



**Gulf Research Center Foundation  
Brussels**

Knowledge for All

## GRC Events & Activities

### Exploring Steps to Strengthen GCC-EU Relations

Summary of the Roundtable Discussion with

**H.E. Dr. Abdel Aziz Abu Hamad Aluwaisheg**

Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Negotiations  
Gulf Cooperation Council

September 4, 2025

Brussels, Belgium

The Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels hosted a roundtable discussion with H.E. Dr. Abdel Aziz Abu Hamad Aluwaisheg, Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs and Negotiations to the GCC, on September 4, 2025. The discussion highlighted both the progress and persistent lacunae of the EU-GCC strategic partnership. While the establishment of a strategic partnership was regarded as a significant achievement, progress has been uneven across the seven pillars of the cooperation. Politically,

cooperation has improved, but it has been insufficient to bridge divergent perspectives, particularly on subjects like Gaza. On the security aspect, cooperation is structured but has not been materialized, while commitments to connectivity and trade, particularly the FTA, have yielded little actual progress. Investment flows, digital transformation, and AI collaboration have been prospective sectors in which the GCC looks to be keener than the EU. There is a growing recognition that both the EU and the GCC need to

#### ◆ GRC Events & Activities

- ☒ GRC Foundation Brussels Roundtable Discussion with H.E. Dr. Abdel Aziz Abu Hamad Aluwaisheg, Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Negotiations, Gulf Cooperation Council
- ☒ Roundtable on Saudi-German Relations
- ☒ Ways to Strengthen Saudi-Jordanian Relations Workshop
- ☒ GCC-EU Relations Webinar: Regional Security, Trade, and Future Prospects

#### ◆ GRC Cooperation

#### ◆ GRC Publications

#### ◆ GRC Programs

- ☒ Gulf Labor Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) Program
- ☒ Environmental Security and Sustainability Program
- ☒ Cultural & Media Program

#### ◆ GRC Participations

#### ◆ GRC in the Media



adapt their cooperation framework and mechanisms to the fast-evolving regional and global dynamics. Priority sectors would include joint efforts and initiatives in humanitarian aid, disaster management, and connectivity, with institutions such as the EU's Global Gateway and IMEC serving as potential vehicles for collaboration. Moreover, triangular cooperation—between the EU, the GCC, and the wider MENA region—has the potential to complement efforts in post-conflict reconstruction and investment. Concurrently, challenges remain in the

form of fragmented mediation initiatives, persisting coordination gaps, and underdeveloped parliamentary mechanisms. Nonetheless, the EU-GCC partnership is critical in view of common challenges in global trade, energy security, and technological innovation. Moving forward, development will be dependent on pragmatic, investment-focused engagement and procedures that build confidence and complementarity between the two sides.





## Ways to Strengthen Saudi–Jordanian Relations Workshop

September 18, 2025

Jordan, Amman



The Gulf Research Center (GRC), in cooperation with the Mashura Center for Studies, organized an in-depth workshop entitled “Ways to Strengthen Saudi–Jordanian Relations” on Thursday, September 18, 2025, in the Jordanian capital, Amman. The workshop served as an important dialogue platform that brought together a distinguished group of experts, officials, politicians, and academics from both Saudi Arabia and Jordan to examine key issues shaping the present and future of bilateral relations.

Discussions were structured into three sessions. The first session explored the foundations of political relations and the prospects for their further development. Participants highlighted the deep historical and cultural ties linking the two countries and emphasized the importance of consolidating these bonds to address common challenges and safeguard shared interests.

The second session examined political and security developments across the region and their implications for Riyadh and Amman. The debate underlined the crucial role both countries play in supporting stability, promoting dialogue, and enhancing regional security amid ongoing geopolitical shifts.

The third session focused on economic and investment cooperation, identifying promising opportunities in trade, infrastructure, and energy, while also addressing the challenges that need innovative solutions. The session stressed the potential for joint initiatives that could broaden the scope of partnership and generate tangible benefits for the peoples of both nations.

In conclusion, participants affirmed that Saudi–Jordanian relations represent a cornerstone of regional stability and security. Strengthening these ties across political, security, and economic dimensions was seen not only as a strategic necessity but also as an investment in a more stable and prosperous future for the wider region.





