



Online event

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

IAI Africa Webinar Series

**18 DECEMBER 2024
14:00 – 15:10 CET**

Working language: English

The Horn of Africa stands at a pivotal moment, with rapidly evolving alliances and heightened tensions reshaping the region's geopolitical landscape.

A controversial MOU between Ethiopia and Somaliland signed in January 2024 has recalibrated regional alliances with regional consequences for development, peace and security.

International actors, CSOs and communities remain critical to conflict resolution efforts and their involvement could help mitigate risks of further escalation.

This webinar will unpack these developments, focusing on the implications of the Ethiopia-Somaliland relationship, the Egypt-Somalia defence pact and the growing influence of regional powers like Turkey and the UAE.

It will also explore opportunities for the African Union, the United Nations, the EU and other global players to support peacebuilding, governance and regional integration in the region.

PROGRAMME



- 14:00 **Welcome and opening Remarks | Chair**
VLADIMIR BLAIOTTA
Researcher Fellow, Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa programme
Istituto Affari Internazionali
- 14:05 **Geopolitical realignments in the Horn: Reading of the situation and EU perspectives**
LEILA LOUNES
Security Advisor, Office of the EU special Representative for the Horn of Africa
- 14:20 **Local dynamics and Middle Eastern influence in Somaliland and the Horn**
NASIR ALI
Director, Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies
University of Hargeisa
- 14:35 **Analysing regional power (im)balances: fostering peace and development in the Horn**
JESUTIMILEHIN O. AKAMO
Coordinator, Research and Policy Analysis Unit
Institute for Peace and Security Studies, Addis Ababa University
- 14:50 **Q&A**
- 15:05 **Closing remarks**
MARIA LUISA FANTAPPIÉ
Head, Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa Programme
Istituto Affari Internazionali

