

## **Non-Traditional Security Challenges can be handled through Good Governance: An Analytical Study**

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### **Abstract**

*Amidst the evolving global security landscape, understanding the interplay between non-traditional security challenges and governance mechanisms is paramount for effective policy formulation and implementation. The study aims to explore the historical evolution of NTS challenges and their increasing prominence in global security discussions. By identifying key NTS challenges and comparing them with traditional security threats, the paper seeks to analyse their nature, scope, and impact on state and human security. Furthermore, it assesses the impact of implementing good governance principles in addressing and mitigating NTS challenges. The paper evaluates how institutional frameworks and regulatory mechanisms at various governance levels, including national, regional, and international, influence the management and response to NTS challenges. Additionally, it analyses the role of good governance in enhancing the efficacy of these frameworks. The research design of the study involves a comprehensive literature review to establish the theoretical framework underpinning non-traditional security challenges and governance mechanisms. Utilising a qualitative approach, the study examines historical trends and contemporary developments in the NTS challenges to identify key issues and assess their impact on state security. Moreover, comparative analysis is conducted to contrast NTS challenges with traditional security threats, shedding light on their distinct nature and implications. The study also highlights potential barriers and challenges in implementing good governance measures to address NTS challenges. By proposing best practices to overcome these barriers, the paper aims to ensure effective policy implementation in tackling NTS issues.*

**Keywords:** Non-Traditional Security, Good Governance, Institutional Frameworks, Policy Implementation, Security Challenges.

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## **Introduction**

In the past few decades, there has been a growing focus on Non-traditional Security (NTS) challenges, capturing the attention of scholars and security practitioners not only in one part of the globe but worldwide. Significant events like 9/11 and other terrorist attacks further accentuated this shift. Previously, security concerns were primarily understood in terms of state survival and centred on inter-state military conflicts. However, the concept of security has evolved to encompass a broader range of non-traditional issues, many of which transcend national borders and sovereignty. With the end of the Cold War, threats to national security have become increasingly non-military in nature. Issues such as climate change, resource scarcity, infectious diseases, natural disasters, illegal migration, drug trafficking, information security and transnational crime have come to light. While these challenges may not necessarily pose an immediate threat to a state's existence, they do challenge its ability, both real and perceived, to safeguard affected populations.

Non-traditional security challenges can be defined as threats to human welfare and state stability that emanate from non-military sources and transcend national boundaries in their causes, consequences, and remedies. Empirical evidence of their significance is abundant: between 2010 and 2020, climate-related disasters affected over 1.7 billion people globally and caused economic damages exceeding \$1.5 trillion (UNDRR, 2021). Similarly, the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in over 6.7 million deaths by 2023 and triggered the largest global economic contraction since the Great Depression, with an estimated loss of 255 million full-time jobs (ILO 2022). These empirical realities underscore the material impact of NTS challenges on human security and state stability. The rise of NTS is indicative of a fundamental transformation, where states themselves are undergoing non-traditional changes. The growing emphasis on NTS reflects and enables the uneven restructuring of national states, leading to the emergence of decentralised and regulatory forms of governance. This, in turn, relativises the dominance of the national level of government, allowing it to coexist and compete with other scales of authority. The central aspect of NTS politics revolves around the reconfiguration of security's scope, shifting away from a purely national context to encompass various new spatial, political, and institutional arenas (Emmers, 2016). The interests, strategies, and ideologies of key actors influence this realignment, leading to further transformations in state structures.

It's crucial to clarify that the emergence of NTS issues does not imply a diminishing importance of states as sites of security policy and regulation, nor does it suggest that states are weakening. Instead, it highlights certain issues, labelled “non-traditional,” extending beyond national borders, which allows their governance to be relocated outside the established national government institutions. Labelling these issues as matters of security with potential existential threats serves to rationalise and legitimise this process of restructuring. The consequence of this approach is an expansion of the regulatory state's reach and the proliferation of administrative forms of power, broadening the scope and depth of governance. The conventional approach

of relying solely on military might or rigid state-centric strategies falls short in addressing the multifaceted and interconnected nature of non-traditional security challenges. Instead, a comprehensive strategy is required to tackle those changes, and that is possible by taking grassroots measures through governance (Masys, 2022). Good governance, characterised by transparent, accountable, and participatory decision-making processes, emerges as a key factor in effectively tackling these complex challenges effectively.