## Roundtable on Saudi-German Relations

with H.E. Ambassador Dr. Geza Andreas von Geyr, State Secretary  
of the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany

September 14, 2025  
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia



The Gulf Research Center (GRC) organized a high-level roundtable discussion entitled “Saudi-German Relations” bringing together senior officials, diplomats, and experts to exchange views on the current state and future prospects of bilateral ties. The session was attended by H.E. Ambassador Dr. Geza Andreas von Geyr, State Secretary of the Federal Foreign Office of the Federal Republic of Germany, accompanied by an official delegation, alongside a select group of Saudi and international experts with a deep interest in Saudi-German relations.

The roundtable, which took place on September 14, 2025, at the GRC office in Riyadh, provided a platform for candid dialogue on political, economic, security, and cultural dimensions of the partnership. Participants discussed opportunities for enhancing cooperation in areas of mutual interest, while also addressing regional and global challenges that impact both countries.

The event reflected GRC’s commitment to fostering constructive dialogue between the Gulf region and international partners, highlighting the importance of sustained engagement and collaboration in strengthening Saudi-German relations.





## GCC-EU Relations: Regional Security, Trade, and Future Prospects Webinar Summary and Key Outcomes

September 29, 2025



On September 29, 2025, the Gulf Research Center (GRC) convened a high-level webinar titled “GCC-EU Relations: Regional Security, Trade, and Future Prospects.” The session brought together senior policymakers, diplomats, and experts to assess Gulf-European ties ahead of a pivotal period in bilateral relations. The webinar featured opening interventions by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman and Founder of the GRC; Ms. Hana Jalloul Muro, Member of the European Parliament (MEP), First Vice-Chair of the European Parliament’s Committee on Foreign Affairs (AFET), and Rapporteur for Saudi Arabia; Prof. Nourah Shuaibi, Assistant Professor of Political Science at Kuwait University; and Dr. Máté Szalai, Research Fellow at Clingendael. This was followed by a guided discussion moderated by Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research at the GRC and Executive Manager of the GRC Foundation Brussels, and concluded with an engaging Q&A session with the audience.

In their opening remarks, the panelists emphasized the growing strategic significance of the GCC-EU relationship. However, as participants emphasized, the relationship is now entering a more dynamic phase shaped by global uncertainties and regional instability. Speakers highlighted the importance of building on the GCC-EU Joint Communication, which established a framework for closer cooperation across security, trade, energy, and people-to-people engagement. The upcoming 29th EU-GCC Joint Council and Ministerial Meeting and High-Level Forum in Kuwait in October 2025 and the EU-GCC Summit to be held in Riyadh in 2026 were highlighted as critical milestones to translate political will into actionable initiatives.

Security issues dominated much of the discussion, reflecting the urgency of crises that continue to destabilize the wider Middle East. Particular attention was given to the ongoing war in Gaza. Several participants emphasized that sustainable peace in the region cannot be achieved without addressing the Palestinian issue, and that the EU must assume a more active diplomatic role in advancing a just and lasting solution. The role of the newly appointed EU Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process, H.E. Ambassador Christophe Bigot, was singled out as an opportunity to reinvigorate European engagement. Panelists noted that cooperation with the GCC on this front could provide new momentum, primarily as both blocs advocate for a two-state solution and humanitarian relief in Gaza.

Beyond Palestine, participants also discussed a range of regional security challenges. The tensions with Iran and their impact on Gulf stability, the continuing conflicts in Yemen and Syria, and the deteriorating situation in Sudan were all cited as pressing issues where greater EU-GCC alignment could yield results. Maritime security in the Red Sea and the Gulf was also raised, with calls for more robust joint efforts to ensure freedom of navigation and



protect critical energy and trade flows. Counterterrorism and addressing extremism were noted as long-standing pillars of cooperation that remain relevant today.

Economic ties between the GCC and the EU are substantial yet remain below their full potential. The EU is one of the Gulf's most significant trading partners; however, participants acknowledged that negotiations on a free trade agreement have long been stalled due to various political and regulatory hurdles. Several speakers addressed this reality directly, noting that while the Gulf states are keen to advance trade liberalization, the EU's insistence on linking economic agreements with broader political and social conditionalities has complicated progress. Nevertheless, there was consensus that both sides stand to benefit from renewed dialogue, particularly in areas such as investment facilitation, financial services, and digital economy cooperation.

The discussion also highlighted the importance of GCC investment flows into Europe, which have grown substantially in recent years, particularly in the energy, infrastructure, and technology sectors. Participants noted that Europe's expertise in green and digital transitions complements Gulf efforts to diversify their economies beyond oil and gas. There was widespread agreement that identifying concrete, mutually beneficial projects could serve as a building block toward broader economic integration.

