



GRC Events & Activities

Mapping Regional Security Frameworks and the Future of NATO-Gulf Cooperation

Workshop

NATO Headquarters

June 15, 2026

Brussels, Belgium



On June 15, 2026, the Gulf Research Center (GRC) Foundation's Brussels Office co-organized a high-level workshop with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) entitled "Mapping Regional Security Frameworks and the Future of NATO-Gulf Cooperation" at NATO Headquarters in Brussels. The workshop was opened by H.E. Javier Colomina, NATO Secretary General's Special Representative for the Southern Neighbourhood and Deputy Assistant

Secretary General for Political Affairs and Security Policy. H.E. Dr. Abdel Aziz Aluwaisheg, Assistant Secretary General for Political Affairs and Negotiation at the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), also participated in the discussions alongside senior NATO officials, policymakers, academics, and security practitioners from both the Gulf region and NATO member states.

GRC Events & Activities

'Mapping Regional Security Frameworks and the Future of NATO-Gulf Cooperation' Workshop

'EU-GCC Economic Cooperation in Times of Geopolitical Volatility' Roundtable Meeting

'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



As the first in a planned series of structured dialogues between the Gulf Research Center and NATO, the workshop provided a timely platform for in-depth discussions on the rapidly evolving regional security environment, the future trajectory of NATO-Gulf relations, and practical avenues for strengthening institutional engagement, political dialogue, and operational coordination between the two sides. Against the backdrop of growing geopolitical uncertainty, increasing maritime and cyber threats, and shifting regional security dynamics, participants assessed how both organizations could deepen cooperation in areas of shared strategic interest.

The discussions focused on regional security architectures, maritime security, cyber resilience, interoperability, crisis management, and the protection of critical infrastructure, while also examining lessons from existing partnership frameworks and opportunities for expanding practical cooperation. Particular attention was given to developing policy recommendations ahead of the NATO Summit in Ankara in July 2026, including ways to enhance strategic consultation, capacity building, information sharing, and confidence-building measures between NATO and the Gulf states.

Participants exchanged views on both current and emerging security challenges, explored opportunities for more structured and sustained cooperation, and identified concrete mechanisms for fostering greater strategic dialogue, institutional coordination, and long-term partnership between NATO and the GCC in support of regional and international security.

The workshop featured four thematic sessions designed to examine both the strategic and operational dimensions of NATO-Gulf cooperation:

Session I: *Regional Security Architectures in Transition* explored the evolving security landscape in the Gulf and the wider Middle East, assessing how shifting geopolitical dynamics, great power competition, and regional conflicts are reshaping existing security frameworks and creating new opportunities for cooperative approaches.

Session II: *NATO and the Gulf: From Dialogue to Operational Cooperation* examined the evolution of NATO's engagement with Gulf partners, focusing on practical avenues for deepening cooperation through enhanced political dialogue, interoperability, capacity building, training, and institutional partnerships.





Session III: Addressing Shared Threats: Cyber, Maritime, and Emerging Risks focused on common security challenges facing both NATO and Gulf states, including maritime security, cyber threats, critical infrastructure protection, hybrid threats, and the implications of emerging technologies for regional stability and collective resilience.

Session IV: Policy Pathways, Strategic Outlook, and Next Steps Toward Institutionalizing NATO-GCC Cooperation brought together the key findings from the previous sessions to identify practical policy recommendations for strengthening NATO-GCC relations. Discussions considered mechanisms for institutionalizing regular dialogue, expanding technical cooperation, and establishing longer-term frameworks for strategic consultation and coordinated action.

Throughout the workshop, participants emphasized that the increasingly interconnected nature of regional and global security requires stronger partnerships between NATO and the Gulf states. The discussions highlighted the growing strategic importance of NATO-Gulf engagement in addressing shared security challenges, strengthening resilience against evolving threats, and promoting maritime, cyber, and critical infrastructure security. Participants also underscored the value of sustained political dialogue, institutional engagement, and practical cooperation in contributing to regional stability, enhancing mutual understanding, and reinforcing the broader international security architecture.





