

## The Humanitarian Impact of US Sanctions on Iran

Tuesday, October 29, 2019

12:00 – 1:30 p.m.

Atlantic Council, 1030 15<sup>th</sup> St NW, 12<sup>th</sup> floor

### Speaker Bios



#### **Tara Sepehri Far**

*Researcher, Middle East and North Africa Division, Human Rights Watch*

**Tara Sepehri Far** is a researcher in the Middle East and North Africa Division of Human Rights Watch, where she investigates human rights abuses in Iran and Kuwait. Prior to joining Human Rights Watch, she was the deputy director of the Human Rights in Iran Unit at the City University New York, where she worked on a project supporting the mandate of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran. Tara graduated from Sharif University of Technology in Tehran and holds a Master and Master of Laws

degrees in international law from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University. She is a native Farsi speaker.



#### **Ambassador Daniel Fried**

*Weiser Family Distinguished Fellow, Atlantic Council*

**Daniel Fried** is the Atlantic Council's Weiser Family Distinguished Fellow. In the course of his forty-year Foreign Service career, Ambassador Fried played a key role in designing and implementing American policy in Europe after the fall of the Soviet Union. As special assistant and national security council senior director for Presidents Clinton and Bush, ambassador to Poland, and assistant secretary of state for Europe (2005-09), Ambassador Fried crafted the policy of NATO enlargement to Central European nations and, in parallel, NATO-Russia relations, thus advancing the goal of Europe whole, free, and at peace.

Ambassador Fried helped lead the West's response to Moscow's aggression against Ukraine starting in 2014: as State Department coordinator for sanctions policy, he crafted US sanctions against Russia, the largest US sanctions program to date, and negotiated the imposition of similar sanctions by Europe, Canada, Japan, and Australia. He also dealt with sanctions on Iran.



### **Payvand Seyedali**

*Strategy and Government Relations Lead, Child Foundation*

**Payvand Seyedali** represents Child Foundation, an American nonprofit that provides humanitarian aid and access to rights for vulnerable children, including 6000 in Iran. In former years, Ms. Seyedali was executive director of Aid Afghanistan for Education, serving out-of-school children under the Taliban and after. She was senior advisor to the Swedish Committee in Afghanistan (SCA); founded in protest of the Soviet invasion in Afghanistan, SCA became a humanitarian organization in 1981, then evolved into Afghanistan's largest development organization. Most recently, Ms. Seyedali served as Afghanistan Strategy and Policy lead for the UK Girls' Education Challenge, partnered with Michelle Obama's Let Girls Learn Initiative. Over 1.5 million children have gained access to education through this fund. Ms. Seyedali played a key role developing several national policies in Afghanistan, including the National Education Strategic Plan, and policies related to inclusivity, girls, and adolescents. She was a driver of the 2018 Community-Based Education policy, a multilaterally developed milestone paving the way for millions of out-of-school children to gain access to education.



### **Adam Smith**

*Partner, Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher*

**Adam Smith** is a partner at the international law firm of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher in Washington, DC where he focuses on international trade, sanctions, and export controls. From 2010-2015 Adam served in the Barack Obama Administration in the Treasury Department and as director of multilateral affairs on the National Security Council. In both government posts Adam focused on sanctions and human rights. Adam is the author of two legal textbooks and numerous articles in the popular and academic press and is a frequent commentator in the media and presenter at industry and academic conferences globally. Earlier in his career, Adam was a political economist at the United Nations and also held posts at the World Bank and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Adam earned his law degree from Harvard, his master's degree from Oxford, and his bachelor's degree from Brown.

## **Moderator Bio**



### **Barbara Slavin**

*Director, Future of Iran Initiative, Atlantic Council*

**Barbara Slavin** directs the Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council 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 C-SPAN. 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, and 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 US Institute of Peace, where she researched and wrote the report *Mullahs, Money and Militias: How Iran Exerts Its Influence in the Middle East*.