



**Africa in Action:**  
**Tailoring security to real needs and threats**

**Rome, May 8th - 9th 2018**







## Africa in action: Tailoring security to real needs and threats

*Conference organised by  
the **NATO Defense College Foundation**  
in cooperation with the **NATO Defense College***

**ROME, 8<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> of May 2018**

Venue: *Centro Congressi Roma Eventi - Piazza di Spagna, Via Alibert, 5/a, Rome*

### ***Agenda***

#### **TUESDAY, 8<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY**

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

15,00              Welcome remarks

- **Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo**, President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome
- **Thierry Tardy**, Director, Research Division, NATO Defense College, Rome
- **Giuseppe Mistretta**, Director, Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic

#### *Opening remarks*

**Hafida Benchehida**, Senator, Foreign Affairs Committee, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria

## SESSION 1

### EXISTING THREATS VERSUS REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

*As in other regions, several initiatives have sprung up in Africa in order to fight against a variable mix of political instability, illegal trafficking fuelling organised criminal groups and facilitating more or less structured terrorist groups. African capabilities unfortunately are still insufficient and external powers have often very narrowly focused objectives often insufficiently harmonised by international organisations.*

Chair: **Alain Juillet**, President of the Club des Directeurs de Sécurité des Entreprises and of the Académie de l'Intelligence Economique, Paris

- ❑ **Simon K. Nyambura**, Ph.D., Director, IGAD Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violence Extremism, Djibouti
- ❑ **Johan Kruger**, Head of Transnational Organized Crime, Illicit Trafficking and Terrorism, Eastern Africa United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Nairobi
- ❑ **Jihane Ben Yahia**, Coordinator, Regional organised crime observatory – North Africa, Enhancing Africa's Response to Transnational Organised Crime (ENACT), Tunis

General discussion

17,00 – 17,30

Coffee break

17,30-19,00

## SESSION 2

### TOWARDS AN AFRICAN-LED CRISIS MANAGEMENT

*The watershed for African wars and crisis management has been the end of the Cold War and of the intervention of superpowers in international conflicts. The following decade witnessed a host of local conflicts led mainly by African entities, starting from the Somalia conflict in 2006. The number of peacekeepers in the continent has increased substantially, with a renewed foreign presence and international involvement (i.e. UN, EU, NATO). A natural evolution would be the progressive transition from foreign intervention to a more effective African Union direction in managing crises, a transition to be supported by the international community.*

Chair: **Youssef Amrani**, Senior Officer, The Royal Cabinet, Rabat

- ❑ **Youssef Cherif**, Deputy Director, Columbia Global Centers, Columbia University, Tunis
- ❑ **Thierry Tardy**, Director, Research Division, NATO Defense College, Rome
- ❑ **Liess Boukra**, Managing Director, Institut National d'Etudes de Stratégie Globale, Algiers

General Discussion

WEDNESDAY, 9<sup>TH</sup> OF MAY

10,00-11,30

**SESSION 3**  
**THE TWIN CHALLENGE OF EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL CO-OPERATIONS**

*Africa has undoubtedly benefited from a strong economic growth supported mainly by commodities and a parallel series of positive developments concerning peace restoration and the relative strengthening of democracy. These positive evolutions can nevertheless still be jeopardised by negative internal (i.e.corruption, weak rule of laws) and regional factors (cross border criminal operations and armed conflicts, terrorist networks). Despite its evident limitations the international community can still improve its actions and programmes, but one should also explore the opportunities offered by the co-operation between private and public sector to increase positive synergies.*

Chair: **Mahmoud Gebril**, Former Prime Minister of the State of Libya

- ❑ **Mehari TaddeleMaru**, Lead Member, African Union High Advisory Group, Addis Ababa
- ❑ **Kidane Kiros Bitsue**, Director, Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa
- ❑ **Neuma Grobbelaar**, Research Director, South African Institute of International Affairs, Johannesburg
- ❑ **Michel Soula**, Head, Operations Section, Operations Division, NATO HQ, Brussels

