



**REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON BEST PRACTICES
IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN THE DEFENSE AND SECURITY SECTOR
IN BURKINA FASO, MALI, MAURITANIA, NIGER AND CHAD**

- Information note -

DCAF - Geneva Center for the Governance of the Security Sector intends to support the improvement of the capacities of security actors to meet the needs of the population through the institution of an annual regional **conference on best practices in this area. management of resources in the defense and security sectors in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad.**

The first edition of this conference will take place **on March 17 and 18, 2021 in Bamako, in partnership with the School of Peacekeeping Alioune Blondin Beye** and will bring together **representatives of each State, specialists and in charge of the best management of resources** in the defense and security sectors.

This conference will provide a platform for sharing skills and sensitize the States of the sub-region to the need for greater **transparency, sustainability and accountability** in the use of regional and national resources mobilized in security and defense policies and as part of the fight against armed groups.

Programmatic framework of the conference

DCAF operates in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger as part of the **Danish regional program for peace and stabilization in the Sahel II (PSP II)** jointly with bilateral projects. Respect for human rights, democratic control of the security forces and increased confidence of the population in the defense and security forces are an integral part of the program.

The conference is part of the DCAF project's objective to strengthen democratic oversight and control of the defense and security sector in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger by contributing to the establishment of systems and security institutions sensitive to democratic control, respectful of human rights and the rule of law.

The conference is being extended to Mauritania and Chad with funding from **the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of the French Republic**. The participation of representatives from Mauritania and Chad provides an opportunity to promote best practices in resource management in the defense and security sectors at the G5 Sahel level.

The year 2020 was marked in Africa and elsewhere by the health and multidimensional crisis linked to the Covid-19 pandemic, which notably affected the functioning of security institutions whose governance was already subject to several challenges.

In volume growth, **military spending on the continent - and in particular in the Sahel - are increasing** more rapidly than elsewhere in the world.¹ However, the **mechanisms for controlling and supervising** the resources allocated to these public policies are not the most efficient, due to the specificities and constraints linked to national security issues requiring secrecy, which surround management practices.

¹SIPRI Military Expenditure Database 2020, Since 2005, military spending has increased by 75% in Africa and 245% in the G5 Sahel countries during the same period. In Niger and Mali, the State devotes 20% of the resources of the national budget to security expenditure. In Burkina Faso, 12% of these resources are allocated to it.

Objectives of the conference

The overall objective of the conference is to **involve key stakeholders from Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad as well as regional and international actors in a framework of sustained dialogue and a high level of support around best practices of transparency, sustainability and accountability in the management of resources in the defense and security sectors.**

Three specific objectives are defined.

1. Carry out an inventory (actors, functions, principles, etc.) of the governance of security sector resources in the Sahel;
2. Identify and promote good practices in the management and supervision of resources,
3. Develop recommendations aimed at improving transparency and accountability in the defense and security sectors.

Even if the budgets of the ministerial departments of Defense and Security are integrated into the general budget of the State, like those of other sectors, in many ways they escape the general rules and principles of public finance. Although it is necessary to know the real costs of security to facilitate rational decision making; **financial transparency** and **supervision** are still weak in the defense and security sectors. This very often causes loopholes in the predictability of budgets, sometimes programming laws with a weak planning capacity.

As for the rules concerning the **classification** and declassification of documents, in a Sahelian and African context, most data in the defense and security sectors is subject to secrecy and confidentiality. Changes in legislation and practices would make it possible to clearly define the different levels of classification, their respective scope, the authorities and officials empowered to issue or consult classifiable or classified documents, so that only genuinely sensitive information and procedures are protected.

Also, each of the three central Sahel States, Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, which are primarily concerned by the conference, have recently experienced **denunciations** case of **corruption** in the defense and security sectors with a particular resonance in **public opinion**, because of their scale and their impact on soldiers struggling with non-state armed groups and on the population awaiting protection and exemplarity.

