



GRC Events & Activities

Escalation and Diplomacy: Gulf Perspectives on the Israel-Iran War Summary and Key Outcomes

مركز الخليج للأبحاث
المعرفة للجميع
Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

Gulf Research Center (GRC) Webinar
Escalation and Diplomacy: Gulf Perspectives on the Israel-Iran War

SPEAKERS:

MODERATOR:
Dr. Christian Koch
Director of Research, GRC
Executive Manager
GRC Foundation Brussels

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager
Chairman
Gulf Research Center (GRC)

Dr. Mustafa Alani
Director of Security and
Defense Program
Gulf Research Center (GRC)

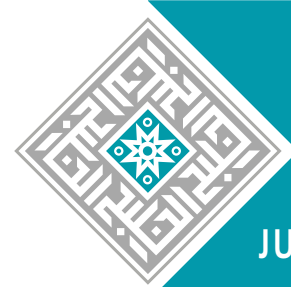
Prof. Giacomo Luciani
Trustee and a Founding
Member of the Gulf Research
Center Foundation Geneva
Gulf Research Center (GRC)

Dr. John Sfakianakis
Chief Economist, Head of
Economic Research
Gulf Research Center (GRC)

Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan
Senior Advisor
Gulf Research Center (GRC)

On June 30, 2025, the Gulf Research Center (GRC) hosted a webinar titled "Escalation and Diplomacy: Gulf Perspectives on the Israel-Iran War." The session brought together GRC experts and analysts to examine the implications of the recent Iran-Israel conflict, focusing on the potential repercussions for the Gulf region and broader Middle East.

- ◆ **GRC Events & Activities**
 - Webinar: Escalation and Diplomacy: Gulf Perspectives on the Israel-Iran War
 - Webinar: Rethinking Afghanistan-Gulf Relations in a Changing Geopolitical Landscape
- ◆ **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**



Speakers included Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC; Giacomo Luciani, Trustee and a Founding Member of the Gulf Research Center Foundation Geneva; Dr. Mustafa Alani, Director of Security and Defense Studies at the GRC; Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist and Head of Economic Research at the GRC; and Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan, Senior Advisor at the GRC. Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the GRC, moderated the webinar.

The webinar covered six themes:

1. Gulf states' diplomatic and strategic positioning in light of recent regional events
2. Assessment of the Israel-Iran military exchange and nuclear implications
3. Impact on oil markets and fiscal stability in the Gulf
4. The limits of external mediation and the need for regional engagement.
5. Prospects for GCC-led diplomacy and security frameworks
6. Lessons for nuclear non-proliferation and geopolitical changes

The discussions assessed military outcomes, regional stability, diplomatic engagement, and the shifting balance of power in light of Iran's nuclear program and the Gulf's strategic position.

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager emphasised that the Gulf states condemned the Israeli aggression and its actions under international law but remain cautious toward

Iran, particularly its nuclear ambitions. He highlighted the importance of diplomacy and reaffirmed the Kingdom's stance on the two-state solution in the Israel-Palestine conflict as a precondition of Saudi Arabia's normalization with Israel. Dr. Sager also pointed out that foreign military operations, especially on Gulf territory (i.e., Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar), are unacceptable and undermine sovereignty. In addition, he asserted the GCC's opposition to regime change in Iran, stressing that such matters must be resolved internally by the Iranian people. He expressed a Saudi willingness to mediate between Iran and the US, citing historical efforts such as that of Russia and Ukraine, but called for Iran to abandon threatening rhetoric and militia-based regional influence.

Prof. Giacomo Luciani emphasized that oil prices are more influenced by speculation than real geopolitical disruptions. Therefore, markets remained relatively stable during the recent crisis. He stated that OPEC+ dynamics may shift post-conflict with Saudi Arabia increasing oil production, aiming to lower prices and undercut high-cost producers, especially in the US. Arguing that issues of nuclear enrichment and proliferation are likely to dominate much of the agenda in the coming period, he advocated for a collective and regional approach to nuclear enrichment, including Iran, to prevent proliferation crises.

