



Global Trends in National Cyber Security Legislation and their Implications for Identity

Dr. Albert Antwi-Boasiako
(Executive Chairman, e-Crime Bureau)

CONTENTS

- ❑ Identity Infrastructure & Ecosystem Risks
- ❑ Global State of Legislations
- ❑ Country/Regional Examples
- ❑ Security Identity Systems for Africa

"If you cannot secure the digital identity of your citizens, you cannot secure your nation. Identity is the new perimeter."

1. Identity Infrastructure & Ecosystem Risks

THE NEW BATTLEGROUND FOR NATIONAL SECURITY

Identity Infrastructure & Ecosystem Risks



BIOMETRIC COMPROMISE

Unlike passwords, biological features cannot be reset. Breach is permanent.



CENTRALISED "HONEY POTS"

Massive repositories create systemic single points of failure for the state.



WEAPONISED AI

Deepfakes and synthetic identities spoofing liveness and verification tests.



INSIDER THREATS

Abuse of administrative privilege remains a catastrophic internal vector.



SUPPLY CHAIN FRAGILITY

Dependence on international vendors introduces unvetted, weak links.



CROSS-BORDER CONTAGION

Vulnerabilities in interconnected systems can spread across the continent.



IDENTITY TAKEOVER

Adversaries "log in" rather than "hack in" using legitimate credentials.

2. The Global State of Legislations

CORRECTING MARKET FAILURES FOR NATIONAL RESILIENCE

Global Regulatory Awakening (2026)



NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY STRATEGIES (NCSs)

National cybersecurity strategies (NCSs) have become an increasingly common tool for governments to organize and strengthen cybersecurity efforts.

KEY HIGHLIGHTS



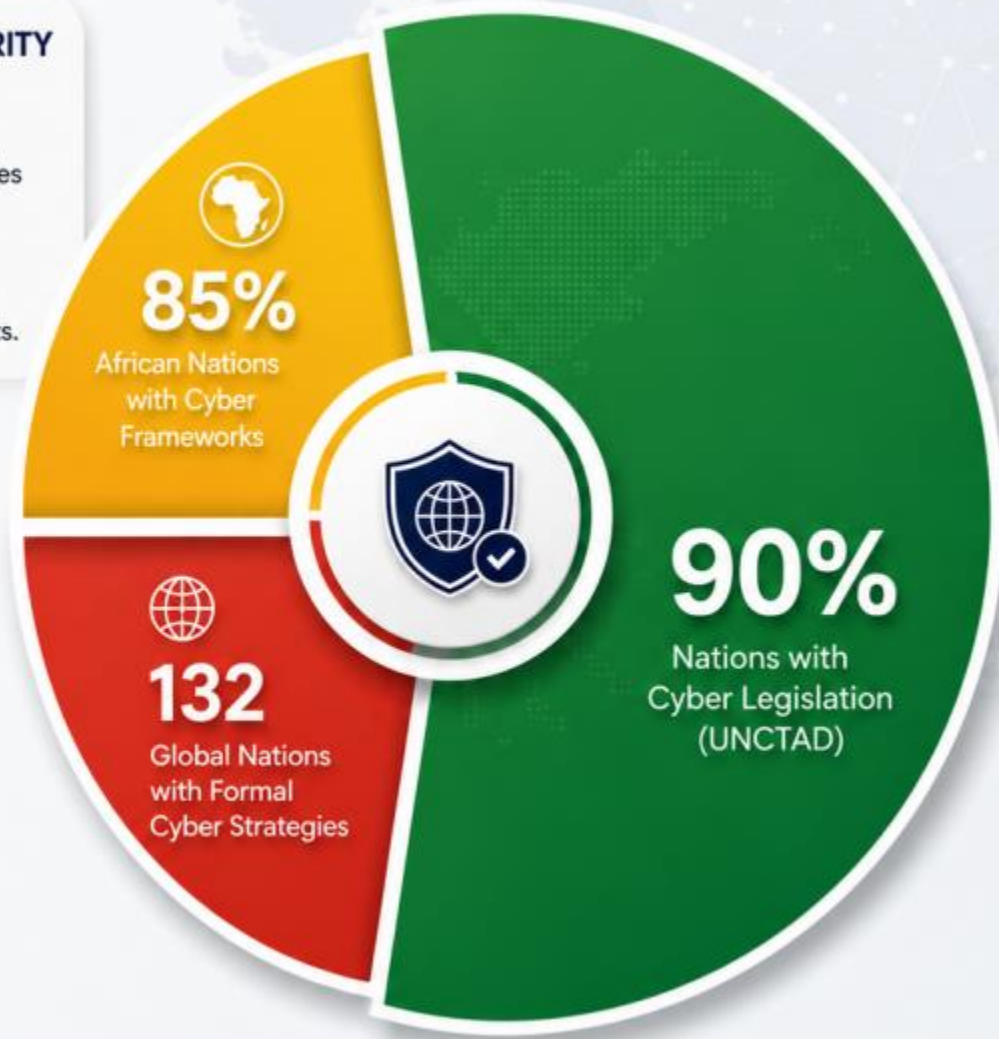
132 countries have adopted formal National Cybersecurity Strategies as of 2024.



Up from 107 countries in 2020.



9 African countries have introduced their first National Cybersecurity Strategies.



Current Legislative Trends on National ID Systems



Current Legislative Trends on National ID Systems



01



Mandate-oriented Legislations

Laws that establish the legal basis and mandate for the creation, issuance, and use of National ID systems for identified purposes and services.



02



Data Protection-oriented Legislations

Laws that safeguard personal data in National ID systems by setting rules for lawful processing, consent, transparency, data subject rights, and accountability.



