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November 3, 2009

Media Advisory

Africa Center for Strategic Studies to hold Regional Workshop on Combating Narcotics Trafficking in West Africa

Opening ceremonies: Pullman Teranga Hotel, November 10 at 9:00

The Africa Center for Strategic Studies, in cooperation with the U.S. Embassy in Dakar, Senegal, will host a regional “Combating Narcotics Trafficking in West Africa” workshop there on Nov. 9-12. The opening ceremony and the keynote address will be held Nov. 10.

The workshop will highlight the threats to African national and regional security posed by drug smuggling and explore the challenges facing African and international efforts to address the problem. Participants will examine recent findings about 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 in West Africa.

About 70 participants from West Africa, the U.S., and Europe are expected to attend, as well as representatives from key international organizations such as the African Union, UN, and Interpol. Drug trafficking has emerged as a major threat to security, governance, development, and public health in West Africa, with the annual sub-regional drug trade valued at nearly \$2 billion.

News media representatives are invited to cover the opening ceremony and keynote address.

What: Opening ceremony, “Combating Narcotics Trafficking in West Africa” workshop

Where: Pullman Teranga Hotel, 10, Rue Colbert, Place de L’Independence, BP 3380, Dakar, Senegal

When: Tuesday, November 10, 2009; 9 a.m. (GMT)

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