



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

INNOVATIONS AND CHALLENGES IN COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND TERRORISM IN AFRICA

March 4, 2021

BIOGRAPHIES

PANELISTS (In alphabetical order)

Dr. Anouar Boukhars is professor of counterterrorism and countering violent extremism, at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Dr. Boukhars works closely with African government and nongovernmental security sector leaders on developing and implementing activities and programs relating to counterterrorism and countering violent extremism. His research focuses on the dynamics of radicalization and violent extremism in Africa.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Boukhars was a nonresident fellow in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and an associate professor of international relations at McDaniel College. He has served on several advisory boards and committees on the Sahel and North Africa, including at the African Peacebuilding Network at the Social Science Research Council. From August 2015 to July 2017, Dr. Boukhars served at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, as lead facilitator of its flagship program, the Executive Masters in Managing Peace and Security in Africa. His research has been published in numerous leading policy publications and academic journals. He routinely conducts fieldwork in Africa and consults frequently for the African Union, World Bank, United Nations, U.S. State Department, and European governments.

Dr. Boukhars holds a Ph.D. in international studies from Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia; an M.A. in applied humanities from Al Akhaweyn University in Ifrane, Morocco; and a B.A. in English literature from Ibn Tofail University in Kenitra, Morocco.

Dr. Akinola Olojo is a Senior Researcher in the Lake Chad Basin programme in Dakar. He joined the ISS in 2018 as a senior researcher in the Complex Threats in Africa programme in Pretoria. Before this, he was a visiting scholar at the Institut d'Études Politiques (SciencesPo) in France where he taught on violence and terrorism in sub-Saharan Africa. Akinola was also a visiting research fellow at the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT) in The Hague. He has a PhD from the Université Paris Descartes.

Ms. Romi Sigsworth is a research consultant with the Complex Threats in Africa and ENACT programmes at the Institute for Security Studies. Prior to this, she was the gender specialist at the ISS and a senior researcher in the Gender-based Violence Programme at the Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation. She has also been the editor of the academic journals African Security Review, Bioethics and Developing World Bioethics. She has an MSt in Women's Studies from the University of Oxford.

MODERATOR

Mr. Idriss M. Lallali is the Deputy-Director and concurrently Head of Alert and Prevention Unit at the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT) and is a member of the multidisciplinary team designated by the AU to launch the Centre.

Among his primary responsibilities are: leading the design and development of the Centre's Counter-Terrorism Early Warning System, managing a team of analysts that conduct policy analysis, studies, synthesis, and audits on terrorism in Africa. He previously provided assistance to consultants appointed by the AU to the African Anti-Terrorist Model Law, managed the Focal Point Community Database, and led the Monitoring Process of ratification of the African and Universal Counterterrorism Instruments. Mr. Lallali is also leading a team of experts that evaluate the Counterterrorism capacity of African Union Member States.