Beyond security and trade, panelists emphasized the importance of fostering people-to-people exchanges. Visa facilitation and mobility were raised as long-standing priorities for the GCC, with the hope that the EU will advance discussions on Schengen access for all GCC nationals. Such steps, it was argued, would strengthen trust and foster closer ties at the societal level. Educational and cultural cooperation was also identified as an area of untapped potential. The Gulf states have invested heavily in higher education and are eager to expand academic partnerships with European institutions. At the same time, cultural exchanges and joint initiatives in the creative industries were seen as tools to build greater mutual understanding.

Energy and climate cooperation formed another major strand of the discussion. The EU and GCC share common interests in advancing the global energy transition. Speakers highlighted promising areas of collaboration, including hydrogen development, carbon capture and storage, and renewable energy projects. Europe's experience in regulatory frameworks and technology transfer was seen as complementary to Gulf ambitions under their respective national visions. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) was proposed as a potential framework for integrating infrastructure and energy networks across the regions. Participants agreed that both blocs must seize such opportunities to anchor cooperation in forward-looking projects that contribute to global sustainability goals.

However, participants also acknowledged the challenges in GCC-EU relations. Divergent political approaches, particularly regarding human rights and governance, continue to complicate economic negotiations. Similarly, differing threat perceptions can sometimes make it challenging to align on regional security issues fully. Despite these hurdles, the consensus was that the risks of inaction are far greater, and that both blocs must find ways to work pragmatically where interests converge.

In concluding remarks, speakers emphasized that the relationship between the Gulf and Europe is no longer optional, but strategic. In a world marked by shifting global power balances and multiplying regional crises, the GCC and EU must leverage their partnership to promote stability, prosperity, and mutual understanding. The webinar reaffirmed that while much work lies ahead, there is significant scope for cooperation across multiple domains. As attention turns to the Kuwait ministerial meeting and Riyadh summit, expectations are high that the coming year will mark a turning point in the evolution of GCC-EU ties.



## Gulf Research Meeting (GRM) Call for Workshop Proposal: Closed



**Gulf Research Centre Cambridge**  
Knowledge for All

**GULF RESEARCH MEETING**

The Gulf Research Meeting (GRM) is the most prominent global academic meeting on the Gulf region, organised by the Gulf Research Center Cambridge (GRCC). It has been held annually since 2010.

More details on the GRM can be found [here](#).

The Call for Workshops for the 16th (GRM) Cambridge, 21-23 July 2026, closed on 29 September 2025. A total of 86 applications were received. All are being reviewed by GRC and external peer reviewers.

The selected workshops will be included in a Call for Papers which is scheduled to be published on 3 November 2025 with a deadline of 5 January 2026.

One of the key objectives of GRM is to publish edited volumes, special issues of academic journals, and individual articles. Most recent publications include:

- Soubrier, Emma, [The Gulf defence industry, at the cutting \(h\)edge of multi-level power strategies](#), published in Defense and Security Analysis, 1-19, originally presented at the GRM 2024.
- Altiok, Huzeyfe and Ali Bakir, [Exploring the limitations of the UAE's hard power](#), published in Defense and Security Analysis, 1-17, originally presented at the GRM 2023.
- Jacopo, Leonardo, Maria Mazzucco, Kristian Alexander, [Defence exhibitions in the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia: strategic signalling, industrial aspirations, and economic diversification](#), published in Defense & Security Analysis, 1-23, originally presented at the GRM 2024.



مركز الخليج للأبحاث  
المعرفة للجميع



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, and Dr. Zaid Al-Fadeil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program at the Center, visited the Arab Thought Forum in Jordan on Wednesday, September 17, 2025. They were received by the Secretary-General of the Forum, Dr. Al-Sadiq Al-Faqih, who briefed them on the Forum's activities and programs.

During the meeting, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Gulf Research Center and the Arab Thought Forum, signed by Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, and His Excellency Ambassador Dr. Al-Sadiq bin Bakhit Al-Faqih, Secretary-General of the Arab Thought Forum.



