



The Making of the National Integrated Maritime Strategy (NIMS) of Ghana: Lessons and Challenges

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GHANA – United States host 5th SGI Steering Committee Meeting – Amb Arreti, Amb. Sullivan and the National Security Coordinator Kyeremeh with experts from the Ministry of Transport, National Security Chiefs, SGI Secretariat, Ministry of National Security, Ghana Maritime Authority, Ghana Port and Harbour Authority, Marine Police, US experts, etc meet to discuss the national Maritime, Cyber and Border Security Strategies of Ghana



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Agenda

- ① Background
- ① Development process
- ① Preliminary and Substantive Draft
- ① Challenges
- ① Lessons
- ① Conclusion





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Background

- February 2016 - Security Governance Initiative (SGI) Joint Country Action Plan (JCAP) with the of the United States Government
- 7-year period of strategic reforms
 - Maritime
 - Border
 - Cyber





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Background

- 2015 joint assessment by Ghana Maritime Authority and National Security Council Secretariat:
 - Maritime, offshore and related blue crimes - threats to blue economy
- February 2016 - Security Governance Initiative (SGI) Joint Country Action Plan (JCAP) with the of the United States Government
- 7-year period of strategic reforms
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Development Process

- SGI Secretariat through NMTWG identified:
 - Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) with maritime responsibilities
 - Define roles and responsibilities
 - Identify legal authorities
 - Identify consultation approaches
 - Strategic communication aspects required





Ideation, Initiation and Project Planning

- International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) rules in favor of Ghana in its maritime dispute with Ivory Coast
- Ghana's new maritime space now exceeded its landscape
- National Maritime Technical Working Group (NMTWG) – representation from:
 - Ministries of National Security, Transport, Fisheries, Defence, Energy, Finance, Foreign Affairs and other entities within the government,
- Heyl Group, CEMLAWS Africa, CSDDS Africa and GOGMI appointed consultants to on the draft NIMS.





Consultations and Dialogue

- Non-partisan and inclusive process
- Consultations with key maritime players and developmental actors.
- Groups included:
 - energy community, fishing community, enforcement, intelligence and naval communities, industry players, legislative community, business community, shipping community, researchers from the country's maritime, scientific and engineering universities as well as economic development planners, among others.





Preliminary Draft

- Draft Zero commenced in late 2019 with the project consultants.
- Preliminary work -
 - definition and formulation of Ghana's maritime interest and objectives of the NIMS
 - its rationale, vision and guiding principles
 - desired end-state
 - strategy means





Substantive Draft, Review and Consultation

- Substantive parts of the NIMS - embodying how Ghana would deal with issues of strategic threats including:
 - piracy, IUU fishing, robbery, illegal bunkering, ship-to-ship transfers
 - maritime boundary delimitation disputes, drug trafficking, disruption to trade or freedom of navigation, people smuggling, disruptions of critical national information infrastructure (CNII),
 - ecological and environmental degradation, pollution, health risks and threats, natural disasters, etc





Challenges

- Bureaucracy - input delays from MDAs and official red-tape may spell the Waterloo of many national strategies
- Number of interest groups included or excluded in the process
- Time constraints
- Conflicting interests of different stakeholder groups





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Lessons

- Political will crucial
- Bullet-proof the process
- Education can augment public buy-in
- Need for a NIMS Secretariat
- MDAs involvement in implementation plan development
- Realistic Timeframes
- Keep NIMS Open





Conclusions

- NIMS has promoted Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) thereby reducing domestic sea-blindness.
- NIMS reaffirmed a need to improve both strategic and tactical capabilities
- Develop a domestic as well as international security and legal framework for addressing hybrid threats



NIMS IN PICTURES



Stakeholders at a NIMS Workshop - Koforidua



Representatives of UNODC, SGI Secretariat, National Security, Ghana Maritime Authority, Ghana Shippers Authority, Marine Police and CEMLAWS



Key stakeholders in Ghana's maritime industry meet to validate NIMS implementation plan



Stakeholders briefed by SGI Coordinator – Osei Bonsu Dickson, Esq at an SGI Steering Committee Meeting





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