

# Security Dynamics in Africa: an increasing trend towards Transnationalisation

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## Aims

- Strengthen students' knowledge of Africa in general and the Sahel and Lake Chad Basin in particular.
- Discuss with students the dynamics of security in Africa and link them to the global context.

## Method

This seminar was interactive and based on discussion and building on students' prior knowledge.

## Seminar proceedings

The seminar had a total volume of 12 hours, broken down as follows:

- Tuesday 30.05.2023 14:00 – 18:00
- Wednesday 31.05.2023 18:00 – 20:00
- Thursday 01.06.2023 10:00 – 12:00
- Thursday 01.06.2023 16:30 – 18:00
- Friday 02.06.2023 09:00 – 12:30

### *Content discussed on Tuesday, 30.05.2023, 14:00 – 18:00*

The first day of the seminar began with an introductory session to allow the lecturer and students to get to know each other. Then the seminar's objectives, methodology and content to be developed over the 12 hours were presented and discussed.

A brainstorming session was introduced to take stock of the students' perceptions of Africa. This gave a rich and varied picture of Africa (see appendix). This brainstorming gave rise to a rich discussion with the students on the different points of view raised.

Finally, the lecturer gave a general presentation on Africa, covering demographic, historical, political and economic aspects, before ending with a brief overview of security dynamics across Africa, mainly the focus of global violent extremist groups (VEGs) on the continent. Vibrant discussions again followed the presentation.

### *Content discussed on Wednesday 31.05.2023 18:00 – 20:00*

The second day of the seminar began with discussions on the previous day's issues, left in suspense before moving on to the theme of the day: the Sahel, a new playground for global non-state armed groups.

The security issue was addressed after a general presentation on the Sahel (history, demography, politics and governance, economy). In the Sahel, Salafist groups and violent

extremist groups from North Africa and elsewhere have grafted onto local dynamics to establish themselves and grow, making the Sahel the second place most affected by terrorism in 2022.

Vibrant discussions again followed the presentation.

*Content discussed on Thursday 01.06.2023 10:00 - 12:00*

The third day of the seminar was organised in two sequences. The morning session was devoted to the following theme: The Lake Chad Basin: from local to global terrorism. This session explored how Boko Haram emerged from a local context (north-east Nigeria), became a transnational movement and eventually one of the Islamic State's most deadly affiliates in less than a decade.

As on the previous day, discussions began with the questions left over from the previous day before the lecturer's presentation, followed by an open discussion session.

*Content discussed on Thursday 01.06.2023 16:30 - 18:00*

The afternoon session explored two topics:

**a. Growth and resilience of VEGs**

This section explored how GEVs manage to grow and become resilience despite the kinetic and non-kinetic responses basing themselves on factors like mastery of the context, military adaptability, control of some local economy sectors, coercion on communities and individuals, capacity to embed in communities, global jihad support and nature of the responses.

**b. Responses to VEGs**

This section explored the nature and effectiveness of the responses to VEGs in the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin through the G5 Sahel force and the Multinational Joint Task Force, respectively. Despite additional components on development and stabilisation, too much focus on military aspects harmed communities, limiting their results.

The discussions began with the questions left over from the morning session before the lecturer's presentations and a Q&A session.

*Content discussed on Friday 02.06.2023 09:00 - 12:30*

The last session of the seminar was devoted to a specific example of an African country whose geographical position, history and internal policy place it at the crossroads of the continent's security threats while also representing a potential source of danger for neighbouring countries: Chad.

Again, a lecture presentation and video displaying followed by a general discussion and closing remarks.