



# AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR COUNTERING TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

### BIOGRAPHIES

#### **Webinar 8: Responding to Transnational Organized Crime: Perspectives on Security, Development, and Governance**

**Mr. Martin Ewi** is Technical Coordinator of the ENACT (Enhancing Africa's Response to Transnational Organized Crime) Project at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) in Pretoria, South Africa. In this capacity, he conducts research and analysis; coordinates and manages the five regional organized crime observatories in Africa; monitors trends, issues recommendations, and provides training and technical assistance. Previously, he served as a senior researcher at the ISS on terrorism, counter-terrorism, radicalization, and violent extremism in Africa. Prior to joining the ISS in 2010, Martin also served as Political Affairs Officer at the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in The Hague and as the officer in charge of the African Union strategic security unit and counter-terrorism analysis.

**Dr. Brooke Stearns Lawson** is a Senior Conflict, Governance, and Crime Advisor with USAID's Africa Bureau (USAID/AFR), where she provides technical assistance, program management, and policy guidance on a wide range of conflict and governance issues. Her work focuses on organized crime, particularly illicit trafficking in minerals, wildlife, and other natural resources; conflict and violence prevention; conflict-sensitivity; and private sector engagement.

Prior to joining USAID, Dr. Stearns Lawson was a Doctoral Fellow at the RAND Corporation where her work focused on the intersection of development and security. Brooke has more than twenty years work experience in international development, relief, and reconstruction. She earned a PhD in policy analysis from the Pardee RAND Graduate School and a masters degree in international relations from Institut d'Etudes Politiques (Sciences Po).

She was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, a 2009 White House Fellows Regional Finalist, founding member of the Rotary Club of Dupont Circle, 2003-2005 Rotary World Peace Scholar, and 2001 Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar.

**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 transnational organized crime. She is also a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

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, both in book form and 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.