



High-Level Roundtable on the Margins of the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Theme: Unlocking Energy, Oil & Gas, Minerals and Maritime Opportunities in the Gulf of Guinea: A Roadmap for Peace and Security

Thursday, 25th September 2025

Venue I 22nd Floor, Permanent Mission of Nigeria to the United Nations,
828, 2nd Avenue, New York, United States

Concept Note

Context and Rationale

The 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA 80), convening under the overarching theme **"Building our Future Together,"** will address pressing global challenges, including peace and security, business and investment, sustainable development, climate action, and economic resilience. In alignment with these global priorities, this High-Level Roundtable aims to focus international attention on the Gulf of Guinea (GoG)—a strategically vital yet increasingly vulnerable region.

Convened by The New Diplomat, a non-partisan policy think tank based in Abuja, Nigeria, in collaboration with the **Gulf of Guinea Commission (GGC)** headquartered in Luanda, Angola, this forum builds upon the inaugural event held during the 70th UNGA. It seeks to deepen international engagement on peace and security imperatives and catalyze investment and business in the region's energy, oil and gas, mineral, aviation and maritime sectors.

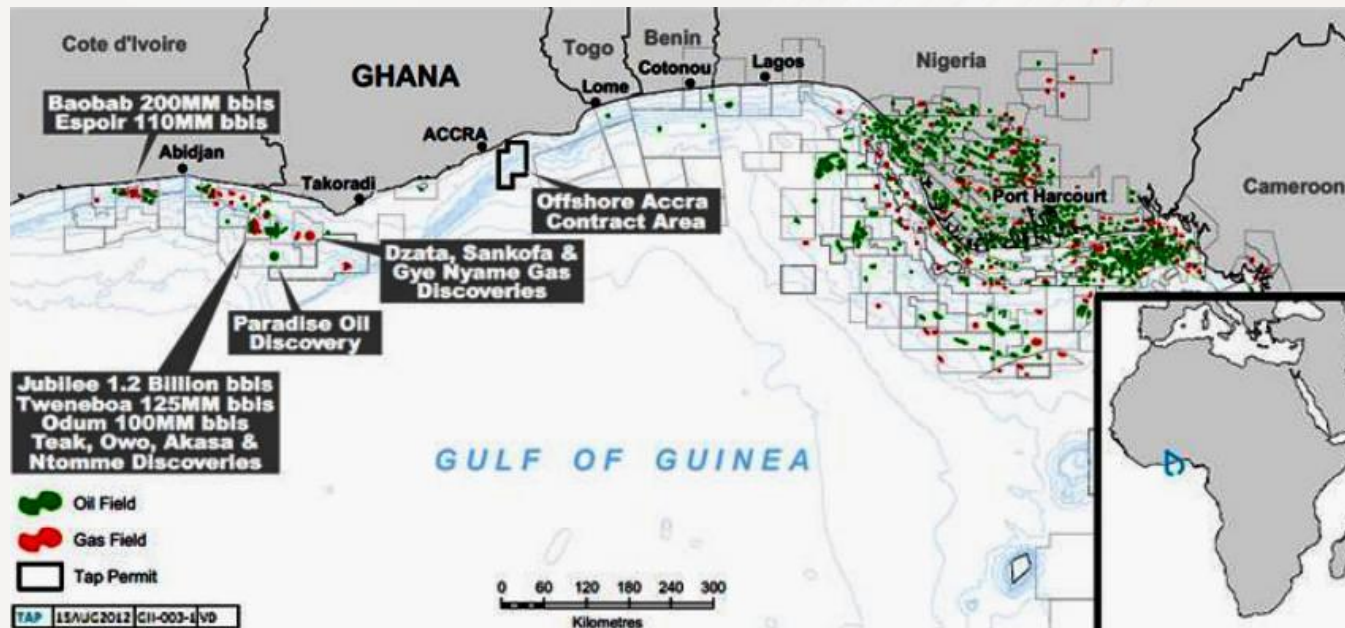


Strategic Importance of the Gulf of Guinea



Spanning from Nigeria to Angola, the GoG produces nearly 50% of Africa's oil and holds an estimated 10% of global reserves. The region also serves as a vital shipping corridor and a source of abundant natural resources—from hydrocarbons and minerals to fisheries—making it integral to regional and global economic architecture. It is a nexus for global trade, logistics and transportation.

However, it remains a hotspot for transnational threats including piracy, illegal fishing, smuggling, oil theft, and maritime terrorism. These security challenges jeopardize economic growth, affect investment, and undermine regional integration.



Current Challenges and Regional Responses



The Yaoundé Code of Conduct, adopted in 2013 by 25 coastal states, provides a foundational framework to address maritime threats. However, it has yet to evolve into a binding regional agreement. While efforts by ECOWAS, ECCAS, and the GGC continue, implementation gaps persist, particularly in harmonization, enforcement, and operational capacity.