Dr. Mustafa Alani evaluated the military operation against Iran's nuclear facilities, claiming that the military operation against Iran's nuclear facilities achieved around 90% of its objectives. He underlined the fact that the operation was not put together at the last minute but had, in fact, been in preparation



for about 10 years backed by intense intelligence planning from both Israel and the US. Despite this, Iran's broader nuclear ambitions remain unresolved. Dr. Alani dismissed any suggestion that Iran was close to nuclear weapon capability, yet affirmed the program was military in intent. He also questioned Iran's ability to recover quickly under the threat of continued strikes from the US and Israel, despite Iran's surviving leadership structures. He then noted how the GCC's influence over the nuclear dimension remains minimal, although its strategic alignment will matter in the post-conflict phase.

Dr. John Sfakianakis observed that global financial markets are extremely de-sensitized to the Middle East's unpredictable circumstances unless it directly impacts supply chains. For example, he noted the disconnect between economic analysts and Middle East conflicts except in cases involving global escalation or nuclear risk. He mentioned that high oil prices could benefit Saudi's fiscal situation, particularly in funding its Vision 2030 projects, though unpredictable circumstances remain a concern. Dr. Sfakianakis warned that the war could affect the GCC's international image as a stable, emerging hub of soft power and neutrality.

Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan labeled the conflict the most dangerous since the 2003 Iraq War due to its regional implications. He argued that both Israel and Iran emerged from the conflict politically weakened, presenting the GRC with the golden opportunity to pursue constructive engagement. He outlined a three-

track response: opposition to Iran's nuclear armament, renewed diplomatic outreach to Iran, and stronger political pressure on Israel over its destabilizing regional policies. Dr. Al-Khathlan argued that strategic decisions often rely on perception, not just facts, and that the Gulf must be active in shaping both.

Overall, the webinar conveyed a sense that the GCC states must use their diplomatic leverage and position of economic influence in shaping the post-conflict landscape. This would include:

- **Reinvesting in Multilateral Diplomacy:** The GCC is encouraged to actively pursue confidence-building frameworks with Iran and other neighbours—especially around nuclear risk and military transparency.
- **Reasserting Commitment to a Two-State Solution:** Normalization with Israel must be tied to concrete advances toward Palestinian statehood.
- **Balancing Energy Diplomacy with Stability:** While oil price gains benefit fiscal goals, Gulf producers are advised to manage perception by reinforcing their commitment to global stability.
- **Shaping Strategic Narrative:** With Iran and Israel both politically weakened, the GCC has an opportunity to shape the next phase of regional order through proactive engagement and multilateral alignment.

Re-watch the recording of the webinar [here](#)



Rethinking Afghanistan-Gulf Relations in a Changing Geopolitical Landscape

Summary and Key Outcomes

**PRINCETON SPIA
AFGHANISTAN POLICY LAB**



**مركز الخليج للأبحاث
Gulf Research Center**

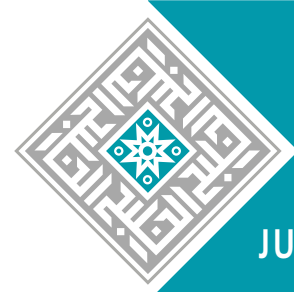
On June 3, 2025, the Gulf Research Center (GRC) and the Afghanistan Policy Lab at Princeton University's School of Public and International Affairs co-hosted a closed-door webinar titled "Rethinking Afghanistan-Gulf Relations in a Changing Geopolitical Landscape." The session brought together experts and policymakers to examine the evolving dynamics of GCC-Afghanistan relations, with discussions spanning political, economic, and humanitarian dimensions.

The speakers of the webinar were Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the GRC; Dean Amaney Jamal, Dean of the Princeton School of Public and International Affairs; Ambassador Adela Raz, Director of the Afghanistan Policy Lab at Princeton School of Public and International Affairs; Ms. Fatima Gailani, Afghan Women's Rights Activist, Former President of the Afghan Red Crescent, and Member of the Afghanistan Peace Negotiating Team; H.E. Dr. Majed Al Ansari, Advisor to the Prime Minister, Spokesperson to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Director of the Center for International Policy Research (CIPR); Dr. Yousuf Al Bulushi, Chairman of the Muscat Policy Council; and H.E. Dr. Sultan Mohammed Al-Nuaimi, Director General of the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research. Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the GRC, moderated the webinar.

The webinar covered five themes:

1. Current Gulf countries' policies and strategies for Afghanistan
2. Opportunities for humanitarian, economic, and political cooperation
3. Perspectives on how Afghanistan fits into the Gulf's regional and global foreign policy outlook
4. Practical recommendations for enhancing Afghanistan-Gulf relations in a way that promotes stability, development, and prosperity
5. Gulf countries' expectations and demands from the Afghan government

The dialogue focused on Afghanistan's current situation and the potential avenues for strategic engagement by the Gulf states. Participants explored pressing challenges, including extremism, drug trafficking, and regional instability, while emphasizing the importance of inclusive dialogue and collaborative efforts to foster long-term peace. It was noted that Gulf support for Afghanistan hinges on concrete actions by the Afghan authorities, particularly in the areas of counterterrorism and governance.



Speakers underscored the urgent need for a political settlement in Afghanistan, stressing the critical role of the GCC in stabilizing the country. The importance of involving all Afghans in the peace process was emphasized, as was the need to redirect regional attention to Afghanistan's internal issues in the current geopolitical context.

Qatar's distinct role as a mediator between the Taliban and the United States was discussed, with recognition of its efforts in facilitating dialogue and promoting greater inclusivity within the Afghan government. Despite existing challenges, participants agreed that constructive strategic engagement with the Taliban remains essential for advancing peace and addressing humanitarian needs and women's rights.

The session also underscored the importance of empowering Afghan institutions through capacity-building initiatives, such as training bureaucrats on human rights and governance. The emergence of a new generation in Afghanistan was seen as a potential driver for meaningful change under the current regime.

Regional engagement was another key theme, with emphasis placed on connecting with Afghanistan's youth and addressing their socio-economic concerns. Panelists noted the cautious yet strategic diplomatic overtures by Gulf states and stressed the need to balance engagement with regional dynamics.

The UAE's diplomatic outreach was cited as an example of the Gulf's role which could be directed toward promoting stability and economic development. Speakers also addressed the critical issue of supporting Afghan women, emphasizing the importance of their participation across sectors, even amid the challenges of working with Taliban leadership. Historical ties between the Gulf and Afghanistan were acknowledged as a foundation for future cooperation.

Finally, participants called for a more proactive Gulf role in Afghanistan's economic recovery, particularly in sectors such as agriculture and labor. They advocated for enhanced humanitarian assistance, greater support for UN-led peace initiatives, and sustained regional dialogue to counter extremism and disinformation, focusing on peace and stability in Afghanistan.

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



The Invisible Casualty of the Israel-Iran War

Mohamed Abdelraouf
June 2025



Unexpected Facilitators: Gulf States and the India-Pakistan Conflict

Emil Avdaliani
June 2025



Qatar and Japan's LNG Relationship: Foundations, Evolution, and Strategic Outlook

Noriko Suzuki
June 2025



[The Invisible Casualty of the Israel-Iran War](#)

Dr. Mohamad Abdelraouf
June 2025



[Unexpected Facilitators: Gulf States and the India-Pakistan Conflict](#)

Emil Avdaliani
June 2025



[Qatar and Japan's LNG Relationship: Foundations, Evolution, and Strategic Outlook](#)

Noriko Suzuki
June 2025



The Reconfiguration of North Africa: National Disruptions and Transregional Dynamics

Dr. Elyssa Jalloul
June 2025



Implications of Recent Escalations for the Saudi-Iran Rapprochement and China's Role

Layla Ali
June 2025



US Foreign Policy Retrenchment in Africa: Implications for Gulf Engagement and Strategy

