



KAIPTC
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CONCEPT NOTE

MARITIME SECURITY IN THE GULF OF GUINEA: RETHINKING THE PAST AND CONTEMPLATING THE FUTURE

16 -17 NOVEMBER 2022

ACCRA, GHANA

ORGANIZERS

KOFI ANNAN INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING TRAINING CENTER

STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY (SIGLA)

ROYAL DANISH DEFENCE COLLEGE

Backdrop

In 2015 the edited volume *“TOWARDS GOOD ORDER AT SEA - African Experiences Maintaining Good Order at Sea off the coast of Eastern Africa”* focused on maritime security beyond piracy off the coast of East Africa. The key themes at that time were, amongst others, maritime leadership, the AIMS 2050, the Djibouti Code of Conduct, and post-piracy thought to highlight the economic potential of the ocean to lower the “sea-blindness” experienced in many African communities. The 2022 Ghana conference, and subsequent publication, will in the West African context, revisit this debate, and engage with forward-looking ideas and smart responses to threats facing Gulf of Guinea (GoG) coastal states.

Moving on: Accra, Ghana November 2022

Given the ever-rising importance of the oceans as geopolitical and geoeconomic landscapes, it is now imperative that coastal and island state governments in the GoG continue to design and align policy, strategy, and ocean programmes to improve the security underpinnings of their maritime interests. Maritime security strategies are growing visibly amongst GoG governments, but work remains to be completed given, among other things, a growing Chinese interest in the Atlantic and West Africa ports, and subsea infrastructure vulnerabilities amidst a shifting

outlook for safer energy supplies and shipping routes while balancing environmental awareness and responsible use of the seas.

For West African coastal states, their ocean landscapes offer a notable catalyst to mitigate the bleak economic outlooks facing some, while others have made good strides to integrate and cooperate on common maritime affairs. Unfortunately, the ideal of extending effective maritime security governance over the wider GoG calls for more attention. The crucial development-oceans nexus is therefore impeded as maritime crime - manifesting as piracy and robbery, illegal fishing, pollution, smuggling, and damage to important maritime infrastructure - retards the oceans' economic potential for states and their communities. Forfeiting the maritime opportunities on offer and allowing unproductive maritime landscapes and underperforming maritime sectors to persist are detrimental to GoG countries. However, by cooperating more smartly, embarking on clever maritime diplomacy initiatives with naval and other maritime assets, and building healthy maritime sectors, West and Central African states create spaces to benefit from the advantages embedded in the GoG as a flow and stock resource.

Projected outcomes

The RDDC, KAIPTC and SIGLA of Stellenbosch University, supported by the Danish Peace and Stabilisation Fund, aim to gather a selected group of international academics, practitioners, and policymakers at the KAIPTC in Accra, Ghana and share their ideas, experiences, and goodwill to map the nature of the challenges obstructing the ambition of good order at sea in the GoG. In tandem with the conference contributions the organizers envisage to map out a policy paper on pointers for forward-looking maritime security governance in the GoG and during 2023 publish an open-access book on progress in the GoG from the conference panels.

Registration link: <https://forms.office.com/r/C5Dn7PC19D>

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