



African Union



UNODC  
United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UN WOMEN

## Breaking barriers: innovative approaches for advancing gender equality in Sahel security and justice

Ministerial side-event on the occasion of the 67<sup>th</sup> session of the Commission on the Status of Women

13 March 2023

UNHQ, Conference Room 8 – 18:30 pm-19:45 pm

*Co-sponsored by the African Union, Niger, Mauritania, G5 Sahel, together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and UN Women*

The event will tackle the obstacles and opportunities to increase the participation of Sahelian women in the security and justice sectors, in efforts to strengthen human security against terrorism and organized crime. The focus will be on utilizing innovative strategies to promote participation and challenge gender stereotypes and norms. The side event will allow to share best practices and advocate for greater representation of women in security and justice sectors in the Sahel, thus contributing to long-term sustainable peace and security.

### Programme

Moderator: **Ms. Delphine Schantz**, Representative, UNODC New-York Liaison Office

#### Opening segment / high-level remarks

- **H.E. Ms. Allahoury Aminata Zourkaleini**, Minister for Women Promotion and Children Protection, Government of Niger
- **H.E. Ms. Savia Mint N'Tahah**, Minister of Social Action, Childhood and Family, Government of Mauritania
- **H.E. Ms. Nandy Somé/Diallo**, Minister of Solidarity, Humanitarian Action, National Reconciliation, Gender and Family, Government of Burkina Faso
- **H.E. Ms Amina Priscille Longoh**, Minister of Gender and National Solidarity, Government of Chad
- **H.E. Ms. Fatima Kyari Mohammed**, Ambassador/Permanent Observer of the African Union to the UN

#### Interactive panel discussion

- **Prof. Amadou Sall**, Head of the Youth, Gender, Counter Radicalization and Violent Extremism Division of the G5 Sahel
- **Ms. Diyé Ba**, Regional Coordinator of the G5 Sahel Women's Platform
- **Cmm'r. Minata Traore**, President of the Association of Female Police Officers of the National Police of Burkina Faso (AFFPN-BF), Winner of the G5 Sahel Gender Award
- **Cmm'r. Zakaria Hebie**, Secretary General of the Police Academy of Burkina Faso, Winner of the G5 Sahel Gender Award



- **Cmdr. Morou Hadiza**, Chief of the Central Unit for the Protection of Women and Minors, National Gendarmerie of Niger, Winner of the G5 Sahel Gender Award
- **Ms. Paivi Kannisto**, Chief of Peace and Security Division, UN Women
- **Ms. Cristina Iampieri**, Sahel Programme Coordinator, Regional Office for West and Central Africa

## Q&A/Interventions from the floor

### Background

As stated in the Report of the UN Secretary General on Women, Peace and Security (2022)<sup>1</sup>, in the Sahel, women represent a minority among security and justice agents due to gender stereotypes and norms. This gender imbalance affects strategies, operations and the ability to respond to community needs, especially those of women and girls, who are the most affected by the protracted insecurity in the Sahel.

As a response, Sahel member states as well as regional organizations such as the G5 Sahel and civil society organizations have developed innovative and culturally tailored approaches to increase the number of women in security and justice sectors at all levels (political, strategic, and operational), with the support of United Nations Office for Drugs and Crime, UN Women, and other UN entities contributing to the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel (UNISS). These initiatives are based on participatory processes - bringing together communities across age, gender, ethnicities - with the aim of deconstructing gender stereotypes and positively influencing perceptions towards women's vocations in security and justice, thus generating sustainable social and behavioral change.

Sahelian innovations to mainstream gender and empower women include creative tools such as edutainment campaigns (educational entertainment) that leverage new technologies and regionally owned initiatives to promote Gender Champions (women, men and institutions). Civil society organizations - notably youth and women associations - have played a key role in bringing structural gender-sensitive reforms in justice and security professional education.

These Sahelian innovations contribute to the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions 1325 and 2242, as well as the Sustainable Development Goals 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development) and 17 (Partnerships for the goals).

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<sup>1</sup> Report of the Secretary General on Women, Peace and Security, S/2022/740, 5 October 2022 <https://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/S-2022-740.pdf>