

Francis Behanzin

Former Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of ECOWAS



General Francis A. BEHANZIN, an Ecowas citizen coming from Benin Republic holds a Masters in Law and Political Sciences obtained in 1981 from the National University of Benin.

After several military trainings (Infantry Officer) and then police trainings (Police Commissioner Diploma) realized in Benin, Cameroon and France and Nigeria, he has served in particular in Benin's Security and Defense Forces at the following positions:

- ✓ Chargé de Mission to Honorable Minister of Interior,
- ✓ Technical Security Advisor to Honorable Minister of Interior.
- ✓ Director of the Service of Official Trips and the Security of Very High Personalities
- ✓ Central Director of the National Police Administration and Police Spokesman,
- ✓ Director of Technical Security Cooperation of the Ministry of Interior;
- ✓ Inspector General of the Ministry of Interior and Public Security

At international levels, He has been :

- ✓ Principal organizer of the security of Holly Father Jean Paul 2 during his pastoral visit in Benin Republic in 1993;
- ✓ Principal organizer of the security of Holly Father Benedetto 16 during his pastoral visit in Benin Republic in 2011;
- ✓ One of the Principal organizers of the security of Holly Father Francesco during his pastoral visit in Central Africa Republic in 2015
- ✓ Military Adviser of ECOWAS in Republic of Guinea Bissau from 2016 to 2018
- ✓ Ecowas Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security from March 2018 to July 2022
- ✓ International Security Consultant for ECOWAS, GIZ, UEMOA, G5 SAHEL, KONRAD ADENAUER Foundation, FRIEDRICH EBERT Foundation)

With several specialized military and police trainings in Europe, the United States, Canada and Africa, particularly on organized crime (drugs, cybercrime, money laundering, terrorism, etc.) and peace operations

He is also:

- ✓ Auditor of the Institut des Hautes Etudes de Defense Nationale de Paris (IHEDN);
- ✓ Graduated from Abuja National Defense College in Nigeria;
- ✓ President of several International Sessions on "Security Governance";
- ✓ Lecturer at the Institut des Hautes Etudes de Défense Nationale in Paris;
- ✓ Member of the Benin Human Rights Commission of Benin;
- ✓ Member of the International Association of Chiefs of Police (AICP);
- ✓ Co-Founder-President of the World Network of Security and Defense Professionals (for the prevention of terrorism through inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue) (RMPDSD) with Vatican Security Services

As Commissioner for Political Affairs, Peace and Security of ECOWAS, General Francis A. BEHANZIN has notably managed with great efficiency and discernment political affairs, promotion of democratic governance, and peace in West African region specifically through:

- Preventive diplomacy;
- Election observations;
- Fact-finding missions;
- Pre and Post-electoral conflicts and;
- Mediations in the 15 countries of the West African Region.

Globally, He has notably managed 14 presidential elections, 2 senatorial elections and 4 sensitive parliamentary elections in the region.

On regional security issues, General BEHANZIN has methodically and rationally led the development of the 2020-2024 regional action plan to combat terrorism. In an intelligent strategic approach, he was able, in a multidimensional approach, to bring together all the various actors likely to contribute to stem or even eradicate terrorism in the West African region, namely:

- All the Chiefs of Defence Staff of the 15 member states extended to Chad and Mauritania;
- All the Heads of National Intelligence Agencies of the countries concerned;
- All the Directors General or General Inspector of National Police, Gendarmerie and Security Services;
- Traditional Chiefs, Religious Chiefs of all persuasions together with
- Young people, women and other civil society actors.;
- Military Quatermasters, Logisticians and Heads of Army and Police operations to assess the various programs proposed in above action plan and the approaches to their implementations.

In the same vein and prior to this plan, General BEHANZIN was able to launch the Project entitled WAPIS (Police Information System in West Africa) piloted by INTERPOL with funding from the European Union and intended for the sharing of criminal intelligence in the region enlarged to Mauritania and Chad.

As honorific distinctions, General Francis BEHANZIN is also :

- Commander of the National Order of Benin Republic,
- Knight of the Order of Merit of Benin,
- Medal of Honor of the National Police of Benin,
- Medal of Honor in the Order of Merit of the National Union of Combatants of France,
- Officer of the National Order of Recognition of Guinea Bissau,
- Peace Ambassador of the Universal Federation for World Peace,

General Francis A. BEHANZIN has also obtained several testimonies of recognition of professional skills at national and international levels and especially from the Holy See (VATICAN) for having organized and provided (twice) in Benin, the security of Pope John Paul 2 in March 1993 and of Pope Benedict 16 in November 2011.

Sixty height (68) years old, General Francis A. BEHANZIN is married and father of five (05) children.