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REPORT

ECOWAS Security Sector Reform & Governance Training Workshop

Noom Hôtel Niamey (Niger)

17th – 20th October 2022

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**ECOWAS Security Sector Reform and Governance Training Workshop:
Capacity Development of Stakeholders and Institutions in the Security Sector and Relevant Oversight Realms.
Niamey, Niger | October 17-20, 2022**



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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

ASSN	African Security Sector Network
AQMI	Al Qaida au Maghreb Islamique
CDS/AN	Defence and Security Committee of the National Assembly
CNESS	National Centre for Strategic and Security Studies
CVE	Countering violent extremism (CVE)
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EPSAO	ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations
FDS	Defence and Security Forces
GIZ	German Development Agency
IGAG	Gendarmerie General Inspectorate
SSRG	Security Sector Reform and Governance
UK	United Kingdom
WANEP	West African Network for Peacebuilding

INTRODUCTION

1. The ECOWAS Security Sector Reform and Governance (SSR/G) training workshop, which was held from 17 to 20 October 2022 at the Noom Hotel in Niamey, brought together security experts, parliamentarians, diplomatic officials, technical and financial partners, defence and security officials, national security institutions and civil society organisations.
2. This workshop was part of the ECOWAS Peace and Security Architecture and Operations (EPSAO) Project, whose specific objective N°3 aims to promote dissemination and awareness of the ECOWAS SSRG policy framework and to support member states in making their security apparatuses efficient in all aspects.
3. The event kicked off with an opening ceremony, followed by a round table discussion with members of the national executive before getting into the main training sessions.

This report summarises the main points of the workshop.

OPENING CEREMONY



4. Speaking at the opening ceremony, Dr Niagale Bagayoko, Chair of the African Security Sector Network (ASSN), expressed her complete satisfaction at the workshop and extended her warm thanks to experts and participants, as well as all those who had joined efforts to make it a success.
5. She spoke at length on the background and scope of the workshop and gave an overview of the bleak security situation in Africa in general and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in particular.
6. According to Dr Bagayoko, this situation has led the countries involved, initiating in-depth security sector reforms with a view to better addressing the necessary issues leading to long-term stability.
7. Before wishing participants productive deliberations, she reiterated the ASSN's full commitment to helping ECOWAS maintain its efforts and achieve efficient security sector reform and governance within the EPSAO project. She also highlighted the relative stability of Niger in the current climate of political unrest in the Sahel while recalling the various countries who have already benefited from this SSRG capacity building, namely Guinea Bissau, Gambia and Senegal, Liberia, Nigeria and now, Niger.
8. Thereafter, the Director of the National Centre for Strategic and Security Studies (CNESS) took the floor. After welcoming all the participants, he spoke on the genesis and evolution of security sector reform and governance as a concept, from its emergence in the United Kingdom (UK) in 1997 to its adoption by ECOWAS in 2016.
9. He pointed out that Niger, in line with supranational policy frameworks on SSR, has developed various policy and strategy documents and taken several steps not only to improve the security of people and property, but also to preserve national integrity. This has enabled Niger to maintain relative stability and strengthen its international credibility.
10. Colonel Major Seydou Magagi also emphasised local authorities' efforts to raise awareness and train security players and partners. Based on the institution he leads as well as its missions - especially that of conducting inclusive and participatory discussions, he considered that the current security sector reform process stands a chance of being successful, as it has a solid foundation.
11. Addressing the audience, H.E Mr Nicolai Herman, German Ambassador, expressed satisfaction with this workshop jointly funded by the German Government through GIZ, ECOWAS and the European Union.
12. He also recalled his country's support to ECOWAS in preventing and managing conflicts and security threats in West Africa through the dissemination and

