



32nd session of the CCPCJ

SIDE EVENT

GOLD, CRIME, CONFLICT AND FRAGILITY IN WEST AFRICA AND THE SAHEL: Converting knowledge into evidence-based prevention and response frameworks



25 May 2023
09:10-10:00 CEST



[Click here to join online](#)
Room M6

While gold is often referred to as a 'blood mineral' due to its role in conflict financing, the relationship between the gold sector, organized crime, and instability and violence in West Africa and the Sahel is far more nuanced. Woven into the region's convoluted web of actors, activities and supply chains are criminal networks exploiting the gold sector for financial gain and power. The pervasiveness of artisanal and small-scale gold mining and an increasing tide of insecurity and violence in recent years adds to the complexity of the sector. This event will present research on hotspots, criminal networks and supply chains in the region, as well as analysis of the relationships between gold, conflict and criminality. It will also present and discuss implications for prevention and responses, presenting lessons learned and ongoing efforts in the region.

SPEAKERS

- Opening remarks from the Chair: **H.E. Philbert Johnson**, Ambassador, *Permanent Representative of the Republic of Ghana to the United Nations in Vienna*
- Moderator: **Elsadig MohamedAhmed**, Senior Expert, *Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC)*
- **Marcena Hunter**, Thematic Lead on Extractives and Illicit Flows, *GI-TOC*
- **Alice Fereday**, Senior Analyst, *GI-TOC*
- **Gideon Ofosu-Peasah**, Analyst, *GI-TOC*
- **Benjamin Aryee**, Advisor on Mining to the Minister for Lands and Natural Resources, *Ghana*
- **Dr Ishmael Quaiocoe**, Senior lecturer, *Minerals, Environmental and Safety Engineering, University of Mines and Technology, Ghana*
- Closing remarks: : **Dr Olubusayo Akinola**, Principal Programme Officer, *Drug Control and Crime Prevention, African Union Commission*