**ADVANCING
REGIONAL
CYBERSECURITY**

BIOGRAPHIES

Leadership

Colonel (ret.) Daniel Hampton is the Acting Director of the Africa Center for Strategic Studies and brings more than 25 years of experience developing and implementing U.S. defense policy and strategy in Africa. As professor of practice in security studies, he oversees curriculum development and program management in the areas of institutional capacity building and civil-military cooperation. During the course of a 30-year military career, Colonel (retired) Hampton held several postings on the African continent to include the United States Senior Defense Official to the Republic of South Africa and U.S. Defense Attaché to the countries of Eswatini, Malawi, Lesotho, and Zimbabwe. He also served as a policy adviser to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the Horn of Africa region. As part of the NATO Training Mission-Afghanistan, Colonel Hampton commanded the Regional Support Command-South responsible for the institutional training, equipping, and resourcing of all Afghan Army and Afghan Police forces in southern Afghanistan. Colonel Hampton is a graduate of the United States Army Command and Staff College, the Zimbabwe Staff College, and the Defense Language Institute (French). He holds a Masters in African Studies from the University of Illinois, a Masters in Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, and a B.A. in History from Wake Forest University.

U.S. Ambassador Henry V. Jardine is a member of the U.S. Senior Foreign Service with the rank of Minister Counselor. He was nominated to be the Ambassador to Mauritius and Seychelles on July 11, 2022, and his nomination was confirmed on December 13, 2022. Ambassador Jardine officially presented his credentials to the President of the Republic of Mauritius as the new Ambassador to Mauritius on February 22, 2023. His previous assignments have included service as the Director for the Office of Career Development and Assignments (CDA) in the Bureau of Global Talent Management (GTM), Acting Director and Principal Deputy Director for the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO); Executive Director in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs (WHA); Management Counselor for the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand; Deputy Chief of Mission for the U.S. Embassy in Tirana, Albania; Director for the Regional and Security Policy Office (RSP) in the Bureau for East Asian and Pacific Affairs (EAP); Consul General in Calcutta, India; Management Officer in Chiang Mai, Thailand; and rotational assignments as Political and Consular Officer in Bridgetown, Barbados and Dhaka, Bangladesh. Prior to his work with the U.S. Department of State, Ambassador Jardine was a Captain in the U.S. Army and served as Headquarters Company Executive Officer for the 2/327th Infantry Battalion, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and as a Platoon Leader with the 3/8th Infantry Battalion, 8th Infantry Division (Mechanized). He was a distinguished graduate from the Industrial

College of the Armed Forces (ICAF), where he received a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy. For his undergraduate studies, he attended Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, where he received a Bachelor of Science in Foreign Service and was a distinguished military science graduate from the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC).

Ms. Kimberley Raleigh is a Senior Policy Advisor in the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy of the U.S. Department of State. Before joining the Department, she served as Deputy Chief for Cyber Policy in the National Security Division of the Department of Justice. Kimberley's familiarity with the U.N. cyber framework stems from her work as an "expert behind the expert" on several U.N. cyber "Groups of Governmental Experts" and her active involvement in both the 2021 and the current U.N. Cyber Open-Ended Working Groups. Kimberley holds adjunct teaching positions at George Washington University Law School and Georgetown University Law Center, for which she has developed and taught several courses on cybersecurity law. She received her law degree from the University of Chicago and her undergraduate degree from Yale University

Dr. Nathaniel Allen is the cyber program faculty lead an Assistant Professor for Security Studies, responsible for overseeing the Africa Center's academic programming on cybersecurity and peace support operations and integrating these considerations into the Center's research and outreach. His work focuses on cyber issues, emerging technology, civil-military relations, and regional security partnerships across Africa. Prior to the joining the Africa Center, Dr. Allen was a policy advisor at the U.S. Institute of Peace Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States. He has also worked at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, for the Foreign Affairs and the Armed Services Committees of the U.S. House of Representatives, and with NORC at the University of Chicago's International Projects Department. Dr. Allen's research has been published in leading policy journals and newspapers. He has received fellowships from American University, the Robertson Family Foundation, and the U.S. Institute of Peace, where he was a 2016-2017 Williams Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar. He is a Term Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

