



Fondazione  
Compagnia  
di San Paolo



## ARAB GEOPOLITICS 2022

### *A region between conflict and normalisation*

*High-Level Conference*

*Organised by the NATO Defense College Foundation*

*In co-operation with the NATO Political Affairs and Security Policy Division  
and Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo*

**Rome | Tuesday, the 11<sup>th</sup> of October 2022**

Venue: *MAXXI - National Museum of 21st Century Arts, via Guido Reni 4a, 00196 Rome*

**13,30 – 14,30 CET**     *Participants Registration*

**14,30 – 14,45**             *Welcome Remarks*

- **Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo**, President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome \*
- **Christopher Schnaubelt**, Dean, NATO Defense College, Rome \*
- **Nicolò Russo Perez**, Head, International Affairs, Compagnia di San Paolo, Turin \*

**14,45 – 14,55**             *Opening Remarks*

**Mariem Ben Hassine**, Deputy Head, Middle East and North Africa Section, Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, NATO HQ, Brussels \*

**14,55 – 16,10**

#### PANEL 1 A REGION LOOKING AT THE FUTURE?

*The region is experiencing for the first time a recomposition dynamic after decades of general disintegration. What is the new path for regional arrangements? The Strategic Concept has confirmed its priority of projecting security in the area, proving the value of partnerships. How can be further developed the cooperation between NATO and major international organisations?*

Chair: **Claire Spencer**, Visiting Senior Research Fellow, King's College, London \*

- **Abdulaziz Sager**, President, Gulf Research Center, Jeddah \*
- **Oded Eran**, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for National Security Studies, Tel Aviv \*
- **Abdulla bin Ahmed Al Khalifa**, Chairman, Derasat, Manama
- **Raffaella Del Sarto**, Associate Professor of Middle East Studies, Johns Hopkins University, SAIS Europe, Bologna \*

*Q&A Session*

16,10 – 16,40 *Coffee Break*

16,40 – 17,50

**PANEL 2  
THE ABRAHAM ACCORDS**

*These normalisation agreements have brought a remarkably constructive element in the regional environment by boosting economic, cultural and people-to-people relations. Two years after their inception, the economic development leverage is visible, while other aspects may be further developed. What are their security implications and practical cooperative potential in different areas including those within NATO's partnerships?*

Chair: **Ian Lesser**, Vice President and Executive Director, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, Brussels \*

- **Naser M. Y. Al Belooshi**, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Bahrain to Italy, Rome \*
- **Alon Bar**, Ambassador of Israel to Italy, Rome \*
- **Mahmoud Karem**, Professor, British University; former Ambassador to the EU and NATO, Cairo \*
- **Ebtesam Al Ketbi**, President and Founder, Emirates Policy Center, Abu Dhabi \*

*Q&A Session*

17,50 – 18,10 *Coffee Break*

18,10 – 19,20

**PANEL 3  
NORMALISING THE FIGHT AGAINST SMUGGLING**

*The geoeconomics of organised crime and trafficking in the region show that a combination of fragile states, embargoed governments and grey zones is at the centre of illegal flows of goods and persons (human trafficking, arms deals, money laundering, tobacco smuggling etc.). Can the normalisation process provide for new opportunities? How to tackle flows stretching from Sabel to Iran, also via third countries?*

Chair: **Ahmad Masa'deh**, former Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean, Amman \*

- **Karim El Aynaoui**, President, Policy Center for the New South, Rabat
- **Claudia Gazzini**, Senior Libya Analyst, International Crisis Group, Tripoli \*
- **Alain Juillet**, President, Académie de l'Intelligence Economique, Paris
- **Mark Micallef**, Director, North Africa and Sahel Observatory, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, Geneva \*

*Q&A Session*

19,20 – 19,30 *Concluding Remarks*

**Ahmed Aboul Gheit**, Secretary General, League of Arab States, Cairo

**END OF THE WORKING DAY**

\* *Confirmed*

*Special Thanks to Philip Morris International*