## Commentary & Analysis



**Implications and Limitations of Western Recognition of Palestine**  
Houda Barroug  
September 2025



**Soft Power Under Pressure: Continuity, Adaptation, and the Emerging Role of the Gulf in Russia's Soft Power Policies**  
Research Paper  
Authors:  
Tamara Uspenskikh, Professor Saleh Alkhathlan



**India's Eastward Pivot: What Modi's Tilt Toward Asia Means for the Gulf Amid U.S. Tariffs**  
Layla Ali  
September 2025

[Implications and Limitations of Western Recognition of Palestine](#)  
Houda Barroug  
September 2025

[Soft Power Under Pressure: Continuity, Adaptation, and the Emerging Role of the Gulf in Russia's Soft Power Policies](#)  
Tamara Uspenskikh, Professor Saleh Alkhathlan  
September 2025

[India's Eastward Pivot: What Modi's Tilt Toward Asia Means for the Gulf Amid U.S. Tariffs](#)  
Layla Ali  
September 2025



**The Eurasian Triangle and the New World Order**  
Dr. John Sfakianakis  
Originally Published in Arab News 2022  
September 2025



**A New Axis of Instability: Iran's Africa Strategy and Gulf Security Risks**  
Michael W. Wilson  
September 2025



[Saudi Arabia-Australia Relations: Strategic Convergence and Policy Pathways](#)  
Amnah Mosly  
September 2025

[The Eurasian Triangle and the New World Order](#)  
Dr. John Sfakianakis  
September 2025

[A New Axis of Instability: Iran's Africa Strategy and Gulf Security Risks](#)  
Michael W. Wilson  
September 2025



## Commentary & Analysis



### Anchoring the Future: How China and Saudi Arabia Are Reshaping Their Partnership

Yuan Zhang  
September 2025

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Anchoring the Future: How China and Saudi Arabia Are Reshaping Their Partnership  
Yuan Zhang  
September 2025



### Japan-Saudi Arabia 70th Anniversary: Reflecting on a Strategic and Evolving Partnership

Noriko Suzuki  
September 2025

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[Japan-Saudi Arabia 70th Anniversary: Reflecting on a Strategic and Evolving Partnership](#)  
Noriko Suzuki  
September 2025

## Selected Arabic Articles



### Reactivating UN Sanctions on Tehran: Dimensions and Limits of Impact

Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf  
September 2025

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### Iraq and the U.S.-Israeli Pressure: The Shift Towards a New Reality

Rasha Al Azzawi  
September 2025

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### On the 70th Anniversary of Saudi-Japan Cooperation: Towards a Strategic and Advanced Partnership

Noriko Suzuki  
September 2025

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## Selected Arabic Articles



An Early Guide to Good Governance: A Reading in King Abdulaziz's Instructions to the Deputy Governor of Medina (1927 CE / 1346 AH)

Prof. Saleh M. Alkhatlan

September 2025



[Between Rhetorical Stakes and the Reality of Alternatives](#)

Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf

September 2025



[Trump and the End of Hegemony: How His Narcissism Accelerated Multipolarity](#)

Prof. Saleh Mohammed Al-Khatlan

September 2025



[Targeting the Palestinian Negotiation Delegation in Qatar: Regional Implications and Repercussions](#)

Yousef Kamil Khattab

September 2025



[From the Department of Defense to the Department of War: The Paradox of Naming and the Contradiction of Behavior-What are the Dimensions and Implications of the American Dimensions U.S. Military Doctrine?](#)

Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf

September 2025



[The Reconstructing Gaza Fund: The Abrahamic Structure](#)

Mohammad S. Alzou'bi

September 2025



## Selected Arabic Articles



[After Decades of Founding, Summits, Meetings, and Statements of Condemnation: Is It Time for the Arab League to Evolve and Activate Its Role?](#)

Yousef Kamil Khattab  
September 2025



[Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit: Stakes of Consensus and Opportunities for Response](#)

Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf  
September 2025

## Araa Magazine



[The Israel-Iran War: Causes, Consequences, and Implications](#)  
Issue #213 (September 2025)

## Country Updates and Trade Reports



India - GCC Relations  
September 2025



Denmark-GCC Relations  
September 2025



Australia - GCC Relations  
September 2025



## Gulf Labor Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) Program



### GLMM

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

### Publications Published



- Georges Naufal, [“Navigating the AI Revolution: Impacts and Policy Responses for Expatriate Populations in the GCC,”](#) Policy Brief No. 24, September 2025.



- Magdalena Karolak, [“Developments in Arts and Culture in the GCC and Migratory Flows,”](#) Policy Brief No. 25, September 2025.

