

مركز البيدر للدراسات والتخطيط

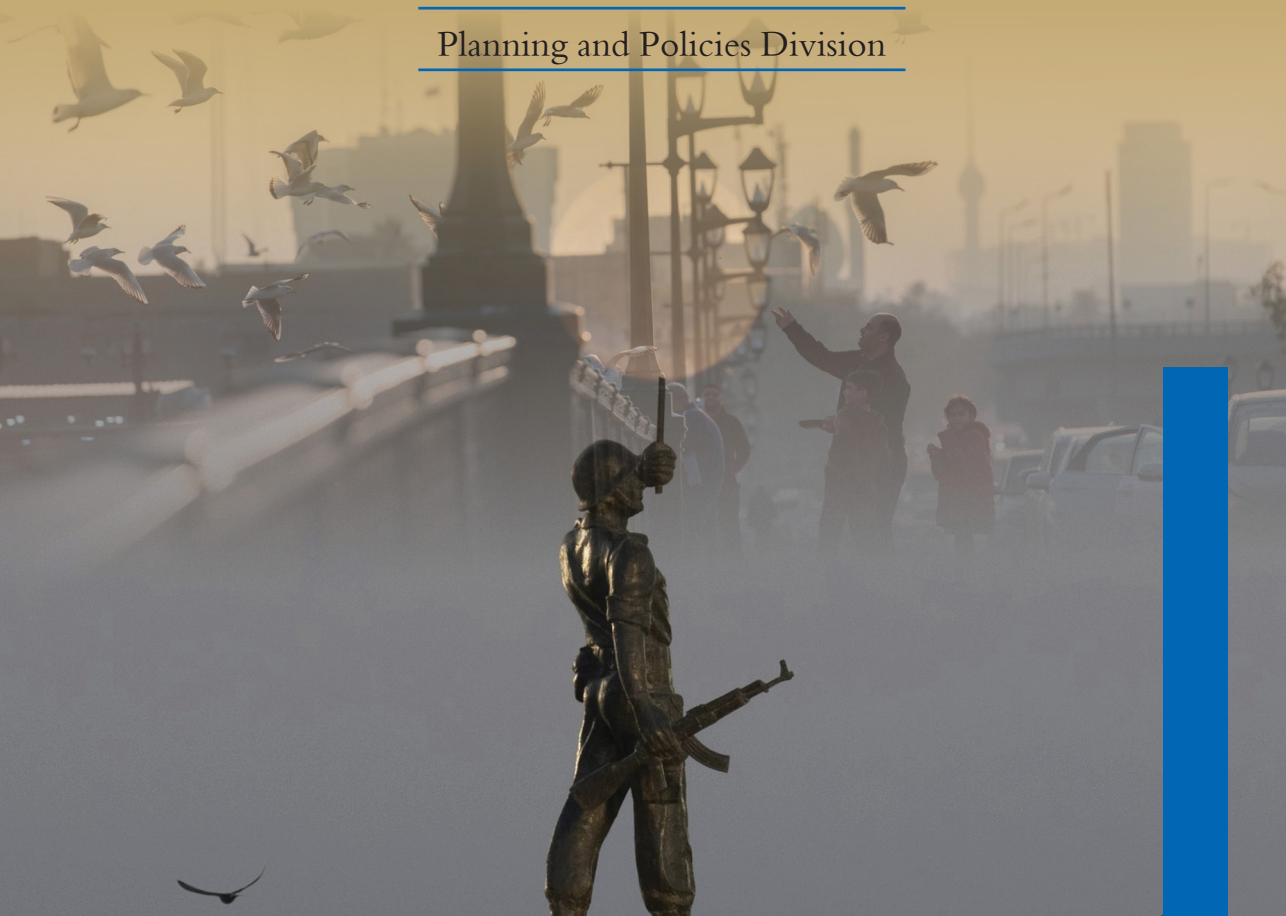
Al-Baidar Center For Studies And Planning



Summary

Iraqi National Security Strategy (2025–2030)

Planning and Policies Division



Introduction

The third Iraqi National Security Strategy was issued in mid-2025, following its approval by the Prime Minister and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces. The slogan of the strategy is “Iraq First,” which was formulated by the National Security Advisory/National Center for Joint Planning through a permanent committee established for this purpose. The national strategy consists of ten sections, including: the vision and mission of the strategy, its structure of preparation, the challenges and changes that accompanied its preparation, the name and title of the strategy and its duration, strategic environment analysis, national principles and foundations for preparing the strategy, supreme strategic interests, strategic objectives, challenges and threats, national means and policies to achieve strategic goals, basic requirements for implementing the strategy, and appendices of the strategy. The strategy document indicates that it was prepared through national effort and the participation of representatives of all authorities and sectors, and that it differs from previous national security strategies. The document also indicates that this strategy is the result of practical experience, high expertise, and a joint national effort by all segments and sectors of society and state institutions, in addition to benefiting from international experiences and knowledge and being guided by approved government policies and academic studies.

