



Deep strategy for containing the socio-security threats in Africa

استراتيجية عميقة لاحتواء التهديدات الاجتماعية والأمنية
في أفريقيا

Pr. Ameer Mosbah

*Faculty of Political Sciences and International Relations, University of Algiers 3,
(Algeria)*

E-mail: mosbah07ameur@gmail.com

Abstract

This study examines the diagnosis of the security environment components of the African continent by discussing three main axes: The first one relates to the background for analyzing the sources of the socio-security threat that undermines stability at the different levels of security: local, regional, continental and international. This is done through using the analytical units of the Regional Security Complex Theory (RSCT). The second deals with the process of analyzing the sources of the socio-security threat, summarized in the components of density and expansion. The third and last axis discusses the deep strategy for dealing with the complexities of continental security as an approach to containing sources of threat and, at the same time, how to recover from the effects of multi-faceted security crises. This strategy focuses on examining the root aspects of the security environment by going beyond the traditional diagnosis focused on the national security of states and the fragmented societal security thesis proposed by the "Copenhagen School". Deep strategy treats the interconnected security processes within multi-theater interacted domains: security perceptions, sociological links; societal needs, national security requirements, in addition to security interdependence between the continental and international levels.

Keywords: socio-security threat; deep strategy; adjacency; penetration; sociological bridges; and societal security.

ملخص

تبحث هذه الدراسة في تشخيص مكونات البيئة الأمنية في القارة الأفريقية من خلال مناقشة ثلاثة محاور رئيسية: الأول يتعلق بخلفية تحليل مصادر التهديد الأمني الاجتماعي الذي يقوض الاستقرار على المستويات الأمنية المختلفة: المحلي والإقليمي والقاري والدولي. ويتم ذلك من خلال استخدام الوحدات التحليلية لنظرية مركب الأمن الإقليمي (RSCT). أما الثاني فيتناول عملية تحليل مصادر التهديد الاجتماعي-الأمني، وتتلخص في عنصري الكثافة والتوسع. ثالثاً وأخيراً، يناقش الاستراتيجية العميقة للتعامل مع تعقيدات الأمن القاري كمقاربة لاحتواء مصادر التهديد، وفي الوقت نفسه كيفية التعافي من آثار الأزمات الأمنية متعددة الأوجه. وتركز هذه الاستراتيجية على دراسة الجوانب الجذرية للبيئة الأمنية من خلال تجاوز التشخيص التقليدي الذي يركز على الأمن القومي للدول وأطروحة الأمن المجتمعي المجزأ التي طرحتها مدرسة كوبنهاجن. وتعالج الاستراتيجية العميقة العمليات الأمنية المترابطة ضمن مجالات متداخلة ومتعددة: التصورات الأمنية، والروابط الاجتماعية، والاحتياجات المجتمعية، ومتطلبات الأمن القومي، بالإضافة إلى الترابط الأمني بين المستويين القاري والدولي.

كلمات المفتاحية: التهديد الاجتماعي-الأمني؛ والاستراتيجية العميقة؛ والتجاور؛ والاختراق؛ والجسور السوسولوجية؛ والأمن المجتمعي.

Introduction

The security environment of the African continent is complicated by the accumulation of multi-faceted crises extending from the colonial era to the present era, including challenges on state national security, societal security, structural fragility of institutions, inappropriate external interventions, and risks arising from environmental and health security. The characteristic that exacerbated security difficulties is defined by the negative interdependence of multi-sectoral fragility, which has kept the continent vulnerable to socio-security ruptures and the export of its crises towards other regions around the world. All of these factors have led to an escalation of the vulnerability emerging from local communities and others coming from outside the continent, which has made these crises deep and rooted in the basic levels of local communities. In a such security

context, the main question posed here is: What are the characteristics of an appropriate strategy to effectively deal with multifaceted threat sources? This question can be answered by discussing the following key points: a) background for multi-faces security analysis; b) analysis of socio-security threats; and c) deep strategy for continental security.

I. Background for Multi-faces Security Analysis

The general assumption, on which the security analysis in this chapter is based, stipulates that the security phenomenon in Africa cannot be understood and analyzed apart from the strategic context under which socio-security links interact. It represents an appropriate climate for the growth of threat sources or factors of stability regarding their essential characteristics that act as independent variables for producing and feeding the phenomenon. The most prominent theorist who highlighted the importance of context to analyze the strategic phenomena is Gray (Gray, 2006, p. 152), when he considered it to be a group of developments and events interacting simultaneously within a specific environment and during a special period, producing other effects that would not have existed without the cohesion of those contextual conditions. Accordingly, the context acts as a relatively decisive independent variable to produce the security phenomenon, interaction, continuation, and the magnitude of its effects. Sources of the socio-security threat are a common security phenomenon in Africa, with variations in its impact from one region to another, it is more severe, for example, in the Sahel region, the Horn of Africa, and West Africa, in contrast to the north and south of the continent. Theoretically, the security phenomenon arises and exacerbates by several geopolitical reasons, the most important is what the proponents of the RSCT termed “adjacency” (Buzan & Waever, 2003, pp. 21–22), in which there is fragile security likely to let multiple forms of security threats get into.

In this regard, the assumption proposed here, there is no country in the world that can provide security coverage for its entire borders, no matter how strong its military and technological strength is. The state's inability to impose security control and drop strategic control over all lines of contact with other parties or across open waters strengthens the cohesion of the concept of "adjacency" as a unit for analyzing security affairs. Theoretically, this concept reflects security operations that can easily move or flow from one region to another, such as smuggling, arms trafficking, terrorism, and civil conflicts; assuming that geographic convergence means, in its strategic essence, conjunction in the mutual influence of the securitization concept, which includes military, political, sociological, and environmental components, it is an expanded agenda or reflects the broaden concept of security (Buzan, 1995, pp. 205–12).

Due to geographical, cultural, and political differences, the regions are diverse, but the characteristics of the security problems related to organized crime or terrorism do not change much, what changes is the size of the density and the level of expansion.

From the concept of geographic "adjacency" follows another unit of analysis added by the RSCT defined in the term "penetration", which Barry Buzan and Ol Wever have applied to analyze the external interventions into particular region, or as they explained that "Penetration occurs when outside powers make security alignments with states within an RSC. An indigenous regional rivalry, as between India and Pakistan, provides opportunities or demands for the great powers to penetrate the region." (Buzan & Waever, 2003, p. 46). But by examining the non-traditional threats that undermine the African continent across borders, we find that, due to the fundamental characteristics of these threats, they do not remain confined to specific geographical boundaries, and the absence of the necessary security conditions in areas remote from major urban centers, the illegal activities rises in a natural and intense manner. Therefore, the

characteristic of penetration is not only related to the interference of great powers in the affairs of the African continent, but it is also related to the crossing of various forms of threat, especially in regions that include two or more countries that differ in their social protection system and support of the public consumption system.