### Forthcoming

- Françoise De Bel-Air, Nasra M. Shah (editors), [The Future of Migration to GCC Countries: Migrants' Aspirations, Labour Reforms, and Politics](#), Springer, South-South Migration, November 2025. Includes 16 chapters originally presented as papers for the [GLMM workshop at the 14th Gulf Research Meeting \(GRM\), Cambridge, 9-11 July 2024](#).



## 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.

Saudi Arabia's National and Non-National Employed Population by Main Group of Activities (Q1 2021 - Q1 2025):

- [Saudi Arabia: Total employed population by main group of economic activities \(Q1 2021-Q1 2025\)](#)
- [Saudi Arabia: Saudi employed population by main group of economic activities \(Q1 2021-Q1 2025\)](#)
- [Saudi Arabia: Non-Saudi employed population by main group of economic activities \(Q1 2021-Q1 2025\)](#)

Saudi Arabia's Non-Arab Asian and European Population by Country (Census 2022):

- [Saudi Arabia: non-Arab Asian population by region, country of citizenship and sex \(census 2022\)](#)
- [Saudi Arabia: European population by region, country of citizenship and sex \(census 2022\)](#)

## Country Tables

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

## GCC Regional Tables

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



## People

Froilan Malit, Jr. has been appointed as GLMM Fellow. Malit has been working with GLMM for a decade and was previously a GLMM research associate. Malit is a visiting scholar in the Department of Political Science at the American University in Dubai, specializing in the linkages between foreign policy, migration, and labor rights in the Asia-Gulf corridor. For over a decade, Malit has worked as a Middle East migration policy consultant for regional and international organizations, including the Abu Dhabi Dialogue, ILO, IOM, World Bank, other global think tanks, business, and academic and migrant civil society institutions. He is also a regional advisory member of the ILO Regional Office for Arab States Migration Advisory Group and a managing director of Rights Corridor. He has over 50 academic and public policy publications on Gulf migration-related issues. He regularly provides migration policy opinions to regional and international think tanks and media outlets, including the New York Times. He has published in various academic journals (both in print and forthcoming), including in the Third World Quarterly, British Journal of Middle Eastern Studies, Global Labor Journal, Middle East Critique, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Global Studies Quarterly, Arabian Humanities, Asian Pacific and Migration Journal, International Migration, Migration Letters, and Remittance Review, among others. He holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Cornell University, the University of Oxford, and the University of Cambridge. He is also currently a Ph.D. Politics and International Studies candidate at the University of London's School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS), focusing on South-South migration politics issues.

Gennaro Errichiello has been appointed GLMM Non-Resident Fellow. Errichiello is a Global Fellow at Habib University in Karachi. He is a sociologist whose research focuses on international migration, with particular expertise in South-South migration and the Asia-Gulf migration corridor. His work critically engages with the experiences of the Pakistani diaspora and other migrant communities in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. His research interests include migration, everyday integration, belonging, highly skilled and middle-class migrants, migrant organizations, and the

intersections of race, gender, and class in transnational mobility. His work contributes to broader debates on urban diversity, civil society, and the lived experiences of migrants in the Global South. Dr. Errichiello has held academic positions at SOAS University of London, Loughborough University, and Webster University in Tashkent. He has published peer-reviewed articles in leading journals such as International Migration Review, Asian and Pacific Migration Journal, and the Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies. He is also the author of chapters in the Routledge Handbook on Middle East Diasporas and Social Change in the Gulf Region.

## GLMM Staff Activities

Nasra M. Shah moderated a high-level panel at the launch of the [United Nations Network on Migration in Pakistan](#) which took place in Islamabad from September 1-3, 2025. The panel brought together representatives from the Ministry of Interior, Ministry of Overseas Pakistanis and Human Resource Development, National Commission for Human Rights, IOM, and SSDO. The discussion focused on strengthening migration governance, protecting rights, and tackling challenges such as trafficking and irregular migration through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach.

Nasra M. Shah, Françoise de Bel-Air, and Froilan Malit have recently been confirmed as members of the [Migration Advisory Group \(MAG\) of the ILO Regional Office for Arab States \(ROAS\)](#) and participated in the MAG Meeting which took place from September 25-26, 2025 in Beirut.

