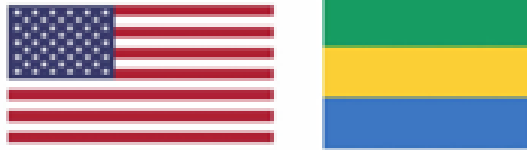


**G7++ FRIENDS OF THE GULF OF GUINEA
Plenary Meeting**

Agenda and Information



1-3 December 2020

On Zoom Platform

Hosted by:

The United States Department of State and
Gabonese Republic Ministry of Foreign Affairs



G7++ FRIENDS OF THE GULF OF GUINEA

Virtual Plenary Meeting Agenda

1 December 2020, 0800-1100 U.S. EST

Zoom Webinar

2 December 2020, 0800-1100 U.S. EST

3 December 2020, 0800-1100 U.S. EST

Day 1: Tuesday, 1 December 2020

0800-0815, U.S. EST	Introduction and Procedures Technical Contractors and Moderators, USA & Gabon
0815-0825, U.S. EST	Keynote Remarks Minister of Foreign Affairs, Gabonese Republic Pacôme Moubelet Boubeya
0825-0835, U.S. EST	Keynote Remarks Minister of National Defense, Gabonese Republic Michael Moussa-Adamo
0835-0845, U.S. EST	Keynote Remarks United States Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Tibor Nagy
0845-0850, U.S. EST	Welcome Remarks from United States Embassy Libreville Chargé d’Affaires, a.i., United States Embassy Libreville Samuel Watson
0850-0855, U.S. EST	Moderator Comments Moderators, USA & Gabon
0855-0905, U.S. EST	Keynote Remarks

0905-0910, U.S. EST	<p>Secretary General, International Maritime Organization Mr. Kitack Lim</p> <p>Moderator Comments Moderators, USA & Gabon</p>
0910-0930, U.S. EST	<p>Views from Regional Organizations Director, Regional Security, Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), Colonel Abdourahmane Dieng</p> <p>President of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Dr. Gilberto da Piedade VERISSIMO</p>
0930-0935, U.S. EST	<p>Moderator Comments Moderators, USA & Gabon</p>
0935-0950, U.S. EST	<p>Current Condition of the Yaoundé Architecture Deputy Executive Director, Interregional Coordination Center Rear Admiral Narciso Fastudo, Jr.</p>
0950-0955, U.S. EST	<p>Moderator Comments Moderators, USA & Gabon</p>
0955-1005, U.S. EST	<p>Yaoundé Architecture Sustainability Initiatives Acting Head, Maritime Security Section, International Maritime Organization Ms. Gisela Vieira</p>
1005-1015, U.S. EST	<p>Closing Remarks Atlantic Area Commander, United States Coast Guard, Vice Admiral Steven Poulin</p>
1015-1025, U.S. EST	<p>Conclusion Moderators, USA & Gabon</p>

Day 2: Wednesday, 2 December 2020

0800-0815, U.S. EST	<p>Introduction and Procedures Technical Contractors and Moderators, USA & Gabon</p>
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0815-0835, U.S. EST	<p>Information Sharing and Analysis Director, Intelligence and Knowledge Development Directorate, United States Africa Command, Rear Admiral Heidi Berg</p>
0835-0840, U.S. EST	<p>Moderator Comments Moderators, USA & Gabon</p>
0840-0900, U.S. EST	<p>Initiatives on Piracy and Maritime Crime Director General/CEO of Nigeria Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA), Dr. Bashir Jamoh</p>
0900-0905, U.S. EST	<p>Moderator Comments Moderators, USA & Gabon</p>
0905-0915, U.S. EST	<p>Break</p>
0915-0935, U.S. EST	<p>Coordinating International Cooperation in Operations, Exercises, and Capacity Building Director, Maritime Headquarters, U.S. Naval Forces Europe- Africa Rear Admiral Michael W. Baze</p> <p>Head of Information and Communication Management, Interregional Coordination Center, CAPT Emmanuel Bell Bell</p>
0935-0940, U.S. EST	<p>Moderator Comments Moderators, USA & Gabon</p>
0940-1000, U.S. EST	<p>How Academia Can Inform Policy and Action in Maritime Security Team Leader West Africa, Department for Africa, Policy and Development, Danish Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kristian Kirkegaard Edinger</p> <p>Professor Christian Bueger, University of Copenhagen</p>
1000-1010, U.S. EST	<p>Moderator Comments and Break Moderators, USA & Gabon</p>
1010-1040, U.S. EST	<p>Integrated Action at Sea Deputy Chief of Staff, Gabonese Navy Captain Loic Moudouma</p>

