On the margins of the Ministerial Roundtable on the Central Sahel 2020, the European Union, the Sahel and West Africa Club and the International Crisis Group are pleased to invite you to a virtual side event on

**Interconnected challenges in the Central Sahel: responding to the 2020 food crisis with a humanitarian, development and peace nexus approach**

**Monday 12 October 2020 / 2pm – 3:30pm (CEST)**

The situation in the Central Sahel (Burkina Faso, Mali and Niger) has deteriorated considerably in recent years. Indeed, the area experiences many simultaneous crises: food, security, humanitarian, health, socio-economic, socio-political and climatic. These complex and fast-growing crises are causing unprecedented needs. What are the structural and cyclical challenges facing the population and States of the Central Sahel countries?

Since the droughts of the 1970s and 1980s, the Central Sahel has been warming faster than the global average. The area is experiencing more frequent and intense climatic hazards, as evidenced by the recent floods that have left half a million people affected in Niger. However, it is difficult to establish a direct causal link between global warming, which would lead to a scarcity of resources, and the increase in violence. While it is essential to take into account the impact of climate change in the Sahel, it is also necessary to link this factor to a broader set of causalities, including political choices governing access to resources.

In the Central Sahel, we are now witnessing an unprecedented humanitarian emergency. Yet the budgetary trade-offs of the countries concerned, between security, food and health emergencies, are increasingly difficult, if not impossible. Faced with such a situation, responses adapted to the multi-sectoral challenges must be implemented urgently and with great coherence of action. How can a nexus approach, integrating humanitarian, development and peace elements provide the expected support to communities and institutions affected by the food crisis in fragile areas?

Thank you for confirming your participation, indicating your name, organisation and position to Ivelina.NATAN@ec.europa.eu as soon as possible. You will then receive a Zoom connexion link ahead of the event.