EU-GCC Economic Cooperation in Times of Geopolitical Volatility

Roundtable Meeting

June 16, 2026

Brussels, Belgium



**Gulf Research Center Foundation
Brussels**

Knowledge for All



On June 16, 2026, the Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels office co-hosted a business roundtable at its office with Actis Europe titled "EU-GCC Economic Cooperation in Times of Geopolitical Volatility." The roundtable brought together senior representatives from the public and private sectors, including policymakers, business leaders, and experts, to examine how Europe and the Gulf can strengthen economic cooperation amid an increasingly uncertain geopolitical and economic environment.

Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist and Head of Economic Research at the Gulf Research Center, provided an overview of the evolving Gulf security landscape and its implications for trade, investment, energy, financial markets, and global supply chains. Discussions explored how shifting geopolitical dynamics, regional conflicts, and economic uncertainty are reshaping investment patterns and commercial decision-making. Participants also emphasized the need for Europe and the GCC to establish a more structured and institutionalized corporate dialogue capable of translating political ambitions into practical economic cooperation and long-term strategic partnerships.

Energy remained the central focus of the discussion, particularly the implications of oil price volatility, changing demand patterns in Asia, and the Gulf's long-term post-hydrocarbon transition strategies. Participants noted that Gulf states are navigating a delicate balance between maximizing hydrocarbon revenues while global demand remains strong and investing those revenues to accelerate economic diversification, renewable energy, advanced industries, and innovation-driven growth.

Connectivity also emerged as a recurring strategic priority, extending beyond traditional transport links to include maritime security, logistics corridors, energy infrastructure, pipelines, digital connectivity, data networks, and emerging hydrogen value chains. Participants agreed that the Gulf's future strategic importance will depend not only on its geopolitical position but also on its ability to serve as a resilient global hub connecting Europe, Asia, and Africa through integrated infrastructure, secure trade routes, and reliable supply chains.



"Through Syrian Eyes" Film Program

June 3, 16, 23, 2026

Damascus, Syria

June 3, 2026



The Gulf Research Center, in collaboration with the Taqaaddum Center for Dialogue, Development, and Peacebuilding, has released a new episode of the "Through Syrian Eyes" program, titled: "What Did Ilham Ahmed Say About Integration—and Could She Become Al-Shibani's Deputy?"

The episode explores these questions and other key developments shaping Syria's political landscape through an in-depth conversation with Ilham Ahmed, Co-Chair of the External Relations Department of the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria. The discussion examines the prospects for political integration, the future of governance in Syria, and the evolving dynamics of the country's transition.

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

Watch the full episode [here](#).

June 16, 2026



The Gulf Research Center, in collaboration with the Taqaaddum Center for Dialogue, Development, and Peacebuilding, has released a new episode of the "Through Syrian Eyes" program, titled:

"The First 'Kurdish Governor' Drops a Bombshell: We Will Not Exclude the Ba'athists...The SDF is in the Ministry of Defense, and We Have Become Part of the Syrian Army."

In this episode, Mr. Nour El-Din Ahmed Issa, Governor of Al-Hasakah in the Syrian Arab Republic, discusses these developments and other key issues shaping Syria's evolving political and security landscape.

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

Watch the full episode [here](#).



June 23, 2026

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:

"Has the Syrian Government Succeeded in Restoring the Rights of Detainees and the Missing? And How Much Progress Has Been Made on the Path to Justice in Syria?"

In this episode, leading experts examine these critical questions and discuss the challenges and prospects for justice, accountability, and reconciliation in Syria.

