

Terms of Reference

Network of Women in Law and Policy against Organized Crime

Background

1. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) launched in November 2023 the Network of Women in Law and Policy against Organized Crime for West and Central Africa, with the purpose of supporting female policymakers, legislative drafters, criminal justice practitioners and law enforcement officers, as well as civil society representatives, in the meaningful participation in the development of legislative and strategic frameworks to prevent and counter organized crime.
2. The Network operates in both French and English. The Network is open to participants from all countries within West and Central Africa.
3. As of August 2024, the Network has over 100 members from countries in West and Central Africa, including Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Nigeria and Senegal.

Vision of the Network

4. The vision of the Network is to promote and support gender equality in engagement and decision-making on security and justice matters by increasing the meaningful participation of women in the development of legislative and strategic frameworks to prevent and counter organized crime.

Objectives of the Network

5. Promoting the representation and active participation of women in the development of law and policy against organized crime in West and Central Africa;
6. Promoting an enabling environment for female policymakers, legislative drafters and legislators in West and Central Africa and stimulating international exchange of best practices to this end;
7. Enhancing the work of UNODC on gender and human rights mainstreaming in the implementation of UNTOC, including through identifying national and regional 'champions' of the matter.

Activities

8. To achieve the aforementioned objectives, the Network will undertake activities under the following three pillars:
 - 8.1.1 Increasing knowledge on transnational organized crime;
 - 8.1.2 Advocating for women's engagement in the development of strategic and normative frameworks against organized crime;
 - 8.1.3 Promoting an enabling environment for women's participation in security and justice matters.
9. More information on the Network's activities for 2024 can be found in the Annex attached to the Terms of Reference.

Governance

10. The Network is coordinated by the UNODC Global Programme on Implementing the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.
11. Strategic advice on the functioning of the Network is provided by the Network's Advisory Board. The Advisory Board is responsible for expressing the needs of the Network members and providing suggestions and feedback on the activities of the Network. The Advisory Board rotates on an annual basis, with the possibility of extending each term by one year, in agreement with each member of the Advisory Board.

Membership

12. The Network is open to female policy makers, legislative drafters, criminal justice practitioners and law enforcement from countries within West and Central Africa.
13. Membership in the Network is in personal capacity, with the members not participating in representation of the entities and organizations they are engaged with.
14. Applications to join the Network are accepted on a rolling basis through the following link: <https://forms.office.com/e/3WWyY9ZWH4>

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