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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,
the Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo, the Policy Center for the New South,
and the NATO Defense College

Rome, the 21st of October 2021

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

14,00 - 14,30 Participants Registration

14,30 - 14,45 WELCOME REMARKS

- Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo, President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome
- Olivier Rittimann, Commandant, NATO Defense College, Rome
- Nicolò Russo Perez, Head, International Affairs, Compagnia di San Paolo, Turin (Virtual)

14,45 - 16,05

Session 1 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.

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

- Marco Carnelos, President, MC Geopolicy, Rome
- Ahmad Masa'deh, Former Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean, Amman

- Mahmoud Karem, Professor, British University; former Ambassador to the EU and NATO, Cairo
- Oded Eran, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for National Security Studies; former Ambassador to the EU and NATO, Tel Aviv (Virtual)

Q&A Session

16,05 - 16,35

INTERVIEW THE ENERGY DILEMMA. TRADITIONAL SOURCES VERSUS RENEWABLES

Local producers and consumers are engaged into a race against time towards diversified economies, sustainable energy mixes and sensible water management.

Moderator: Mayssoun Azzam, News Presenter, Al Arabiya, Dubai

- Jamal Mohamed Fakhro, Managing Partner, Manama
- Marco Piredda, Head, Political Scenarios and Institutional Support for Business Development, Eni, Rome

16,35 – 17,10 *Coffee/Tea Break*

17,10 - 18,30

Session 2 The Battle in the Deep Maghreb

The Deep Maghreb is the geopolitical space linking the Mediterranean to the whole area of the Sahel. 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 Sahel 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
- Ernesto Savona, Director, Transcrime, Università Cattolica, Milan
- Chloe Berger, Faculty Adviser and Researcher, NATO Defense College, Rome

Q&A Session

CONCLUDING REMARKS

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

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How and with whom? Challenges and Opportunities

SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

WELCOME REMARKS

Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo

President, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome

After having served at the Italian Embassy in Washington D.C. and as Commercial Counsellor at the Embassy of Italy in Prague, Ambassador Minuto-Rizzo worked as Head of the External Relations Office of the EEC. In the following years, his career focused on Europe and Space Policy. In 1997 he was appointed Diplomatic Counsellor of the Minister of Defence Beniamino Andreatta, then of his successors Carlo Scognamiglio and Sergio Mattarella. In 2000, Minuto-Rizzo held the position of Italian Ambassador to the Western European Union and to the Political and Security Committee of the EU, of which he was among the founding members. He was Deputy Secretary General of the Atlantic Alliance between 2001 and 2007. His mandate was mostly carried out in the strategic-political industrial area and in the relations with sensitive countries such as those in the Gulf and the Southern Mediterranean. His most recent book is "NATO and the Middle East: The Making of a Partnership" (New Academia Publishing, 2018).

Olivier Rittimann

Commandant, NATO Defense College, Rome

Since July 2020, Lieutenant-General Rittimann is the Commandant of the NATO Defense College in Rome. After graduating from the Military Academy of Saint Cyr and the Army Engineer School, he chose to serve with the Foreign Legion and he took part to operations in Chad, Mayotte, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and Iraq. After an operational tour at the NATO-led Stabilization Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR) in 1997, he was assigned to the Allied Forces North Headquarters in Brunssum in 1998. Then, he was posted to the Joint Staff in Paris, as Chief of the NATO branch. Promoted Brigadier General in 2010, he was deployed in the International Security and Assistance Force (ISAF) from January 2011 to January 2012 as Chief of Operations and assigned as French Deputy Military Representative (MILREP) to NATO Headquarters. After that, Rittimann became the French National Military Representative to NATO's Allied Command Operations in Mons (Belgium).

Nicolò Russo Perez

Head, International Affairs, Compagnia di San Paolo, Turin

Dr Russo Perez is the Head of the International Affairs Program at the Compagnia di San Paolo Foundation, based in Turin (Italy). In this capacity, he is in charge of several grant-making and operational activities promoted by the Foundation in the field of international relations, covering transatlantic, and European studies, as well as Mediterranean and emerging countries affairs. Previously, he worked at the European Commission, at the International Labour Organization and was a Senior Associate Fellow at the EUISS in Paris. A council member of the European Council on Foreign Relations, Dr Russo Perez is currently also in the Scientific Board of the NATO Defense College Foundation in Rome. He is also a member of the Strategic Reflection Group on European affairs set up by the Italian Presidency of the Council of Ministers.

