



## GRC Events & Activities

### Strengthening GCC-Qatar-European Relations: Roundtable Discussion on Geopolitics of the Region and Mediation

Brussels, Belgium

May 21, 2025



Gulf Research Center Foundation  
Brussels

Knowledge for All



#### ◆ GRC Events & Activities

Strengthening GCC-  
Qatar-European  
Relations: Roundtable  
Discussion on  
Geopolitics of the  
Regional and Mediation

Promoting MENA  
Stability and Prosperity  
in the Context of EU-  
GCC Relations Dinner  
Discussion: EU-GCC  
MENA Political Directors  
Preparatory Meeting

Executive Training  
Program: Strengthening  
Global Partnerships:  
Gulf and Regional  
Cooperation

#### ◆ GRC Memorandum of Understanding

GRC Cooperation with  
Interpeace

#### ◆ 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



The Gulf Research Center Foundation's Office in Brussels hosted a roundtable discussion on May 21, 2025, during which Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), welcomed H.E. Dr. Majid Al-Ansari, Advisor to the Prime Minister of the State of Qatar and Official Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, to the GRC's Office in Brussels. The discussion focused on five key areas: The Changing Global Order and Nature of Conflict The current international environment is characterized by unprecedented instability and unpredictability. Rather than moving toward a new, stable multipolar order, the world is witnessing the erosion, if not complete collapse, of central states, resulting in a plethora of overlapping and interrelated conflicts. These disputes are rarely resolved comprehensively; instead, they persist, freeze, or subside briefly as a result of internal dynamics among local actors, rather than decisive global involvement. This reality necessitates a fundamental reassessment of conflict management approaches and strategies, since traditional tools and frameworks are increasingly inadequate to address the multifaceted and dynamic character of today's crises.

**New Actors and Approaches in Mediation** The landscape and framework of conflict mediation have significantly evolved, with conventional great powers and veteran mediators departing from their roles as custodians of international order. Their priorities have shifted to upholding spheres of influence instead of direct conflict resolution, frequently at the expense of reassessing conflict management channels, since traditional tools and frameworks are increasingly inadequate to address the multifaceted and dynamic character of today's crises. In this vacuum, the GCC governments and a range of local NGOs have emerged as new actors, stepping in to fill the void created by the international community. The GCC's expanding power is supported by competent leadership that

is not restricted by political posturing, significant financial resources, and a tactical neutrality. However, the complexity of modern conflicts implies that no single actor or approach can provide results; instead, specialized, multi-actor coalitions must be formed, drawing on various skills and capacities to address the unique problems of each circumstance.

**'The Future of Regional Conflict Mediation and the Limits of Traditional Institutional Frameworks** The GCC is increasingly expected to play a prominent role in resolving some of the region's greatest conflicts. However, the viability of these initiatives is contingent on the ability to successfully and effectively coordinate with international partners, particularly the EU. In the case of Gaza and the larger Israeli-Palestinian conflict, any meaningful peace offer must include specific provisions from the Israelis, the establishment of a Palestinian state, and Palestinian-led government. Without these aspects, efforts risk devolving into conflict management rather than to the establishment of long-term peace.





**Qatar-EU Cooperation - Challenges and Opportunities**  
Despite common goals and complementary strengths, collaboration between Qatar (and the wider GCC) and the EU remains underdeveloped and fragmented. Although both parties pursue parallel initiatives, they lack comprehensive collaboration, resulting in missed possibilities and inefficiencies for more impactful outcomes. While the EU is still widely regarded as a model for peaceful conflict resolution, there is rising concern about its lack of engagement and understanding of regional dynamics, particularly in light of the Gaza issue. To realize the full potential of this partnership, both parties must invest in mutual understanding, institutional reform, and the development of more responsive, layered frameworks for collaboration. This will necessitate not only political will, but also a readiness to reconsider existing approaches and embrace new forms of engagement. At the same time, traditional global governing institutions, such as the UN, are experiencing a crisis of relevance and efficacy, necessitating the development of innovative new tactics to capitalize on what capability remains.

