



## **Afghanistan and Central Asia: Looming priorities and regional un-balances**

*High-level Conference*

*Co-organised by the NATO Defense College Foundation and the NATO Defense College*

*With NATO Public Diplomacy Division sponsorship*

**Rome, the 4<sup>th</sup> of October 2018**

*Venue: Auditorium Via Veneto, Via Veneto, 89, Rome*

13,30-14,30 Arrival of participants - Registration

14,30 -14,45 *Welcome remarks*

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

**Thierry Tardy**, Director, Research Division, NATO Defense College, Rome \*

14,45 - 16,00

### **CENTRAL ASIA AT THE INTERSECTION OF MAJOR POWERS**

*Central and South Asia's was traditionally influenced by the conflict in Afghanistan and along the Pakistani border, but since five years the New Silk Road by China is changing regional equations also within the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation. How are major powers(China, India, Russia and USA) redrawing the strategic landscape of the region? Is co-operative security possible or not?*

Chair: **Vincenzo Camporini**, Vice President, Institute for International Affairs, Rome \*

- ❑ **Richard Hooker**, Professor, National War College and, Theodore Roosevelt Chair in National Security Affairs, Washington \*
- ❑ **Zhongying Pang**, Executive Chair of the Academic Committee, the Grandview Institution, Beijing \*
- ❑ **Saeed Naqvi**, Senior Journalist, New Delhi \*

**General discussion**

16,00 - 16,30

Coffee break

16,30 - 17, 45

### **MORE OF THE SAME OR EVOLUTION?**

*Can Islamabad and Kabul really co-operate and finalise a political dialogue on the end of a decade long civil war and war by proxy in Afghanistan? Decades of civil wars and foreign interventions in Afghanistan have created an area of shared instability that affects also Pakistan, not only in terms of low intensity conflict management along the border, but also due to the explosion of illegal trafficking concerning first opium and then other legal goods on either side of a porous border.*

Chair: **Kai Eide**, former United Nations Special Representative to Afghanistan, Oslo \*

- ❑ **Maria Sultan**, Director-General, South Asia Strategic Stability Institute, Islamabad \*
- ❑ **Christopher A. Corpora**, Professor, Mercyhurst University, Erie \*
- ❑ **Shukria Barakzai**, Ambassador, Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, Oslo \*

### **General discussion**

17,45-19,00

### **RESOLUTE SUPPORT: MAINTENANCE AND RELEVANCE**

*Afghanistan is probably experiencing its worst security crisis in perhaps more than a decade and at the same time showing some unprecedented good political signal. Resolute Support is the current NATO operation in support of the country. Its importance both for the local population and major allies needs a constant reassessment.*

Chair: **Benoît d'Aboville**, Vice-President, Fondation pour la Recherche Strategique, Paris \*

- ❑ **Zalmai Rassoul**, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Kabul \*
- ❑ **Ian Hope**, Researcher, NATO Defense College, Rome \*
- ❑ **Martin L. O'Donnell**, Public Affairs Officer and Spokesman, Resolute Support Mission Headquarters, Kabul \*

### **General discussion**

*Special intervention*

**Abdul Hai Rauf**, Assistant Minister of Defense for Strategy and Policy, Kabul \*

\* CONFIRMED

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