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Indo-Pacific 2025

Developing regional soft security: a role for NATO?

High-Level Round Table

Organised by the NATO Defense College Foundation

In co-operation with the

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo, the NATO Defense College and the International Council on Environmental Economics and Development (ICEED)

Rome, 3rd of March 2025

Venue: Circolo degli Esteri, Lungotevere dell'Acqua Acetosa 42, Rome

Monday, 3rd of March 2025

17,15 – 17,30 CET WELCOME REMARKS

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

17,30 – 18,40

FIRST ROUND

SOFT SECURITY: FORESTALLING GEOPOLITICAL CONFRONTATION

The Indo-Pacific's shifting geopolitical landscape has prompted NATO to deepen its engagement in the region. Following the Washington Summit, NATO has strengthened its ties with Japan, South Korea, Australia, and New Zealand (the

IP4 partners). The US new administration will further clarify its engagements in the area. In this context, strategic coordination between NATO and the IP4 is crucial to regional stability. Cooperative security allows to avoid dangerous escalations, while building up confidence and shared interests. The structured NATO Women, Peace and Security policy is an important tool in this complex situation.

Chair: **Amaia Sánchez-Cacicedo**, Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Asia Program, Institut Montaigne *

- **Andrea Romussi**, Head, Office for NATO, Security and Political-Military Strategic Issues, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rome *
- **Luis Simòn**, Director of the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS), VUB; Director of the Brussels Office, Elcano Royal Institute, Brussels *
- **Gabriele Abbondanza**, International relations and international security academic, University of Madrid (UCM); University of Sydney (USYD); Istituto Affari Internazionali (IAI) *
- **Pietro De Matteis**, Programme Officer for the Indo-Pacific, NATO HQ, Brussels *

Q&A Session

18,40 – 19,40 CET

SECOND ROUND

GEOECONOMICS AND COOPERATION ON SECURING MAIN SUPPLY CHAINS

Facing foreseeably higher geoeconomic tensions, NATO's emphasis on "soft security" focussing on resilient infrastructure, secure trade routes and stable supply chains, is gaining renewed significance. In the interplay between the economic and diplomatic prevention of commercial confrontations and NATO's cooperative security, the Alliance can assist partners and like-minded countries in better resisting against coercive, cyber and hybrid measures, while contributing to security in the common interest of all parties involved in transnational trade.

Chair: **Alessandro Politi**, Director, NATO Defense College Foundation, Rome *

- **Vincent Y.C. Tsai**, Ambassador, Taipei Representative Office in Italy, Rome *
- **Ken Kitatani**, Chief of Executive Board and Committee, International Council on Environmental Economics and Development, New York *
- **Paolo Guerrieri**, Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences-Po (Paris) and Business School, University of San Diego (USA) *
- **Valentina Muiesan**, Head, Division South East Asia, Pacific, Antarctica and Regional Organisations, Directorate General for Global Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rome *

Q&A Session

19,40 – 19,50 CONCLUDING REMARKS

- **Julianne Cowley**, Ambassador of Australia to Italy, Rome *

END OF THE ROUND TABLE

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