

## **Strengthening the Rule of Law and Security Institutions in West Africa and the Sahel for the Provision of Election Security**

- **Brief description of the project**

- Objective of the project

The elections in late 2020 and early 2021 across West Africa and the Sahel presented different challenges for the UN's conflict prevention efforts and engagement and required dedicated capacities and mechanisms to enhance UN system-wide response during the election process, and in some cases, post-election as well. There are several imminent and forthcoming elections scheduled for the years 2022-2024. The political discourse in the region is expected to change dramatically if they are held in line with relevant laws and international standards for free, fair and transparent electoral processes. Police services must be cognizant of their roles to ensure the integrity of the electoral process as well as be adequately trained to professionally undertake their responsibilities. The project aims to facilitate deployments of Standing Police Capacity experts to advise host-state authorities on human rights-based and gender-responsive policing during all phases of electoral security planning and operations.

- Why is the project required?

The project will allow police institutions in the West Africa and the Sahel region to enhance their capacity for providing election security to enable them to assist the authorities in conducting free, fair and impartial elections. It will also play a key role in preventing conflict by strategically aligning different streams of complementary support through relevant UN entities to bolster the system-wide approach and deliver coherent United Nations assistance from the rule of law and security institutions (ROLSI) perspective. By doing so, it is also envisaged that DPO's support to non-mission settings in West Africa and the Sahel would also be enhanced.

- What is the expected impact of the project?

Police institutions in West Africa and the Sahel region are able to provide security during the election process in a professional and lawful manner in accordance with widely accepted international standards.

- **Expected outcomes, outputs and proposed activities**

<b>Outcomes</b>	<b>Outputs</b>	<b>Proposed Activities</b>
Increased capacity of police services across West Africa and the Sahel in election security through the rapid, timely and effective provision of expertise by the SPC	Outputs mainly covering assessments, provision of mentoring and advising, training-of-trainer courses, drafting/review of election security related documents, through in-person deployment of SPC experts	Preparation for deployment for in-person support through UN entities to Member States as required.  Post-deployment follow-up support as needed and requested.  Preparation for and delivery of ToT.

- **Implementation timeline**

One year (1 July 2022- 30 June 2023).

- **Explain how the project will further the implementation of the A4P+ priorities.**

The project is in line with A4P and A4P+ priorities and aims to enhance the capacity of national and regional law enforcement institutions. It also envisages to reinforce the rule of law during the election cycle through a collective and coherent approach with stakeholders and partnerships in the region. This will actively support common political strategies and, in line with this relevant priority, it will contribute to transparent and credible elections to address security challenges in the West Africa and the Sahel.

- **How have gender aspects been included in the design and implementation of the project? How does it help the Department implement its women, peace and security and gender parity commitments?**

Terms of reference for each deployment will be guided by a human rights-based approach and contribute to advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda with a focus on building gender-responsive rule of law institutions during the electoral cycle. It will also contribute to actions towards the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence as well as promoting women's participation and representation at various levels, including observers, voters and uniformed police participating in the election security cycle.

- **Brief explanation of any risks that the implementation of the project may face and how to mitigate them.**

The pandemic-related restrictions and COVID-prevention protocols have been gradually eased recently. By the time of implementation of the project, the impact of COVID-19 is not foreseen and the SPC team members are fully vaccinated as per UN recommendations.

- **Proposed budget**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Brief Description</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>
Travel	Travel expenses including other admissible allowances and incidentals	\$402,478
Conference services	For organizing meetings/workshops/training	\$40,000
Programme Support Costs (13%)		\$57,522
	<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$500,000</b>