



GRC Events & Activities

The Gulf in 2026: A Strategic Assessment

GRC Webinar Summary

Presenting the GRC's 2026 Strategic Dossier

January 12, 2026



The Gulf Research Center (GRC) hosted a webinar to officially launch its **2026 Strategic Dossier**, a flagship annual publication offering a comprehensive assessment of the Gulf region's evolving security environment and strategic positioning amid rising geopolitical uncertainty. The webinar convened leading GRC experts to examine the political, economic, and institutional pressures shaping Gulf stability, while also reflecting on how intensifying global power competition is redefining the region's external partnerships and internal dynamics.

The session was moderated by **Dr. Christian Koch**, Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center and Executive Manager of the GRC Foundation-Brussels office. In his opening remarks, Dr. Koch presented the Strategic

Dossier as a forward-looking analytical framework designed to capture the Gulf's shifting regional and international context. He emphasized that the report explores the Gulf states' challenge of managing cohesion and divergence within the GCC, the implications of an emerging multipolar international order, and the evolving nature of strategic relations with major global actors. Dr. Koch noted that the region is entering a period marked by heightened volatility, overlapping crises, and increasing strain on existing institutional and strategic frameworks.

Regional Security Challenges and the U.S. Role

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research

◆ GRC Events & Activities

The Gulf in 2026: A Strategic Assessment Webinar

"Through Syrian Eyes" Film Program

◆ GRC Publications

◆ GRC Programs

Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) Programme

Environmental Security and Sustainability Program

Cultural & Media Program

◆ GRC Participations

◆ GRC in the Media



Center, focused on the most pressing security crises confronting the Middle East today. He raised concerns regarding the long-term reliability of the United States as a security guarantor in the region, particularly amid shifting American priorities and fluctuating foreign policy approaches. Dr. Sager warned against further escalation with Iran, stressing that instability within Iran could generate far-reaching consequences, including widespread regional disorder, migration pressures, and the risk of prolonged conflict. He also underscored the ongoing fragility in key conflict zones such as **Yemen, Syria, Sudan, and Iraq**, calling for a comprehensive international approach that prioritizes stability, de-escalation, and constructive diplomatic engagement.

Non-State Armed Groups and Regional Volatility

A major theme of discussion was the future trajectory of armed non-state actors across the Middle East. **Dr. Mustafa Alani**, Senior Advisor and Director of the Defence and Security Research Program at the GRC, argued that Iran's weakening regional influence could significantly erode the credibility, cohesion, and operational capacity of militia networks supported by Tehran. Such developments, he noted, may reshape political dynamics in countries such as Iraq and Yemen, potentially creating conditions for stronger state institutions to reassert authority over fragmented armed landscapes. Speakers agreed that continued unpredictability, both in Iranian actions and U.S. policy direction, remains a key driver of instability across the region.

Economic Pressures and Governance Challenges

Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist and Head of Economic Research at the GRC, highlighted the severe economic constraints facing many Middle Eastern states. He described a region experiencing prolonged stagnation, characterized by inflationary pressures, high unemployment, weakened productivity, and

limited institutional capacity in several countries. Dr. Sfakianakis argued that uncertainty is likely to persist given global geopolitical tensions and the growing competition between the United States and China. He emphasized that Gulf states must prioritize investments in education, productivity, and institutional reform, while accelerating economic diversification efforts to sustain long-term resilience in a future potentially defined by lower oil revenues and more competitive global markets.

GCC Institutional Reform and Internal Coordination

The webinar also addressed the structural challenges confronting the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). **Professor Saleh Al-Khathlan**, Senior Advisor at the GRC, pointed to the erosion of traditional mechanisms that historically helped manage disagreements among member states. He stressed the need for institutional reforms to strengthen the GCC's collective effectiveness and crisis-management capacity. It was reinforced throughout the discussion that enhancing internal communication, rebuilding trust, and developing clearer coordination mechanisms will be essential as the region faces mounting external pressures and increasingly complex security challenges.

Energy Markets and Long-Term Oil Outlook

Professor Giacomo Luciani, Board of Trustees member at the GRC Foundation office in Geneva, provided an in-depth analysis of shifting global oil market dynamics. He noted that while Saudi Arabia has maintained relatively stable export levels over the past decades, increasing production from other Middle Eastern states and external suppliers is gradually reshaping global supply patterns. Professor Luciani suggested that the potential return of producers such as Venezuela, alongside increased output from Iran and Russia, could generate downward pressure on oil prices over the long term, with significant implications for Gulf economic planning and fiscal sustainability.



Concluding Reflections

In closing, speakers emphasized the importance of stronger collective Gulf responses to regional crises. They highlighted the need for improved internal coordination, clearer strategic communication among GCC member states, and the development of more effective institutional mechanisms to manage disputes, navigate geopolitical volatility, and enhance regional resilience.

