



**ATLANTIC  
— CENTRE —**

## THE ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP SEMINAR

### INFORMATION NOTE

**WHAT:** The Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS), the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies (Marshall Center), the William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies (Perry Center), and the Atlantic Centre will convene a four-day seminar to discuss current threats and challenges in the South Atlantic Ocean. The conference will also promote the development of platforms for cooperation among South Atlantic states to enhance their human security and prosperity.

**WHERE:** Lisbon, Portugal

**WHEN:** July 17-20, 2023

**WHO:** This seminar will convene approximately 75 participants from national governments, international organizations, regional economic communities, non-government organizations, academia, and think tanks. The following African countries are invited to nominate two candidates each: Angola, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Equatorial Guinea, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea Bissau, Morocco, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, and South Africa. The first nominee from each country should be the head of the national maritime governing body. The second nominee should be either a senior military officer (e.g., head of the navy), a senior civil servant (e.g., head of fisheries), an academic, or an NGO representative.

A special effort will be made to attract individuals and organizations engaged in developing collaborative mechanisms for managing the maritime global commons. In Africa, regional economic communities (ECCAS, ECOWAS, and SADC) will be invited to nominate their maritime focal point. The Interregional Coordination Center (CIC) and the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GCC) will also be invited.

Attendees will also come from North America (the United States, Canada), Central and South America (Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Uruguay), and Europe (Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom).

**WHY:** The Atlantic Basin faces pressing challenges including maritime domain awareness issues, piracy, armed robbery at sea, kidnapping of seafarers, illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing, and transnational organized crime – especially smuggling as well as drug and human trafficking – within a rapidly changing global environment increasingly defined by strategic competition. Thus far, responses to these challenges have been sought regionally. The North Atlantic has some of the strongest security arrangements in the international system while, in the South, collaborative approaches have also been gaining substantial traction.

There is a need for improved pan-Atlantic dialogue and common initiatives to enhance the governance and security of this shared ocean. Given the scope and scale of the maritime threats and challenges in the Mid- and South Atlantic, Pan-Atlantic initiatives such as the Atlantic Centre and the various U.S. supported Atlantic collaboration initiatives seek to bring together the South, North, East, and West Atlantic both to strengthen existing collaborative mechanisms and promote interregional dialogue, cooperation, and complementarity.

**HOW:** The seminar will consist of plenary presentations from delegations representing all the regions of the Atlantic and thematic presentations. It will also include panels and roundtables as well breakout group discussions, under the Chatham House Rule. A joint report or policy brief will be issued. All sessions will be conducted in English, French, Spanish, and Portuguese.