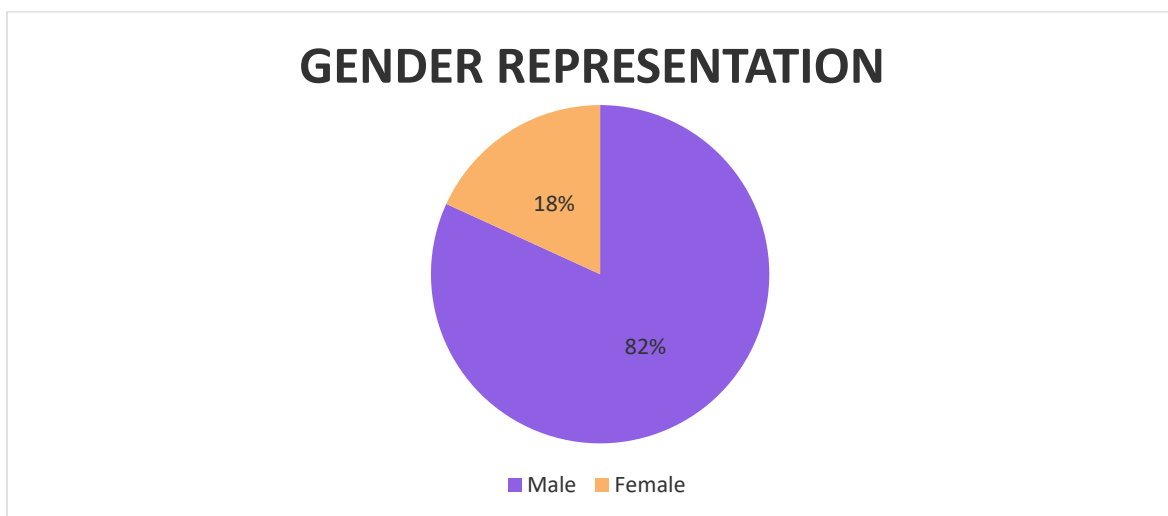
implementation of the Regional Framework for Action on Security Sector Reform and Governance adopted in 2016.

13. Finally, the German Ambassador pointed out that the workshop, which provided an opportunity to analyse the political, economic and social environment in which security actors operate, has come at the right time to tackle core issues making it possible to enhance security in ECOWAS countries. He concluded his speech by wishing participants productive deliberations.
14. Representing the European Union Delegation, Mrs Jamila El Assaidi also indicated that she was delighted to address experts and participants at the opening of such an important workshop which, to her, is meant to provide Niger's security sector institutions and oversight bodies the opportunity to become acquainted with the ECOWAS Policy Framework for SSR/G and reflect on how best to make it fit into the local context. This will lead to improved security of citizens in full compliance with human rights and international law, as well as more women and youth in peace and security efforts, she added.
15. On behalf of the EU which supports this initiative, she also congratulated ECOWAS on this normative framework consistent with international best practices in security sector reform and governance.
16. She recalled that the workshop has come in a context where degrading security jeopardises democracy and the rule of law, thus calling for combined efforts and sincere commitment. She further clarified EU's opinion that multilateral cooperation and regional coordination are the key foundation for effectively achieving security and development in the Sahel, and reiterated EU's support for any initiative aimed at that goal.
17. Mrs Jamila concluded her speech by urging all actors to support ownership efforts in relation to the ECOWAS SSR/G policy framework, and wished for fruitful discussions during the workshop.
18. In his keynote speech, Dr Isaac Armstrong, representing the ECOWAS Commission's Regional Security Division, first thanked Niger's government on behalf of ECOWAS for hosting this regional workshop on SSR/G.
19. Before stressing the significance of the policy framework, he discussed ECOWAS cooperation with GIZ, as well as with the EU and ASSN, two partners, assisting ECOWAS in its dissemination and promotion.
20. He lauded the actions undertaken by Niger at both national and regional levels, showing that the country will present a success story of security sector reform.
21. At the end, he wished participants and experts constructive debates and a smooth running of the workshop.

