



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) in North, Central, and Eastern/Horn of Africa. This virtual academic program will encourage practitioners to consider the strategic value of security and justice coordination from the multidimensional perspectives of the Regional Economic Community, the national level across agencies, the citizen and community in both conflictual and peaceful contexts, as well as through a lens sensitive to gender, youth, and politically marginalized groups affected by TOC.

The program will:

1. Review the range of current initiatives underway in Central, North, East/Horn of Africa to strengthen security and justice sector coordination in countering various forms of TOC).
2. Assess how well current coordination efforts fit into regional, national, and local-level strategies and approaches to countering TOC, both in theory and in practice.
3. Compare experiences with military, law enforcement, and judicial coordination on CTOC within and across country borders, in both conflictual and peaceful settings.

WHERE: Online, via Zoom for Government

WHEN: **October 19-20, 2021, 1200-1330 GMT**
October 26-27, 2021, 1200-1330 GMT
November 2-3, 2021, 1200-1330 GMT
November 9-10, 2021, 1200-1330 GMT

WHO: The following countries are invited to submit nominations: Algeria, Central African Republic, Comoros, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Kenya, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, Tanzania, and Tunisia. Additional invitations will be extended to regional and international organizations, U.S. government representatives and other individuals.

For each country invited to the seminar, the Africa Center seeks nominations of four (4) or five (5) officials, including at least one woman. Officials nominated should include military, law enforcement, intelligence, civilian defense, or justice sector officials. Although not required, ideally participants would be in positions of responsibility for security and justice policy, interagency information sharing, and/or coordinating security or justice sector responses to one or more forms of TOC. Security sector officials may include heads or members of military, police, or gendarmerie units involved in addressing trafficking and smuggling and/or interagency coordination; judicial police working on TOC issues; civilians working on security policy in executive branch offices, etc. Justice sector officials may include prosecutors, judges/magistrates, judicial inspectors, etc. These actors may work within Special Judicial Police responding to TOC, in courts that process TOC cases, in inspectorates, anti-corruption commissions, or other bodies related to TOC.

WHY: Dismantling TOC networks often requires joint actions by military, law enforcement, and justice officials, in concert with local communities, national security strategists, and regional bodies. Some African military, law enforcement, and justice actors are already coordinating on some counter TOC efforts. Yet there is little comparative learning about the range of coordination efforts underway, as well as their strengths and weaknesses in counter TOC on the Regional Economic Community level, on the national level across agencies, on the citizen and community level. This virtual academic program will encourage practitioners to consider the strategic value of security and justice coordination at these three levels, as well as through a lens sensitive to gender, youth, and politically marginalized groups. By examining how interdependent security and justice work in countering TOC, participants can better synergize their efforts to dismantle TOC networks nimbly, through the rule of law, and with political economy approaches that address the security, development, governance factors enabling TOC.

HOW: This virtual engagement will comprise 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 and French.