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**DAY ONE AGENDA: JANUARY 29, 2020**

8:00 - 8:45  Check-in and Registration  
Coffee and Tea (available all day)

9:00 - 10:45  OPENING REMARKS

9:00 - 9:10  **Dr. Eric Eisenberg,** Dean, College of Arts & Sciences, University of South Florida

9:10 - 9:20  **LTG (R) Terry Wolff,** Director, Near East South Asia (NESA) Center for Strategic Studies

9:20 - 9:30  **Mr. Todd Veazie,** Director, Strategic Multilayer Assessment Program (SMA)

9:30 - 9:45  **Lieutenant General Thomas W. Bergeson,** Deputy Commander, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM)

9:45 - 10:00  BREAK
10:00 - 10:45  KEYNOTE SPEAKER
AMBASSADOR ZALMAY KHALILZAD
U.S. Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation

10:45 - 11:00  BREAK

11:00 - 12:30  PANEL DISCUSSION

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON THE AFGHANISTAN PEACE PROCESS

This panel will discuss the Great Powers and the Regional Countries’ interests in Afghanistan, the adversarial and/or cooperative postures held, and the impact on the United States’ position.

MODERATOR: Dr. Andrew Wilder (U.S. Institute of Peace)

PANELISTS:

- Ambassador Ali Jalali (NESA)
- Dr. Barnett Rubin (NY University)
- Dr. Marvin Weinbaum (Middle East University)
- Dr. Ariane Tabatabai (RAND)

PANEL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What are the U.S. national interests in Afghanistan as they relate to regional actors and Great Power Competition?
2. What are the main interests of the Great Powers and Regional Countries in Afghanistan?
3. How can the Great Powers and Regional Countries best support the ongoing peace-efforts to find a lasting solution to the Afghan conflict?
4. How will a U.S. troop withdrawal or an ongoing U.S. troop presence in the context of a peace process (successful or unsuccessful) be perceived by each of the Regional Countries?
5. What are the most likely incentives for spoiler behavior by regional actors or as a result of Great Power Competition that could undermine the peace process and efforts to support a more stable and peaceful Afghanistan?
12:30 - 2:00 LUNCH

2:00 – 4:30 PANEL DISCUSSION

REGIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON IRAN

This panel will address the unique relationships that exist between Iran and China as well as between Iran and the GCC, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Lebanon on U.S. Policy in the Middle East.

MODERATOR: Dr. Mohsen Milani (University of South Florida)

PANELISTS:

- Brigadier General Derek France (U.S. Central Command)
- Ms. Barbara Slavin (RAND)
- Dr. Ariane Tabatabai (RAND)
- Mr. Michael Singh (Washington Institute)

PANEL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. What indicators can the U.S. use to measure the success or failure of the U.S. Maximum Pressure policy toward Iran? With this in mind, is the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPA) terminated or can the Europeans and Iran somehow manage to save the nuclear deal?
2. What are the most likely ramifications of the killing of Qasem Suleimani for Iran’s domestic politics? Will the killing weaken or strengthen Iran’s strategic position in the Middle East, particularly in regards to Iran’s relations with Iraq, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen? What measures can the U.S. and Iran take to deescalate tensions?
3. What indicators can the U.S. use to evaluate the Islamic Republic's cohesion and the stability? Along the same lines, what indicators can be used to the strength and viability of the internal opposition to the Islamic Republic?
4. What is the nature of the relationship between Iran and China and Russia, and how does Iran fit into the Great Power competition space? What is the nature of the relationship between Iran and the GCC, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Lebanon on U.S. policy in the Middle East?
DAY TWO AGENDA: JANUARY 30, 2020

8:00 - 8:45  Check-in and Registration
            Coffee and Tea (available all day)
9:00 - 9:30  PLENARY SPEAKER
            DR. FREDERICK STARR
            Distinguished Fellow for Eurasia, American Foreign Council

9:30 - 10:45 PANEL DISCUSSION

REGIONAL DIPLOMACY

This panel will discuss the key issues for stakeholders within and beyond the region.

MODERATOR: Ms. Brianne Todd (NESA)

PANELISTS:

- Dr. Mohsen Milani (University of South Florida)
- Dr. Barnett Rubin (NY University)
- Dr. Marvin Weinbaum (Middle East Institute)
- Ambassador Michael Ranneberger (University of South Florida)

PANEL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How can the Regional Countries, with the cooperation of the Great Powers, best support ongoing diplomatic efforts to find a lasting political solution to the conflicts in Afghanistan and elsewhere?
2. How can the Great Powers and the Regional Countries cooperate in Counterterrorism, Counter Narcotics, and Countering Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC)?
3. How does local culture, governance, and politics impact diplomacy for each of the Great Powers and Regional Competitors?

10:45 -11:00 BREAK
11:00 - 12:30 PANEL DISCUSSION

REGIONAL ECONOMICS

This panel will discuss the regional economic challenges and opportunities.

MODERATOR: Dr. Adib Farhadi (University of South Florida)

PANELISTS:

1. Dr. Frederick Starr (American Foreign Council)
2. Ms. Karen Freeman (Office of Afghanistan & Pakistan Affairs)
3. Dr. Richard Ponzio (Stimson Center)
4. Mr. Mitchell Shivers (Hughes & Shivers)
5. Mr. Michael Peters (Harvard University)

PANEL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. How can regional connectivity across Central and South Asia improve relations with the Great Powers, generate jobs and public revenue, and buttress efforts to foster political stability in Afghanistan and elsewhere?
2. How is China's Belt-and-Road initiative helping or hindering progress toward economic integration of Central and South Asia?
3. How have the five Central Asian Republics come together in recent years, politically and economically, to better manage the competing interests of Great Powers operating in their region?

12:30 - 2:00 LUNCH

2:00 - 3:15 PANEL DISCUSSION

REGIONAL SECURITY

This panel will address the security trends, threats, and areas of cooperation between the Great Powers and Regional Countries.

MODERATOR: COL (R) Jack Gill (NESA)
PANELISTS:

- Maj. Gen. (R) Edward Reeder (Five Star Global Security)
- Dr. Richard Russell (NESA)
- Mr. Andre Hollis (Tiger International)
- Dr. Anda Jackson (Independent)

PANEL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
1. What is the greatest emerging threat that will impact the region post-2020?
2. What are the security considerations in support of economic development as it relates to Counter-Narcotics, Counter Threat Finance, and Counter Illicit Trafficking?
3. How do the Regional Countries maintain a security balance between their neighbors and major global powers?
4. How will demographic trends and the Islamic landscape shape the region (i.e., youth bulge)? To what degree are we seeing militant groups proliferate or remain static?

3:15 - 3:30   BREAK

3:30 - 4:45   PANEL DISCUSSION

INFORMATION ENVIRONMENT

This panel will address the ways in which the U.S. can better leverage the Information Environment to support a stable region.

MODERATOR: COL Andrew Whiskeyman (U.S. Central Command)

PANELISTS:

- Dr. Mark Abdollahian (Claremont University)
- Dr. Sean Ryan (West Liberty University)
- Dr. Randy Borum (University of South Florida)
- Mr. Ernie Ferraresso (University of South Florida)

PANEL DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:
1. What risks do the U.S. face in the Information Environment as it relates to Central Asia?
2. In what ways will the Great Powers influence the region in the Information Environment after a negotiated peace? How will they attempt to undermine or amplify peace and stability efforts?

4:45 - 5:00 CLOSING REMARKS:

Dr. Paul Sanberg, Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation, & Knowledge Enterprise & President of the USF Research Foundation, University of South Florida