



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME SEMINAR

INFORMATION NOTE

WHAT: The Africa Center for Strategic Studies in partnership with the "Centre National d'Etudes Strategiques et de Sécurité" (CNESS) will organize a five-day seminar on countering transnational organized crime, including human trafficking, natural resource crimes and poaching, and drug trafficking. It will allow military, police, and judicial practitioners who collaborate to address transnational organized crime, both within and across borders, to share experiences and engage with counterparts and subject matter experts.

WHERE: Niamey, Niger

WHEN: 13-17 January 2020

WHO: Participants will include security and justice sector officials with direct responsibilities for transnational organized crime. The following countries will be invited: South Africa, Botswana, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Kenya, Libya, Tanzania, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Tunisia, Morocco, Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea, Cape Verde, Liberia, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Angola. Additional countries may be added, and representatives of multilateral organizations will also be invited as will representatives of the U.S. government.

Countries will each contribute three participants: (i) one uniformed official of Colonel level or equivalent rank and responsibility (e.g., military officials responsible for intelligence-gathering, border security, or civilian institutional cooperation on transnational organized crime; National Chiefs of Police or Gendarmerie; Inspectors General of the Police; Heads of Customs; or heads of special police units focused on transnational organized crime); (ii) one non-uniformed security official of equivalent rank or responsibility (e.g., civilians responsible for transnational organized crime in the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Defense, or intelligence agencies); and (iii) one justice sector leader of equivalent rank or responsibility (e.g., Heads of Special Prosecution Units or Judicial Police Units focused on transnational organized crime, high-ranked magistrates or judicial inspectors working in courts that regularly prosecute cases of transnational organized crimes). Because both women and men play key roles and experience transnational organized crime differently; it is critical to incorporate the perspectives of women who are in the security and justice institutions seeking to address transnational organized crime. Thus countries are asked to include at least one woman among their delegations.

WHY: Transnational organized crime is a growing threat in Africa as technology and growth in trade link the continent ever more closely to licit and illicit opportunities in the global marketplace. Human trafficking, drug trafficking and goods smuggling, or natural resource theft and poaching all affect the security and governance environment. These multiple forms of transnational organized crime are shaped by a complex web of formal and informal actors. Criminal actors adapt to evolving legal, policy, and kinetic responses by states and strategically navigate across borders to achieve their goals.

These developments call for coordinated actions by military, police, and justice sector officials within countries, as well as harmonized approaches on the regional and continental levels.

HOW: This seminar will convene relevant African security and justice officials and connect them with each other and with academic and policy experts on transnational organized crime. The workshop will include: (a) plenary sessions on specific thematic issues with question and answer periods, (b) discussion groups and, (c) a simulation exercise. The seminar will be conducted in English, French, and Portuguese. A strict policy of non-attribution will apply during and after the workshop.