



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

2024 EMERGING SECURITY SECTOR LEADERS SEMINAR

INFORMATION NOTE

- WHAT:** In its ongoing efforts to help prepare the next generation of public servants in the security sector to adequately adapt, and proactively respond, to the unprecedented security challenges that the African continent faces, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies will conduct a multi-week hybrid program for mid-level African security sector professionals who are emerging leaders within their fields. The program entails a three-day virtual component followed by a two-week, in-person component. With an emphasis on peer-to-peer exchanges, this seminar embodies the Africa Center's mission to advance African security by expanding understanding, providing a trusted platform for dialogue, building enduring partnerships, and catalyzing strategic solutions.
- WHERE:** Zoom for Government & Washington, D.C.
- WHEN:** June 4-6, 2024 - virtual
June 17- 28, 2024 - in person
- WHO:** This program is designed for rising professionals within the security sector, both civilian and uniformed (Major to Lieutenant Colonel, or civilian equivalent rank). Approximately 50 participants from 40 African countries, as well as regional organizations and Africa Center partner institutions, are invited to attend. All nominees should have leadership potential and demonstrable grasp of Africa's security challenges. Uniformed participants should be drawn from across the security sector (e.g., military forces, police, gendarmerie, border guards, etc.). Civilian participants should be drawn from relevant security sector government ministries or departments (e.g., Defense, Foreign Affairs, Interior, etc.), or from governmental oversight bodies (e.g., Ombudsman, Auditor General office, Inspector General office, Parliamentary committees, etc.). All participants must be able to read and engage in detailed, sector-specific discussions in English, French, or Portuguese. To ensure comprehensive peer learning, all nominating countries and organizations should prioritize female candidates.
- WHY:** In a complex and uncertain world, effective decision-making to address complex security challenges lies in the quality of leadership, in the availability of information about alternatives, in well-designed strategies, and in individual preferences/choices. Furthermore, decision-making becomes efficient when information is maximized and preferences are satisfied using the minimum of resources. Consequently, participants will be exposed to a defined skill set that will allow them to address African security threats from a strategic perspective.

This program seeks to ground their decision-making process in strategic thinking, bearing in mind the need for professionalism, critical thinking, ethics, and leadership.

HOW:

This program will nurture and promote exchanges on strategic leadership, critical thinking, ethics, and democratic governance in the context of security challenges facing the African continent. A spirit of academic inquiry and debate will guide the program, which will follow the well-tested Africa Center format of plenary sessions followed by discussion group sessions. During the plenary sessions, knowledgeable speakers will frame the key issues and engage participants in question-and-answer. During the discussion group sessions, participants will have an opportunity to address the issues raised in plenary in more detail and share experiences with each other. The program will also have a written assignment: participants will be required to produce a short assessment of megatrends in Africa and their implications on national security threats.

All discussions and activities will be conducted under a policy of strict non-attribution, a cardinal principle of the Africa Center. The entire program will be conducted in English, French, and Portuguese. Participants are required to have professional (near-native) knowledge of one of these languages.