



AFRICA CENTER FOR STRATEGIC STUDIES

YAOUNDE CODE OF CONDUCT MARITIME ZONES A & D WORKSHOP

ACADEMIC PROGRAM INFO NOTE

- WHAT:** The Africa Center for Strategic Studies (ACSS) will hold a four-day workshop to assess the implementation of the Yaounde Code of Conduct (YCC) and existing maritime security framework. The workshop will focus on ways to strengthen maritime zones A and D in the Gulf of Guinea. Senior maritime decision-makers from Angola, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Gabon, Republic of Congo, and São Tomé and Príncipe will be invited. The program will focus on assessing the operability of each country's Maritime Operations Center (MOC) and evaluate national maritime security strategies in Zone A and Zone D countries.
- WHERE:** Luanda, Angola.
- WHEN:** 10-13 December 2024.
- WHO:** This program will convene approximately 30 participants, from 6 countries: Angola, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Gabon, Republic of Congo, and São Tomé and Príncipe. Participants will be selected from senior-level policymakers or civil servants responsible for maritime strategy development and implementation within their respective countries. They will include Chief of Naval Operations (or their designees) of the Navy, Coast Guard, or national equivalent. Civilian representatives will include heads of the relevant civilian national maritime administration or entity, or other civilian counterparts of the above. The following regional organizations will also be invited to attend the workshop: Central African Regional Maritime Security Centre (CRESMAC); Interregional Coordination Centre (ICC); Multinational Maritime Coordination Centre Zone A in Angola; and Multinational Maritime Coordination Centre Zone D in Cameroon. The following United States Government agencies will be invited as observers: U.S. Naval Forces Africa, Department of State, USAFRICOM, and U.S. Coast Guard. The Atlantic Center will also be invited.
- WHY:** The Gulf of Guinea continues to face pressing challenges, including maritime domain awareness (MDA) 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. In recent years, West African countries have made significant progress in developing collaborative frameworks like the YCC. While the YCC is not yet fully operational, its framework at the national, zonal, and regional levels represents significant progress in developing collaborative initiatives.

Maritime security is critical for the economic development of Gulf of Guinea states, as it ensures safe and secure maritime trade routes. An effective assessment of the current maritime security architecture helps ensure that it continues to improve as it achieves full operationalization. More broadly, regular assessment at the zonal level helps improve MDA by identifying gaps and strengths in surveillance, monitoring, and information sharing. This leads to better detection and response to maritime threats. Additionally, evaluating the security situation at a zonal level enables states to develop national maritime security strategies that address specific regional challenges.

HOW: The program will have four key components: an assessment of maritime zones A and D based on an ACSS survey sent to participants prior to the program; discussions on ways to bolster national, regional, and zonal maritime coordination structures; exchange of experiences and lessons learned regarding national maritime security strategy development; and discussion of ways to improve inter-regional coordination efforts.

