



## GRC Events & Activities

### The Iran War and the EU-GCC Strategic Partnership: Lessons and Action-Oriented Engagement

#### Closed Workshop Session

Held on the Sidelines of the GLOBSEC 2026 Forum

May 23, 2026

Prague, Czechia



مركز الخليج للأبحاث  
المعرفة للجميع  
Gulf Research Center  
Knowledge for All



Photo Source: [GCCSG 'X'](#) (2026)

The Gulf Research Center (GRC), in partnership with GLOBSEC, organized a closed roundtable session on the sidelines of the GLOBSEC 2026 Forum in Prague, Czechia, titled "EU-GCC Strategic Partnership: Lessons and Action-Oriented Engagement."

The roundtable brought together senior Gulf and European policymakers and

experts and was headed by HE Jassem Al-Budaiwi, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Discussions focused on the rapidly evolving regional and international environment, including ongoing geopolitical tensions, regional security challenges, economic cooperation, and shifting global dynamics affecting both Europe and the Gulf region.

#### ◆ GRC Events & Activities

'The Iran War and the EU-GCC Strategic Partnership: Lessons and Action-Oriented Engagement' Closed Workshop Session at GLOBSEC 2026 Forum

Gulf-Latin America Ambassadors Roundtable

'Collective Diplomacy in the Middle East Amid Wars: Middle Powers, Mediation, and Regional Security Futures' Workshop

Gulf-Southern African Development Community (SADC) Relations Ambassadors Roundtable

'Through Syrian Eyes' Program

#### ◆ GRC Publications

#### ◆ GRC Programs

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

Environmental Security and Sustainability Program

Cultural and Media Program

#### ◆ GRC Participations

#### ◆ GRC in the Media



Participants emphasized the importance of strengthening EU-GCC cooperation through more practical, strategic, and action-oriented engagement, moving beyond dialogue toward more concrete forms of coordination and implementation. The exchange also highlighted opportunities for deeper collaboration

in areas such as regional security, maritime stability, economic connectivity, energy security, technology, and crisis diplomacy. Participants contributed valuable insights and policy recommendations on advancing Gulf-European cooperation, institutional dialogue, and long-term strategic coordination between both sides.



Photo Source: [GCCSG 'X'](#) (2026)



## Developing GCC–Latin America Relations: Political Dialogue and Economic Cooperation

### Roundtable Meeting of Latin America Ambassadors – Second Edition

Gulf Research Center | Riyadh, 17 May 2026



The Gulf Research Center hosted the second edition of its Latin America Ambassadors Roundtable in Riyadh on 17 May 2026, bringing together Latin American ambassadors and diplomats stationed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia alongside GCC officials and regional experts. The meeting provided a platform for forward-looking dialogue on the state of GCC–Latin America relations and the steps needed to take them to the next level. The opening remarks were delivered by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, followed by remarks from H.E. Dr. Abdulaziz Aluwaisheg, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Negotiations at the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).



The discussions focused on the current state of political and economic relations between the two sides, and on ways to strengthen multilateral coordination and interregional dialogue, in addition to exploring prospects for cooperation in the areas of trade, investment, food security, energy, and logistics connectivity. The discussions also addressed developments related to the GCC-MERCOSUR Free Trade Agreement, as well as the opportunities and challenges associated with deepening economic cooperation between the two sides in light of ongoing geopolitical and economic transformations.





## Collective Diplomacy in the Middle East Amid Wars: Middle Powers, Mediation, and Regional Security Futures

### Closed Workshop

May 12-13, 2026

Vienna



The Gulf Research Center (GRC), in partnership with the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace's Middle East Program, co-organized a closed workshop titled "Collective Diplomacy in the Middle East Amid Wars: Middle Powers, Mediation, and Regional Security Futures," which took place at the Bruno Kreisky Forum for International Dialogue in Vienna from May 12-13, 2026. The workshop forms part of a broader long-term project initiative examining the future of regional diplomacy, mediation frameworks, and evolving security architectures in the Middle East.

The workshop convened policymakers, diplomats, and experts from the Middle East and Europe to assess whether the post-2023 regional environment represents a meaningful departure from longstanding patterns of Arab diplomatic fragmentation and geopolitical polarization. Discussions explored the extent to which emerging forms of middle-power diplomacy, regional mediation efforts, and issue-based cooperation could contribute to more coordinated approaches toward regional crises and conflict management.

Participants also examined the evolving role of regional actors in shaping future security arrangements amid ongoing wars, shifting alliances, and growing uncertainty across the Middle East. Particular attention was given to questions surrounding collective

diplomacy, regional de-escalation mechanisms, Gulf and Arab mediation efforts, the future of regional security architectures, and the challenges facing multilateral conflict resolution in an increasingly fragmented regional order.