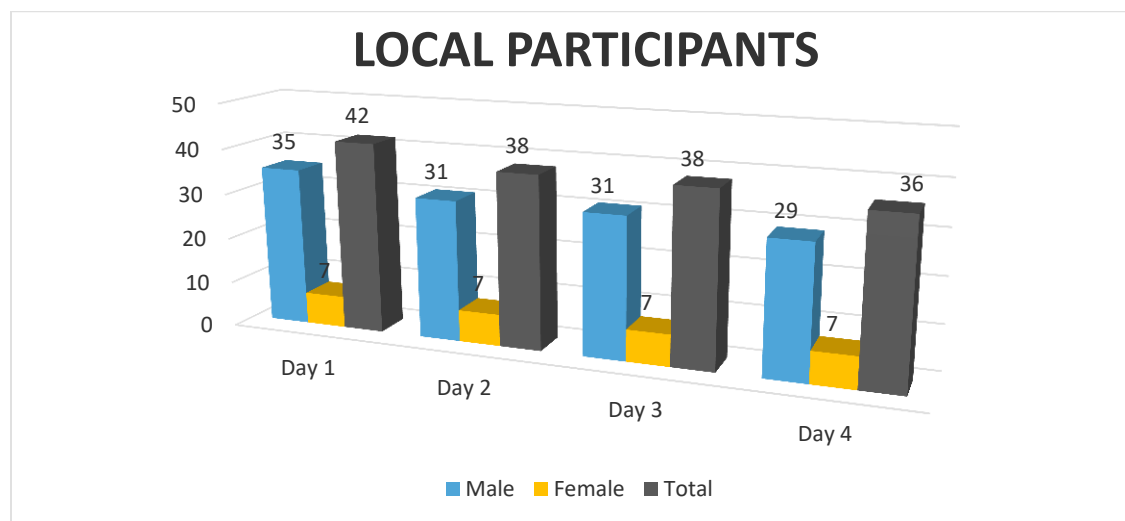
22. The official opening ceremony of this training workshop was presided over by H.E Yousouf Mohamed El Mouctar, Minister Delegate to the Minister of Foreign Affairs with responsibility for African Integration. At the beginning of his speech, he extended a warm welcome to all participants and appreciated the ECOWAS Commission and partners for hosting this important workshop. He pointed out that Niger is concluding the extension of the project after Liberia and Nigeria having held the previous trainings in Guinea Bissau, Gambia and Senegal.
23. The Minister noted that the training mainly seeks to facilitate the dissemination and promote awareness of the ECOWAS Policy Framework for SSR/G. Another objective is to improve efficiency, professionalism, responsibility and responsiveness in security provision in West African countries. He did not fail to remind participants of Niger's major SSR/G initiatives, particularly in relation to counter-terrorism, illegal migration and organised cross-border crime.
24. Niger's efforts towards stability go beyond mere national concerns, as they are part of a regional dynamic, given the cross-border nature of terrorism, he added. Mr Yousouf Mohamed also recalled that as a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council for the 2020-2021 period, Niger has been able to open-up, along with other members, critical security issues for debate.
25. He reiterated Niger's support for a stronger ECOWAS and expressed confidence that this 4-day-workshop would enhance local players' capacity to contribute to the debate on security sector reform and governance within the ECOWAS region. The Minister concluded his address by wishing participants fruitful discussions and declared the workshop opened.



26. While the project aims at 40% women and youth participation, the workshop recorded 18% female representation as demonstrated below:



27. Furthermore, the diagram below shows the daily attendance gender disaggregation over the 4-day period:



EXECUTIVE ROUNDTABLE

28. After the official opening ceremony, there was an executive roundtable with members of the national executive on the topic ***"Strengthening democratic governance and security sector oversight in fighting against terrorism and violent extremism in Niger"***, which began with an address by the Chairman of the Defence and Security Committee of the National Assembly (CDS/AN).
29. He outlined the role of his institution, which consists of supporting the government and setting legislative instruments. Beyond this mission, the Committee appreciates and amends government's action by holding authorities accountable on security-related concerns. He also recalled that the National Assembly carries out supervisory missions on the Executive's security policy. In particular, he raised participants' awareness on the budgetary control performed by the Defence and Security Committee of the National Assembly.
30. Major General Abdou Sidikou Issa who was the second panellist, said the institution he represents i.e. the Gendarmerie General Inspectorate (IGAG), which was created in 1972 and attached to the Presidency of the Republic, ensures good governance of the .