Key Takeaways

- The Gulf faces an increasingly complex security environment shaped by multipolarity and ongoing regional crises.
- Strengthening GCC cohesion and institutional effectiveness is becoming more urgent amid external and internal pressures.
- Shifts in the role of non-state armed actors may significantly reshape political dynamics in several Arab states.
- Economic resilience will depend on diversification, productivity gains, and stronger governance and institutional capacity.
- The GCC must carefully balance strategic relationships amid intensifying U.S.-China competition.
- Enhanced regional cooperation, communication, and crisis-management mechanisms will be essential for managing future challenges.

Watch the full webinar [here](#).

The Gulf in 2026: A Strategic Assessment

Presenting the

Gulf Research Center 2026 Strategic Dossier

January 2026



مركز الخليج للأبحاث
المسوق للبحوث
Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager
Founder & Chairman, Gulf
Research Center (GRC)



Dr. John Sfakianakis
Chief Economist & Head of
Economic Research



Prof. Dr. Saleh Al Khathlan
Senior Advisor



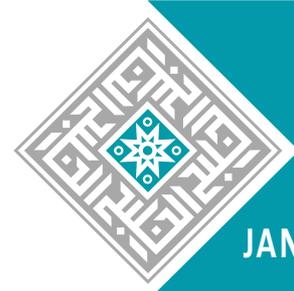
Dr. Mustafa Alani
Senior Advisor & Director,
Security and Defense Research
Program



Prof. Giacomo Luciani
Member of the Board of Trustee,
Gulf Research Center Foundation
Geneva



MODERATOR
Dr. Christian Koch
Director of Research, Executive
Manager, Gulf Research Center
Foundation, Brussels



“Through Syrian Eyes” Film Program

Damascus, Syria

January 20, 2026



“Through Syrian Eyes” is a filmed program produced in the city of Damascus through a collaboration between the Gulf Research Center and the Taqaddum Center for Dialogue, Development, and Peacebuilding. The program is presented by Syrian journalist Abdullah Al-Ghadawi, Director of the Taqaddum Center. It aims to shed light on developments in the Syrian Arab Republic following the fall of the former regime, within a professional and objective framework, by discussing the most pressing political and economic issues facing Syria today, and by exploring future prospects and the pathways of the new era.

The program released its third episode on ‘Transitional Justice in Syria: Its Imperatives and Obstacles.’ This episode discussed the path of transitional justice in Syria, the role of the National Authority for Transitional Justice in strengthening this path and shaping its legal framework, and the role of the new administration in supporting the mechanism of the path and achieving its objectives.

The episode featured:

- **Professor Abdullah Al-Ghadawi**, Director of the Taqaddum Center for Dialogue, Development, and Peacebuilding (moderator of the session)
- **Dr. Ahmed Saifo**, Member of the National Authority for Transitional Justice
- **Prof. Yumn Hallaqm** Researcher at the Syrian Network for Human Rights
- **Prof. Fadi Kardous**, Lawyer and expert in transitional justice laws



Watch the full episode [here](#)



2025 Annual Report



The Gulf Research Center (GRC) published its Annual Report 2025, highlighting a year marked by dynamic activities, extensive research, and collaborations. The report provides a comprehensive

overview of the Center's key milestones and achievements, including high-level roundtables, the visit of the President of Germany, the launch of the Arab Think Tank and Research Network, the Central Asia–Gulf Think Tank Forum in Tashkent, and numerous conferences, workshops, and policy dialogues. It also reviews the GRC's research outputs, including policy briefs, analysis papers, and in-depth studies addressing regional and international challenges. Together, these efforts reflect the GRC's continued commitment to advancing knowledge, fostering dialogue, and promoting cooperation on Gulf and global issues.

Access the full report [here](#).

2026 Strategic Dossier



The Gulf Research Center (GRC) published its 2026 Strategic Dossier, an in-depth analysis of the Gulf among a rapidly evolving geopolitical landscape. This dossier explores the

region's strategic transformation as it navigates a multipolar world, providing critical insights on geopolitical dynamics, economic shifts, and the evolving balance of power.

The dossier is structured across six interlinked sections, each addressing a core dimension of the Gulf's evolving strategic environment, including threat perceptions, regional cohesion, global power shifts, economic transformation, and instruments of influence.

- **Section I: Strategic Overview and Core Threat Assessment**
- **Section II: GCC Order, Cohesion, and Strategic Direction**
- **Section III: Regional Political Flashpoints and State Fragility**
- **Section IV: Global Power Shifts and External Strategic Relations**
- **Section V: Economic Power, Energy Security, and Structural Transformation**
- **Section VI: Instruments of Influence & Strategic Enablers**

Access the full dossier [here](#)

Commentary & Analysis



The Gulf Research Center (GRC) continues to provide in-depth analysis and thought leadership on key regional and global developments. Our latest publications in March cover a wide range of topics, from U.S. foreign policy under Trump's second term to Saudi Arabia's evolving diplomatic role in global affairs. We also explore sustainable development in the Gulf, Russia's repositioning in the Middle East, and Gulf relations with Latin America, Africa, and Asia.