SESSION 1 CHANGING TRENDS IN THE REGION

Claire Spencer

Visiting Senior Research Fellow, King's College, London

Dr Spencer is an independent consultant and Senior Visiting Research Fellow at the Policy Institute, of the King's College in London, most recently engaged in advising the British Council, *inter alia*. She was previously Senior Research Fellow and Head of the Middle East and North Africa Programme at the Royal Institute of International Affairs (Chatham House), having advised policy-makers and the private sector on security, economic and political developments in the MENA region for over thirty years. Dr Spencer has published and spoken extensively on the geopolitics of the area, and has a growing interest in the role of new technologies and climate change in reshaping the landscape of the MENA region and its international links in the coming years.

Marco Carnelos

President, MC Geopolicy, Rome

Ambassador Carnelos spent twenty-five years in the Italian Foreign Service, with postings in Somalia, Australia, UN (New York) and Iraq. He also spent almost ten years in the Italian Prime Minister Office covering different positions as foreign policy adviser with three different Prime Ministers (Lamberto Dini, Romano Prodi and Silvio Berlusconi), in charge for special dossiers such as Middle East and North Africa, Russia, Afghanistan, and Terrorism. He has also been Special Envoy for the Middle East Peace Process and the Syrian Crisis for the Italian Government. He left the Italian Foreign Service at the end of 2017 and he founded his own consultancy company, MC Geopolicy. He is currently Board Member of the Scientific Committee of the IGS (Institute of Global Studies) and Board Member of ISMAA (Mediterranean Institute for Asia and Africa), in Rome. He is a regular columnist for the Middle East Eye magazine and collaboprates also with Limes.

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Ahmad Masa'deh

Former Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean, Amman

Dr Masa'deh served as Minister, Ambassador, and chief of an international organisation. Today he practices law and is the Managing Partner of Khalaf Masa'deh & Partners Ltd. Between 2006 and 2010, Dr Masa'deh was the seventh Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the European Union, Belgium, Norway and Luxembourg. He was also the Jordanian Coordinator at the Union for the Mediterranean and the Jordanian Representative to NATO. In January 2010, he was elected Secretary General of the Union for the Mediterranean. From 2000 to 2005 he was Assistant Professor of International Business Law at the University of Jordan where he also held the position of Assistant Dean for Development.

Mahmoud Karem

Professor, British University; former Ambassador to NATO and the EU, Cairo

Ambassador Karem currently teaches at the British University in Egypt. He also holds the title of Special Advisor to the President of the University for International Relations and leads the Egypt and Middle East Centre (CEMES) in Cairo. He served as Ambassador of the Arab Republic of Egypt to Belgium, and Luxembourg; Head of Mission of Egypt to the European Communities; and Permanent Representative of Egypt to NATO, from 2005 till 2010. He was also a member of the Advisory Board of the Secretary General of the United Nations for Disarmament Matters. In July 2017, the Foreign Minister of Japan announced the establishment of a group of eminent persons for substantive advancement in nuclear disarmament and Ambassador Karem was chosen from the Middle East.

Oded Eran

Senior Research Fellow, Institute for National Security Studies; former Ambassador to the EU and NATO, Tel Aviv

Ambassador Eran is currently Senior Research Fellow at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS) in Tel Aviv, and served as Director of INSS from July 2008 to November 2011, following a long career in Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other government positions. Before joining INSS, he served as Secretary General of the Israel branch of the World Jewish Congress. From 2002 to 2007, he was Israel's Ambassador to the European Union, covering NATO as well. Prior to that, Dr Eran was Israeli Ambassador to Jordan, and head of Israel's negotiations team with the Palestinians. Among his previous positions: Deputy Director General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Chief of the Israeli Embassy in Washington. Between 2007 and 2013, Ambassador Eran served as an advisor to the Knesset sub-committee on Foreign Affairs.

INTERVIEW THE ENERGY DILEMMA. TRADITIONAL SOURCES VERSUS RENEWABLES

Mayssoun Azzam

News Presenter, Al Arabiya, Dubai

Working as a news anchor, interviewer and lecturer with the Dubai-based Al-Arabiya news channel, Ms Azzam is one of the most prominent media figures in the Arab world. She interviewed high-profile guests, such as Mahmoud Abbas, Bill Gates, Tony Blair and Salam Fayyad. She taught at the Mohammed Bin Rashid School for Communication and at the American University of Dubai. Currently, Ms Azzam has oriented her work on humanitarian issues. She is the main anchor of a successful special one-hour daily news bulletin that focusses on refugees, women and children life conditions in war-torn areas. She participated in many conferences as a moderator, and wrote several political and social articles that have been published on the Al Arabiya.net website.

Jamal Mohamed Fakhro

Managing Partner, KPMG, Manama

Dr Fakhro is a veteran Bahraini legislator, business advisor and a member of Shura Council, the Bahraini upper house of Parliament. He is the Managing Partner of KPMG (one of the Global Big 4 professional services firms) in Bahrain. Dr Fakhro was the first Arab ever to be appointed as a member of the KPMG Global Board and Global Council. He was Chairman of KPMG Middle East and South Asia (MESA) Board, and member of KPMG Europe, Middle East and Africa (EMA) Regional Board till October 2014. Having served as Managing Partner since 1987, he has an extensive experience in the field of Audit, Tax and Advisory services in the region, especially for government sector, banking, oil & gas industry, and financial services companies. His key areas of expertise include financial services strategic planning and investments, GCC and emerging markets insights, corporate governance and family governance.

Marco Piredda

Head, Political Scenarios and Institutional Support for Business Development, Eni, Rome

Dr Piredda is a Senior Manager of Eni - the Italian global energy company - where he works in the Public Affairs and International Relations Department. He worked for six years for the Italian Government, in the Financial and Banking Directorate of the Italian Department of Treasury, as Director of the Unit in charge of Legal International Cooperation. In this assignment, Dr Piredda managed several EU-funded projects on economic regulation, mainly with Eastern European countries. He joined Eni in 2008 to work in the External Relations and Communication Department. Then, he worked in the Legal and Regulatory Affairs Department and in the Public Affairs Department. In 2017, Dr Piredda was assigned the position of Head of Analyses and International Relations for the development of Eni's oil and gas businesses. In June 2019, he was appointed Head of Political Scenarios and Institutional Support for Business Development in the MENA, Americas, and the Asia Pacific.

SESSION 2 THE BATTLE IN THE DEEP MAGHREB

Robert Watkins

Research Fellow, Centre on Conflict, Development, and Peacebuilding, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva

Dr Watkins has more than thirty-five years of experience working in political, humanitarian, development and post-conflict recovery areas with international organisations principally in the Middle East, Central and South Asia. He served as United Nations Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General in Lebanon (2011- 2014) and Afghanistan (2009-2011); at the level of Assistant Secretary-General, as well as UN Resident & Humanitarian Coordinator, and UNDP Representative in Bangladesh (2015-17), Djibouti (2014), and Georgia (2006-2009). Before the UN, Dr Watkins has worked for the European Commission as Head of the ECHO Regional Office for the Middle East, based in Amman, Jordan, focussing on activities in the Palestinian Territories, Iraq, Yemen, Lebanon, and Syria. After his retirement, he began working as a Research Associate at the Centre for Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies in Geneva.

Bakary Sambe

Director, Timbuktu Institute - African Center for Peace Studies, Dakar

Dr Sambe is Director of the Timbuktu Institute-African Center for Peace Studies, in Dakar. Founder of the Observatory of Religious Radicalisms and Conflicts in Africa, he is an Assistant Professor at Gaston Berger University, in Saint-Louis, Senegal. His current work focuses on endogenous strategies, cross-border dynamics and the experimentation of agile approaches in crisis zones. As an expert for the UN, the EU, and the AU, etc., Dr Sambe has notably designed and led the advocacy for the implementation of the G5 Sahel regional unit for preventing and combating radicalisation (CELLRAD), accompanied the process of developing national strategies in Niger, Burkina Faso and the Central African Republic, and produced the first manual of good resilience practices. In addition to numerous articles, Dr Sambe has published several books: "Islam and diplomacy, Morocco's African policy" (2010-11), "Boko Haram, from a Nigerian problem to regional threat" (2015), "Contestations islamisées. Le Sénégal entre diplomatie d'influence et islam politique" (2018).

Claudia Gazzini

Senior Libya Analyst, International Crisis Group, Tripoli

Dr Gazzini is the International Crisis Group's Senior Analyst for Libya since 2012. Between October 2017 and March 2018, she also served as policy advisor to Ghassan Salamé, Special Representative and Head of the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). Dr Gazzini researches and produces reports on security, politics and economic governance of Libya, including its oil sector. She travels regularly throughout Libya. Prior to joining the International Crisis Group, Dr Gazzini worked for the Associated Press in Rome and for Reuters in Jakarta. She was Max Weber fellow at the European University Institute in Fiesole (Florence) and Visiting Fellow at the Program of African Studies at Northwestern University

(IL). Dr Gazzini did her post-graduate studies in Middle Eastern History at Princeton University and Oxford University.

Ernesto Savona

Director, Transcrime, Università Cattolica, Milan

Dr Savona is Director of Transcrime and, since 2003, Professor of Criminology at the Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Milan. Today, he is member of the EU Commission expert group on "Policy needs for data on crime. Dr Savona is part of the Academic Board of the SOCTA report (Europol). He was also nominated President of the European Society of Criminology for the years 2003-2004. He has been a consultant to the United Nations, the Council of Europe (where he was appointed one of the seven members of the Scientific and Criminological Council in 1996), the European Union and various national governments. In June 2011, Dr Savona was appointed Chair for the term 2011-2012 of the Global Agenda Council on Organized Crime of the World Economic Forum. From 2016 to 2019 he has been the coordinator of the project PROTON (Modelling the PRocesses leading to Organised crime and TerrOrist Networks), awarded in January 2016 to Universita' Cattolica-Transcrime under the EU Horizon 2020 programme.

Chloe Berger

Faculty Adviser and Researcher, NATO Defense College, Rome

Dr Berger is Faculty Adviser and Researcher at the NATO Defense College. As a Researcher, her work focuses mainly on the broader MENA region and NATO's Agenda for the South (Projecting Stability, partnerships, etc.). As a Faculty Adviser, she oversees the Curriculum Planning of the NATO Regional Cooperation Course and the Senior Executive Regional Conference. Before joining the College, Dr Berger held different positions in French educational institutions, public and private, in Syria and Egypt. She worked as a consultant for risks analysis and strategic monitoring on Middle-Eastern issues (Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Palestine). Dr Berger is a graduate from the Political Studies Institute of Paris (Sciences-Po Paris), and she received a Ph.D in Political Sciences from Paris II 13 – Panthéon-Assas University.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Giovanni Romani

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

Currently Head of NATO Middle East and North Africa Section (PASP Division), Mr Romani is a former Italian Navy officer. He has been on active duty from 1985 to 2006. He served as a combat operations electronic warfare and intelligence officer on several Italian and US ships, also taking part in the "Sharp Fence" and "Sharp Guard" operations in waters adjoining the Former Republic of Yugoslavia. In March 2006, he was appointed Head of NATO's Naval Armament Unit. From April 2012 to December 2017, he led the Land and Maritime Capabilities Section within the NATO Defence Investment Division.



How and with whom? Challenges and Opportunities

BACKGROUND POLICY PAPER

The end of the Trump years, which were characterised by the resurgence of power politics in the Middle East and North Africa and the adoption of dangerous brinkmanship policies by regional powers and global players, is shedding light on the structural changes and new paradigms that are shaping the new geopolitics of the Arab region. Undoubtedly, the transactional approach associated with the former US President has greatly contributed to this transformation, accelerating pre-existing trends that are gradually coming to the surface.

Highlighting shared interests and converging views between several Gulf States and Israel, the Abraham Accords have inaugurated the age of normalisation. Facilitated by the change of the administration in Washington, diplomacy has gained momentum in the region. Among the most visible symptoms of a turning tide that could potentially bring to an end the decade of chaos that followed the Arab Spring, there are: the al-Ula summit and the end of the Gulf crisis; negotiations in Vienna to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action; exploratory talks between Egypt and Turkey to de-escalate tensions in the East Med and Libya; the push by several Arab states to normalise relations with a Syrian regime ostracised during the brutal civil war; and more recently direct talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

Nevertheless, structural factors still undermine any attempt to reach a comprehensive regional settlement. The May 2021 flare up confirmed the resilience of the Israel-Palestine conflict to these changing regional dynamics, which have also gone unnoticed in Yemen. More in general, the US' disengagement from the region, raise questions over Washington's commitment to its regional partners, with inevitable consequences on the renewed great power competition. Using hybrid means or relying on a soft power strategy, China and Russia have already started filling the vacuum, contributing to a wider regional realignment also promoted by endogenous factors.

Indeed, the decline of the Political Islam, suggested by Ennahda's identity crisis in front of President Kais Saied's power consolidation in Tunisia and confirmed by the debacle of the Islamist *Parti de la justice et du développement* (PJD) in the latest elections in Morocco, is paving the way for a new regional divide, this time grounded on the normalisation process. The recent diplomatic row between Algeria and Morocco is the most visible example of this new trend that has reopened old wounds, returning frozen conflicts such as the dispute over the Western Sahara to the centre stage, but also reverberating on the relations between the northern and the southern shore of the Mediterranean Sea, raising concerns on the gas supply to Europe during an unprecedented energy crisis.

Recent geopolitical shifts have also had an impact in the Deep Maghreb, where the jihadist threat and political instability continue to grow. The case of Mali serves as an example. More in general, the Western-

African relationship that stemmed from and stood upon the offer of economic and military support to local governments in return for their commitment to the path of state-building has lost value. The paradigm based on conditionality and value-driven demands pledging a sovereign state is failing almost everywhere outside the West. New hegemonic forces, alternative and opposed to the Western aid model, are rising and gaining ground: China, with its offer of loans and resources in exchange for zero political conditionality; Russia, which is dusting off a neo-imperial activism supporting authoritarian leaders in return for a logistical and political presence in international relations; regional powers (including Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the UAE), all competing against each other while backing illiberal governments and promoting Islamic identity and welfare.

However, it is worth noting that authoritarianism-oriented thrusts in the Sahel are first of all endogenous: the latest crisis in Mali, the recent coup in neighbouring Guinea, the growing tensions in Burkina Faso, or the violent change of power in Chad are just some examples. Besides, this looming African populism does not hold out authoritarianism as a fallback or second best, but simply as a solution. Not only it claims its effectiveness precisely in response to the crisis of the state (of which jihadism and war are both symptoms and causes), but it presents itself as a new, more valid counter-insurgency strategy. Once agreed on the endogenous blueprint of this African populist paradigm, it is easily understandable how it is also the one creating the demand for Russian or Turkish interference, and not vice versa.

All is not lost for Europe, though. The West has some cards left to play. If it leaves old colonial reflections behind and invests more in multilateralism and federalism (also considering the successful case of ECOWAS), it could actually lay the foundation for a new path of partnership with Sub-Saharan African countries. A path that could mould an alternative political identity built upon Europe's soft power, as well as renew the approach to state-building and counterterrorism refocusing the balance between hard and soft power on a regional basis. It is either this, or to end up suffering a hostile presence with increasingly less say, destined to eventually leave the ground for good and out of spite.

Umberto Profazio (Scientific Coordinator)

Chief Maghreb Analyst, NDC Foundation

Fabio Nicolucci

Analyst, NDC Foundation



How and with whom? Challenges and Opportunities

CONCEPT

The focus on the Arab Region is a fundamental priority for NATO, but it will be differently articulated by major actors, and it clearly cannot be devised in the old, heavy, and long-term modalities of the past. At the same time a remote warfare is being carried out across the Sahel against terrorist, guerrilla, illegal trafficking, and criminal groups that are heavily destabilising the countries of the area: its outcome is far from clear. The Foundation has treated these subjects under different angles already eight times in ten years of activity, precisely due to paramount relevance.

The region has witnessed a normalisation between some Gulf Cooperation Council states and Israel, but all its major conflicts are still open or lingering in fragile cease-fires (Syria, Libya, Yemen, North Sahara-Sahel), while some states are seriously destabilised, and the Iranian issue is still open with rather complicated prospects to restart the JCPOA.

A fierce regional competition is still ongoing with very uncertain outcomes: an instability from which major powers (e.g., Russia and China) may gain direct and indirect influence on post-war reconstruction and energy networks, while geopolitical posturing on vaccines is exploiting social and political weak spots.

NATO is already engaged in the Mediterranean and in Iraq, has closed its engagement in Afghanistan and is mediating among allies but clearly this is below what is needed to preserve a 360-degree security, even more if the US involvement will continue to diminish. The civil war in Libya has shown some visible disagreements among major allies with tangible political and strategic consequences.

The structure of the conference will be articulated in two sessions and a dynamic interview on the geopolitical implications of energy transition in the region. The first session will evaluate with a fresh look the changing trends in the area between continuing fragmentation and new pacification efforts in the Gulf and with Israel, whose government promises to overcome in due time old stalemates. Different alignments among the USA, EU, Russia, and China are part of a picture where the Alliance needs to adapt while supporting the countries concerned in the region.

The second session will squarely consider the actual battle for what the Foundation calls "Deep Maghreb", i.e. the continuum that links the Maghreb countries of the Mediterranean with the sand sea of Sahel across several trafficking routes, controlled by organised crime and other non-state actors. What resources, forces and strategies should be employed to avoid a major regional collapse whose epicentre is Libya and whose reverberations affect the African Hinterland?

THE NATO FOUNDATION

The NATO Defense College Foundation, the only existing think-tank bearing the name of the Alliance, was established in Rome 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.

The principles stated in the preamble to the Washington Treaty of 1949 are our heritage.

Our mission is to promote the culture of stability and well-being in the North Atlantic area and in NATO partner nations.

Our aim is to meet the highest standards in contributing to public debate and future deliberations on strategic, security and geopolitical issues.

Therefore, the NDCF strives at considering relevant issues not just in a descriptive or prescriptive way, but by catching the sense of events and the essential vectors of future developments. In a word: Charting ahead.

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