



**BREAKFAST POLICY FORUM**

**CRIME AS AN IMPEDIMENT TO SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT IN AFRICA:  
BEST PRACTICES AND INSTITUTIONAL OPPORTUNITIES**

***A Side Event to the UN General Assembly’s High Level Meeting on Africa’s Development Needs***

Local and transnational crime in Africa represent both the causes and the consequences of violence, corruption and poor governance. They threaten security and impede development, creating a vicious spiral. Crime and corruption undermine the rule of law, inhibit foreign investment, exacerbate conflict and wreak a heavy human toll throughout the continent. With Africa’s youth population growing, and already significant rates of unemployment, cooperation will be needed to stem the growth of Africa’s criminal economies, with all their potentially impacts on health, governance and regional and international security.

Yet there are also reasons for optimism. Throughout the continent, local and national governments are gaining ground and finding effective means to cooperate, especially through police and development cooperation. Anti-corruption campaigns are making headway. There is an increased awareness amongst policy-makers in New York and beyond of the dangers posed by drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime in West Africa, even leading the Peacebuilding Commission to address the issue through peacebuilding efforts in Guinea-Bissau. And the Security Council recently passed a Resolution to take action against piracy off the coast of the Horn of Africa.

International institutions, including the regional economic commissions, African Union and United Nations, have an opportunity to build on these positive trends. Through concerted action to strengthen policing capacity, reinforce the judicial sector, fight corruption and promote the rule of law, they may help governments to arrest the impacts of crime throughout the continent.

**Co-Chairs:** **Mr. Antonio Maria Costa**, *Under-Secretary General, Executive Director, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime*  
**H.E. Mr. Terje Rød-Larsen**, *President, International Peace Institute*

**Speaker 1:** **Advocate Bience Gawanas**, *Commissioner for Social Affairs, African Union Commission [TBC]*  
**Speaker 2:** **Ambassador Said Djinnit**, *Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for West Africa*

**Discussant:** **Mr. Patrick Hayford**, *Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, United Nations*

**Date & Time:** **Monday, 22 September 2008, 8:15 am – 10:00 a.m.**

**Location:** Trygve Lie Center for Peace, Security & Development, International Peace Institute  
777 United Nations Plaza, 12<sup>th</sup> Floor (corner of 44<sup>th</sup> Street and 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue)

**Agenda:** 8:00 – 8:15 a.m. Buffet Breakfast - 8:15 – 10:00 a.m. Presentations and Interactive Discussion

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**Please FAX or EMAIL responses to Meiko Boynton, 212-867-8730 or [Boynton@ipinst.org](mailto:Boynton@ipinst.org) by Thursday, 18 September 2008. When e-mailing your response, please indicate the date of the event in the subject line.**

\_\_\_ I will attend \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ I will not attend \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ will attend in my place.

*For questions regarding this event, please contact Meiko Boynton, Event Officer, at 212-225-9639*