Speakers

Dr. Albert Antwi-Boasiako, is the first Director-General of the Cyber Security Authority (CSA), an agency responsible for Ghana's cybersecurity regulations and development. Prior to his appointment, on October 1, 2021, he served as the National Cybersecurity Advisor and Head of the then National Cyber Security Centre (NCSC) from July 2017 to September 2021, leading the institutionalisation of Ghana's cybersecurity development which progressed from 32.6% in 2017 to 86.69% in 2020, according to the ITU's Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI), with Ghana ranked 3rd in Africa and 43rd globally. In 2011, Dr. Antwi-Boasiako founded e-Crime Bureau, the first cybersecurity and digital forensics firm with a state-of-the art e-Crime Lab to be established and operated in West Africa. He completed his PhD studies at the University of Pretoria in South Africa, introducing the *Harmonized Model for Digital Evidence Admissibility Assessment (HM-DEAA)* as a ground-breaking contribution to digital forensics standardisation. Dr. Antwi-Boasiako also graduated from the University of Trento in Italy for his undergraduate programme and the University of Portsmouth in the United Kingdom for his postgraduate programme, receiving cum laude and distinction respectively. He has conducted cybersecurity related consulting and assignments for international and local organisations including the United Nations Office on Drugs & Crime (UNODC), United Nations Conference on Trade & Development (UNCTAD), the European

Union, Commonwealth Cybercrime Initiative (CCI) of the Commonwealth Secretariat, Global Commission on Internet Governance (GCIG)/Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House) and the Inter-Governmental Action Group against Money Laundering in West Africa (GIABA), among others.

Mr. Eric Akumiah is a seasoned cybersecurity trainer with a strong background in community development, cybersecurity policy, and CSIRT management. As the founding manager of CERT-GH, Ghana's national CSIRT, Eric was the Ghana focal person on CSIRT for the United States Government (USG) - Government of Ghana (GoG) Security Governance Initiative (SGI) and worked with the Software Engineering Institute (SEI) team to develop several aspects of the operations framework of CERT-GH. As consultant to World Bank ICT projects in Ghana, Eric contributed to the development of government ICT and cybersecurity infrastructure leading the development of several cybersecurity interventions including developing the national cybersecurity policy and strategy and was instrumental in setting up the government and communications sector CSIRTs in Ghana.

Dr. Daniel Deng Malok has been an information management expert/security analyst at the Africa Union-Committee of Intelligence and Security Services of Africa (CISSA) based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, since 2021. He has been managing the Conflict Early Warning Systems (CEWS) and contributed as an expert to the development of various technical papers on matters of application of international law to cyberspace and ICT, cybersecurity, countering radicalization and violent extremism, transnational organization crime and coordinating conferences and capacity development workshops for the African Union – CISSA Member states. He has a wide range of expertise in cyber security, counter-terrorism, and violent extremism. From 2016 to 2020, Dr. Daniel Malok was a Research Analyst and Documentation Officer for the National Dialogue Steering Committee (NDSC). The NDSC was initiated to break the deadlock after the 2015 Agreement for the Resolution of Conflict in South Sudan (ARCISS) collapsed in a renewed armed conflict in 2016. In this role, he provided technical notes and policy briefs, documented the process and worked together with external stakeholders in Juba, South Sudan, that were supporting the process, like the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS), the African Union (AU), the Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD), In Transformation Initiative (ITI), the Government of Japan, Egypt, and South Africa. Dr. Malok holds a PhD in Strategic Management from the United States International University (USIU), an MBL from the University of South Africa and Post Graduate Diploma in Project Planning and Management from the University of Nairobi and a BSC in Information Systems and Technology from USIU.

Ms. Folake Olagunju is the Program Officer Internet and Cybersecurity at the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission. She is currently working on implementing the cybersecurity agenda to facilitate initiatives that will assist the ECOWAS region protect their cyberspace, critical information infrastructure and build confidence in the use of ICTs. Prior to her current role, she worked on various IT related activities including policy and infrastructure initiatives in West Africa. Folake was also recently appointed co-Chair of the GFCE Advisory Board.

Mr. Jean-Robert Hountomey is Founder and Director of AfricaCERT. Passionate for the impact of the Internet on communities, he is one of the pioneers of the Internet in West Africa. He has contributed to several technical coordination and capacity building bodies in Africa known as the African Organizations for Internet Governance such as AfNOG, AfriNIC, AfrISPA, etc. He also participates in Internet Society, ICANN and the Interpol Africa Working Group on Cybercrime for Heads of Units. Hountomey, as a vulnerability researcher, brings risk management and global coordination perspectives with regards to

Internet Infrastructure operations in the African CSIRTs work.

