



Fondazione  
Compagnia  
di San Paolo

## ARAB GEOPOLITICS 2021

### *How and with whom? Challenges and opportunities*

*High-Level Conference*

*Organised by the NATO Defense College Foundation*

*In co-operation with the NATO Political Affairs and Security Policy Division,*

*Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo and the NATO Defense College*

**Rome, Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> of October 2021**

Venue: *Parco dei Principi Grand Hotel & Spa, Via Gerolamo Frescobaldi, 5, 00198 Roma RM*

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

**14,30 – 14,45** WELCOME REMARKS

- **Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo**, President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome \*
- **Chloe Berger**, Faculty Adviser/Researcher, NATO Defense College, Rome \*
- **Nicolò Russo Perez**, Head, International Affairs, Compagnia di San Paolo, Turin

**14,45 – 14,55** OPENING REMARKS

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

**14,55 – 16,15**

### SESSION I

#### CHANGING TRENDS IN THE REGION

*A fresh look at the region is necessary. Fragmentations is ongoing, while traditional governments persist as well as low regional cooperation. At the same time the wave of normalisation accords and the recomposition of the Gulf Cooperation Council, together with a new Israeli government are signs of change. Also, great powers show different alignments with the USA reducing direct engagement and trying to avail itself more of NATO, while Beijing continues its economic expansion and Russia plays a more disruptive role. Is a positive trend in the offing? How could Allies' policies be in tune with the trend and better support the countries concerned?*

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

- **Ian Lesser**, Acting President, The German Marshall Fund of the United States, Brussels \*
- **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 \*
- **Oded Eran**, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for National Security Studies, Tel Aviv \*
- **Abdulaziz Sager**, Chairman and Founder, Gulf Research Center, Jeddah

*Q&A Session*

**16,15 – 16,45** INTERVIEW - *The Energy Dilemma. Traditional sources versus renewables*

Moderator: **Mayssoun Azzam**, News Presenter, Al Arabiya Channel, Dubai \*

- **TBC**
- **Francesca Gostinelli**, Head of Group Strategy, Economics and Scenario Planning, Enel Group, Rome

**16,45 – 17,15** *Coffee/Tea Break*

**17,15 – 18,35**

**SESSION II**  
**THE BATTLE IN THE DEEP MAGHREB**

*The Deep Maghreb is the geopolitical space linking the Mediterranean to the whole of the Sabel. Illegal trafficking and organised crime are fuelling, often behind terrorist labels, this major regional dislocation. The increasing fragmentation, unrest and disorder, together with climate-driven humanitarian catastrophes, represent a clear threat for the peace and well-being of this area, as shown by the dangerous connections between Libya and its wider African Hinterland. What strategies, resources and forces should be employed to avoid a major regional collapse? Is the Sabel an Afghanistan in the making?*

Chair: **Robert Watkins**, Research Fellow, Centre on Conflict, Development, and Peacebuilding, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva \*

- **Bakary Sambe**, Director, Timbuktu Institute - African Center for Peace Studies, Dakar
- **Claudia Gazzini**, Senior Libya Analyst, International Crisis Group, Tripoli
- **Mark Micalef**, Director, North Africa and Sahel Observatory, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, Geneva \*
- **Jihane Ben Yahia**, Programs Officer, Global Centre on Cooperative Security, Paris \*

*Q&A Session*

**18,35 – 19,00** CONCLUDING REMARKS

- **Sheik Thamer Ali Sabah Al-Salem**, Minister of Interior, State of Kuwait, Kuwait City
- **Sidiki Kaba**, Minister of Armed Forces, Republic of Senegal, Dakar

*Special Thanks to Philip Morris International*

\* CONFIRMED