Below are some of our most recent works:

Commentary & Analyses



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge For All

Cyprus's Presidency of the EU and Its Significance for the Gulf

Houda Barroug
December 2025



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge For All

Davos 2026 and the Middle-Power Response to Global Fragmentation

Amnah Mosly
January 2026



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge For All

Post-Maduro: The Future of US Policy Toward Latin America

Hannan Alghamdi
January 2026



[Cyprus's Presidency of the EU and Its Significance for the Gulf](#)

Houda Barroug
January 2026

[Davos 2026 and the Middle-Power Response to Global Fragmentation](#)

Amnah Mosly
January 2026

[Post-Maduro: The Future of US Policy Toward Latin America](#)

Hannan Alghamdi
January 2026

Selected Arabic Articles



تداعيات اعتراف إسرائيل وزيارة وزير خارجيتها لـصوماليلاند

[Implications of Israel's Recognition and Its Foreign Minister's Visit to Somaliland on the Horn of Africa Balance and Red Sea Security](#)

Yousef Kamil Khattab
January 2026



احتجاجات إيران وسيناريوهات الحالة العراقية

[Iranian Protests and Iraqi Scenarios: Between Regime Adaptation and External Involvement](#)

Dr. Rasha Al Azzawi
January 2026



الاحتجاجات في إيران بين الإنهاك البنيوي والمسار الإسقاطي... قراءة تحليلية في الشروط والسيناريوهات وتداعياتها الخليجية

[Protests in Iran Between Structural Exhaustion and the Regime-Change Trajectory An Analytical Reading of the Conditions, Scenarios, and Their Gulf Implications](#)

Yousef Kamil Khattab
January 2026



Selected Arabic Articles



دراسة تحليلية في تحولات الأمن البحري والدبلوماسية السيبرانية البحرية

اللواء البحري (رتن) / م. عبدالله بن جابر الزايد
مستشار أول دراسات دفاعية وأمنية
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

الرياض - يناير 2026

25

[An Analytical Study of Transformations in Maritime Security and Maritime Cyber Diplomacy](#)

Naval Admiral Staff (Retd) Abdullah Jaber AlZaidi Senior Advisor, Defense and Security Studies
January 2026



توافق الحد الأدنى: الخيار الوحيد في بيئة دولية وإقليمية مضطربة

أ.د. صالح بن محمد الخثلان
مستشار أول
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

الرياض - يناير 2026

25

[The Only Option in a Turbulent International and Regional Environment](#)

Prof. Saleh M. Alkhatlan
January 2026



مسارات بناء الدولة اليمنية

قراءة في البعد التاريخي واستحقاق الواقع المعاصر

د. زيد بن علي الفخيري
مدير البرامج الثقافي والإعلامي
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

الرياض - يناير 2026

25

[Pathways to Building the Yemeni State: A Reading of the Historical Dimension and the Imperatives of the Contemporary Reality](#)

Dr. Zaid A. Alfadeil
January 2026



إيران بين الضغط الخارجي وحدود التدخل العسكري

تقدير موقف لالتحديات التدخل الأمريكي - الإسرائيلي في ظل الاحتجاجات الإيرانية الداخلية

يوسف كامل ختتاب
باحث أول
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

الرياض - يناير 2026

25

[Iran Between External Pressure and the Limits of Military Intervention](#)

Yousef Kamil Khattab
January 2026



قراءة سياسية للعمل الحقوقي الدولي

أ.د. صالح بن محمد الخثلان
مستشار أول
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

الرياض - يناير 2026

25

[A Political Reading of International Human Rights Work](#)

Prof. Saleh M. Alkhatlan
January 2026



تحليل منطقة البحر الأحمر

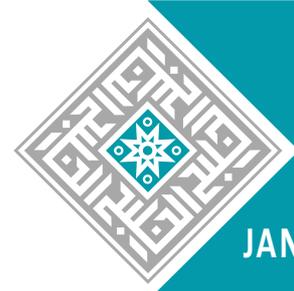
اللواء البحري (م) المهندس / صالح بن صيدع العتيدي
مستشار أول دراسات دفاعية وأمنية
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

الرياض - يناير 2026

25

[Red Sea Region Analysis](#)

Rear Admiral (Retd) Eng. Saleh Sunaydih Alotaibi Senior Advisor, Defense and Security Studies
January 2026



Selected Arabic Articles

دور الإعلام الإيراني الموالي للنظام في إدارة الاحتجاجات ..
تحليل بنوي لتغطية موجة ديسمبر ٢٠٢٥ // يناير ٢٠٢٦