**Rethinking Conflict Classification and Resource Allocation**  
Modern conflicts are complex and overlapping, making it increasingly challenging to categorize crises and deploy resources effectively. Stakeholders often have competing priorities—some focus on immediate crisis response, others on political solutions or long-term reconstruction—which hampers coordinated action. To make real progress, the international community must prioritize the most challenging conflicts and collaborate to achieve at least sustainable freezing, with stable countries providing crucial support and coverage. The idea that regional hegemons may wield obvious authority over their neighbors has been proven illusory, as even the most powerful governments typically lack trusted partners and interlocutors in adjacent countries.







## Promoting MENA Stability and Prosperity in the Context of EU-GCC Relations

Dinner Discussion: EU-GCC MENA Political Directors Preparatory Meeting

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

May 14, 2025



The Gulf Research Center (GRC), in partnership with the Bertelsmann Foundation, hosted a high-level dinner on May 14 in Riyadh titled "Promoting MENA Stability and Prosperity in the Context of EU-GCC Relations." The event served as a strategic platform to present and discuss the preliminary findings of a joint initiative exploring opportunities to strengthen cooperation between the European Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council in support of stability, development, and prosperity in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

The evening opened with welcoming remarks by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center; Hélène Le Gal, Managing Director for the Middle East and North Africa at the European External Action Service; and Michael Karnitschnig, Deputy Director-General for the MENA region at the European Commission. Each speaker underscored the growing importance of a more structured and forward-looking EU-GCC partnership to address shared regional challenges and harness economic and political synergies.



The dinner brought together a select group of senior EU officials from both the European External Action Service and the European Commission, alongside ambassadors from several EU member states accredited to Riyadh, as well as high-level representatives from the Gulf Cooperation Council and regional experts. The setting provided an informal yet substantive environment for an in-depth exchange of views on the evolving geopolitical landscape and the role of interregional cooperation in fostering peace, resilience, and sustainable growth in the broader MENA region.

As part of this collaborative effort, the GRC and the Bertelsmann Stiftung conducted a comprehensive survey of approximately 70 experts and policymakers

from across the GCC, EU, and MENA regions. The survey aimed to identify key areas of mutual interest and emerging priorities for deeper cooperation across sectors such as trade, climate and energy transition, security, and people-to-people engagement. The insights derived from the survey formed the basis of the evening's discussion, offering a snapshot of current policy thinking and highlighting converging interests between the two regions.

The event emphasized the increasing strategic weight of EU-GCC relations, particularly as both sides seek to recalibrate their foreign policy priorities in a shifting global order. Participants reaffirmed the need for more coordinated dialogue, stronger institutional mechanisms, and collaborative initiatives to address cross-border challenges ranging from conflict mediation and economic diversification to climate resilience and digital transformation.

This dinner discussion formed part of a broader initiative by the GRC and the Bertelsmann Foundation to facilitate sustained policy dialogue between the Gulf and European partners, and to promote a more coherent and inclusive regional order in the MENA region.







## Executive Training Program: Strengthening Global Partnerships: Gulf and Regional Cooperation

Geneva, Switzerland

May 5-9, 2025



The Gulf Research Center (GRC) successfully concluded its week-long Executive Training Program in Geneva, Switzerland, held under the theme "Strengthening Global Partnerships: Gulf and Regional Cooperation." The program brought together a distinguished group of participants from the Saudi Ministry of Foreign Affairs and other key governmental institutions, offering an immersive learning experience designed to enhance diplomatic skills, deepen policy knowledge, and strengthen international engagement.

As part of the program, participants had the distinct honor of meeting with H.E. Mr. Abdulmohsen Majed A. bin Khothaila, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations (UN) in Geneva, and H.E. Mr. Saqer bin Abdullah Al-Moqbel, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to the World Trade Organization (WTO). Both ambassadors shared valuable insights into Saudi Arabia's role in multilateral diplomacy, the priorities guiding its foreign policy, and the importance of building strategic partnerships through international institutions.