Consequently, the factors of analytical strength lie in the local environments of the African region, which are characterized by a high susceptibility to the emergence, prosperity of organized crime activities, and other sources of security threats; then spread rapidly across borders towards those countries that suffer by socio-security fragility and at the same time are attractive to criminal activities. The security breach agenda does not only include illegal crime activities; it can also be clustered to include other agendas that pose severe security threats to societal security; in other way, there is security case termed by Adler and Barnett as interdependence security. (Adler E. & Barnett M, 1998, pp. 38-41). It is related to the penetration of civil, ethnic, and sectarian conflicts into neighboring geographical borders. Furthermore, the hacking process could also fuel religious conflicts that are spreading across a number of countries, such as the conflict between Muslims and Christians in Nigeria and Central Africa. The outbreak of conflicts between these groups will easily cross national borders into other regions.

Importantly, the outbreak of such conflicts will increasingly be fueled by organized crime and smuggling activities, whether it be food supplies, weapons, fuel for transport vehicles, ammunition, blankets, clothing, and all materials that are part of guerrilla warfare. The worse, it creates an appropriate climate for an alliance between different multidisciplinary security groups, as Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi believe (Viotti & Kauppi, 1997, pp. 173-77).

II. Analysis of Socio-security Threats

When illegal activities escalate to the level where they become a serious threat against regional security, a set of processes can clearly emerge that are relied upon for security analysis to understand the extent of the impact on the stability of the continent. These operations are grouped into the following points:

- A. *Density.*** This term was proposed by David Held et al. as a unit for analyzing international relations issues, which means the repetition of the interaction and activity of the phenomenon in a way that leads to its spread across different geographical levels that include a number of neighbored international actors. Generally, crime, law-breaking behavior, and resistance to norms are social phenomena inherent in the social world, but when they spread at a certain level and escalate to the level of intensity, they affect public security, cause security disturbances, weaken national economies, and cause scarcity of resources. Then, they are classified as serious security threats that need a comprehensive strategy implemented collectively. Their level of risk can only be determined by density indicators, defined by the frequency of illegal activities (David Held et al, 2003, pp. 91–93).
- B. *Extension.*** The term “extension” was also proposed by David Held et al. as a unit for analyzing security issues that extend across regional and global levels, so that the security phenomenon does not remain confined to the borders of its geographical origin. Through the regional and inter-regional level of the socio-security threat phenomenon interaction, the nature of illegal activities reveals the organizational structure of security threat groups extending across the region. If we take the example of cross-border smuggling, the most common smuggled goods that reflect involve numerous subnational parties from different nationalities in smuggling networks and various activities of illegal businesses are high-quality. However, what is important is that

the arrival of these smuggled materials means the expansion of the smuggling network across African continent towards Europe and other regions of the world (David Held & al, 2003, pp. 94–96).

The strategic content of these and other events is that the actors involved in the smuggling process, on the one hand, and the place where the goods were seized reflect the expansion of the smuggling phenomenon across geographical distances that include a group of countries. It means in other way, the influence of the region concept in the new formulation of security (Steve Smith, 2001, pp. 331-38). This concept includes security interdependence within the region and not the national territory, therefore, there will be no actual impact on the strategic environment unless the methods of organization are reviewed and security units are retrained to adapt according the requirements of security interdependence in the countries covered by the phenomenon of cross-border smuggling and other forms of crime within the organization. There is another justification for the dynamic of trans-regional expansion, related to the search for migrants sources in order to smuggle them outside their national borders in exchange for abundant financial revenues estimated at 6.75 billion \$ that smuggling gangs earn annually (djazairess.com, 2013). The expansion of this type of smuggling is fueled by the abundance of multiple sources of cross-border migration and the presence of attractive receiving destinations that consider Algeria and other Maghreb countries to be merely transit gateways to the northern Mediterranean.

The characteristic of the crime of migrant smuggling reflects the dynamism of the trans-geographical extension of the crime, because it requires covering long geographical distances and cross-regional coordination between a large number of individuals from different nationalities.

Among the tools for transporting migrants are containers carried on trucks, four-wheel-drive vehicles, sometimes even on foot, and using

underground tunnels as a method of concealment and shading the security units deployed on the border.

III. Deep Strategy for Continental Security

The concept of deep strategy is defined as those multi-faceted capabilities exercised through soft diplomacy that can reach the different sociological and symbolic levels within African societies in a way that creates a relatively secure societal existence, satisfies pressing needs, and beyond that, creates hope for life on African soil.

Hypothetically, the referent purpose is to reach at the deep layers of the overall sociological structure of society, which includes: the cognitive, cultural, economic, social, communication, religious, security, and political environment. Deep strategy directed to interact across all levels of sociological formation for creating a set of psychological, cognitive, and symbolic processes responsible for formulating the societal position toward the other as a friend, partner, dominant, blackmailer, trickster, or enemy. These positions are important in a strategic partnership built through general psychological trends, security and strategic perceptions, methods of strategic communication, and public relations with the different sociological classes.; it primarily targets local communities that will embrace or reject any initiative proposed by international powers. The position of acceptance and adoption of proposals depends on the general climate that is created across the various levels referred to previously.

In other words, the strategy is concerned with building bridges of soft diplomacy to gain sociological profits before economic and commercial returns. There is a close connection between the concepts of deep strategy and soft diplomacy, but both are directed towards specific and definite goals, each operating at certain levels in order to reach unique, desired ends. When soft diplomacy becomes a function of deep strategy, then the strategic partnership can be made long-term and create what Gray S.

called the required “strategic difference,” (Gray, 1999, p. 39) not over the battlefield but over the theater of perception, psychological, sociological, and symbolic environment, or strategic communication.

Deep strategy is not a substitute for other similar terms in the field of strategy science. Rather, it represents complementary links and additional dimensions that extend beyond the traditional thesis about building security and establishing civil stability within societies that suffer by fragility in various fields and with high complexity, such as those that are widespread on the African continent.

Furthermore, it does not eliminate the role of hard power for resolving or preventing armed conflicts as proposed by traditional theory, nor reduces the importance of the concept of the “security overlay” proposed by Buzan B. and Waever O (Buzan & Waever O., 2003, pp. 51-62). to help stabilize the government’s control over its entire territory. Instead, it assumes that such concepts cannot operate effectively and produce desired outcomes unless they are expanded beyond the limits of strict security control and projection of coercive power in combating sources of security or military threat to include societal, symbolic, political, economic, and commercial dimensions as essential components for creating comprehensive security and multi-level civil peace.

The African security environment consists two basic elements: first, large resources that can be invested productively for mutual profit and satisfy the goals of societal security; while the second element includes the inability of the continents’s governments to exploit these resources through their own capabilities for the purpose of achieving the required satisfaction of national needs and obtaining sufficient revenues to cover government expenditures, fulfilling security burdens, and the implementation of community development projects. Both elements constitute a suitable empirical ground for developing the conceptual and practical content of the deep strategy, which aims to attract foreign investments for achieving

multiple functional goals, all of which outputs flow towards the reference goal that includes supporting the national security components of countries and enhancing the conditions for stability inside societies. These functional goals may include: political stability; improving national skills for exploiting and employing local resources; developing the bureaucratic structure and governance systems; improving service sectors; building and reinforcing societal stability; creating the appropriate security climate for the work of strategic partnerships for the long term; improving public welfare; and other apparent and latent functions.

