



# GEOPOLITICAL SHIFTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA: WHAT ROLE FOR INTERNATIONAL ACTORS?

IAI Africa Webinar Series

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## BIOGRAPHIES

### JESUTIMILEHIN O. AKAMO

Coordinator, Research and Policy Analysis Unit, Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University.

### NASIR ALI

Nasir M. Ali is a lecturer of Political Science and International Relations at the University of Hargeisa, Somaliland. He earned a Ph.D in Peace, Governance, and Development from the United Nations-University for Peace in Costa Rica, and holds two masters' degrees in International Relations, and African Studies from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. He is author of several book chapters and papers on security, governance, state capacity and fragility, recognition, and pastoralism in Palgrave, Routledge, Addis Ababa University Press, and other peer-reviewed academic journals. Currently, he is the Director of the Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies (IPCS) at the University of Hargeisa, Somaliland.

### VLADIMIR BLAIOTTA

Vladimir Blaiotta is a researcher fellow in the Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa programme at IAI. He completed his Ph.D in 2023 at the University of Catania, with a thesis on migration policies in Niger. During his doctoral studies, he conducted research at the Laboratoire d'Etudes et de Recherche sur les Dynamiques Sociales et le Développement Local (LASDEL) in Niamey, the École des Hautes Études en Sciences Sociales (EHESS) in Marseille, and the Norwegian Institute for International Affairs (NUPI) in Oslo. His research interests encompass migration studies, security policies, and post-colonial studies.

### MARIA LUISA FANTAPPIÉ

Maria Luisa Fantappié is Head of the Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa Programme at IAI. She served as Special Adviser at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in Geneva (2020-2023) and at the International Crisis Group (2012-2020), engaging at the highest level of policy in Europe, the United States and across MENA (Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Qatar, Oman and United Arab Emirates). In 2018, she was seconded by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to the European advisory mission for security sector reform in Iraq (EUAM). Her research interests include the MENA region, EU foreign policy and great powers competition in this area, conflict prevention and mediation as well as cultural diplomacy.

### FREDERIC GATERETSE-NGOGA

Ambassador Frederic Gateretse-Ngoga is a Burundian diplomat, currently a Senior Adviser on International Partnerships to the African Union Border Programme and Regional Security Mechanisms in the Office of the Commissioner for Political Affairs and Peace and Security of the African Union Commission.