



AFRICA CENTER
FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

African Parliamentarian Security Sector Forum

SYLLABUS

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ABOUT THE AFRICA CENTER

Since its inception in 1999, the Africa Center has served as a forum for research, academic programs, and the exchange of ideas with the aim of enhancing citizen security by strengthening the effectiveness and accountability of African institutions, in support of U.S.-Africa policy.

VISION

Security for all Africans championed by effective institutions accountable to their citizens.

Realizing the vision of an Africa free from organized armed violence guaranteed by African institutions that are committed to protecting African citizens is the driving motivation of the Africa Center. This aim underscores the Center's commitment to contributing to tangible impacts by working with our African partners – military and civilian, governmental and civil society, as well as national and regional. All have valuable roles to play in mitigating the complex drivers of conflict on the continent today. Accountability to citizens is an important element of our vision as it reinforces the point that in order to be effective, security institutions must not just be “strong,” but also be responsive to and protective of the rights of citizens.

MISSION

To advance African security by expanding understanding, providing a trusted platform for dialogue, building enduring partnerships, and catalyzing strategic solutions.

The Africa Center's mission revolves around the generation and dissemination of knowledge through our research, academic programs, strategic communications, and community chapters. Drawing on the practical experiences and lessons learned from security efforts on the continent, we aim to generate relevant insight and analysis that can inform practitioners and policymakers on the pressing security challenges that they face. Recognizing that addressing serious challenges can only come about through candid and thoughtful exchanges, the Center provides face-to-face and virtual platforms where partners can exchange views on priorities and sound practices. These exchanges foster relationships that, in turn, are maintained over time through the Center's community chapters, communities of interest, follow-on programs, and ongoing dialogue between participants and staff. This dialogue – infused with real world experiences and fresh analysis – provides an opportunity for continued learning and catalyzes concrete actions.

MANDATE

The Africa Center is a U.S. Department of Defense institution established and funded by Congress for the study of security issues relating to Africa and serving as a forum for bilateral and multilateral research, communication, exchange of ideas, and training involving military and civilian participants. (10 U.S.C 342)

Introduction

The balance of powers between branches of government is a fundamental principle underlying most democracies, but a successful balance demands empowerment of all branches. This balance can be especially important – and especially difficult – when it comes to issues of national security. Legislators can serve as an important bridge between security services and citizens and play key roles in overseeing security policy, budgets, and personnel. This program is intended to provide a forum to consider the African security environment, to examine the legislative role in the national security process, and to share experiences and engage with experts regarding the tools of parliamentary oversight.

The seminar will be successful only if there is honest analysis and productive dialogue. To achieve this end, the Africa Center utilizes academic tools to promote frank and open dialogue on critical issues and to lay the foundation for the development of effective peer networking. To facilitate your discussion, we have provided an academic syllabus and recommended readings. We encourage you to challenge the analyses and/or content in all the material we provide. We ask that you remember that, unless specifically noted, the readings are not reflective of official U.S. government policy. Rather, the readings are intended to foster a healthy dialogue on the security challenges under discussion, which in turn will allow you to forge realistic and effective strategies for addressing insecurity in Africa. As with all Africa Center programs, this seminar will be conducted under a strict policy of non-attribution which is binding during and after the seminar. We hope that this will allow you to address the sensitive issues under discussion.

Upon completion of the seminar, you will join more than 8,000 individuals with at least two things in common: a shared concern for issues regarding the future of Africa's stability and security; and participation in an Africa Center program. We will work actively with you and all members of the Africa Center community to build upon the dialogue begun here and to build further a sense of partnership in the pursuit of our common interests in a prosperous, peaceful Africa.

Map of Africa



Plenary Session 1: Africa's Evolving Security Landscape

This wide-ranging discussion will set the stage for the week by:

- Mapping out some of the major trends that will reshape the African security landscape in the years to come;
- Examining the key actors in this sector, including women and youth; and
- Collectively identifying potential areas of concern or optimism.

Background

Africa's security landscape is transforming, and policy makers and lawmakers must recognize and respond to these challenges and opportunities. A recent report by the Institute for Security Studies identified 7 major trends in Africa's demographic, economic, technological, urban and socio-political landscape:

1. "Africa's population will continue to grow rapidly and remain the youngest in the world.
2. Levels of urbanisation will keep rising, offering both opportunities and risks.
3. The absolute number of Africans living in extreme poverty is set to increase.
4. Africa's economy will continue to expand, but countries' individual performances will vary greatly.
5. Africa is likely to remain relatively isolated – both from the global economy and across its regions.
6. Conflict in Africa is causing fewer fatalities than in the 1990s, but the number of violent incidents is increasing, and violence is becoming more complex.
7. Popular support for democracy in Africa is likely to remain strong."