31. Its role is therefore to perform yearly inspections of the army and the Gendarmerie, to carry out audit and budgetary control, to undertake investigative missions and to monitor good practices (laws, standards, texts). Another no less important role played by IGAG is conciliation and mediation within the defence and security forces.
32. Last speaker at this round table, Colonel Major Mahamadou Seydou Magagi informed participants about the regional security context that led Niger's government to think of a body which, in addition to counter-terrorism, will focus on preventing security threats and act as a tool for supporting strategic security decision-making.
33. He then recalled the main tasks of CNESS and concluded his presentation by mentioning the studies, reports and above all the policies and strategies developed since 2015, including, among others, the National Strategy for the Prevention and Countering of Violent Extremism, the National Biosecurity Strategy and the National Security Policy currently being finalised.

REGIONAL DIALOGUE

34. The regional dialogue session started with presentations from three (3) speakers on the topic ***"Countering terrorism and violent extremism in the Sahel: lessons and perspectives from Burkina Faso, Mali, Togo, Benin, and Cote d'Ivoire"***.
35. Professor Kossi Agokla, who started with the experience of Togo, first reviewed the socio-political background marked by demonstrations in which initial signs of violent extremism appeared in Togo.
36. He then specified that this insecurity mainly perceived in the northern part of the country, is partly due to Togo's proximity to Burkina Faso, which is struggling to contain terrorist attacks to the point of impacting the neighbouring Togo.
37. He concluded by emphasizing the need for extended regional cooperation involving countries not yet affected by terrorism.
38. Dr Kalilou Sidibé reviewed the security situation in northern Mali, stressing both the multi-faceted nature of the conflict and the underlying cultural, religious and ethnic dynamics fuelling it.
39. Dr Sidibé raised some of the challenges faced by Mali due to the current political context (military transition following two coups, the G5 Sahel issue, etc.) that systematically makes it a non-ECOWAS player.
40. He ended his presentation by discussing the security management mechanisms and strategies currently being implemented in Mali.
41. Prof Mathurin Comlan Houngnikpo, presented on the security situation in Côte d'Ivoire and Benin. As far as Côte d'Ivoire is concerned, he first pointed out the very

first deadly attack perpetrated in Grand-Bassam on 13 March 2016 (with 19 killed) and claimed by AQIM, before mentioning the more recent attacks in Kafolo in 2021 and 2022 in the border area with Burkina Faso.

42. Prof Houngnikpo then analysed the terrorist violence experienced in Benin from 2019 till date, partly because of its closeness with countries affected by terrorism, such as Burkina Faso, Niger and Nigeria. He highlighted that poor security governance by national authorities is the main reason why terrorist violence have been persisting in spite of the substantial technical and financial support provided. This has lead Benin to rely on Rwanda and France to develop a counter-terrorism response.
43. In his intervention, Dr Emile Ouédraogo initially explained that terrorism started in Burkina Faso in 2015, but was underestimated at that time as it was regarded as a specific phenomenon from the Maghreb. To him, the plague concentrates in the tri-border area, especially at the border between Niger and Mali.
44. He discussed the consequences of this crisis, which has resulted in more than 2,000 civilian casualties, 600 soldiers killed and over 1,500,000 displaced persons, with entire towns cut off from the decision-making centre and economic activities at a standstill.
45. Dr Ouédraogo believes that the problem cannot be addressed with a strictly military approach nor with coups, but rather through a conceptual approach requiring the identification of the nature of the threat as well as the actors involved. He added that there is a dire need to boost institutional and organisational capacities through strong commitments of countries.
46. He added that appropriate solutions could then be found for a return to peace and stability, through a good governance approach while putting forward the interests of all, including the vital interests of nations.

MAIN TRAINING SESSION

47. Mr Okey Uzoechina, made his presentation on the topic ***“Regional Framework and the Need for Reform: the Importance of the ECOWAS Policy Framework for Niger and Member States”***. He first pointed out that as a key element of human life, security is necessary for development and peace amongst nations. ECOWAS, like other organisations, has therefore developed its own SSR/G mechanism. He did not fail to remind participants of the long-standing tradition of conflicts, coups and civil wars that African countries have faced.
48. Mr Okey also said that the quest for peace has led ECOWAS to focus on security sector reform and governance with a view to helping countries recover from the spiral of violence.