Notably, participants who took part in the workshop included:

- HE Nabil Fahmy, Designated Nominee for Secretary General of the Arab League
- HE Luigi Di Maio, European Union Special Representative for the Gulf Region, European External Action Service
- Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg, Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Negotiations, Gulf Cooperation Council
- Dr. Manal Radwan, Minister Plenipotentiary, Cabinet of the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Saudi Arabia

The workshop also brought together senior diplomats from across the Gulf and the wider Middle East, alongside senior representatives from the Austrian Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs, as well as heads and representatives of leading European think tanks and policy institutions.



## Gulf-Central Asia Ambassador Roundtable

May 4, 2026

Riyadh



On May 4, 2026, the Gulf Research Center (GRC) organized a Gulf–Central Asia roundtable at its office in Riyadh, bringing together ambassadors and representatives from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Azerbaijan, alongside representatives from the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The roundtable focused on recent regional and international developments and their implications for both the Gulf and Central Asia, while also exploring avenues for expanding practical and institutional cooperation between the two regions. Discussions highlighted the growing strategic importance of Gulf–Central Asia relations amid ongoing geopolitical realignments, shifting trade routes, and increasing interest in regional connectivity and economic diversification.

Particular attention was given to opportunities for enhancing cooperation in areas such as trade and investment, energy and renewable energy, transport and logistics connectivity, food security, digital infrastructure, and regional security coordination. Participants also discussed the strategic significance of emerging transport corridors linking Central Asia with the Gulf region, including broader Eurasian connectivity initiatives and the role both regions can play in facilitating East–West trade and economic integration.

The discussions further underscored the importance of strengthening political dialogue and institutional engagement between Gulf and Central Asian states through regular consultations, research cooperation, and policy exchanges. Participants also reflected on the growing momentum generated by the Central Asia–GCC strategic dialogue framework and the opportunities it presents to advance long-term partnerships across economic, political, and security dimensions.

The meeting forms part of the GRC's broader Gulf–Central Asia Research Program, which aims to advance research, dialogue, and policy-oriented cooperation across key areas of mutual interest between the two regions.





## Gulf-Southern African Development Community (SADC)

### Ambassador Roundtable

May 3, 2026

Riyadh



On May 3, 2026, the Gulf Research Center (GRC) organized a roundtable meeting at its office in Riyadh focused on Gulf–Southern African Development Community (SADC) relations. The meeting brought together the Ambassador of South Africa, representing the current Chairperson of the SADC group, alongside the ambassadors and representatives of Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Mauritius, Zambia, Angola, and Tanzania, as well as representatives from the Gulf Cooperation Council.

The roundtable aimed to present and discuss the GRC's Gulf–Africa Research Program, which examines the evolving political, economic, and security dimensions of GCC–Africa relations amid shifting global geopolitical and economic dynamics. Discussions focused on the growing strategic importance of Gulf engagement across the African continent and explored how Gulf investment, diplomacy, and development initiatives align with SADC's long-term development priorities.

Participants examined opportunities for enhanced cooperation across several key sectors, including energy and renewable energy development, mining

and critical minerals, food security and agriculture, logistics and transport connectivity, ports and maritime infrastructure, and digital transformation and telecommunications. Discussions also highlighted the increasing strategic significance of maritime security cooperation across the Horn of Africa, the Red Sea, the Indian Ocean, and the Sahel region, particularly in light of evolving trade routes and regional security challenges.

The discussions further emphasized the importance of strengthening institutional dialogue and expanding trade and investment relations between GCC countries and SADC member states. Participants noted that despite growing Gulf engagement in Africa, there remains considerable untapped potential for deeper economic cooperation, infrastructure investment, and long-term strategic partnerships. The roundtable also highlighted the need to improve implementation mechanisms for existing agreements and investment commitments in order to move Gulf-SADC relations from dialogue to more structured and sustainable cooperation frameworks.



## “Through Syrian Eyes” Film Program

May 2, 2026

Damascus, Syria



The Gulf Research Center, in collaboration with the Taqaddum Center for Dialogue, Development, and Peacebuilding, has released a new episode of the “Through Syrian Eyes” program, titled: “Freedoms in #Syria and Their Determinants Under the New Administration.”

The episode discusses the Damascus Forum on political, public, and private freedoms in Syria after the fall of the regime and the transformations occurring in Syrian society after breaking the wall of fear.

The program is presented by Professor Abdullah Al-Ghadawi, Director of the Taqaddum Center for Dialogue, Development, and Peacebuilding.

Episode guests included:

- Professor Dr. Mahib Salha, Professor of Economics at the International Arab University
- Professor Thabit Salem, Writer and Researcher
- Professor Abdullah Al-Hamad, Writer and Political Analyst

Watch the full episode [here](#).



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:

## GRC Publications

## Commentary & Analyses



### [From Dialogue to Delivery: Advancing GCC-EU Relations](#)

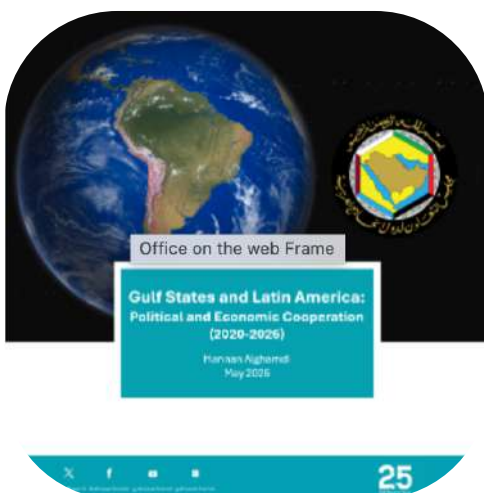
Dr. Nourah Shuaibi & Amnah Mosly  
May 2026

### [The Trump-Xi Beijing Summit: Crisis Management Hormuz, and the Limits of Chinese Leverage](#)

Yuan Zhang  
May 2026

### [Trump 2.0, NATO, and EU Autonomy: Reconfiguration of Transatlantic Relations](#)

Houda Barroug  
May 2026



### [Gulf States and Latin America: Political and Economic Cooperation \(2020-2026\)](#)

Hannan Alghamdi  
May 2026

### [A Pivotal EU-GCC Summit](#)

Dr. Christian Koch  
May 2026

### [China's Relevance in Gulf Security Amid the US-Israel-Iran Escalation](#)

Layla Ali  
May 2026



Selected Arabic Articles



**Saudi Diplomacy (2024–2026):  
Managing Balances and Shaping  
Pathways in a Transforming  
International Environment**  
[Research Paper](#)

Yousef Kamil Khattab  
May 2026



**AMMO Project: Leveraging Artificial  
Intelligence in Countering Naval  
Mines — The Role of Domino Data Lab  
in Accelerating Subsurface Threat  
Detection**  
[Research Paper](#)

Gulf Research Center  
May 2026



**The Logic and Structure of Gulf  
Hedging: A New Approach to  
Institutionalizing Self-Managed,  
Balanced Autonomy Amid Shifting  
U.S. Policies**  
[Research Paper](#)

Mohammad S. Alzou'bi  
May 2026



**The Deadly Triangle in the Middle  
East: A Reading of U.S.–Israel–  
Iran Interactions in Light of Recent  
Developments**  
[Research Paper](#)

Gulf Research Center  
May 2026



**Between the Dilemmas of Engagement  
and the Costs of Neutrality: Europe and  
Managing the Contradictions of the War  
on Iran**  
[Research Paper](#)

Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf  
May 2026



**Gulf Integration Between  
Two Illusions: The Illusion of  
Guardianship and the Illusion of  
Self-Sufficiency**  
[Research Paper](#)

Prof. Saleh Al Khathlan  
May 2026



Selected Arabic Articles



**Iraqi Militia Leaders and the U.S. Rewards for Justice Program: An Analysis of Escalation and Emerging Positions**

[Research Paper](#)

Dr. Rasha Al Azzawi

May 2026



**Have the Pillars of Prestige and Power Been Shaken? A Reading of the Balance of Power Between Russia, Ukraine, the United States, and Iran**

[Research Paper](#)

Gulf Research Center

May 2026



**Iran's Aggression Against the Arab Gulf States. Ideological Approaches and the Necessities of the Current Phase**

[Research Paper](#)

Gulf Research Center

May 2026



**Post-War Engagement with Iran: A Strategic Assessment of Gulf Cohesion and Regional Deterrence Calculations - Strategic Assessment Paper**

[Research Paper](#)

Prof. Saleh Bin Mohammed Al Khatlan,  
Dr. Noura Al-Shaibi, Mr. Rashid Al-Muhannadi

May 2026



**Waterways...The Struggle for Influence**

[Research Paper](#)

Rear Admiral (Retd) Eng. Saleh Sunaydih Alotaibi

May 2026



**Iranian Proposals for an Agreement with Washington: What Is Iran Betting On?**

[Research Paper](#)

Dr. Houda Raouf

May 2026



**Selected Arabic Articles**



**Hezbollah: A Group That Fights Because It Cannot Stop Reading the Behavior and Strategic Ambiguity of the Organization**  
[Research Paper](#)

Gulf Research Center  
 May 2026



**The Middle East in an Era of Permanent Conflict: Toward a Strategic Model for Managing Endless Wars**  
[Research Paper](#)

Gulf Research Center  
 May 2026

**Country Updates & Trade Reports**



**Latin America - GCC Relations - 2026**

Gulf Research Center  
 May 2026

**Country Updates & Trade Reports**



**Sweden - GCC Relations 2026**

Gulf Research Center  
 May 2026



**Indonesia - GCC Relations 2026**

Gulf Research Center  
 May 2026

**Araa Magazine**



**Issue 221: "Gulf States Security in a Shifting Region: Threats and Lessons Learned"**



**Kazakhstan - GCC Relations 2026**

Gulf Research Center  
 May 2026



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



### GLMM

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

### Highly Skilled Migration to the Gulf States: Project and Publications

GLMM has been engaged two years in the project focussing on **Highly Skilled Migration to the Gulf States: How Do GCC Countries Fare in the Global Competition for Talent?** For a detailed description, click [here](#).

The second phase of the project focused 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 thirteen policy briefs and a bibliography will be published between the end of March and June 2026.

The published papers are available [here](#). Additional papers will be added to the same webpage.

### Papers: Impact of the US-Israel-Iran War on GCC Labour Markets and Migration

On the impact of the US-Israel-Iran war on GCC labour markets and migration, GLMM has published several papers. The most recent one is:

- [Sharique Umar, Assessing the Immediate Impact of Regional Conflict on GCC Student Mobility Interest, GLMM Factsheet, No. 16, May 2026](#)

### Other papers:

- [Mohammad Amaan Siddiqui: The Iran War and the Noncitizen Question in the GCC: Policy Lessons and Reform Pathways Beyond Talent Attraction](#)
- [Françoise De Bel-Air: A Gulf Crisis Is Also a Migrant Crisis, GLMM/GRC Factsheet n°14, April 2026](#)
- [Françoise De Bel-Air: Conflict, Demographic Change, and Labor Restructuring in the GCC: Possible Effects of the 2026 War on Iran](#)

Additional papers will be published in June 2026.

### Webinars: Impact of the US-Israel-Iran War on GCC Labour Markets and Migration

GLMM is also organizing a series of 3 webinars on the impact of the US-Israel-Iran war on labour markets and migration:

- **2 June 2026 – 2PM KSA: Socioeconomic Impact of the 2026 US–Israel–Iran War on Nationals and Migrants in the GCC States.** **Dr. Nourah Shuaibi** is an Associate Professor of Political Science at Kuwait University, where she also serves as Head of the Women's Research and Studies Center; **Dr. Neha Vora** is a Professor of Anthropology, Department of International Studies, American University of Sharjah in the United Arab Emirates; **Mr. William Gois** is the Regional Coordinator of Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA); **Mr. Mohammad Amaan Siddiqui** is a



PhD student in Political Science at the University of California, Irvine and GLMM Non-Resident Fellow; and **Mr. Sharique Umar** is a PhD candidate at Qatar University's Gulf Studies Center. A summary of the webinar will be published [here](#).

- **9 June 2026** – 2PM KSA: **The US-Israel-Iran War: Labour and Migration Policy Outcomes in the Gulf States.**
- **23 June 2026** – 2PM KSA: **The US-Israel-Iran War: Social Protection of Migrant Workers by Their Countries of Origin.**

For more information and registration, click [here](#).

## Data

For over a decade, GLMM has gathered, analysed, and republished official data related to labour and migration from multiple sources of all six GCC states. The database contains more than 1,100 tables. Every week, new data is added to the database.

## Recently Published Data

- [Qatar: Economically active population \(15 years and above\) by nationality \(Qatari/non-Qatari\), sex and employment status \(2024\)](#)
- [Qatar: Employed population \(15 years and above\) by nationality \(Qatari/non-Qatari\), sex and sector of economic activity \(2024\)](#)
- [Qatar: Employed population \(15 years and above\) by nationality \(Qatari/non-Qatari\) and sector of economic activity \(2024\)](#)
- [Qatar: Average weekly work hours of the employed population \(aged 15 and above\) by workers' nationality \(Qatari / non-Qatari\), sex and occupation \(2024\)](#)
- [Employed population \(15 years and above\) by nationality \(Qatari/non-Qatari\), sex and occupation \(2024\)](#)

- [Qatar: Employed population \(15 years and above\) by nationality \(Qatari/non-Qatari\) and occupation](#)

## GCC Regional Tables

GLMM constructs unique GCC regional tables based exclusively on the official country data:

- [GCC: Total populations in the six GCC states \(mid-year figures, 2010-2024\)](#)
- [GCC: Total population and percentage of nationals and non-nationals in GCC countries \(national statistics, mid-2024\)](#)
- [GCC: Total population and percentage of nationals and non-nationals in GCC countries, by sex \(national statistics, mid-2024\)](#)
- [GCC: Foreign populations in the six GCC states \(mid-year figures, 2010-2024\)](#)
- [GCC: National populations in the six GCC states \(mid-year figures, 2010-2024\)](#)

For all GCC Tables, click [here](#).

## All Country Tables

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

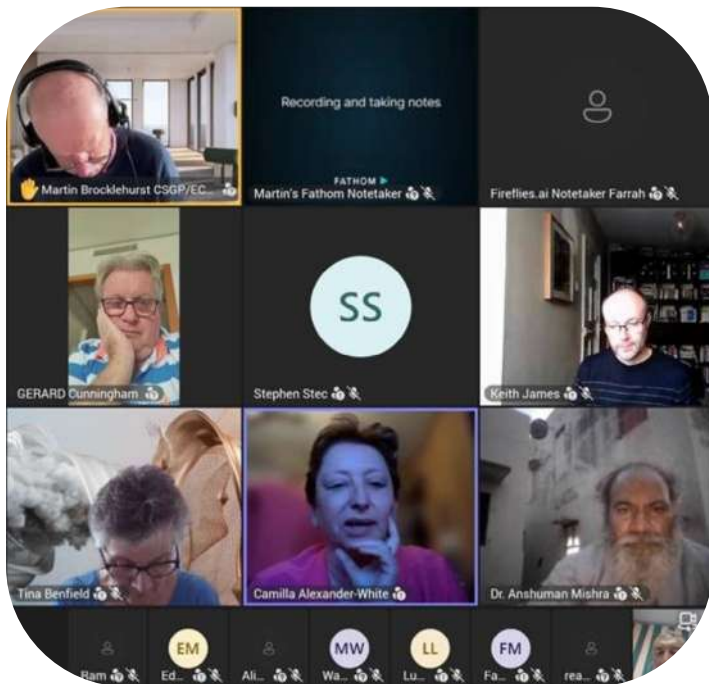
**Contact:** Mr. Imco Brouwer, GLMM Managing Director: [imco.brouwer@grc.net](mailto:imco.brouwer@grc.net)



**Environmental Security and Sustainability Program**

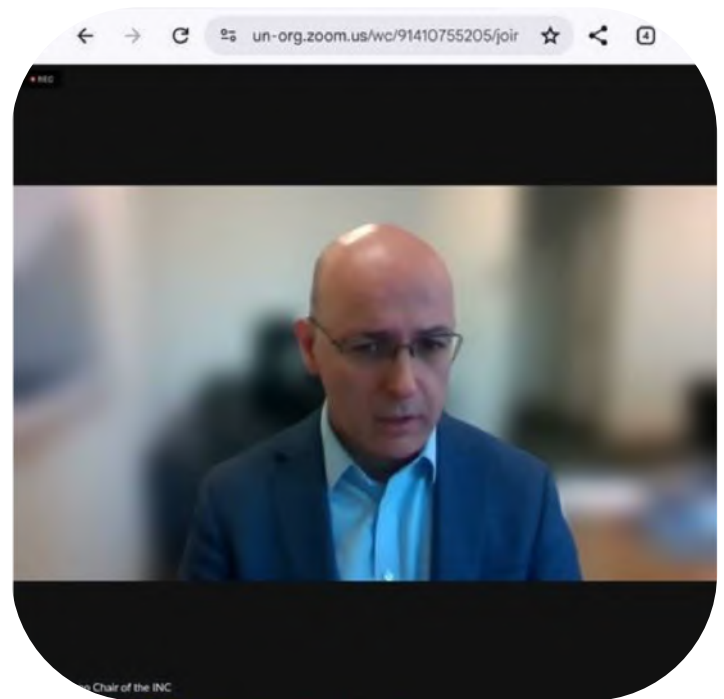
**12 May 2026**

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center, participated in the monthly telecall of the Science and Technology Major Group at UNEP. The call focused on UNEA 7 resolution follow-up and forming various scientific task forces within science and technology, such as the Solar Radiation Modification Task Force, ISP for Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Task Force, and the Funding Task Force, among others.



**19 May 2026**

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center, participated in the observers' dialogue session with Julio Cordano, the new Chair of the INC on plastic pollution, to exchange ideas and preparations for the next round of negotiations for a global plastic treaty.





## Cultural & Media Program



### Publications

May 11, 2026

A cultural paper prepared by Sayed Mahmoud Mubasher Kasani, titled: "The Kremlin's Policy on National and Regional Delimitation in Central Asia." Read the full paper [here](#).



May 17, 2026

A cultural paper prepared by H.E. Samira Rajab, Former Minister of Information of the Kingdom of Bahrain, titled: "Orientalists: From Sykes–Picot to the New Middle East." Read the full paper [here](#).



### GRC Podcast Activities

May 5, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Dr. Muhannad Salloum, Professor of Security Studies at the Doha Institute, in an episode of the program "Ara" titled: "The Needs of the Gulf Security System." Watch the full episode [here](#).



May 7, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Rear Admiral (Ret.) Muajab bin Jazaa Al-Dalbahi, Maritime Security Specialist, in an episode of the program "Ara" titled: "Gulf Security Strategies." Watch the full episode [here](#).





### May 10, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Bassam Al-Bunni, Expert in Russian Affairs, in an episode of the program "Ara" titled: "The Russian Position on the War on Iran." Watch the full episode [here](#).



### May 20, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Dalal Aziz Dia, Former Director of Jeddah Radio, in an episode of the program "Tafaseel" titled: "This Is How He Lived and From Whom I Learned." Watch the full episode [here](#).



### May 19, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Dr. Hajed bin Yahya Al-Asla'i, Strategic Analyst, in an episode of the program "Ara" titled: "The Implications of the Gulf War on Saudi Arabia." Watch the full episode [here](#).





## May 3, 2026



On May 3, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), and Naval Admiral Staff (Retd.) Abdullah Jaber AlZaidi, GRC's Senior Advisor on Defence and Security Studies, met with Settimio Garbati, CEO of Fincantieri Arabia for Naval Services LLC, Jacapo Avogadro di Casalvolone, Deputy Chairman, and Rear Admiral (Retd.) Saeed Fahad AlShahrani, Vice President for Business Development at the GRC office in Riyadh. The meeting reviewed ongoing cooperation and explored opportunities to further strengthen collaboration in defense and maritime security.

## May 3, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, met with H.E. Yasmine Chatila Zwahlen, Ambassador of Switzerland to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on May 3, 2026. During the meeting, both sides discussed areas of mutual interest and the latest regional developments.

## May 3, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Dr. Oliver Wils, Head of Department, MENA Peace Support at the Berghof Foundation, at the GRC's office in Riyadh. The two sides discussed regional developments and areas of mutual interest.

## May 4, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated as a speaker in a webinar organized by the Institute of Regional & International Studies, contributing to a panel on "Regional War, Economic Strain: Local & State Responses Across the Middle East." Dr. Sager highlighted the growing intersection between security dynamics and economic resilience, emphasizing the need for coordinated regional responses to ongoing crises.

## May 4, 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 May 4, 2026. During this meeting, the two



sides discussed areas of mutual interest and recent regional developments.

### May 4-6, 2026



Hannan Alghamdi, Researcher at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in the NEXT Milan Forum 2026 as part of the Future Think Tank Leaders Program, organized by ISPI – Italian Institute for International Political Studies. The program brought together think tank professionals from around the world in a closed-door forum featuring masterclasses, policy discussions, networking sessions, and exchanges with senior think tank leaders, policymakers, and international experts on key global challenges and the evolving role of think tanks in international policymaking.

### May 5, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with His Excellency Mr. Steven Fagin, Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Yemen, at the GRC's office in Riyadh

on May 5, 2026. During this meeting, both sides discussed areas of mutual interest and recent regional developments.

### May 5, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with His Excellency Dr. Sebastian Mitrache, Ambassador of Romania to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on May 5, 2026. During this meeting, both sides discussed areas of mutual interest and recent regional developments.

### May 5, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with His Excellency Mr. Pavel Kafka, Ambassador of the Czech Republic to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on May 5, 2026. During this meeting, both sides discussed areas of mutual interest and recent regional developments.



## May 7, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met Mr. Fahad Al-Khlefi, Deputy Governor of Shabwah, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on May 7, 2026. During this meeting, both sides discussed recent regional developments.

## May 7, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center and a member of the Board of Trustees of the World Law Foundation, participated in an online meeting of the Foundation's Board of Trustees on May 7, 2026.

## May 8, 2026



Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the Brussels Office and Director of Research at the Gulf Research

Center Foundation Brussels (GRCF-B), and Hannan Alghamdi, Researcher at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in the closed-door session "EU-GCC Cooperation: Bridging Stability in an Era of Fragmentation," organized by ISPI and CIPR as part of the MED Dialogues/Doha Forum discussions held in Milan. During the second panel, "A Post-Conflict Regional Order: The Levant," Hannan Alghamdi spoke on developments in Syria, the evolving regional role of the GCC, and the importance of EU-GCC coordination in supporting long-term regional stability and institutional recovery.

## May 13, 2026



Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan, Senior Advisor at the GRC, met with His Excellency Mr. Hesham Youssef, Senior Advisor at the European Institute of Peace (EIP), and his accompanying delegation at the GRC office in Riyadh on May 13, 2026. During this meeting, both sides discussed areas of mutual interest.

## May 17, 2026



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Mr. Aslan Aziev, Senior Counsellor at the Embassy of the Russian



Federation to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Mr. Dmitry Polyakov, Attache at the Embassy, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on May 17, 2026. The meeting focused on coordination regarding the upcoming conference in Riyadh planned to mark the centenary of diplomatic relations between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Russian Federation.

**May 17, 2026**



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with His Excellency Dr. Suhel Ajaz Khan, Ambassador of India to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on May 17, 2026. During this meeting, both sides discussed areas of mutual interest and recent regional developments.

**May 18, 2026**



On May 18, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with H.E. Luísa Fragoso, Ambassador of the Portuguese Republic to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC office in Riyadh. The meeting included an exchange of

views on regional and international developments, as well as discussions on areas of mutual interest and prospects for enhanced dialogue and cooperation between the two sides.

**May 18, 2026**



Gulf Research Center  
مركز الخليج للأبحاث



ICRC

On May 18, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Mohamed Sheikh-Ali, Head of Mission in Saudi Arabia, and Maha Akeel, Humanitarian Affairs Adviser at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Saudi Arabia, at the GRC office in Riyadh. The meeting included an exchange of views on regional developments and issues of mutual interest related to humanitarian affairs and regional cooperation.

**May 18, 2026**



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Her Excellency Ms. Kjersti Tromsdal, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Norway to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC's office in Riyadh on May 18, 2026. During this meeting, both sides discussed areas of mutual interest and recent regional developments.



**May 19, 2026**



Dr. Zaid AlFadail, Director of the Cultural Program at the Gulf Research Center, participated in an interview on Al Ekhbariya Radio, as part of the program "Midday," discussing the Kingdom's renewed support for the diplomatic path to resolving the regional crisis and securing the Strait of Hormuz, in light of the recent statements by the Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan, on May 14, 2026. Watch [here](#).

**May 19, 2026**



Hannan Alghamdi, Researcher at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in the hybrid closed-door discussion on "Turkey, Syria and the Emerging Middle

East Order," organized by the Centre for Applied Turkey Studies (CATS) in collaboration with the Italian Institute for International Affairs. During Session 1, "Regional and Local Perceptions of Turkey's Engagement in Syria's Future," she addressed how Saudi Arabia views Turkey's expanding role in Syria, as well as the areas of convergence and divergence in Saudi and Turkish engagement in the country.

**May 22, 2026**



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated as a speaker in the panel session "The Middle East on Edge: Navigating a Region at War" at the GLOBSEC 2026 Forum, in Prague, Czechia, on May 22, 2026. The discussion focused on the evolving regional security environment, risks of escalation, and the importance of diplomacy and regional dialogue in addressing growing instability across the Middle East. Watch the session [here](#).



Access all the GRC's interviews on our YouTube channel [here](#)



On May 1, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in BBC Arabic's *Nuqtat Hiwar* (Talking Point) program to discuss the United Arab Emirates' withdrawal from OPEC. The discussion examined the economic and strategic dimensions of the decision and whether it reflects purely economic considerations or signals broader shifts in Gulf regional dynamics. Watch [here](#).



On May 7, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in DW Arabic's *Al Masa'iyah* program in an episode titled, "Has Saudi Arabia Undermined Trump's 'Freedom Project' in Hormuz?" The discussion examined recent regional developments and Saudi Arabia's role in addressing security and stability challenges in the Gulf region. Watch [here](#).



On May 5, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in Al Arabiya's special coverage of the latest developments in the war with Iran. During the interview, he addressed the recent Iranian attacks targeting the United Arab Emirates and discussed their implications for regional security and stability. Watch [here](#).



On May 8, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in Asharq Bloomberg's *On the Borders* program in an episode titled, "Iran Between the One-Page Proposal and the Trump–Xi Summit." The discussion examined the latest developments surrounding Iran, the prospects for diplomatic engagement, and the broader geopolitical implications for regional and international affairs. Watch [here](#).



On May 9, 2026, Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist and Head of Economic Research at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in an interview with Al Jazeera to discuss key economic developments and their implications for regional and global markets. Watch [here](#).



On May 9, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in Al Arabiya's Fourth Bulletin program in an episode titled, "Washington Awaits Tehran's Response While Iran Keeps Its Finger on the Trigger." The discussion examined the latest regional developments, escalating tensions between the United States and Iran, and their implications for Gulf and regional security. Watch [here](#).

On May 9, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in an interview with One News Iraq to



discuss the implications of escalating tensions in and around the Strait of Hormuz. The discussion examined the potential impact on regional security, maritime stability, and global energy markets. Watch [here](#).



On May 10, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in Al Jazeera's special coverage of the latest developments in the Strait of Hormuz and the war with Iran. The discussion focused on the regional security implications of the conflict, maritime stability, and the broader impact on Gulf and international affairs. Watch [here](#).



On May 10, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in Al Hadath's *Akhbar Al-Layla* (Night News) program to discuss the latest developments in the Strait of Hormuz and the war with Iran. The interview examined Iran's response to the U.S. proposal, statements by President Trump regarding U.S. objectives in Iran, and the broader implications for regional security and stability. Watch [here](#).



On May 16, 2026, Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf, Senior Research Fellow at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), spoke with Africa News in an interview titled, "Algerian Diplomacy: A Wise Approach Beyond Middle East Alignments." The interview examined Algeria's balanced diplomatic approach toward developments in the Middle East, highlighting its condemnation of attacks against the Arab Gulf states, rejection of military escalation, and commitment to dialogue, non-alignment, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. Read [here](#).



Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the Cultural Program at the Gulf Research Center, participated in an interview on Al Ekhbariya Radio, as part of the program "Midday," discussing the Kingdom's renewed support for the diplomatic path to resolving the regional crisis and securing the Strait of Hormuz, in light of the recent statements by the Saudi Foreign Minister, Prince Faisal bin Farhan, on May 14, 2026. Watch [here](#).



On May 20, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in an interview on Al Arabiya to discuss Saudi Arabia's welcome of the positive U.S. response and Pakistan's diplomatic efforts to help end the conflict and restore normal maritime navigation through the Strait of Hormuz. The discussion also examined the broader implications for regional stability and international trade. Watch [here](#).



On May 22, 2026, Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist and Head of Economic Research at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), spoke with *The Statesman* on how the repercussions of the West Asia conflict are reshaping the global economy at a structural level. The interview examined emerging vulnerabilities in energy security, supply chains, fiscal stability, and geopolitical finance, and their implications for the global economic outlook. Read [here](#).



On May 25, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in the *Guest of the Day* segment on France 24 Arabic in an episode titled, "Are the Gulf States Moving Toward Redefining Their Regional Security Architecture?" The discussion explored evolving security dynamics in the Gulf, regional strategic priorities, and the implications of recent geopolitical developments for the future of regional security cooperation. Watch [here](#).



On May 22, 2026, Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation (GRCF) Office in Brussels and Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), contributed an article to Arab News titled, "Pivotal EU-GCC Summit Set for Riyadh." In the article, Dr. Koch examined how the upcoming EU-GCC Summit could represent a significant milestone in Gulf-European relations, highlighting opportunities for deeper strategic cooperation amid growing regional instability and evolving global geopolitical dynamics. Read [here](#).



On May 25, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in Al Hadath's *Akhbar Al-Layla* (Night News) program to discuss the draft understanding between Washington and Tehran. The interview examined the prospects for U.S.-Iran engagement, the implications of the proposed framework for regional security, and its potential impact on stability in the Gulf and the wider Middle East. Watch [here](#).



On May 26, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in Al Arabiya's *Fourth Bulletin* to discuss the draft understanding between Washington and Tehran. The interview examined the prospects for a renewed diplomatic framework, the implications of the proposed agreement for regional security, and its potential impact on stability across the Gulf and the wider Middle East. Watch [here](#).



On May 28, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in the *Huna Al Riyadh* program on Saudi News Channel to discuss the prospects of a forthcoming agreement between Washington and Tehran. The discussion examined the implications of the ongoing negotiations for regional security, Gulf stability, and the future trajectory of U.S.-Iran relations. Watch [here](#).



On May 28, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in an interview on Al Jazeera to discuss the prospects of a forthcoming agreement between Washington and Tehran and its implications for the Strait of Hormuz. The discussion examined the potential impact of the negotiations on regional security, maritime stability, and the future of Gulf-Iran relations. Watch [here](#).



On May 29, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in Asharq Bloomberg's *On the Borders* program in an episode titled, "Leaks of a Memorandum of Understanding: What Comes After the Announcement of Lifting the Blockade on Iran?" The discussion examined reports surrounding a potential understanding between Washington and Tehran, the implications of easing restrictions on Iran, and the potential impact on regional security, Gulf stability, and the broader geopolitical landscape. Watch [here](#).



بروكسل الحرب في إيران

الاتحاد الأوروبي: وقف الحرب يصب في مصلحة المنطقة والاقتصاد العالمي



On May 29, 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in *Nuqtat Irtikaz* (Point of Focus) on Algeria International TV in an episode titled, "Shifts in International and Regional Influence: How the Region and the Continent Are Redrawing the Maps of Power and Integration in a Rapidly Changing World." The discussion explored evolving geopolitical dynamics, changing patterns of regional and international influence, and the prospects for cooperation and integration amid ongoing global transformations. Watch [here](#).



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