General discussion

11,30-11,45

**SPECIAL INTERVENTION**

**Mamadou Diallo Bathia**, Minister of Defense of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania

11,45-12,00

**CONCLUDING REMARKS**

**Alpha Condé**, President of Guinea and Former Chairperson of the African Union



## **Africa in action: Tailoring security to real needs and threats**

### **SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES**

#### **Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo**

*President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome*

A strong focus on strategic outlook in complex issues. High level contacts and negotiations. Special attention on countries of strategic relevance i.e. the Gulf region. Frequent Public Diplomacy activities to discuss policies and open issues. He held the position of Deputy Secretary General of the Atlantic Alliance, between 2001 and 2007. His mandate was mostly carried out in the strategic-political-industrial area, in relations with sensitive countries such as those in the Gulf and the Southern Mediterranean. He is the author of the books: "The road to Kabul" (Il Mulino-Arel, 2009); "A political journey without maps, diversity and future in the Greater Middle East". (Rubbettino, 2013); "NATO and the Middle East: The Making of a Partnership" (New Academia Publishing, 2018).

#### **Giuseppe Mistretta**

*Director, Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the Italian Republic*

Minister Plenipotentiary Giuseppe Mistretta, Director for Sub-Saharan African Countries at the MAECI since October 9<sup>th</sup> 2017, has been Ambassador to Addis Ababa since January 2008, also accredited to Djibouti and Juba. Ambassador to the African Union and IGAD (Inter-Governmental Authority on Development) since March 2014. Knight Commander of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic, 2016. He published in 2002, for the publisher Borla, an ethnic-racial crime novel entitled "Per Conto del Nero"; in 2010, for the publisher Albatros, a group of stories entitled "In the Country called 'Trees'"; in 2013, for Gangemi editore, an essay on the historical relations between Angola and Italy entitled "A Four Centuries Long Bridge". He has collaborated with the newspapers La Repubblica, Il Corriere della Sera, and with the Rivista Capital.

#### **Hafida Benchehida**

*Senator, Foreign Affairs Committee, People's Democratic Republic of Algeria*

Hafida Benchehida is a Senator of the Algerian Parliament and sits in the Foreign Affairs Committee. Throughout her career as an international interpreter and consultant for international seminars, she has attended major regional summits and workshops. She is the founder and executive officer of the Algerian Women Parliamentary Network.



**Alain Juillet**

*President of the Club des Directeurs de Sécurité des Entreprises and of the Académie de l'Intelligence Economique, Paris*

Alain Juillet started his career serving as a Colonel of the French airborne troops in the Service Action of the External Documentation and Counter-Espionage Service (SDECE). After he left the army, he was appointed Director of Intelligence at the Directorate-General of External Security (2002-2003), (DGSE). He then held the position of Senior Official of French business intelligence to the Prime Minister's Secretariat-General for National Defence and Security. Currently, Dr Juillet is the President of the Club des Directeurs de Sécurité des Entreprises and of the Académie de l'Intelligence Economique, as well as a Senior Advisor in Geopolitics, Crisis Management and Security for Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe.

**Simon K. Nyambura**

*Ph.D., Director, IGAD Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violence Extremism, Djibouti*

Formerly the Head of Counter Terrorism Pillar of the IGAD Security Sector Program (ISSP), Dr Simon K. Nyambura is now the Director of the IGAD Center of Excellence for Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (ICEPCVE), located in Djibouti City. He has a vast experience in security affairs, state-building and peace-keeping processes, fostered also by his Ph.D. from Kansas State University on post-conflict reconstruction in Africa and his work as a Senior Associate at the African Policy Institute (API).

**Johan Kruger**

*Head of Transnational Organised Crime, Illicit Trafficking and Terrorism, Eastern Africa United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Nairobi*

Currently the Head of Transnational Organised Crime, Illicit Trafficking and Terrorism Programmes for Eastern Africa at UNODC, Dr Johan Kruger served as Regional Project Coordinator & Legal Advisor for Southern Africa at the same organisation, as well as Director of the Centre for Constitutional Rights at the FW de Klerk Foundation. As an advocate and a consultant in Public International Law, Dr Kruger was also Cabinet Liaison Officer to the South African Minister of Defence, Legal Advisor in the South African Department of Defence and Public Prosecutor at the National Prosecuting Authority of South Africa. He is an expert in policy and strategy development, corporate governance, legal and strategic advice, international relations, risk management, government liaison and resource mobilisation.

**Jihane Ben Yahia**

*Coordinator Regional organised crime observatory - North Africa, Enhancing Africa's Response to Transnational Organised Crime, ENACT, Tunis*

Dr Jihane Ben Yahia joined the Institute for Security Studies for the ENACT program, in February 2018. Prior to that, she consulted for the UN Office on Drugs and Crime on economics crimes and corruption related issues in Africa and the MENA region, the Danish Institute Against Torture, the American University in Cairo and the Heinrich Böll Foundation, among others. Ben Yahia co-funded an NGO on youth public engagement, Jeunes Indépendants Démocrates, and has provided several training to young Tunisian leaders on the elaboration of inclusive public policies. Her current areas of interest include rule of law and governance, crime prevention and criminal justice, financial crimes and corruption as well as inclusive citizenship and citizens' participation.

**Youssef Amrani**

*Senior officer, The Royal Cabinet, Rabat*

Prior to his designation in the Cabinet of His Majesty in October 2013, Youssef Amrani was Minister Delegate for Foreign Affairs and Cooperation since January 2012 and Secretary General of the Mediterranean Union in July 2011. From 2003-2008, he served as Ambassador and Director General of bilateral relations in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation. Minister Amrani has also served from 1996 to 2003 as an Ambassador. He was the head of office of the secretary of state for the Arab Maghreb Union from 1989-1992. Afterwards, he was appointed Consul General in Barcelona.

**Youssef Cherif**

*Deputy Director, Columbia Global Center, Columbia University, Tunis*

Mr Youssef Cherif is currently the Deputy Director of the Columbia Global Center of Tunis, a regional hub covering North and West Africa. From 2014, he has also been working at the Institut Tunisien des Études Stratégiques as a researcher, regularly producing briefing-papers for the President of the Republic or longer reports on US-Arab affairs and national or regional security issues. Mr Cherif expertise has a strong focus on Libya and Tunisia: as a freelance political analyst he consulted for the Institut Arabe des Chef D'Enterprise, The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and The UN, among others. Moreover, Cherif's contributions often appear in media outlets such as Al Jazeera International, Majalla, Asharq Al-Awsat, The Huffington Post, France 24, CNN, BBC.

**Thierry Tardy**

*Director, Research Division, NATO Defense College, Rome*

Starting from May 2018, Dr Thierry Tardy is the new Director of Research Division at NATO Defense College. From 2013 to 2018, he served as Senior Analyst to the European Union Institute for Security Studies and, before that, he was Senior Fellow at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy. He has researched and published extensively on military and civilian crisis management with a particular focus on the United Nations, the European Union and inter-institutional cooperation in security governance. His latest research has also focused on crisis management in Africa, the financing of CSDP operations and the EU maritime operation in the south Mediterranean Sea. Dr Tardy teaches on European Security and Crisis Management at Sciences Po, La Sorbonne and European Security and Defense College, among other universities.

**Liess Boukra**

*Managing Director, Institut National d'Études de Stratégie Globale, Algiers*

Dr Liess Boukra is the Managing Director of the Institut National d'Études de Stratégie Globale (INESG) in Algiers since 2015. Previously, he was the Deputy Director of the *African Centre* for the Study and Research on Terrorism (ACSRT). Dr Boukra is a sociologist with a strong expertise on ideology, Islam and Qaedist and Jihadi terrorism, as showed by two of his main publications: «Algérie : La terre sacrée» (Favre, 2002) and «Le djihadisme : L'islam à l'épreuve de l'histoire» (Bachari, 2011). He has also been a professor at the University of Algiers for more than ten years.