According to this perspective, the deep strategy seeks to go beyond the traditional theses that focus on the security of governments at the expense of societies. It seeks to integrate hard security concerns with their societal counterparts, creating a flexible interplay between raw power and functional power, societal power and natural power, political power and symbolic power. On other hand, deep strategy includes multiple areas of interaction: hard, soft, and symbolic power. However, this is achieved through bridges extending between countries and societies, national and societal security, governmental and sociological stability, local and continental cultures. Accordingly, partnership projects are focused on combining the profits of governmental, societal, regional, inter-regional, and international parties.

IV. Mutual trust as a climate for strategic partnership

The most sensitive level of deep strategy for multi-actors common gain relates to building relationships of trust with local communities for the purpose of providing the socio-cultural incubator and security climate required for the success of long-term multi-sectoral investment projects. The proposed assumption in this section stipulates that societal security is fundamentally built on bonds of trust at various levels, including the relationship between the state and society, groups and institutions, and groups with each other. When these levels become acceptably coherent,

they can progress to the more complex level involving the relationship between international investment bodies, national, and subnational actors. The content of trust targeted by the deep strategy consists a multiple components: the cognitive component, the psychological component, the communication component, the moral component, the utilitarian component, and finally the feedback component.

A) **Cognitive component.** The first component relates to the positive security perceptions that the actors form towards each other, which in turn create what Holsti R. termed the good “cognitive image” (Holsti, 1993, pp. 317-20); it can make the parties rush towards each other without reserve. Trust toward others is derived from the cognitive image that the individual holds about them. If it is positive or even neutral, then the opportunity for communication and cooperation will be high. However, if it is negative, it means reservation and lack of cooperation. When this image is strongly negative, then it will generate ostracism and sometimes hostility. The background to this interpretation postulates that individuals deal with reality and address their issues in a cognitively modeled and organized manner, in which there are ready-made, patterned solutions in the individual’s memory that he applies to solve the problems. It seems at first glance that such an explanation emphasizes a conservative and stable state in the individual’s behavior, but when we look closely at the human mind, we find that it contains an infinite number of cognitive models- or what proponents of the phenomenological theory call “repertoires of experience” (Maana Khalil Omar, 1997, pp. 20-40)-, which together constitute an acceptable level of flexibility and diversity for using these cognitive images to respond toward situations and events.

B) **Psychological component.** Mutual trust is based on feelings, emotions, and tastes that people carry in their souls and taste; they enjoy it when trust is mutually cohesive and high. At the same time, they taste its bitterness when it declines, collapses, or is completely absent. Moreover, it can turn

into hidden hostility, replaced by chronic suspicion, which is usually a major source of dissipating cooperation and may produce armed conflict; according to the assumption of devotees of realism/neorealism theory (Mearcheimer J., 2006, p. 31). The psychological component of building trust towards others derives its theoretical base from the heritage of social psychology on the subject of psychological attitudes (Khairallah S. & al., 1983, p. 247). Which means “a favorable or adverse tendency towards a particular topic or topics”(Rizk S., 1968; p. 147). Psychological attitude expresses an individual’s attitude towards an issue or anything else: rejection, acceptance, neutrality, or neglect. This is based on information, previous experience, or group influence. Theoretically, psychological attitudes work to consolidate the emotional state of the individual towards the interactive situation he faces through a set of functions should performed, such as the adaptive function, self-expression, ego-defensive role, satisfy a utility need, direct social behavior towards choices consistent with psychological tendencies, and create behavioral motivation (Zaki S., 1972, p. 389). Through the set of these functions, the motive of trust is formed towards the other or the issues presented to the individual; in the negative state, attitudes of rejection and behavioral opposition are formed.

C) **Communication component.** The most effective way to dispel suspicion, correct misunderstandings, paint or restore a good image, and improve perception is communication between two or more actors in which the interaction is in two-way, direct, and conducted in a flexible and open manner. Terminologically speaking, strategic communication is all communicative processes related to “*coordinating everything about the government that communicates (from actual communications of any sort, to policies, to actions) in order to advance the interests of the nation.*” (Christopher Paul, 2008, p. 167). Or it is the sum of “*a variety of instruments used by governments for generations to understand global attitudes and cultures, engage in a dialogue of ideas between people and institutions, advise policymakers, diplomats, and military leaders on the*

public opinion implications of policy choices, and influence attitudes and behavior through communications strategies.” (Christopher Paul, 2008, pp. 06-07). Strategic communication intervenes for creating mutual trust by bringing closer views on issues of partnership and cooperation, creating convergent thinking that leads to decision-making processes and practical behaviors that are consistent with the general direction of partnership projects with others. It aims to create what Trinkholm S. calls “*thinking through communication*” (Trenholm S., 2001, pp. 3001-03). Practically, strategic communication is used within the foreign policy agenda to influence public opinion trends, direct the policy agenda, manage conflicts, and wage psychological warfare against adversaries. The conclusion drawn from the previous presentation is that the psychological, cognitive, and cultural processes that take place across the media and cyberspace have become part of the theater of strategic influence operations, which receive high attention from the political and military leadership.

D) **Moral component.** Ethics relates to the moral aspects that differentiate human beings in their dealings with others, such as behaviors and activities that take the general morality dimension into account are more effective for generating mutual trust than others. It is true that there is a general assumption adopted by Realism Theory in the analysis of international relations postulates that politics is independent of morality and law (Morgenthau H., 1978, pp. 04-15). This assumption may be appropriate when the matter concerns the international relations characterized by security competition, but it is very limited when it concerns the relations of peace and cooperation between states and societies, which in essence require a certain level of trust, for which morality is the lubricating process that gives it flexibility and fluidity. Deception deepens suspicion and heightens caution, while honesty and good faith create trust and openness to cooperation, especially when it comes to the task of ensuring the trust of the communities on whose lands the partnership projects are built or pass through (energy supply lines, railways, electricity).

The intended idea behind the ethical component as an independent variable for building mutual trust is to take into account the rules of humanitarian law and human values through dealing with the existence of nature and the general interests of the local population, such as not polluting the rivers and groundwater, maintaining the integrity of the soil, appropriate collection of waste, and the direct impact of partnership projects on daily life of local communities. It should implement projects that produce joint profit between the government, foreign dealers, and at the same time provide a certain percentage of jobs. When people find that their lives are changing for the better and community security is supported by the partnership projects introduced to their lands, they will adopt positive attitudes towards them and work to ensure their continuation by not being inclined towards practicing illegal activities.