	<p>Dr. Claude Berube, U.S. Naval Academy</p> <p>Director, Integrated Approach for Security and Peace, European External Action Service, Mr. Stefano Tomat</p>
1040-1050, U.S. EST	<p>Atlantic Center for Defense Capacity Building Special Representative for Maritime Security in the Gulf of Guinea, Portugal, Ambassador João Corte-Real</p> <p>Interim Coordinator, Atlantic Center, Portugal Brigadier General Nuno Lemos Pires</p>
1050-1110, U.S. EST	<p>Updates on Existing Programs Strategic Advisor, Gulf of Guinea Inter-regional Network, Jean-Philippe Picquart</p> <p>Program Officer, Global Maritime Crime, UN Office of Drugs of Crime, Giuseppe Sernia</p>
1110-1115, U.S. EST	<p>Closeout Moderators, USA & Gabon</p>

Day 3: Thursday, 3 December 2020

0800-0815, U.S. EST	<p>Introduction and Procedures Technical Contractors and Moderators, USA & Gabon</p>
0815-0835, U.S. EST	<p>Virtual Working Group One, Legal: Plan of Work Direction VWG One Members Led by Cameroon</p>
0835-0840, U.S. EST	<p>Moderator Comments Moderators, USA & Gabon</p>
0840-0900, U.S. EST	<p>Virtual Working Group Six, Operations: Plan of Work Direction VWG Six Members Led by Gabon</p>
0900-0905, U.S. EST	<p>Moderator Comments Moderators, USA & Gabon</p>

0905-0925, U.S. EST	Virtual Working Group Three, Maritime Domain Awareness: Plan of Work Direction VWG Three Members Led by Ghana
0925-0930, U.S. EST	Moderator Comments Moderators, USA & Gabon
0930-0950, U.S. EST	Virtual Working Group Four; Education, Training, and Exercises: Plan of Work Direction VWG Four Members Led by Senegal
0950-1000, U.S. EST	Moderator Comments Moderators, USA & Gabon
1000-1020, U.S. EST	Virtual Working Group Five, Blue Economy: Plan of Work Direction VWG Five Members Led by Togo
1020-1025, U.S. EST	Moderator Comments Moderators, USA & Gabon
1025-1045, U.S. EST	Symbolic Handover to United Kingdom USA, Gabon, UK
1045-1100, U.S. EST	Closing Moderators, USA & Gabon

Plenary Overview

About the G7++ Friends of the Gulf of Guinea Plenary Meeting

The United States and Gabon are pleased to co-host the 2020 plenary meeting of the G7++ Friends of the Gulf of Guinea. While the Covid-19 pandemic prevented us from meeting in person in Libreville, Gabon, as originally scheduled, this virtual platform allows us a powerful way to connect and maintain momentum on the important work of the FoGG to support efforts in West and Central Africa to improve maritime security.

The goal of this three-day plenary is to give structure to the G7++FoGG and the Virtual Working Groups (VWGs) to give all members a dedicated forum to identify and work cooperatively on issues that affect the functioning and advancement of the Yaoundé Architecture.

