

V Seminar of the Atlantic Centre

“Great Power Competition in the Atlantic”

8 November 2023

Auditorium 1, National Defence Institute, Lisbon

CONCEPT NOTE

The Atlantic has long been an ocean of relative peace. Once at the centre stage of global affairs, it has been perceived as losing importance as increased focus is given to the Indo-Pacific region. However, great power competition and recent developments in the Atlantic have brought renewed attention to this ocean.

Major Atlantic powers are struggling to find cohesive responses to the growing challenges in this Ocean, which cross the entire international context. This makes it essential to discuss governance in the Atlantic that privileges political dialog and the role of institutions in supporting solid policy-developments across the Atlantic using the Atlantic Centre original concept “whole-of-the-Atlantic approach”.

Bearing in mind that international politics is facing a return to great power competition, the overarching topic of the event will deal with the current multilateral security ecosystem in the Atlantic and aims to reflect on the existing multilateral and multinational initiatives dealing with security across this vast area.

The V Seminar of the Atlantic Centre will address this changing geopolitical context, analysing its dynamics and consequences.

PROGRAMME

14:00 - Guests' arrival

14:30 - Welcome Remarks

- Professor Isabel Ferreira Nunes, National Defence Institute Director
- Rear Admiral Nuno de Noronha Bragança, Atlantic Centre Coordinator

14:55 - Keynote address

Abroulaye Fofana, Secrétaire Permanent du Comité Interministériel de l'Action en Mer de la Côte d'Ivoire

15:10 - Coffee break

15:30 - Presentation of the Atlantic Centre's report "Great Power Competition in the Atlantic"

Chair: Bruno Cardoso Reis - CEI- ISCTE- Instituto Universitário de Lisboa

Speakers:

- Francisco Proença Garcia | Universidade Católica Portuguesa
- Enio Moreira Azzi | Centro de Estudos Estratégicos do Exército
- Kofi Amponsah Duodu's | Gulf of Guinea Maritime Institute
- Sónia Marques Ribeiro | Universidade Católica Portuguesa

Discussants:

- Raquel Duque | Universidade Católica Portuguesa
- Pedro Seabra | ISCTE- Instituto Universitário de Lisboa

16:45 - Coffee break

17:00 - Roundtable discussion "Maritime Security in the Atlantic - Compared Perspectives"

Chair: Rear Admiral Pedro Sousa Costa

Speakers:

- Tarik Iziraren, Head of the Permanent Secretariat of the African Atlantic States Process (AASP)
- Murillo Costa, FLAD ASA Fellow
- Aristide Pereira da Costa, PRT Navy

18:00 - End of the Seminar