



ARAB GEOPOLITICS 2024

Augmenting NATO Southern partnerships

High-Level Conference

*Organised by the **NATO Defense College Foundation***

*In co-operation with the
**NATO Public Diplomacy Division, the NATO Defense College, Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della
Cooperazione Internazionale and Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo***

Rome, 25th of October 2024

Venue: *LUISS Guido Carli - Aula Toti*

(Viale Romania, 32)

Friday, 25th of October

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 – 15,00 OPENING REMARKS

Nicola de Santis, Head Engagements Section, NATO Public Diplomacy Division, NATO HQ, Brussels

15,00 – 16,10

SESSION I

THE STRATEGIC NARRATIVE OF THE SOUTHERN REGION

The Washington Summit has, after a long neglect, started to refocus on the Southern Region, also following the reflection by the Group of Experts, with some concrete initiatives like the liaison office in Jordan, 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, European Gulf Information Center, Rome *

- **Abdulaziz Sager**, Chairman and Founder, Gulf Research Center, Jeddah *
- **Ahmad Masa'deh**, Former Secretary General, the Union for the Mediterranean, Amman *
- **Mahmoud Karem**, Professor, British University; former Ambassador to NATO and the EU, and Commissioner, Human Rights Council, Cairo *
- **Len Ishmael**, Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South, Rabat *

Q&A Session

16,10 – 16,40 *Coffee/Tea Break*

16,40 – 16,50 *Special Intervention*

Alessandro Ercolani, CEO, Rheinmetall Italy, Rome *

16,50 – 18,00

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 could be the entailed security policies, fostering an enhanced political dialogue and a practical cooperation? In fact, despite the diversity of the countries included, there are common security interests in three segments: security guarantees through prevention and resolution of crises; protection of essential maritime areas and infrastructures, together with the security of supply for energy and other essentials; blended risks like illicit trafficking, terrorism and hybrid operations.

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

- **Giovanni Romani**, Head, Middle East and North Africa Section, Political Affairs and Security Policy Division, NATO HQ, Brussels
- **Ebtesam Al-Ketbi**, President and Founder, Emirates Policy Center, Abu Dhabi *
- **Mohammed Al-Oraifan**, Director, NATO-ICI Regional Centre, Kuwait National Security Bureau
- **Manal Al Hasawi**, Founding Partner, Think Tank Strategy & Development Consulting, Kuwait*

Q&A Session

18,00 – 18,20 *Special Interventions*

Lolwah R. M. Al-Khater, Minister of State for International Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar

Deborah Bergamini, Foreign Affairs Committee, Chamber of Deputies, Rome

18,20 – 19,00 CONCLUDING REMARKS

Stefano Pontecorvo, Chairman, Leonardo Company, Rome *

Abdulaziz Aluwaisheg, Assistant Secretary for Political Affairs and Negotiations, Gulf Cooperation Council, Abu Dhabi *

END OF THE CONFERENCE

*CONFIRMED **