49. Only short-term programs are proposed, while governance is permanent, he said. He further underscored that ECOWAS' proposal is about good governance through democracy promotion and national accountability. According to him, no one can take ownership or responsibility for any reform if they are not accountable; the onus is not only on partners, experts or the government/ regime to fulfil this task, but on all actors of the society.
50. Mr Okey also believes that such a reform cannot be successful, unless it is conducted in a participatory and inclusive manner involving all security actors, including civilians. To him, the emergence of new threats calls for an innovative approach at national, sub-regional or regional levels. Consequently, given the specificity of threats, there is a need to develop a security policy specific to each country, while emphasising the need to change attitudes and focus to give a new orientation to institutions and achieve greater efficiency.
51. Mr Okey's presentation ended with a video projection on the often complicated civil-military relationships in Côte d'Ivoire.
52. Colonel-Major Ali Mahamadou of the National Centre for Strategic and Security Studies (CNESS), who presented on the Niger experience, took the floor to educate participants on the significance of SSRG in effectively addressing the security needs of citizens, before going into further details on the efforts already undertaken by the government in this regard. To ensure good security governance and political stability at the local level, Niger has set up CNESS as well as the major commands of the defence and security forces.
53. He discussed the development of the National Security Policy Document as one of the key features of the ECOWAS Policy Framework, which he said is not only meant to improve security governance and allow for an optimal allocation of public resources in addressing threats, but also to tailor responses to security concerns by taking local political and economic aspects into account, while responding to security threats from regional and international settings.



54. Colonel-Major Ali Mahamadou also spoke about the dissemination of the ECOWAS Framework on SSR/G in Niger. Here too, several initiatives have been undertaken as part of CNESS' mandate, like the training of civilian and military officials including young leaders. He also raised the need to take the ECOWAS Framework into account in preparing the National Security Policy and in carrying out the various CNESS studies.
55. Colonel Major Ali Mahamadou concluded his presentation by pointing out that the success of SSRG lies in local ownership of security issues, experience sharing, political commitment, inclusion (of civilian and military actors) and financial support through efficient resource mobilisation.
56. Mr Salou Djeka's presentation focused on ***"the institutional framework of security governance in Niger"***. He first provided a picture of the institutional framework for security governance in Niger and highlighted that citizens' right to freedom and security is defined under Article 3, paragraph 12 of the Constitution.
57. Mr Djeka believes that mapping out security actors is relevant and necessary and requires the involvement of both state and non-state actors. He said the study carried out as part of the "Just Future" programme focused on three regions: Tillabéri, Tahoua and Maradi.
58. The work mainly consisted of identifying the state actors involved in security management in these areas and providing an overview of their operational presence. Mr Djeka did not fail to mention the often conflicting relationships between various

actors, which he said need to be harmonised to better protect citizens and properties from the various forms of insecurity they face.

59. Mr Djeka believes that the country has the capacity to deal with security threats, but its potential just needs to be properly used and supported.
60. Ms Ella Abatan led a session on ***"the relevance of gender in countering violent extremism (CVE): the case of Mali and Niger"***, making clear from the outset that women have become prime targets for armed groups in the various crises affecting the African continent, particularly the Sahel region.



61. This, according to her, is associated with several factors. She explained that women often join violent extremist groups of their own free will or for various motivations ranging from the need for protection or security for themselves/their relatives/properties, to the desire for revenge or the quest for social justice.
62. According to Ms Abatan, the behaviour of defence and security forces also lead some women to rally terrorist organisations as a result of direct or indirect experiences of violence.
63. However, she stressed that despite their proximity to the areas where terrorist groups operate, some women have been resilient, while others have ended up collaborating with them.

64. For Ms Abatan, these analyses are not aimed at passing judgement or stigmatising these women for their involvement in terrorist activities. Rather, they provide an opportunity to debate on how to strengthen women's resilience to violent extremism by investigating on the motivating factors of their involvement to find appropriate solutions to protect them from any temptation or desire to join these groups.
65. In this regard, she drew decision-makers' attention to the need to include gender in preparing the various documents relating to the security of people and their property in conflict areas, especially through reforms in security governance at all levels, both national and regional. She concluded her presentation by sharing excerpts from interviews with women victims of violent extremism and conflict stakeholders.
66. National coordinator of WANEP Niger, Mr Clément Kocou, shared his experience through a short presentation on WANEP's experience in gender and violent extremism in the Diffa region
67. He spoke about the actions implemented on the ground, particularly in Mainé-Soroa, as part of WANEP Niger's monitoring mechanisms on gender issues in the fight against violent extremism.



