



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

INFORMATION NOTE

WHAT: The Africa Center will organize a series of monthly academic webinars for alumni examining the political economy of transnational organized crime (TOC) and analyzing how to strategically diagnose and respond to TOC in ways that strengthen citizen security for all. The webinars will feature academic and practitioner experts. Building on the analytical framework offered by the ENACT Consortium in the *Organized Crime Index Africa 2019*, key themes will include the identification of key criminal actors and markets, as well as factors that promote resilience to TOC.

WHERE: Online, via Zoom for Government

WHEN: Monthly, October 2020 – July 2021

The first webinar of this series: *Understanding Transnational Organized Crime in Africa: Introduction to the ENACT Organized Crime Index and Related Learning*, will take place on Thursday, October 15, 2020, from 12:00 to 13:15 GMT.

WHO: All Africa Center alumni are invited to attend, either for one or more sessions or the whole series of discussions. Topics may be of interest to a wide range of African security and justice practitioners, parliamentarians, civil society members, and academics concerned with national and citizen security. Alumni who attended the January 2020 seminar on countering transnational organized crime will also confront new material in these webinars.

WHY: Transnational organized crime (TOC) is a growing threat in Africa as technology and growth in trade link the continent ever more closely to licit and illicit opportunities in the global marketplace. Livelihood challenges, political instability, and weak state legitimacy in some countries also amplify vulnerabilities to TOC in its various forms. Understanding these threats using a political economy framework is vital to formulating effective responses.

This webinar series will expand understanding of political economy frameworks by building upon the recent release of the ENACT Consortium's first-ever *Organized Crime Index for Africa*, a wide-ranging, comparative

database now available to practitioners for analysis. Using the Index as an initial tool, it will integrate the perspectives of African security and justice practitioners into analysis of the criminality and resilience trends highlighted in the Index. Participants will analyze the workings of TOC actors, the criminal markets they engage, and the sources of African state resilience to TOC. They will also examine new frameworks for catalyzing strategic solutions to TOC and building resilience in their local, national, and regional contexts.

HOW: Webinars will be held on Zoom, and each session will be 75 minutes long, with interpretation in English, French, and Portuguese. Alumni are invited to attend the entire series or specific webinars as their schedules permit. Most presentations will be recorded to permit later viewing.

Additionally, the Africa Center will offer a “virtual office hour” once a month open to participants who wish to engage further in discussion, brainstorming, and reflection on the practical applications of the topics to their contexts.