

NEWSLETTER JULY 2022

SUMMER LEARNING EDITION

Sub-Saharan Africa Division
Regional Sahel Programme



Special Summer Learning Edition

Toolkit for Security Sector Reform and Governance in West Africa

The publications presented in this special Summer Learning Edition of our newsletter are part of the Toolkit for Security Sector Reform and Governance in West Africa. In collaboration with the ECOWAS Commission, DCAF has developed this Toolkit which is an eight-volume practical guide validated in 2021. The Toolkit aims at supporting the implementation of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) policy framework for security sector reform and governance through practical advice and guidance tailored to the West African context and based on regional experiences. It specifically aims to facilitate policy development, implementation, and management of SSR processes at the national level.



Political Leadership and National Ownership of Security Sector Reform Processes

Political Leadership and National
Ownership of Security Sector
Reform Processes

Ornella Moderan



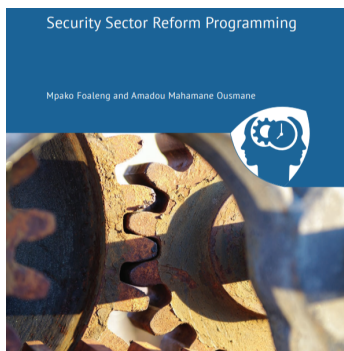
“Without the strong political commitment of national authorities, SSR will fail, regardless of the material resources and technical expertise invested into it. SSR must be home-grown, designed to meet country-specific needs, and led by national stakeholders, who take full responsibility for it.”

[Consult the publication](#)

Content: This Tool, authored by Ornella Moderan and published in 2015, offers practical guidance on how to reinforce national ownership and leadership while defining an inclusive vision of security as a basis for SSR. It provides an overview of potential entry points for SSR in the broader framework of national governance in a West African setting. It also suggests how to institutionalise the national leadership and coordination of an SSR process, including through strategic communication.

Audience: The Tool is primarily intended for policy and strategic decision-makers, government officials as well as SSR advisers and practitioners. It also provides members of parliament, of oversight institutions, of civil society organisations and international partners with an overview of the responsibilities of national governments in SSR and how to uphold national ownership throughout the process.

Security Sector Reform Programming

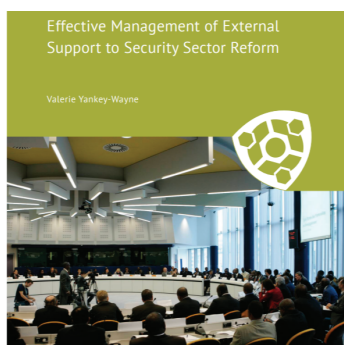


“The conduct of an SSR process requires translating a political, national vision of security into an operational programme and defining the different concrete actions needed to generate the desired societal change and improve security for all.”

[Consult the publication](#)

Content: This Tool, authored by Mpako Foaleng and Amadou Mahamane Ousmane and published in 2015, addresses the successive programming steps enabling the development and the implementation of relevant SSR programmes. These steps range from an initial needs assessment to the setting up of coordination mechanisms aimed at ensuring overall coherence of national SSR efforts. The Tool offers practical advice for prioritising and sequencing reform actions, programme budgeting and mobilising sufficient resources for the full implementation of the programme, establishing viable and efficient management, including monitoring and evaluation mechanisms, coordinating national and international actors involved in the reform process and developing a communication strategy to support transparency and accountability, and to sustain national ownership.

Effective Management of External Support to Security Sector Reform



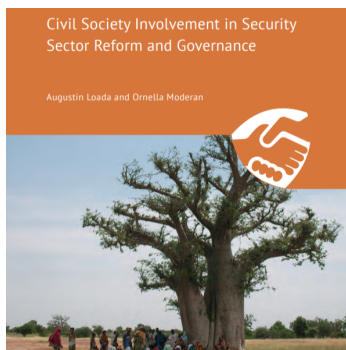
“The value of partnerships that aim at filling the resource gaps of a national SSR process should be balanced with the necessity of maintaining national ownership and leadership of the reform process, regardless of the origins of complementary funds supporting it.”

[Consult the publication](#)

Content: Tool 4 of the Toolkit for Security Sector Reform and Governance in West Africa, authored by Valerie Yankey-Wayne and published in 2015, addresses key challenges that West African states may face when extending their cooperation relationships to the field of security governance. It aims to provide governments with practical guidance on how to manage external support to SSR to ensure alignment with national priorities, cost-efficiency, mutual accountability and to achieve sustainable results.

Audience: This Tool is mainly aimed at members of national administrations and governments of ECOWAS member states specifically in charge of planning, managing and overseeing internal and external resource allocation to SSR, but can also be useful for oversight stakeholders - such as the media, academic research centres and civil society observatories and organisations - monitoring the national security agenda, the SSR implementation, the expenditures of the national budget or cooperation policies.

Civil Society Involvement in Security Sector Reform and Governance



“Above all, the active involvement of committed, competent and diverse representatives of civil society in public oversight of the security sector strengthens citizens’ confidence in the state mechanisms responsible for security.”

[Consult the publication](#)

Content: Tool 6, authored by Augustin Loada and Ornella Moderan, addresses weaknesses in knowledge and skills which prevent involvement and engagement of West African civil society actors in public oversight of the security sector. It provides CSOs of the region with practical advice and guidance on how to strengthen their capacities for better actions and optimises the impact of their contributions to SSR and SSG.

Audience: This Tool is primarily intended for civil society actors in West Africa who operate on local, national and regional levels, including media organisations, but may also be used by the ECOWAS, all its member states and international partners involved in SSRG to take full account of and enhance the role of civil society in this area.

[**Consult more DCAF Publications**](#)



Copyright © *| 2022 | DCAF |*. All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?
You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).