Suggested Readings:

- Anton du Plessis and Anja Kaspersen, World Economic Forum "7 trends shaping the future of peace and security in Africa," 21 Jun 2016, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2016/06/7-trends-shaping-the-african-security-landscape/>.
- Julia Bello-Schünemann, Jakkie Cilliers, Zachary Donnenfeld, Ciara Aucoin and Alex Porter, "African Futures: Key Trends to 2035," ISS Policy Brief, September 1, 2017, <https://www.africaportal.org/documents/17519/policybrief105.pdf>.
- African Union, Agenda 2060. https://au.int/sites/default/files/pages/3657-file-agenda2063_popular_version_en.pdf
- African Union, Agenda 2060. https://au.int/sites/default/files/pages/3657-file-agenda2063_popular_version_fr.pdf
- Nations Unies, "Les causes des conflits et la promotion d'une paix et d'un développement durables en Afrique," (A/71/211-S/2016/655), July 26, 2016. <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/les-causes-des-conflits-et-la-promotion-d-une-paix-et-d-un-d-veloppement-durables-en>

Session 2: Parliament's Role in National Security

Through plenary and discussion, this session will take up key questions about the roles of members of the legislative branch in the security arena. Participants and speakers can share experiences and explain practices in various systems to explore questions such as:

- What are the roles and responsibilities of parliament in security issues?
- How does one define oversight in this context?
- What are the key principles of ethics that shape parliamentary roles?
- What are the linkages between democracy and security?

Suggested Readings:

- Interparliamentary Union, "Parliament and democracy in the twenty-first century: A guide to good practice," 2006, <https://ipu.org/file/859/download?token=5bH9qLzn>.
- Union Interparlementaire, "Parlement et démocratie au XXIème siècle: guide des bonnes pratiques," <https://ipu.org/file/860/download?token=Jv8aB2ar>
- Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, "Parliaments," SSR Backgrounder Series (Geneva: DCAF, 2015).
https://www.dcaf.ch/sites/default/files/publications/documents/DCAF_BG_8_Parliaments.11.15.pdf. *Aussi disponible en français.*
- African Security Dialogue and Research (ASDR), "Report of Parliamentary Workshop: What Is Parliament's Role in Security Sector Governance?" March 15, 2010,
http://africansecuritynetwork.org/assn/download/web_literature/Publications-by-research-centres/Security%20Sector%20Governance/Workshop%20Report%20-%20What%20is%20parliament%E2%80%99s%20role%20in%20security%20sector%20governance%20How%20does%20parliament%20build%20capacity%20for%20this.pdf.
- Inter-Parliamentary Union, "Global Parliamentary Report 2017 – Parliamentary oversight: Parliament's power to hold government to account,"
<https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2017-10/global-parliamentary-report-2017-parliamentary-oversight-executive-summary>.
- Union Interparlementaire, "Rapport parlementaire mondial 2017 - Le contrôle parlementaire : le pouvoir du parlement de demander des comptes au gouvernement,"
<https://www.ipu.org/fr/ressources/publications/rapports/2017-10/rapport-parlementaire-mondial-2017-le-controle-parlementaire-resume>.

Session 3: Oversight of Security Forces

Through plenary and discussion, this session will examine more specifically the oversight of military, police and gendarmerie, and intelligence services. By sharing best practices and insights, it will explore questions such as:

- What are the roles of armed forces and security services in a democracy?
- What is the role of parliament in oversight of uniformed personnel?
- How does oversight differ for military, police and gendarmerie, and intelligence services?
- How can parliaments hold security services accountable?
- How can parliaments serve as a bridge between communities and their government?
- How should parliaments deal with matters of secrecy and classified matters?
- What are the most effective tools to combat corruption in the security sector?

Suggested Readings:

- Emile Ouédraogo, "Advancing Military Professionalism in Africa," Africa Center Research Paper, No. 6, July 31, 2014, <https://africacenter.org/publication/advancing-military-professionalism-in-africa/>.
- Emile Ouédraogo, "Pour la professionnalisation des forces armées en Afrique, Papier de Recherche No. 6, 9 juillet 2014, <https://africacenter.org/fr/publication/pour-la-professionnalisation-des-forces-armees-en-afrique/>.
- United Nations Women, The Virtual Knowledge Centre to End Violence against Women and Girls, "Legislative / parliamentary oversight," December 29, 2011, <http://www.endvawnow.org/en/articles/1103-legislative-parliamentary-oversight-.html>.
- ONU Femmes, Le Centre de connaissances virtuel pour mettre fin à la violence contre les femmes et les filles, "Supervision par le pouvoir législatif/parlementaire," December 29, 2011, <http://www.endvawnow.org/fr/articles/1103-legislative-parliamentary-oversight-.html>.

