



AFRICA CENTER
FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

Security Sector Oversight Mechanisms and Institutions

Dr. Catherine Lena Kelly

Managing Security Resources in Africa
February 15, 2024

“Good” Security Sector Governance: The Basics

What is it? “The practice of applying the principles of good governance to a state’s security sector. Sound and accountable SSG is based on the idea that the security sector should be held to the same high standards of public service delivery as other public sector service providers.”

- DCAF SSR Backgrounder, “Security Sector Governance: Applying the Principles of Good Governance to the Security Sector” (2015)

Seven Core Principles

Accountability

Transparency

Rule of Law

Participation

Responsiveness

Effectiveness

Efficiency

Key Institutions

Defense and
security services

Parliament

National
security council

Judiciary

Independent
commissions

Civil society,
defined broadly

Challenges and Opportunities for Civilian Oversight

Strengthen relationships between parliamentarians and security officials.

Work with civil society to create more productive information flows about security and defense spending.

Clearly define what defense and security information is classified and what is not.

Institute and make feasible the implementation of whistleblower protections to complement inspections and audits.

Take opportunities to “think and work politically” within the system of accountable and civilian security sector governance.



AFRICAN UNION

POLICY FRAMEWORK ON

SECURITY SECTOR REFORM



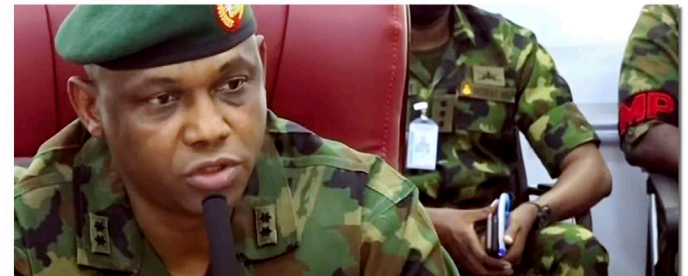
ECOWAS POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR
SECURITY SECTOR REFORM AND GOVERNANCE

The Role of Parliamentary Committees in Building Accountable, Sustainable, and Professional Security Sectors

By the Africa Center for Strategic Studies

April 3, 2023

Parliamentary committees that oversee the security sector play an essential role in building accountable, sustainable, transparent, and professional institutions.



A Nigerian General speaks at the Division Headquarters during a visit of the Senate Committee on Army. (Photo: TVC News Nigeria)



**AFRICA CENTER
FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES**

www.africacenter.org