Over the course of the week, participants took part in a series of in-depth sessions led by experienced diplomats, academics, and practitioners from international organizations and policy institutions. The agenda covered a broad spectrum of critical themes, including the evolving geopolitical landscape and the Gulf's strategic positioning within it; economic diplomacy and sustainable development goals; the shifting dynamics of global power competition; and the Gulf's role in international organizations and multilateral governance frameworks.

Special emphasis was placed on understanding how Gulf countries can expand their cooperation with emerging regions across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, while continuing to build robust ties with traditional partners in Europe and the U.S.

The program offered participants not only theoretical grounding but also practical tools to navigate complex global challenges. Through interactive workshops, policy simulations, and high-level discussions, the training fostered a deeper understanding of how Gulf

states can proactively shape global policy agendas and contribute to regional and international peace, prosperity, and sustainable development.

This initiative is part of the Gulf Research Center's broader effort to invest in capacity building, knowledge transfer, and strategic foresight for future Gulf leaders. By hosting this program in Geneva—a global hub of diplomacy and multilateral cooperation—the GRC emphasized the critical importance of engaging with international institutions and strengthening Gulf visibility and participation on the world stage.







## Executive Training Program: Strengthening Global Partnerships: Gulf and Regional Cooperation

Geneva, Switzerland

May 5-9, 2025



The Gulf Research Center (GRC) and Interpeace are pleased to announce the launch of their joint initiative, "Dialogues on Global Coexistence," a strategic partnership aimed at addressing the pressing challenges of growing geopolitical fragmentation,

polarization, and protracted conflict. This initiative aspires to foster renewed global cooperation through inclusive dialogue, principled diplomacy, and the cultivation of innovative networks that transcend regional and ideological divides.





The formal agreement establishing this collaboration was signed in Geneva on May 8, 2025, by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), and Mr. Itonde Kakoma, President and CEO of Interpeace. Both institutions bring decades of experience in mediation, peacebuilding, and international engagement, and together they seek to contribute constructively to shaping a more stable and cooperative global order.

Through the Dialogues on Global Coexistence, the GRC and Interpeace will work closely with global partners, governments, multilateral organizations, civil society actors, and academic institutions that are committed to the principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, and inclusive governance. The initiative will serve as a platform for convening high-level dialogues, producing joint research, and supporting diplomatic processes that prioritize long-term peace and sustainable cooperation.



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



**Strengthening Saudi Brazil-Cooperation**  
Hannan Alghamdi  
May 2025



**Saudi Arabia and the U.S.-Iran Nuclear Talks: A Strategic Imperative for Engagement**  
Layla Ali  
May 2025



**USAID Budget Cuts**  
The Fate of Middle Eastern Studies at Specialized Think Tanks  
Mohammad S. Alzou'bi  
May 2025



**Trump's Visit Marked a Long-Overdue Recognition of Gulf's Transformation**  
Original Piece Published by (Arab News)  
Ambassador Adela Raz  
May 2025



**When Culture Becomes Strategic, Power Soft, and Identity Regional: The GCC Perspective**  
Tamara Uspenskikh  
May 2025



**A Return with Purpose: Trump's Second Saudi Visit**  
Amnah Mosly  
May 2025



## Commentary & Analyses



Gulf Research Center  
Knowledge For All

### Strategic Posturing in a Multipolar World

Dr. John Sfakianakis  
Chief Economist & Head of Economic Research  
May 2025



Gulf Research Center  
Knowledge For All

### Strategic Realignment: U.S.-Saudi Economic Relations in a Fragmenting Global Order

Dr. John Sfakianakis  
Chief Economist, Head of Economic Research  
May 2025



Gulf Research Center  
Knowledge For All

مركز الخليج للأبحاث  
المعرفة للجميع

### Unlocking Global Connectivity: The Strategic Imperative of IMEC and The Global Gateway

Houda Barroug  
April 2025



### Strategic Posturing in a Multipolar World

Dr. John Sfakianakis

May 2025

### Strategic Realignment: U.S.-Saudi Economic Relations in a Fragmenting Global Order

Dr. John Sfakianakis

May 2025

### Unlocking Global Connectivity: The Strategic Imperative of IMEC and The Global Gateway

Houda Barroug

May 2025

## Commentary & Analyses



Gulf Research Center  
Knowledge For All

### President Trump's Visit to Saudi Arabia: A Strategic Opportunity Amid Regional Challenges

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager  
Chairman, Gulf Research Center (GRC)  
May 2025



Gulf Research Center  
Knowledge For All

### Recent GCC Joint Environmental Initiatives

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf and Yara Al Majed \*  
April 2025



مركز الخليج للأبحاث  
المعرفة للجميع

### تأثير تخفيضات ميزانية الوكالة الأمريكية للتنمية الدولية

مستقبل الدراسات الشرق أوسطية في مراكز الفكر والأبحاث المتخصصة

محمد بن صالح الزمردى

رأى

مركز الخليج للأبحاث



### President Trump's Visit to Saudi Arabia: A Strategic Opportunity Amid Regional Challenges

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager

May 2025

### Recent GCC Joint Environmental Initiatives

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf & Yara Al Majed

May 2025

### USAID Budget Cuts - The Fate of Middle Eastern Studies at Specialized Think Tanks

Mohammad S. Alzou'bi

May 2025

## Selected Arabic Articles



قرار واشنطن وقف عملياتها الجوية والبحرية في اليمن  
(دراسة تحليلية)

يوسف كامل خطاب  
باحث أول  
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

25



النووي الإيراني  
بداياته.. أزمارته.. مآلاته..

يوسف كامل خطاب  
باحث أول  
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

25

## Washington's Decision to Halt its Air and Naval Operations in Yemen

Yousef Kamil Khattab

May 2025

## Iranian nuclear: its Beginnings, Crises and Consequences

Yousef Kamil Khattab

May 2025

## Araa



## Issue #209 (May 2025)

Implications of Shifting Power Balances and Deterrence Dynamics on the Arab Region and the World

## Country Updates and Trade Reports



## GCC-Iran Relations

Gulf Research Center

May 2025



## GCC-Russia Relations

Gulf Research Center

May 2025



## GCC- Sweden Relations

Gulf Research Center

May 2025



## GCC- Brazil Relations

Gulf Research Center

May 2025



## GCC-South Korea Relations

Gulf Research Center

May 2025



## GCC-Finland Relations

Gulf Research Center

May 2025





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



### GLMM

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

#### **New Research Project: Highly skilled workers' onward migration from the Gulf to the EU and North America: Trends and patterns of the global competition for talents:**

The project focuses on transnational migration patterns of non-Gulf highly skilled workers from the GCC to third countries in the EU and North America, and back. The project will also explore the trends and characteristics of migration from selected European countries to Gulf states (Germany, France, and the UK). Taking stock of the multiple types (repeated, secondary, serial, onward, stepwise, etc.) and trajectories (linear, circular, lateral, hierarchical, etc.) characterizing such migration, the project will seek to estimate the scale of the phenomenon, analyze the processes, characteristics, and drivers of these movements, seek to pinpoint whether patterns exist in these movements and their

possible differentials according to specific variables, as well as highlight their outcomes on Gulf states and selected destination or transit countries in the EU and North America.

Tackling this issue will increase information available to academics, as well as policymakers in the countries concerned, on a still under-researched phenomenon. Moreover, the project will usefully assess whether recent shifts in migration policies actually fulfill their aim of attracting, as well as retaining, highly skilled migrants in Gulf states. The project may also assess the outcomes of recent changes in the political contexts of the Global North, as well as that of migrants' countries of origin, on onward migration intentions, destination choices, return, or stay in Gulf states. Finally, the projects' results will add insights into the Gulf states' position in the global competition for talent between the three major immigration hubs worldwide (GCC, EU, and North America).

The expected output is: 13 Policy Briefs, 2 Background Papers, 3 Reports, a Bibliography, and two scheduled outreach webinars.—

The project is implemented in cooperation with and financial support from the [Regional Programme Gulf States \(RPG\) Konrad Adenauer Foundation \(KAS\)](#).

In 2024, GLMM/GRC and RPG/KAS jointly implemented the first phase of the project. Click [here](#) for more details.



