



# AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

### BIOGRAPHIES

#### **Session 6: Understanding Resilience to Transnational Organized Crime: The Roles of Financial Flows, Corruption, and Oversight**

**Ms. Souad Aden-Osman** is the Executive Director for the Coalition for Dialogue on Africa (CoDA). She also heads the secretariat of the African Union High Level Panel on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) from Africa (HLP on IFFs). In this capacity, she serves as the Coordinator of the Consortium to Stem IFFs from Africa. Under her leadership, CoDA fostered the work of Afrexim Bank and the African Union Commission towards the establishment of the African Business Council (AfDC). She recently coordinated the preparation and adoption by the AU Assembly of the Common African Position on Asset Recovery (CAPAR). Prior to her current roles, she was the Head of the Joint Secretariat Support Office (JSSO) for the African Union, African Development Bank and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA). Ms. Aden-Osman served in the office of the Deputy Executive Secretary and Chief Economist of UNECA. In this role, she worked with the leadership of continental pan-African institutions that led the establishment of the African Climate Policy Center (ACPC) and the African Mineral Development Center (AMDC).

Ms. Aden-Osman was part of several reform teams in the UN and directed the implementation of major institutional activities including the African Development Forum (ADF VII and ADF VIII). Ms. Aden-Osman has more than two decades of varied senior titles within the United Nations system, Canadian government and several private sector institutions. Souad Aden-Osman is a Djiboutian-Canadian and holds an M.B.A (University of Ottawa).

**Ms. Pamela Fierst-Walsh** is Senior Advisor for Conflict & Critical Minerals and U.S. Rep to the Kimberley Process at the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs (EB/TFS/TFC), U.S. Department of State. She has focused on critical foreign policy and national security issues throughout her career, including counterterrorism, atrocities prevention, and humanitarian assistance. Pamela advises senior U.S. officials and private sector figures on responsible mineral sourcing. Her team works closely with consumer electronic companies, automobile manufacturers, and jewelers to develop coherent public-private approaches to vexing supply chain issues. Pamela appears in the Top 100 Corporate Social Responsibility Influencers in 2020, according to data management company Assent Compliance. She played a key role in shaping the 2019 U.S. Federal Strategy on Critical

Minerals to improve U.S. competitiveness for clean energy and technological advancement. She is a graduate of the Indiana University Maurer School of Law and the National Defense University's National War College.

**Ms. Kathleen Miles** is CINTOC's Director of Analysis and founding member of the Alliance to Counter Crime Online. At CINTOC and ACCO, Kathleen focuses her time on transnational, organized crime issues in Africa and on social media. She has developed and provided on the job training to analysts in Africa in complex link and network analysis. Recently, Kathleen has started a new endeavor, Ex Arca, exploring the role of social media in the information operation space.

Previously, Kathleen spent five years at Booz Allen Hamilton and supported the U.S. intelligence, law enforcement, and military communities. Her work at Booz Allen focused on illicit networks laundering money and financial analytics. She supported counter threat finance missions in the Afghanistan and Pakistan region and she has gathered and analyzed financial data about crime and terror networks in the Levant, Africa, and Central Asia.

#### **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.