### **Good Governance**

Good governance refers to a set of principles and practices that promote transparency, accountability, and responsiveness; rule of law; and inclusiveness in the decision-making and management of public affairs (Johnston, 2017). It encompasses the way that public institutions and entities conduct their activities and interact with citizens, stakeholders, and other organisations. Good governance is crucial in ensuring effective and ethical administration, fostering public trust, and promoting sustainable development (Graham, Amos, & Plumptre, 2003). The World Bank's Worldwide Governance Indicators provide empirical support for the correlation between governance quality and resilience to NTS challenges. Countries ranking in the top quartile of governance effectiveness demonstrated 30% lower mortality rates from natural disasters and 40% faster economic recovery from major health crises between 2000 and 2020 (World Bank, 2022). Furthermore, decentralised governance—the distribution of decision-making authority across multiple levels of government—has empirically enhanced responsiveness to localised manifestations of transnational threats, as evidenced by comparative studies of pandemic responses in federal versus centralised states (OECD, 2023).

Good governance constitutes a critical framework for mitigating non-traditional security challenges through several key principles that address the complex, transboundary nature of these threats. Transparency serves as a foundational principle that enables the identification and assessment of NTS risks by ensuring open information flows between government institutions, civil society, and citizens. For instance, transparent environmental monitoring and reporting systems in the European Union have facilitated early detection of potential ecological threats, allowing for proactive interventions before crises emerge. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrated the importance of transparency, as countries with open data-sharing practices regarding infection rates and hospital capacities generally implemented more effective containment strategies.

Good governance principles—accountability, participation, rule of law, and institutional capacity—are crucial for effectively addressing non-traditional security (NTS) challenges. Accountability mechanisms ensure efficient resource use, as seen in the Philippines' performance-based disaster budgeting, which improved response times and reduced corruption. Participatory governance integrates local knowledge, as exemplified by Bangladesh's community adaptation programs, which cut flood-related

fatalities by 40%. Strong legal frameworks underpin effective NTS responses; Singapore and South Korea rank high in cyber resilience due to robust rule of law. Lastly, institutional capacity enables swift and effective action, with Rwanda's rapid COVID-19 response and Malaysia's environmental enforcement improvements showcasing the benefits of targeted capacity-building.

### **Evolution and prominence of NTS Challenges**

The Evolution and Prominence of non-traditional security challenges means how security threats have changed over time and become more important, focussing on issues that go beyond just military problems and government actions. Non-traditional security challenges are characterised by their multifaceted nature, transcending national borders and posing risks to human security, regional stability, and global governance. The evolution of these challenges has shifted the focus of security studies from traditional inter-state conflicts to a broader range of complex and interconnected issues. However, as the global landscape changed, new challenges emerged that could not be adequately addressed solely through military means. The evolution of non-traditional security challenges can be attributed to several factors with respect to globalisation.

The dominant role of non-traditional security challenges in contemporary security discourse represents a paradigm shift in how security is conceptualised and addressed globally. The post-Cold War era witnessed the erosion of ideological rivalries that had previously shaped security narratives, creating space for emerging threats to gain prominence. The accelerated pace of globalisation since the 1990s has intensified transnational connections, making borders more permeable to challenges like climate change, pandemic diseases, and cyber threats. These challenges have demonstrated their ability to cause widespread disruption and destabilisation without traditional military confrontation, as evidenced by the COVID-19 pandemic's profound global impact on economies, governance systems, and social stability. Furthermore, the information revolution has increased awareness of these threats and created new vulnerabilities due to cyber-dependence.

The convergence of these factors has necessitated a re-conceptualisation of security beyond state-centric military paradigms towards more comprehensive approaches that recognise the interconnected nature of contemporary threats and the limitations of traditional security mechanisms for addressing them. Non-traditional security challenges have gained increasing prominence in global security discourse due to their evolving nature and broad impact on both state and human security. This research explores their historical development, contrasts them with traditional threats, and identifies key contemporary issues such as environmental degradation, health crises, and cyber threats. It emphasises the role of good governance—transparency, accountability, rule of law, participation, and institutional capacity—in effectively addressing NTS challenges. By analysing how governance frameworks at the national, regional, and international levels respond to these threats, the study argues that good

governance enhances resilience, fosters coordination, and enables adaptive responses to complex risks that traditional security approaches cannot adequately manage.

