Leadership and Faculty:

Ms. Kate Almquist Knopf has served as director of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, an academic institution within the U.S. Department of Defense since July 2014. Established by the U.S. Congress for the study of security issues relating to Africa, the Center serves as a forum for bilateral and multilateral research, communication, and the exchange of ideas. It aims to be an objective source of strategic analysis on contemporary and over-the-horizon security issues for African security sector professionals, policymakers, scholars, media, and civil society, as well as international partners.

Ms. Knopf has spent most of her career focused on the intersection of security and development in Africa. From 2001 to 2009, she held several senior positions at the U.S. Agency for International Development, including as assistant administrator for Africa, Sudan mission director, deputy assistant administrator for Africa, and special assistant and senior policy advisor to the administrator.

Ms. Knopf has also been a senior advisor for the Crisis Management Initiative, a conflict mediation organization founded by former Finnish President and Nobel Laureate Martti Ahtisaari, and a visiting policy fellow at the Center for Global Development. Prior to federal service, she was chief of staff for the Massachusetts Turnpike Authority and for the Executive Office for Administration and Finance of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. She began her career at World Vision, an international nongovernmental organization.

Ms. Knopf holds an M.A. in international relations with concentrations in African studies and conflict management from Johns Hopkins University’s Paul H. Nitze School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC, and a B.A. in international relations from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, MD.

Dr. Luka Kuol is the Academic Dean at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. As the dean, Dr. Kuol directs the Africa Center’s academic programs, linking them with Center’s Research, Outreach, and Alumni initiatives. In addition, he is the faculty lead of three academic programs: National Security Strategy Development, Managing Security Resources, and Emerging Security Sector Leaders. His work focuses on national security strategy, security sector budgets, social contracts, food security and resilience, and the security-development-governance nexus. Dr. Kuol is also a Global Fellow at the Peace Research Institute Oslo, a Fellow at the Rift Valley Institute, and an Associate Professor of Economics (on leave) at the University of Juba in South Sudan. He also sits on the editorial board of the Disasters Journal, published by the Overseas Development Institute. Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Kuol served as director of the Centre for Peace
and Development Studies and Associate Professor of Economics at the College of Social and Economic Studies at the University of Juba in South Sudan. He was also on the teaching staff of the Faculty of Economics and Rural Development at the University of Gezira in Sudan. He was a fellow at the Carr Center for Human Rights Policy at Harvard Kennedy School and a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Development Studies in the United Kingdom. He served as Minister of Presidential Affairs for the Government of Southern Sudan and as National Minister of Cabinet Affairs for the Republic of Sudan. He has also worked as a senior economist for the World Bank in Southern Sudan. He received his Bachelor of Science with honors from the Faculty of Economics and Social Studies at the University of Khartoum, an M.A. in Economics, an M.B.A. from the Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium, and a Ph.D. from the Institute of Development Studies at the University of Sussex in the United Kingdom.

Dr. Nathaniel Allen is an Assistant Professor for Security Studies, responsible for overseeing the Africa Center’s academic programming on cybersecurity and peace support operations and integrating these considerations into the Center’s research and outreach. His work focuses on civil-military relations, regional security partnerships, counterinsurgency efforts, and nonconventional warfare.

Prior to the joining the Africa Center, Dr. Allen was a policy advisor at the U.S. Institute of Peace Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States. He has also worked at the U.S. Department of State’s Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, for the Foreign Affairs and the Armed Services Committees of the U.S. House of Representatives, and with NORC at the University of Chicago’s International Projects Department. Dr. Allen’s research has been published in leading policy journals and newspapers. He has received fellowships from American University, the Robertson Family Foundation, and the U.S. Institute of Peace, where he was a 2016-2017 Williams Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar. He is a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Dr. Allen holds a Ph.D. in international relations and African studies from the Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, an M.A. in development studies from Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School, and a B.A. in political science from Swarthmore College. Dr. Allen will serve as a moderator, panelist, and facilitator for this program.

Panelists (in alphabetical order):

Mr. Kenneth Adu-Amanfoh is a founding member and Executive Director of Africa Cybersecurity and Digital Rights Organization (ACDRO) responsible for Digital Rights, Internet Freedom, Cybersecurity and Information Technology. He is an Information Technology and Cybersecurity executive with 22 years of experience in IT operations, Internet governance, Internet Freedom, Digital Rights, Human Rights online, Cybersecurity Policy & Strategy development, Cybercrime, CERT formation and Artificial Intelligence.