Episode guests included:

- Dr. Radwan Ziadeh – Researcher at the Arab Center Washington DC
- Ms. Amina Khouliani – Advisor and Member of the National Commission for the Missing
- Dr. Ghina Badiwi – Expert in International Criminal Law

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

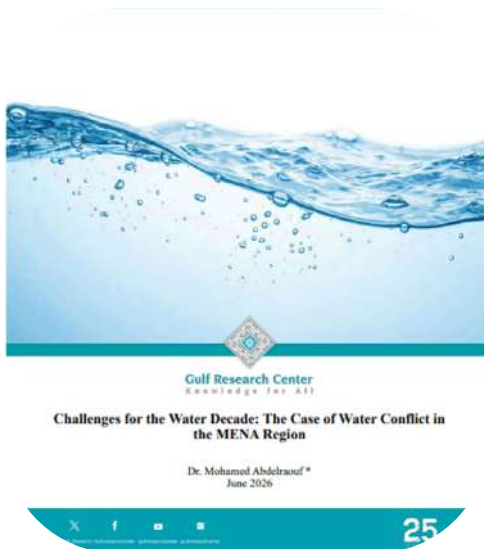
Watch the full episode [here](https://www.grc.net).



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.

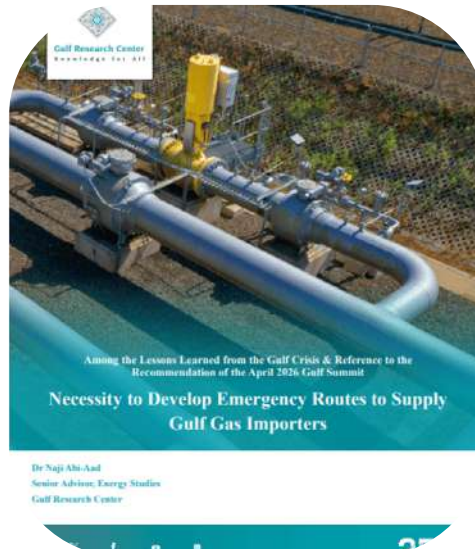
Below are some of our most recent works:

Commentary & Analyses



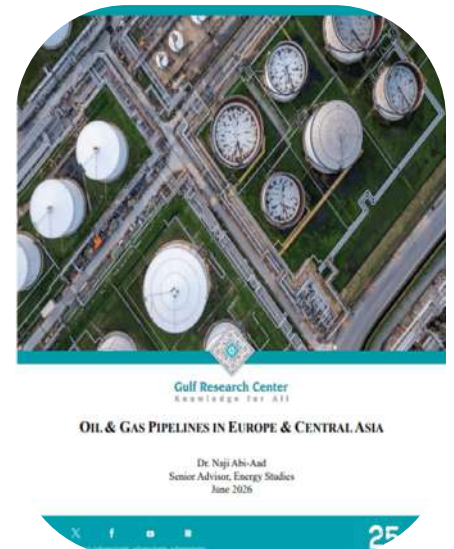
Challenges for the Water Decade: The Case of Water Conflict in the MENA Region

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf
June 2026



Necessity to Develop Emergency Routes to Supply Gulf Gas Importers

Dr. Naji Abi-Aad
June 2026



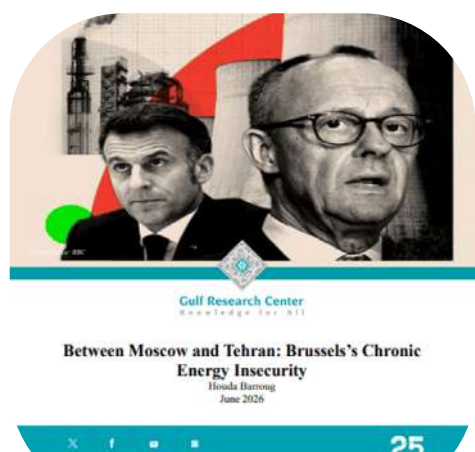
Oil & Gas Pipelines in Europe & Central Asia

Dr. Naji Abi-Aad
June 2026



From the Red Sea to the Strait of Malacca: Strengthening Gulf-Asia Maritime Cooperation for Securing Trade Corridors and Regional Security