يوسف كامل خطاب
باحث أول
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

إعادة بناء الدولة اليمنية
ورقة بيضاء وخارطة طريق مقترحة

د. زائد زين علي الفضيل
مدير البرنامج الثقافي والإعلامي
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

ديناميات العلاقة بين (قسد) والحكومة السورية الشرعية
منذ اتفاق ١٠ مارس ٢٠٢٥ حتى «التهدئة» في يناير ٢٠٢٦
(ورقة تقديم موقفة)

يوسف كامل خطاب
باحث أول
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

[The Role of Pro-Regime Iranian Media in Managing Protests: A Structural Analysis of Coverage of the December 2025–January 2026 Wave](#)

Yousef Kamil Khattab
January 2026

[Rebuilding the Yemeni State: A White Paper and a Proposed Roadmap](#)

Dr. Zaid A. Alfadeil
January 2026

[Dynamics of the Relationship between the SDF and the Legitimate Syrian Government From the March 10, 2025 Agreement to the “De-escalation” in January](#)

Yousef Kamil Khattab
January 2026

التوجيه الملكي والتحول البيئي في الأمن الوطني الأردني

محمد بن ساري الزعبي
باحث أول بمركز الخليج للأبحاث

من الأفكار إلى التأثير: دور مراكز الفكر وصياغة السياسات في عام ٢٠٢٦

محمد بن ساري الزعبي
باحث أول
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

المجتمع المدني رأس التنمية المستدامة

د. زيد بن علي الفضيل
مدير البرنامج الثقافي والإعلامي
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

[Royal Directives and Structural Transformation in Jordanian National Security](#)

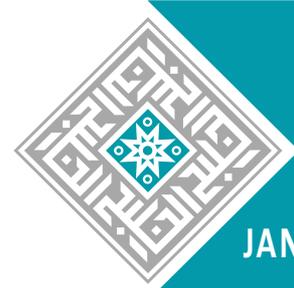
Mohammad S. Alzou'bi
January 2026

[From Ideas to Impact: The Role of Think Tanks in Policymaking in 2026](#)

Mohammad S. Alzou'bi
January 2026

[Civil Society as the Cornerstone of Sustainable Development](#)

Dr. Zaid A. Alfadeil
January 2026



Country Updates & Trade Reports



[Norway - GCC Relations 2026](#)

Gulf Research Center
January 2026



[Saudi Arabia & Türkiye Trade Relations](#)

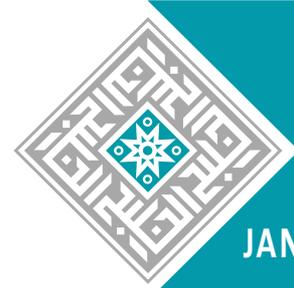
Gulf Research Center
January 2026

Araa Magazine



Issue #217 (January 2026)

"Year in Review & Year Ahead: 2025–2026"



Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) Programme



GLMM

The Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population Program (GLMM) is an international, independent, non-partisan, non-profit program established in 2010 and is hosted and supported by the Gulf Research Center. The program provides data, analyses, and recommendations contributing to the improvement of the understanding and management of Gulf labour migration, population, and labor markets, engaging with and respecting the viewpoints of all stakeholders. Visit the website [here](https://www.glmmp.org).

Call for Papers for the 13th GLMM Workshop on Africa-Gulf Migration, Nairobi, 10-11 September 2026

The 13th GLMM workshop, entitled "Africa-Gulf Migration, Mobility and Trade Past and Present, Policy and Prospects," will take place in Nairobi, Kenya, 10-11 September 2026.

Directors:

- Dr. Faisal Garba – Associate Professor of Sociology, Migration, and Mobility at The Africa Institute, Sharjah, United Arab Emirates
- Dr. Linda Oucho – Executive Director, African Migration and Development Policy Centre, Nairobi, Kenya and Part-time Professor, Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, European University Institute, Florence, Italy

Webinar

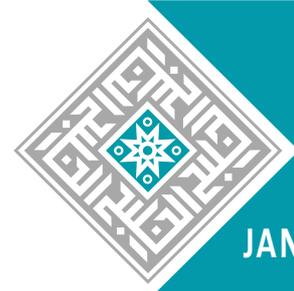


"From Transit to Settlement? Mapping Secondary Mobility from Gulf States to Europe and North America and Its Policy Implications," 20 January 2026

The webinar was part of the GLMM-GRC 2025 project "Highly skilled workers' onward migration from the Gulf to the EU and North America" - supported by the Regional Programme Gulf States of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation - examined the drivers of skilled workers' moves from the Gulf to the EU and North America.

The webinar focused on the powerful pull of Western destinations, where clearer pathways to permanent residency, family reunification, and professional recognition offer long-term security unavailable in the Gulf. The webinar also analysed migrants' desire to return to the Gulf after securing Western citizenship, creating new forms of circularity that challenge traditional assumptions about migration trajectories.

Complementing these insights, the webinar presented a comparative overview of highly skilled immigration trends in Canada, France, Germany, the UK, and the US and analysed post-2021 reforms of highly skilled immigration legislation in the five countries. These countries are simultaneously tightening and expanding their highly skilled migration pathways, creating a shifting landscape that Gulf-based professionals must navigate. Understanding how these regimes interact



with Gulf labour systems is essential for designing policies that support retention, mobility management, and long-term workforce planning.

By mapping these interconnected dynamics, the webinar offered researchers, policymakers, and practitioners a nuanced understanding of how the Gulf's role as a global migration hub is evolving—and what this means for the future of talent mobility.

Speakers: Mr. Froilan Malit, Jr., Ph.D. Politics and International Studies candidate at SOAS University of London, visiting fellow at the American University in Dubai, and Research Associate at GLMM; Dr. Asma Atique, Research Fellow at Global Migration Institute, Toronto Metropolitan University, Serving Immigrants and former Postdoctoral Research Fellow at York University; Dr. Françoise De Bel-Air, Senior Fellow at the GLMM; Dr. Michael Ewers, Associate Professor of Geography in the Department of Earth, Environmental and Geographical Sciences at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

Moderator: Dr. Richa Shivakoti, Research Lead on Migration Governance at the Canada Excellence Research Chair (CERC) in Migration and Integration and a Researcher with the Bridging Divides program at Toronto Metropolitan University.

Access the webinar report [here](#).

Data

For over a decade, GLMM has gathered, analysed, and republished official data related to labour and migration from multiple sources for all 6 GCC states. The database contains more than 1,000 tables, with new data added on a weekly basis.

Highlighted Data

- [Saudi Arabia: Labour Force Participation Rates by nationality \(Saudi/non Saudi\) and sex \(annual basis, 2021-2024\)](#)
- [Saudi Arabia: Labour Force Participation Rates by](#)

[nationality \(Saudi/non Saudi\) and sex \(Q1 2021-Q3 2025\)](#)

- [Saudi Arabia: Employed population by nationality \(Saudi /non-Saudi\) and sex \(Q1 2017-Q3 2025\)](#)
- [Qatar: Economically active population \(aged 15 and above\) in the private sector, by nationality \(Qatari/non-Qatari\) \(2015-2023\)](#)
- [Qatar: Economically active population \(aged 15 and above\) in the private sector, by nationality \(Qatari/non-Qatari\) and sex \(2015-2023\)](#)
- [GCC: Total populations \(nationals+non-nationals\) employed in the private sector, by sex and GCC country \(2015-2024\)](#)
- [GCC: Non-national populations employed in the private sector, by sex and GCC country \(2015-2024\)](#)

[GCC: National populations employed in the private sector, by sex and GCC country \(2015-2024\)](#)

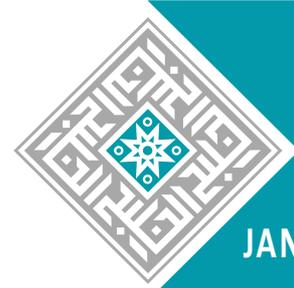
GCC Regional Tables

GLMM constructs unique GCC regional tables based exclusively on the official [country data](#).

