



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' FORUM 2021: OVERSIGHT OF THE SECURITY SECTOR

VIRTUAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION PAPER

WHAT: The Africa Center will convene a series of four webinars and discussion sessions for African parliamentarians and parliamentary staff to examine security sector issues and the tools of oversight. Webinars will offer conversations and analysis with experts in the field. Discussion groups will explore these issues in greater depth with fellow parliamentarians and staff. Those who complete the series will receive a certificate of completion.

Key topics will include:

- Role of Parliament in National Security
- Defense Sector Oversight
- Defense Budget Analysis
- Constituents, Communities, and Communications

WHERE: Zoom (links will be provided at a later date)

WHEN: March 3, 4, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24 and 25 2021 from 1200-1330 GMT

WHO: Parliamentarians, parliamentary staff, and other specific participants from the following countries are invited: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Nigeria, Malawi, Mali, Namibia, Niger, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Tunisia, and Zambia. Countries may nominate up to four individuals who should be members of defense, security, foreign affairs, budget and finance, or related committees as well as clerks or other permanent staff for such committees and must include members of more than one political party and include men and women.

WHY: Legislators and parliamentary staff can serve as an important bridge between security services and citizens and can play key roles in overseeing security policy. This virtual workshop will provide a forum for participants to consider the African security environment and to better understand the oversight role in the national security process.

HOW: Plenary discussions will mostly offer a mixture of moderated conversation and formal presentations, followed by moderated question and answer. Discussion groups will then explore the topics in greater detail with the opportunity to compare experiences with counterparts in other countries. The program will be offered in English and French.