### **Research Methodology**

The research has adopted an analytical study design, which has critically examined the relationship between non-traditional security challenges and good governance. This design allowed for an in-depth analysis of existing data, literature, and policy documents to gain insights into how governance principles can effectively address the complexities of non-traditional security threats. Qualitative research methods have been employed to gain a comprehensive understanding of non-traditional security threats and the role of good governance. The secondary data has been obtained from various sources, including academic journals and research papers on non-traditional security challenges and governance approaches; reports from reputable international organisations like the United Nations, the World Bank, and the World Health Organisation, which have provided valuable data and insights on global security issues; books and publications from scholars and experts in the field of security studies and governance; and lastly, the data has been obtained from official government publications and policy documents addressing non-traditional security threats and governance strategies.

### **Theoretical Framework**

#### **➤ Securitisation Theory**

Securitisation theory, initially developed at the Copenhagen School, has been significantly contributed to by scholars such as Barry Buzan, Ole Wæver, and Jaap de Wilde. The theory scrutinises the construction of certain issues as existential threats, which in turn justifies extraordinary measures beyond the scope of normal politics (Buzan, Wæver, & de Wilde, 1998). This research employs Securitisation Theory to scrutinise the framing and construction of non-traditional security challenges as security issues. Specifically, it has explored how NTS challenges are securitised, or presented as urgent security threats, influencing policy responses and resource allocation. Looking at this perspective, the research examined how the way we treat NTS challenges as urgent security issues affects the rules and systems we use, and it evaluated the impact on creating and carrying out policies to tackle these challenges. The process of securitisation represents a critical analytical framework for understanding how non-traditional issues shift from ordinary political concerns to security priorities. According to the Copenhagen School, securitisation occurs through a series of interrelated stages that transform public perception and policy approaches toward particular challenges. The process begins with 'securitising speech acts' by influential actors—termed 'securitising agents'—who frame an issue as an existential threat to a valued referent object. For instance, UN Secretary-General António Guterres' declaration that climate change represents 'the most systemic threat to humankind'

exemplifies such a speech act, positioning climate change not merely as an environmental challenge but as a fundamental security threat. The securitisation process happens when both the general public and influential groups agree with the idea that something is a security issue and allow for special actions that go beyond usual political methods. This acceptance enables the allocation of significant resources, the creation of specialised institutions, and the implementation of policies that might otherwise face greater scrutiny or resistance.

### ➤ Global Governance Theory

Global governance theory examines the role of international institutions, regimes, and norms in addressing transnational NTS challenges. The theory has been shaped by contributions from various scholars, including Robert O. Keohane, Joseph S. Nye Jr., Anne-Marie Slaughter, and John J. Kirton, among others. This theory focuses on the emergence of transnational actors, institutions, and norms to address global challenges that transcend national boundaries (Keohane & Nye, 2000). This research applies global governance theory to analyse the role of international institutions, regimes, and norms in addressing non-traditional security challenges. Specifically, it has examined how global governance mechanisms interact with national and regional governance frameworks in responding to NTS threats. The researchers have further explored the effectiveness of global governance structures, such as international organisations and agreements, in facilitating cooperation and coordination among states to address NTS challenges. Here is a theoretical framework representation linking the theories to the research focus and their relevance:

Theory	Focus	Application to Research
Securitisation Theory	Examines how issues are framed as existential threats. Analyses extraordinary measures justified beyond normal politics.	Analyses how NTS challenges are securitized as urgent security threats. Investigates how governance mechanisms respond to the securitization of NTS issues. Explores the implications of governance in countering politicization of NTS threats.
Global Governance Theory	Focuses on the role of international institutions, norms, and regimes in addressing transnational challenges. Examines interactions between global and national frameworks.	Analyses the role of international institutions and agreements in managing NTS challenges. Assesses global governance norms like human rights and environmental protection on policy formulation. Explores opportunities and limitations in multilateral approaches to NTS governance.

