



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

The Gender Dimensions Of African Peace Operations

Panelist Biographies:

General Birame Diop is a Military Adviser in the Department of Peace Operations at the United Nations. He was appointed to this role by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres announced on 25 May 2021. General Diop has over 30 years of military experience, previously serving as the Chief of Defense Staff of the Senegalese Armed Forces. Prior to this appointment, he served as the National Security Advisor to the President of Senegal. General Diop was also the Chief of Staff and the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Senegalese Air Force. As a pilot in the Senegalese Air Force, he has accumulated a total of 7,000 flying hours.

General Diop has studied at the Royal Air Academy of Morocco, the University of Southern California, the Air University of Alabama and the College Inter Armées of Paris. General Diop is a scholar and a practitioner who has worked for many years with the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS), as a facilitator and speaker in a wide range of seminars. He was a fellow at the National Endowment for Democracy and at the Woodrow Wilson Center where he conducted research on Sub-Saharan Africa's Security Sector Reform. General Diop has published several articles on Strategic Airlift Capacities, Security Sector Reform, Civil and Security Sector Relations in Sub-Saharan Africa and National Security and Right to Information (NSRI). He is a doctoral student in Diplomacy and International Relations at the Center for Diplomatic and Strategic Studies in Dakar, Senegal.

General Diop has invented a local approach to border security management, based on the local population. He has also worked with the US Africa Command and ACSS to create a network of African National Security Advisors of all 15-member States of ECOWAS. Additionally, he has facilitated the development of National Security Strategies in Africa through the support of US AFRICOM and the ACSS. He has also worked extensively on the Gender Dimension on Security Reform in Africa. Finally, Gen Diop has done a lot of work in the professionalization of Africa Militaries.

The General is married with 4 adult children and 2 grand daughters and 2 grandsons.

Major Steplyne Nyaboga is a Kenyan peacekeeper who served in the recently ended United Nations - African Hybrid Union Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) as a Gender and Child Protection Officer.

Major Nyaboga deployed to Zalingei, Central Darfur State in February 2019 where she worked to address the gender dynamics of regional military engagement and conflict. During her tenure, Major Nyaboga encouraged gender-sensitive outreach to local communities and trained 95% of her fellow peacekeepers in gender-mainstreaming. She also advised the Force on how to better

address the needs of vulnerable populations and organized campaigns to confront issues facing Darfuri women and girls. In 2020, Major Nyaboga was presented with the prestigious United Nations Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award at a virtual ceremony presided over by UN Secretary-General António Guterres. She is the first Kenyan peacekeeper to have received this distinguished commendation.

Major Nyaboga began her military career in 2009 as a Signal Radio Troop Commander, reaching the Brigade level in 2011 at age 22. In 2013, she was placed in charge of managing and instructing Kenya's Defense Force recruits, eventually reaching the level of Senior Instructor in 2017. As a Senior Instructor, she commanded the Communication wing; a post she held until she was nominated for deployment to UNAMID. She is currently a Welfare Officer at the Kenya Defense Force Headquarters.