Session 4: Oversight of Security Sector Resources: Budget, Procurement, and the Public Trust Objectives

This session will take up the subject of the oversight of security sector resources, including budget, procurement, and personnel. Drawing on the experiences from across the continent of participants and speakers, it will seek to address questions such as:

- What are the roles and tools for parliament to oversee accountable security budgets?
- How can parliamentarians balance the need for both transparency and security in a democracy?
- How should parliaments deal with matters of secrecy and classified matters in terms of budgeting and other issues?
- What are the roles and tools for parliament in the procurement process?

Suggested Readings:

- Harborne, B., Dorotinsky, W. and Bisca, P. (2017). Securing Development: A Guide to Public Expenditure Reviews in the Security and Criminal Justice Sectors. Washington: World Bank Group. *Aussi disponible en français.*
- Transparency International. "Government Defense Anti-Corruption Index." Transparency International Defense and Security, 2015.
- Transparency International, "Weaponising Transparency: Defence Procurement Reform as a Counterterrorism Strategy in Nigeria, May 2017, http://ti-defence.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Weaponising_Transparency_Web.pdf
- Africa Center for Strategic Studies, "Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector: Uganda's Experience," November 28, 2018, <https://africacenter.org/spotlight/parliamentary-oversight-of-the-security-sector-ugandas-experience/>
- Le Centre d'études stratégiques de l'Afrique Contrôle parlementaire dans le secteur de la sécurité : L'expérience ougandaise," 14 décembre 2018, <https://africacenter.org/fr/spotlight/contrôle-parlementaire-dans-le-secteur-de-la-securite-lexperience-ougandaise/>.
- National Democratic Institute, Le control le budgétaire du secteur de a sécurité par les parlements du burkina faso, du mali et du niger: guide des commissions de defense et de sécurité ," 2017, https://www.ndi.org/sites/default/files/NDI%20Guide%20Controle%20Budgetaire%20Secteur%20Securite_CDS.pdf

Session 5: Tools of Parliamentary Oversight

Drawing on the experiences from across the continent of both speakers and participants, to examine the tools, procedures, and examples of successful oversight and communications, by exploring questions including:

- What tools can parliamentarians use to advance security and transparency?
- What parliamentary procedures are most relevant? (May differ in various systems)
- How can parliamentarians enhance communications with constituents and communities about security issues?
- What is the role of civil society in oversight?

Suggested Readings:

- Interparliamentary Union, “Evaluating parliament: A self-assessment toolkit for parliaments,” 2008, https://ipu.org/file/615/download?token=wMu_qfZ8
<https://ipu.org/file/617/download?token=xUmVjO8l>
- Evaluer le Parlement: Outils d’auto-évaluation à l’intention des parlements ; Union interparlementaire, 2008. <https://ipu.org/file/617/download?token=xUmVjO8l>
- Ebo, A. (ed.), N'Diaye B., (ed.), 2008, 'Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector in West Africa: Opportunities and Challenges', DCAF Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, https://www.dcaf.ch/sites/default/files/publications/documents/bm_parliament_oversightssrafrica_en.pdf.
- Centre pour le Contrôle Démocratique des Forces Armées – Genève (DCAF), “Contrôle Parlementaire du Secteur de la Sécurité en Afrique de l’Ouest: Opportunités et Défis,” Adedeji Ebo et Boubacar N’Diaye (éditeurs), 2008, https://www.dcaf.ch/sites/default/files/publications/documents/bm_parliament_oversightssrafrica_fr.pdf.
- Ilja Luciak, “Parliamentary Oversight of the Security Sector and Gender,” DCAF Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, https://www.dcaf.ch/sites/default/files/publications/documents/tool_7.pdf.
- Centre pour le Contrôle Démocratique des Forces Armées – Genève (DCAF), <https://www.dcaf.ch/sites/default/files/publications/documents/Dossier07.pdf>.
- Rebecca Rumbul, et al., “Parliament and the People: How digital technologies are shaping democratic information flow in Sub-Saharan Africa,” <https://research.mysociety.org/publications/parliament-and-people>