discuss strategy and exchange ideas
- Publish a national risk register
- Publish an annual update on the security challenges facing the UK and progress on implementing the strategy



## Conflict Prevention Pool

- Tri-departmental: FCO, MOD and DfiD – all must agree on total spend
- For long term conflict prevention projects
- £112M in FY 08/09
- 6 regions (including the Balkans, North Africa and South Asia)
- 2 themes (International Capacity Building and Small Arms Control )

# Ministerial Committee on National Security, International Relations and Development (NSID)

## Composition

- Prime Minister (Chair)
- Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (alternate Chair)
- Secretary of State for the Home Department (alternate Chair)
- Chancellor of the Exchequer
- Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor
- Secretary of State for Defence; and Secretary of State for Scotland
- Secretary of State for Health
- Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
- Secretary of State for International Development
- Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
- Secretary of State for Transport
- Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government
- Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families
- Minister for the Cabinet Office; and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
- Attorney General

Other Ministers, the Chief of the Defence Staff, the Chairman of the Joint Intelligence Committee, the Heads of the Intelligence Agencies, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and the President of the Association of Chief Police Officers may be invited to attend as required.

## Terms of Reference

“To consider issues relating to national security, and the Government's international, European and international development policies”