Dr. Kaleem Usmani is currently heading the Computer Emergency Response Team of Mauritius (CERT-MU) since 2010. CERT-MU is a national CERT of Mauritius and operates under the the Ministry of Information Technology, Communication and innovation, Republic of Mauritius. Dr. Usmani being the part of UNGGE is actively involved in cyber norms implementation at the national level. He is spearheading the national and regional cyber capacity building through the ITU Centre of Excellence setup in Mauritius in September 2020. He also drives the cyber policy implementation and coordinates the cyber incident management for the national CERT in collaboration with the regional and international partners.

Ms. Meseret Fassil Assefa has established herself as a force in the field of international law, particularly in areas of human rights, transitional justice, and the rule of law. Meseret holds a Master of Laws (LL.M) in Rule of Law for Development from the Loyola University Chicago School of Law. Her capstone project, "Speeding the ratification and domestication of AU/OAU Treaties: Focus on Four Human Rights Treaties," exemplifies her dedication to legal reforms within Africa. She also possesses a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia, distinguished by her thesis on the protection frameworks for human trafficking victims in Ethiopia. Ms. Assefa has been a pivotal figure at the African Union Commission's Office of the Legal Counsel, since May 2017. Her contributions have been critical in various international legal capacities, including representing the AU in the ITLOS on international law and climate change issues, and playing a vital role in formulating The Common African Position on the Application of International Law in Cyberspace. Moreover, her involvement in the ICJ's deliberation on the Chagos Archipelago demonstrates her competence in navigating complex legal disputes on the international stage.
In her journey of continuous professional development Ms. Assefa has taken on significant responsibilities, including assisting in legal teams representing the African Union's 55 Member States before the International Court of Justice (ICJ). This new role underscores her growing influence and contribution to international legal proceedings on behalf of the African Union. Her professional background is enriched by her internship at the African Union Commission and roles as a Law Clerk at The Lideta Federal High Court of Addis Ababa and a Paralegal at the Ethiopian Women Lawyers Association. These experiences have provided her with a comprehensive understanding of legal processes, mediation, and the promotion of legal awareness among vulnerable populations.

His Excellency Moctar Yedaly serves as the GFCE Africa HUB Director. Mr. Yedaly has a long history of initiating and leading critical digital initiatives. He was the head of the Information Society department of the African Union Commission from 2008 to 2021, and more recently, served as the Minister of Digital Transformation and Innovation of Mauritania from to 2021 to 2023. Mr. Yedaly has played a leading role in the development of two landmark policy documents for Africa: the AU Convention on Cybersecurity, which is the first continental legal document in the digital realm; and the AU Digital Transformation Strategy 2020 -2030, which guides African digital developments. He also spearheaded a complex process of transferring the governance of the Dot. Africa domain from a private company to the African Union as the legitimate representative of African identity in the digital realm. As these and many other initiatives show, Mr. Yedaly combines visionary thinking with a practical approach to digital issues, especially in the African context.

Ms. Nejat Abdulrahman Issa is a senior professional with more than 17 years of extensive work experience in regional peace and security matters. Nejat has a rich and wide range of knowledge and experience in the Horn of Africa region including the vulnerabilities and

regional dynamics on counter terrorism, de-radicalization, countering violent extremism, organized crimes, SSR & DDR, C-IED, cybersecurity, and the overall emerging and evolving security threats. She is currently serving as a Senior Counter Terrorism Capacity Building Program Officer at the IGAD Security Sector Program (IGAD SSP). She is responsible for planning and implementing the capacity building interventions, analysis of the threats, and providing policy recommendations to the IGAD Member States. Nejat has been one of the pioneers launching the first unique program of IGAD dealing with counter terrorism known as the IGAD Capacity Building Program against Terrorism (ICPAT) in 2006. Throughout her work at ICPAT, she has efficiently coordinated the activities of the Office within the region and has played a critical role in the successful restructuring of ICPAT to IGAD SSP including its launch and effective transition. Due to her education background in Information System, her approach in analyzing the security threats with technology has been instrumental in supporting the IGAD Member States in cybercrime, and the overall planning and implementation of activities related to cybersecurity since 2013.

Nejat holds a master's degree with honors in Peace & Security from the Institute of Peace and Security Studies (IPSS of the Addis Ababa University), Post Graduate Diploma on Peace and Security in Africa from Uppsala University in Sweden, and a BSc degree in Information System from the Addis Ababa University.