Country Tables

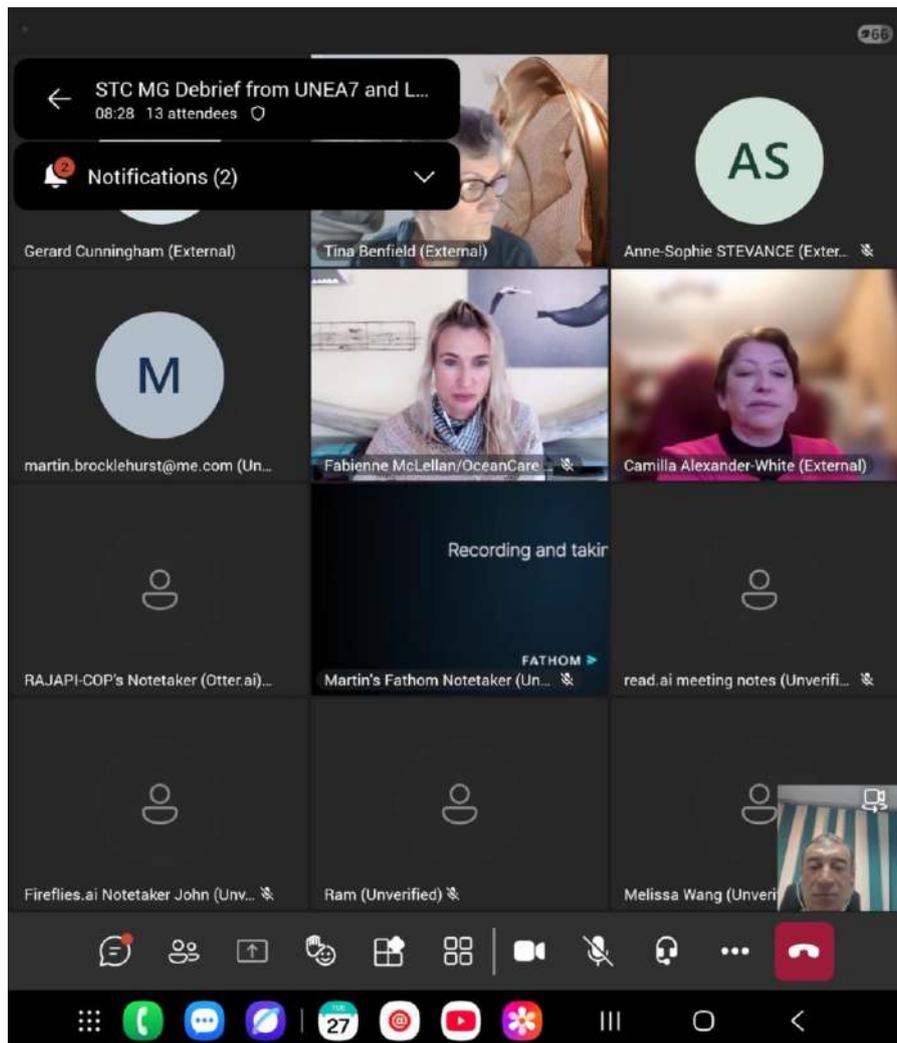
- Access Bahrain data [here](#)
- Access Kuwait data [here](#)
- Access Oman data [here](#)
- Access Qatar data [here](#)
- Access Saudi Arabia data [here](#)
- Access UAE data [here](#)

Contact: Mr. Imco Brouwer, GLMM Managing Director: imco.brouwer@grc.net



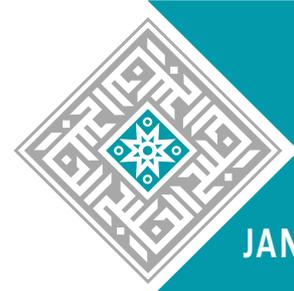
Environmental Security and Sustainability Program

27 January 2026



Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Research Director for the Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program at the Gulf Research Center, participated in a virtual debriefing call on the outcomes of UNEA 7 with the Science and Technology Major Group.

The call discussed the UNEA 7 resolutions, S&T MG activities during UNEA 7, and the plan for S&T MG for the upcoming years 2026-2027



Cultural & Media Program



مختبر الحوار بمركز الخليج للأبحاث
Gulf Research Center Dialogue Lab



GRC PODCAST
بودكاست مركز الخليج للأبحاث

Gulf Research Center: A Story to be Told

Over 25 years, the Gulf Research Center has evolved from a small idea into a platform that advances research on the Gulf region, supports critical dialogue, and deepens understanding of key regional issues. Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, recounted this journey on January 8, 2026, where knowledge has been built and made accessible to all. Watch the full episode [here](#).



Crisis in the History of Western Civilization Roundtable

The Cultural and Media Program at the Gulf Research Center organized a roundtable discussion titled "Crisis in the History of Western Civilization" at the GRC headquarters in Riyadh on January 27, 2026, with the participation of researchers and intellectuals, both in person and via Zoom.

The session was moderated by Abdulaziz Al-Eid and featured Professor Dr. Saad Al-Bazei, who presented a critical reading of the concept of crisis in Western civilization as a moment for reflection and reassessment, addressing key cultural and intellectual questions of modernity.

The discussion included commentaries by Ambassador Dr. Al-Sadiq Al-Faqih, Secretary-General of the Arab Thought Forum, and Moroccan thinker Dr. Mostafa Al-Murabit, in addition to interventions by several Saudi intellectuals, including Dr. Marzouq bin Tanbak, Dr. Ziad Al-Drees, and Dr. Amal Al-Tamimi.

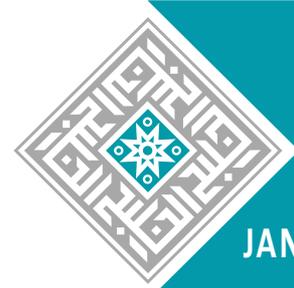


GRC Podcast Activities

January 1, 2026



On the Gulf Research Center Podcast, media advisor Abdulaziz Al-Eid offered a candid discussion on Saudi



media—traditional and digital—addressing language, documentation, and the risks of fabricated titles. Watch the full episode [here](#).

January 20, 2026



Dr. Ali Al-Kheshayban, political researcher and writer, discussed the lessons of 2025 and the region's future following the Manama Summit, examining whether security decision integration can lead to broader stability and deeper development. Watch the full episode [here](#).

January 21, 2026



In the GRC podcast, Dr. Mutawakkil Taha, former Palestinian Deputy Minister of Information, analyzed the conflict in Palestine, exposing Israel's "theory of terror" through siege and mass violence in Gaza and beyond. Watch the full episode [here](#).

