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Sub Saharan Africa Division (SSAD)
Sahel Regional Program

Editorial

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Over the last 18 months, Mali and Burkina Faso have both seen military coups d'état that led to the suspension of their constitutions and the dissolution of their elected governments, resulting in significant changes in the security and political landscapes of the two countries. This has prompted DCAF and others in the SSRG space to question how and where there is need to adjust [\[Read more\]](#)

Burkina Faso

Second strategic meeting of the National Advisory Committee of Burkina Faso



On March 15, 2022, DCAF organized a strategic meeting to discuss and exchange with its main security sector in Burkina Faso, including government administrations, oversight institutions, civil society organizations and the media. This workshop was an opportunity to present and jointly evaluate the results obtained through the implementation of the *'Governance of the security sector in the Sahel'* project funded by Denmark and Norway, as well as to discuss opportunities for and development of future interventions to support democratic governance of the security sector in light of the new political and security configuration in Burkina Faso. The strategic meeting of the National Advisory Committee provided **an opportunity to reflect on the project's initial theory of change in view of the current political trends, to identify lessons learned, and to define relevant interventions** aligned with national priorities and expressed needs of national counterparts to promote democratic governance of the security sector.

Training for members of Inspectorates of state-ministries



Within the framework of DCAF's support to enhancing transparency and accountability of the security sector, from March 7 to 18, 2022, DCAF partnered with the Haute Autorité de Contrôle de l'État et de Lutte contre la Corruption (ASCE-LC) to organize a training workshop for 32 technical inspectors from the Ministries of Territorial Administration, Decentralization and Security, Justice, Human Rights and Civic Promotion, Economy, Finance and Plan, Ecological Transition and Environment as well as eight representatives of the Court of Auditors, of the General Inspectorate of Finance and of the national anti-corruption network. Thanks to the workshop, participants gained **theoretical and practical knowledge on financial management principles within security sector institutions** as well as on the **identification of fraud practices**. Practical cases were examined in group work that analyzed administrative and financial documents, and drafted conclusions and reports on cases of mismanagement and/or criminal offences. Thus, capacities of the internal control institutions were strengthened in order to improve the efficiency of their activities towards promoting efficient and effective management of resources allocated to the security sector. This workshop was also an opportunity to strengthen the partnerships between the ASCE-LC, a specialized control body, and the internal control institutions.

Highlighting the Nexus between gender, climate and security in Mali and beyond



DCAF, with funding from the United Kingdom, worked with 33 Malian women's rights organizations to ensure experience sharing and capacity in order to shape the climate and security policy agenda. These efforts led to the **launch of an informal national coalition on gender, climate change and security** and to the publication of a **comprehensive report including strategic recommendations** to guide national and international environmental protection and peacebuilding policies and programmes:

https://www.dcaf.ch/sites/default/files/publications/documents/WomenSpeak2022_EN.pdf

The report was officially presented to all national stakeholders on March 17, 2022. As part of the 66th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, the report was also shared, including with the Mali's Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the United Nations, Mr. Issa Konfourou.

In a global perspective of sensitization and raising awareness of the interconnections and interdependencies between gender equality, climate change and security, DCAF has also produced a **series of six short videos** giving women from Colombia, Mali and Yemen the opportunity to express themselves on these core issues and their impacts on their daily lives as well as on their perspectives for the future: : Gender, climate change and security

- [YouTube](#)

Workshop on the role of customary authorities in the prevention of local conflicts



To contribute to improving local security and promoting local inclusive security governance, DCAF and the Mediator of the Republic of Mali organized a three-day workshop from 9th to 11th March 2022 on the role of customary/traditional authorities in the prevention of local conflicts. Forty-four delegates (including 8 women) of the Mediator of the Republic and customary authorities from Kayes, Segou, Mopti, Timbuktu and Gao regions as well as representatives of civil society organizations discussed security challenges, including causes of local conflicts, practices of prevention, management and peaceful resolution of local conflicts as well as roles and responsibilities of the different actors. This workshop laid the **foundations for a formal consultation framework between the Mediator of the Republic and the customary authorities for effective and coordinated prevention of local conflicts**. The participants were also sensitized on the promotion and protection of human rights and on the mechanisms to access the Mediator of the Republic's services.