Lt. Colonel Scott Stahl (USMC ret) was born in Alpena, Michigan on 8 May 1972. After enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1992, he was assigned to the Marine Corps Communications Electronics School (MCCES) in 29 Palms, California as a Small Computer Systems Specialist. While there, he was selected for the Marine Enlisted Commissioning Education Program (MECEP) and subsequently attended the University of Michigan. In 1999, he completed his Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. Upon completion of The Basic School (TBS) and the Ground Supply Officer Course (GSOC), he served as the Supply Officer for Marine Air Support Squadron 3 at Camp Pendleton, California and then 1st Battalion, 23d Marines in Houston, Texas, where he was also the Headquarters and Service Company Inspector-Instructor. During the course of these two tours, he deployed to both Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II. In 2019, he was transferred to Marine Corps Forces Europe and Africa, where he served as an exercise planner and regional lead for the Nordics region, where, among many other accomplishments, he was the lead joint planner for one of NATO's largest military exercises Lieutenant Colonel Stahl retired from active duty in September 2023 and began working with CACI, Inc. as a Project Manager in support of US AFRICOM J659 Coalition Engagements and Interoperability branch, supporting Cybersecurity Security Cooperation initiatives, and as lead planner for the annual Africa Endeavor communications symposium. In addition to his MBA, in 2015 he also completed the Australian Command and Staff Course in residence in Canberra, Australia, and received a Master of Military and Defense Studies from the Australian National University.

Dr. Towela Nyirenda-Jere is head of the Economic Integration Division at the African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD). The Division spearheads flagship programs and implementation frameworks that advance regional integration in line with the aspirations of the African Union's Agenda 2063. Towela is an electrical engineer and development practitioner with more than 20 years' experience working in the private sector, academia, and international development. She brings knowledge and experience in programe development, coordination, and implementation of cross-border infrastructure projects and is leading teams that are focused on infrastructure development, energy, digitalization & cybersecurity. She holds a PhD in Electrical Engineering (Networking and Telecommunications) from the University of Kansas, a Master of Arts in Contemporary Diplomacy (Internet Governance), an ACCA Diploma in Financial Management and is a qualified Project Management Professional (PMP) with the Project Management Institute

(USA). Towela is a member of the Malawi Institution of Engineers, the Internet Society (ISOC), the Project Management Institute and the Institute for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). She is a Strategic Advisor to the Global Cyber Alliance (GCA), former Trustee of the 5Rights Foundation and a founding member of the Network of African Women in Cybersecurity (NAWC).

Facilitators

Abdul-Hakeem B. D. Ajijola, widely known as AhA, has established himself as a beacon in the global cybersecurity realm through his strategic vision and pioneering initiatives aimed at enhancing digital security and policy frameworks worldwide. His exceptional career, marked by significant contributions to the cybersecurity landscape across the Global South, underscores his commitment to promoting a secure, inclusive, and sustainable technological future. His roles include, chairing the African Union Cyber Security Expert Group and advocating for Fourth Industrial Revolution technologies, have been instrumental in steering digital transformation and economic growth in emerging economies. Additionally, his efforts to launch an African Cybersecurity Economic sub-sector underscore his dedication to cultivating the next generation of tech professionals. AhA's influence extends beyond regional initiatives, as evidenced by his top ranking on the IFSEC 2020 Global Cybersecurity Professionals' Influencers and Thought Leaders list and his leadership at Consultancy Support Services (CS2) Ltd., where he has played a critical role in revising national cybersecurity policies and strategies. His academic pursuits, with an emphasis on Science, Technology, and Innovation Policy at Harvard University, along with specialized certifications in key cybersecurity areas, provide a solid foundation for his expertise. Central to AhA's philosophy is the conviction that cybersecurity is crucial for ensuring national security, economic vitality, and societal well-being. His leadership roles and recognitions, including pioneering positions within international cybersecurity organizations, further solidify his stature as a leader committed to fostering global cybersecurity resilience and advancing digital inclusivity.