68. He ended with a documentary on how women are empowered through support for income-generating activities.

69. In her presentation on **"Hybrid security governance"**, Dr Niagalé Bagayoko, Chair of ASSN, focused on hybridity in the security approach. Considering hybridity as an approach combining formal and informal dynamics, she noted that very often, when it comes to implementing security reforms in Africa, one quickly realises that there is limited vision of the socio-cultural environment where they will be implemented.
70. To Dr Bagayoko, it is important to consider inter-community and intra-community balance within the groups, to legitimise traditional mechanisms in the eyes of the population and to take non-state security actors into account.
71. She also touched on how crucial the relationships between decentralised and customary authorities are, as well as the role of women's secret societies and that of magical or esoteric religious practices within the FDS.
72. From Dr Bagayoko's perspective, informality does exist within the defence and security forces. She also mentioned lack of transparency in human resource management, especially in recruitment and advancement processes and in salaries and budget management.
73. Dr Niagale also spoke of generational logics leading to internal conflicts within the defence and security forces, thus undermining military institutions' efficiency in African countries.
74. Finally, Dr Bagayoko raised the issue of community-based rationales, which harm cohesion within the defence and security forces.



75. The next session focused on experience sharing of a new approach to civil-military action, an initiative of the Armed Forces General Staff called **U2R ("Unité de restructuration et de réhabilitation"** in the context of securitisation and stabilisation.
76. In his presentation, Battalion Commander Abdel Salem Abdoulay informed participants about the U2R, which is a new concept laying emphasis on social issues. To prove his point, he showed a documentary on Baroua (Diffa), where this initiative had been implemented.
77. The speaker explained that in practice, military instructors are appointed in various fields: sewing, masonry, plumbing, electricity, etc. The rationale behind this is to train and support displaced persons and returnees to enable them not only to return to a normal life but also to be autonomous.
78. In conclusion, the representative of the Armed Forces General Staff recalled that the army, in addition to its sovereign missions, contributes to the socio-economic development of vulnerable populations and thus plays a part in building trust between army and populations.
79. Dr Uju Agomoh, led the session on the topic ***"Corrections, human rights, safety and security: integral link with SSRG in Niger"***. For Dr Agomoh, the difficulties and suffering experienced by prisoners in African prisons should urge decision-makers to initiate prisons reforms as part of the ECOWAS Policy Framework, since there is a connection between corrections and security.
80. Following observations made after visiting more than one hundred (100) prisons, she drew up a typology of prisoners, which she broke-up into three categories: innocents, juvenile criminals and convicted criminals.
81. To her, the harsh living conditions in detention centres should lead stakeholders to reflect on how to improve detention conditions through reforms. A country's image is reflected in the way it treats and deals with prisoners.
82. To illustrate her remarks, Dr Agomoh took the case of Niger, a country with 9,187 prisoners as of 31/11/2019 out of a population of 23.76 million inhabitants. These prisoners break-up as follows: 3.7% women and 6.1% juvenile detainees; 41 prisons with a capacity of 10,455 prisoners, with an 87.9% occupancy rate.
83. According to Dr Agomoh, it is necessary to study the system carefully to better detect its flaws, make adequate improvements and reduce the number of detainees, especially for minor offences.
84. She also pointed to the sluggishness of the judicial administration, which she described as justice denied. The speaker invited all stakeholders to consider the situation and living conditions of detainees in their proposals for the SSRG.



