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<b>TITLE</b>	<b>THE EVOLUTION OF THE GULF COOPERATION COUNCIL APPROACHES TO SECURITY ISSUES AFTER THE ARAB SPRING</b>
<b>SUMMARY</b>	<p>The painful consequences of political, economic and social shocks provoked by the Arab Spring forced the political elites of the Middle Eastern states to revisit traditional approaches to maintaining stability and security in the region. This inevitably affected the activities of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which was from the outset established in order to enhance cooperation between the countries of the region primarily in the field of security. This paper attempts to identify the key milestones, factors and trends that have shaped the GCC decision-making process in the security sphere over the past 10 years since the beginning of the Arab Spring. The author shows that the Arab Awakening has encouraged the GCC member-states to deepen military-political integration, aimed at strengthening their defence capabilities, as well as their abilities to respond to external and internal challenges. The author notes that the GCC countries still view Iran as the main source of all these threats; moreover, considering substantial strengthening of Iran's influence in the Middle East their position has even hardened. Tehran is accused of meddling in the internal affairs of the GCC member-states, supporting illegal Shiite groups operating on their territory, and instigating religious discord. In this context, it is quite natural that the Iran's nuclear programme is of particular concern to the GCC. At the same time, the author emphasizes, that although the GCC member-states declare common approach towards Iran, their practical actions can vary significantly. In particular, it was Qatar which opposed an excessively hard-line approach towards Iran. This fact, as well as accusations against Doha of supporting terrorist and extremist groups, led to two crises that shook the GCC in the 2010s. However, the fact that these crises have been eventually settled shows that security issues still press regional actors towards strengthening the capacities of the GCC. Especially since military threats have been compounded by a new threat — of the outbreak of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. The author concludes that this new threat, which has already incited the GCC to promote cooperation in a health sector, will also strengthen the member-states' focus on various non-military challenges including epidemiological and environmental ones.</p>
<b>KEY WORDS</b>	Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf, GCC, regional security, Iran, Iran's nuclear programme, Qatar diplomatic crisis, terrorism, SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.