The theoretical framework used in this research directly answers the main research questions by offering ways to analyse how non-traditional security challenges relate to governance mechanisms. Securitisation theory helps us understand our first

research question—how non-traditional security challenges have changed and become more important in security discussions—by showing the social and political processes that make certain issues seen as security threats. Securitisation theory informs our first research question—how NTS challenges have evolved and gained prominence in security discourse—by illuminating the social and political processes through which certain issues come to be recognised as security threats. This theory enables us to analyse how and why environmental degradation, pandemics, or cyber vulnerabilities have evolved from technical policy matters to existential security concerns requiring urgent attention and exceptional measures. Specifically, it allows us to examine how the speeches of influential actors, including political leaders, international organisations, and advocacy networks, have successfully framed these non-traditional issues as security priorities, thereby mobilising resources and attention that might otherwise be directed toward traditional security concerns.

Global governance theory directly addresses our second research question regarding how institutional frameworks at various governance levels shape responses to NTS challenges. This theoretical perspective provides analytical tools to examine the emergence, evolution, and effectiveness of governance arrangements beyond the nation-state. By highlighting the role of international regimes, transnational networks, and multi-level governance systems, this theory helps explain why certain governance approaches are more effective than others in addressing complex, cross-border challenges. These theories help us answer our third research question about how good governance principles can improve the effectiveness of institutional responses to non-traditional security challenges.

### **Rising Non-traditional Security Challenges of the 21st Century**

The 21st century has borne witness to profound transformations in the realm of global security, with the emergence of non-traditional security challenges at the forefront of international discourse. As the world grapples with the fallout from unprecedented events and shifts in geopolitics, NTS challenges have come to occupy a central position in the study and practice of security. These challenges, distinctly different from conventional state-centric threats, transcend national borders and traditional security paradigms, demanding innovative and adaptive governance approaches to ensure global stability and human well-being. The following section addresses the contemporary non-traditional security challenges.

#### **➤ Climate Change and National Security**

Environmental degradation, particularly climate change, has become a critical non-traditional security threat with far-reaching implications. Rising global temperatures, driven by increased energy demands and overexploitation of natural resources, contribute to extreme weather events, rising sea levels, the spread of diseases, and threats to food and water security. Climate change disrupts agriculture,

depletes freshwater supplies, and raises the risk of inter-state conflicts over resources such as water and energy. The shift toward nuclear energy as fossil fuels dwindle introduces new concerns about nuclear safety and proliferation. Moreover, environmental pressures may trigger large-scale displacement, creating environmental refugees and straining host countries. If left unaddressed, these interconnected challenges could lead to irreversible damage and global instability, underscoring the urgent need for sustainable environmental governance.

➤ **Population Explosion and Threat to National Security**

Population explosion is considered a non-traditional security threat in developing countries due to its far-reaching implications on various aspects of society, including economic stability, resource availability, and social cohesion. As populations rapidly grow, the demand for essential resources such as food, water, and energy increases, putting immense pressure on already limited infrastructure and government resources.

As people strive to meet their basic needs, they often resort to exploiting natural resources in unsustainable ways, threatening biodiversity and exacerbating climate change. Furthermore, population explosion can lead to a burgeoning youth population with limited access to education and employment opportunities. A high youth unemployment rate can create fertile soil for social discontent and radicalisation, potentially fuelling extremism and political instability. Countries like Pakistan and Egypt have experienced challenges in providing sufficient job opportunities for their growing youth populations, which has implications for social cohesion and security.

➤ **Economic Crisis**

Economic crises can pose significant non-traditional security threats in developing countries, impacting various aspects of society and potentially leading to social unrest, political instability, and humanitarian challenges. One of the primary concerns arising from economic downturns is the rise in poverty and income inequality. As the economy contracts, job opportunities diminish, and the purchasing power of the population decreases. These changes can create a sense of frustration and discontent among the citizens, potentially leading to protests, civil unrest, and even violence. For example, in 2008, the global financial crisis had severe repercussions on many developing countries, with soaring food and commodity prices exacerbating poverty levels and triggering protests and social upheavals in some nations. Additionally, economic crises in developing countries may also give rise to a surge in informal economies and illegal activities, such as smuggling, human trafficking, and drug trafficking. As formal employment opportunities diminish, individuals may turn to illicit means of survival. These activities can contribute to a breakdown in law and order, undermining the rule of law and state authority. For instance, the economic crisis in Venezuela since 2013 has led to widespread poverty and a rise in criminal activities,

including drug trafficking and illegal mining, with dire implications for both national and regional security. Addressing these challenges requires not only economic measures but also comprehensive approaches that consider social and political dimensions to ensure stability and the well-being of the population.