85. Dr Agomoh concluded by inviting governments to use existing legal instruments to better contribute to the protection of detainees' rights.
86. During Dr Agomoh's presentation, experiences on Niger were provided by Mr Ibrahim Waziri Moussa, former Public Prosecutor of the Judicial and Correctional Services General Inspectorate, currently working at the Council of State. Mr Ibrahim Waziri Moussa educated the audience on how the judicial system is organised in Niger. In his presentation, he focused on the structure of the prison system.
87. He was pleased that the prison environment in Niger is not so critical compared to other African countries.
88. According to him, culture and religion partly explain the relative flexibility that one can note in Niger's prisons.
89. He nevertheless raised some flaws. He considered that many judges do not fully play their monitoring role.
90. In addition, he regretted that the Ministry of Justice does not have a public force on its own to monitor prisons, as this role is rather performed by the National Guard, which is part of the Interior Ministry.

91. Dr Olawale Ismail gave a virtual presentation on the topic: ***"The role of youth in SSRG: limiting exclusion and extremism among young people in Niger"***. He focused mainly on youth, who, according to him, are victims of exclusion in decision-making.
92. Dr Ismail also mentioned the lack of capacity of young people to benefit from different strategies. According to him, this results in many consequences including violence, crime, violent demonstrations and irregular migration.
93. He also established a causal link between the difficulties faced by young people and climatic problems in the Sahel, such as desertification, considered as a fatality reducing young people's creative capacities.
94. Dr Ismail concluded by expressing the wish that SSRG actors will include ECOWAS youth situation into their agenda.
95. The morning of the last day of the workshop was essentially devoted to group work. The three groups discussed and debated on Day 2 presentations, with a focus on the six (6) strategic pillars of the ECOWAS five-year plan, with a view to adapting them to the Nigerien context.
96. The group work was followed by two presentations. The first on "E-learning on security sector reform and governance in Sahel countries", was given by General Mounkaila Mahamadou from DCAF (Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance) after a brief introductory presentation by Mr Louis Pasteur Musongera, DCAF Country Representative.
97. General Mounkaila Mahamadou presented a pedagogical module to participants, entitled "Introduction to Security Sector Governance" developed by the research department of DCAF.
98. The module covers all the SSRG concepts, actors and principles. It also presents the factors involved in security sector reform and governance.
99. Several practical exercises are also proposed in the module. Also, to help young researchers better understand SSRG, several videos by researchers are available as lectures.
100. The last presentation of the workshop was given by Dr Emile Ouédraogo, member of the ASSN Executive Committee. It focused on ***"the centrality of a national security policy/strategy in responding to the security crisis and violent extremism"***. He emphasised the concept of national security.
101. According to him, a national strategy policy is a long-term vision through which one defines how to protect a nation against threats to its vital interests.

102. He indicated that the workshop's objective was to develop a national security policy reflecting a long-term vision of collective security and sustainable development.
103. While security priorities also need to be defined, actors should be called upon to work harder in the mobilisation of resources.
104. Dr Ouédraogo also spoke of the need for each country to be more aware of its role in the security effort.
105. He called on all stakeholders to base their national strategy policies on their own values in order to protect national interests.
106. Dr Emile Ouédraogo concluded his presentation by calling on leaders to communicate on their policies and to do everything possible to ensure their success.
107. Colonel-Major Ali Mahamadou of the CNESS complemented Dr Emile Ouédraogo's presentation by sharing his experiences on the 'Niger NSP development process'.
108. Colonel Major Ali Mahamadou began by clarifying the background from which the idea of developing a National Security Policy (NSP) emerged, marked by regional conflict with several consequences for Niger, whose causes, consequences, issues and challenges need to be analysed in order to find a lasting solution.
109. This initiative was launched in 2017, with financial support from Niger's government, he said. The development of an NSP is a long and painstakingly slow process that goes from the launching to the analysis and diagnosis to the framing, drafting, adoption and dissemination of the document.
110. Several actors are involved in this process serving as reference framework for sectoral strategies: the steering committee, groups of experts, experts from reference techniques, as well as resource persons.



111. The 4-day-workshop was rich in exchanges. One of the highlights of this session was the group work focusing mainly on Niger's specificities in accordance with the reality of the ECOWAS SSRG policy framework.
112. The three working groups took turns via their moderators to present their outputs in plenary, and amendments were made.
113. At the end of the workshop, several recommendations were developed. Also, a WhatsApp group was created and the following 2 participants (1 male and 1 female) appointed to manage it.

