



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

BIOGRAPHIES

Session 4: Understanding Resilience: The Role of Legal and Policy Frameworks Panelists

Ms. Diya Beesoondoyal is a UK qualified barrister and currently holds the post of Principal State Counsel at the Attorney General's Office in Mauritius, where she undertakes civil litigation, advisory and legislative drafting work for the Government, Ministries, departments and parastatal bodies in various areas of law, including rule of law matters, international law and maritime law. In her capacity as Government lawyer, she has attended several regional and international workshops and training programs in the field of international law, maritime law and maritime security. Previously, she has served as prosecution lawyer under the supervision of the Director of Public Prosecutions of Mauritius and also as Senior District Magistrate in the judiciary in Mauritius. Ms Beesoondoyal has also served as Legal Officer in the Rule of Law Division (Justice Section) of the Commonwealth Secretariat headquarters in London for 18 months. Ms. Beesoondoyal holds a Bachelor of Laws and Masters of Laws in International Business Law from the London School of Economics and Political Science (UK).

Ms. Gogé Maïmouna Gazibo is the former Executive Director of the National Agency against Trafficking of Persons and the Illicit Trafficking of Migrants (NAATP/ITM, Ministry of Justice) in Niger. She is also the Niger-Italy Liaison Magistrate and facilitates judicial cooperation in transnational organized crime. During her time as an Executive Director at the NAATP/ITM, she set up NAATP/ITM branches in ten high courts (Niamey Tillabéry, Dosso, Konni, Maradi, Tahoua, Zinder, Agadez, Arlit, Diffa) and provided the NAATP/ITM with twelve (12) magistrates, thus making the NAATP/ITM the only Executive Directorate of the Ministry of Justice with such a large number of magistrates. She has received several awards and honors, including the International Award for Combating Trafficking in Persons delivered in Abuja on April 18, 2019. Among several other works in the fight against transnational organized crime, Ms. Gazibo has trained more than 400 defense and security forces, 350 Nigerien magistrates, 100 men from the media, and 150 civil society actors in the fight against human trafficking. It was at the initiative of the passing of law N°2015-036 of May 26, 2015 relating to the Illicit Trafficking of Migrants, the elaboration of the decree N°2015-182 instituting a National day of mobilization, and the revision of the ordinance N°2010-086 of December 16, 2010 relating to trafficking of persons, which allows the State of Niger to rule even more severely on cases of trafficking where the victim is a woman or a minor. She was also

involved in the development of Niger's National Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Persons and has conducted several studies and consultations as well as experience sharing, including as a UNODC expert for the revitalization of the National Committee for the Fight against Trafficking in Persons of Mali and for the process of developing training modules on trafficking in persons for the benefit of the Schools of Magistracy, Police and Gendarmerie of Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger; as well as an expert for Interpol for the sharing of experiences for the benefit of other ECOWAS countries.

Ms. Gazibo holds a Magistracy Diploma from the Ecole Nationale d'Administration et de Magistrature, ENAM (Niger-Niamey) and a Master's degree in Private Law, option judicial career Faculty of Economic and Legal Sciences FSEJ (Mali Bamako). She has participated in the Visitor Program in the United States as an actor in the fight against human trafficking, and in the International Court Cycle at the Ecole Nationale d'Administration Publique, ENAM (Strasbourg - France).

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.