

Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea

Regional Collaboration and Root Causes

Thursday 28 October 2021 | 09:00 – 15:00 (WAT/Nigeria)

Nigerian Institute of International Affairs (NIIA)
Lagos, Nigeria

The Gulf of Guinea region has become a focal point for international concerns of maritime security over the last decade, with official reporting databases suggesting that it represents a global hotspot for incidents of piracy and armed robbery at sea. Yet as reporting efforts and capacity have advanced alongside this surge in recorded incidents, the extent to which this data alone should inspire alarm relative to historic regional norms remains contested. Equally, piracy and armed robbery at sea remain only two parts of a complex broader picture of interlocking challenges in the maritime domain, including trafficking; oil theft and related pollution; illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing and the impact of climate change on the oceans and West African coastline.

A range of new initiatives focused on the region are seeking to address these issues, most notably Nigeria's recently launched Deep Blue project and a new multilateral Gulf of Guinea Maritime Collaboration Forum (GOG-MCF/SHADE). As these new efforts move closer to full implementation, a critical window has opened to ensure that they are aligned with existing regional and international collaboration frameworks and work to address the full spectrum of challenges in the maritime arena, including the broader underlying causes of insecurity.

This conference will analyse the factors contributing to insecurity in the Gulf of Guinea's maritime space, including the root causes sustaining piracy, armed robbery at sea and other forms of maritime crime.

08:30 – 09:30 [Registration and coffee](#)

09:30 – 10:00 [Welcome and Opening Keynotes](#)

Introductory and Welcome Remarks

Professor Eghosa E. Osaghae, Director-General, Nigerian Institute of International Affairs

Opening Keynote Addresses

***Hon. Gbemisola Ruqayyah Saraki**, Minister of State for Transportation, Federal Republic of Nigeria

The Rt Hon. Robert Courts MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, UK Department for Transport [*Speaking via video link*]

Hon. Lynda Chuba Ikepazu, Chairman, Maritime Safety Education and Administration Committee

Chair: **Dr Alex Vines OBE**, Managing Director, Risk, Ethics and Resilience; Director, Africa Programme, Chatham House

10:00 – 11:15 **Session 1: Interlocking Challenges in the Maritime Domain**

Keynote Speaker

Rear Admiral Abraham Adaji, Chief of Training and Operations, Naval Headquarters, Nigerian Navy

Piracy and Armed Robbery at Sea in the Gulf of Guinea

Lieutenant Commander Kofi Amponsah Duodu, Head of Maritime Security, Gulf of Guinea Maritime Institute

Oil Theft

Christina Katsouris, Associate Fellow, Africa Programme, Chatham House

Trafficking and Smuggling

Aganran Ganiu Alao, Zonal Commander for Lagos State, National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP)

Chair: **Ben Llewellyn-Jones OBE**, British Deputy High Commissioner, British High Commission, Lagos

11:15 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 13:00 **Session 2: Regional and International Collaboration Frameworks**

Keynote Speaker

Dr Bashir Yusuf Jamoh, Director General, Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA)

The Yaoundé Code and Evolving Regional Architecture

Admiral Narciso Fastudo, Jr, Executive Director, Inter Regional Coordination Centre (ICC) Yaoundé

The Role of the G7++ Friends of the Gulf of Guinea

Joanna Vallat, UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO)

EU Coordinated Maritime Presences (CMP)

Rear Admiral Jürgen Ehle, Managing Director for CSDP and Crisis Response, European External Action Service (EEAS)

Chair: **Patricia Davies**, Maritime Security Liaison Officer (MaSLO) for Sub Saharan Africa, British High Commission, Nairobi, Kenya

13:00 – 13:45 Lunch Break

13:45 – 14:50 **Session 3: Addressing Root Causes**

Tackling Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated (IUU) Fishing

Paul Opuama Apoy, Deputy Director, Federal Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, Nigeria

Harnessing the Blue Economy

Dr Felicia Chinwe Mogo, President, African Marine Environment Sustainability Initiative

Impacts of Climate Change on Coastal Communities

Mojisola Oyeronke Adegbile, Chief Research Officer, Marine Biology Section,
Nigerian Institute for Oceanography and Marine Research (NIOMR)

Priorities for a Sustainable and Inclusive Shipping Industry

Chisa Theodora Uba, Partner and Head, Shipping and International Trade Unit,
Dentons ACAS-Law

Chair: **Dr Freedom C. Onuoha**, Senior Lecturer, University of Nigeria, Nsukka

14:50 – 15:00 **Closing Remarks**

Dr Alex Vines OBE, Managing Director, Risk, Ethics and Resilience; Director, Africa
Programme, Chatham House

*** To be confirmed**