If Gray S. (Gray, 1999, pp. 30-31) classified ethics as one of the dimensions of strategic analysis, which derives its meanings from religions, the ideas of philosophers, and international norms in war, by adding a human dimension to armed conflicts, restricting them to legitimate political goals, and reducing the tendency to brutality in combat; the ethical component of building mutual trust for the purpose of implementing strategic partnership projects with the African continent requires integrating humanitarian and social standards into foreign interests in long-term investment. Ethical considerations do not lead to immediate money gain on the surface, but in essence, they lead to gain societal security through local communities accepting the presence of foreigners working within their areas without need for security protection by governments. This will reduce the investment cost, insurance cost, and implementation of partnership projects for the long term.

E) ***Utilitarian component.*** Trust is not built within a material vacuum. It is a characteristic required for the appropriate realization of interests, or rather required in order to reduce the economic cost, security burdens

of the intended benefits behind the long-term strategic partnership in the African continent; specifically when we take in count the fragility of societal security and, beyond that, the national security of countries. Benefit is a powerful and direct motive for human behavior because its basic needs were identified by Abraham Maslow (Abraham Maslow, 1997, pp. 188-99) in the biological demands of humans, they form the basis of arrangement in his hierarchical model. This benefit can be satisfied by armed violence, as is the case with war between states or the spread of chaos among civil groups that resort for looting and theft, or it requires trust in the case of adopting peaceful tools and cooperation with other partners at the local or external level.

The security paradox here, that the first situation is short-term and low in satisfaction, while the second is long-term and high in utilitarian satisfaction. Actually, the process of achieving benefit through partnership in the long term requires clarity of the expected benefits from joint investment activities, determining the percentage of benefit for each party, and determining what sectoral and societal levels are covered by the expected benefits. Such a process would build and deepen confidence within economic and trade relations between the actors involved, while at the same time reducing vulnerability to disruption by civil unrest, separatist groups, or terrorism. The benefit component of building mutual trust becomes more urgent for critical areas such as transit corridors, resource exploration, centers of industrial production, or a market for goods, required to achieve stable and friendly demographics. In fact, building trust is a complex process that suffers by high fragility due to its susceptibility to damage by the rapid collection and circulation of information through the media. In return, it will hold up when expectations match the actual experience of the benefits resulting from joint investments within community areas or community benefits from transportation operations across them (railways, pipelines transporting energy and clean water supplies, power lines, highways, etc.). African record states that many development and investment projects have

failed to achieve demographic stability and civil peace due to corruption, money smuggling, and the involvement of foreign companies with local governments in displacing resources without taking into account societal security concerns. The flaws in partnership and joint investment strategies arise from the lack of societal benefit, or rather, the strategic partnership projects have not been reflected in the direct lives of citizens inside many African countries, even if tall glass buildings have appeared that house the headquarters of international companies. The way such partnerships were designed deepened the gap between the rich and the poor and exacerbated the manifestations of government corruption in a way that ultimately produced multiple forms of traditional and societal threats.

Moreover, the dysfunctional effects of partnership projects have undermined trust relations between society and government, which in turn has produced in some African countries the potential for high security disruption across national borders, regions, and even continents (Africa and Europe in particular).

F) **Feedback.** The last variable for supporting the cohesion of socio-governmental trust at different levels are the positive or negative effects resulting from direct foreign investment activities or partnership with African governments, which lead to supporting the recurrence and improvement of behavior in the case of positive effects and behavioral extinction in the event of negative effects; which is usually called feedback.

According to this logic, the latter will be an important factor for supporting the cohesion of trust when the effects are positive, however it works towards undermining it when those effects are negative, or at least if they do not bring a change for the better in societal life. Trust is built or restored through positive feedback, which usually creates favorable attitudes and optimistic expectations about the future resulting from strategic partnership projects, but this does not happen unless large groups experience the positive outcomes resulting from partnership activities.

These tests are imprinted on the cognitive structure of general society and serve as a guide to social behavior towards development initiatives and investments in partnership with foreigners. As a methodological basis for analysis, feedback relates to political reactions, both positive and negative, which turn into a source of modification and evaluation of future policies, verification of expectations, and the actual impact of policies on the immediate environment of the national or international community. Once again, feedback works in opposite directions, and when positive, it will work towards enhancing and strengthening mutual trust. Whereas when negative, it will work towards weakening and possibly dissipating trust and replacing it with suspicion, which, when exacerbated chronically, turns into security disturbances or armed violence. Unfortunately, the security situation will be worse when the government's resources are limited to controlling the negative effects of societal insecurity. At least, theoretically, politics is a process of organized competition within clear regulations and rules for a number of actors, in such a way that each actor has the ability to anticipate the behavioral outcomes of the other parties. Therefore, through this process, clashes or violent behavior can be avoided as a result of mutual trust that the parties do not act, adopt positions, or make decisions that cause harm to each other's interests. Such a situation will create the appropriate functional climate for mutual trust, but when it is the opposite, tragic things will happen that undermine the long-term interests of each party. The partial assumption proposed at this analytical level stipulates that politics is not an authoritarian behavior that flows through hierarchies from the top of the pyramid towards its base, but rather a process of competition made by horizontal, vertical interactions, and feedback at the same time. As long as the characteristic of the processes interaction is the most common in policy making, the institutional structure provides opportunities for the spread of an open political communication climate around the possibilities of revealing the perceptions and intentions of others and the way they diagnose policy issues. It pushes the interacting parties towards understanding the needs of others, which are not necessarily

shared or identical but rather amenable to mutual understanding, bartering, and negotiation.

V. Sociological bridges

Situations of peace are built on bonds of trust and intersecting interests between groups or societies, while suspicion and selfishness generate a climate of conflict and feed various sources of threat. The idea that is intended to be emphasized in this regard stipulates that trust and partnership around common benefits push large groups towards cooperation and weaving what can be termed functional peace relationships that link individuals with each other as long as those links continue to generate common interests; or rather effective in satisfying mutual needs.

The societies are being torn apart by the harsh social and economic conditions with growing needs as a result of the increase in population. These are just some of the independent variables responsible for creating the security climate in many African societies, especially those located in the triangle of complex conflicts (the Sahel-Saharan region). In contrast to common situations of security conflicts in international relations, most drivers of security instability emanate from societal sources as a result of multifaceted vulnerabilities extending over long distances, which in turn created the appropriate climate for the emergence and recovery of societal threat sources. They made a large circle of those communities victims of non-traditional threats such as terrorism, organized crime, illegal immigration, smuggling, famine, and poverty. Such elements will transform all peaceful factors in humans into tendencies toward conflict and use violent tools to satisfy basic needs and express viewpoints.

The conceptual content of the term sociological bridges in this study can be formulated within the idea of soft diplomacy directed primarily towards societies of countries concerned with long-term strategic partnerships in socio-economic fields that aim to achieve two basic goals:

stable and friendly demographics. This goal cannot be achieved unless the partnership agenda is focused on implanting and localizing investments with the potential for self-development, which make large groups stable and busy around functional relationships and move away from the tendency toward armed conflicts, terrorism, and organized crime. The general assumption on which the direction of socio-security thinking is based proposes that there is a relatively consistent relationship between the spread of the previously mentioned non-functional activities and the gap of trust among peoples and governments in the region.

Therefore, any partnership initiative with these governments proposed by foreign parties will be perceived by the majority of people as being directed towards supporting corrupt elites who exploit coercive tools to advance their personal interests at the expense of the public interest. Hence, the deep partnership that can secure long-term common interests is one that includes narrowing the gap between state and society by supporting sociological ties with large groups within society. The sources of nourishment for these socio-economic ties or bridges are represented by those projects capable of satisfying the basic limits of societal needs, reducing the cycle of poverty and deprivation, and at the same time improving the general societal existence. It remains a general socio-security climate spreading across the region in which countries' wealth is being illicitly plundered through collaboration between international corporations and corrupt governments. This harsh climate has produced dysfunctional public perceptions that have created two types of security risks: illegal migration through North Africa towards Europe, and embracing terrorism as a way to gain and take societal revenge on corrupt governments.

The sociological bridges approach is essentially derived from the nature of African sociology itself, which is based on tribal ties that can produce functional and dysfunctional, security impacts in positive or

negative directions according to the nature of the strategic situation, the security climate, and the political context. In fact, the latter positions were taken by theorists in international security studies, sociological studies, and strategic studies as independent variables for analyzing the security phenomenon. Empirically, the tribe is a fundamental sociological group within African societies that is more comprehensive than the state itself, because one of them penetrates a number of countries.

Thus, the security phenomenon interacts with the sociological stage not on the political map that we see embodied in the form of prominent borders on paper. The interesting aspect in this regard, across this sociological spectrum, is that strategic processes have extended: stability/instability, cooperation/hostility, peace/war, partnership/fragmentation, and societal security/civil unrest. When all these facts are taken into account, the deep strategy aims to link the functional bridges (developing trade, public services, economic development, and improving social welfare) with the sociological components in order to create the required broad societal peace base, as a precondition for the success of any strategic partnership initiative with the countries of the region. It is true that governments are important actors for providing objective conditions and signing the partnership agreements, but their role remains limited if the societal components are absent, carry negative perceptions towards cooperation, have anti-foreign tendencies, or are in a state of hostility with the existing political authority.

A strategic partnership that can work in the long term is one that is directed towards developing the interests of local communities on the basis of mutual profit not subsistence or the provision of temporary humanitarian aid, in a way that achieves the reference goal summarized in the principle of creating a stable and friendly sociology. The condition of securitization and insecurity emerges from sociological facts in the absence of strong governments that can satisfy the power of the Omnipotent Sultan (Ibn

Khaldun, 1992, 1: 140), in the words of Ibn Khaldun, or the Security overlay, in the words of Barry Buzan and Ole Weaver. If Ibn Khaldun's theory is good for explaining the security phenomenon within African societies, its approach to stabilizing security is not sufficient due to the sociological rupture that pushed African societies in the Sahel towards three painful choices: illegal immigration, engaging in organized crime activities, or joining terrorist groups to take revenge against the governments and countries that support them. Therefore, the deep strategy to contain the sources of the security threats and stabilize peace is based on the idea of directly targeting alleviation of the socio-security climate responsible for producing and nourishing such practices that insult human dignity.

Sociological ties represent the main waterfalls of the flow of civil peace factors or societal security threats according to the existing strategic context that encourages the creation and stabilization of conditions for peace or nourishes the multi-specific sources of security threats. According to Colin Gray's assessment, contextualization is an essential variable in the emergence of the strategic phenomenon. From his standpoint, it includes seven main contexts for strategic and security analysis, arranged into the following points: 1) political context; 2) socio-cultural context; 3) economic context; 4) technological context; 5) military-strategic context; 6) geographic context; and 7) historical context (Gray, 2007, p. 10).

The general assumption taken by Colin S. Gray as a basis for analyzing the security phenomenon is summed up in the consideration that different security groups and sub-groups tend to project their strategic thinking and patterns of behavior into the collective culture, and that the results of the strategic culture are reflected in the expression of distinctively patterned methods of strategic behavior (Gray, 1999, pp. 23-24). If we analyze the content of this assumption, we find that it includes the concepts of group, strategy, behavior, collective culture, strategic culture, and strategic behavior as analytical units cover most of the non-physical complexities

of security affairs. In other words, this means that Gray's approach relies more on the analysis of moral elements that have more a symbolic impact than on the material aspects of strategic and security phenomena; because the latter are merely manifestations of fundamental precedents in the emergence and development of things.

Accordingly, the strategic context is created by positive or negative things, and when the general security climate is negative or full of harsh conditions, it will transform all the good things in man, nature, and sociology into evil contextual components that produce multi-faceted sources of threat. The tribe represents a safe haven for the individual and a source of collective organization and problem solving, but under harsh conditions, it will turn into a field for organized crime, terrorism, civil war, or illegal immigration. Then, strategic art requires exploiting good contextual elements and influencing their negative counterparts by directing partnership initiatives towards changing the social existence of local communities and improving community well-being, especially with regard to providing the minimum public services such as electricity, clean water, schools, health centers, and communications.

The idea to be emphasized in this regard is that the success of strategic partnership initiatives with Africa begins with the task of creating the appropriate context, which in turn produces a number of desired outcomes such as societal security, drying up sources of threat. At the same time should reducing the attractiveness of resorting to tragic options (belonging to terrorist groups, membership in organized crime groups, separatist tendencies, or engaging in armed violence in order to control natural or precious resources) and achieving mutual profit for all parties. Because of the increasing role of the strategic context as an independent variable in generating societal readiness for strategic partnership initiatives, many theorists have given great importance to the role of context for understanding and analyzing strategic and security affairs. Hypothecally,

all activities of thinking and application, dialogue and behavior, theorizing and reviewing, and evaluation and modification take place within a matrix of the political, strategic, historical, cultural, and economic contexts which must be taken into account when contemplating, launching, or actually implementing any partnership initiative with Africa.

The basic idea proposed at this analytical level is that meanings vary from one context to another for the same phenomenon, and therefore there can be a misunderstanding when a dry abstract analysis of all the contextual meanings that surround the phenomenon is used or the characteristics of the phenomenon are analyzed far from their contexts. It is like a language whose meanings differ from one context to another. As for the strategic partnership for security and creating the appropriate climate for multi-sectoral cooperation, all contexts need to be taken into account when designing the initiative, launching it, implementing it, modifying it, and evaluating its outcomes. The context is the matrix of circumstances, factors, elements, actors, and institutional structures that contribute to produce a pattern of thinking, a psychological trend, a behavioral inclination, or a specific situation.

In this perspective, Colin S. Gray suggested that “the human strategic actors and their institutions “make culture” by interpreting what they discern. Arcane though it may sound, this discussion bears directly upon such matters as whether, why, and how, people, polities, and would-be polities fight.” (Colin S. Gray, 2006, p. 152). The context, according to this standpoint, expresses the social path that constitutes a complex container within which all strategic processes such as perceptions, thinking patterns, behaviors, and planning are molded.