### ➤ **Food Security**

Food crises are a significant non-traditional security threat that profoundly impacts developing countries. Unlike traditional security threats that involve military aggression or inter-state conflicts, food crises arise from factors such as climate change, population growth, economic instability, and inadequate agricultural practices. In developing countries, where a large portion of the population depends on subsistence farming and has limited access to resources, food crises can have severe consequences for livelihoods, stability, and social cohesion. Unpredictable weather patterns, extreme events like droughts and floods, and shifting growing seasons can disrupt agricultural production and reduce crop yields (Cook, 2013). For example, in parts of Sub-Saharan Africa, recurrent droughts have led to prolonged periods of food scarcity, affecting millions of people who rely on rain-fed agriculture for their sustenance. Secondly, rapid population growth in developing countries puts immense pressure on the available food resources.

### ➤ **Health Security & Global Pandemics**

Health security has emerged as a significant non-traditional security threat in developing countries, presenting challenges that go beyond traditional military and territorial concerns. Inadequate healthcare infrastructure, limited access to essential medical services, and the spread of infectious diseases pose substantial risks to the well-being and stability of these nations (Warren, 2023). Developing countries often lack the resources and capacity to effectively respond to such health emergencies, making them vulnerable to the rapid spread of diseases.

### ➤ **Cyber-Security and Information Warfare**

Cybersecurity and information warfare are crucial components of the modern security landscape, as they are shaping how nations and individuals protect their digital assets and navigate the complexities of the digital age. The increasing reliance on technology and interconnectedness has exposed societies to cyber threats, including hacking, data breaches, and disinformation campaigns, posing significant risks to national and individual security. Vital infrastructures, such as power grids, transportation systems, and communication networks, are increasingly interconnected and reliant on digital technology. For example, in 2021, the Colonial Pipeline in the United States (US) suffered a cyber-attack that disrupted fuel supply to several states. Cyberattacks on this critical system can cause widespread disruptions and jeopardise

public safety. Moreover, various state and non-state actors have engaged in information warfare by deploying social media influence campaigns to manipulate public opinion and sow discord. For example, Russia's Internet Research Agency has been accused of using fake accounts and disinformation to interfere in the 2016 US presidential election (Inkster, 2016).

### ➤ **Hybrid Warfare and Grey Zone Threats**

Hybrid warfare and grey zone threats represent a complex and evolving form of non-traditional security challenges that blur the lines between conventional warfare and peaceful statecraft. These strategies are often employed by state and non-state actors seeking to achieve their objectives without crossing the threshold of outright military conflict, using a combination of conventional and unconventional means (Wither, 2016). Hybrid warfare refers to the integration of conventional military tactics, irregular warfare, cyber operations, disinformation campaigns, economic coercion, and other non-military means to achieve strategic objectives (Giegerich, 2016). It aims to exploit weaknesses in traditional security structures and exploit the vulnerabilities of adversaries. Russia's annexation of Crimea in 2014 provides a notable example (Franke, 2015). The operation involved a combination of conventional military actions, irregular forces, and information warfare to destabilise Ukraine's government and pave the way for the annexation of the Crimean Peninsula. Moreover, China's actions in the South China Sea also exemplify the grey zone threats. China has engaged in land reclamation, construction of military facilities on disputed islands, and maritime coercion to assert its territorial claims, all while avoiding direct military confrontation.

## **Implementing Good Governance Principles in Addressing Non-Traditional Security**

The 21<sup>st</sup> century has witnessed a significant shift in the global security landscape from traditional inter-state military conflicts to a more complex array of non-traditional security challenges. Addressing the multifaceted challenges requires innovative and adaptive approaches. One such approach is the implementation of good governance principles, which are characterised by transparency, accountability, and participatory decision-making processes. Good governance principles have gained recognition as essential components in addressing a wide range of security challenges, including non-traditional threats. The adoption of transparent and accountable practices enables better management of resources and decision-making processes, while public participation fosters inclusive policy development and implementation.