Michael W. Wilson
June 2025



[The Reconfiguration of North Africa: National Disruptions and Transregional Dynamics](#)

Dr. Elyssa Jalloul
June 2025



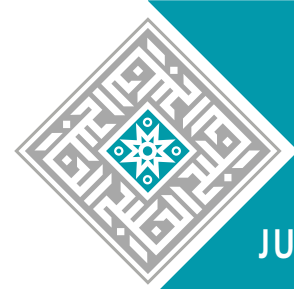
[Implications of Recent Escalations for the Saudi-Iran Rapprochement and China's Role](#)

Layla Ali
June 2025



[US Foreign Policy Retrenchment in Africa: Implications for Gulf Engagement and Strategy](#)

Michael W. Wilson
June 2025



Commentary & Analyses



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

A Fragile Consensus in the Making: An Analysis of the NATO Summit in The Hague

Rt. Hon. Rafael Hernández de Santiago
June 2025



25



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

The Strategic Illusion of Regime Change

Dr. John Sfakianakis
June 2025



25



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

The Arab Think Tank & Research Network (ARTTN) Forging a New Intellectual Infrastructure for the Arab World

Mohammad S. Alzoubi
June 2025



25

[A Fragile Consensus in the Making: An Analysis of the NATO Summit in The Hague](#)

Rt. Hon. Rafael Hernández de Santiago
June 2025

[The Strategic Illusion of Regime Change](#)

Dr. John Sfakianakis
June 2025

[The Arab Think Tank & Research Network \(ARTTN\) Forging a New Intellectual Infrastructure for the Arab World](#)

Mohammad S. Alzoubi
June 2025



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

Rethinking Korea-Africa Relations: Toward Strategic Partnership for Shared Growth

Houda Barroug
June 2025



25



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

From the Gulf to the Globe: Regional Instability and the Case for International Action on the Israel-Iran Conflict

Amnah Mosly
June 2025



25



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

The Regional Implications of Escalating Iran-Israel Tensions

Published on Arab News

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager
June 2025



25

[Rethinking Korea-Africa Relations: Toward Strategic Partnership for Shared Growth](#)

Houda Barroug
June 2025

[From the Gulf to the Globe: Regional Instability and the Case for International Action on the Israel-Iran Conflict](#)

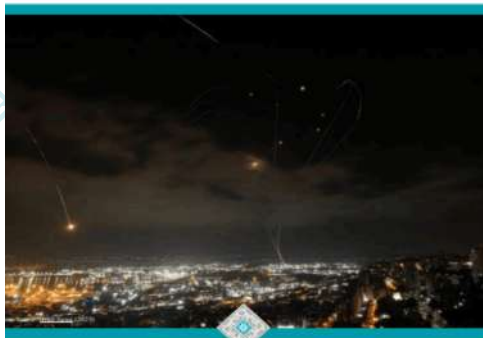
Amnah Mosly
June 2025

[The Regional Implications of Escalating Iran-Israel Tensions](#)

Published in Arab News
Dr. Abdulaziz Sager
June 2025



Commentary & Analyses



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

Europe and GCC must lead a Middle East reset
Published on Arab News

Dr. Christian Koch
June 2025

25



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

The Price of Escalation: Accounting for the Military Costs of the 2025 Israel Iran Conflict

The Rt. Hon. Rafael Hernández de Santiago
Viscount of Espiñ, Senior Researcher
Gulf Research Center (GRC)

25



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

What the Israel-Iran War Means for Gulf Economies

Dr. John Sfakianakis
Chief Economist, Head of Economic Research
Gulf Research Center (GRC)

25

[Europe and GCC must lead a Middle East reset](#)

Published in Arab News

Dr. Christian Koch

June 2025

[The Price of Escalation: Accounting for the Military Costs of the 2025 Israel Iran Conflict](#)

Rt. Hon. Rafael Hernández de Santiago

June 2025

[What the Israel-Iran War Means for Gulf Economies](#)

Dr. John Sfakianakis

June 2025



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

Strategic and Political Implications for Israel and Iran: The Day After War

Mohammad S. Alzou'bi
Researcher
Gulf Research Center

25



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

Rebuilding EU-UK Security Cooperation: A Case of Pragmatism Over Integration

Houda Barroug
June 2025

25

[Strategic and Political Implications for Israel and Iran: The Day After War](#)

Mohammad S. Alzou'bi

June 2025

[Rebuilding EU-UK Security Cooperation: A Case of Pragmatism Over Integration](#)

Houda Barroug

June 2025

Selected Arabic Articles



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

The GCC-ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur: Strategic Symbolism or Substantive Shift?