If we take, for example, the phenomenon of armed religious extremism, which is expanding in intensity and threatening the survival of a numerous of countries across the Sahel region and West Africa (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso, and Nigeria, for example), we find that it arose within

a specific strategic context and a special security climate within which sociological ties interact. Empirically, the strategic context in African environment includes a matrix of elements defined as follows: the erosion of what Ibn Khaldun called conquered Kingship (Ibn Khaldun, 1992, p. 149) and what Barry Buzan and Ole Weaver called the Security Overlay (Barry Buzan & Ole Weaver, 2003, p. 349), the fragility of state institutions, the harsh social and economic conditions, the intensity of self-searching, foreign military and security deployment, the corruption of governments, and, of course, underdevelopment.

Therefore, the sociological and psychological facts are shaped behaviorally and safely interact according to the conditions of the strategic context and the security climate, given that these two represent independent variables in producing security outcomes in different directions. They exercise a distinct logic based on reason and psychology in such a way that a large segment of people act according to the realistic dictates of that logic. The elements of hunger, poverty, deprivation, despair, and societal marginalization generate the phenomenon of extremism, a high inclination to use violence, and practice illegal activities in order to survive and express the identity of the entity. A large group of people within the Sahel societies and West Africa find in Islamic extremism an appropriate and symbolically justified means of self-imposition, expressing basic needs, avenging the cruelty from societal setting, and escaping the painful economic situation.

The phenomenon of extremism and armed terrorism cannot expand across many countries unless there is community support, that suffers from the harsh social situation. Under such a security climate, many behavioral aspects can demonstrate, such as: feelings of discontent whose intensity escalates horizontally and vertically to high levels, turning into vengeful tendencies, search for a cultural reference for exercising revenge; formation of the societal structure that produces armed violence, and then the practice of armed violence begins. Firstly, the exercise of armed retaliation is

directed towards governments that are perceived as corrupt and receive support from external powers to secure their activities for controlling the sources of society's wealth. Secondly, armed violence is directed against foreign powers responsible for the tragic situation by plundering resources and supporting corrupt governments for a long period.

If Colin S. Gray highlighted the role of context for producing the strategic or security phenomenon, then Carl von Clausewitz before him paid attention to the idea of the Climate of War (Clausewitz C., 1989, p. 104) as an analytical unit for understanding the conditions responsible for generating the tendency toward using war as a tool of policy. This climate includes four basic elements known as danger, effort, uncertainty, and opportunities. Taken together, they constitute elements of intense pressure on the human mind and emotions, thus create an increasing burden that prevents careful thinking about the steps that must be taken. The term consistent with the nature and purposes of the study is Security Climate, which derives its cognitive origins from the previous two terms, but with a modified concept that carries the meaning of the existence of a psychological, cognitive, symbolic, and material structure that imposes its logic on the way the mind thinks. It formulates the cognitive map of perception and directs behavior towards options that are objectively tragic, but under the influence of the structure of the existing security climate, people realize that they are better than worse. These behavioral options include, for example, illegal immigration, joining armed terrorist or separatist groups, belonging to work within organized crime groups, engaging in illegal activities, and other behaviors that are contrary to societal security or the national security of the state.

Actually, the security climate constitutes a hybrid structure composed of symbolic, material, and psychological elements that imposes its own security logic on the mind and behavior of a large segment of people to generate cognitive and cultural justifications for behavioral choices. If we

take the example of illegal immigration, we find that there is a specific logic that Jerel A. Rosati called the Belief System (Jerel, n. d., pp. 54-56), which molds the way of thinking inside the mind, directs behavior, and is equipped with a package of symbolic and psychological justifications that are not necessarily objective in relation to the general logic that most human kind resort to.

The belief system formed by the structure of the security climate carries a remarkable paradox, is that despite the horrific scenes of many boats loaded with migrants sinking at the sea, the security phenomenon has not diminished in intensity, nor constituted a brake on societal behavior within many African societies. The main reason is defined in the prescriptive logic of the hybrid security climate architecture that controls the way of thinking, the style of perception, and the type of an array of choices, in addition to the impact of collective psychological trends on individual behavior. The hybrid structure of the security climate reduces or eliminates the characteristic of normative rationality proposed by proponents of rational theory and replaces it with its own norms. The principal task posed on security planners, strategic designers, and decision-makers in African governments and their foreign counterparts is to direct focused efforts toward influencing the structure of the security climate by modifying or replacing it. Such a mission can be accomplished by designing strategic partnership projects directed at reformulating the components of the security climate in a way that it becomes suitable for achieving societal stability and strengthening attitudes and perceptions that help to create a stable and friendly sociology.

According to this perspective, African security requires re-conceptualizing the theoretical and practical content of the strategic partnership concept by expending beyond the limits of bilateral or collective agreements with national governments to include local communities. The concept is then formulated in the form of a strategic partnership across

socio-economic dimensions for joint societal profit. For example, when concluding a long-term agreement to grant exploration and mineral exploitation rights to Chinese companies in Africa, this partnership must take into account the socio-economic dimensions of the its provisions content, such as including establishing factories to manufacture extracted minerals on the territory of the countries concerned, dividing the proceeds equally, and adhering to international standards in exploration and exploitation operations that include environmental safety, public health, and avoiding corruption. Rendering to this method, local communities will profit by employing local labor, national governments will be take advantage by obtaining financial returns, and the foreign partner will be benefit too by earning investment returns and ensuring that the partnership continues for a long period. However, when the partnership is with governments, it carries a lot of risk of harling for societal security, national security, and foreign investment. It is presumptuous that a partnership of this type will lead to the emergence of societal counter-trends that in turn create multiple sources of security threats such as terrorism, organized crime, illegal immigration, armed civil conflicts, and even armed violence against foreign companies. The latter will transform into enemy within the structure of societal perception because they cooperate with corrupt governments in order to plunder national resources and fill the pockets of government members.

Consequently, strategic partnerships on major or minor projects are governed by success or failure based on the size of their societal impacts and the share of their contribution to improving the general well-being of local communities, which constitute the general societal environment for protecting or threatening investment activities.

In other words, it can be assumed that there is a coherent functional relationship between the strategic socio-economic partnership and the production of sources of support and the strengthening of societal security;

which is considered a preliminary condition to ensure the continuation of investment relations for a long period. Deeply, the societal security required to secure the strategic partnership missions in the long-term, means the presence of a matrix of supportive cognitive perceptions, positive psychological trends, acceptable community satisfaction, and profit expectations from the partnership held by a large segment of local communities. Strategic partnership requires a friendly community environment, while societal security requires stable perceptions, positive expectations about improving the level of well-being, and promoting general positive attitudes. This security situation can only be achieved through what the devotees of neo-functional theory term Functional Interdependence (Keohane R. & Nye J., 1993, pp. 387-88) between actions (policies and strategies) and profitable outcomes or returns.

