



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

Security Sector Governance: Elevating Youth Voices
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BIOGRAPHIES

PANELISTS (In alphabetical order)

Dr. Rhuks Ako is a Senior Analyst with the Political Affairs, Peace and Security Department of the African Union Commission (AUC) where he coordinates the Youth for Peace (Africa) Program. He jointly oversaw the completion of the AU Continental Framework on Youth Peace and Security as well as the AU-PSC-mandated study on the roles and contributions of youth to peace and security in Africa. Prior to this, he occupied positions as a Senior Analyst in the Conflict Prevention and Early Warning Division (CPEWD) within the Peace and Security Department (PSD) and Political Analyst in the Department of Political Affairs. Rhuks is a qualified lawyer with a doctorate in Environmental Justice, Natural Resource Governance and Conflicts. Between 2002 and 2015, he held tenured positions in the Law Schools of Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria and University of Hull, United Kingdom.

Dr. Catherine Lena Kelly is Associate Dean of Academic Affairs and Professor of Justice and Rule of Law at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies. Her work focuses on party politics and democratization, rule of law and security sector governance, and transnational organized crime. She is faculty lead for the rule of law and security sector governance portfolio, as well as the countering transnational organized crime portfolio.

Previously, Dr. Kelly was an Advisor in the Research, Evaluation, and Learning Division at the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative, where her work on judicial training and grassroots legal empowerment took her to Burundi, CAR, DRC, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Republic of Congo, and Rwanda to work with a range of national and local judicial officials, paralegals, and civil society. Fluent in French, Dr. Kelly has also designed and taught courses on contemporary Africa as a Postdoctoral Fellow at Washington University in St. Louis, and on West Africa and Area Studies at the U.S. State Department's Foreign Service Institute. Dr. Kelly has earned fellowships from Fulbright, American Council of Learned Societies, West Africa Research Association, Harvard University, and the U.S. government's Foreign Language and Area Studies program for the Wolof language. Her book, *Party Proliferation and Political Contestation in Africa: Senegal in Comparative Perspective* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2020), is based on 18 months of research in Senegal. Her work has been published in *African Security*, *Journal of Democracy*, *Comparative Politics*, *The Washington Post*, *Democracy in Africa*, numerous edited volumes, and American Bar Association white papers.

Dr. Kelly holds a Ph.D. and M.A. in government from Harvard University, a Graduate Certificate in international politics from the Université Libre de Bruxelles, and a B.A. summa cum laude from Washington University in St. Louis. She is a Council on Foreign Relations Term Member.

Colonel (cr) Abdoul Ndiaye is the former Director of Information and Relations of the Armies of Senegal. Having entered military service in 1986, Colonel Ndiaye held several positions in the Senegalese army, including operational artillery functions (Head of Corps of the Artillery Battalion); functions in the General Staff (Deputy Coordination Defense-General Studies to the Chief of the General Staff of the President of the Republic, Permanent Secretary of the National Commission for Border Management, Permanent Secretary of the National Committee in charge of the management of refugees, returnees, and displaced persons); and functions in service management (Head of the media strategy division).

Colonel Ndiaye is a graduate of several civil and military institutions around the world including Senegal, Mali, Ghana, France, and Italy.

MODERATOR

Dr. Joel Amegboh is an Assistant Professor for African Security Studies, responsible for overseeing the Africa Center's academic programming on National Security Strategy Development and Youth, Peace, and Security and integrating these considerations into the Center's research and outreach.

Prior to joining the Africa Center for Strategic Studies, Dr. Amegboh worked for several United Nations agencies and departments, including the Educational Outreach Division of the Department of Public Information (DPI) and the Mali Integrated Operational Team, located in the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. At the Africa Center, his research focuses on peacebuilding paradigms in Africa, the role of youth in peacebuilding and conflict resolution, human security, the security-development-governance nexus.

Dr. Amegboh holds a Ph.D. in Conflict Analysis and Resolution from the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter School for Peace and Conflict Resolution at George Mason University, an M.A. in Global Development and Peace Studies, and a B.A. in International Political Economy and Diplomacy from the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut.