

## NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2022

Sub-Saharan Africa Division  
Regional Sahel Programme



### Article Feature



#### Ensuring the sustainability of democratic achievements throughout the political transition in Niger

In 2021, Niger experienced its very first peaceful and democratic transfer of power since its independence. DCAF has supported knowledge transfer between outgoing and incoming parliamentarians of the Defense and Security Commission in Niger, as this is a key element in ensuring continuity of oversight and more effective accountability over time. DCAF supported the Defense and Security Committee in the development of a toolkit to help new parliamentarians start their term and assessed the former legislative period to identify current priorities and areas requiring action. This process highlighted the strengthening of democratic gains by taking up the challenge of ensuring effective oversight

[ARTICLE](#)

# Niger



## **Exchange of experience between the CDS of Niger and Côte d'Ivoire on budgetary control by Parliament**

As part of DCAF's efforts to support security sector governance and the promotion of democratic control through parliament, the two Defense and Security Commissions of the National Assemblies of Niger and Côte d'Ivoire met for 5-day in Abidjan (from September 19 to 23, 2022). The objective of the visit was for members of the CDS of Niger to exchange with the parliamentarians of Côte d'Ivoire on good practices in terms of democratic control of the security and defense sector, to assimilate the role and mission assigned to the network of African parliaments who are members of the Defense and Security Committees (REPAM-CDS), and to promote good practices for the control of security sector resources. Representatives of the two parliaments highlighted a certain number of difficulties linked to their mission of oversight of the security sector, including the lack of communication between the government and parliament, particularly in Côte d'Ivoire, a low representation of gender parity, budget control difficulties and an insufficient number of parliamentary assistants. The parliamentarians also took advantage of their stay to exchange with the Ivorian Minister in charge of security, the National Commission for the fight against small arms and light weapons, and the Embassy of Niger in Côte d'Ivoire.



## Exchange and awareness-raising workshop on the promotion and protection of human rights for the benefit of the FDS and institutions in the security sector with the CNDH

In partnership with the CNDH, DCAF co-organized a reflection workshop on the protection and promotion of human rights with a view to integrating their considerations into the training curricula of schools and training centers of the National Gendarmerie (GN) and the Niger Armed Forces (FAN). For two days, September 20 and 21, 2022, exchanges and sharing of experience were held around the Poli-DH (Police and human rights) and on the need and feasibility of establishing a framework for a Mili-DH ( Military and human rights) in Niger. Both the GN and the FAN have expressed strong interest in creating a platform similar to the Poli-DH, or integrating the defense forces into the Poli-DH.



## Support for the National Police in raising awareness on complaint mechanisms against sexual harassment in Niamey

In September, DCAF continued its support to institutions to raise awareness on gender mainstreaming within the security sector, working with the National Observatory for the Promotion of Gender Policy. Together, the two institutions organized training for 30 FDS and CSO representatives on the integration of a gender perspective in the field of security. In addition, the Division for the Protection of Minors and Women (DPMF) of the National Police received support from DCAF for the training of 300 teachers and 20 line managers, heads of DPMF brigades and women from Niamey police stations on sexual harassment in schools.

## Mali





## **Restitution workshop of the report on the analysis of actors and initiatives for monitoring and documentation of human rights violations in the security sector in Mali**

As part of strengthening the analytical and reporting capacities of CSOs, DCAF supported the AMDH in carrying out an analysis of actors and initiatives for monitoring and documenting human rights violations in the security sector. On Thursday, September 1, 2022, a workshop for the restitution and validation of the report of the said analysis took place in the premises of the Governorate of the district of Bamako organized by AMDH with the support of DCAF. The objectives of this workshop were to present the conclusions of the report, integrate the improvement proposals of the participants, and make relevant recommendations to enrich the document. A total of 25 representatives (including 4 women and 21 men) of CSOs and the AMDH took part in the event. The workshop was an opportunity for CSOs to discuss the challenges that national human rights defenders face in dealing with cases of human rights violations in a volatile security context while measuring the risks and contextual issues. The recommendations focused on the need for capacity building in the monitoring and documentation of human rights violations in order to operationalize a system for the production of periodic reports on the human rights situation taken by national CSOs.

## **Regional**



### **Public roundtables on the role of defense and security forces in preventing violent extremism**

Two roundtables took place in mid-September in Cotonou and Abidjan to present the results of the Comparative study reviewing and analyzing frameworks for engaging DSFs in the prevention of violent extremism (PVE) in West Africa.

DCAF, in partnership with the Peace and Human Rights Division of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA), conducted two roundtables to present and discuss the results of the comparative study on the Review and Analysis of Policy, Legislative and Operational Frameworks for the Engagement of Defence and Security Forces (FDS) for the Prevention of Violent Extremism (PEV) in West Africa (2020-2022). The roundtables gathered representatives of the two governments, with the representative of the Minister of the Interior and Public Security (Bénin) and of the Intelligence Coordinator (Cote d'Ivoire)

giving opening remarks. At both events there was a lively and informed dialogue and an important participation of DSFs, international actors, civil society and human rights organisations. One takeaway from the discussions was the fact that women and youth are still too absent from the creation of security, with important effect on the ability of defence and security forces to sufficiently understand and respond to the needs of all members of the population.



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