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## AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- International Relations, Geopolitics and International security
- Diplomacy: Emerging Trends and Challenges
- National resilience: Hybrid threats | Cybersecurity
- Innovative education practices, Progressive research policies, Global outreach

## COMPETENCIES

- Leadership for global impact, Change management
- Strategic thinking
- Policy analysis and recommendations
- Research and analysis
- Developing/implementing education/training programs, conferences, workshops
- Engaging with diverse stakeholders and audiences
- Cross-cultural Communication
- Organizational loyalty
- Superior cognitive ability

# Daria Daniels Skodnik, PhD

Former Deputy Commandant and Dean

North Atlantic Treaty Organization Defense College

Dr. Daria Daniels Skodnik is an international affairs expert and a distinguished academic renowned for her exceptional professional experience, which encompasses an extensive military, academic, and diplomatic background. Having spent over two decades in international relations and public diplomacy, Dr. Daniels provides her expertise at the intersection of international organizations, governments, academia, and think tanks. She has held multiple leadership and management roles in the public policy sector, dealing with international relations and organizations such as the UN, EU, OSCE, and NATO. Within her diplomatic capacity, she has contributed significantly to the development of senior professional education and has worked extensively on bilateral and multilateral diplomacy platforms with governments and academic institutions worldwide.

Dr. Daniels' experience at NATO has been the cornerstone of her illustrious career. She is the first woman and non-American to be elected by the NATO Military Committee to senior leadership roles at the NATO Defense College (NDC). As Dean, she served as the functional head of all academic matters, responsible for comprehensive senior-level professional education, a research division, the editorial board, and outreach aimed at advancing NATO policies. Her focus on innovative and progressive educational practices, driven by new technological trends and developing skills through multilateral, cultural, and public diplomacy, has helped shape numerous future leaders in these fields. As Deputy Commandant, she advised on diplomatic, political, and complex policy and security issues in support of NATO's strategic priorities.

During her tenure, her work centered on partnerships, informing policy decisions through numerous influential policy papers and recommendations that have profoundly impacted NATO policies, research analysis, and the shaping of public awareness through extensive high-quality publishing, international conferences, workshops, and expert round-tables. Her recent book chapter draws on her extensive interactions with world leaders and academics, emphasizing the importance of innovative and progressive education suitable for a new kind of leadership in a rapidly evolving global environment.

As a professional educator and an expert in international relations, Dr. Daniels continues to research, teach, mentor, and advise the next generation of professionals. She focuses on emerging trends in international relations, the role of digital diplomacy, the strategic challenges of the 21st century, the impact and importance of modern diplomacy, hybrid and cyber security challenges, and alternative dispute resolution practices. She has been invited to speak at high-level conferences and workshops, sharing her knowledge and experience with a global audience, including UNSW in Australia, Oxford University in the UK, the George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, and the Rabdan Academy in the UAE. She has served on several advisory boards of academic institutions and think tanks in Geneva, London, and Toronto, advising on contemporary and future-oriented transformational policies.

Dr. Daniels holds a Ph.D. in Political Science (Political Theory) from LUISS Guido Carli University in Rome, an MA in International Law from the University of Maribor, and a BA in Political Science (International Relations) from the University of Ljubljana. Her work has earned her numerous awards, including the General Maister Medal, the Armed Forces Medal, and the Defending the Nation in 1991 Award.