Niger

Multistakeholder forum on the recommendations of the regional seminar of Mediators in Tillabery



With the support of DCAF, the Mediator of the Republic of Niger organized a multi-

stakeholder forum in Tillabéry, which brought together political and administrative authorities, defense and security forces, customary and religious authorities, civil society representatives and the media. The Mediator of the Republic opened by presenting the **recommendations issued during the regional seminar of Mediators in Niamey**, held in June 2021, with the aim to strengthen the involvement and commitment of all actors to identify and promote sustainable solutions to local conflicts. The forum was the opportunity for the Chief Commissioner of Police to **present priority areas of intervention and the national responses to the security threats** identified in the region but also to **discuss traditional mechanisms/practices of mediation and management of local conflicts**. During the working-group sessions, the participants were able to share their experiences, **suggest relevant key interventions and formulate recommendations for improving the population's security and promoting reconciliation and peacebuilding** in Tillabéry. It was recommended to regularly organize local reconciliation forums between the various villages/communities in conflict, to promote access to training and income-generating activities for youth in order to prevent their recruitment by non-state armed groups, to set up peace committees, which include former members of non-state armed groups who have officially demobilized, and to organize intra- and inter-community socio-cultural activities.

Training on communication techniques and tools



On March 22nd and 23rd, 2022, a two-day training on communication techniques and tools was organized for communication officers from DCAF's partner security sector institutions in Niger. Participants acquired key **knowledge on communication principles and techniques** and had the opportunity to put them directly into practice through the **development of institutional communication plans** during working-group sessions. To ensure a complete and finalized work, participants have a few more weeks to draft a comprehensive action plan for their respective institution, which will be shared with DCAF experts for guidance and feedback before being formally presented during another workshop scheduled for the second quarter of 2022.

Workshop on transparency and good practices for resources management with the HALCIA



As part of the monitoring of recommendations from the Annual Regional Conference on best practices for defense and security resources management held in March 2021 in Bamako, DCAF with the *Haute Autorité de Lutte contre la Corruption et les Infractions assimilées* (HALCIA) organized a workshop from March 17 to 18, 2022 to **sensitize representatives of internal oversight institutions on the principles of transparency and efficient management of resources allocated to security sector institutions**. First, participants learned about the recommendations made during the Bamako Regional Conference, the HALCIA's structure and role in the fight against corruption within the security sector, and the Niger Public Procurement Regulatory Agency (ARMP)'s responsibilities and tools for promoting good governance. Working in groups, the participants discussed **challenges and issues related to the management of resources allocated to the security sector** in Niger as well as the difficulties and opportunities related to effective internal control. In particular, they identified the following major problems: (i) difficulty in planning for needs due to the volatile security situation; (ii) insufficient resources allocated to oversight institutions; (iii) lack of rational human resources management and lack of control over the wage bill; (iv) inadequate regulations for the purchase of defense and security equipment; (v) lack of clarity of the defense secrecy concept; (vi) lack of self-referral for some oversight institutions; and (vii) difficulty in publishing reports, also due to fear of reprisals. **In order to address these challenges and promote efficient management of resources allocated to the security sector, participants made several recommendations**, including the digitalization of administrative and management processes (particularly payroll), the establishment of an efficient system for the monitoring, use and maintenance of equipment, the revision of the legal framework for procurement and the concept of defense secrecy, the allocation of adequate resources to oversight institutions and capacity building for members of oversight institutions (including Parliament).

Regional News

In the framework of the coordination of interventions implemented within the Regional Programme for Peace and Stabilization in the Sahel (Sahel PSP II), the Embassy of the Kingdom of Denmark in Mali and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Norway in Mali organized a strategic meeting on March 23, 2022 with all implementing partners.

During the meeting, DCAF presented its **main interventions and results achieved**

over the last two years in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. Indeed, the **political, strategic and legal frameworks of the security sector have been strengthened and widely published**, in particular through the ongoing development of an e-training module on Security Sector Governance in the Sahel and the support to the compilation and dissemination of the legal framework related to the security sector in Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger. In addition, **accountability and transparency within the security sector were improved and promoted** through supporting parliamentary committees to achieve their mandate and capacity building of civil society organizations to monitor security sector institutions. **The issue of the management of resources allocated to the security sector was the central** theme of the Annual Regional Conference on best practices for defense and security resources management held in Bamako in March 2021. Following the conference, several national institutions took ownership over the recommendations for ensuring their implementation through pushing for political steering and developing specific operational roadmaps and actions plan.

This strategic meeting was also an opportunity for all stakeholders to **discuss challenges faced** during programme implementation and to **identify risk mitigation measures**. Participants also **shared ideas on opportunities and perspectives for future programming** in security sector governance, taking into account evolutions in political and security contexts at the regional and national levels.

DCAF expressed its **strong commitment** toward its national partners to continue to promote democratic governance of the security sector through supporting a participatory and inclusive approach by emphasizing the regional dimensions through the ECOWAS framework, strengthening national strategic frameworks and internal and external oversight actors of the security sector.



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