On the first day, senior leaders from the United States, Gabon, and key regional and international organizations will offer their perspectives on the main challenges to maritime security and reaffirm their support for the Yaoundé Architecture. On the second day, presenters focus on specific aspects of an identified challenge, offering the FoGG membership a common lens with which to view the issue, and providing the virtual working groups a starting point to take a deeper look at the issues throughout the year ahead. On the final day, we will delve into the initiatives offered to address the region's maritime challenges. This day will be interactive with the working groups, with the aim of providing the groups feedback from the membership to inform their work in 2021.

The first and second days of the plenary will consist of a combination of pre-recorded and real-time remarks with moderator comments throughout, on a webinar platform. Attendees are encouraged to submit questions via the chat function during the presentations. The final day will consist of a series of live interactions with each of the virtual working groups, in which questions submitted by the attendees will be addressed in the appropriate VWG and a Plan of Work for each will be discussed and documented.

Simultaneous interpretation with French, Portuguese, and Spanish will be offered throughout the event.

About the G7++ Friends of the Gulf of Guinea

On 25 June 2013, twenty-five West and Central African states agreed to cooperate in the repression of transnational organized crime in the maritime domain, maritime piracy, IUU fishing, and other illegal activities. Three regional organizations – The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), and the Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC) – authored the instrument of this cooperation, called the *Code of Conduct concerning the Repression of Piracy, Armed Robbery against Ships and Illicit Maritime Activities in West and Central Africa*, also known as the Yaoundé Code of Conduct.

With the Yaoundé Code of Conduct as a foundational agreement, a maritime security architecture consisting of international, regional, zonal and country level components was initiated, which became known as the Yaoundé Architecture. These components are: the Interregional Coordination Center (ICC), the Centre Régional de Sécurité Maritime de l’Afrique de l’Ouest (CRESMAO), the Centre Régional de Sécurité Maritime de l’Afrique Centrale (CRESMAC), the Maritime Multinational Coordination Centers (MMCC) of zones A, D, E, F, and G, and the National Maritime Operations Centers (MOC).

Concurrent to the creation of the Yaoundé Architecture, the G7++ Group of Friends of the Gulf of Guinea, also known as FoGG, was created in 2013 during the UK presidency of the G7 to support the Yaoundé Architecture. Since that time, it has been led by a Secretariat based in the country that holds the rotating G7 presidency. In 2015, it was proposed that the G7 country leading the Secretariat be joined by a Yaoundé Code of Conduct signatory in a co-Secretary role.

Mission

The mission of the FoGG is to support the Yaoundé Architecture which was developed under the Yaoundé Code of Conduct. This support takes many forms and is executed through each member’s international assistance infrastructure and could be bilateral or regional, or in partnership with other FoGG members. The FoGG provides a forum for harmonizing the calls for and the delivery of this assistance to enhance the effectiveness of the Yaoundé Architecture.

Membership

As of December 2020, the full G7++ members of the FoGG are: Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, Belgium, Brazil, Denmark, India, Norway, Netherlands, Portugal, South Korea, Spain, and Switzerland, EU, UNODC, IMO, and Interpol.

The signatories of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct members are: Angola, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Cote d’Ivoire, Gabon, The Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo.

In addition, the co-Secretaries may invite others to join in an observer status.

Virtual Working Groups

To assist the FoGG in its work, Virtual Working Groups (VWG) were established by the France/Ghana co-Secretariat in 2019. These VWGs were continued under the USA/Gabon co-

Secretariat. World events in 2020, in particular the Covid-19 pandemic, during which in person meetings were not possible, necessitated that these VWGs be strengthened and codified to be the primary platform for FoGG discussions and the main conduit of information to and from the co-Secretariat.

The active working groups as of 01 December 2020 are: VWG 1 – Legal; VWG 3 – Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA); VWG 4 – Education, Training, and Exercises; VWG 5 – Blue Economy; and VWG 6 – Operations. One VWG is suspended until further notice and that is VWG 2 – Finance.