

Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea

Speakers' Biographies

Chatham House Africa Programme and Coventry University African Studies Centre
Thursday 06 December 2012

Ambassador Florentina Adenike Ukonga is the Deputy Executive Secretary (Political Affairs) at the Gulf of Guinea Commission in Luanda, Angola. She worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for over thirty years before she retired as Under-Secretary for African Affairs in 2006. While with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Ambassador Ukonga served as Nigerian High Commissioner to Jamaica with concurrent accreditation to Belize, Haiti and the Dominican Republic, as Chargé d'Affaires at the Embassy of Nigeria in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and as Minister-Counsellor at the Nigerian High Commission in London. Ambassador Ukonga has actively been involved in Maritime Security issues in the Gulf of Guinea Region since her appointment as Deputy Executive Secretary at the Gulf of Guinea Commission in 2007.

Bruce Baker is Professor of African Security and Director of the African Studies Centre at Coventry University. Bruce is also a Senior Security and Justice Advisor for HMG's Civilian Stabilisation Group. His research and publications cover African informal and formal policing and security and justice reform.

Tony Attah is Vice President of Health, Safety, Security and Environment for Shell Sub-Saharan Africa. He is responsible for company relationships with regional and municipal governments in the Niger Delta, as well as with more than a thousand local communities. His responsibilities also include sustainable development, social performance and reputation management in the sub-Saharan region. Previously he was the General Manager, Sustainable Development and Community Relations for the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited, overseeing relations with the nine Niger Delta state governments, local governments and over 1,000 communities to ensure positive relationships, balanced reputation management, sustainable development partnerships and stakeholder management. Having worked in the production front line and in direct contact with communities and other stakeholders, Tony has extensive experience of the Niger Delta operations, the socio-political situation and issues relating to social and business performance in the oil and gas industry.

Chris Trelawny is the Deputy Director of the Maritime Safety Division at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in charge of the Sub-Division for Maritime Security and Facilitation. Prior to that, he was the head of the Maritime Security Section. Chris joined IMO in March 2003. As well as providing secretariat support to the IMO committees, technical sub-committees and working groups, Chris is responsible for advising and liaising with IMO Member Governments, international organizations and non-governmental organizations on the facilitation of global maritime transport, maritime security, piracy and related issues. Before joining IMO, Chris spent six years with ICAO, four years with the UK Government in aviation security roles, and eight years with HM Customs in both aviation and maritime environments.

This conference is sponsored by:



Lieutenant Commander Stephen Anderson is the Executive Officer and Second in Command in HMS DAUNTLESS, one of the Royal Navy's new Type 45 Destroyers. Joining the Royal Navy as an Aircrew Officer after 10 years in industry, the first half of his career saw active service flying Lynx helicopters in the Mediterranean, Caribbean, and the Middle East including the commencement of operations in Afghanistan in 2001 and the war in Iraq in 2003. Leaving the cockpit in 2007 he served with the staff of Commander United Kingdom Maritime Forces, where he assisted in the establishment of OP ATALANTA when EUNAVFOR set up the first dedicated Counter Piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden in 2008. He has spent 6 months embedded with US forces when they held the duties of Combined Task Force 151 in the fight against piracy in the Gulf of Aden and Somali Basin. Lieutenant Commander Anderson is currently a post-graduate student with St Andrews University working on an MLitt in Terrorism Studies.

Yaron Gottlieb is a Senior Counsel at the Office of Legal Affairs of INTERPOL. He joined INTERPOL in 2005 as the New York University Center on Law and Security Fellow in Global Counter-Terrorism, and then as a full staff member of the Office of Legal Affairs. He also serves as a Visiting Professor at the international LL.M. Program at the Université Jean Moulin Lyon 3 - Faculté De Droit. His main fields of published research are protection of cultural property under international law; international police cooperation; and maritime piracy. He is a member of the Israeli and the New York State Bars.

Janina Cieciora is Head of Maritime Security within the Directorate for Defence and International Security at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. She joined the FCO in July 2011 on secondment from the Home Office. Most recently she has worked in the Home Office's International Directorate on the European Union Justice and Home Affairs portfolio. She has previously worked on immigration, counter-terrorism and criminal justice matters.

Commodore KB Ati-John has held the position of Chief of Staff Officer at the Western Naval Command in Lagos since March 2011. His previous service postings include Chief Operating Officer at the headquarters of the Western Naval Command; Principal Staff Officer of the National Defence Academy; and Directing Staff of the National Defence College. Commodore Ati-John holds a BSc in Electrical Engineering, an MSc in Strategic Studies, and has attended a course on Risk and Security Management at Cranfield University.

Olivio F. A. Jacinto has been Senior Maritime Adviser for the Permanent Representation of Angola to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), since November 2006. He has primary responsibility for advising the Representation in matters relating to the work of the IMO, such as, among others, pollution from ships, maritime security, technical cooperation, piracy matters and international conventions as well as interacting with international organizations and non-governmental organizations on matters related to maritime transport. Prior to his current posting Olivio has worked for Raleigh International, London Transports, and The Catholic Agency For Overseas Development.

This conference is sponsored by:



Francesca Jannotti Pecci has recently joined the Policy and Mediation Division of the Department of Political Affairs at the United Nations Headquarters. Previously, she worked as a political officer for the United Nations Office in West Africa and for the United Nation Stabilization Mission in the DRC, on rule of law and protection of civilian issues. From 2005 to 2010 Francesca served as Political Affairs Officer in the Security Council Affairs Division of the United Nations, where she worked on sanctions issues and backstopped the Panel of Experts on the DRC, as well as several sanctions committees.

Amb. Christopher W. Dell is Deputy to the Commander for Civil-Military Activities (DCMA) of the United States Africa Command. Ambassador Dell is a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, with the rank of Career Minister and he has previously served as Ambassador to the Republic of Kosovo; Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Kabul; Ambassador to the Republic of Zimbabwe; Ambassador to the Republic of Angola; Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Sofia; Deputy Director of the Office of Regional Political Affairs, Bureau of European and Canadian Affairs; and Deputy Chief of Mission, U.S. Embassy, Maputo, Mozambique. He has received numerous awards, including the Presidential Distinguished Service Award and the State Departments Robert C. Frasure Award for his role in helping Angola through the aftermath of its civil war.

Captain (ret.) Ioannis Chapsos is a Research Fellow in Maritime Security at Coventry University. He is a retired Captain of the Hellenic Navy and he holds the 1st chair at the International Association for Maritime Security Professionals (IAMSP). Before joining Coventry University, he was a lecturer for four years at the Hellenic Supreme Joint War College / Security & Strategy Department. His research interests include the human and maritime security nexus in Africa, modern piracy and private maritime security companies.

Alex Vines has been Head of the Africa Programme at Chatham House since 2002, and in 2008 became Director for Area Studies and International Law. He first joined Chatham House as an Associate Fellow of the British Angola Forum in 1999 and has written extensively on Angola. From 2005 to 2007 he was a member and Chair of the UN Panel of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire. He served from 2001 to 2003 on the UN Panel of Experts on Liberia. The proliferation of small arms and light weapons remains one of his key areas of expertise. He has worked across southern Africa and was an officer for both UNOMOZ in Mozambique in 1994 and UNAVEM II in Angola in 1992. He has had a long association with Human Rights Watch and served as their Senior Researcher on Business and Human Rights. He serves on the editorial board of several leading journals and writes regularly for publications around the world. He was awarded an OBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours in 2008 in recognition of the work he has done in founding and developing the Chatham House Africa Programme.

This conference is sponsored by:

