



Gulf Research Center Foundation  
Knowledge for All



CARPO  
Center for Applied Research  
in Partnership with the Orient



## Security Roadmap for West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula

Annual Conference  
12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2019  
Berlin, Germany

ARCOTEL John F Berlin  
Werderscher Markt 11 | 10117 Berlin | Germany

### Concept Note and Draft Agenda

The project “Tafahum – Security Roadmap for West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula” was initiated in September 2018 by the Center for Applied Research and Partnership with the Orient (CARPO) and the Gulf Research Center Foundation (GRCF) with the goal to collectively construct ideational pillars for a *tafahum*, or common understanding, of how to define a process towards regional integration and a shared security architecture for West Asia and the Arabian Peninsula (WAAP). Over the course of various project activities conducted in 2018 and 2019, the objective has been to engage in an evolutionary process that allows one to begin overcoming existing levels of mistrust by addressing not only the current political and ideological conflicts defining the region from different angles, but also the conceptual frameworks behind them. The Tafahum project thus provides building blocks, including the pursuit of issue-oriented cooperation between regional actors on a variety of subjects, promoted through the support of external parties. Such an approach allows for the gradual establishment of conditions and mechanisms under which an operational regional security process can ultimately become reality.



In addition to a conceptual framework workshop that outlined the core security interests of key regional and extra-regional stakeholders of WAAP, the Tafahum project also established five working groups dedicated to the following areas: (1) trade relations and economic cooperation; (2) environmental challenges and climate change; (3) security sector reform and counter-terrorism; (4) media narratives and discursive integration; and (5) reconstruction efforts in Syria, Yemen and Iraq. These working groups, convening throughout the first half of 2019, have entered a regional dialogue with a focus on functional issues as a means to allow space for interaction between the conceptual and operational part of the project.

The Annual Conference on 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> September 2019, will bring together selected members of the five working groups to present as well as reflect on the results and insights of the various activities. The main objective of the annual conference will be to further outline and discuss how dialogue, cooperation and coordination on topics of shared interest and concern in the region can be structured. This in turn will provide the platform from which project activities will be conducted in the second project year. The number of participants will be between 40 and 45 persons.

## **Agenda**

### **ARRIVAL DAY – 11<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

During the day           Arrival of Participants

19:00 – 21:00           Opening Dinner

### **1<sup>st</sup> CONFERENCE DAY – 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

09:15 – 09:30           Registration

09:30 – 10:00           Welcoming remarks

10:00 – 10:45           Session 1: Key Findings of the Conceptual Framework Workshop

10:45 – 11:00           Coffee/Tea break

11:00 – 12:30           Session 2: Key Findings of Working Groups 1 and 2



12:30–14.00	Lunch
14:00 – 16:00	Session 3: Key Findings of Working Groups 3, 4 and 5
16:00 – 16:30	Coffee/Tea break
16.30 – 18.00	Session 4: Conceptualizing the Way Forward: Cross-cutting Themes for Consideration linking the working groups (1)
19:00– 21:00	Dinner

#### **2<sup>nd</sup> CONFERENCE DAY – 13 September 2019**

9:00 – 10:30	Session 5: Conceptualizing the Way Forward: Cross-cutting Themes for Consideration linking the working groups (2)
10:30 – 11:00	Coffee/Tea break
11:00 – 12:30	Wrap-up / Suggestions & recommendations for the 2 <sup>nd</sup> year of Tafahum
12:30 - 13:30	Lunch

**End of Conference**