## **Mahmoud Gebril**

*Former Prime Minister of the State of Libya*

When the Libyan uprising began in February 2011, Mahmoud Gebril helped starting what is now known as the National Transitional Council (NTC). Mr Gebril served as the interim prime minister of Libya during that time and also served as head of international affairs, playing a leading role in securing the recognition of the international community. Prior to the revolution, in 2007, he was appointed the security general of the National Planning Council in Libya. During that period, he also led the National Economic Development Board.

## **Mehari Taddele Maru**

*Lead Member, African Union High Advisory Group, Mogadishu*

Lead Member of the African Union High Advisory Group, Dr MehariTaddeleMaru is also Chief Strategist for Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD) and freelance strategist on the main topics of his expertise: human rights and humanitarian law, public policy, migration and peace and security related issues. Among others, his clients are the AU, IGAD, UN, African Peace Support Trainers Association (APSTA), the West Africa Network for Peace-building (WANEP), the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) and other European organisations. Prior to this, Dr TaddeleMaru was an Official of the African Union, Programme Head of the Institute for Security Studies, and Director at Addis Ababa University.

## **Kidane Kiros Bitsue**

*Director, Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa*

Dr KidaneKiros is the Director of the Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS). Previously, his career path was mostly related to teaching, research, and educational administration, starting from the achievement of a Ph.D. in Development Studies. From 2003 to 2014, he taught in various Addis Ababa University faculties and served as Acting Director of the Institute of Federal Studies as well as Senior Administrator and Finance Head for Continuing and Distance Education at the African Union. He has also cooperated with humanitarian organisations including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (as member of the Eastern Africa regional working group on food security) and the Ethiopian Red Cross Society (as a member of the national working group on Food Security).

## **Neuma Grobbelaar**

*Research Director, South African Institute of International Affairs, Johannesburg*

Neuma Grobbelaar is a foreign policy and development expert with 28 years of specialist research, project management, fundraising and policy practitioner experience. A former South African diplomat, she is currently the Research Director of the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA). With a wide scope of knowledge of South Africa's foreign policy, her areas of specialisation include the intersection between foreign policy, regional integration and human development, the role of the private sector in African development initiatives and South Africa's role as an emerging development partner in the region. Dr Grobbelaar also contributed as a key consultant to several international research programmes evaluating and conceptualising the Southern African region's most pressing challenges concerning security, economy and politics.

## **Michel Soula**

*Head of the Operations Section, Operations Division, NATO HQ, Brussels*

Michel Soula deals with NATO's current Operations at NATO Headquarters in Brussels, namely maritime operations and Kosovo. He also dealt with NATO's operation in Libya. Beforehand, he held the position of Deputy Director in the Private Office of the NATO Secretary General, working with Javier Solana and Lord Robertson. A French civil servant, Michel Soula was seconded to the French Foreign Service where he held various positions, in particular on chemical and biological warfare.

### **Mamadou Diallo Bhatia**

*Minister of Defense of the Islamic Republic of Mauritania*

Mamadou Diallo Bhatia was Counselor for Administrative Affairs in the Office of the Prime Minister from 2009 to 2014. Until 2014 he was active in as a professor at École Nationale d'Administration of Nouakchott. Previously he served as a Principal Advisor to the President of the Republic with Rank of Minister. From 1992 until 1997 he worked for the Office of the Prime Minister Counselor for the Sovereignty Sector. Between the period of 1986-1989 he served as the Director of Local Government in the Ministry of the Interior. Before that, he was the Advisor to the Minister of the Interior.