Dr Abdourahamani Mahamadou : E-mail mabdourahamani@gmail.com

Madame Latifa Boubacar Saley: E-mail latifaboubacar04@gmail.com



114. Recommendations on Objectives 1 & 2

- Strengthening national and local awareness-raising on SSRG; (1.1)
- Establishing national mechanisms for the implementation of SSRG texts; (1.2)

- Disseminating national legislation relating to the implementation of community-based texts; (1.3)
- Creating a framework for consultations between institutions; (1.5)
- Strengthening inter-community dialogue; (2.1)
- Promoting local governance and justice; (2.1)
- Involving statistical institutes in security data collection; (2.2)
- Maintaining capacity-building of the Armed Forces;

115. Recommendations on Objectives 3 & 4:

- Disseminating the ECOWAS Policy Framework for SSRG;
- Involving all the actors concerned in developing, implementing and monitoring security public policies;
- Fast-tracking law-making on non-state security actors (private security companies);
- The workshop invites parliamentarians to fully play their oversight role in a transparent way to guarantee social stability.
- Providing security providers with adequate means (equipment, staff and funding) enabling them to perform their role in the SSRG process;
- Enhancing gender main-streaming in the security sector.

116. Recommendations on Objectives 5 & 6:

- Sustaining the special recruitment of young people in all communities affected by insecurity;
- Fully and effectively involving youth and women in the management of security issues at the local, national and regional levels;
- Organising special recruitment of youth in conflict-affected areas (Youth in Diffa region)
- Sensitising and/or educating people and communities on their duties as citizens;
- Reminding citizens that they have both rights and duties;
- Disseminating and making the ECOWAS SSRG policy framework accessible to the greatest number of citizens in all national languages;
- Developing and/or revitalising peace consultation frameworks and communal peace committees;

- Increasing security management coordination through experience and knowledge sharing between the actors involved in security management;
- To complement and strengthen the current system at the national and local levels, communal security councils should be established to permanently involve mayors and customary rulers in security management and thus complete security governance decentralisation;
- Streamlining the management of security resources for greater efficiency;
- Improving and strengthening the mobile squads;
- Improving the information gathering system on the ground to use the technological means allocated;
- Requiring greater transparency, clarity and commitment from external partners on the technological means used in research and intelligence sharing;
- Clearly define the mandate of foreign partners operating on the national territory;
- Ensuring that the National Assembly systematically scrutinises any agreement and partnership concluded with international partners;
- Establishing an independent watchdog to audit and monitor security expenses;
- Improving the responsiveness to local alerts by local authorities;
- Fighting against racial profiling and stigmatisation based on community membership;
- Beyond political speeches, making the presence and usefulness of ECOWAS more visible (e.g. communicating on soldiers and civilians killed);
- Making the ECOWAS early warning system more operational;
- Reflecting on the role of self-defence groups.

CLOSING CEREMONY

117. At the closing ceremony, Dr Niagalé Bagayoko, expressed her gratitude to participants and authorities for their interest and willingness to move forward security sector reform and governance in Niger.

118. She did not forget to thank the EPSAO project partners, namely ECOWAS, GIZ and the EU for their close collaboration with the ASSN.
119. Representing the ECOWAS Commission Regional Security Division, Dr Isaac Armstrong, on behalf of the ECOWAS Commission, expressed his satisfaction with the smooth running of the workshop and the quality discussions.
120. He also reiterated ECOWAS commitment to maintain support for local ownership of the SSRG policy framework in Niger.
121. On behalf of participants, Hon. Hama Assah first thanked all participants for choosing him to speak for them.
122. He then thanked the workshop organisers and expressed his gratitude to ECOWAS on behalf of participants for the efforts being deployed in Member States like Niger.
123. Colonel-Major Mahamadou Magagi, Director of CNESS, extended the government's gratitude to ECOWAS for its tireless efforts in supporting Niger, particularly in the area of SSRG.
124. He also expressed his satisfaction at the successful completion of the workshop, marked by high-level discussions, debates and exchanges.
125. He finally expressed the wish for increased ECOWAS security and governance support for Niger and for the well-being of its population.