Hence, the initial questions to be asked when designing any strategic partnership initiative for Africa should be: what are the potential functional impacts at the societal level? How can strategic partnerships contribute to create a community-friendly security climate? What are the chances of success for achieving strategic profit in the long term? In other words, a strategic partnership that can work in the long term without creating trends of community dissatisfaction while enhancing the motivation for local communities to cooperate is one that takes into account the interests of governments and community groups alike. As much as these joint ventures provide resources to cover governments' expenditures on hard security and defense affairs, they should also fund societal security projects such as creating jobs, developing trade activities, improving public services, developing education infrastructure, and creating hope or positive societal expectations about general well-being.

According to this method, large groups (major tribes) will tend to cooperate on partnership projects instead of producing and feeding various sources of security threats. Hopefully, the main purpose of strategic partnership initiatives is to create a stable and friendly sociology guided by

mutual profit goals around societal security projects. It is true that national governments in Africa have political calculations and strategic priorities, the foremost of which is providing strategic cover over all lands of the national territory and developing sufficient military and security forces to deter the growing non-traditional threats across borders; however, much of the threat stems from the fragility of societal security and economic nihilism. Then, the equation is very simple: when strategic partnership initiatives take into account investment in societal security projects, it will save a lot of resources and expenditures directed to combating terrorism, separatist groups, and organized crime. Hypothetically, many people will withdraw, abandon, or resign from working in illegal activity groups and pull out support and protection in order to obtain secure profit, societal stability, and ensure the future of their children.

According to this perspective, societal security projects within the strategic partnership are neither relief aid nor international grants, nor are they a function of human security. Instead, they are investment projects for shared profit in the long term by creating the appropriate climate for the work and effectiveness of the partnership in producing common profits.

VI. Trans-Saharan Belt and Road project

One of the outcomes of the Algerian President's visit to China in 2023 is the launch of major partnership projects with China, including the construction of about four thousand kilometers of railway lines to transport natural resources and develop the desert. Of course, such a project could bring many solutions to the problems of societal security in the Sahel-Saharan region when it is built in a way that takes into account jobs creation, transferring development to those regions, and exploiting resources across the Sahara to cover the expenses of developing community infrastructure such as electric power, oil, the telephone network, Internet, agriculture, tourism services, trade, the construction of free markets, the construction of highways, and the exploration and treatment of fresh water.

Given the geo-strategic characteristics of the Sahara, we find that investing in infrastructure is not only about laying railways and constructing highways. Rather, there are many opportunities to expand economic, commercial, and industrial activities, which include investing in renewable energies, using technology for extracting and treating groundwater, rehabilitating desert agriculture, gold and precious metal mines, and food and animal industries. Each of these groups can be the subject of the Trans-Saharan Strategic Partnership, helping to create a stable and friendly sociology in exchange for reducing the tendency towards creating and nourishing sources of transcontinental societal threats (organized crime, terrorism, etc.).

The Trans-Saharan Belt Road Project, in its completed form, connects the southern shores of the Mediterranean Sea with the Atlantic Ocean across the depths of the western half of the African continent, where oil sources and other mineral sources are located, but it cannot produce joint profits unless its design and operation take into account societal security considerations.

The basic assumption proposed in this regard supposes that the growing of armed civil conflicts, extremism, security turbulence, and political instability in West Africa results from the presence of wealth, while poverty and backwardness spread across societies. If the strategic partnership project on the Trans-Saharan Belt Road Project take into account the societal security agenda, then the appropriate sociological cover will be available for the prosperity of trade and economic activities between the southern Mediterranean and the West Africa regions. Given the natural resources that the Belt Road Line passes through, the sources of financing for the accompanying infrastructure will gradually come from the revenues that can be obtained from investments in renewable energy projects and the industrial and agricultural activities referred to previously. Interestingly, the vast areas that the project penetrates contain contradictions between security, economic, commercial, and geopolitical

facts. These areas are witnessing security instability, growing rebellious movements, terrorism, and foreign interference. At the same time, there are great opportunities to provide a large share of natural resources and energy supplies to global markets, contribute to enhancing global food security, strengthen the ecosystem through investment in clean energy sources, and reduce the severity of the illegal immigration crisis that threatens societal security in the communities of the northern hemisphere.

Deeply, this geographically large and least densely populated region (311 million people in the countries through which the project takes place) compared to other regions around the world, but it is the richest in terms of clean and environmentally friendly economic resources, in addition to being a region that is still undiscovered in terms of the resources below golden sands. There is an indefinite array of profits and co-benefits to be gained from the Trans-Saharan Belt Road Project when societal security priorities are taken into account in the design, construction, and accompanying infrastructure on two sides of the road through the regions it crosses. The strategic referent idea in the approach to societal security through the Belt Road is summarized in the cohesive relationship between societal stability and common strategic profit distributed to national governments. It is based on the assumption that societal security constitutes the appropriate elementary climate for the promotion and prosperity of the governments' national interests whose territories the project crosses, foreign investors, and local groups in the long term. Among many things, trans-Saharan societal security entails transferring supplies of clean energy, fresh water, mineral resources, communications, radio and television broadcasting, Internet, and agricultural resources to urban agglomerations and centers of industrial production as a way to generate jobs and improve societal well-being. Furthermore, developing the infrastructure of local communities will improve the skills of the workforce required to work in industrial production centers and the food industries by raising the efficiency of education, vocational training, and developing scientific research.

In this way, national governments in the region have multiple sources of income that can cover government expenditures, the costs of developing security organizations, and military institutions; they can make provision of public health infrastructure, tourism services, communications, and other sectors that can achieve the goal of creating a stable, friendly, and incubating sociology for strategic partnership projects.

Therefore, one of the most prominent potential outcomes of the Trans-Saharan Belt Road Project is linking large groups of peoples in the region with each other through the prosperity of continental trade and the density of financial transactions through the smooth movement of goods, people, and money in a legal manner. This means, in other words, the increasing possibility of establishing a large market extending from the shores of the Mediterranean Sea in the north of the continent to the shores of the Atlantic Ocean in the south; that is, it comprises three large regions rich in natural and human resources: the Arabian Maghreb, the Sahel region, and West Africa. Then, the distance covered by the Trans-Saharan Belt Road Project will be about five thousand kilometers, Algeria alone can cover two thousand kilometers of this distance. According to the Algerian strategic vision, its national security has become a need to connect neighboring countries through land gates for trade, transport, and build free zones across the Sahara to bring African commercial and industrial actors towards these markets. They will be as a way to primarily enhance societal security, reduce the cost of national security, and stabilize African peace across inter-trade lines between the areas mentioned previously. Within this vision, the Trans-Saharan Belt Road Project constitutes a major component of the Algerian national security strategy in order to reduce the economic burdens of national security and ensure the national survival of the countries in the region.

VII. Multi-sectoral development for societal security

Development and societal security are two intractable problems in Africa, at the same time, they are necessary conditions for the success

of any strategic partnership initiative with the continent. They are two variables that mutually influence each other, such that the outputs of each are important inputs for the other. One cannot exist without the other. Deeply, they both interact at the sociological level, influencing, in a complex way, a range of societal processes such as social contact, socialization, social perception, and societal stability. So, all inputs and outputs are directly related to societal groups in the first place, not states as political entities have special strategic calculations.

