



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

AFRICAN PARLIAMENTARIANS' FORUM 2022: PARLIAMENTARY PATHWAYS TO DEMOCRATIC SECURITY GOVERNANCE

VIRTUAL ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFORMATION PAPER

WHAT: The Africa Center will hold a virtual academic program for African parliamentarians and their staff to analyze current trends, challenges, and innovations in the work of legislatures to foster democratic and civilian control of security sectors across the continent. Tools and techniques to bolster parliamentary oversight, accountability, and outreach efforts on defense and security will be discussed throughout. Those who attend a sufficient number of sessions will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the program.

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

WHEN: March 1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22 & 23, 2022 from 1200-1330 GMT

WHO: Parliamentarians, legislative drafters, and other relevant staff from the following countries are invited: Botswana, Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, the Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia. Countries may nominate up to four parliamentarians, legislative drafters, or relevant staff serving on committees for defense/security, budget/finance/public accounts, justice/legal affairs/human rights, oversight/accountability, or foreign affairs. Nominees should represent a mix of incumbent and opposition parties/coalitions and should include women and men.

In addition, participants will also be invited from the following institutions: ECOWAS Parliament, SADC Parliamentary Forum, East African Legislative Assembly, African Parliamentarians' Network Against Corruption, African Parliamentarians' Network on Illicit Financial Flows and Taxation, and the Parliamentary Network of the World Bank/IMF. Participants will also be invited from the AU African Governance Architecture Secretariat, ACHPR, African Security Sector Network, CHEDS, CNESS, AFRICOM, USAID/DRG Center, and State/DRL. Alumni from past parliamentary programs will also be invited to register.

WHY: Parliaments are critical to democratic and civilian control of the security sector in African countries, and legislators can be an important bridge between security services and citizens that facilitates a broader system of checks and balances between different branches of government.

HOW: The virtual engagement will include one 90-minute plenary and one 90-minute discussion group per week. Plenary discussions will 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 discussion groups and plenary Q&A will be under a strict policy of non-attribution. The program will be offered in English and French.