

DEVELOPING LOCAL STRATEGIES TO COUNTER VIOLENT EXTREMISM (CVE) IN AFRICA

VIRTUAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION NOTE

- WHAT:** The Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) and the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT/CAERT) will convene a virtual academic program that focuses on the development of local strategies to counter violent extremism (CVE). This program provides an opportunity to capture and share insights, experiences, and lessons, among countries and across regions, to help African security officials, policymakers and practitioners apply contextualized understanding of local realities, enhancing national-local cooperation, and implementing evidenced, locally driven strategies and programming to countering violent extremism.
- WHERE:** Online, via Zoom for Government
- WHEN:** 1200-1330 GMT **January 25-26, February 1-2, February 8-9, February 15-16, 2022**
- WHO:** Senior security sector professionals, both uniformed and civilian, will be invited from Algeria, Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, the Central African Republic, DRC, Republic of Congo, Cote D'Ivoire, Djibouti, Egypt, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Libya, Malawi, Mauritania, Mauritius, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo, Tunisia, and Zambia. Invited institutions will include the AU/ACSRT, CNESS (Niger), CNESS (Burkina Faso), CHEDS, EAC, ECCAS, ECOWAS, IGAD, and SADC. Africa Center alumni, civil society, and non-governmental organization leaders, as well as U.S. government representatives may also be invited. Because women and men play key roles in and may experience violent extremism differently, it is critical to incorporate the perspectives of women in this discussion, therefore female nominees are highly encouraged. Those individuals participating in a sufficient number of sessions will receive a certificate of completion.
- WHY:** An appreciable number of African countries have developed strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism. These strategies hold great potential if they align with the nuances of local contexts and the domestic causal factors associated with violent extremism. Local CVE strategies, also referred to as local actions plans, can help bridge the gap between national governments who control national prevention/CVE strategies and local authorities that are generally more socioculturally attuned to their communities' attributes and dynamics. They can also provide the opportunity for communities to build a bottom-up approach to community resilience by ensuring a cohesive strategy and coordinated approach with a common understanding among local stakeholders of the key issues and of their respective responsibilities. This program will provide valuable insights for

governments and local authorities interested in developing their own local CVE action plans.

HOW: This virtual program will assemble senior professionals for a frank and open dialogue with experts and among participants. The engagement will be conducted in English, French, and Portuguese and will be divided into 4 modules that offer a mix of plenary sessions and in-depth group discussions for mutual sharing of experiences. All panels and discussion group proceedings will be under a strict policy of non-attribution.