An insightful and experienced international speaker and trainer on ICT, digital rights, Internet freedom, cybersecurity, cyber bullying and cybercrime. He is a strong advocate on issues around human rights online, privacy and freedom of expression, network shutdowns, digital divide, and promotion of freedom online coalition initiatives. Mr. Adu-Amanfoh holds an MSc. Degree in Management Information Systems from the Kean University, New Jersey, USA and is a member
of ITU Study Group 17 (Security), ITU Study Group 13 (Future Networks), Project Management Institute (PMI); Information Systems Audit and Control Association (ISACA); and Information Systems Security Association (ISSA).

Prior to founding ACDRO, he worked with the National Communications Authority of Ghana as the Director of IT and Cybersecurity, where he established a Cybersecurity Division and a sectoral CERT. He co-facilitated the development of the National Cybersecurity Policy and Strategy for Ghana, and chaired the organization Cybersecurity workshops and Internet Governance Forums. Kenneth was the Team Lead for the National Cybersecurity team that drafted the Cybersecurity Implementation plan and also the Cybersecurity focal lead for the Ghana-US Security Governance Initiative.

Mr. Adu-Amanfoh represented Ghana on a number of Digital Rights, Internet Freedom and Internet Governance working groups, including Freedom Online Coalition (FOC), Internet Governance Forum (IGF), and AFRINIC Government Working Group (AFGWG). He is a formal Information Security Manager at the New York City Department of Investigation (NYCDOI). Mr. Adu-Amanfoh will serve as a panelist and facilitator for this program.

**Mr. Abdul-Hakeem Ajijola** is Chair, African Union Cyber Security Expert Group, Commissioner for the Global Commission on the Stability of Cyberspace (#theGCSC), and Chairman, Consultancy Support Services (CS2) Ltd., a Cyber Security, e-Library and Information Communication Technology (ICT) Policy Consultancy Firm, based in Abuja, Nigeria. He is also Chair of the Working Group on Cyber Incident Management and Critical Information Protection of Global Forum on Cyber Expertise, founding member of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation – Computer Emergency Response Team, and member of both the Nigerian Cybercrime Working Group and Group of Experts for the Nigerian Senate Committee on Cybersecurity and ICT. He is ranked #13 in the 2018 IFSEC Global Cybersecurity professionals influencers and thought leaders list. Previously, Mr. Ajijola was a Senior Special Assistant Innovation & Technology to the National Security Adviser to the President of Nigeria. He participated in drafting the 2001 National IT Policy, ICT4D Strategic Action Plan, National ICT in Education Policy & aspects of the Policy on Space Science & Technology, National Standards & Guidelines for e-Library in Nigeria, National Framework on Building Women & Youths KnowledgeBased Nation through IT. He also provides support to the Honourable Minister of Communications on Nigeria ICT Roadmap 2016-2019 and the Nigeria Information and Communications Technology Sector Strategic Plan 2016-2020.

**H.E. Kamissa Camara** is the Director for External Affairs and Africa Policy for the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change and a Senior Visiting Expert for the Sahel at the U.S. Institute of Peace. She is a sub-Saharan Africa policy analyst and practitioner with 15 years of professional experience. She has served as Mali’s minister of foreign affairs, minister of digital economy and planning, and most recently, as chief of staff to the president of Mali. Previous to that, she served as senior foreign policy advisor to the president. Prior to working with the Malian government, Camara held leadership positions in Washington, D.C. with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and PartnersGlobal. At NED, Camara co-founded and co-chaired the Sahel Strategy Forum. She also spearheaded a multi-million-dollar program supporting civil society initiatives in West and Central Africa, with a particular focus on the Sahel. From 2015 until 2018, she was the Sahel and sub-Saharan Africa
Ms. Grace Githaiga is the Convenor of the Kenya ICT Action Network (KICTANet), a multi-stakeholder platform for people and institutions interested and involved in ICT policy and regulation (www.kictanet.or.ke). She also hosts a television talk show Take on Tech, on Kenya’s National Broadcaster the Kenya Broadcasting Corporation (KBC). The Talkshow explores Technological concepts and debates with a panel of experts. Grace has sat on advisory committees of several ICT related organizations including being the African Civil Society representative at Commission on Science and Technology for Development at the United Nations (CSTD), and the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE). Ms. Githaiga has a BA in Communication with a minor in Community Development, and a Master’s in International Relations. Ms. Githaiga is a PhD candidate in a joint Communication and Digital Inclusion program of the Institute of Development Studies, University of Nairobi, and Roskilde University in Denmark. She was a Fulbright/Humphrey Fellow at University of Maryland. Her areas of interest are in ICT policy research and analysis.