Terminologically, societal security means “*the ability of a society to confront not only individual incidents and incidents of violence but all manifestations related to the acute kinetic nature of violence*” (Haitham Al-Kilani, 1996, p. 72), Ole Weaver, he believes that this concept includes: “the ability of a society to persist under changing conditions and possible and actual threats. More specifically, it is about the sustainability, within acceptable conditions for evolution, of traditional patterns of language, culture, association, and religious and national identity and custom.” (Paul Roe, 2005, p. 148).

Within the appropriate context of the study and the circumstances surrounding our societies in Africa, societal security can be defined as the ability of society to generate factors of civil stability in exchange for the weakness or decline of the production of threat forms against itself and the disappearance of all manifestations and practices of violent hostility between society and the state. This is only made possible after society achieves an acceptable level of functional interaction, which in turn generates the necessary need among large and small groups for each other. The suitable definition of societal security that is consistent with the spirit of strategic partnership, stipulates the existence of a highly cohesive society to a level where cases of sociological rifts resulting from political, cultural, economic, religious, or structural reasons disappear. Thus, it can constitute the main source of producing moral security resources (positive

political trends, spread of functionalism, pride in national affiliation, and political maturity of a broad class within society in order to deal with public problems and societal challenges) and material resources (economic capabilities, technological innovations, development industry, good exploitation of national raw materials, and advanced infrastructure). All in all, societal security means the absence of anxieties about the safe social survival of individuals and groups within society, achieving a level of acceptable popular satisfaction with social life, and the continued fulfilment of the various needs for the majority of people.

The relationship between societal security and economic development is intertwined and interacts in the form of interdependence, such that the outputs of one are mutually reinforcing inputs for the other. Economic development generates societal security, while the latter works to create the appropriate security climate for the prosperity of economic development and the stability of development projects within large urban areas or in rural regions.

Moreover, economic development reduces societal motivation to use armed violence for satisfy various needs and discourages the motivation to involve in illegal activities in order to obtain sources of income for daily sustenance. Correlatively, societal security leads to residents settling in areas and engaging in social activities in a peaceful manner, thus creating ample opportunity for the emergence of other functional activities, such as education, a flourishing service sector, and secure political participation. Most importantly, a positive societal outlook towards the future has crystallized. The outcomes of both societal security and economic development are factors required for the success of any proposed initiative to develop strategic partnerships on the African continent, which in turn needs to consider the requirements of community life and the objective factors of civil stability as necessary conditions for obtaining joint profit outcomes. When all major projects do not take into account these societal

considerations, they are considered failed projects because they will be exposed to sabotage and looting by local groups. The list of major projects could Notably, include the construction of highways, railways, oil pipelines, electricity transmission lines, exploration for minerals and energy resources, and the list remains open.

The objective truth presented in this regard is that such projects pass through the areas of local communities or are built within their territories, and when they do not have the required security, then they will not produce mutual profit in the long term. In fact, the lands of local communities (predominantly tribal and ethnic) represent the socio-security container that protects or undermines strategic partnership projects.

Therefore, when societal security considerations are taken into account in the design and implementation of these projects (particularly large ones), it will create the required conditions to ensure the flow of joint profits for a long period. When attention is focused on the requirements of state security with integrating the interests of the ruling elite into the objectives of the partnership, the dimensions and manifestations of societal security are highlighted by the noticeable change in the level of general well-being of local communities and the volume of public expenditures directed towards developing the infrastructure for services. This latter can comprise expanding clean water, electricity, gas distribution networks, basic and high education, developing the structure of the health system, balance in development projects between regions, expansion of urban areas, Internet flow, and expansion of the telephone network.

The development of these sectors and others carries a wide range of potential functions that include the creation of a large volume of jobs, demographic stability, expanding the circle of trends of sociological satisfaction, narrowing the circles of dissatisfaction, and reducing the tendency towards using violence or practicing illegal activities. From a socio-economic perspective, the latter elements are necessary conditions

for any long-term investment activities inside the continent. In other words, the presence of a stable and friendly demographic means many things for a strategic partnership, such as abundance of labor, improvement of work skills, expansion of the professional specializations network required in the implementation of investment projects, development of national markets, expansion of consumption volume, and so on.

Furthermore, strategic projects can contain significant implications related to societal security that are directly perceived and experienced by local communities. Small projects are usually full of community services and provide immediate solutions that are close to the social life and daily preoccupations of local residents, but the main advantage of the great project is to achieve the strategic goals of the multi-functional security system. If we adopt the terminological prescription of Robert Merton, one of the pioneers of sociological functional theory, it can be said that this is achieved through the manifest security functions (even if they are few), and the latent functions that are many with a deep, quiet, long-term impact on the formation of the multifunctional security structure (national security, societal, environmental, health, and cultural), and at different levels (local, national, regional, interregional, and international).

For example, the effects of highway construction, energy supply pipelines, and railway projects on societal security are not immediately apparent, unlike, for example, the provision of housing, clean water, and education; However, their latent functions are many and quietly influential in the long term. Some of these functions can be enumerated, for example: 1) Contribution to link large regions and communities across long distances with each other as a way of integration for escalating transactions and communications, according to Enst B. Haas's thesis (Haas B., 1970, pp. 99-100). It may achieving what is called a functional peace based on competition in providing jobs and satisfying needs instead of tending

toward conflict and practicing illegal activities. 2) Such projects encourage long-term investment and small-scale activities in trade, transportation, and tourism, as sectors with immediate relevance to societal security. 3) Creation of common strategic motivations for cooperation on various issue-areas related to societal security issues, securing major facilities, maintaining the stability of national security for political units in the region, and effectiveness in collectively containing sources of multi-faceted threats (health, environmental, societal, natural, cultural, etc.).

Results

There are a set of conclusions that can be drawn from the previous discussion, formulated within the following key points:

- 1) The appropriate approach for understanding the security phenomenon in Africa takes the socio-security elements into account during the process of diagnosing threat sources, providing the appropriate climate for the success of the strategic partnership, and designing an effective strategy to deal with multi-specific threats.
- 2) Governments are not the decisive actors in managing security operations, but there are also the sociological actors who constitute the subnational environment for all political, security, and socio-economic operations.
- 3) Achievement of the long-term strategic partnership with the African continent depends on a multi-level benefit or multi-directional distribution that includes national governments, local community forces, and external parties.
- 4) Major strategic projects related to cross-continental infrastructure must take into account the benefits required for the communities that penetrate their regions in order to create a friendly environment to maximize shared profits.

- 5) Deep strategy is directed at combining societal benefits, governmental needs, and the interests of foreign partners in a synergistic manner in order to deepen security stability as a condition for multi-sectoral development.
- 6) Deep strategy aims to redirect societal concerns from practicing illegal activities to engaging into economic and commercial activities, enabling local communities to actually experience the profits resulting from implementing the new strategy.
- 7) Deep strategy derives its basic meaning and practical value from the heterogeneous nature of the socio-security threat sources, which require working across multiple levels that include national security, societal security, regional security, continental security, environmental security, and health security■

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