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



## Environmental Security and Sustainability Program

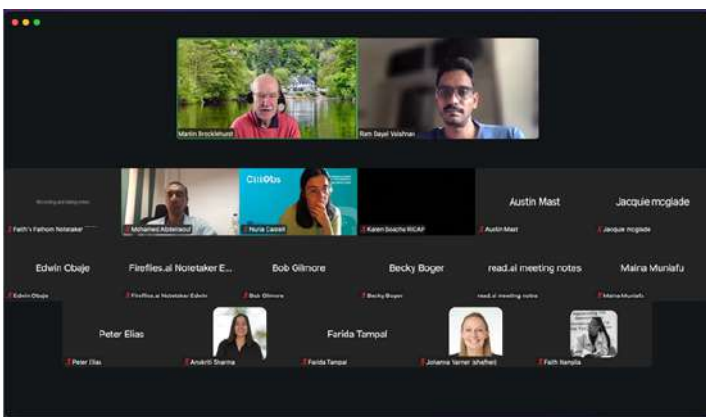
### 1-5 September 2025

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center, participated in the 12th Annual Subcommittee Meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives in Nairobi, Kenya. Dr. Raouf co-coordinated several Major Groups engagements, including a number of bilateral meetings, daily morning briefings, and a joint statement.



### 9 September 2025

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center, participated in a virtual meeting with Global Citizen Science in preparation for the seventh session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 7). Dr. Raouf presented the various activities planned by the Major Group before and during the event.



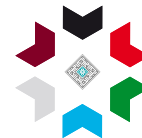
### 29 September 2025

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program Director at the Gulf Research Center, participated in the fifth virtual meeting of a commission of Arab thinkers and practitioners to discuss a research project exploring the politics and geopolitics of decarbonization in the MENA region. The session focused on economic diversification efforts in the MENA region citing Saudi Arabia and Algeria as examples.





## Cultural & Media Program



مختبر الحوار بمركز الخليج للأبحاث  
Gulf Research Center Dialogue Lab

### GRC Podcast Activities

#### September 9, 2025

The GRC Podcast hosted Dr. Mohammad Saleh Sedghian, Director of the Arab Center for Iranian Studies, in an episode entitled “What did the Israeli–Iranian war reveal about the balance of power and weakness in the region?” where he explained the dimensions of the conflict and its regional implications. Access the full episode [here](#).





## September 30, 2025

Professor Saleh bin Mohammed Al-Khathlan, Senior Advisor at the Gulf Research Center, participated in the 22nd Annual Meeting of the #Valdai Forum in Sochi, Russia, where the sessions discussed transformations in the international system, the decline of American power versus the rise of China, and the growing trend toward what is known as strategic independence. The discussions included research into the nature and depth of these transformations, their impacts on regional conflicts, opportunities for peace, the effectiveness of international institutions, and paths for national development, in addition to the impact of technological transformations on the future of international relations.



## September 30, 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, met with Mr. Tristan Aureau, Director of the Centre for Analysis, Planning and Strategy at the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs, on September 30, 2025, at the GRC office in Riyadh. The meeting focused on recent regional developments and areas of cooperation.

## September 29, 2025



## September 30, 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, met with H.E. Dr. Thanos Dokos, National Security Advisor to the Prime Minister of Greece, on September 30, 2025, at the GRC office in Riyadh. The meeting focused on areas of mutual interest and regional developments.

Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, met with Dr. Onike Nicol-Houra, Lead Investment Relations Specialist at the African Development Bank, along with her accompanying delegation from the Africa Finance Corporation (AFC) and the Arab Bank for Economic Development in Africa (BADEA), during their investment roundtable at the GRC's office in Riyadh. The meeting focused on areas of mutual interest, with discussions centered on strengthening economic partnerships between the Gulf states and Africa.



**September 29, 2025**



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, met with H.E. Dr. Stefano Sannino, Director General for the Directorate of MENA at the European Commission, and his accompanying delegation at the GRC office in Riyadh. The meeting focused on areas of mutual interest, including regional developments and ways to further strengthen EU-GCC relations through various research initiatives.

**September 28, 2025**



Dr Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, met with H.E. Maira Myrogianni, Secretary General for Greeks Abroad and Public Diplomacy, along with H.E. Mr. Alexis Konstantopoulos, Ambassador of the Hellenic Republic to Saudi Arabia, at the GRC office in Riyadh. Both sides discussed promoting business interests between Saudi Arabia and Greece

**September 29, 2025**



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, met with Dr. Peter Vorhofer, National Security Advisor at the Federal Chancellery of the Republic of Austria, and H.E. Mr. Oskar Wüstinger, Ambassador of Austria to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at the GRC's office in Riyadh. The meeting focused on areas of mutual interest and regional developments.

**September 16, 2025**



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, received H.E. Professor Dr. Ahmed Al-Tijani Al-Mansouri, Minister of Animal Resources and Fisheries of the Republic of Sudan, at the GRC's office in Riyadh. The dialogue revolved around food security in the region, where Sudan is an important source of animal imports to Gulf countries. Moreover, animal exports constitute a vital component of the Sudanese economy and one of its most important sources of foreign currency.



## September 16, 2025



GRC's Director of the Cultural and Media Program, Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, participated in the forum "Worlds of Conflict in the Middle East," held in Amman, Jordan, under the patronage of H.E. Dr. Bisher Al-Khasawneh and organized by the Eilaf Center and the Applied Science Private University, where he presented a paper during the second session on the struggle for influence in the Middle East.

## September 15, 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, met with H.E. Ambassador Christophe Bigot, European Union Special Representative (EUSR) for the Middle East Peace Process, during his visit to Riyadh.

## September 11, 2025

Gerd Nonneman, Professor of International Relations and Gulf Studies at the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University's campus in Qatar, visited the Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels office, where he met with GRC Director of Research, Dr. Christian Koch, to discuss collaboration with Georgetown University on the topic of Gulf-EU relations.

## September 10, 2025

Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research and Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels, met with Marc Franco, Senior Associate Fellow at Egmont Institute and former Ambassador/Head of the European Union Delegation to Egypt (2009-2012) and Head of the European Commission's Delegation to Russia (2004-2009). Together, they discussed potential future collaboration with Egmont Institute on projects related to security issues.

## September 10, 2025



Dr. Oskar Ziemelis, Director of the Gulf Research Center Foundation (GRCF) in Geneva, attended the 13th edition of the Geneva Peace Talks at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland, organized by the UN Office at Geneva, Interpeace, and the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform. Under the theme "Peace is Possible," this year's event brought together a group of individuals from around the world, including diplomats, peacebuilders, and unity leaders, all united in the belief that peace is possible.



## September 8, 2025



Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research and Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels, participated in a workshop organized by Bertelsmann Stiftung, titled "EU-MENA Mapping." It brought together perspectives from experts from all 27 EU member states who have just participated in an expert survey, reflecting the EU-27's interests, priorities, and strategies vis-à-vis ten conflicts in the MENA region, namely Iran, Iraq, Israel-Palestine, the Kurdish Question, Lebanon, Libya, Sudan, Syria, Western Sahara, and Yemen. Participants debated these results with the aim of identifying concrete avenues for improved EU-27 cooperation in addressing these conflicts in the wider EU southern neighborhood.

## September 8, 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated in the 2nd Hili Forum in Abu Dhabi, speaking on the panel "Global Gulf: Middle Powers and Mediators." The panel explored the growing role of the six GCC states as middle powers and mediators, shaping global debates on economic diversification, technology, conflict resolution, and diplomacy. Dr. Sager highlighted Saudi Arabia's longstanding role as a trusted mediator in regional disputes, explaining how its efforts have steadily expanded from regional engagements to internationally recognized mediation initiatives. He noted that Saudi diplomacy is now helping to set new benchmarks for global conflict resolution, reflecting the

Gulf's wider capacity to influence both regional stability and international governance frameworks

## September 3, 2025

Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research and Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation, Brussels, met with Nicolas Pomey, Director of Actis Europe, to discuss potential future collaboration on projects related to Gulf-EU business relations.

## September 2, 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Mr. Pit Koehler, Deputy Head of Mission of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC office in Riyadh. The meeting focused on Germany-GCC relations and areas of cooperation.

## August 31, 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with H.E. Mr. Stephen Hitchen, Ambassador of the United Kingdom to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, at the GRC office in Riyadh. Their discussions covered areas of mutual interest, including the GRC's annual Gulf Research Meeting (GRM) at the University of Cambridge, UK-Gulf relations, and recent regional developments.

27 September 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on an episode of "Al-Bu'd Al-Akhar" airing on Al Arabiya, entitled "The New York Declaration," a Saudi-French initiative that places the State of Palestine on the path to realization.

[Watch here](#)

26 September 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, was featured in an interview with Reuters, in an article titled "Sources: Iran Behind Hezbollah's Call to Open a New Page with Saudi Arabia."

