



March 4, 2014

The National Endowment for Democracy and The Bridges Institute cordially invite you to attend a discussion on

## **Democratic Challenges in the Sahel: Security and Regional Cooperation**

### **Featuring:**

**Hon. Mohamed Bazoum**  
Niger Minister of Foreign Affairs

**Dr. Sulayman Nyang**  
Professor, Howard University

### **Moderated by:**

**Vivian Lowery Derryck**  
President, The Bridges Institute

Over the past 24 months, the Sahel has often made headlines because of the series of humanitarian, political, military and security crises it has encountered simultaneously. The fall of Libyan dictator Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 as well as the ensuing crises in Mali have been a wakeup call to most Sahel observers and democracy practitioners. The connection between both events underscored the structural fragility of the Sahel as a distressing domino effect was set in motion.

While the international community and Sahelian states continue to uncover fissures, they are responding forcefully to these new challenges. It is in this context that the Sahel Strategy Forum, a civil society-focused initiative led by the National Endowment for Democracy, in partnership with The Bridges Institute, is being launched.



## **Honorable Mohamed Bazoum**

Niger Minister of Foreign Affairs

H.E. Mr. Mohamed Bazoum is the Senior Minister of Foreign Affairs, Cooperation, African Integration and of Nigeriens of the Diaspora for the government of Niger. His work in Public Service to Niger spans three decades, beginning in 1991 with his appointment as Secretary of State in charge of Cooperation at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Close to twenty years later, Mr. Bazoum became a member of the Consultative Council for drafting the new Niger Constitution. Mr. Bazoum's unique and expansive experience as an educator, policy-maker in the Sahel, and private consultant make him an invaluable addition to the Sahel Strategy Forum's initial discussion on Security Challenges in the Sahel.



## **Dr. Sulayman Nyang**

Professor, Howard University

Professor Sulayman Nyang's career as an Africanist and professor of African Studies spans more than 32 years. He joined the faculty of the African Studies Department at Howard University shortly after graduating from the University of Virginia with the Masters of Arts in Public Administration and went on to obtain a Ph.D. in Government in 1974, while lecturing as Assistant Professor at Howard University. Nyang has held administrative academic positions at Howard University, and as Chairperson and Acting Director, contributed to several expert panels on African Affairs, handling a wide range of topics, including cultural, political, religious and social affairs. Professor Nyang has published profusely on a variety of issues affecting Africans in Africa, the diaspora, and beyond. He has written or collaborated with other Africanists to write 11 books, and more than 70 articles on Islam, African political, cultural, and development affairs. He is a dedicated scholar who works tirelessly for African causes, and mentors younger scholars, through intellectual collaboration, and encouragement to foster continuity in the field.



## **Vivian Lowery Derryck**

President, The Bridges Institute

Ms. Vivian Lowery Derryck launched Bridges to strengthen African governance and leadership by forging trade and social development links between Africa and the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India and China), the United States, the European Union, and the African Diaspora, when she was an Inaugural Fellow at the Advanced Leadership Initiative at Harvard University in 2009. Prior to her year at Harvard, she was Senior Vice President and Director of Public-Private Partnerships at the former AED, a U.S.-based non-profit which worked on education, health and economic development in more than 125 countries. Previously, she served as the Assistant Administrator for Africa of the U.S. Agency for International Development, Deputy Assistant Secretary at the U.S. Department of State and Vice President of the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs.