



THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY SECTOR ADVISORY TEAM
THE GENEVA CENTRE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC CONTROL OF ARMED FORCES

EU Sahel Project

Activity Summary – September 2017

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Project description.

The Commission's Emergency Trust Fund for Africa/Lake Chad and Sahel Window entrusted DCAF/ISSAT on 1st August 2017 to conduct a sectoral analysis in three Sahel countries (Niger, Chad and Burkina Faso). ISSAT will carry out assessments, develop practical tools and provide recommendations related to Security and Justice Sector Reform. These activities aim to provide guidance to, and foster the coherence of, existing and future projects supported by the European Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (Lake Chad/Sahel Window).

This study will take place over a year and will consist of several activities. The project's methodology aims first at designing an SSR core-functions analytical framework, which seeks to identify fundamental elements for ensuring the optimal functioning of a security system, while also promoting respect for human rights and the Rule of Law.

On this basis, evaluation grids will be developed and used in field missions in order to assess institutional needs in the security sector and to identify gaps, in accordance with the previously established tools.

The final task assigned to DCAF will comprise an assessment of institutional cooperation in the field of security for each country, focusing on the main activities at the bilateral level as well as for regional (ECOWAS), sub-regional (Liptako-Gourma Authority, G5 Sahel) or international (IOM, UNODC, CDSP EU missions) organisations in the area. The outcome of these various steps will allow for the formulation of operational guidance to the European Trust Fund, enhancing consistency and improving the effectiveness of its projects in the Sahel.

4-5 September 2017: Kick-off meeting.

On 4-5 September, ISSAT welcomed experts enlisted under this project as well as members of the formed consortium, from Clingendael, the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the Civipol Agency, Justice Coopération Internationale (JCI) and the Belgian Development Agency (CTB). In this first meeting, we were able with to deliver a presentation outlining the project, showcasing our approach and sharing concerns regarding the programme. Representatives from SIPRI—the agency tasked with perception surveys—and from Clingendael—the institute in charge of the study on regional cooperation—developed the methodology and provided answers to our questions. Our team also expanded on coordination and follow-up aspects, which are key for the effective operation of the project.

Following the kick-off meeting, our four main experts initiated a first draft of our SSR core-functions analytical framework in order to increase their respective understanding of the fundamental elements for security and justice systems.





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13-15 September 2017: Working session on project methodology.

As part of ISSAT's mandate, experts from the region were received in Geneva on 13-15 September. Experts from Senegal, Togo, Burkina Faso and Mali with considerable experience in the areas of justice, governance, interior security and defence made a meaningful contribution to our mission.

The panel contributed to the development of an assessment reference framework, which will now be adapted for use in field missions. Interactions between African and European experts allowed us to place some of our principles in a local context, as well as to take into account various sociological aspects as part of ISSAT's analytical framework.

18-22 September 2017: presentation of our work to our reference group in Brussels and contact-making with EU directorates involved in the project.

The project team visited to Brussels in order to liaise with several representatives from directorates of the European Commission, the European External Action Service, the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace as well as the European Union special representative for Sahel. The team, along with our main experts, also attended several videoconferences with staff from EU delegations in our countries of focus. Through these discussions, our counterparts clarified their expectations and stressed potential difficulties, which allowed us to prepare for the upcoming missions.

Our team concluded the week of work with a presentation of the first draft of our analytical framework to the reference group. This last meeting confirmed the interest of the group towards in work. The talks that followed validated the global approach adopted by ISSAT throughout our work so far.

Upcoming activities.

October and November will be dedicated to finalising our work on the analytical framework as well as its translation into analysis grids. Our efforts will also aim to prepare for upcoming missions. The methodology team will visit Niamey on 22-27 October to meet with representatives from the European delegation, and the staff in charge of the main ongoing projects in Niger. The visit will also follow up the work of SIPRI, the Swedish agency in charge of perception surveys for our project.