Layla Ali
June 2026



Between Moscow and Tehran: Brussels's Chronic Energy Insecurity

Houda Barroug
June 2026

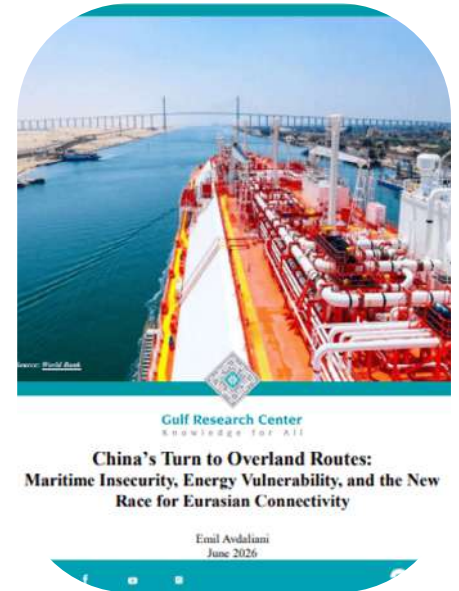
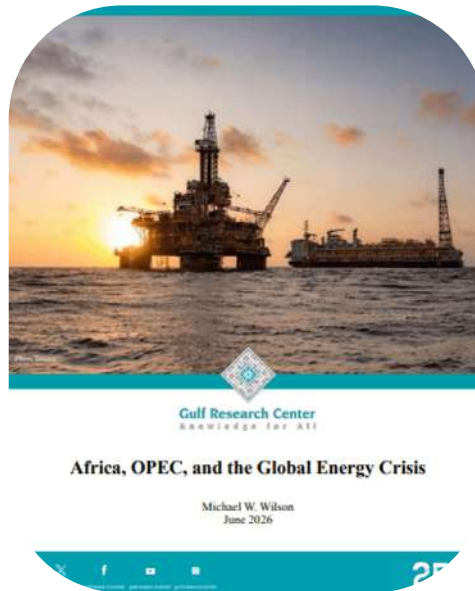
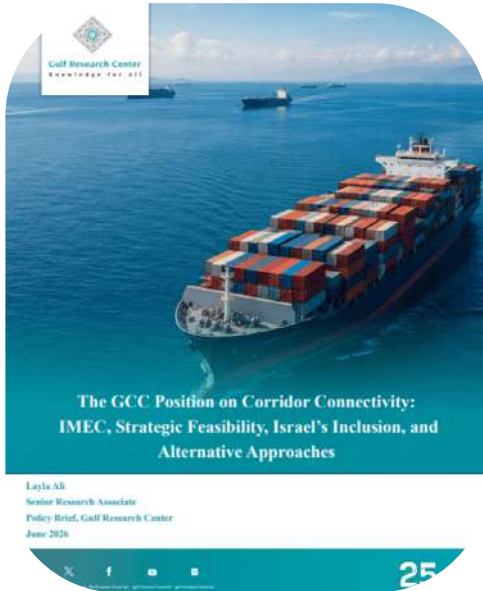


Finlandization of the Gulf

Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan
June 2026



Commentary & Analyses



[The GCC Position on Corridor Connectivity: IMEC, Strategic Feasibility, Israel's Inclusion, and Alternative Approaches](#)

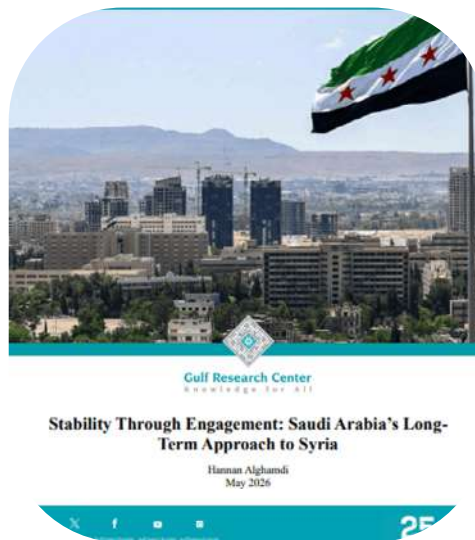
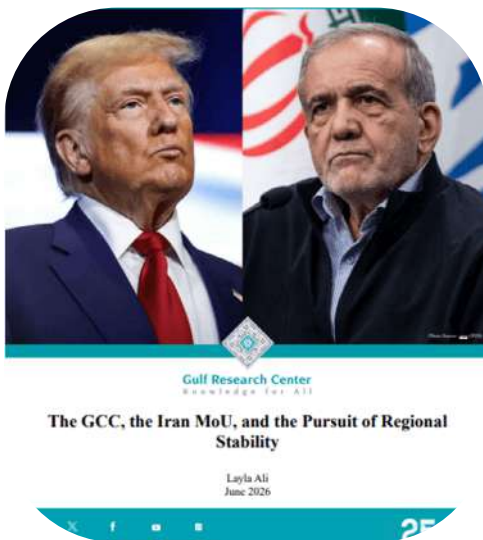
Layla Ali
June 2026