Mr. Pierre Ouedraogo worked for 17 years at the International Organization of La Francophonie in Paris and Bordeaux, successively occupying the functions of “Information Society” program specialist, head of the purchasing and general services division and finally director of the digital Francophonie. He led the implementation of the digital Francophonie 2020 strategy adopted in 2012 by the summit of heads of state of the Francophonie. He has contributed to the development of the internet in Africa with the training of several hundred engineers in free software and internet security, the establishment of French-speaking networks of expertise in ICT and also the structuring of the ecosystem. Digital African as a founding member of African organizations such as AFRINIC, AFTLD, AFNOG, AFRICACERT. The ISOC (internet society) awarded him the prestigious John Postel Prize in 2012 in recognition of his work for the development of the internet in Africa.

Before this international career, he headed the Information Systems Department of ONATEL and set up the national internet node FASONET in February 1997. At ONATEL level, he transferred the management of .BF to Burkina Faso and installed the first local internet registry for the allocation of IP addresses in sub-Saharan Africa (excluding South Africa)

He is currently the CEO of TSI (Technologies and Services for Innovation), a firm specializing in digital transformation and cybersecurity.

Colonel-Major Ali Mahamadou is the Program Manager at the Niger National Center for Strategic and Security Studies (CNESS). He is also a doctoral student in political science at Abdou Moumouni Dioffo Niamey University. He holds a master's degree in public law specializing in defense security from the University of Paris 2 (France). He also holds a Brevet d'études militaires
supérieures and a defense expert certification in management, command and strategy from the
Paris School of War. He has 34 years of service in the Nigerien Armed Forces.

In 1990, after officer training at the Royal Military Academy of Meknes (Morocco), he chose to
serve in the Nigerien Signal Corps, and completed training at EAT of Montargis (France), from
September 1990 to July 1991. In 1994, returning from training to obtain a technical
communications and IT certificate at ESEAT in Rennes (France). He was in charge of the Center
for the Instruction of Communications of Niger Armed Forces, from September 1994 to
November 1996. Then, he held the post of Deputy Director of Communications of the Niger
Armed Forces until April 2002. Cumulatively with his function of Deputy to the Director of
Communications of the Niger Armed Forces, Col. Mahamadou assumed, at the Presidency of the
Republic, the responsibilities of Director of Communications and Communications Security, from
May 1999 to July 2000. Between April 2002 and August 2005, he was the Director of the Military
Prytaneum of Niamey. After heading this school, he was called upon to assume the
responsibilities of Central Director of Communications of the Niger Armed Forces, until July
2009.

Following his training at the Paris School, he held, from October 2010 to August 2011, the function
Then, from September 2011 to May 2017, he held the position of Director of Information and
Communication Systems at the Ministry of National Defense. Then, from May 2017, he was
appointed head of the "National Security and Defense Policy“ program at the National Center
for Strategic and Security Studies (CNES-NIGER) where he oversees the process of developing
Niger's National Security Policy.

Colonel Mahamadou is a Knight of the National Order of Niger, a Knight of the Order of Merit
of Niger, and was awarded the OAU Medal for his service in the Observation Mission in Burundi.
He has also served as a resource person at several seminars and workshops organized by the
Konrad Adenauer Foundation, the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, and other organizations.
Finally, he is the co-author of the book "Intelligence in West Africa: State of Play and
Perspectives", edited by L'Harmattan-Côte d'Ivoire, on behalf of the Konrad Adenauer
Foundation (April 2017).

Ms. Noëlle Van der Waag-Cowling is the Cyber Program Lead at the Security Institute for
Governance and Leadership (SIGLA), Stellenbosch University. Her work cuts across both the
public and private sectors and has a strong focus on governance, policy and geo-strategic issues
in information security. She teaches cyber warfare and low intensity conflict in the Department
of Strategic Studies and serves on the review board of the International Journal of Cyber Warfare
and Terrorism.