Recent developments, such as Nigeria's offer to host the Combined Maritime Task Force (CMTF) in Lagos under the African Union's African Standby Force (ASF), signal renewed momentum. Yet, the ASF still faces readiness challenges, including political coordination, funding, and strategic airlift capabilities.



This Roundtable provides a timely opportunity to revisit regional frameworks, galvanize multilateral support, and align peace and security architecture with economic, business and development aspirations.

Strategic Benefits to the Private Sector, Public Sector and Diplomatic Stakeholders



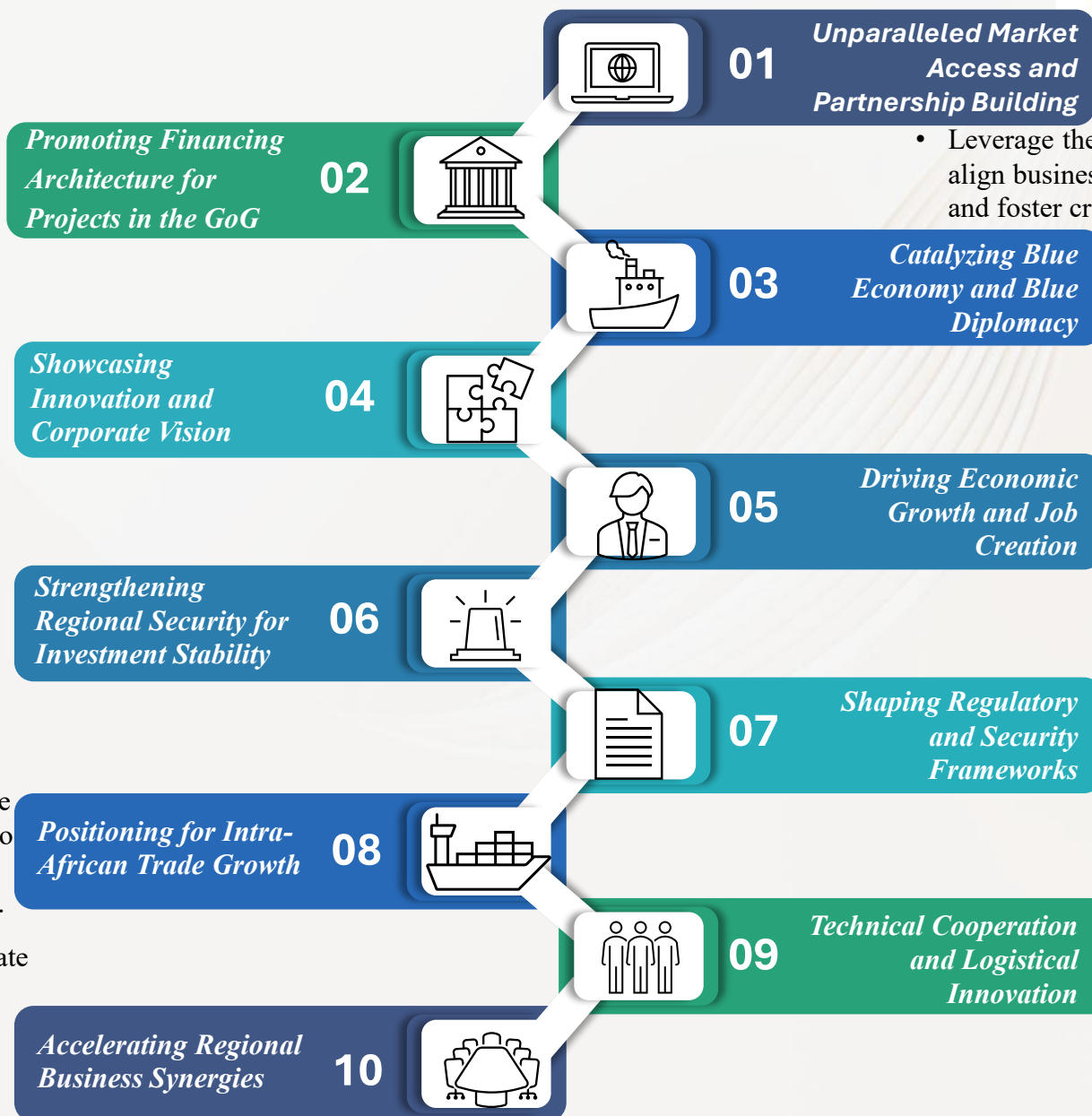
- Strive for effective exploitation and channelization of the Gulf of Guinea's maritime resources

- Global platform to present their innovations, and development models

- Support Nigeria's leadership in hosting the Combined Maritime Task Force (CMTF) in Lagos under the AU-led African Standby Force (ASF)

- Investments in coastal infrastructure and maritime security will facilitate up to \$560 billion in additional trade over the next decade.