Dr. Ben Nickels joined the Marshall Center in 2018 and is Course Director of the European Security Seminar – South (ESS–S) as well as Professor of International Security Studies. He leads the Marshall Center's resident, outreach, virtual, and partnership programming on European and U.S. relations with North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa, and the Middle East. Dr. Nickels was Academic Chair for Transnational Threats and Counterterrorism at the Africa Center for Strategic Studies (2011–2018), where engagements with security professionals took him to Algeria, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Chad, Djibouti, eSwatini, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, and Uganda. He was a Faculty Researcher at the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (2009–2011). His fieldwork included interviews in London, Manchester, and Birmingham with civil society members implementing P/CVE projects and in Brussels with counterterrorism policymakers at the EU and NATO. Dr. Nickels was Analyst and Teams Supervisor for a defense contractor with the U.S. Army (2007–2009). Dr. Nickels is co-author of On the Periphery: Containing the Spread of Violent Extremism and Terrorism in Africa (Stellenbosch: SIGLA, 2018), and his policy pieces have been published by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, London School of Economics, West Point Combating Terrorism Center, and Wilson Center, among others. Fluent in French and familiar with Arabic, he has given hundreds of lectures and briefings in French and English at government meetings, international forums, and academic institutions,

including Georgetown, Oxford, and Harvard.

Mr. Jared Neitzel serves as a policy advisor within the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy (CDP) at the U.S. Department of State. In this capacity, Jared advises on cyber policy and capacity building issues for nations across the Middle East and Africa. He also promotes bilateral and multilateral cyber diplomacy, primarily through U.S.-backed foreign assistance initiatives, which aim to advance U.S. interests, bolster global consensus in cyberspace, and champion a cyberspace that is free, open, interoperable, secure, and stable. Prior to assuming his current role, Jared was a Foreign Affairs Officer within the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs (EAP) at the Department of State. There, he was responsible for strategic planning and aligned policy goals to foreign assistance resources, strategically supporting the Department's objectives in the Indo-Pacific region. Prior to joining the Department, Jared was a cyber program manager for the EAP Bureau, where he spearheaded the design, management, and implementation of cyber capacity building programs across the Indo-Pacific, while also providing insights on cyber policy matters focused specifically on the Asia-Pacific region. Jared earned his Master of Arts degree from the George Washington University's Elliott School for International Affairs, complementing his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Mount Union, where he majored in International Studies.

Dr. Katherine W. Getao, EBS, is often dubbed an "ICT Elder" in Kenya, in recognition of her 40 years of service in the private sector, academia, diplomacy as well as senior government appointments. Dr. Getao currently executes consultancy assignments in the areas of Cyber Hygiene, Cyber Diplomacy and ICT Strategy and Governance. She has served as the Chief Executive Officer of the ICT Authority in Kenya, the ICT Secretary in the Office of the President and subsequently at the Ministry of ICT. During her time in government, she led the design of the Huduma Centre one-stop shops for government services as well as the integrated implementation of optical fiber in collaboration with the Roads sector. She serves as the Project Manager of the NEPAD e-Schools Project as well as the Director of the School of Computing and Informatics at the University of Nairobi. She has represented Kenya on UN Governmental Committees and has also served on the boards of private companies and universities. Dr. Getao is passionate about public service transformation using ICTs and the creation of industries and career opportunities for young people in the ICT Sector.

Dr. Nnenna Ifeanyi-Ajufo is an Associate Professor of Law, and the Head of Law at Buckinghamshire New University, United Kingdom. Her teaching and research interests relate to the intersection of law and technology, including the governance of emerging technologies, cybercrime, digital rights and rule of law in cyberspace. She also teaches law and technology related subjects at Swansea University, United Kingdom. She holds a Bachelor of Laws degree (LLB), Bachelor at Law Degree (BL), LLM in International Information Technology Law, MA in African Studies and LLD in International Law. She also holds a Postgraduate Certificate in International Academic Practice and is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy (FHEA). Nnenna presently serves as the Vice-Chairperson of the African Union Cyber Security Experts Group (AUSCEG) and a member of the International Law Association Working Group on Digital Challenges for International Law. She is also a Senior Research Fellow at the African Centre for International Criminal Justice, a member of the Cyber Threats Research Centre (CYTREC) Team at Swansea University, United Kingdom and a contributing editor to the 'Directions' of the Cyber Direct Project of the European Union Institute for Security Studies. In 2020, she was named amongst 50 Individuals leading Legal Innovation in Africa, at the Africa Legal Innovations Award. She has written for a vast range of research projects, journals and media publications including engaging in media debates on governmental initiatives and policies related to

cybersecurity, the rule of law in cyberspace and more generally, the governance of digital technologies.

