AUGMENTING NATO SOUTHERN PARTNERSHIPS



















LUISS T



CEED Accredited to the United Nations and the Governing Body of the United Nations and the Governing Body

In Media Partnership with





NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE FOUNDATION

The NATO Defense College Foundation, the only existing think-tank bearing the name of the Alliance, was established in Rome in 2011. It grew out from a common intuition of the President Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo and the NATO Defense College top decision makers, who understood the value of a nonprofit NGO that could work beyond usual and institutional outreach, training, communication and scientific research activities.

The principles stated in the preamble to the Washington Treaty of 1949 are our heritage.

Our mission is to promote the culture of stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area and in NATO Partner nations.

Our aim is to meet the highest standards in contributing to public debate and future deliberations on strategic, security and geopolitical issues.

Therefore, the NDCF strives at considering relevant issues not just in a descriptive or prescriptive way, but by catching the sense of events and the essential vectors of future developments.

In a claim: Charting ahead.

Scan the QR Code to visit the NDCF website



CONTACTS

- www.natofoundation.org
- info@natofoundation.org
- 🔰 @NATOFoundation
- **f** NATO College Foundation
- in NATO Defense College Foundation
- (i) @natofoundation
- NATO Foundation



Arab Geopolitics 2024 Augmenting NATO Southern partnerships

CONCEPT

The general public, including sizeable parts of the women and youth, have been polarised by the conflicts and their possible expansion, within a **complex and confusing media and propaganda environment**. Media have duly underlined the considerable disruption on the normalisation agreements, especially regarding **new Gulf participants**. Regional ties are in flux concerning **NATO allies**, **Mediterranean Dialogue**, **Istanbul Cooperation Initiative** countries and other GCC or regional capitals in a context of **sharp medium and great power competition**.

These circumstances have been taken into account by the **final communiqué of the past Washington Summit**, that features some initial concrete measures to restart **political dialogue** and **practical cooperation** in an appropriate **strategic communication and perception setting vis-à-vis the partners**. Under the guidance of **NATO's Strategic Concept**, cooperative security needs to receive a new impulse, as indicated by the opening of the **NATO Liaison Office in Amman** and by the continuation of the **dialogue with the Gulf Cooperation Council**. Steps that are relevant in shaping the future.

The high-level conference, preceded and closed by appropriate remarks and supported by special interventions, will address **two major subjects**: a **new strategic narrative** of the Southern Region, overcoming the hazy and chaotic perception of the region and outlining a new cooperative security path; and **how to develop a'converging strategic framework between NATO, the MD partners and the Gulf Cooperation Council** countries, and hence appropriate cooperative security policies, fostering an enhanced political dialogue and a practical cooperation.

The **conference's objectives** are three: reinforce the consensus, through an effective strategic narrative, on **strengthening and enlarging partnerships**; explore a converging **strategic framework** among allies and partners, old and new; improving the **Alliance's perception**, also in the most polarised juvenile public opinion.

Programme **ARAB GEOPOLITICS 2024** Augmenting NATO Southern partnerships

High-Level Conference

Organised by the NATO Defense College Foundation with the support of Luiss University

In co-operation with the

NATO Public Diplomacy Division, the NATO Defense College, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo and International Council on Environmental Economics and Development (ICEED)

Rome, 25th of October 2024

Venue: Luiss University - Aula Toti (Viale Romania, 32)

14,00 - 14,30 Participants Registration

14,30 - 14,50 WELCOME REMARKS

- Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo, President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome
- Florence Gaub, Director, Research Division, NATO Defense College, Rome
- Nicolò Russo Perez, Head, International Affairs, Compagnia di San Paolo, Turin

14,50 – 15,05 OPENING REMARKS

Giovanni Romani, Head, Middle East and North Africa Section, Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, NATO HQ, Brussels

15,05 - 16,15

SESSION I THE STRATEGIC NARRATIVE OF THE SOUTHERN REGION

The Washington Summit has, after a long neglect, started to refocus on the Southern Region, following also the reflection by the Group of Experts, with some concrete initiatives like the liaison office in Amman, an appointment and future deadlines. Nevertheless, more is needed. The South should not be perceived as a heterogeneous entity for which it is difficult to find solutions and resources. How to change this narrative? How to structure a different discourse that allows to handle the region differently, in a more positive way? The Gulf Cooperation Council may be a good example of regional cooperation.

Chair: Matthew Robinson, Director, Euro-Gulf Information Center, Rome

- Christian Koch, Director, Research Division, Gulf Research Center, Brussels
- Ahmad Masa'deh, Former Secretary General, the Union for the Mediterranean, Amman
- Luigi Narbone, Director, Mediterranean Platform at the School of Government, Luiss University, Rome
- Len Ishmael, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South, Rabat

QcA Session

16,15 – 16,45 Coffee/Tea Break

16,45 - 17,55

SESSION II TOWARDS A CONVERGING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

The aim is to develop a converging strategic framework between NATO, the Mediterranean Dialogue partners and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries. What kind of policies can be implemented to foster an enhanced political dialogue and a practical cooperation? In fact, despite the diversity of the countries included, there are common security interests in various areas: security guarantees through prevention and resolution of crises; protection of essential maritime routes and infrastructures, alongside the security of energy supply and other essentials; blended risks like illicit trafficking, terrorism and hybrid operations.

Chair: Silvia Colombo, Senior Researcher and Faculty Advisor, NATO Defense College, Rome

- Mahmoud Karem, Professor, British University; former Ambassador to NATO and the EU, and Commissioner, Human Rights Council, Cairo
- Ebtesam Al-Ketbi, President and Founder, Emirates Policy Center, Abu Dhabi
- Manal Al Hasawi, Founding Partner, Think Tank Strategy & Development Consulting, Kuwait City

QcrA Session

17,55 - 18,05 Special Intervention

Benedetto Della Vedova, Member of Parliament, Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Deputies, Rome 18,05 – 18,15 Special Intervention

Aaron Leshno-Yar, Former Ambassador to EU and NATO, Ben Gurion University, Tel Aviv

18,15 – 18,45 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Stefano Pontecorvo, Chairman, Leonardo Company, Rome

Abdulaziz Aluwaisheg, Assistant Secretary for Political Affairs and Negotiations, Gulf Cooperation Council, Riyadh

END OF THE CONFERENCE

NOTES

Day of

ARAB GEOPOLITICS 2024

NOTES

Day of

ARAB GEOPOLITICS 2024