03



Critical information infrastructure-oriented Legislations

Laws that protect National ID systems as critical information infrastructure by addressing security, resilience, risk management, and incident response obligations.



3. Country & Regional Examples

LEADING BLUEPRINTS FOR IDENTITY PROTECTION

The European Union (NIS2)

- ❑ 24-hour mandatory "Early Warning" notification.
- ❑ Strict Personal Liability for Executive Boards.
- ❑ Negligence is treated as a legal, not just technical, failure.



IDENTITY AS ASSET



India Aadhaar (CIDR)

- ❑ Formally designated as a "Protected System".
- ❑ Unauthorised access = Act of Cyber Terrorism.
- ❑ Triggers the highest level of national defence protocols.

The Ghana Model: Legislative Synergy



The Mandate (NIA Act - Act 707/950)

Sets the baseline for security, confidentiality and integrity of the register



The Enforcement (Cybersecurity Act, 2020 - Act 1038)

Provides the “teeth” to protect Critical Information Infrastructure



Result

ITU GCI Tier 1 Role-Model Status

The Impact of CII Designation

01

MANDATORY AUDITS

Regular, rigorous technical audits to ensure systems are battle-ready

02

INCIDENT REPORTING

Legal mandate to report breaches within strict timelines for national response.

03

SUPPLY CHAIN VETTING

Formal accreditation for all third-party vendors and professionals.

04

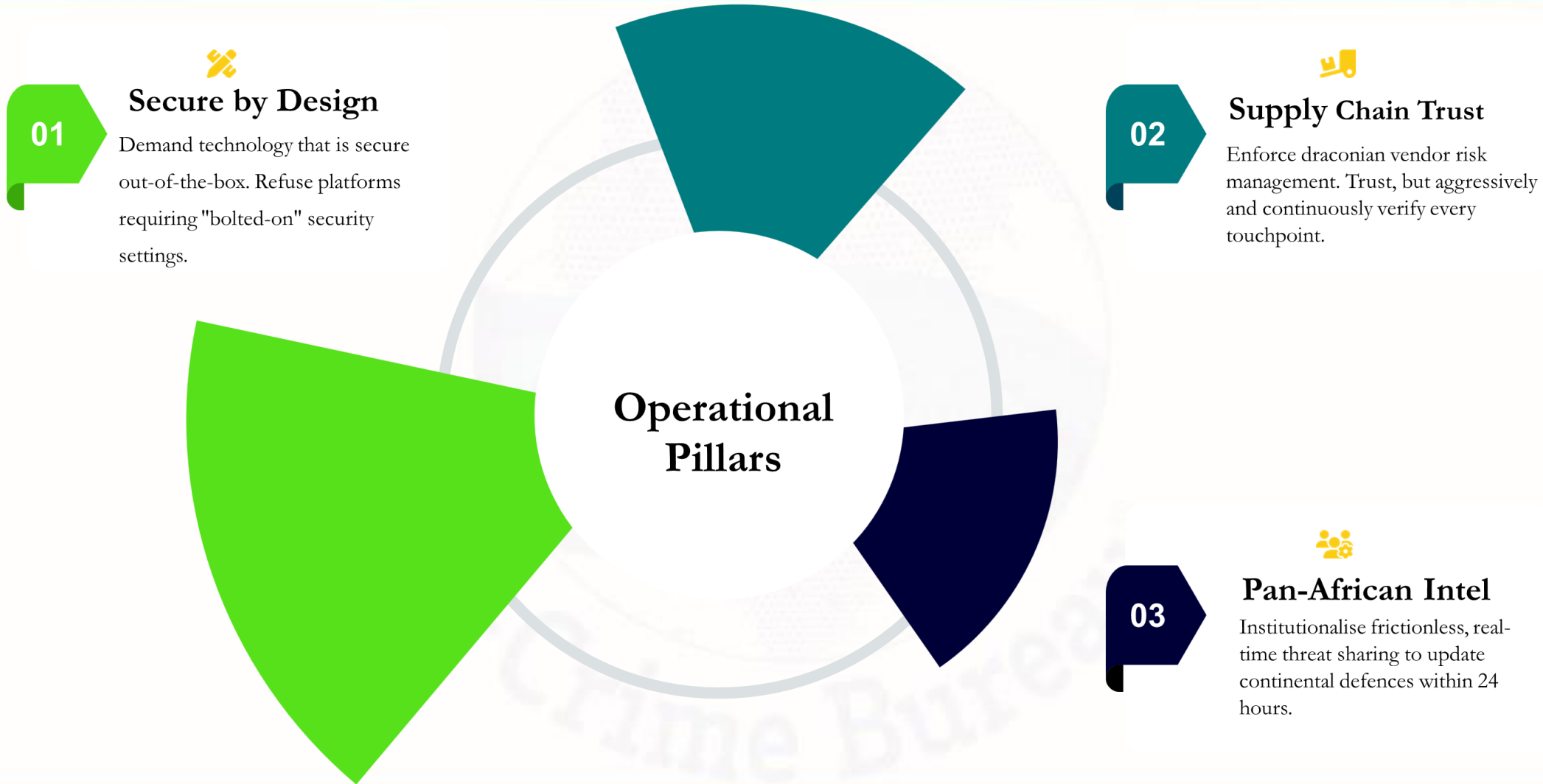
MULTISECTOR OVERSIGHT

Unifying identity protection across national security and regulatory bodies.

4. Securing Identity for Africa

OPERATIONAL PILLARS FOR CONTINENTAL RESILIENCE

Three Operational Pillars for Action



Conclusion



“Trust is the currency of the digital age. Securing the identity of the African citizen is the foundational armour for our collective digital future.”

THANK YOU