Participants

Mr. Vladimir Aman, CISSP, is a seasoned cybersecurity professional based in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, with a rich background in national cybersecurity strategy, critical infrastructure protection, and cybercrime intelligence. Currently serving as the Head of Côte d'Ivoire's Computer Emergency Response Team (CI-CERT), Mr. Aman ensures the smooth coordination and operational oversight of the national CERT. He leads and supervises dedicated teams responsible for handling cybersecurity incidents and monitoring critical networks and infrastructure across the country. Previously, Mr. Aman held the position of Head of Cybersecurity and Internet Governance at the Autorité de Régulation des Télécommunications/TIC de Côte d'Ivoire. In this role, he played a pivotal part in developing the National Critical Infrastructure Protection Plan and contributing to the National Cyber Security Strategy. Additionally, he spearheaded the development of standards and policies related to Internet governance and cybersecurity. Prior to his role at the regulatory authority, Mr. Aman served as a Cyberintelligence Analyst at the National Platform for Fighting Cybercrime within the National Police Department. Here, he provided technical support for digital investigations, managed security incidents, and curated intelligence from the Dark Web. He holds a Master's degree in Cybersecurity, a Master's in Applied Criminology with a specialization in combating cybercrime, and a Bachelor of Science degree. Outside of his professional engagements, Mr. Aman is an accomplished author, having penned works such as "Concevoir la Sécurité Informatique en Entreprise" and "Chantiers de la lutte contre la cybercriminalité en Côte d'Ivoire." Mr. Aman's competencies span offensive and defensive security, cybersecurity management, cyberintelligence, and cybercrime law. With his diverse skill set and extensive experience, Mr. Aman remains at the forefront of cybersecurity initiatives, contributing significantly to the protection of critical infrastructure and the fight against cyber threats in Côte d'Ivoire.

Mrs. Osanne M. C. Amoussou-Ahokin is a highly experienced professional with a rich background in administrative, financial, and information security roles. With a career spanning several prestigious organizations and government agencies in Benin, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership and expertise in various domains.
Mrs. Amoussou-Ahokin initially served as a Chief Accountant, overseeing financial operations and human resource management in private sector enterprises. Her journey then led her to pivotal roles in government agencies such as the Agence des Services et Systèmes d'Information (ASSI), where she held the position of Director of Administration and Finance. Here, she played a crucial role in restructuring the agency and implementing efficient administrative systems. Transitioning to the Agence des Systèmes d'Information et du Numérique (ASIN), Mrs. Amoussou-Ahokin assumed the role of Compliance Manager within the Digital Security Division. Her responsibilities included conducting security inspections and audits, ensuring compliance with government security policies, and delivering security certifications to stakeholders. Prior to her tenure in digital security, Mrs. Amoussou-Ahokin held leadership positions in organizations such as the Agence Nationale de la Propriété Industrielle (ANaPI)/MICA and the Direction Départementale de l'Industrie, du Commerce, des Petites et Moyennes Entreprises (ATL-LIT/MICPME), where she contributed significantly to the promotion of industrial property and the development of small and medium-sized enterprises. Mrs. Amoussou-Ahokin's holds a DESS (master's degree) in Audit and Management Control from the Fondation Universitaire Mercure in Brussels, Belgium, and a bachelor's degree in business law from the University of Abomey-Calavi in Benin.

Her commitment to professional development is evident through her numerous certifications in areas such as information security, auditing, and project management. With a strong foundation in law, finance, and management, coupled with her dedication to excellence, Mrs. Amoussou-Ahokin continues to make significant contributions to the fields of administration, finance, and digital security in Benin.

Ms. Magalie Anderson is an IT Executive with 19+ years of experience navigating various IT Roles. She currently works as the Director of ICT for the African Union, leading the Digital Transformation of the organization. She has keen interests in innovation and its impact on improving society, technology for sustainable development and understanding the challenges associated with a constantly evolving world.

Dr. Osei Bonsu Dickson is ranked among the Global Top 100 Influencers and Thought Leaders on Cybersecurity, and at #25 on the Global Top 50 Influencers on Security by Thinkers360. He is a Cyber-Maritime Policy Expert and pre-eminent National Security Lawyer. In January 2024, he was appointed Deputy National Security Coordinator of the Republic of Ghana by President Akufo-Addo and subsequently as Technical Advisor to the Securities and Exchange Commission of Ghana on Cyber and AML Policy. Previous to that he served as Director of Policy, Director of Legal, Director of Intelligence Analysis, Director of Security Governance, and Chief Legal Advisor at the Ministry of National Security. Dr. Dickson also served as Team Lead of the National Security Cybersecurity Expert Committee that reviewed the Government of Ghana's Cybersecurity Strategy, its Cyber Security Act (Act 2020) and Anti-Money Laundering Act. Subsequent to that, he has led cybersecurity strategy development across many countries in Africa, including Uganda and Kenya. Most recently he served expert to the National Information Technology Agency of Uganda (NITA U). He is the Convenor of Africa's largest cyber incidence response conference – CyberX Africa, and Global Chair for Cyber Law and Policy at Lex Mundus & Cencla PRUC. Dr. Dickson is President of ACSS Alumni (Ghana), Adjunct Lecturer in National Security Law, International Cyber Law, and Maritime Strategy at University of Ghana School of Law, and Adjunct Professor of Practice in Cyber Law and AI Policy at the Center for Strategic and Defense Studies. He has written 5 books and numerous articles. He was educated at the University of Ghana, the Ghana School of Law, Harvard University and Rushford Business School.

Mr. Sérgio Guivala graduated in Computer science at the Institute of Science and Technologies of Mozambique – ISCTEM.He currently works at National Institute of ICT as the head of the cybersecurity department within the Division Cybersecurity and Data Protection and he is the coordinator of the National Incident response team (nCSIRT.mz). He is currently a member of the "SADC Regional CIRT Steering Committee"
During his career he has actively participated as member of the coordination team for the preparation of the National Cyber Security Policy and its implementation strategy and senior member of the coordination team for the restructuring and implementation of the Mozambique Digital Certification System. Mr. Sérgio Guivala has around 20 years of experience in the ICT field where he worked for different entities and organizations such as (i) Information Technology Center at Eduardo Mondlane University, (ii) The National Commission for ICT policies; (iii) The national pharmaceutics Regulator (CMAM), as head of IT department, (iv) The technical unit for the implementation of ICT Policy, and (v) has worked as ICT consultant for several companies and NGOs. He attended several technical courses in the area of network administration and cybersecurity, having obtained several certifications, with emphasis on Cisco networking and security certifications, Microsoft and Certified Ethics Hacker. Mr. Sérgio Guivala, was a pioneer instructor at the Cisco academies in Mozambique and served as national coordinator of the cisco academies in Mozambique.

He is a founding member of the CERT_MZ group (The first CERT created in Mozambique) and has actively participated in the development of the CERT ecosystem in Mozambique.

Ms. Racky Seye is a seasoned cybersecurity professional with extensive experience in both public and private sectors. Currently serving as the Head of the National Coordination Cell for Cyber Attack Response at Senegal's National Cybersecurity Operations Center (CNOC), she is responsible for coordinating the national response to cyber incidents. Her role involves developing operational best practices, guiding organizations in enhancing their information security, and ensuring compliance with national cybersecurity directives. Prior to her current position, Mrs. Seye held leadership roles in various government departments and telecom companies. As the Head of the Information Systems Security and Digital Trust Office at the Ministry of Digital Economy and Telecommunications, she played a vital role in implementing Senegal's National Cybersecurity Strategy. Her contributions to international cybersecurity efforts include serving as a focal point for projects such as OCWAR-C and participating in the Global Forum on Cyber Expertise (GFCE). Ms. Seye 's journey in the field of telecommunications began as an engineer at the Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications, where she contributed to key projects and engaged in international standardization efforts with the ITU-T. Her technical expertise spans a range of areas including network supervision, transmission technologies, and broadband deployment. In addition to her professional achievements, Ms. Seye is dedicated to continuous learning and has pursued various training programs both locally and internationally. She holds a master's degree in information systems security management from the École Supérieure Polytechnique de Dakar and a bachelor's degree in Electronics and Telecommunications from Gaston Berger University. Throughout her career, Gaston Berger University has demonstrated a commitment to advancing cybersecurity both nationally and globally, making her a respected leader in the field

Mr. Rodgers Mumelo has 10 years' experience in ICT out of which the last 5 years are in security operations. Rodgers Currently works with the Kenyan Computer Incidents and Response Team (KE-CIRT) as an Assistant Manager Cyber Security Monitoring and Management. Before working in the KE-CIRT Rodgers was a Systems Administrator, a Deputy Information Security Manager and a Universal Service Fund (USF) Project Monitoring and evaluation Officer at the Communications Authority of Kenya. Rodgers is a champion of information Security in the use of ICTs and has mastered skills in development of cyber security advisories for the National KE-CIRT which he currently shares with different constituents around the country and the world. Rodgers is working toward being an excellent the Security operations Centre engineer in future. Rodgers is certified in Cellebrite Computer Forensics Fundamentals, Fortinet NSE Level 1,2,3 certified, Information Security Management Systems (ISMS) Auditor in ISO 27001, he is also a trained ISO 27032 Lead Cybersecurity Manager, COBIT 2019, CISM and CISA. Rodgers holds a bachelor's degree in computer engineering from Kenyatta University and master's degree in Project Planning and Management from University of Nairobi.

