



NATO DEFENSE COLLEGE



Wilton Park

Programme

Impact and challenges for the Middle East and North Africa one year on from the Arab transitions Monday 21 to Wednesday 23 May 2012 | WP1166

After the tumultuous developments in the Middle East and North Africa during 2011, the conference will provide the opportunity to take stock of what has happened, and why; examine what has been achieved; and explore what more needs to be done. It aims to help participants to reach a better understanding of developments across the Middle East and North Africa, their inter-linkages and their implications for policy formulation and practice.

Cross cutting themes running through the conference discussions should include: security issues, in particular the triggers for conflict; managing the negative effects of change on the economy and promoting economic growth and prosperity; and the role and future prospects of Islamist groups.

In partnership with:
NATO Defense College, Rome

Monday 21 May

1300 Participants arrive and buffet lunch available

1500 **Welcome and introduction**

Isobelle Jaques
Programme Director, Wilton Park

Pierre Razoux
Senior Research Adviser and Head of Research Programme, NATO Defense College, Rome

1515-1630 **1. What are the key challenges for Arab countries in transition and how can these best be addressed?**

Hassan Abouyoub
Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Italy, Rome

1630-1715 Photograph and tea/coffee

1715-1830 **2. What will be the impact of the outcome of recent elections in the Middle East and North Africa? What will be the role of Islamist groups?**

George Joffé
Lecturer, Centre of International Studies, University of Cambridge

1900 Reception followed by dinner

Tuesday 22 May

0800-0900 Breakfast

0900-1030 **3. Libya: a new emirate in the Mediterranean region?**

Noman Benotman

Senior Analyst, Quilliam Foundation, London

Anas el Gomati

Director, Sadeq Institute, Tripoli

1030-1100 Tea/coffee

1100-1230 **4. Egypt: still a flagship country?**

Gamal Abdel Gawad Soltan

Consultant, Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, Cairo

Jane Kinninmont

Senior Research Fellow, Middle East and North Africa Programme, Chatham House, London

1245 Lunch

1430-1600 **5. Syria: future prospects?**

Sami Altaqi

General Director, Orient Research Centre, Dubai

1600-1630 Tea/coffee

1630-1800 **6. Israel and Palestine: factors of regional stability, or instability?**

Amos Harel

Defence analyst and correspondent, Ha'aretz, Tel Aviv

Iyad Barghouti

Director of the Ramallah Center for Human Right Studies, Ramallah

1900 Reception followed by Dinner

Wednesday 23 May

0800-0900 Breakfast

0900-1030 **7. A new balance of power inside the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)?**

Abdulaziz Sager

Chairman, Gulf Research Centre, Jeddah

Neil Partrick

Freelance consultant on Gulf affairs, Visiting Fellow, Gulf Studies Programme, London School of Economics and Political Science

1030-1100 Tea/coffee

1100-1230 **8. Turkey: the big winner?**

Gülnur Aybet

Senior Lecturer, School of Politics and International Relations, University of Kent, Canterbury

Joshua Walker

Transatlantic Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States, Washington DC

1300

Lunch

1430-1600

9. Israel and Palestine: factors of regional stability, or instability?

Amos Harel

Defence analyst and correspondent, Ha'aretz, Tel Aviv

Iyad Barghouti

Director of the Ramallah Center for Human Right Studies, Ramallah

1600-1630

Tea/coffee

1630-1830

10. Concluding panel: key issues and conclusions

Gareth Stansfield

Professor, Middle East Politics; Director, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter

Yezid Sayigh

Senior Associate, Carnegie Middle East Centre, Beirut

1845

Optional departure

1900

Reception followed by dinner

Thursday 24 May

0800-0900

Breakfast

0915

Participants depart