



With the contribution of



Scientific Advisor



AFRICA 2026

Perspectives from the Horn of Africa Preventing Malign Actions. Vital Supply Lines

High Level Workshop

Organised by the NATO Defense College Foundation (NDCF)

*in cooperation with
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo, Fondazione CSF, and the
NATO Defense College (NDC)*

Rome, 9 July 2026

Venue: NH Roma Centro (Via dei Gracchi, 324, 00192)

16,00 – 16,30 | Participants Arrival

16,30 – 16,45 | Welcome Remarks

- **Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo**, President, NATO Defense College Foundation (NDCF), Rome
- **Marjorie Apruzzese**, LTC Air Force, Senior Research Advisor, NATO Defense College (NDC), Rome
- **Nicoletta Pirozzi**, Counselor, Fondazione CSF (Scientific Advisor Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo), Turin

16,45– 16,55 | Opening Remarks

Sem Fabrizi, Ambassador of Italy to Ethiopia, accredited to Djibouti, South Sudan and IGAD, Embassy of Italy, Addis Ababa **

16,55 – 18,00

SESSION I
DETERRENCE AND STRATEGIC RESILIENCE IN THE HORN OF AFRICA

Chair: **Francesca Fraccaroli**, Chief Global Security Information Centre, UN Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), New York City ***

- **El Hadji Ibrahima Diene**, Special Representative of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission for Somalia; Head of the African Union Support and Stabilization Mission in Somalia, African Union, Addis Ababa
- **Giuseppe Mistretta**, Former Director for Sub-Saharan Africa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rome
- **Fabio Massimo Ballerini**, Counsellor, Office of the Diplomatic Adviser to the Prime Minister and Mattei Plan for Africa Task Force, Presidency of the Council of Ministers, Rome
- **Luca Miehe**, Chef de Cabinet, EU Special Representative for the Horn of Africa, European External Action Service (EEAS), Brussels
- **Alberto Munisso**, Senior Analyst, Knowledge & Engagement Branch, NATO Strategic Direction South Hub, Naples

Q&A Session

18,00 – 18,25

PRE-EMPTIVE DIPLOMACY AND HYBRID ANTICIPATORY ACTION: CASE STUDY ETHIOPIA

Chair: **Gaja Pellegrini-Bettoli**, Independent Journalist and Author, Rome

- **Niagalé Bagayoko**, Chair, African Security Sector Network (ASSN), Paris
- **Nicola Minasi**, Head of the Crisis Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rome

18,25 – 19,30

SESSION II
PREDICTIVE SECURITY AND STRATEGIC FORESIGHT: BUILDING A RESILIENT FUTURE

Chair: **Patrick Smith**, Editor-in-Chief, Africa Confidential & The Africa Report, London

- **Alan Boswell**, Project Director, Horn of Africa, International Crisis Group (ICG), Nairobi
- **Bitania Tadesse**, Policy Specialist for Africa, International Peace Institute (IPI), New York
- **Jesutimilehin O. Akamo**, Research and Policy Analysis unit Coordinator, Institute for Peace and Security Studies (IPSS), Addis Ababa
- **Jalale Getachew Birru**, Senior Analyst, Horn of Africa Region, ACLED, Frankfurt

Q&A Session

19,30 – 19,45 | *Concluding Remarks*

Nicoletta Bombardiere, Director General for Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, Asia and Oceania, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Rome

 19,45– 20,30 | *Networking Cocktail*

An opportunity for informal exchanges among speakers and participants.

**tbc: To Be Confirmed*

***Confirmed Remotely*

****Participating in a personal capacity. The views expressed are solely her own and do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations.*

END OF THE WORKING DAY

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