Conference methodology

This conference is a **framework for responsible dialogue** on these issues with a view to concerted actions freely agreed to by the players. During the sessions, a representative / national of each of the three States will intervene in the panels in addition to an expert / moderator who will introduce and lead the discussions. After the interventions of the panelists, the participants will be able to make contributions and express their questions to which the panelists will be able, if necessary, to offer their answers and comments. Work in the workshop is supervised by a designated Moderator and Rapporteur. A thematic and programmatic framework is proposed as a guide for the workshop discussions.

Beyond an event bringing together various actors contributing to the management of the resources of the defense / security sectors of the three targeted States and the identification of general recommendations, the Conference should serve to define a **follow-up process for these recommendations**, and **accompanying** by DCAF of national actors. Also, following the conference, bilateral working meetings will take place between DCAF and independent oversight bodies in the countries represented at the conference (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso). Approaches more specific to each national context and each institution can thus be defined and benefit from the technical assistance of DCAF.

With the support from:



CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Wednesday, March 17th :

Opening session:

- **Opening speech of the conference by the Malian government**
- **Director of SSAD-DCAF:** Presentation of the conference and the stakes of good resource management
- **Director of the Ecole du maintien de la paix Alioune Blondin Beye:** Presentation of the partner and the work of the EMP in favor of resource management
- **Denmark :** Introductory word ;
- **France :** Introductory word ;

Session 1: **Similar trends and a relatively differentiated inventory of the institutional framework and management practices of defense and security resources in Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Chad.**
Beyond the general tendency towards opacity which characterizes the management of the resources of these sectors, what are the institutional frameworks and the practices (good and bad) in each of the three States?

Session 2: **Transparency, accountability, and operational efficiency.**

How can transparency and accountability, which are indicators of good governance, foster the confidence and support of populations and FDS personnel in the action taken by the public authorities to reduce insecurity?

Thursday, March 18th

Workshops sessions

1. The derogatory regime for defense and security public procurement: inventory and possible developments.
2. The power to repress offenses committed in the context of the management of defense and security resources, by the courts: inventory and prospective approach.
3. How to strengthen political and citizen control of the resources allocated to security?
What alliance Parliaments-Civil Society and Media for more transparency and accountability?
4. What roles can external Technical and Financial Partners (TFPs) play to help improve accountability in the defense and security sectors in the Sahel?

Session 3: **Restitution of work carried out in workshops**

Session 4: **Access by control and supervision institutions to administrative documents generated by public defense and internal security services.**

How to defend the rule of law and protect national security through more precise legislation on the extent of "defense secrecy" and confidentiality?

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PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE

- **Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger, for each country:**
 - Member of Parliament, representing the "Defense and Security" Commission
 - Representative of the General Inspectorate of the Armed Forces
 - Representative of the General Police Inspectorate
 - Representative of the Army Stewardship (Administrative and Financial Department)
 - Representative of the Court of Auditors
 - Representative of the Ministry of Finance (Inspectorate of Finance, Financial Control or National Directorate of Public Procurement)
 - Representative of the Mediator of the French Republic
 - Representative of civil society (NGOs, Associations)
 - Press representative
- **Mauritania, Chad, for each country:**
 - Representative of the Army Stewardship
 - Representative of the General Inspectorate of the Armed Forces
- **Experts**

Session 1 - Dr Arthur BANGA, Lecturer at the University Félix Houphouët-Boigny of Abidjan and at the School of the Armed Forces of Côte d'Ivoire, Technical Advisor to the Minister of Interior and Security

Session 2 - Colonel Kokou Balakibawi PAKA, Chief of Staff of the Director General of the Togolese Gendarmerie

Session 3 - Mr. Elomn Mario METONOU, Magistrate, Special Prosecutor at the Court for the Repression of Economic Offences and Terrorism (CRIET, Benin)
- **International organizations:** UNOWAS, UNODC, MINUSMA, AU, ECOWAS, UEMOA, G5 Sahel, *Transparency international*
- **Donors:** Denmark, France, Netherlands, Germany, EU
- **Organizers:** DCAF

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ET DES AFFAIRES
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