Publications

January 18, 2026

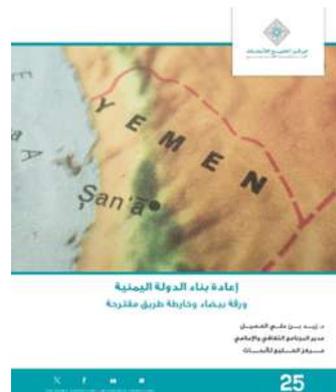


Uzbekistan: From Empire to the Post-Soviet Era

Prepared by Sayed Mahmoud Mubasher Kasani.

Access the full paper [here](#).

January 22, 2026



Rebuilding the Yemeni State

Prepared by Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program at the Gulf Research Center.

Access the full paper [here](#).



January 5, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), received H.E. Mr. Nabil Abu Rudeineh, member of the Central Committee of the Palestinian National Liberation Movement (Fatah), at the GRC office in Riyadh on January 5, 2026. Mr. Abu Rudeineh previously served as Deputy Prime Minister, advisor to President Yasser Arafat, and Minister of Information, in addition to his former role as Official Spokesperson for the Presidency of the State of Palestine. The meeting discussed the latest developments in Gaza, with the participation of a number of attendees alongside staff members of the Gulf Research Center.

January 6, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with His Excellency Mr.

Charles Kingston, Ambassador of New Zealand to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on January 6, 2026. During this meeting both sides discussed areas of mutual interest.

January 11, 2026

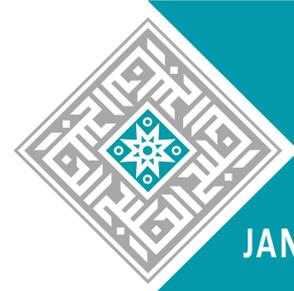


Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with H.E. Mr. Michael Kindsgrab, Ambassador of Germany to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on January 11, 2026. During this meeting both sides discussed areas of mutual interests and regional development.

January 12, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Dr. Tobias Tunkel, Director for the Near and Middle East and North Africa at the German Federal Foreign Office, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on January 12, 2026. During this meeting both sides discussed areas of mutual interest and regional developments.



January 15, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Ms. Heidi Elburgi Johansen, Special Representative of the Section for Peace and Reconciliation at the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, at the GRC office in Riyadh on January 15, 2026. During the meeting, both sides discussed areas of mutual interest and exchanged views on key regional developments.

European Commission Sonja Thebes, Deputy Head of International Markets, Federation of German Industries (BDI), Executive Director of the North Africa Middle East Initiative of German Industry (NMI); Christian Hanelt, Senior Expert Europe, Neighborhood, and the Middle East in the Bertelsmann Stiftung's "Europe's Future" program.

January 26, 2026



Dr. Ahmed Sager, Vice President of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), and Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan, Senior Advisor at the GRC, met with H.E. Dr. Sebastian Mitrache, Ambassador of Romania to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Mr. Radu Magdin, CEO at Smartlink Communications, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on January 26, 2026. Both sides discussed ongoing regional developments and potential areas for collaboration between the two sides.



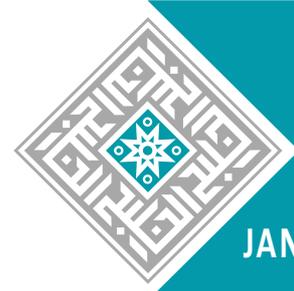
January 15, 2026

Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation- Brussels and Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center, spoke at an event entitled "Europe and the Arab Gulf States - Perspectives for Cooperation between the EU, the GCC, and the MENA region" organized by the youth section of the German Council on Foreign Relations (DGAP) and the Bertelsmann Foundation, in Berlin, Germany. With more than 70 participants attending, the meeting examined pathways and obstacles for Europe and Germany to strengthen its role in a region marked by both instability and emerging opportunities based on a recent survey by the Gulf Research Center and the European Programme of the Bertelsmann Stiftung on EU-GCC relations. Other speakers included: Niels Annen, State Secretary at the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, Leonetta Pajer, Deputy Head of Unit "GCC Strategic Cooperation on Investment Promotion and Financial instruments," DG-MENA,

January 29, 2026



Amnah Mosly, Researcher at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated on January 29, 2026, in a dialogue on "Gulf, Nordic, and Europe: The New Strategic Partnership for Human Capital and Digital-Driven Future Economies." The high-level seminar was co-organized by the Embassies of Finland and Sweden in the State of Qatar and the Delegation of the European Union to the State of Qatar, in partnership with the UNESCO Regional Office for the Gulf States and Yemen. The event featured four former European Union Commissioners and explored the potential to deepen EU-GCC collaboration in various areas, including energy, education, and digital transformation.