Iraq First National Security Strategy (2025–2030)

The Iraqi National Security Strategy (2025–2030) is the third national security strategy issued by the Iraqi government, following the first strategy (2007–2010) and the second strategy (2010–2016). The strategy included, in its first section (vision, mission, structure of preparation), a detailed explanation of the teams and committees working under the umbrella of the strategy, as well as the challenges

faced by the national team, and the positive variables coinciding with the preparation phase. The second section (the name and title of the strategy and its duration) was included without further details. The third section, titled (Strategic Environment Analysis for Iraq, included a set of indicators of strengths and weaknesses at the internal level and indicators of opportunities and threats at the external level, which is known as SWOT analysis. The fourth section (national principles and foundations for preparing the strategy) included several paragraphs, the most important of which was defining the concept of national security. The fifth section (supreme strategic interests) identified six supreme interests, including (imposing full sovereignty and preserving the unity of land and people, establishing the prestige of the state and the fair application of the law, eradicating corruption and drying up the sources of terrorism, diversifying sources of the economy and protecting resources, achieving a fair and effective service system, and managing a balanced and effective network of regional and international relations). The sixth section (strategic objectives) included five strategic objectives related to the supreme strategic interests identified by the strategy, and included:

- **First objective:** Developing the security and defense system to achieve internal and external security.
- **Second objective:** Building a strong, diverse, developmental, and sustainable economy.
- **Third objective:** Building balanced and effective regional and international partnerships.
- **Fourth objective:** Enhancing societal security and protecting diversity and peaceful coexistence.
- **Fifth objective:** Adopting an efficient service system that meets the needs of the people.

Each strategic objective includes a set of sub-objectives. The seventh section included challenges and threats, divided into three levels of importance and impact, and this section overlaps with the strategic environment analysis. The eighth section (national means and policies to achieve strategic objectives to enhance national security) included general means that cover all objectives and specific means for achieving each of the five goals. The ninth section of the strategy defined the basic requirements for implementing the strategy and achieving its objectives. The strategy concluded with a set of appendices, including (basic concepts, formation of committees and teams related to the strategy, evaluation paper for the first and second strategies, titles of international strategies that have been reviewed, inputs and outputs of the strategy, structure for preparing and following up on the strategy and partnership map, official agencies' positions on the strategy, previous activities of the strategy preparation committee and their dates, sources and references adopted in preparing the strategy, photos of strategy preparation activities, action plan for the Permanent National Security Strategy Committee for the year (2025–2027)).

Conclusion

The issuance of a national security strategy is of utmost importance, as Iraq has not issued a national security strategy since the end of the second strategy in 2016, which helps determine Iraq's vision for its national security in the coming phase.

However, many observations can be made regarding this strategy, which we outline as follows:

- The strategy included many sections required by strategic plans. Still, it omitted scheduling the strategic and sub-objectives, along with detailed practical projects and programs, identifying implementing agencies, and timeframes

for each sub-objective, project, and achievement indicators. Instead, it limited itself to setting means for achieving objectives, which were also general objectives and not linked to sub-objectives in a gradual manner that ensures their implementation, despite identifying the relevant agencies for follow-up, some of which were ministerial councils.

- The approval of the national security strategy for the period (2025–2030) came in the middle of the last year of the government's term, and thus the next government will face two options (first: adopting and supporting it if it is consistent with its vision; second: not adopting it if it is not consistent with its vision), despite the many generalities included in the strategy.
- The strategy primarily focuses on generalities and does not go into detail. Based on the Iraqi experience in implementing strategies, most strategies fail in implementation when they are presented in a general framework and do not provide detailed guidance at every step.
- The strategy document included many procedural details related to the preparation process and documenting meetings, photos, and numbers of official responses from state institutions included in the appendices, which do not need to be shown in this document.
- Among the positives of the strategy is that it identified a financial funding mechanism for implementing the plan through the budget of the national security strategy program for 2025 and the budgets of some institutions participating in the strategy.
- The strategy included, in its final appendix, an action plan for the strategy for the period (2025–2027), which is a reasonable attempt to enter the implementation side of the strategy. Still, it was also general and did not include detailed scheduling related to achieving objectives.

Research Identity

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Note:

The opinions expressed in this research do not necessarily reflect the views of the Center, but only the views of its author.

About center

Al-Baydar Center for Studies and Planning is a non-governmental and non-profit organization established in 2015 and registered with the NGO directorate in the general secretariat of the council of ministers in Baghdad.

The center seeks to contribute to developing the state and its institutions, by proposing ideas and practical solutions to the main problems and challenges facing the state, including improving public sector management, policies, and strategic planning, using reliable data and best practices. The center engages the relevant authorities in the state with regular meetings to support this objective and utilizes the support of international organizations dedicated to assisting Iraq's development. The center also seeks to support economic reforms, and sustainable development and provide technical assistance to the public and private sectors. The center also seeks to support the development of the private sector to provide job opportunities for citizens through training and upskilling, in a way that reduces dependence on government institutions and contributes to supporting and diversifying the country's economy.

The center aims to utilize the vast amount of potential in Iraq's human resources by organizing programs to prepare and develop promising young people, including leaders capable of proposing, adopting and implementing visions and future plans that advance society and preserve its value-system based on the commitment to a high moral standard and rejection of all types of corruption.

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