## Data

For fifteen years, GLMM has gathered, analyzed, and published official data related to labour and migration from multiple sources of all six GCC states. The database contains more than 1,000 tables.

## Particular interesting additions:

### Fertility Rates in Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates:

- [Saudi Arabia: Estimated total fertility rate by nationality \(Saudi/non-Saudi\) \(2011 - 2022\)](#)
- [UAE: Number of births by mother's nationality \(Emirati/ non-Emirati\) and gender of child \(1977-2022\)](#)
- [UAE: Crude birth rates and emirati women's total fertility rates \(2016-2022\)](#)

### United Arab Emirates: Births and Parents' Nationality; Gender of the Child; Breakdown per Emirate; and Mother's Age Group

- [UAE: Number of births by parents' nationality \(Emirati/ non-Emirati\) and gender of child \(2022\)](#)
- [UAE: Number of births by nationality \(Emirati/ non-Emirati\) and gender of child, and Emirate \(2022\)](#)
- [UAE: Number of births by nationality \(Emirati/ non-Emirati\) and gender of child, and mother's age group \(2022\)](#)

## 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](#)

## GCC regional tables

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

## Upcoming Workshop

GLMM is organizing a workshop in the framework of the 15th Gulf Research Meeting which will take place in Cambridge, UK from 22-24 July 2025: "[Highly Skilled Migrants and the GCC Countries: Drivers, Perceptions, Policies, and New Dynamics](#)," directed by Dr. Françoise De Bel-Air and Prof. Anju Paul. 55 applications were received from which a total of 20 were selected to be presented at the workshop. Registration to participate as a non-paper presenter is now open on the GRM website which can be found [here](#).

**Contact: Mr. Imco Brouwer:** [imco.brouwer@grc.net](mailto:imco.brouwer@grc.net)

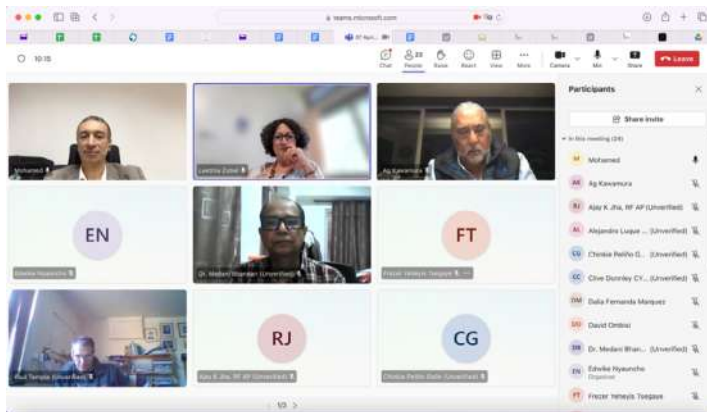




## Environmental Security and Sustainability Program

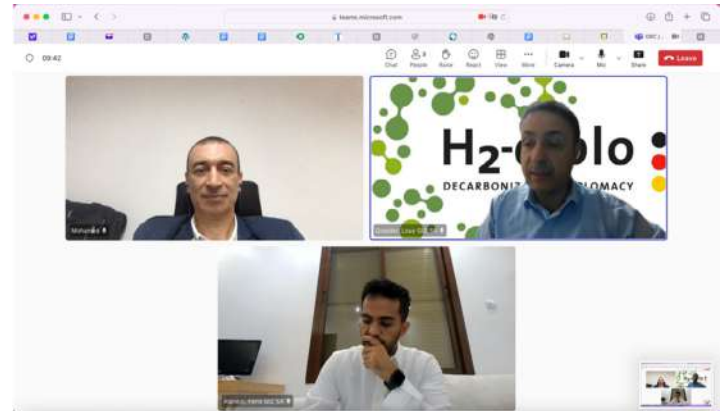
**5 May 2025**

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center chaired the monthly telecall for UNEP Major Groups Facilitating Committee (MGFC). The call discussed Major Groups activities in the next few months including following up to Plastic Treaty Negotiations INC5.2 and OEWG 3.2 on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention, current Major Groups elections and upcoming UNEP regional consultations.



**7 May 2025**

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center had a virtual meeting with Mr. Faris Alanezi, head of H2 diplo office in Riyadh to exchange ideas and discuss possible cooperation between GRC and H2 diplo including research, workshops, conferences, and business missions from the Gulf to Germany.

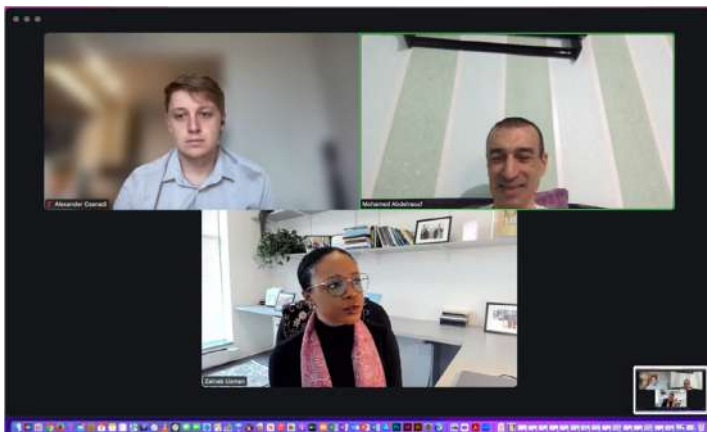


**9 May 2025**

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center had a virtual meeting with Ms. Shereen Zorba, the Executive Director of the UN Science Policy Business Forum to discuss the 2025 plan of UNSPF and possible cooperation in the various upcoming activities of the Forum in 2025 including regional forum meetings in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. In addition to holding a joint pavilion (Impact Pavilion) during UNFCC COP30 in Belem, Brazil, in November 2025.

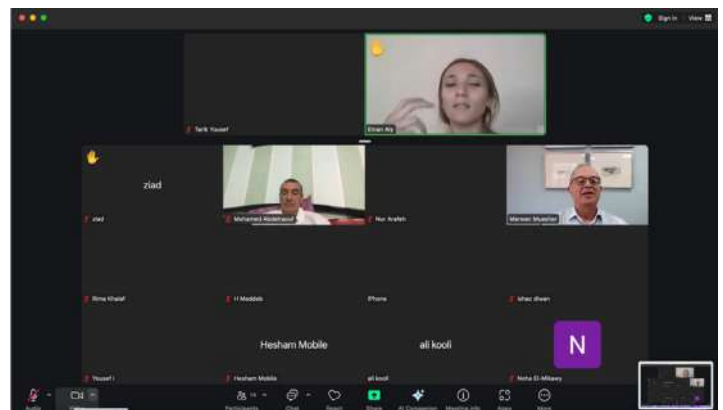


Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center participated in the second virtual meeting with The Africa Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace for the kick off meeting for the project Alternative Jurisdictions and Instruments of Climate Finance for Africa to discuss the GRC's role in the project in terms of guidance in identifying subject-matter experts in the GCC, participation of GRC scholars in the actual research, and possibly hosting or co-organizing a workshop for the project in the Gulf region. The meeting outlined the next practical steps to secure potential authors for the proposed book.



## 12 May 2025

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center participated in the second virtual meeting of a commission of Arab thinkers and practitioners for the purpose of a research project that seeks to explore the politics and geopolitics of decarbonization in the MENA region. The project aims to assess the impacts of decarbonization in light of the Paris Agreement on the ongoing energy transition in the region, examine the challenges it poses for energy-producing countries and those dependent on oil recycling, and develop a blueprint for transitioning to a post-rentier economic model in the region. The project concept note was finalized in this meeting.





## Cultural & Media Program



May 21, 2025

The Gulf Dialogue Lab at the Gulf Research Center, in partnership with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), hosted a Roundtable Forum under the title: Intercultural Exchange during Hajj.



## Publications



May 18, 2025

The GRC's Cultural & Media Program published a paper titled "The Concept of Cultural Strategies in the Arab World: Realities and Aspirations." Access the full paper [here](#).

May 19, 2025



The GRC's Cultural & Media Program published a paper titled "The Intellectual and the Allure of Power." Access the full paper [here](#).

## GRC Podcast Activities

May 12, 2025

The GRC Podcast provided an overview titled "A Hub for the Islamic Arts Biennale." Click [here](#) for the full episode.

May 19, 2025

The GRC Podcast provided an overview titled "Following in his footsteps on the path of the Prophetic Hijrah." Click [here](#) for the full episode.



## May 20, 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated as a speaker at the 28th Arab-German Business Forum organized by the Arab-German Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Berlin on April 20, 2025, in a session on "Saudi Arabia as the Powerhouse of the Arab Economy." Dr. Sager discussed areas to enhance Saudi-German economic ties through innovation, technology transfer, and strategic investment partnerships.

The panel also included the participation of:

- HRH Prince Abdullah bin Khaled Al Saud, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to Germany
- Mr. Khaled Juffali, Chairman of the Saudi German Business Council, Chairman of Juffali Group
- Mr. Olaf Hoffman, President of Ghorfa, Chairman of Dorsch Global
- Dr. Dalia Samra-Rohte, Delegate of German Industry & Commerce for Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Yemen

## May 14, 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Prof. Janice Stein, Founding Director of the Munk School of Global Affairs &

Public Policy, Amb. Arif Lalani, Distinguished Fellow at the Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, and Chiran Perera, Canadian Foreign Service Officer, at the GRC's office in Riyadh. The meeting focused on strengthening mutual relations and enhancing research cooperation and joint activities between the two institutions.

## May 14, 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with H.E. Mr. Javier Carbajosa Sanchez, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Spain to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Ms. Carmen Margarinos Casal, Director-General for the Maghreb, Mediterranean, and Arab World at the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The meeting focused on issues of mutual interest, current regional developments, and the upcoming EU-GCC MENA Political Directors' Meeting taking place in Riyadh.

## May 14, 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Prof. Dr. Wang Jian, Director of the Institute of International Relations at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, at the GRC's office in Riyadh. Prof. Dr. Wang was accompanied by colleagues from the Academy. The meeting focused on strengthening mutual relations and enhancing research cooperation and joint activities between the two institutions.





## May 12, 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Mr. Ji Yongjun, Director-General of the Asia-Africa Department of the Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), and his accompanying delegation at the GRC office in Riyadh. The discussion focused on areas of mutual interest and recent developments in the region.

## May 12, 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with H.E. Mr. Carlo Baldocci, Ambassador of Italy to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC office in Riyadh. The meeting focused on areas of mutual interest and recent regional developments, including the upcoming EU-GCC Political Directors meeting taking place in Riyadh on May 15, 2025.

## May 10, 2025



Amnah Mosly, Researcher at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in the NEXT Milan Forum 2025, co-hosted by ISPI, Bocconi University, and OECD Development.

## May 7, 2025



Dr. Ahmed Sager, Vice President of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), received HRH Princess Christina, sister of the King of Sweden, Mr. Tord Magnuson, and their accompanying delegation on May 7 at the GRC office in Riyadh. The meeting addressed topics of mutual interest between the two sides.

## May 6, 2025



Dr. Ahmed Sager, Vice President of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated as a speaker in a workshop titled "Think Tanks in the Kingdom: Experiences, Challenges, and Future Prospects," organized by Prince Saud Al-Faisal Institute for Diplomatic Studies and the Center for Research and Knowledge Intercommunication. Dr. Sager addressed the key challenges facing think tanks in the Kingdom and presented a set of recommendations to enhance their role and strengthen their partnerships.

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



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated on 20 May 2025 in the program Madar Al-Layl wal-Nahar on the Russian International News Agency, Sputnik Radio.

He discussed the implications of President Trump's visit to the Gulf states, as well as the key decisions and agreements signed.

To watch the full interview, click [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated on 16 May 2025 in the program Asas Media in an episode titled "The Pillars of the Policy of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and Arab Concerns Over Losing Syria to Turkey."

To watch the full episode, click [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated on 15 May 2025 in the program Qisara Al-Qawl on Russia Today (RT Arabic) in an episode titled: "Wonders Come from Saudi Arabia."

