

Public Roundtable

On the margins of the 7th International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa

POPULATION AND PREVENTION OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM: TOWARDS A NEW DYNAMIC FOR THE DSF MANDATE?

Tuesday, December 07, 2021, 1 :00 pm - 2:45 pm

Abdou Diouf International Conference Center (CICAD)

Diamniadio, Dakar

On the margins of the 7th Dakar International Forum on Peace and Security in Africa, whose main theme is "the challenges of stability and emergence in Africa in a post-COVID 19 world", this roundtable will allow for reflection on the involvement of the Defense and Security Forces (DSF) in the prevention of violent extremism.

In the innovative approach to the prevention of violent extremism, the DSF occupy a special place among state actors. Prevention constitutes a conceptual reversal of the fight against violent extremism in view of the current security practice.

Indeed, it is based on the mutation of the conflict context where the military decision centered on the shock of the decisive battle seems to have lost its relevance in the face of adversaries who are melting into the population. It also raises the question of how to build peace at the grassroots level.

Security responses do not alleviate the frustrations at the root of violence. Prevention thus aims to deconstruct the dynamics of violent extremism by addressing its root causes.

The DSF are key state actors in prevention when their mandate to protect populations effectively turns to them and consists of building human security with them at the core.

The DSF are truly on the front line of prevention.

The roundtable is a continuation of the themes developed during the Regional Conversations for the Prevention of Violent Extremism (PVE) held in Dakar in 2016, Ndjamena in 2017, and Algiers in 2018, among others.

It also draws on regional seminars focused on the role of the DSF in the PVE as well as research conducted in several countries on the conceptual, political, legislative, doctrinal, and operational frameworks that promote DSF involvement in the PVE in West and Central Africa.

Extreme violence, the result of multiple individual, collective, local, regional or international causes, continues to affect many parts of the world, including Africa

The responses are generally quite conventional: governments rely on their Defense and Security Forces (DSF), often with the support of partner armed forces, to "eradicate" violent extremists.

This approach, however, does not address the root causes of violence.

Moreover, the DSF, which often fights armed groups within the population, should understand the limits and consequences of their actions since they represent the state to the citizens.

Since relations with the population are paramount, the DSF respond to a dual challenge: to protect the population while maintaining their support. This is true in times of armed violence, but especially true in times of peace.

What are the main measures to be taken to reinforce this preventive role of the DSF? How can dialogue and the co-construction of security be integrated into the DSF mission?

The objective of the roundtable is to provide a space for dialogue and reflection on these issues. It will highlight the central role of the DSF in the PVE. The latter can, through their behavior, the dialogue with the populations and the confidence they inspire, the construction of a security shared with the populations, determine or not, the dynamics of peace or violence of a region.

The roundtable proposed by the Center for Higher Defense and Security Studies (CHEDS) of Senegal and the Peace and Human Rights Division of the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), is part of the partnership that since 2017 aims to actively involve the DSF of sub-Saharan Africa in the reflection and action of PVE.

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Program

1:00 – 1:15 pm

Welcome and Installation

1:15 – 1:25 pm

Welcome remarks

- **General Mbaye CISSE**, General Director of the Center for Higher Defense and Security Studies (CHEDS), Senegal (Moderator of the panel)
- **H.E. Mr. Andrea SEMADENI**, Ambassador of Switzerland to Senegal

1:25 – 2:10 pm

Panel

- **Colonel Major Ousmane TRAORE**, Director of Institutional Development and Innovation, Ministry of National Defense and Veterans, Burkina Faso
- **Colonel Major Mahamadou Seidou MAGAGI**, Director of the National Center for Strategic and Security Studies (CNESS), Niger
- **General Améyi Célestin GUIDIMEY**, Security Consultant; Vice President of the Presidential Committee for the Control of National Security Missions, Benin
- **Madeleine MEMB**, Coordinator, MediaWomen4Peace, Cameroon

2:10 – 2:35 pm

Exchanges / debates

2:35 – 2:45 pm

Closing remarks of the Moderator

The round table will be held in French and English, with simultaneous interpretation.

Lunch boxes will be offered on site to participants in the roundtable.