



# INTERNATIONAL MARITIME SECURITY WORKING GROUP: THE DAWN OF A NEW ERA

## ABOUT THE IMSWG

In the past few years since its establishment, the International Maritime Security Working Group (IMSWG) has served as the Gulf of Guinea Maritime Institute's flagship forum for stimulating dialogue and policy innovation aimed at addressing maritime security concerns in the Gulf of Guinea.

Beyond its WhatsApp platform, the Institute has frequently brought together an extensive network of experts from government, industry, the diplomatic community, universities and research institutions to contribute to maritime governance dialogues through its IMSWG fora. Governed by the Chatham House Rule, the fora facilitate targeted exchange of ideas on selected topical issues within the community, paving the way for salient recommendations and communal consensus. A report containing highlights of the discussions is prepared at the end of each forum and disseminated broadly through GoGMI's online platforms, including its website repository.

### ***A New Beginning for a Thriving Working Group***

The dialogues generated through GoGMI's IMSWG platform have been critical to shaping maritime governance outcomes in the Gulf of Guinea. However, rapidly changing trends in the Gulf of Guinea necessitate a new approach to fostering active information sharing

and collaboration – one that is hinged on building an even stronger community of maritime practitioners and allies.

As a result, this quarter, GoGMI will be revamping its existing platform in the following ways:

### ***1. New Platform, Renewed Commitment***

*As the name implies, the original intent was for IMSWG to be formally constituted as a working group, well beyond the loose coalition of partners on the existing WhatsApp platform. The team will therefore begin the process of collating details of individuals who wish to be a part of the formally constituted working group. Members of the working group will be migrated to a separate platform called [Slack](#), where they will be able to engage in frequent discourse on pressing maritime governance challenges and evolving opportunities within the Gulf of Guinea and beyond. Slack offers exceptional functionality in segmenting discussions on the basis of topics/thematic areas, by allowing the creation of multiple channels to facilitate the flow of information. Members of the community will therefore be able to maintain separate discussions across varying themes without breaking the flow of each conversation.*

### ***2. Heightened Engagement Across the IMSWG Community***

*Beyond emerging discussions on the basis of matters arising and shared interests, GoGMI will engage the IMSWG community with monthly discourse initiators, designed to draw their perspectives on*

*the most region's most esoteric governance concerns. Resulting perspectives shared in the discussion threads will be captured and shared on the IMSWG web hub, described in further detail below.*

### **3. The IMSWG Web Hub**

*GoGMI will have a special hub on its website platform dedicated to the Working Group. The hub will build on the [Institute's existing IMSWG page](#) by featuring all reports resulting from IMSWG fora discussions. It will also feature the unique contributions of members captured from discussion threads on the Slack. All featured contributions will be indicated as quotes, attributed to the member who made the contribution. The hub will also provide working group members with another useful public platform for sharing op-eds, opinion pieces, short articles on matters of interest to them.*

*The benefits of the IMSWG web hub are two-fold: firstly, all maritime stakeholders are able to access the invaluable knowledge generated through conversations in the working group; secondly, IMSWG members themselves benefit from the visibility of both their ideas and their expertise.*

IMSWG members are required to have five years or more of demonstrable experience working in the areas of ocean governance, maritime security, marine environmental protection and other closely related fields. They must also have a track record of

contributing meaningfully to research or dialogue on matters concerning maritime security in the Gulf of Guinea.

***Want to find out more?  
Reach out to us on  
[imswg@gogmi.org.gh](mailto:imswg@gogmi.org.gh)***