

# A NEW STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENT: NATO AND MENA

## Panel Discussion

Alicante, Spain – October 28, 2022 | 11:00-12:30 GMT+2 – In-person and online

**RSVP HERE:** <https://bit.ly/3T95esx>

### Introduction

Decades have passed since the peace of the Euro-Atlantic area had been shattered. Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine has done exactly that, and has greatly altered our security environment. In addition to the unspeakable suffering and destruction brought upon the Ukrainian people by the Russian Federation, the ripple effects and consequences of the war are felt throughout the globe: on food security, energy security, and maritime security. Simultaneously, pervasive instability – notably in the Sahel –, rising strategic competition, disinformation, and attacks on the fundamental values of the existing international order all continue to pick-up speed and challenge the Alliance's interests and values. To address these challenges, this summer in Madrid, the NATO Heads of State and Government agreed on a new Strategic Concept.

In it, Allies make it clear that our security and that of the Middle East and North Africa are closely intertwined. The interconnected security, demographic, economic and political challenges in the region are aggravated by the impact of climate change, fragile institutions, health emergencies, and food insecurity – among others. NATO's partnerships with countries to the South of the Euro-Atlantic area is not new, and these challenges are not the region's alone. They are shared by NATO Allies, and cooperation between them and their Partners in MENA is essential to address them. The Mediterranean Dialogue (MD), created in 1994, is NATO's premier forum of discussion on security matters between these seven Mediterranean Partners and Allies.

What more can NATO and its Partners do in the MENA region to confront these challenges?

### Agenda and speakers

11:00 – 12:30	<p>Panel discussion “<b>A New Strategic Environment: NATO and MENA</b>”, followed by a questions and answers session (in-person and online).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Javier Colomina</b>, NATO Deputy Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy.</li> <li>• <b>H.E. Ahmad Masa'deh</b>, former Ambassador of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to the EU, Belgium, Luxembourg, Norway and NATO, former Secretary General of the Union of the Mediterranean, and former Minister for Public Sector Reform.</li> <li>• <b>Ms. Rym Momtaz</b>, Consultant Research Fellow for European Foreign Policy and Security, International Institute for Strategic Studies.</li> </ul> <p>Moderated by <b>Mr. Luis Simon</b>, Director of the Brussels Office and Senior Analyst, Elcano Royal Institute of International and Strategic Studies.</p>
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