Lawan A. Mohammed, PhD is the Head of Computer Emergency Readiness and Response Team (CERRT) Unit. He Holds a PhD degree in Computer and Communication Systems Engineering from University Putra, Malaysia and an MSc degree in Computing from De Montfort University Leicester, UK. His BSc degree was from Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Nigeria. Dr. Lawan has gained considerable experience in academia, administration and research. He served as the Chairman of Computer Science and Engineering Department at the University of Hafr Al-Batin Saudi Arabia (formerly King Fahd University of Petroleum & Mineral Resources, Affiliated Colleges at Hafr Al-Batin) for more than 12 years (from 2006 to 2019). He has supervised and examined PhD and MSc

students. Also, he was a lecturer and the Head of smartcard research group at Swinburne University of Technology Australia (Sarawak campus) from 2004 to 2006. Dr.Lawan is research active and has written numerous research papers in internationally recognized journals and conferences as well as many book chapters in various fields of computer and network security, smart card security, cloud computing and wireless and mobile communication systems. He has successfully completed several funded research projects. He is also a reviewer of several international journals as well as a member of several professional bodies.

Mr. Leonard James Ngeleja is a Senior Technical Specialist at the East Africa Community. In this role he oversees the development and operationalization of the EAC Conflict Early Warning System. He holds a Master of Science in Information Technology from KTH, Royal Institute of Technology in Sweden, a Post Graduate Diploma in Managerial Controls and Management of Information Systems from Maastricht School of Management (MsM) in the Netherlands, a BSc. Computer Science from the University of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. He also pursued an Executive Masters of Business Administration at the Eastern and Southern African Management Institute (ESAMI). Leonard's professional career path, mainly in the Social Private and Non–governmental Sector, has taken him through various trainings and undertakings which have shaped him to become a multi-skilled and knowledgeable person in not only administering Complex Information Systems and ICT Infrastructures but also have a technical knowhow in leadership and management of organizations. He has more than 20 years of hands-on experience working in the IT Sector at both technical and managerial position.

Dr. Kirubagaran Pillay has over 35 years of experience in the ICT sector including 23 years as an ICT practitioner and over ten years as an academic and researcher. He is currently in the Public Sector at the South African Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT,) and has a national cybersecurity responsibility including managing the national Computer Security Incident Response Team (CSIRT). He is part of the South African delegation at the UN's Open Ended Working Group on Cybersecurity and Ad-hoc Committee on Cybercrime; recently invited to join the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Advisory Body on Artificial Intelligence. He is a visiting academic at Wits and Stellenbosch universities, conducting post-graduate supervision curriculum development and some lecturing responsibilities.

Dr. Angel L. Hueca is a cybersecurity professional with over 25 years of combined experience in systems administration and cybersecurity. Angel has worked extensively in the private and public sector implementing intrusion detection systems (IDS), network/systems auditing solutions, cybersecurity incident response, cybersecurity policy development, and standing up cybersecurity programs. As a Senior Cybersecurity Operations Researcher in the CERT Coordination Center of Carnegie Mellon University's Software Engineering Institute (SEI); Angel has worked with the U.S. Department of State, and Department of Defense (DoD), in assisting partner nations and organizations in developing cyber capacity building to include cybersecurity policy, incident response, information sharing, and cybersecurity team development. Dr. Hueca has been a contributing author and researcher for various published technical reports in the areas of insider threat, computer security incident response team (CSIRT) development, security awareness programs, and cloud security best practices. Angel holds a Ph.D. in Information Systems, focusing on information security and insider threat from Nova Southeastern University, a master's degree in Cybersecurity, Master of Business Administration (MBA), and Bachelor's in Computer Information Systems, from University of Maryland University College. On a part-time basis, Dr. Hueca, teaches a master's level Foundations of Systems and Cybersecurity class at Northeastern University.