### ➤ **Health Security**

Good governance plays a crucial role in improving health security by enhancing the capacity of health systems, promoting public health initiatives, and ensuring effective responses to health emergencies. With transparent and accountable

governance, countries can prioritise health-related issues, allocate resources efficiently, and coordinate efforts among different sectors to safeguard their populations. One-way good governance improves health security is by strengthening healthcare infrastructure and services. Governments that prioritise health invest in building robust healthcare systems, which include adequate medical facilities, trained healthcare professionals, and access to essential medications. For example, Rwanda's successful approach to combating HIV/AIDS involved strategic leadership and strong governance, resulting in the establishment of a comprehensive healthcare system that reduced the prevalence of the disease significantly. An Epidemic Preparedness Index developed to assess global pandemic preparedness is an example (Oppenheim, et al., 2019). Furthermore, good governance facilitates the implementation of public health initiatives and preventive measures. An example of this is Singapore's response to the SARS outbreak in 2003, where the government's quick and transparent actions effectively contained the spread of the disease and protected the population from further harm (Hameiri & Jones, 2013).

### ➤ **Food Security**

Governance can play a crucial role in improving food security by implementing policies and strategies that enhance agricultural productivity, ensure equitable access to resources, and promote sustainable practices. Firstly, by investing in agricultural research and development, governments can support farmers with improved technologies, seeds, and irrigation systems, leading to increased crop yields and enhanced food production. Secondly, governance can ensure effective social safety nets and food assistance programmes are in place to protect vulnerable populations during times of food crises. Governments can design targeted social welfare programs, such as cash transfers or food vouchers, to assist those in need. For example, Brazil's Fome Zero Hunger program has successfully reduced food insecurity by providing financial assistance to poor families to purchase food and promoting community-based agriculture initiatives (Collins, 2007). Furthermore, by prioritising sustainable agriculture and environmental conservation, good governance can mitigate the impact of climate change on food production. Implementing policies that encourage climate-resilient practices, water management systems, and crop diversification can enhance food security in the face of changing climate patterns.

### ➤ **Economic Security**

Effective governance plays a crucial role in mitigating and resolving economic crises. Through sound policies, transparency, and accountability, governments can instil confidence in the economy, attract investments, and foster economic stability. One essential aspect is implementing prudent fiscal and monetary policies that promote sustainable growth and maintain price stability. Transparent and accountable fiscal management helps avoid excessive public debt, while a responsible central bank can

manage inflation and maintain confidence in the currency. For example, during the 2008 global financial crisis, countries like Canada and Australia demonstrated resilience due to their prudent fiscal management and proactive monetary policies, which helped cushion the impact on their economies. An efficient and corruption-free legal system encourages investment and protects property rights. Countries with strong governance mechanisms, like Singapore and Switzerland, have been successful in attracting foreign investments and establishing themselves as international financial hubs. Additionally, governance that fosters transparency and accountability in public spending can help direct resources to sectors with the most potential for growth and development, creating an environment conducive to economic recovery. By implementing measures to combat corruption and ensure the proper use of public funds, governments can inspire investor confidence and promote economic growth even in the face of a crisis.

### ➤ **Environmental Security**

Governance can play a crucial role in improving environmental security by implementing policies and measures that protect and preserve natural resources, reduce the impacts of climate change, and foster sustainable development. First and foremost, effective governance involves setting clear environmental regulations and enforcing them rigorously to curb pollution, deforestation, and overexploitation of natural resources. By promoting sustainable practices and holding polluters accountable, governance can help safeguard ecosystems and biodiversity. For example, countries like Costa Rica have implemented successful governance initiatives to protect their natural habitats, resulting in increased forest cover and a thriving ecotourism industry (World Bank, 2022).

Secondly, governance encourages international cooperation and collaboration to address global environmental challenges. Climate change, for instance, requires coordinated efforts among nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to its effects. The Paris Agreement is an example of how governance frameworks facilitate countries to come together, set emission reduction targets, and work collectively to limit global temperature rise (Hough, 2014). The strong links between the quality of climate governance and preventing conflicts show that countries with inclusive climate adaptation planning had 37% fewer climate-related social conflicts compared to those using top-down methods (Kütting and Lipschutz 2019). Furthermore, government can encourage research and development in green technologies, incentivise businesses to adopt eco-friendly practices, and promote public participation in environmental decision-making processes.

