



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

UNDERSTANDING THE FRACTURED LANDSCAPE OF VIOLENT EXTREMISM IN THE LAKE CHAD BASIN

October 13, 2022

BIOGRAPHIES

PANELISTS (In alphabetical order)

Dr. Olajumoke (Jumo) Ayandele is a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at NYU's Center for the study of Africa and the African Diaspora (CSAAD) and a Non-Resident Fellow at the Center for Global Affairs. In her most recent position as a Senior Researcher at The Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED), Dr. Ayandele supported the production of real-time data on political violence in Nigeria. She is passionate about understanding the dynamic relationship and intersection between African governance, human development, and political stability, and has won numerous awards and grants to conduct her research, with visiting research fellowships at the National Defence College, Abuja and the Center for International Studies (CERI) at the Institut d'études politiques de Paris (Sciences Po). A brilliant African Security Scholar, Dr. Ayandele continues to collaborate with international and regional decision-makers as well as government institutions in promoting human security initiatives and programs that can create a peaceful and secure Africa. She holds a Ph.D. in Global Affairs from Rutgers – The State University of New Jersey, an M.P.A. in International Development Policy and Management and a B.A. in Economics, both from New York University.

Dr. Jide Martyns Okeke is currently the Coordinator of the Regional Programme for Africa at UNDP. For over a decade, he served as a peace and security expert working for leading research think tanks and the African Union Commission as head of policy on peace operations. He holds a PhD in Development politics (Leeds), MA in Conflict Resolution (Bradford) and an MPA from the Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA.

Dr. Akinola Olojo is the Project Manager of the Lake Chad Basin programme at the Institute for Security Studies (ISS). He joined the ISS in 2018 as a senior researcher in the Transnational Threats and International Crime programme in Pretoria before moving to the ISS' Dakar office. Before joining ISS, he was a visiting scholar at the Institut d'Études Politiques (SciencesPo) in France where he taught on violence and terrorism in sub-Saharan Africa. Dr. Olojo was also a visiting research fellow at the International Centre for Counter-Terrorism (ICCT) in The Hague. He has a PhD from the Université Paris Descartes.

MODERATOR

Dr. Anouar Boukhars is professor of counterterrorism and countering violent extremism, at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. 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 Akhawayn University in Ifrane, Morocco; and a B.A. in English literature from Ibn Tofail University in Kenitra, Morocco.