



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

BIOGRAPHIES

Session 5: Understanding Resilience: The Role of Law Enforcement, Justice, and their Coordination

Mr. Brice Severin Pongui is a lawyer at the Brazzaville Bar and Ombudsman at the Centre for Mediation and Arbitration of Congo (Republic of Congo) as well as consultant for the International Programme of the US Forest Service in the Republic of Congo, on a project on countering illegal logging in the Republic of Congo, Cameroon and Gabon. He has been a lawyer (counsel and advocate) and a consultant and trainer in many areas of law since 2009, including environmental law, marine law, contract law, administrative law, intellectual property law, land law, land and planning law, criminal law, real estate law, legal feasibility of investment projects. He is also the honorary president of the Green Brain Institute 2063, an NGO that works to help implement the African Union's Agenda 2063.

Mr. Pongui holds a Master's degree in Environment and Territory in the Field of Environmental Law, Economics and Management, International Law and Environmental Comparative Specialty from the University of Limoges in 2007. He is also a graduate of the Public University of Congo and the National School of Administration and Judiciary (ENAM).

Since 2009, he has been a consultant in environmental and sustainable development law and policy. He has worked as a consultant or associate expert in several legal, communication, training and strategic planning missions for several organizations in the United Nations system, the Government, the private sector, non-governmental organizations, research centres, training institutions, design offices including those specializing in environmental assessments.

He is also a member of the Environmental Law Commission of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the French Society for Environmental Law and the French-speaking African Network of Environmental Lawyers.

Mr. Francis Rwego is Special Representative of INTERPOL to the AU. He also previously served as the Head of the INTERPOL Regional Bureau for Eastern Africa and is a citizen of Uganda. Prior to that he had a distinguished career as a police officer in Uganda, achieving the rank of Assistant Inspector General of Police. He holds a Masters Degree from the Institute for Peace and Security Studies in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, where he

wrote a Masters Thesis on “Evaluation of Legal and Adhoc Frameworks in Investigating Cross-Border Organised Crimes: The Case of July 2010 Kampala Bombings.”

Moderator

Dr. Catherine Lena Kelly is an associate professor responsible for overseeing the Africa Center’s portfolio on justice, rule of law, and governance and integrating these considerations into academic programming, research, and outreach. Her work focuses on citizen security, party politics and democratization, the rule of law and stabilization, and transnational organized crime.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Kelly was an advisor at the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, where her work took her to Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Republic of Congo, and Rwanda. She designed and taught courses on contemporary Africa and democracy as a postdoctoral fellow at Washington University in St. Louis. At the State Department’s Foreign Service Institute, Dr. Kelly taught the West Africa course and co-taught the governance and religion modules in the Area Studies course. She has been awarded numerous fellowships and grants, including a Fulbright Fellowship, a Mellon/American Council of Learned Societies Public Fellowship, a West Africa Research Association grant, several Harvard University grants, and two U.S. Department of Education Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowship for the Wolof language and doctoral research in Senegal. Her work has been published extensively in policy and academic journals.

Dr. Kelly holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in government from Harvard University, a Graduate Certificate in international politics (Europe, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding) from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, and a B.A. summa cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis.