



## GRC Events & Activities



Gulf Research Center Foundation  
Brussels

Knowledge for All

**euiss**  
European Union  
Institute for  
Security Studies



The Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels together with the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS) and the Gulf Peninsula and Iraq and Regional Affairs Divisions of the European External Action Service (EEAS) held an informal thematic discussion on the EU-GCC Partnership at the EEAS headquarters in Brussels.

The session brought forward numerous substantive ideas on how to strengthen EU-GCC ties and cooperation in light of the widening institutional ties between the two sides. Participants included

representatives of the GCC Delegation office in Brussels, the GCC embassies, Delegates from the Middle East/Gulf Working Party (MOG) of the European Council, the Directorate General MENA at the European Commission, the EEAS and the General Secretariat of the Council of the European Union.

Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the GRC Foundation Brussels office provided an opening presentation and then moderated the discussion of one of the breakout groups.

### ◆ GRC Programs

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

Environmental  
Security and  
Sustainability  
Program

Cultural & Media  
Program

### ◆ GRC Publications

### ◆ GRC Participations

### ◆ GRC in the Media



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



**How Trump's Policies Are Pushing Latin America Toward the Gulf**  
Hannan Alghamdi  
March 2025

25

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**Beyond Transactional Diplomacy: The Gulf's Emergence as Architects of a New Global Order**  
Layla Ali  
March 2025

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**From Riyadh to Washington: Trump's Second Term and Saudi-U.S. Relations**  
Amnah Mosly  
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**US-Gulf Relations Under Trump 2.0**  
Bilal Y. Saab  
March 2025

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March 2025



**Sustainable Cities in the Gulf: The Case of the GCC Countries**  
Mohamed Abdelraouf\*  
March 2025

25

**Sustainable Cities in the Gulf: The Case of the GCC Countries**

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**Bridging the Divide: How Saudi Arabia is Shaping Ukraine-Russia Talks**  
Amnah Mosly  
March 2025

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**Bridging the Divide: How Saudi Arabia is Shaping Ukraine- Russia Talks**

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March 2025



**Commentary & Analyses**



Gulf Research Center  
KNOWLEDGE FOR ALL

Saudi Arabia's Diplomacy and the Changing World Order

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

March 2025



Gulf Research Center  
KNOWLEDGE FOR ALL

Russia in the Middle East: Managed Decline or Repositioning?

Emil Avdaliani  
February 2025



**Selected Arabic Articles**



قراءة في بيان محادثات جدة: الأمريكية - الأوكرانية

مركز الخليج للأبحاث

مركز الخليج للأبحاث



**Saudi Arabia's Diplomacy and the Changing World Order**

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager  
March 2025

**Russia in the Middle East: Managed Decline or Repositioning?**

Emil Avdaliani  
March 2025

**Reading the Statement of the US-Ukrainian Talks in Jeddah**

Gulf Research Center  
March 2025

**Country Updates and Trade Reports**



**Mexico - GCC Relations**  
Gulf Research Center  
March 2025



**Nigeria - GCC Relations**  
Gulf Research Center  
March 2025



**Canada - GCC Relations**  
Gulf Research Center  
March 2025



**India - GCC Relations**  
Gulf Research Center  
March 2025

**Araa**



**#207 (March 2025)**  
Sudan: The Current Situation, Implications, Outcomes, Challenges, and Solutions



## 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 over a decade, 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](#).

### Policy Reports

Six policy briefs have been published from the project entitled "Vision 2030 and the Socio-Economic Reform Process: The Future of Labour and Migration in Saudi

Arabia" developed by GLMM/GRC and implemented with the support of the Regional Programme Gulf States (RPG) of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation (KAS). They are available [here](#). For more information, please see the project webpage [here](#).

1. Mehmet Ali Soytaş: Future Skills Needed and Profiles of Workers: Ways to Maximize Productivity of Labour
2. Sylvain Côté: Adapting to Change: Demographics and Technology in the Saudi Labour Market
3. Monera Al Mahmoud: High-Skilled Employment and Vision 2030-Education and Training for Saudi Youth Alignment with Saudi Labour Market Demands
4. Justin Alexander: The Global Competition for Talent: How Does Saudi Arabia Compare with Gulf and Global Peers?
5. Anju Mary Paul, Kurt Kuehne, Kareem El-Rafei, Bedoor AlShebli: International Science Faculty in Saudi Arabia: Research Experiences and Challenges
6. Bilesha Weeraratne: Changing Contexts, Perceptions, and Policies towards Migrating to Saudi Arabia: A View from South Asia Countries of Origin

The six Research Reports on which these Policy Reports are based will be published in April 2025.

### 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 till 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 non-paper presenter is now open on the GRM website which can be found [here](#).

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## Environmental Security and Sustainability Program

### 3 March 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 upcoming Major Groups activities over the next few months including follow up on

Plastic Treaty negotiations INC5.2 and OEWG 3.2 on Chemicals, Waste and Pollution Prevention, current Major Groups elections, and upcoming UNEP regional consultations.

### 11 March 2025

Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager, Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels and Director of Research, Gulf Research Center, Dr. Oskar Ziemelis, Director, Gulf Research Center Foundation Geneva, and Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center participated in the first virtual meeting with The Africa Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace kicking off the Alternative Jurisdictions and Instruments of Climate Finance for Africa Project. The call discussed the GRC's role in terms of guidance in identifying subject-matter experts in the GCC, participation of GRC scholars in the research, and the GRC possibly hosting or co-organizing a workshop for the project in the Gulf region.

### 19 March 2025

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center participated in the first virtual meeting of the ad hoc working group of the Science

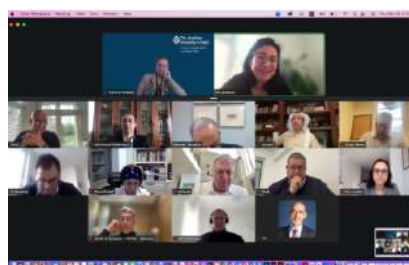


and Technology Major Group at UNEP focusing on the impacts of AI on the environment. The aim of the meeting was to prepare a statement and possible proposal for an AI resolution for the Seventh United Nations Assembly in December 2025.

### 19 March 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 possible cooperation in the various activities of the upcoming Forum including regional meetings in Africa, Asia, and Latin America, in addition to holding a joint pavilion (Impact Pavilion) during UNFCCC COP30 in Belem, Brazil in November 2025.

### 21 March 2025



Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center

participated in the first 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 meeting introduced the committee members as well as the aims of the project which aims to assess the impacts of decarbonization in light of the Paris Climate Agreement on the ongoing energy transition on 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.

## Cultural & Media Program



### Publications

March 12, 2025



The GRC's Cultural & Media Program published a paper titled "The Roots of Jewish Monotheism and the Influence of the Islamic Jurisprudential Tradition." Access the full paper [here](#).

March 19, 2025

The GRC's Cultural & Media Program published a paper titled "The Concept of Culture: Craftsmanship as a Cultural Phenomenon." Access the full paper [here](#).

### GRC Podcast Activities

March 4, 2025



The GRC Podcast hosted Mr. Adnan Saeedi, former General Supervisor of Neda'a Al-Islam Radio, in an episode titled "Memory Talk: The Establishment and Development of Saudi Radio." Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the GRC's Cultural and Media Program, moderated the dialogue. Access the full episode [here](#).



## GRC Participations

In March 2025, the GRC participated in numerous international events, both online and in-person, tackling issues pertaining to developments in the Gulf region and its broader neighborhood. The GRC emphasizes participating in such events, as it allows for the inclusion of a regional perspective in the debate. The following is an overview of the critical events in which the GRC participated this month.

### March 27, 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC) and the GRC team, held a meeting with Mr. Javlon Vakhobov, Managing Director of The International Institute for Central Asia, and discussed their preparatory work for the upcoming Gulf Cooperation Council–Central Asia Summit in Samarkand. Both sides also stressed the importance of providing regular expert advice and research support in shaping the summit's agenda, ensuring in-depth discussions on economic connectivity, security cooperation, and sustainable development. The meeting concluded with a mutual agreement to collaborate on research initiatives and expert discussions, reinforcing our commitment to fostering deeper engagement between the Gulf and Central Asia.

### March 21, 2025



A meeting was held between the GCC Emergency Management Center and the Gulf Research Center via Zoom, with the participation of Brigadier General Dr. Rashed Mohammed Al-Marri, Chairman of the GCC Emergency Management Center, and Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, along with the presence of Ms. Layla Ali, a researcher at the Gulf Research Center. The meeting discussed ways to enhance coordination and cooperation between both sides to raise awareness at the Gulf and regional levels on issues of common interest. It also aimed to contribute to the development of capacities in emergency management, research, and specialized studies.

### March 28, 2025

The Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels (GRCFB), along with the EU Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)



and the divisions for the Gulf Peninsula and Iraq, and for Regional Affairs (MENA1 and MENA4) from the European External Action Service (EEAS) partnered up for the organization of an informal thematic discussion on EU-GCC partnership. Key topics addressed during the discussion included green transition and clean energy, regional security, cultural and educational exchange, and innovation and emerging technologies.

### March 27, 2025

Dr Christian Koch met with Luigi Di Maio, EU Special Representative for the Gulf Region. The two sides discussed how to best advance EU-GCC cooperation.

### March 26, 2025



Dr. Christian Koch gave an online lecture as part of the Middle East and North Africa module of the Geneva Centre for Security Policy's Leadership in International Security Course. The lecture, titled "Geopolitical Tensions in the Middle East: What's Next?" was given in collaboration with Colonel (Ret.) David Des Roches, Associate Prof. at the National Defense University.

### March 25, 2025

Dr. Christian Koch attended an event held by the European Policy Center (EPC) titled "Europe: Strength Through Crisis," during which European Council President Antonio Costa gave a speech outlining how Europe can become stronger through today's global challenges.

### March 13, 2025

The Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels team met with Giulia Tercovich and Natalia Martin from the Centre for Security, Diplomacy and Strategy (CSDS) at Université Libre de Bruxelles. Together they discussed

potential partnerships in the organization of future events in key research programs.

### March 12, 2025

Dr. Christian Koch met with Alessandro Polito from the NATO Defense College Foundation (NDCF) located in Rome to discuss cooperation for NDCF's 2025 Arab Geopolitics Conference.

The same day, Dr. Christian Koch met with Michael Karnitschnig, Acting Deputy Director-General of the European Commission's newly established Directorate-General for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf (DG MENA). With DG MENA, the discussion focused on areas of cooperation with the GCC states.

### March 11, 2025

Dr. Christian Koch met with Matthew Hemsley, Senior EU Policy Advisor from the Norwegian Refugee Council's Europe office, in order to discuss humanitarian and development assistance programs between the EU and the GCC.

### March 10, 2025

Dr. Christian Koch met with Nicolas Pomey, director of Actis Europe, to discuss trade and economic agreements between the EU and GCC countries.

### March 3, 2025



Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels and Director of Research at the GRC participated in the 12th edition of the Ideas Lab Forum organized by the Center for European Policy Studies (CEPS) in Brussels. This flagship event brings together 800 specialists and policy officials annually to discuss key themes in policies of the European Union.





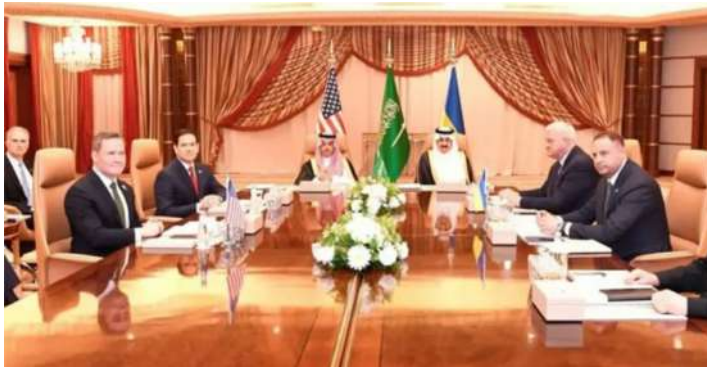
GRC media participation can be accessed [here](#), at the GRC official YouTube channel.



On March 25, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, made a guest appearance on "Al-Irtidat Sharqan" on Asharq News (Bloomberg).

During the interview, he discussed the talks between Moscow and Washington held in Riyadh, shedding light on Saudi Arabia's role in facilitating dialogue between the two powers.

Watch the full interview [here](#).



On March 24, Albilad Press published an article titled "Russia and Ukraine...Shuttle Diplomacy Between Escalation and De-escalation," highlighting Saudi Arabia's growing role in international mediation.

The article featured Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), who stated that Saudi Arabia's neutral stance has enabled it to bring together Russia, Ukraine, and the United States at the same table, helping to advance efforts toward ending the war between Moscow and Kyiv.

Read the full article [here](#).



On March 24, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on France 24 Arabic to comment on the launch of U.S.-Russia talks in Saudi Arabia.

He highlighted the Kingdom's pivotal diplomatic role and its growing credibility as a neutral ground for global dialogue.

Watch the full interview [here](#).



On March 23, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, joined @AlRaqibPodcast to discuss the defense strategy of the Gulf states.

Key highlights from the episode include:

- An attack on one Gulf state is an attack on all.
- Unified defense capabilities are a cornerstone of regional security.
- He shared several examples of military cooperation among GCC countries.

Watch the full episode [here](#).



On March 18, Albilad Press (Bahrain) reported a statement from the Gulf Research Center (GRC) condemning Israel's resumption of what it described as a genocidal war in Gaza, calling it a crime that threatens regional stability.

Read the full article [here](#).



On March 15, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), contributed to the Council of Foreign Relations' Council of Council's global memo on "President Trump's Address to Congress: Global Reactions."

Read [here](#).



On March 14, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on the program "On the Border" (#على\_الحدود) on Asharq News (Bloomberg).

The episode focused on the aftermath of the successful U.S. - Ukraine talks in Jeddah, ahead of former President Trump's anticipated visit to Saudi Arabia. Dr. Sager shared insights on the regional and international implications of the talks.

Watch the full episode [here](#).



On Wednesday, March 12, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, was quoted in Independent Arabia (@IndyArabia) in an article titled: "The Deal with the SDF Cools Down Security Council Tensions... Independent Arabia Obtains Draft of Closed-Door Session."

Dr. Sager emphasized that the upcoming resolution stresses the importance of fighting terrorism, preserving national unity, and rejecting foreign intervention, while welcoming the formation of an investigative committee.

Read the full article [here](#).



On March 12, 2025 (12 Ramadan 1446 AH), Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, spoke to Asharq Al-Awsat (@aawsat\_News) in an article titled: "Moscow Holds Off on Ukraine Ceasefire Proposal, Awaits 'Details' from the U.S. Side."

Dr. Sager commented on the developments of a new round of negotiations with Washington, noting that while talks are ongoing, no date has been set for a potential Putin–Trump summit.

Read the full article [here](#).



On March 12, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on the program #Huna\_ALRiyadh (Here in Riyadh) on Al Ekhbariya Channel, in an episode titled: "From Jeddah... The First Steps Toward Peace."

The discussion focused on the initial breakthroughs in peace efforts emerging from Jeddah and Saudi Arabia's growing role as a diplomatic mediator.

Watch the full episode [here](#).



On March 11, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, stated that Saudi Arabia is an emerging power in international mediation, in an article published by Albilad Press (Bahrain).

He highlighted the Kingdom's growing diplomatic influence and its ability to bring conflicting parties to the negotiation table.

Read the full article [here](#).



On March 10, 2025 (10 Ramadan 1446 AH), Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, authored an article for Asharq Al-Awsat titled: "Saudi Arabia Cements Its Position as a Trusted Mediator in Global Diplomacy."

In the piece, he highlights how the Kingdom has become a key platform for negotiations between regional and international powers, reflecting its rising diplomatic stature.

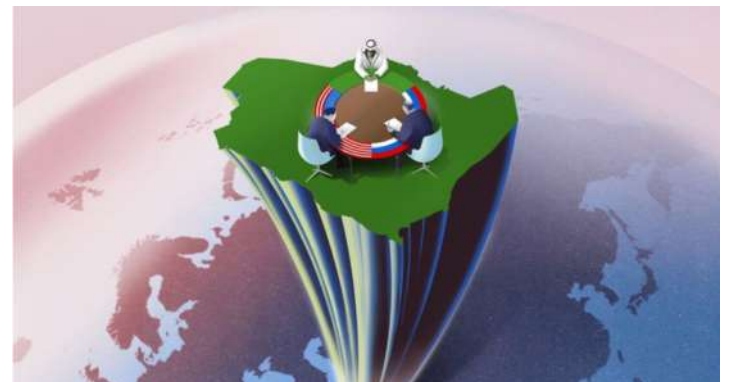
Read the full article [here](#).



On March 11, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on Rudaw TV (Kurdish) to discuss the Saudi-Ukrainian negotiations held in Jeddah.

He provided insights into the objectives and progress of the talks, and the broader implications for regional and international diplomacy.

Watch the full interview [here](#).



On March 9, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), published an article with Majalla titled: "Saudi Arabia's Diplomacy and the Changing World Order."

In the article, Dr. Sager explores the Kingdom's evolving foreign policy, its strategic positioning in a shifting global landscape, and its growing role as a diplomatic powerbroker.

Read the full article [here](#).



On March 7, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on BBC Arabic in the program #WorldAtNoon (عالم الظهيرة).

He discussed the announcement that U.S. President Donald Trump has scheduled a visit to Riyadh within the next six weeks – marking one of his first international trips since taking office on January 20.

Watch the full interview [here](#).

On March 7, Amnah Mosly, a researcher at the Gulf Research Center, was featured in Arabian Gulf Business Insight (AGBI) in an article titled: "Canada Must Do More to Capitalise on Billion-Dollar Saudi Projects."

Read the full article [here](#).



On March 5, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on the program #Huna\_ALRiyadh (Here in Riyadh) on Al Ekhbariya Channel, in an episode titled:

"Emergency Arab Summit: A Plan to Rebuild Gaza Without Displacement."

Dr. Sager discussed the outcomes of the summit and the proposed framework for Gaza's reconstruction, emphasizing the importance of preserving the population's right to remain on their land.

Watch the full episode [here](#).



On March 4, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, commented on the developments of the Emergency Arab Summit in Cairo in

a statement published by Albilad Press (Bahrain), under the headline: "A Unified Arab Stance to Confront the Risks of Displacement and Rebuild Gaza Amid Complex Challenges."

Dr. Sager highlighted the significance of Arab unity in addressing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, emphasizing the urgency of reconstruction without forced displacement.

Read the article [here](#).



On March 4, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, joined the program #Waqt\_ALSiyasa (Time for Politics) with Tariq Al-Hamid on Al Arabiya FM.

The episode focused on the Emergency Arab Summit on Palestine in Cairo and discussed the latest regional developments and the collective Arab stance on the situation in Gaza.

Listen to the full episode [here](#).



On March 4, 2025, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, made a guest appearance on "Al Arabiya's 4PM News Bulletin" (بشرة الرابعة) to discuss the Emergency Arab Summit on Palestine held in Cairo.

He shared insights on the summit's outcomes, regional consensus, and the importance of coordinated Arab efforts to address the humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

Watch the full segment [here](#).



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# GULF RESEARCH CENTER NEWSLETTER **MARCH 2025**



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