

Environmental Security in the Middle East

Middle East Programs

Wednesday, March 27, 2019

12:00 p.m.- 1:30 p.m.

Atlantic Council Headquarters

Speaker Biographies



Peter Gleick

President Emeritus, Pacific Institute

Peter Gleick is a world-renowned expert, innovator, and communicator on water and climate issues. In 1987 he co-founded the Pacific Institute, which he led as president until mid-2016, when he became president emeritus. Peter developed one of the first analyses of climate change impacts on water resources, the earliest comprehensive work on water and conflict, and defined basic human need and right to water – work that has been used by the United Nations and in human rights court cases. Also, he pioneered and advanced the concepts of the “soft path for water” and “peak water.” He received the prestigious MacArthur “Genius” Fellowship and was elected to the US National Academy of Sciences. He serves on the boards of numerous journals and organizations, and is the author or co-author of many scientific papers and 11 books. Dr. Gleick holds a

bachelors from Yale University and a masters and Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.



Kaveh Madani

Rice Senior Fellow, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, Yale University

Kaveh Madani is an environmental scientist, educator, and activist, working on complex human-natural systems at the interface of science, policy, and society. He has previously served as the deputy vice president of Iran in his position as the deputy head of Iran’s Department of Environment. He has also served as the vice president of the United Nations Environment Assembly Bureau and chief of Iran’s Department of Environment’s International Affairs and Conventions Center. He held different strategic roles during his public service and led Iran’s delegation in different major intergovernmental/diplomatic meetings and negotiations. He is currently a Henry Hart Rice senior fellow at Yale University and a visiting professor at Imperial College London. He has numerous publications on

issues such as water management, environmental policy, energy systems, food security, climate change impacts/adaptation, sustainable development, and transboundary-conflicts and negotiations in North America, Europe, Africa, Asia and Middle East. He has received several awards for his fundamental research contributions, teaching innovations, as well as outreach and humanitarian activities, including New Face of Civil Engineering (2012), Arne Richter Award for Outstanding Young Scientists (2016), and the Walter Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize (2017).



Caitlin Werrell

Chief Executive Officer, Council on Strategic Risks

Caitlin Werrell is chief executive officer of the Council on Strategic Risks (CSR), and co-founder of the Center for Climate and Security. She oversees all of CSR's efforts, including the Center for Climate and Security, the Center on Strategic Weapons and the Bridge Program. She has published extensively on the security implications of climate change, water stress and natural resource mismanagement in Syria and North Africa, including in the seminal report *The Arab Spring and Climate Change*, the SAIS Review of International Affairs, and the Brown Journal of World Affairs, as well as on the potential for new technologies like additive manufacturing for addressing climate risks. Caitlin is a regular commentator on climate and international security issues, is a lead author of the "Responsibility to Prepare" framework and has appeared before the UN Security Council. She is frequently-cited and interviewed issues in both

mainstream and niche media outlets, including the New York Times, the Washington Post, USA Today, CNN, the New Republic, the National Journal, the Atlantic, the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists and Defense News, among others. Caitlin holds a master's degree from the University of Oxford, where she focused on transboundary water conflict and security, and a BA from Mount Holyoke College. She sits on the advisory board of the Nuclear Security Working Group.



Barbara Slavin

Director, Future of Iran Initiative, Atlantic Council

Barbara Slavin is the director of the Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council, an adjunct professor at George Washington University's Elliott School of International Affairs and a columnist for Al-Monitor.com, a website devoted to news from and about the Middle East. The author of *Bitter Friends, Bosom Enemies: Iran, the US and the Twisted Path to Confrontation* (2007), she is a regular commentator on US foreign policy and Iran on NPR, PBS, and CSPAN. A career journalist, Slavin previously served as assistant managing editor for world and national security of the Washington Times, senior diplomatic reporter for USA TODAY, Cairo correspondent for the Economist, as an editor at the New York Times Week in Review. She has covered such key foreign policy issues as the US-led war on terrorism, policy toward "rogue" states, the Iran-Iraq war,

and the Arab-Israeli conflict. She has traveled to Iran nine times. Slavin also served as a public policy scholar at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, where she wrote *Bitter Friends*, and as a senior fellow at the United States Institute of Peace, where she researched and wrote the report *Mullahs, Money and Militias: How Iran Exerts Its Influence in the Middle East*.