

****Newsletter May 2022****

Sub Saharan Africa Division (SSAD)

Regional Sahel Programme

Burkina Faso

Audience with H.E. Aboubacar Toguyeni, President of the Legislative Assembly for Transition



The President of the Legislative Assembly for Transition (ALT), Aboubacar Toguyeni, received in audience on May 5, the DCAF delegation led by the Sub-Saharan Africa Division Principal Programme Manager, Jolie-Ruth Morand. The aim was for DCAF to present the interventions carried out in previous years, and to learn about ALT's priorities for the next three years, particularly in terms of consolidation and revision of the legal framework. The

DCAF country team thus shared with the new Chair of the Defence and Security Commission (CODES) a summary of the actions carried out and the results achieved over the past two years in collaboration with CODES. These actions concerned capacity building, capitalisation and transfer of skills from one legislature to another, methodological support and the conduct of parliamentary missions. Additionally, DCAF worked with CODES to prepare a methodology for conducting accountability missions in the regions, as well as missions aimed at establishing contact with defence and security forces. DCAF also supported the completion of a study identifying the shortcomings of the legislation on security companies, and the organization of a self-assessment session on the work of the National Assembly, which included training for new parliamentarians.

Security sector governance training for governors and their secretaries general



A series of two training sessions, held on May 5 and 6 in Ouagadougou and on May 11 and 12 in Bobo Dialouso, brought together the governors of the 13 regions of Burkina Faso, as well as three representatives of the Ministry of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Security who ensured coordination with the governorates, then their secretaries general. Under the moderation of DCAF-Burkina Faso Security Sector Reform Advisor, a first expert presented the concepts framing the implementation of the Economic and Social Development Plan (PNDES). A second expert then presented the National Security Policy (PSN), the National Security Strategy (NSS) and the role and responsibilities of governors in their implementation. The various presentations were followed by discussions on the operationalisation of these documents and the associated governance mechanisms. This workshop highlighted the interconnections between development and security issues and between these two key documents, whose implementation in the regions is the responsibility of the governors. Operational recommendations were formulated, in particular on the role and actions to be taken by the decentralized authorities in strengthening the governance of the security sector at the local level. Indeed, the elaboration and implementation of local development plans and regional security plans and the regular coordination of regional security frameworks (RSF) will be essential in that regard. The decentralized authorities should also ensure that their actions are consistent with the priorities set by the transitional government in terms of G/RSS. On this note, the definition and implementation of sectoral strategies, arising from the PSN, at the local level are particularly important.

Training in legislative drafting for the General Secretariat for National Defence (SGDN) staff

Following the political transition initiated in January 2022, a rotation was carried out within the staff of the SGDN. It was therefore necessary to build the capacities of the newly assigned agents to enable them to tackle the next stages of the reform process and to support the coordination of sectoral policies for the ministries concerned. Thus, 12 agents benefited from a five-day practical training on legal drafting techniques, organized from May 9 to May 13 in Bobo Dialouso. The support provided by DCAF to the SGDN in this regard contributes to fostering a climate of good governance and to equipping these staff with proper techniques in the drafting of laws, particularly relating to the governance of the defence and security sector.

Mali

Reflection workshops on the notion of defence secrecy with the aim of formulating a doctrine common to all services



Following the Regional Conference on best practices in defence and security resources management held in March 2021 in Bamako, a workshop to review the discussions and validate the recommendations was organized from January 12 to 13 2022 at the Ecole de Maintien de la Paix - Alioune Blondin Baye (EMP-ABB) during which an action plan for implementing the recommendations was defined and adopted. As part of the implementation of this action plan, and in partnership with the Directorate of Human Resources of the Armed Forces, a workshop to reflect on the concept of defence secrecy was organized from May 26 to 27. It brought together 30 participants (including 10 women) mainly from defence and security forces and internal control institutions. The objective of this workshop was to diagnose the contours of the concept of defence secrecy and to formulate recommendations for the establishment of a clear and effective "secret-defence" security clearance system. Thus, the legal framework and the existing procedures in terms of security clearance and access to information related to national security were presented and discussed.

Niger

Training on the transparency of financial management procedures by the Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ARMP) for the benefit of the SDFs and control actors



In recognition of ARMP's mission and centrality to Niger's procurement mechanisms, DCAF organized a three-day training in Niamey on financial resource transparency and public procurement management procedures in collaboration with ARMP. The training was held

from May 10 to May 12 and brought together 31 participants (including 3 women) from the Defence and Security Forces (FDS), the Defence and Security Committee (CDS) of the Assembly National Police, the General Inspectorate of Security Services (IGSS), the General Inspectorate of the Armed Forces and the National Gendarmerie (IGAGN), CSOs and the media.

The objective of this training was to strengthen the capacities of the various actors on public procurement mechanisms in the security and defence sectors. The training also aimed to contribute to the improvement of good governance by strengthening internal and external control institutions.

Supporting the Defence and Security Committee (DSC) of the National Assembly in the production of a diagnostic report on the organisation of national defence secrecy



In October 2021, the members of the Defence and Security Commission (CDS) included as a priority action in their five-year action plan (2021-2025) the elaboration of a diagnostic report on defence secrecy, which must include recommendations to improve its political and legislative contours. In this context, DCAF supported the Commission in conducting a series of interviews with key players in the defence sector, as well as oversight institutions, civil society and the media, with the aim of producing a report for members of parliament. The interviews took place from May 10 to May 19 and will allow for the establishment of an inventory of the political and legislative frameworks relating to national defense secrecy in Niger.

The report, which is currently being drafted, will also analyze the existing internal and external control systems and the formal and informal mechanisms for access to administrative information on the security sector by institutions with an oversight mandate.

Sahel/Régional

Research Restitution of the General Lamine Cissé Excellence Award - Dakar



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One year after the tribute to General Cissé, DCAF participated in the restitution session of the General Lamine Cissé Excellence Award organised by Partners West Africa - Senegal, on May 14. On behalf of DCAF, Dr. Oswald Padonou presented "The Challenges of Security and Justice Reform in West Africa and the Sahel". He highlighted the role of the operational reserve and community justice as responses to the security-justice continuum in West Africa. This introduction preceded the presentation by Fola Aina, recipient of DCAF's "Young Researcher Award for Good Governance and Integrity in Justice and Security Sector Reform". His research interrogates the governance of ungoverned spaces through non-state policing, in particular, the recalibration of vigilantism for peace and security in northwestern Nigeria.

To watch the session: [Part 1](#) et [Part 2](#)

[Workshop to present the e-learning training module on security sector governance/reform in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger](#)



DCAF conducted three workshops, on May 9 in Ouagadougou, on May 18 in Niamey and on May 23 in Bamako, to present its new E-Learning training module on Governance/Security Sector Reform in Bamako, Niamey and Ouagadougou. They brought together focal points from DCAF's main national partner institutions (representatives of relevant ministries, the National Assembly, internal and external oversight institutions, and civil society organizations) in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. These workshops made it possible to collect participants' reactions, contributions and recommendations on this new training module in order to improve its content and format, to promote its appropriation by the various stakeholders and thus to facilitate its delivery and its dissemination.



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