

MARITIME SECURITY AWARENESS IN AFRICA: ELEVATING YOUTH VOICES WEBINAR

BIOGRAPHIES

Moderator

Dr. Assis Malaquias oversees curriculum and program development as Academic Dean at the Africa Center. This includes lines of effort in Advancing Military Professionalism; Countering Transnational Organized Crime; Countering Violent Extremism and Countering Terrorism; Cyber Domain Awareness, Cybersecurity, and Information/Disinformation; Maritime Safety and Security; National Security Strategy Development; Peace Support Operations and Crisis Response; and Rule of Law and Security Sector Governance.

Prior to joining the Africa Center, Dr. Malaquias served as Professor and Chair in the Department of Global Studies and Maritime Affairs at the California State University Maritime Academy. Dr. Malaquias' previous positions include Professor and Chair of Defense Economics and Resource Management at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies; Associate Dean of International and Intercultural Studies and Professor of Government at St. Lawrence University; Extraordinary Associate Professor of Political Studies at the University of Western Cape in South Africa; and a Visiting Professor at Stellenbosch University in South Africa. Dr. Malaquias holds an M.A. in economics and a Ph.D. in Political Science from Dalhousie University, Canada.

Faculty Lead

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 Security Studies, Dr. Amegboh worked for several agencies and departments under the United Nations. These include 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. His research interests include advocacy for, and paradigm shifts in peacebuilding in Africa, terrorism and counterterrorism efforts, human security, security-development-governance nexus, and the role of youth in peacebuilding and conflict resolution.

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

Panelists

For close to eight years, **Ms. Stephanie Oserwa Schandorf** has worked as a researcher in the field of ocean governance and maritime security. During this period, she served as a panelist in the Ad-Hoc Experts Group for the Contribution and Finalisation of Draft Annexes to the Lomé Charter and served as a co-author of Ghana's Maritime Legal and Institutional Review, prepared under the US-

Ghana Security Governance Initiative. Stephanie Schandorf has also contributed expertise to a number of other maritime security workshops and fora, including the G7++FoGG plenaries held in both Berlin and Abidjan and the 7th International Marine Debris Conference in Busan, South Korea, where she chaired a technical session. Stephanie has an MSc in Defence and International Politics from the Ghana Armed Forces Command and Staff College and is an alumnus of the Young African Leaders Programme of the European University Institute, funded by the EU. She currently works with the University of Copenhagen, offering research support on the project *Counter-Piracy Infrastructures in the Gulf of Guinea*.

Mr. Timothy Walker is the Maritime Project Leader and a Senior Researcher at ISS Pretoria. He leads a project that aims to strengthen African maritime security institutions. Since 2011 he has worked to promote maritime security as a policy priority with organisations such as the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Intergovernmental Authority for Development (IGAD), the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA). He is a graduate of Rhodes University in Grahamstown, South Africa where he earned a BA, BA Hons and MA degrees in Political and International Studies. His areas of interest include Maritime Security, Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea, Water Security, China-Africa relations, International Relations (IR) theory and Human Security.

Dr. Ifesinachi Okafor-Yarwood is a lecturer and PEW Marine Fellow at the University of St. Andrews' School of Geography & Sustainable Development in Scotland. To date, Her research has investigated various aspects of ocean sustainability, blue economy and governance, including the gendered nature of marine criminality, environmental justice, and the impacts of depleting marine resources on inequality, poverty, and insecurity. Her current research explores the socioeconomic impacts of fisheries closure in West Africa, examining its effects on communities, particularly women, and the integration of local ecological knowledge practices with state-sanctioned management interventions for more sustainable marine conservation measures. Dr Okafor-Yarwood holds a PhD in Leadership, Security, and Development, an MA in Conflict, Security, and Development from King's College London, a BA in International Relations, Peace, and Conflict Studies and a Preparatory Diploma in Law from London Metropolitan University.