[Read here](#)

26 September 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared in an episode of "Here in Riyadh," airing on Al Ekhbariya, entitled "Saudi Arabia: Optimism Over the End of the Gaza War Following Commitments Expressed by Trump," in which he noted Saudi Arabia's diplomatic efforts prompting President Trump to reconsider his support for Israel's plans to annex the West Bank.

[Watch here](#)

24 September 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on an episode of "DW Evening" airing on DW Arabic, entitled "Trump's Meeting with Arab and Muslim Leaders: What's New in the Gaza File?"

[Watch here](#)



24 September 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on "Politics Time" with Tariq Al-Hamid, broadcast on Al Arabiya FM, where the discussion focused on recent regional developments and the momentum generated by the Two-State Solution Conference at the United Nations General Assembly.

[Watch here](#)

23 September 2025



Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program at the Gulf Research Center, appeared on Roya News in an episode titled "A Summit at a Critical Time: Between Trump's Repositioning and Political Messages in the Middle East."

[Watch here](#)

23 September 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on an episode of "Al-Arabiya 4 O'Clock News" airing on Al Arabiya, where he discussed the outcomes of the Two-State Solution Conference held at the United Nations headquarters in New York.

[Watch here](#)

22 September 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on an episode of "World at Noon" airing on BBC Arabic, where he discussed the launch of the Two-State Solution Conference, held in New York and co-chaired by Saudi Arabia and France.

[Watch here](#)



21 September 2025



Saudi National Day 95 Video

The Gulf Research Center released a commemorative video ahead of the 95th Saudi National Day, marking the Kingdom's enduring legacy and leadership. On this national occasion, the GRC celebrates Saudi Arabia's leadership and its role as a pillar of stability among nations, expressing hope for continued security, prosperity, and progress.

[Watch here](#)

21 September 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on an episode of "Akhbar Al-Layl" airing on Al-Hadath entitled "Saudi Arabia has Pushed for a Two-State Solution Long Before it Became an International Headline."

[Watch here](#)

20 September 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on an episode of "Here in Riyadh," airing on Al-Ekhbariya, where he discussed the phone call between the Saudi Crown Prince and the French President regarding the outcomes of the International Conference on the Two-State Solution and coordination efforts ahead of the High-Level Conference on the Implementation of the Two-State Solution which was held on September 22.

[Watch here](#)

19 September 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on an episode of "Al-Hekaya" with Amr Adib on MBC Masr, discussing the Saudi-Pakistani Joint Strategic Defense Agreement.

[Watch here](#)

فصل  
عربي  
كاسيت

هجوم إسرائيل على قطر  
كان بتنسيق أمريكي

د. عبد العزيز بن سعود - محلل سياسي وأكاديمي

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كيف سيورد الخليج على  
الاحتلال الإسرائيلي

مع عبدالعزيز بن صقر

[Listen here](#)

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15 September 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on an episode of “Akhbar Al-Sharq” airing on Al-Sharq TV, as part of the special coverage of the Arab-Islamic emergency summit in Doha.

[Watch here](#)

15 September 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on Al Arabiya Channel, participating in the live coverage of the Arab-Islamic emergency summit in Doha.

[Watch here](#)

14 September 2025



Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program at the Gulf Research Center, appeared on “Sawt Al-Mamlaka” on Al-Mamlaka TV (Jordan), discussing the repercussions of the Israeli aggression and expectations of the Arab-Islamic summit.

[Watch here](#)

10 September 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on “Al Arabiya 4 O’Clock News” airing on Al Arabiya, where he discussed the repercussions of the Israeli aggression against Qatar.

[Watch here](#)

9 September 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on the Al-Sharq TV News Bulletin, discussing the Israeli attack on the State of Qatar.

[Watch here](#)

5 September 2025



Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on an episode of "Ala Al-Hodood" airing on Al-Sharq (Bloomberg), entitled "Iran Facing the Snapback Mechanism." Dr. Sager stated that the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) failed to support Iran during the U.S.–Israeli attacks and remains unable to offer military protection. He added that the E3's activation of the Snapback Mechanism aims to pressure Iran, while Gulf states reject militarizing the nuclear issue and advocate for a peaceful path to stability.

[Watch here](#)

3 September 2025



Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the Cultural Program at the Gulf Research Center, appeared on "Eye of Five" airing on Al-ekhbaryia, where he discussed the launch of the Cultural Investment Conference 2025.

[Watch here](#)



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# GULF RESEARCH CENTER NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025



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