### ➤ **Cyber Security**

Effective governance plays a crucial role in ensuring security by establishing robust institutions, promoting the rule of law, and fostering social stability. First and

foremost, government frameworks should prioritise national security concerns and efficiently allocate resources to address various threats. By having well-functioning law enforcement agencies, intelligence services, and defence forces, governments can respond swiftly to emerging challenges. For instance, a country with strong governance might implement cybersecurity policies to safeguard critical infrastructure from cyberattacks, invest in border security to prevent illegal immigration and trafficking, and enhance disaster management capabilities to respond to natural calamities effectively. The ground-breaking work on “Cyber Security Governance: Stakeholder Trust and Behaviour” has empirically demonstrated that effective governance depends not merely on technical capabilities but on establishing trust-based relationships between public institutions, private sector actors, and civil society (Schia, 2022).

Similarly, studies have explored the concept of digital environmental governance by analysing how emerging technologies like blockchain and artificial intelligence are transforming environmental monitoring and compliance mechanisms while creating new vulnerabilities that require innovative governance approaches (Duberry, 2019). Moreover, good governance involves promoting social cohesion and inclusive policies that address underlying socio-economic disparities and grievances. By providing equal opportunities and addressing issues such as unemployment and poverty, governments can reduce the number of drivers of insecurity, extremism, and crime. For example, transparent and accountable governance can ensure the fair distribution of resources, leading to reduced grievances among marginalised populations and decreasing the likelihood of internal conflicts (Conti, Dargahi, & Dehghantanha, 2018). Additionally, a well-governed country may invest in education and healthcare to empower its citizens, thus contributing to a more stable and secure society.

## **Conclusion**

The non-traditional security challenges have emerged as complex and interconnected threats that demand innovative and adaptable approaches. This study has explored the potential of implementing good governance principles as a promising strategy to address these challenges effectively. Through the analytical research design, scholarly literature and case studies have been analysed; thus, it is evident that good governance principles offer a comprehensive framework for responding to the evolving security landscape. Transparency and accountability mechanisms enhance the efficiency of security policies, ensuring the responsible use of resources and effective decision-making. Public participation and civil society engagement contribute to inclusive policy development, fostering resilience and adaptability in the face of emerging threats. Moreover, the importance of cross-border cooperation and collective action in tackling non-traditional security challenges cannot be overstated. Good governance principles play a vital role in fostering trust and shared responsibilities among nations, enabling effective international collaboration in response to transnational threats.

However, implementing good governance principles in the context of non-traditional security challenges is not without its challenges. Striking a balance between national interests and global cooperation, addressing power asymmetries, and ensuring inclusivity in decision-making processes remain critical tasks for policymakers and stakeholders. This research contributes evidence-based insights and recommendations to support the adoption of good governance principles as a transformative tool in addressing non-traditional security challenges in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In the rapidly changing global context, where the boundaries between security threats and governance solutions continue to evolve, embracing good governance principles has become an essential element to enhance the resilience of societies and promote the collective pursuit of security, prosperity, and stability on a global scale. By taking proactive measures and applying the lessons learnt from successful implementations, the international community can build a more secure and sustainable future in the face of ever-evolving non-traditional security challenges.

Based on the findings of this research, several concrete policy recommendations emerge for enhancing governance responses to non-traditional security challenges.

1. Establish high-level cross-sectoral coordination bodies with clear mandates and stable multi-year funding.
2. Implement transparent risk assessment frameworks using standardised methodologies adaptable to local contexts.
3. Institutionalise policy learning through mandatory post-crisis reviews and knowledge management systems.
4. Develop inclusive early warning systems integrating technical monitoring with community-based networks.
5. Create specialised regional NTS governance mechanisms to facilitate cross-border cooperation.
6. Collectively, these constitute a comprehensive approach to strengthening governance capacities for addressing non-traditional security challenges. These recommendations emphasise that to effectively manage non-traditional security challenges, it's important to improve the way public authority is used through better organisation, new processes, and skill development, rather than just increasing government resources.

### **Disclosure Statement**

No potential conflict of interest was reported by the authors.

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