Layla Ali
June 2025

25

[The GCC-ASEAN Summit in Kuala Lumpur: Strategic Symbolism or Substantive Shift?](#)

Layla Ali

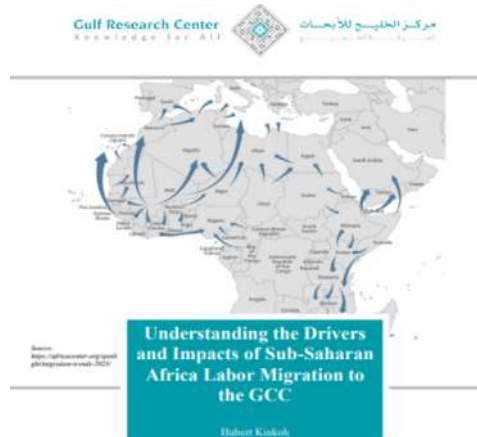
June 2025

Commentary & Analyses



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

Ports, Power, and Proxy Wars: GCC Engagement in the Horn of Africa
Michael W. Wilson
June 2025



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

Understanding the Drivers and Impacts of Sub-Saharan Africa Labor Migration to the GCC
Hubert Kinkoh



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

Rethinking Afghanistan-Gulf Relations in a Changing Geopolitical Landscape
Summary and Key Outcomes
June 3, 2025

[Ports, Power, and Proxy Wars: GCC Engagement in the Horn of Africa](#)

Michael W. Wilson

June 2025

[Understanding the Drivers and Impacts of Sub-Saharan Africa Labor Migration to the GCC](#)

Hubert Kinkoh

June 2025

[Rethinking Afghanistan-Gulf Relations in a Changing Geopolitical Landscape](#)

Gulf Research Center

June 2025



مركز الخليج للأبحاث
Gulf Research Center

كيف حوّل الموساد مفهوم الاستخبارات من أعمال جمع المعلومات السرية إلى أعمال الإدارة والتأثير؟
الظل الأزرق في حرب إيران

محمد بن صافي الزعبي
باحث
مركز الخليج للأبحاث



مركز الخليج للأبحاث
Gulf Research Center

السردية الثقافية للحرب الإسرائيلية الإيرانية
من ثقافة الخوف إلى ثقافة التضحية

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



مركز الخليج للأبحاث
Gulf Research Center

إيران وحلفائها.. التخلي التكتيكي أم الانهيار الحتمي

د. رشا العزاوي
باحث أول
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

How did Mossad redefine the concept of intelligence—transforming it from a covert action tool into an instrument of strategic management and influence? The 'Blue Shadow' in the Iran-Israel War

Mohammad S. Alzou'bi

June 2025

The Cultural Narrative of the Israeli War From a Culture of Fear to a Culture of Sacrifice

Dr. Zaid A. Alfadeil

June 2025

Iran and its Allies: Tactical Abandonment or Inevitable Collapse

Dr. Rasha Al azzawi

June 2025

Selected Arabic Articles



التداعيات الاستراتيجية والسياسية على إسرائيل وإيران:
اليوم التالي للحرب

محمد بن ساري الزمعي
باحث
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

25

Strategic Implications for Israel and Iran: The Day After War

Mohammad S. Alzou'bi

June 2025



التحالفات العراقية في انتخابات 2025 التركيبات
الحزبية وفرص الفوز

د. رشا العزاوي
باحث أول
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

25

Iraqi Alliances in the 2025 Elections: Party Structures and Chances of Winning

Dr. Rasha Al Azzawi

June 2025



موقف المملكة العربية السعودية من الحرب على غزة
(قراءة تحليلية)

يوسف كامل خطاب
باحث أول
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

25

Saudi Arabia's Position on the War on Gaza

Yousef Kamil Khattab

June 2025

Araa



التداعيات الاستراتيجية والسياسية على إسرائيل وإيران:
اليوم التالي للحرب

محمد بن ساري الزمعي
باحث
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

25

The "Tariff Crisis" and the Threat of World War. How Will It Reshape American Imperial Expansion and the Balance of Global Power Centers?

Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf

June 2025



التحالفات العراقية في انتخابات 2025 التركيبات
الحزبية وفرص الفوز

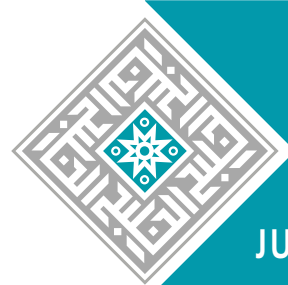
د. رشا العزاوي
باحث أول
مركز الخليج للأبحاث

25

Issue #210 (June 2025)

The Impact of Trump's Tariffs on the Economy, Trade, and Global Growth

Country Updates & Trade Reports



Country Updates & Trade Reports



Malaysia - GCC Relations

Gulf Research Center

June 2025



Norway-GCC Relations

Gulf Research Center

June 2025



Russia - GCC Relations

Gulf Research Center

June 2025



Iran - GCC Relations

Gulf Research Center

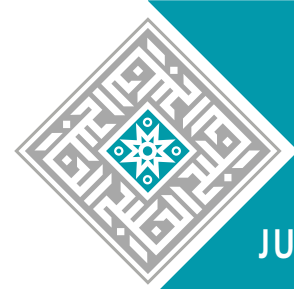
June 2025



GCC & Latin America Cooperation

Gulf Research Center

June 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](#).

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.

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](#).

Particularly interesting additions

Qatar: Population, Births, and Nationality 1981 - 2022

[Qatar:](#) Population by nationality (Qatari/non-Qatari) and sex at dates of censuses (1986-2020)

[Qatar:](#) Population by nationality (Qatari/non-Qatari) at dates of censuses (1970-2020)

[Qatar:](#) Registered live births by nationality of child (1981-2022)

Publications

Magdalena Karolak, "Real Estate Market Boom in the UAE and Migration Flows," GLMM Policy Brief

Georges Naufal, "Navigating the AI Revolution: Impacts and Policy Responses for Expatriate Populations in the GCC," GLMM Policy Brief

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 titled "[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

Environmental Security and Sustainability Program

In June 2025, Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center participated in the following events:

5 June 2025

A virtual coordination meeting for UNEP Major Groups ahead of the OEWG 3.2 Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, to plan and distribute roles during the OEWG 3.2.

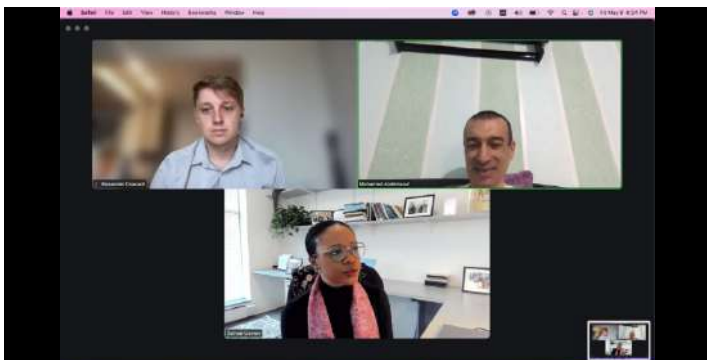
6 June 2025

A virtual interview on the topic of the BRICS Climate and Just Energy Transitions Project by SAIIA from South Africa where he discussed where the GCC region stands and potential for climate and energy transition.

10 June 2025

A virtual coordination meeting for UNEP Major Groups ahead of the UNEA 7 Joint Bureaus Retreat Meeting to take place in Muscat, Oman on July 2 to discuss Major Groups input for the ministerial declaration as well as the follow up of various UNEA 6 resolutions.

18 June 2025



A third virtual meeting with The Africa Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace for the project "Alternative Jurisdictions and Instruments of Climate Finance for Africa" to discuss the various book chapters outlined by potential authors as well as a possible host for the first workshop for the project in the Gulf region.

14-18 June 2025



An OEWG 3.2: Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution in Punta del Este, Uruguay. Dr. Raouf lead the international Major Groups Consultation's daily morning briefing and made various interventions during the meeting.

19-20 June 2025

An intergovernmental meeting to discuss the outcomes of the OEWG 3.2: Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution in Punta del Este, Uruguay. The intergovernmental meeting established an Intergovernmental Science Policy Panel on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution.



Cultural & Media Program



Publications

June 2, 2025



The GRC's Cultural & Media Program published a paper titled "The Default in History is Accusation, not Exoneration."

Access the full paper [here](#).

GRC Podcast Activities

June 17, 2025

The GRC Podcast provided a brief overview titled: "King Abdulaziz Foundation for Research and Archives."

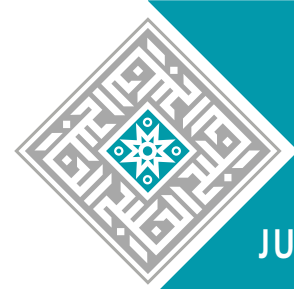
Watch the full episode [here](#).

June 3, 2025



The Gulf Dialogue Lab at the Gulf Research Center, in partnership with the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, presented a report on the roundtable forum titled "Intercultural Exchange during Hajj."

Access the full paper [here](#).



June 23, 2025



Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the GRC Foundation Brussels (GRCFB) and Director of Research at the GRC, spoke in a panel at the 7th German-Arab Gulf Dialogue organized by the German-Arab Friendship Association and the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation and held in Berlin on June 23 and 24, 2025. Dr. Koch focused his remarks on short-, medium- and long-term steps to be taken to contribute to a peacebuilding agenda in the region and beyond.

June 23, 3035

Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the GRC Foundation Brussels and Director of Research at the GRC, participated in the 'Rethinking EU-GCC Cooperation on Peace & Conflict Amid Turbulent Times' meeting organized by the Berghof Foundation in Berlin.

June 20, 2025



The GRCFB office met with Andrea Cangini, Secretary-General of the Luigi Einaudi Foundation and former Senator of the Italian Republic and members of the foundation, to discuss potential future collaboration.

June 18, 2025



Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Program Director for Environmental Security and Sustainability at the GRC spoke at the 3rd Meeting of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on a Science-Policy Panel to Contribute Further to the Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste and to Prevent Pollution held in Uruguay, emphasizing the importance of active engagement of Major Groups in all activities of the panel. Delegates are trying to finalize recommendations for key design elements of the new science-policy panel.

June 16-17, 2025





Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the GRC Foundation Brussels, participated in a conference organized by the ICI Institute and Egmont on "China in the Middle East: Geopolitics, Trade and Society" and held in Brussels. Conference participants discussed emerging challenges and opportunities in the relationship between China and the Middle East. Dr. Koch provided remarks in the session titled "China-Middle East Economic Relations and the Belt and Road Initiative."

June 11-12, 2025



Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation office in Brussels, participated in and spoke at a consultation event hosted by the European Commission in Brussels. The event was organized by the European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed) through the EuroMeSCo network as part of the EuroMeSCo Consultation Circles initiative. This consultation provided a structured platform for policy dialogue and expert exchange aimed at informing the development of the forthcoming New Pact for the Mediterranean, which is expected to serve as the European Union's primary political framework for enhancing cooperation with its Southern Neighbourhood partners. Dr. Koch spoke on the necessity to closely link the envisaged Pact of the Mediterranean with the GCC-EU Strategic Partnership framework for actionable projects.

The Brussels consultation brought together policymakers, think tank representatives, civil

society actors, and private sector stakeholders from across the Euro-Mediterranean region to engage in focused discussions on shared priorities and future collaboration.

June 3-4, 2025

Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the GRC Foundation Brussels, participated in the "Fourth Conference on Promoting Regional Security in the Gulf/MENA Region" in Brussels organized by the European External Action Service. Dr. Koch discussed US and Iran talks, the growing role of the GCC countries as mediators, the situation in Yemen and the Red Sea and the role of European countries, and Syria and Lebanon and the potential opportunity for strategic alignments for the GCC.

June 2, 2025



The GRC Foundation's Brussels office welcomed Dr. Wejdan Fahad, Head of the Arab and Islamic Organizations Department, Political Affairs Sector at the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

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



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated on June 20, 2025, in the program Political Magazine on Monte Carlo Doualiya Radio (MCD) under the title: "Post-War Scenarios Between Iran and Israel."

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



On June 19, 2025, Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program at the Gulf Research Center, participated on Ain Radio under the title: "The Arabs Have Launched a Project Following the Speech of His Majesty King Abdullah II."

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



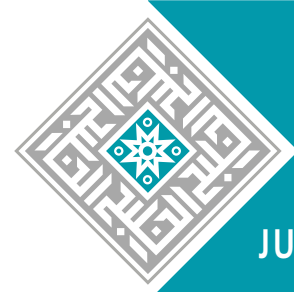
Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research and Executive Manager at GRCB – Gulf Research Center Brussels, authored an article in Arab News on June 17, 2025, titled "Europe and GCC Must Lead a Middle East Reset," highlighting the need for renewed strategic cooperation in the region.

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



On June 17, 2025, Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program at the Gulf Research Center, participated on Roya News Channel in the program News at Seven under the title: "Gulf Politics in Times of Crisis: From Statements of Condemnation to Equations of Influence."

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



Opinion

Israel vs Iran — does the Gulf Cooperation Council have a role?

Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research and Executive Manager at GRCB – Gulf Research Center Brussels, authored an opinion piece for EU Observer on June 16, 2025, titled “Israel vs Iran — does the Gulf Cooperation Council have a role?” In the article, he argues that amid Israeli-Iranian military escalation, Europe and GCC states must jointly step forward with diplomatic leadership to prevent wider regional conflict and redefine post-crisis security dynamics

Click [here](#) to read the full article.



On June, 13, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated on Asharq News Channel in a discussion about the Israeli strike and the Iranian response.

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



On June 13, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated in the program DW Evening on the German news channel DW Arabic, discussing the repercussions of the Israeli strike on Iran.

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

The regional implications of escalating Iran-Israel tensions



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, published an article in Arab News on June 15, 2025, titled “The Regional Implications of Escalating Iran-Israel Tensions.” In it, he examines how growing hostilities could reshape regional dynamics and urges a strategic response from Gulf states.

Click [here](#) to read the full piece.



On June 10, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, participated in the program Madar Al-Layl wal-Nahar on the Russian international news agency Sputnik radio, discussing Donald Trump's statements on Russia's role in World War II and the latest developments in the Los Angeles protests.

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

Dr. John Sfakianakis

Risky business: how firms can survive in an era of turmoil

June 23, 2025

Dr. John Sfakianakis

The waning reign of the US dollar?

June 15, 2025

Dr. John Sfakianakis

Decarbonization at a crossroads

June 05, 2025

Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist at the GRC, contributed three opinion pieces to Arab News in June 2025. His articles include "Decarbonization at a Crossroads" (June 5), "The Waning Reign of the US Dollar?" (June 15), and "Risky Business: How Firms Can Survive in an Era of Turmoil" (June 23), offering insights on global finance, energy transitions, and economic resilience.

Click [here](#) to read the pieces.



**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
4th floor, 1000
Brussels
Belgium



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

© Gulf Research Center 2024

www.grc.net

GULF RESEARCH CENTER NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2025



@gulfresearchcenter



@gulf_research



@gulfresearchcenter