### **Alpha Condé**

*President of Guinea and Former Chairperson of the African Union*

Alpha Condé is the first freely elected President of the Republic of Guinea and he's currently at the second term of his mandate. After being professor of Public Law at La Sorbonne University and leading member of the Fédération des Étudiants d'Afrique Noire en France (FEANF), he spent decades fighting for democracy in opposition to a succession of regimes in Guinea, winning the first free presidential elections in 2010. Moreover, he held also the position of Chairman of the African Union (2017).



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### **CONCEPT**

Africa is often misunderstood by external perceptions scarcely connected with the reality of an emerging continent. The message of the actual chairman of the African Union talks about other priorities instead: youth unemployment and empowerment; civic engagement and political participation; engaging the corporate sector in on job training and philanthropy; harnessing the demographic dividend; migrants and voluntary repatriation; gender empowerment; regional integration; the negative connection between corruption, socio-economic progress and security.

In other words security is in the picture, but not as a stand-alone precondition vis-à-vis other fundamentals, but concretely as ancillary and tailored facilitator for parallel positive processes. If one looks at a conflict map of the continent between 201 and 2017 and takes into account the most lethal conflicts (1.000+ casualties), only two countries are affected (Tunisia and RDC). At 100 casualties the whole North Africa is involved (except Morocco) and a quadrangle comprised between Nigeria, Somalia, Mozambique and RDC/Republic of Congo. Moreover most of these conflicts are rather localised in specific regions. The rest are less visible criminal networks and banditry hotspots that contribute much more than terrorism in hampering the development of the continent.

In this picture dominated by non-traditional conflicts, major potential military capability providers are (in order) Algeria, Egypt, Morocco, Angola, Ethiopia, South Africa and Nigeria, but top five troop contributors to African peace support operations are Ethiopia, Burundi, Uganda, Rwanda and Kenya. This indicates at continental level a mismatch in interests and contributions because a common vision of Africa security is still fledgeling in the African Union on the backdrop of three capitals that are still considered possible Africa-wide leaders, i.e. Cairo, Abuja and Pretoria.

Adding to this already complex backdrop the interventions of external countries and/or international organisations it appears clearly that a shared redefinition of peace support operations is conceptually needed to maximise the impact on conflict containment and resolution.

The conference structured into three panels:

1. The first is dedicated to non-conventional threats and how regional and international initiatives should overcome their shortcomings;
2. The second tries to focus on the path towards an African-led crisis management with the hope that the AU acquires more authority and competences in managing crises;
3. The third panel tries to tackle the subject of the twin political challenge of achieving functional governments and effective regional co-operations.

The conference is aimed at offering added-value input in order to analyse the context of crucial new security developments in Africa that are directly relevant for the continental and international security.

# The NATO Foundation

The NATO Defense College Foundation was established 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 non-profit NGO that could work beyond usual and institutional outreach, training, communication and scientific research activities.

While the tradition of stability and well-being is embodied by the principles of the Washington charter, the triple upheavals of the fall of the Soviet Union, the global economic crisis and the Arab Revolutions required a more focussed, agile and innovative approach. Subsequent events like the crises in Libya, Syria and Iraq or the illegal annexation of Ukraine, together with an outstanding track record in research, professional education and the set-up of high level international seminars and conferences, have consistently proven the initial approach.

The issues portfolio of the Foundation includes: Africa, Balkans, Caucasus, Central Asia, Central and Eastern Europe, China, MENA, Russia, Defence Industry and Emerging Challenges (organised crime and trafficking, terrorism, maritime and cybersecurity).

The NATO Foundation considers relevant issues, focussing on the sense of events, the main vectors of future developments and the crucial policy shaping decisions. In a word: Charting ahead.

## Contacts:

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## Partners



NATO Defense College

*This conference is supported by PMI IMPACT, a global grant initiative by PMI to support projects against illegal trade and related crimes.*

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*We are happy of the media partnership of Al Arabiya English.*

## Notes



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