



Press Release
Rabat, October 28, 2021

“Atlantic Dialogues 2021: The Wider Atlantic in a Challenging Recovery”

**The Atlantic Dialogues International Conference - 10th Edition,
Online from November 1 to December 20**

The Policy Center for the New South will host the 10th edition of its flagship [Atlantic Dialogues](#) International Conference on "The Wider Atlantic in a Challenging Recovery" in online format.

The topic is dictated by Covid-19, as the handling of the crisis becomes the new normal, posing a number of challenges to the South Atlantic region. The crisis exacerbated pre-existent vulnerabilities and systemic dysfunctions, ranging from economic shocks to State-citizen friction and social unrest. Despite resumption of international mobility enabled by vaccination campaigns, there is a considerable gap in recovery between societies North and South of the Atlantic.

The high-level conference's 20 plenary sessions are scheduled as [webinars](#), planned between November 1 and December 20, 2021 and accessible online through the Policy Center's Facebook, YouTube and Atlantic Dialogues pages.

Challenges of Governance in the face a Pandemic

The opening discussion on November 1 will focus on "The Challenge of Governance in face of a Pandemic" with Ana Palacio, Paulo Portas and Hubert Védrine, former foreign ministers of Spain, Portugal and France, respectively, as well as Obiageli Ezekwesili, former Minister of Education of Nigeria, co-founder of Transparency International and senior economic advisor to the Africa Economic Development Policy Initiative (AEDPI).

Speakers will address two crucial questions: How can government pandemic responses be assessed in terms of governance and Why is governance crucial to overcoming the long-term effects of the pandemic?

Subsequent 19 Atlantic Dialogues sessions, to be held throughout November and December, will address post-Covid recovery complications from a variety of perspectives, including "Balancing the Technology-Human Rights Nexus", "Covid-19 and Debt for All" and "Are Classrooms Obsolete?"

Discussions will range from geopolitics to economics, looking at "ending the trade war between China and the United States", climate change and "public health imperatives in the global South." Other topics include "rebuilding an inclusive post-Covid social contract", "global power competition: the new race to Africa" and "Europe's future in the geopolitical arena".

High-level experts and personalities from both South and North

A number of regular Atlantic Dialogues contributors will be present among leading experts attending the conference. Hailing from all around the Atlantic basin - North, South and beyond (with a number of Indian experts in attendance), attendants, in keeping with the spirit of the conference, will represent different sectors and generations.

Will speak alongside Anabel Gonzales (Costa Rica), Deputy Director General of the World Trade Organization, diplomats such as former U.S. Special Envoy to the Sahel John Peter Pham (USA), as well as African Union Special Envoy on Women, Peace and Security Bineta Diop (Senegal), African Union Permanent Special Envoy to the DRC Michelle Ndiaye (Senegal), and former Egyptian Foreign Minister and former Secretary General of the Arab League Amre Moussa. Will also be present Youness Abouyoub (Morocco), Director of Governance and State Building for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region at the United Nations.

The intelligence and military communities will be represented in John Sawers (UK), former head of the British MI6, Francis Ofori (Ghana), Commander of the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) and Alessandro Minuto-Rizzo (Italy), President of the NATO Defense College Foundation.

Research and think tanks also figure prominently, with Nathalie Delapalme (Mo Ibrahim Foundation), Paolo Magri (ISPI, Italy), Renato Flores (International Intelligence Unit, Fundação Getulio Vargas, Brazil), and Adam Posen (Peterson Institute for International Economics, USA), to name but a few prominent experts.

Frannie Léautier (Trade and Development Bank, Tanzania), Said Mouline (Amee, Morocco) and Sergio Suchodolski (Development Bank of Minas Gerais, Brazil) will represent institutional and economic decision makers. Several senior journalists will moderate the event, including Zeinab Badawi (BBC), Lourival Sant'Anna (CNN Brazil), and Andres Schipani (Financial Times), in addition to civil society figures and Atlantic Dialogues Emerging Leaders (ADEL) graduates, who will fully contribute to discussions.

Providing fresh perspectives on the issues of the day

Since its launch in 2012, the Atlantic Dialogues Conference has sought to engage the South Atlantic in the global geopolitical debate. The Atlantic Dialogues openly and candidly address the real issues, based on evidence and numbers, not just perception.

Beyond the facts, the Atlantic Dialogues seek to foster dialogue beyond complacency and sketch out innovative solutions, by confronting the points of view of political and economic decision-makers, academics, analysts, and observers from North and South in a spirit of openness, transparency, and mutual enrichment.

The "Atlantic Currents" report annually anticipating conferences reflections, will be presented during the online conference. This collective work will be prefaced by Frannie Léautier, and signed by researchers from North and South, including some Policy Center Senior Fellows, and prominent guests such as Bineta Diop, Ana Palacio and Executive Director of Research at the Mo Ibrahim Foundation, Nathalie Delapalme.

Previous Atlantic Dialogues themes

- 2012** – Changing mental maps, rediscovering the Atlantic
- 2013** – Atlantic societies - growth, change and adaptation
- 2014** – The new Atlantic equation: convergence, cooperation and partnerships
- 2015** – Assessing global risks
- 2016** – Changing mental maps: strategies for an Atlantic in transition
- 2017** – Africa in the Atlantic: time for action
- 2018** – Atlantic dynamics: overcoming tipping points
- 2019** – The South in times of turmoil
- 2020** – Covid-19 seen from the South Atlantic

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About the Policy Center for the New South

The Policy Center for the New South (PCNS) is a Moroccan think tank aiming to contribute to the improvement of economic and social public policies that challenge Morocco and the rest of Africa as integral parts of the global South. As such, the PCNS brings together [researchers](#), [publishes their work](#) and capitalizes on a network of renowned partners, representative of different regions of the world. The PCNS hosts a series of gatherings of different formats and scales throughout the year, the most important being the annual international conferences "[The Atlantic Dialogues](#)" and "[African Peace and Security Annual Conference](#)" (APSACO).

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