



# AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

## State Responses to the Use of Information Technology By Africa's Violent Extremist Groups

### Panelist Biographies:

**Karen Allen**, Senior Consultant, Institute for Security Studies

After a long career as a foreign News Correspondent for the BBC, Karen Allen began consulting for ISS in 2019 undertaking research, training and writing on international security issues and emerging threats in Africa. This has included examining the unintended consequences of social media proliferation and biometric surveillance as well as other areas of emerging tech including UAS/Drones. She has spent the past 15 years living and working on the continent as a senior BBC Foreign Correspondent based in Nairobi, and Johannesburg and although she has covered conflict in many theatres, she shies away from using the word "War Correspondent". Karen has also spent protracted periods of time based in Afghanistan and Iraq and has combined her journalism with academic study and some private consultancy work. Karen holds an MA in International Relations and Contemporary war from King's College London. She is a Visiting Fellow in the Department of War Studies at KCL and a contributor to a number of peer reviewed publications as well as traditional "mainstream" media.

**Murtala Abdullahi**, Reporter, HumAngle

Abdullahi Murtala is a Climate and Security Reporter with Humangle media where he writes on Nigeria's military, local conflict, Climate security, Lake Chad region and the Sahel. He founded the Goro Initiative, to promote dialogue on climate and security trends and youth participation in security. Murtala is a Global Shaper of the Abuja Hub in Nigeria and has contributed to publications and think-tank reports on climate change related security risks, national and regional security. Murtala has contributed to publications and think-tank reports on climate change-related security risks, countering/preventing violent extremism national, and regional security. He has participated in discussions on conflict, climate, and security on international TV, Local Radio & TV.