



Arab geopolitics from turmoil towards balances, stability and regional order

*Conference organised by
the NATO Defense College Foundation
in cooperation with the Gulf Research Center Foundation, the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme, the NATO Defense College and the NATO Political Affairs and Security Policy Division*

ROME, 5th – 6th October 2017

Venue: Rome, Auditorium via Veneto, Via Vittorio Veneto, 89

Draft Agenda

THURSDAY, 5TH OCTOBER 2017

14,00-15,00 Arrival of participants - Registration

15,00 Welcome remarks

- **Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo**, President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome*

Opening speech

- **Ahmad Aboul Gheit**, Secretary-General of the Arab League, Cairo*

SESSION 1
STATE DISINTEGRATION AND RE-INTEGRATION

The deep crisis affecting the regional political and strategic landscape makes even more necessary to act towards concrete solutions. The actual debate in the governments of the region tends to overlook the seriousness of medium and long-term implications of state disintegration and non-state actors disruptive power. Security partnerships would be also valuable, when disintegration and centrifugal forces continue to represent a threat to the state. Indeed, NATO is active in that direction. Post Isis is also a serious issue not yet addressed. The panel should analyze this complex state of affairs and suggest alternative strategies.

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

- **Mustafa Alani**, Director, National Security and Terrorism Studies Department, Gulf Research Center, Jeddah*
- **Samir Rifai**, Former Prime Minister and Vice-President of the Senate, Jordan*
- **Dalia Ghanem-Yazbeck**, El Erian Fellow at the Carnegie Middle East Center, Beirut*
- **Hafida Benchehida**, Senator of the Algerian Parliament, Foreign Affairs Committee, Algiers*

General Discussion

17,00-17,30 Coffee/Tea break

17,30-19,00

SESSION 2
SUSTAINABLE ECONOMICS AND GAME CHANGERS.
THE ROLE OF ENERGY

The realities of conflict tend to obscure economic dynamics that underpin both stability and wars. Although some countries try to diversify their economy, seeking solutions for a more sustainable development, growth has visibly slowed in the area and illegal trafficking is one of the main causes of the economic output reduction. Economic growth could be too low to foster job creation, resulting in a non-bearable pressure on fiscal systems, welfare and refugee assistance.

Chair: **Marco Arcelli**, Director of Development, EPH Energeticky a Prumislovy Holding, Prague*

- **Rabah Arezki**, Senior Fellow, Harvard's Kennedy School, Cambridge*
- **Oded Eran**, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for National Security Studies, Tel Aviv*
- **Giacomo Luciani**, Scientific Advisor, Master in International Energy, Sciences Po, Paris*
- **Abdallah Al Dardari**, Senior Advisor, Reconstruction for the Middle East and North Africa Region, World Bank, Washington D.C.*

General discussion

10,00-11,30

SESSION 3
FOSTERING VIABLE POLITICS: FROM TURMOIL TO CO-OPERATIVE SECURITY

The Arab region is undergoing a fundamental upheaval that poses extremely serious problems to influent actors, both distant and near the theatre of operations. Syria, Iraq and Libya have both an international and a regional dimension, that applies also to other cases. It requires an important step towards “game changers”, as the crisis is revealing an underlying structural fragility. Cooperative security must be the goal. It is clear that some kind of stability and order needs to be established, at the same time it is necessary to assist successfully these countries in their post crisis efforts aimed at rebuilding their institutional structures. How to reconcile the present diverging policies? Is it possible to promote some kind of “concert among different national and international actors”? How to exit the present diverging policies? is it possible to promote some kind of “concert of nations”?

Chair: **Nabil Elaraby**, former Secretary-General of the Arab League, Cairo*

- ❑ **Christian Koch**, Director of the Gulf Research Center Foundation, Geneva
- ❑ **Mahmoud Karem**, Professor British University and former Ambassador to NATO and the EU and Commissioner Human Rights Council, Cairo*
- ❑ **Ebtesam Al Ketbi**, President, Emirates Policy Center, Abu Dhabi*
- ❑ **Nicola de Santis**, Head, Middle East and North Africa Section, NATO Headquarters, Brussels*

General Discussion

11,30-12,00 Coffee/Tea break

12,00-12,15

SPECIAL INTERVENTION

Mahboub Edmond Hashem, Professor Mass Communication, American University of Sharjah, United Arab Emirates*

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