To watch the full episode, click [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated on 15 May 2025 in Al Arabiya's Al-Rabea News Bulletin, discussing the visit of U.S. President Donald Trump to Riyadh.

To watch the full segment, click [here](#).





Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), gave an interview to Asharq Al-Awsat on 14 May 2025, titled: "Saudi-American-Syrian Meeting in Riyadh."

In the interview, Dr. Sager stated: "Saudi Arabia's role in regional and international politics is indispensable."

To read the full article, click [here](#).



Dr. Zaid Al-Fadhil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated on 13 May 2025 in a program with journalist Tony Khalife on Al Mashhad TV, in an episode titled: "Politics Is Based on Interests, and Trump Manages Politics with a Business Mindset."

The discussion followed President Trump's striking and astonishing speech at the Investment Forum in Riyadh.

To watch the full episode, click [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated on 13 May 2025 in the live coverage on Asharq News Channel of U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia, in a segment titled: "Saudi Arabia and the U.S.: The Potential Security Agreement."

To watch the full coverage, click [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated on 13 May 2025 in the program "World at Noon" on BBC Arabic, discussing U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia.

To watch the full segment, click [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), made a guest appearance on 13 May 2025 as part of the special coverage on Al Arabiya of U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia.

To watch the full segment, click [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated on 13 May 2025 in the live coverage on Al Hadath Channel of U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia, in a segment titled: "Saudi Arabia's Diversification of Alliances and Balancing Between East and West."

To watch the full segment, click [here](#).



"A historic visit in its timing and political and economic significance, reflecting Saudi Arabia's importance on both the international and regional stage."

This was highlighted by Dr. Zaid Al-Fadhil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), during his appearance on the program "7 o'clock News" on Roya News, in an episode titled: "Why Did Trump Choose Saudi Arabia as His First Foreign Destination?"

The appearance aired on 13 May 2025.

To watch the full segment, click [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), gave an interview to Asharq News published on 13 May 2025, in an article titled: "A New Regional Landscape Awaits Trump During His Second Visit to Saudi Arabia."

To read the full article, click [here](#).





Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated on 12 May 2025 in Al-Rabea News Bulletin on Al Arabiya Channel, discussing the upcoming visit of U.S. President Donald Trump to Saudi Arabia.

To watch the full segment, click [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), recently published an article with Arab News titled "A Strategic Opportunity Amid Regional Challenges," offering key insights into President Trump's visit to Saudi Arabia.

Read the full piece [here](#).



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), gave an interview to Independent Arabia, published on Sunday, 11 May 2025, in an article titled: "The 'Alliance of the Century' Faces a New Test... in the Era of the 'Predatory Friend'."

To read the full article, click [here](#).



**Gulf Research Center  
Jeddah  
(Main office)**

19 Rayat Alitihad Street  
P.O. Box 2134  
Jeddah 21451  
Saudi Arabia  
Tel: +966 12 6511999  
Fax: +966 12 6531375  
Email: info@grc.net



**Gulf Research Center  
Riyadh**

Unit FN11A  
King Faisal Foundation  
North Tower  
King Fahd Branch Rd  
Al Olaya Riyadh 12212  
Saudi Arabia  
Tel: +966 112112567  
Email: info@grc.net



**Gulf Research Center  
Foundation Geneva**

Avenue de France 23  
1202 Geneva  
Switzerland  
Tel: +41227162730  
Email: info@grc.net



**Gulf Research Centre  
Cambridge**

University of Cambridge  
Sidgwick Avenue,  
Cambridge CB3 9DA  
United Kingdom  
Tel: +44-1223-760758  
Fax: +44-1223-335110



**Gulf Research Center  
Foundation Brussels**

Avenue de  
Cortenbergh 89  
4<sup>th</sup> floor, 1000  
Brussels  
Belgium



**Gulf Research Center**  
Knowledge for All

© Gulf Research Center 2024

[www.grc.net](http://www.grc.net)

# GULF RESEARCH CENTER NEWSLETTER

MAY 2025



@gulfresearchcenter



@gulf\_research



@gulfresearchcenter