



ATLANTIC CURRENTS

AN ANNUAL REPORT ON WIDER ATLANTIC PERSPECTIVES AND PATTERNS

**Cooperation in a Mutating World:
Opportunities of the Wider Atlantic**

DECEMBER 2022 | Under the supervision of Mohammed Loulichki | 9th Edition

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Cooperation in a Mutating World: Opportunities of the Wider Atlantic

DECEMBER 2022

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About Policy Center for the New South

The Policy Center for the New South (PCNS) is a Moroccan think tank aspiring to contribute to economic and social policies that provide answers to the collective challenges facing Morocco and the African continent, as integral parts of the global South. The PCNS advocates for an open, accountable, and enterprising "new South" that defines its own narratives and mental maps around the Mediterranean and the South Atlantic basins, embodied by a forward-looking relationship with the rest of the world. Through its analytical work and focus on dialogue and partnerships from different perspectives and disciplines, the think tank aims to cultivate African expertise and excellence.

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List of Abbreviations

CBRN	Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CSP	Concentrating solar power
DFW	Designing Future Wheat
DOE	Department of Energy
DSMs	Demand-side Management Strategies
ECMWF	European Center for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts
EIA	Energy Information Administration
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
FARC	Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GTAI	Germany Trade and Invest
HABs	Harmful Algal Blooms
ICI	Istanbul Cooperation Initiative
ICT	Information Communications Technology
IEA	International Energy Agency
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IoT	Internet of Things
ISIL	Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant
ISIS	Islamic State of Iraq and Syria
LCOE	Levelized Cost of Energy
LGBTI	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex
LNG	Liquefied Natural Gas
MASEN	Moroccan Agency for Solar Energy
MD	Mediterranean Dialogue
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
NASA	National Aeronautics and Space Administration

NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
ONEE	Office national d'électricité
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
PCR	Polymerase Chain Reaction
PV	Photovoltaics
UAE	United Arab Emirates
UK.	United Kingdom
UN	United Nations
US	United States
USA	United States of America
WEF	World Economic Forum

Preface

This ninth edition of “Atlantic Currents” appears in an international context marked predominantly by a ten month-war between Russia and Nato members that began February 2022. The war is affecting not only the European and American member States directly and actively involved in an unprecedented manner, but more importantly the countries of the global South that have suffered collateral damage.

Indeed, the nations of the world were barely out of the most painful and costly phase of the Covid-19 pandemic, and still trying to deal with its consequences and begin the recovery phase, when they were forced also to confront the consequences of a war for which they were not responsible but that had a severe impact in terms of surging energy and food prices, high inflation rates and increasing public debt.

European countries found themselves embroiled in the first conflict on European soil since the war in the Balkans in the 90s and suffered direct consequences. This conflict put the Atlantic Alliance back in center stage and again raised the issue of the European Union taking greater responsibility for its own defense and security.

Since the Russian president ordered his “military operation in Ukraine”, Nato has been transformed from an Alliance whose funeral bell has tolled many times since the collapse of the Soviet Union, to an organization able to revamp itself swiftly and restore the confidence of its constituencies in its mission as a defense organization able to mobilize, deliver and evolve.

These developments, and their impact on the future strategy of the Alliance to transform transatlantic relations and adapt to the new dynamics in international relations, cast a shadow on the prospect of enhancing and expanding Nato’s relations with its southern partners, especially in light of the United States’ focus on the Indo-Pacific region and the containment of China, their main opponent.

The content of this ninth edition covers topics that gained momentum after the war on Ukraine, such as how NATO is adapting to a new and uncertain security environment, food security, agriculture and technology, water scarcity, social uprisings and inflation.

As with prior editions, authorial expertise continues to involve young leaders in writing or co-writing certain chapters in this issue, thus further promoting the mutual enrichment between generations that has been the motto of the Policy Center since its inception.

On behalf of all those who contributed to this collective endeavor we hope that we continue to deserve your confidence and trust.

Mohammed Loulichki | *Senior Fellow, Policy Center for the New South*

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Cooperation in a Mutating World: Opportunities of the Wider Atlantic

The nations of the world were barely out of the most painful and costly phase of the Covid-19 pandemic and were still dealing with its consequences, when they were forced also to address the effects of the war in Ukraine and its impact on energy costs, food security and inflation rates.

The conflict put the Atlantic Alliance back in center stage and again raised the issue of the European Union taking greater responsibility for its own defense and security. In view of these developments, the future strategy of the Alliance to transform transatlantic relations with the South may lose momentum and be forced to await better times.

In this ninth edition of Atlantic Currents, eminent senior fellows and young leaders share their perceptions and findings on the positioning of Nato, and address the multidimensional consequences of the war in Ukraine on the southern Atlantic region and a range of issues of paramount importance to the global South.

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