

32nd session of the CCPCJ

SIDE EVENT

UNDER-EXPLORED 'ACCELERANT' MARKETS DRIVING INSTABILITY IN THE SAHEL: KIDNAPPING AND CATTLE RUSTLING



24 May 2023
08:00-08:50 CEST



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Room M2

The deteriorating security situation across parts of West Africa and the Sahel underscores the importance of better understanding the relationship between crime and conflict. Illicit economies are major sources of funding for countless armed actors across West Africa, and many illicit markets contribute to swelling violence.

The session will be framed by the findings of the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime's (GI-TOC) hotspots mapping initiative, which identified 280 geographic hubs of illicit activity across the region and assessed the relationship between illicit economies in each hub and instability. It will explore how conflict actors and these illicit economies intersect in areas under conflict actor control and territories currently suffering from armed group expansion.

SPEAKERS

- Opening remarks from the Chair: **Frederick Due Rabenschlag**, *Political Affairs Officer, Embassy and Permanent Mission of Denmark*
- **Mouhamadou Kane**, *Analyst, GI-TOC*
- **Flore Berger**, *Sahel Analyst, GI-TOC*
- **Dr Olubusayo Akinola**, *Principal Programme Officer, Drug Control and Crime Prevention, African Union Commission*
- **Tobias Grothe**, *Lead for Security Sector Reform, Federal Foreign Office, Germany (TBC)*
- Closing remarks: **H.E Raphael Nägeli**, *Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the United Nations in Vienna*