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## BORDER SECURITY MANAGEMENT IN GHANA

### A. Introduction

In this Briefing Paper we shine light on border security issues. As will be observed, on February 18, 2016 the Government of Ghana and the United States Government executed the Security Governance Initiative (SGI) which identified border security was one of the areas for strategic cooperation areas under the Joint Country Action Plan (JCAP).

In brief, the concept of Integrated Border Management (IBM) consists mainly of a framework of well-defined national and international border agency control and surveillance systems, which involves substantial risk analysis and relevant crime intelligence.

The European Union's definition of IBM is one of national and international coordination and cooperation among all the relevant authorities and agencies involved in border security and trade facilitation to establish effective, efficient and coordinated border management, in order to reach the objective of open, but well controlled and secure borders.

Effective IBM ensures that all the resources available are employed to regulate the movement of people and goods across the borders. Some of the issues implicated in border security management in Ghana include;

- Money Laundering
- Human, drug and weapon trafficking
- Terrorism
- Refugee influx
- Animal movement

### B. Key Agencies

In the area of border-security the following as some of the key government agencies around whom issues of border management will develop over the foreseeable future:

- The Ghana Immigration Service (GIS)

- The Ghana Revenue Authority- Customs Division (GRA-CD)
- The Ghana Police Service (GPS)
- The Bureau of National Investigation (BNI)
- The Bureau of National Communication (BNC)
- The Narcotics Control Board (NACOB)
- Port Health Authority
- The Agriculture Quarantine Service

### C. Laws and Policies on Border Security Management

We identify a number of existing laws and policies which attempt to govern the cyber space as follows:

- The Customs Excise and Preventive Service (management) Law, PNDCL 330; especially Part II which governs "Taxes and Duties" and Part III which governs "Customs Duties"
- The Immigration Act, 2000 (Act 573); especially Sections 1-12.
- The Electronic Communications Regulations, 2011 (L.I. 1991)- which was enacted in exercise of the powers conferred on the Minister responsible for Communications by section 97 of Act 775. What is of special relevance are the "General Principles" under L.I. 1991. Also, in pursuance of the "general principles", regulations 5, 6, 8, 9, 26 are of specific interest, among other regulations.

Some relevant international laws:

- United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR)
- Algiers Declaration of 1999, a convention adopted by the African Union in combating terrorism
- Ratification of the United Nations convention for the Suppression of Terrorism and Terrorist Financing in 2002
- Economic Community of West African States convention in 2006, on small arms and light weapons

### D. Strategies for Mitigating Cyber Security Threats in Ghana

In the area of border security there is clearly a need to adopt international best practices, which serve as a guide to inform and assist border practitioners in developing policies, programs and guidelines for various strategies in counterterrorism. Some of these international best practices which may be adopted include the following;

- Enhancing intra- agency cooperation. Intra-agency cooperation refers to cooperation between subordinated units within a border agency and describes the effective and efficient internal cooperation and management of work flow processes, information exchange, and resource management within a ministry, department, or agency responsible for specific tasks.
- Enhancing inter-agency cooperation. State border services should improve cooperation in specific areas between relevant departments at the central, regional, and local level and ideally set up coordination/ management inter agency structures, such as inter-departmental committees or working groups.

- Enhancing international cooperation. Engagement between States and cooperation with international, regional, or other multilateral organizations can increase access to information, research, analysis and intelligence as well as ways and means to strengthen accountability and mitigate corruption. Cooperation between agencies involved in border issues in different states should be encouraged at local, regional and multinational levels.
- Developing and establishing comprehensive remote border area surveillance programs. Effective surveillance of remote border areas and border zones adjacent to official ports of entry is required to prevent persons from bypassing official Border Controls in order to avoid checks, smuggle commodities, infiltrate to conduct a terrorist attack, or attempt to enter or leave a State's territory illegally. For instance, in fulfilling effective border surveillance duties, border guards could use both stationary and mobile units. There could also be the development of a national Border Monitoring Program.
- Engage with and empower border communities as key contributors in border security and management. Engagement with communities living in remote border zones and nomads wandering in uninhabited border areas can help to generate information that can build comprehensive situational awareness and help officials distinguish between "usual" movements and those that are out of the ordinary or suspicious.
- Developing and implementing Border Community Policing Programs. Generally, this refers to the collaboration between national Border Security Management or authorities and a border community to promote partnership-based and cooperative efforts between national border services and border communities to more effectively and efficiently identify, prevent, and solve problems related to transnational threats in general.
- Developing and implementing Border Security Information exchange programs and mechanisms. Clear and precise communications as well as proactive exchange of information between officials from border police/ guard and customs services are fundamental aspects to successful cooperation and effective coordination of activities along borders.

#### E. Conclusion

Again we hope you found this issue helpful. The Center aims to empower readers to understand and navigate a continuously changing and complex global security environment

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