GRC media participation can be accessed [here](#), at the GRC official YouTube channel.



On December 31, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated in an interview on BBC Arabic to discuss the latest developments in Yemen, as part of a news segment titled "The Conflict in #Yemen," which referenced the Saudi Council of Ministers' statement expressing hope that the UAE will halt any support to the Southern Transitional Council.

Watch the interview [here](#).



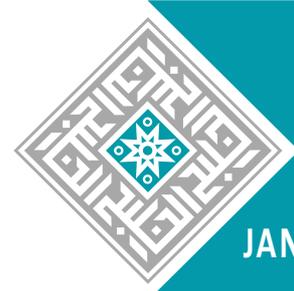
On December 31, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated in the program "Here in Riyadh" on Saudi Al Ekhbariya Channel, in an episode titled "The Kingdom in 2025: A Defining Political Year," which highlighted Saudi Arabia's diplomatic efforts to safeguard regional stability and promote prosperity. Watch the interview [here](#).



[On January 2, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, delivered an intervention on Al Arabiya addressing the latest developments in Yemen and discussing the evolving political and security situation in the country. Watch the interview here.](#)



On January 2, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, delivered an intervention on Al Jazeera Arabic addressing the latest developments in Yemen and discussing the evolving political and security situation in the country. Watch the interview [here](#).



كيف احتوى النهج السعودي الشمولي والمسؤول تطورات جنوب اليمن؟

محللون: الرياض تعتبر الوضع في اليمن جزءاً أساسياً من أمنها القومي



الأبوزخلة بن سلمان خلال استقباله طارق صالح عضو مجلس القيادة الرئاسي اليمني (حسان طارق صالح على اليمين)

On January 6, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, spoke to Asharq Al-Awsat in an article titled "How Did the Saudi Comprehensive and Responsible Approach Contain the Developments in Southern Yemen?" which noted that Riyadh considers the situation in Yemen an integral part of its national security. Read the full article [here](#).



On January 8, 2026, the Gulf Research Center published a biographical documentary highlighting its 25-year journey from a small initiative into a leading research platform shaping policy dialogue on Gulf affairs, featuring reflections by Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Center, on the institution's growth, mission, and impact. Watch the documentary [here](#).



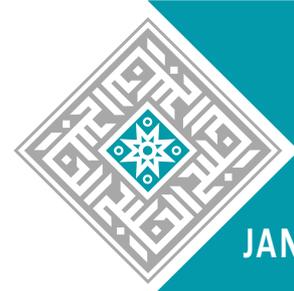
On January 9, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated in the program *Political Magazine* on Monte Carlo Doualiya to discuss the Yemeni issue in light of current developments and the evolving political and security landscape. Listen to the full segment [here](#).



On January 8, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on the Al Raqib Podcast in an episode titled "Security Guarantees: A Gulf Perspective on Security and Defense," where he discussed evolving military alliances following the attacks on Qatar, the current nature of security guarantees, and the strategic alternatives available to the Gulf states. Watch the full episode [here](#).



On January 14, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, delivered an intervention during the "Fourth Bulletin" on Al Arabiya to discuss U.S. President Donald Trump's threats of potential military intervention in Iran, as part of a news report titled "Iran Threatens to Target American Bases." Watch the full segment [here](#).



On January 16, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated in the program *On the Border* on Asharq Bloomberg TV in an episode titled “Trump and #Iran: Conflicting Messages,” where he discussed the implications of recent U.S.–Iran tensions and the broader regional security outlook. Watch the full episode [here](#).



On January 20, 2026, the Gulf Research Center, in cooperation with the Taqaddum Center for Dialogue and Development and Peacebuilding, released an episode of the program *Through Syrian Eyes* on Syria TV titled “Transitional Justice in Syria: Requirements and Challenges,” which examined the trajectory of transitional justice, the role of the National Commission for Transitional Justice in shaping its legal framework, and the new administration’s efforts to support the process, with the episode presented by Abdullah Al-Ghadawi and featuring Ahmad Saifo, Yumna Hallak, and Fadi Kurdous as discussants. Watch the full episode [here](#).

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On January 28, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, delivered an intervention during the “Fourth Bulletin” on Al Arabiya addressing the remarks of Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman rejecting the use of the Kingdom’s airspace or territory for any military operations against Iran, as part of a report titled “Saudi Arabia Neutralizes Its Airspace and Territory.” Watch the full segment [here](#).



On January 30, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated in the program *Madar Al Ghad* on Alghad TV in an episode titled “The Gulf and the Fall of the Iranian Regime,” where he discussed the regional implications for Gulf security and the evolving strategic landscape. Watch the full episode [here](#).



On January 30, 2026, Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf, Senior Researcher at the Gulf Research Center, appeared on Algeria International Channel to discuss the escalation of transatlantic disagreements and their broader political and strategic implications. Watch the intervention [here](#).



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