

Webinar

SECURITY SECTOR REFORMS AND COVID-19: WHY ANTI-CORRUPTION MATTERS MORE THAN EVER

Programme

The COVID-19 outbreak is not only a health crisis but poses wider risks that may have repercussions on human and state security worldwide. While emergency legislation is being produced and security sector actors are being given prominent roles in supporting the management of the pandemic in countries across the world, it is crucial that the sector operates freely from corruption and is efficient and accountable to the population it seeks to serve. Failure to do so may have catastrophic results, from hindered trust between the state and its citizens, to gross human right violation, the waste of public funds, the rise of un-democratic powers, a spike in violence and the spread of terrorist ideologies. In the name of expediency an emergency, anti-corruption norms may be overlooked: we must not underestimate this risk.

This crisis can be turned into an opportunity: the COVID-19 outbreak is showing that trust between the state and its citizens is crucial for an effective management of any major emergency; security sector reform (SSR) policy makers and practitioners must conceive accountability and integrity building as a building block of effective SSR to restore the social contract by ensuring that the security sector operates within the framework of the rule of law, human rights and democratic oversight.

However, trust and good civilian-military relationships are more easily achievable when the armed forces are efficient and accountable to the population they seek to serve. Efficiency and accountability of the security sector is the main objective of security sector reform, but in this unprecedented global crisis, we need to consider some key questions: How can SSR continue during and after the pandemic? What will be their challenges, priorities and opportunities? Which role will anti-corruption play?

The speakers

Moderators: **Mr. Salaudeen Hashim**, CISLAC and **Ms. Camilla Zuliani**, Transparency International - Defence & Security.

Opening remarks: **Mr. Auwal Musa Rafsanjani**, CISLAC Executive Director, and **Ms. Natalie Hogg**, Director of Transparency International - Defence & Security.

Mr. Ernest Ansah Lartey is the Head of the Peace and Security Programme at the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Accra, Ghana. His research interests include security sector reform, peacebuilding and elections.

Dr. Gbemisola Animasaun is a senior lecturer in the Center for Peace & Strategic Studies, University of Ilorin, Nigeria, working largely on asymmetric warfare & (counter)insurgency and national security, Preventing Violent Extremism (PVE) & identity conflicts.

Hon. Florence Kajuju is the Chairperson of the Kenya Commission on Administrative Justice (Office of the Ombudsman) and Secretary General of the African Ombudsman and Mediators Association (AOMA). She is an Advocate of the High Court of Kenya with over 25 years' experience.

Mr. Julien Joli is Project Manager at Transparency International – Defence & Security. His current work explores the nexus between corruption and conflict, with a focus on West Africa. He has prior experience working on peacebuilding and stabilisation.

Agenda

18th June 2020, 12:00-13:00 GMT +1

Welcome and introductions

Mr. Salaudeen Hashim and Ms. Camilla Zuliani

Opening remarks

Mr. Auwal Musa Rafsanjani, CISLAC Executive Director, and Ms. Natalie Hogg, TI-DS Director

SSR and anti-corruption

Mr. Julien Joli

SSR should have anti-corruption and integrity building at its core to promote the accountability and efficiency of a security sector that operates within the framework of human rights and the rule of law to promote human and state security. Why is this so important during and after the C19 outbreak?

SSR, SSG and the Ebola crisis: similarities, differences and lessons learnt

Mr. Ernest Ansah Lartey

During the Ebola crisis the security sector actors were involved in supporting the governments to manage the outbreak. The Sierra Leone and the Liberian cases will be discussed to analyse what are the similarities and the differences between the Ebola and the COVID-19 crises and which lessons can be learnt from a SSR/SSG point of view and why/if they are applicable to the rest of West Africa.

The challenges of military reforms during and after the C19 in Nigeria

Dr. Gbemisola Animasaun

In Nigeria, there is already an apparent slow-down in military reform and the military's opposition to external involvement in the crisis management. Military and police have been tasked to enforce lockdowns. Already overstretched and demoralised Nigerian army has been given broad mandate, which may be used to abuse power. How Nigerian defence sector and the police respond to the crisis may define how well will Nigeria fight the health and economic crisis caused by the global pandemic.

The role of independent oversight: The Kenyan Ombudsman's experience

Hon. Florence Kajuju

The COVID-19 crisis shows how good governance is essential to promote the accountability and efficiency of the security sector. At a time when the security actors are asked to support the government's management of the pandemic, democratic control of the sector is more important than ever. The case of the Kenya's Ombudsman office will be discussed to illustrate the importance of accountability mechanisms.

Audience discussion

Guided by Mr. Salaudeen Hashim and Ms. Camilla Zuliani:

How can SSR continue during and after the pandemic?

What will be their challenges, priorities and opportunities?

Which role will anti-corruption play?