Ms. Van der Waag-Cowling is a member of the Group of Experts to the ICRC Geneva on Civilian
Harm during Military Cyber Operations and the Tana High-Level Forum on Security in Africa.
She is passionate about digital innovation and building cyber capacity on the Continent. Noëlle
is also an affiliate member of the University of Canberra’s National Security Hub and co-chair of
the Strategy and Research Working Group for the Carnegie Endowment’s FinCyber Project on
Financial Inclusion and Cybersecurity Risks in Africa. Ms. Van der Waag-Cowling will also be a
facilitator for this program.
Mr. **Moctar Yedaly** is the Africa Program Director for Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE). He has more than 20 years of International experience in Networks management, resources evaluation and policy preparation. After many years in Telecom industry in the USA and in Africa, Moctar led the Information Society department within the African Union Commission – an Intergovernmental organization with HQ in Ethiopia – from 2007 to 2021. In this capacity he led key Programs and Projects including the drafting and adoption of the African Union Convention on Cybersecurity and Personal Data Protection, the preparation of the first ever report on Cybersecurity trends in Africa, the creation of the AU Cybersecurity Expert Group. He is a thought leader in digital transformation and convergence of disruptive technologies. His achievements are well known in Africa and around the world. He led the drafting and adoption of the AU Digital Transformation Strategy 2020 -2030, the implementation of the African Internet Exchange Systems (AXIS). He is the father of the delegation of the Dot Africa Domain Name. His expertise is regularly sought in high-level panels where he focuses on the implementation of innovative responses to address Digital Economy issues. He is a Ph.D. Candidate, Telecom and Computers Engineer with an MBA in international Business. He is a graduate from George Washington University, Amity University and Institute of Informatics.

**Facilitators (in alphabetical order)**

**Dr. Anouar Boukhars** is a professor of counterterrorism and countering violent extremism, 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.

**Capt. (Navy) Joaquin Pacheco dos Santos** is the Senior Portuguese Representative at ACSS where he serves as a liaison between the Africa Center and the Portuguese Ministry of Defense and coordinates exchanges on security-related Africa policy and scholarship. He also serves as a facilitator and speaker at Africa Center academic programs.
Prior to joining the Africa Center, Captain dos Santos served as executive assistant and adviser of the Angola Naval Academy Commander in Luanda. From 2015 to 2017, he was the Commander of the Marines School, and in 2017 served as Deputy Commander of the Portuguese Marine Corps. Additionally, Captain dos Santos served as Cadet Corps Commander at the Portuguese Naval Academy from 2010 to 2013, head of the psychology department at the Naval Academy from 2005 to 2010, and lecturer on organizational behavior at the Naval Academy from 2005 to 2010. Captain dos Santos was the Head of the Department of Organizational Behavior and Leadership Training from 2002 to 2005 and Commander of the Marine Corps Landing Craft Unit from 1999 to 2002.

Captain dos Santos holds a Ph.D. in Management and Organizational Behavior from the Superior Institute of Work and Enterprise Sciences (ISCTE) in Lisbon and a master’s degree in organizational behavior from the Superior Institute of Applied Psychology (ISPA) in Lisbon. Captain dos Santos has been an Invited Lecturer on Leadership, Motivation, and Corporate/Business Ethics at the ISCTE-IUL, University at Lisbon, since 2005. He had published several scientific papers on team leadership development and training.

**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. As a postdoctoral fellow at Washington University in St. Louis, she designed and taught courses on contemporary Africa and democracy, and 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.

**Ms. Michelle Ndiaye** is the Special Representative and Head of the AU Office in DRC. Prior to that, she was the Director of the Africa Peace and Security Program in collaboration with the African Union Commission at the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS) and the Head of the Tana Forum Secretariat. Ms. Ndiaye has worked on a variety of projects with various local and international organizations and brings on-board a wealth of experience in the field of democratic and local governance, post-conflicts and community recovery, sustainable development and environmental issues, transitional justice, communication and research. She has an extensive political and administrative managerial background and experience in large scale multi-donor program management.
Before joining IPSS, she was the Managing Director of the Mandela Institute for Development Studies (MINDS). Prior to joining MINDS, between 1999 and 2011, she consecutively headed several African and international organizations as Executive Director of Greenpeace Africa, CEO of the African Institute for Corporate Citizenship (AICC), Founder and Manager of Africa Projects for Akena Research and Consulting and Regional Director of the World Association of Community Radio Broadcasters. Ms. Ndiaye started her career in 1995 as program officer at the African Institute for Democracy (IAD), a nongovernmental organization and UNDP project based in Dakar, Senegal that promotes democracy and governance in Africa and particularly in 16 West African Countries.

Ms. Ndiaye graduated in political science (BA) from Quebec University in Montreal, Canada. She holds a master’s degree in public law and a post graduate degree in Political Science (DEA) from University Cheikh Anta Diop, Dakar, Senegal. She is a Doctoral Candidate at the University Leipzig, Germany.