



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

ENHANCING SECURITY-JUSTICE COORDINATION TO COUNTER TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

VIRTUAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION NOTE

WHAT: The Africa Center for Strategic Studies will hold a four-week program on the strategic implications of coordination between defense, law enforcement, and justice actors within the security sector to counter transnational organized crime (TOC). The program will examine trafficking in persons, drugs, and arms; human smuggling; and natural resource crimes, as well as other relevant forms of TOC. Security and justice officials will consider the strategic value of security and justice coordination on a cross-border, interagency, and community level.

The program will:

1. Review the range of current initiatives underway in different regions of Africa to strengthen security and justice sector coordination in countering various forms of TOC).
2. Examine current coordination efforts fit into regional, national, and local-level strategies and approaches to countering TOC.
3. Compare experiences with military, law enforcement, and judicial coordination on CTOC within and across country borders, in both rural and urban settings and considering the roles of men and women.

WHERE: Online, via Zoom for Government

WHEN: February 9-10, 2021, 1200 GMT
February 16-17, 2021, 1200 GMT
February 23-24, 2021, 1200 GMT
March 2-3, 2021, 1200 GMT

WHO: The following countries are invited to submit nominations: Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eswatini, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo, and Zambia. Additional invitations will be

extended to regional organizations, U.S. government representatives and other individuals.

For each country invited to the seminar, the Africa Center seeks nominations of four (4) officials who are senior executive or judicial branch officials, from military or civilian backgrounds. At least one (1) military, law enforcement, or civilian defense official and at least one (1) justice sector official (whether prosecutors, judges, inspectors, or other civil servants focused on judicial affairs or government corruption related to TOC) should be included for these inter-disciplinary discussions. Because women play crucial roles in both security and justice arenas on these issues but remain underrepresented, prioritizing their nomination is strongly encouraged.

WHY: Dismantling TOC networks often requires joint actions by military, law enforcement, and justice officials, in concert with local communities, national security strategists, and relevant regional bodies. This virtual academic program will consider the strategic value of security and justice coordination from multidimensional perspectives, as well as through a lens that is sensitive to gender, youth, and politically marginalized groups affected by TOC. By examining how interdependent security and justice work in countering TOC, countries and organizations can synergize their efforts to dismantle TOC networks through the rule of law and with political economy approaches.

HOW: This virtual engagement will combine live plenary conversations, weekly discussion groups, and a pre-recorded webcast. Participants will be asked to complete a short reading and video assignment in advance of the virtual program. There will be one 90-minute plenary and one 90-minute discussion group per week. Moderated conversations from the plenary sessions will be posted on the Africa Center website and YouTube channel. The discussion groups, along with plenary Q&A will be under a strict policy of non-attribution. The program will be conducted in English, French, and Portuguese.