Emerging Cyber Dimensions of Africa's Security Landscape

BIOGRAPHIES

Panelists

Mr. Abdul-Hakeem Ajijola (AhA) is Chair, African Union Cyber Security Expert Group, Commissioner for the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace (#theGCSC), and Chairman, Consultancy Support Services (CS2) Ltd., a Cyber Security, e-Library and Information Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Consultancy Firm, based in Abuja, Nigeria. He is also Chair of the Working Group on Cyber Incident Management and Critical Information Protection of Global Forum on Cyber Expertise, founding member of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation – Computer Emergency Response Team, and member of both the Nigerian Cybercrime Working Group and Group of Experts for the Nigerian Senate Committee on Cybersecurity and ICT. He is ranked #13 in the 2018 IFSEC Global Cybersecurity professionals influencers and thought leaders list.

Previously, Mr. Ajijola was a Senior Special Assistant Innovation & Technology to the National Security Adviser to the President of Nigeria. He participated in drafting the 2001 National IT Policy, ICT4D Strategic Action Plan, National ICT in Education Policy & aspects of the Policy on Space Science & Technology, National Standards & Guidelines for e-Library in Nigeria, National Framework on Building Women & Youths Knowledge-Based Nation through IT. He also provides support to the Honourable Minister of Communications on Nigeria ICT Roadmap 2016-2019 and the Nigeria Information and Communications Technology Sector Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

Ms. Noëlle van der Waag-Cowling is a researcher and lecturer in the Department of Strategic Studies at Stellenbosch University. She specializes in cyber strategy and asymmetric armed conflict. She has worked within Higher Education in the Faculty of Military Science at Stellenbosch University for over 20 years. From 2013-2017, Ms. Cowling was the Chair of the School for Geospatial Studies and Information Systems. She is the program lead of SIGLA Cyber at the Security Institute for Governance and Leadership in Africa, Stellenbosch University (SIGLA). She has served as assistant editor of the accredited academic journal Scientia Militaria and as a reviewer for the International Journal of Cyber Warfare and Terrorism. Ms. Cowling has published in various national and international scientific publications and been a participant in various in international military education and technology projects. She is the Faculty of Military Science lead for the new multi-platform School for Data and Computational

Sciences at Stellenbosch. She is also an Associate Research Fellow at the Centre for Conflict, Rule of Law and Society, Bournemouth University, England.

Ms. Cowling has hosted and organized a number of recent cyber related events such as the Cyber Intelligence and Warfare Symposium at the African Aerospace and Defence Expo in 2018, and the International Conference on Cyber Warfare and Cyber Security held at Stellenbosch University in February 2019. In 2020 she was nominated as one of Africa's 50 top women in Cyber.

Moderator

Dr. Nathaniel Allen is an Assistant Professor for Security Studies, responsible for overseeing the Africa Center's academic programming on cybersecurity and peace support operations and integrating these considerations into the Center's research and outreach. His work focuses on civil-military relations, regional security partnerships, counterinsurgency efforts, and nonconventional warfare.

Prior to the joining the Africa Center, Dr. Allen was a policy advisor at the U.S. Institute of Peace Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States. He has also worked at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, for the Foreign Affairs and the Armed Services Committees of the U.S. House of Representatives, and with NORC at the University of Chicago's International Projects Department. Dr. Allen's research has been published in leading policy journals and newspapers. He has received fellowships from American University, the Robertson Family Foundation, and the U.S. Institute of Peace, where he was a 2016-2017 Williams Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar.

Dr. Allen holds a Ph.D. in international relations and African studies from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, an M.A. in development studies from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School, and a B.A. in political science from Swarthmore College.