

## Will Covid-19 Exacerbate or Defuse Conflicts in the Middle East?

Middle East Programs

Wednesday, May 20, 2020

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Public Virtual Event



### **Rosemary A. DiCarlo**

*Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs*  
United Nations

Rosemary A. DiCarlo assumed the post of Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs on May 1, 2018. She was appointed by Secretary-General António Guterres and succeeded Mr. Jeffrey Feltman. As Under-Secretary-General and head of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA), Ms. DiCarlo advises the Secretary-General on peace and security issues globally, while overseeing "good offices" initiatives and field-based political missions carrying out peacemaking, preventive diplomacy and peace-building activities in Africa, Europe, the Middle East, Central and Southeast Asia and the Americas. She also oversees the United Nations electoral assistance provided to dozens of its member states each year. During her distinguished career with the United States Department of State, she served, among other functions, as Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary. She also served as President of the National Committee on American Foreign Policy from August 2015 to May 2018 and was concurrently appointed a Senior Fellow and Lecturer at Yale University's Jackson Institute for Global Affairs. Ms. DiCarlo graduated from Brown University with a B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in comparative literature, as well as Slavic languages and literature. She speaks French and Russian.



### **Barbara Slavin**

*Director, Future of Iran Initiative*  
Atlantic Council

Barbara Slavin is the director of the Future of Iran Initiative and a Nonresident Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council, a lecturer in international affairs at George Washington University 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. 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. 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*.



**Damon Wilson**

*Executive Vice-President*  
Atlantic Council

Damon Wilson is executive vice president of the Atlantic Council, serving as both a thought leader and manager with responsibility for strategy and strategic initiatives, program development and integration, and institutional development and organizational effectiveness. His work is committed to advancing a Europe whole, free, and at peace to include Europe's East, the Western Balkans, and the Black Sea region; to strengthening the NATO Alliance; and to fostering a transatlantic partnership capable of tackling global challenges and promoting its common values. His areas of expertise include NATO, transatlantic relations, Central and Eastern Europe, and national security issues. From 2007 to 2009, Wilson served as special assistant to the President and senior director for European Affairs at the National Security Council. He played a leading role in developing and coordinating US government efforts to work with Europe on global challenges. He managed interagency policy on NATO, the European Union, Georgia, Ukraine, the Balkans, Eurasian energy security, and Turkey, and planned numerous presidential visits to Europe, including US-European Union and NATO summits. Wilson completed his master's degree at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs, where he also taught an undergraduate policy workshop on implementing NATO expansion. Wilson speaks French and has been decorated by the Presidents of Bulgaria, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Latvia, and Poland for his efforts to advance transatlantic relations. He also serves as a senior adviser to the US-Ukraine Business Council; is a member of Commander, US European Command; serves on the international advisory board to the Slovak Atlantic Commission; is a member of the international board of the Institute for Development and Social Initiative (IDIS) in Moldova; and has lectured at George Washington University.