- Enable peer learning, private sector matchmaking, and knowledge-sharing that catalyze regional business flows and prosperity.



- Leverage the GGC as a strategic platform to align business priorities, strengthen networks, and foster cross-sectoral collaboration

- Promote regional collaboration on transnational projects in energy, oil & gas, maritime logistics, airlifting logistics and minerals.

- GoG is projected to contribute \$300 billion and create over 49 million jobs to the African coastal economy.

- Promote harmonized enforcement mechanisms and operationalization of the ASF/CMTF to reduce investment risks.

- Explore joint ventures and policy dialogues on aviation, strategic airlifting, and supply chain resilience

Strategic Objectives



- 1. Facilitate a multi-stakeholder dialogue on security, governance, and investment opportunities in the GoG.**
- 2. Showcase national and regional efforts to strengthen maritime safety, combat piracy, and protect critical infrastructure.**
- 3. Propose a coordinated roadmap to promote peace, security, and sustainable development in the region.**
- 4. Mobilize support for Nigeria's offer to host the CMTF and enhance AU-led security frameworks.**
- 5. Promote private-public sector collaboration to unlock the region's \$800 billion infrastructure, oil & gas and energy potential.**

Expected Outcomes

01

Strengthened alignment between regional peace and economic development efforts.



02

A call for the legal formalization of the Yaoundé Code of Conduct.



03

Enhanced investor confidence through clearer governance frameworks.



04

Consensus on a coordinated implementation plan for the CMTF and ASF in the GoG.



05

Expanded networks for B2B, G2G, and P2P cooperation in maritime, energy, and infrastructure development.



06

Unlock funding/investment opportunities for both public and private sector players in Gulf of Guinea region..



07

Facilitate creation of the Gulf of Guinea Business Roundtable as a strategic regional business network, and nexus for private & public sector engagement in the GoG.



Key Benefits and Value Proposition



01



Strengthen cooperation among the 19 coastal states of the GoG and the broader 38 African coastal nations.

02



Mobilize investments in maritime, oil & gas, and minerals projects across the GoG region.

03



Showcase public-private collaboration models aligned with AfCFTA, Agenda 2063, and SDG 14 (Life Below Water).

04



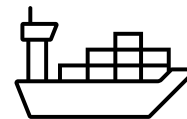
Drive technical partnerships around logistics, airlift, and maritime enforcement to support the African Standby Force.

05



Expand the operational capacity of the GGC as a regional coordination hub.

06



Promote the private Sector to benefit from the projected over \$3 trillion Coastal economy by 2030.

Target Participants

Representatives from...

1. UN, AU, ECOWAS, ECCAS, GGC
2. WTO, NUPRC, NNPC, Navy, Organised Private Sector
3. Diplomatic Missions
4. Government Ministries (Defence, Minerals, Energy, Trade, Aviation)
5. Development Finance Institutions (World Bank, AfDB, Afreximbank)
6. Private Sector (Energy, Oil, Gas, Maritime, Aviation, Logistics, Minerals)
7. Academia, Think Tanks, NGOs



Draft Agenda



Welcome Dinner | 24th September 2025, 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Main Sessions | 25th September 2025

Time	Session	Speakers
01:00 – 01:05	Welcome & Introduction	Moderator
01:05 – 01:15	Chairman's Opening Remarks	Top Diplomat /UN Chief from GoG, rtd (TBC)
	Guest Speaker's Presentation	Seasoned global Business leader/CEO
01:15 – 01:35	Keynote Address: Peace and Security in the Gulf of Guinea	Retired Chief of Naval Staff, Minister of Solid Minerals, HMFA from GoG, GCEO of national oil & gas/ energy company, GGC Executive Secretary (TBC)
01:35 – 01:50	Fireside Chat I: Maritime Security, Minerals & Regional Cooperation	Defence, Aviation, Maritime, Security Chiefs; from the Gulf of Guinea member States, GGC Executives
01:50 – 02:10	Fireside Chat II: Energy Security and Economic Resilience	Energy Sector Leaders, Ministers, Industry CEOs from the Gulf of Guinea member States, EU, US, China, Greece, Americas & South East Asia
02:10 – 02:30	Panel Discussion: Governance, financing and Investment in the GoG	UN, AU, World Bank, Afre-Exim Bank, ADB, GGC Reps, Development Partners, Private Sector
02:30 – 02:35	Q&A	All participants
02:35 – 02:40	Networking & Tea Break	All,
02:40 – 02:55	Fireside Chat III: Innovation, Investment, and Private Sector Engagement	Global CEOs, DFIs, Multilateral Partners
02:55 – 02:58	Closing Reflections	Co-hosts
02:58 – 03:00	Closing Group Photo & Departure	All
6:30 – 7:30	Recognition Dinner	Honouring Icons/Organizations of Impact in the Gulf of Guinea Region



THANK YOU

