



Africa Center for Strategic Studies
Centre d'études stratégiques de l'Afrique
Centro de Estudos Estratégicos de África

COMBATING NARCOTICS TRAFFICKING IN WEST AFRICA
9 - 12 NOVEMBER 2009
DAKAR, SENEGAL

NOTE-TAKER POSITION DESCRIPTION

The Africa Center for Strategic Studies is looking for advanced degree candidates, writers, or reporters to serve as note-takers for the Combating Narcotics Trafficking in West Africa Seminar, which will take place in Dakar, Senegal from 9 to 12 November 2009. Successful applicants will be expected to attend orientation sessions on 8 and 9 November and a de-briefing session on 12 November. Working hours will be approximately 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily. The available positions will be of particular interest to individuals with backgrounds or expertise in African studies, international studies, security studies, and civil-military relations.

QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE

Prior experience as a conference/seminar note-taker is a plus. Candidates must have at least a Bachelors degree (or its equivalent), be organized, be a team player, possess strong verbal and written communication skills, and be conversant with relevant software applications in the Microsoft Office suite. Fluency in English is required.

DUTIES

As a note-taker, the individual will (a) take notes for selected plenary sessions, (b) record the highlights of the seminar discussion group to which he/she is assigned, (c) address any administrative matters required by the discussion group, (d) submit typed notes every day to the Report Writer, and (e) perform administrative duties (such as assist with microphones or PowerPoint) as assigned.

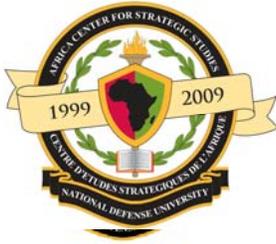
Note-takers will receive remuneration for their services. **A résumé and writing sample in English (no more than four pages), must be sent via e-mail to Ms. Victoria Garcia (garciav@ndu.edu) by Friday 23 October 2009.**

ABOUT THE AFRICA CENTER

Founded on the Department of Defense's (DoD) Regional Center concept, under which four other institutes now operate, the Africa Center is a unique American institution that complements other U.S., African, and multinational programs on the continent. Africa Center seminars are comprised of plenary lectures, group discussions, and practical exercises. Seminar participants reflect the diversity of the Africa Center community: military officers, civil servants, parliamentarians, diplomats, nongovernmental organization leaders, regional organization representatives, and academics gather to examine complex issues. For more information, please visit our website at www.africacenter.org

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CONCEPT PAPER

WHAT: The Africa Center for Strategic Studies will host a regional workshop on Combating Narcotics Trafficking in West Africa to highlight the threats to African national and regional security posed by drug smuggling, and to explore the challenges facing African and international efforts to address the problem. The workshop will examine recent findings on the organization, dynamics and extent of narcotics trafficking in West Africa; implications for national, sub-regional and global security; and the impact of drug smuggling on ongoing democratization, anti-corruption, development and public health efforts within West Africa. Initiatives by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and foreign security assistance partners to build African counter-narcotics capacity will also be highlighted, as well as lessons learned from counter-narcotics efforts in other regions of the world.

WHERE: Dakar, Senegal

WHEN: 9-12 November 2009

WHO: This workshop will bring together 50 participants from West Africa, the United States; Europe, notably France, Portugal, and the United Kingdom; and key international organizations, including the African Union (AU), United Nations (UN), and Interpol. ECOWAS member states will each be asked to send 3 senior counter-narcotics officials. The workshop will primarily draw on the expertise of participating officials, but will also include presentations from African and non-African academics and policy specialists.

WHY: Drug trafficking has emerged as a major threat to security, governance, development and public health in West Africa. The annual sub-regional drug trade is valued at nearly US\$2 billion, and the seizure of multi-metric tons of cocaine has become a common phenomenon. The vast sums of money and the ruthlessness of the criminal syndicates involved in drug smuggling present major challenges to countries facing ongoing democratic and post-conflict transitions, efforts to enhance anti-corruption strategies, and concerns for socio-economic development. The rise in local drug abuse also presents major public health challenges ranging from addiction to the spread of infectious diseases such as HIV. Drug smuggling in West Africa is also a source of significant

international concern as the sub-region has become a hub for the trans-shipment of narcotics, particularly cocaine, from South America to Europe. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) reported in 2008 that narcotics smuggling via West Africa accounts for over 25% of the cocaine used in Europe.

With support from international partners, ECOWAS member states drafted an Action Plan in October 2008, detailing many actions that are required to confront the problem of drug smuggling. It urges national, regional and international action to build capacities in the domains of law enforcement, intelligence, border security, customs control, legislation and judicial processes, and public health. A key purpose of this workshop will be to support implementation of the ECOWAS Action Plan by stimulating further dialogue on priorities for national capacity development and the appropriate role of foreign security assistance efforts.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW:

This 3 and a half-day workshop will seek to achieve the following five objectives:

- 1) Assess the organization and extent of narcotics trafficking in West Africa, and its implications for ongoing democratization, development, and public health efforts;
- 2) Understand the initiatives led by West African countries, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), and foreign security assistance partners to build African counter-narcotics capacity;
- 3) Explore the good practices and lessons learned in combating narcotics trafficking from other regions of the world, particularly Central America;
- 4) Raise senior-level awareness, develop political will and support counter-narcotics capacity development within the ECOWAS region; and
- 5) Propose means of enhancing national coordination and international collaboration to support implementation of the ECOWAS Action Plan.

HOW: Based on the Africa Center's guiding principles of collaboration and partnership, this workshop will be developed in consultation with relevant African officials, representatives from international agencies, and senior US government officials. The workshop will include discussions on good and promising practices and lessons learned in an intensive, rigorous and regionally focused environment to encourage critical and innovative thinking.

The program will feature plenary sessions to provide participants with a broader understanding of what constitutes a comprehensive counter-narcotics strategy. Smaller discussion sessions will allow participants to assess the status of national, regional and international actions, as well as opportunities for future cooperation.

The Africa Center will provide participants with a binder of resource materials including a comprehensive syllabus with a detailed workshop outline and appropriate readings and reference material. Relevant U.S. and international documents on drug smuggling in Africa and counter-narcotics strategy will also be provided.

SUPPORT FOR UNITED STATES POLICY:

This workshop supports U.S. policy to enhance African regional capacity for addressing emerging security challenges. The workshop is consistent with, and supportive of, U.S. overall efforts to stem illegal trade in narcotics, and to prevent drug smuggling from impacting African democratization, post-conflict transition and anti-corruption efforts.

For more information on the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, please visit www.africacenter.org.