[Africa, OPEC, and the Global Energy Crisis](#)

Michael W. Wilson
June 2026

[China's Turn to Overland Routes: Maritime Insecurity, Energy Vulnerability, and the New Race for Eurasian Connectivity](#)

Emil Avdaliani
June 2026



[The GCC, the Iran MoU, and the Pursuit of Regional Stability](#)

Layla Ali
June 2026

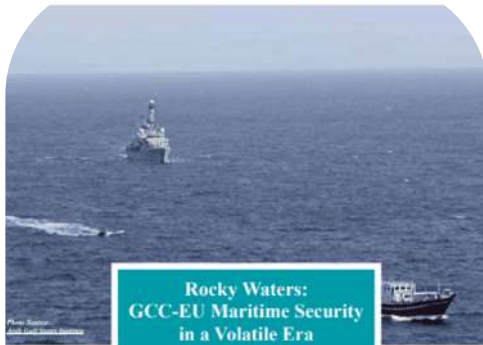
[Stability Through Engagement: Saudi Arabia's Long-Term Approach to Syria](#)

Hannan Alghamdi
June 2026

[Sport in the Gulf: Between Domestic Transformation and Foreign Policy Projection \(Originally Published on ISPI\)](#)

Amnah Mosly
June 2026

Commentary & Analyses



Rocky Waters: GCC-EU Maritime Security in a Volatile Era

Amnah Mosly
June 2026



Transboundary Offshore Oil and Gas Fields in the Gulf: Promise of Cooperation or Potential for Conflict?

Dr. Naji Abi-Aad
Senior Energy Advisor – Gulf Research Center
International Energy Expert



Gulf Research Center
Knowledge for All

Beyond De-escalation: Building a Sustainable Gulf Security Order After the Islamabad MoU

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The Islamabad MOU and the Challenges Ahead for the Gulf States

Ambassador Joon-Yong Park
Non-Resident Research Fellow, Gulf Research Center (GRC)
June 24, 2026



Saudi Arabia's Journey from 2026 to 2034: FIFA World Cup Edition

Amnah Mosly
June 2026



The SB 64 of UNFCCC: From Political Pledges to Practical Implementation

Mohamed Abdelraouf *

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Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf
June 2026

Commentary & Analyses



STEP (Saudi Arabia-Turkey-Egypt-Pakistan): A New Framework for Regional Stability in the Middle East

Prof. Saleh M. Alkhathlan
June 2026



Spain - GCC Relations Gulf Research Center June 2026



Norway - GCC Relations Gulf Research Center June 2026

Selected Arabic Articles



The Illusion of the Imperial Monopoly of Power Gulf Research Center June 2026



Between Two Visits: China and the Reorientation of the Global Balance of Power How Beijing Became the Center of Gravity in Contemporary Geopolitical Shifts Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf June 2026



The Three Presidencies and the Governance Equation in Iraq Dr. Rasha Al Azzawi June 2026



Selected Arabic Articles



Iran and Gulf Security: Can the Helsinki Formula Succeed?

Dr. Abdullah Al-Luhaidan
June 2026



100 Days Since the Outbreak of the Iranian War: A Strategic Assessment of Shifting Power Dynamics and Future Scenarios

Gulf Research Center
June 2026



Kurdish Options in Syria and the Kurdistan Region After the Defeat of the SDF

Gulf Research Center
June 2026



Saudi Arabia's Mining Strategy Under Vision 2030

Eng. Abdulaziz bin Hamad Al-Aqeel
June 2026



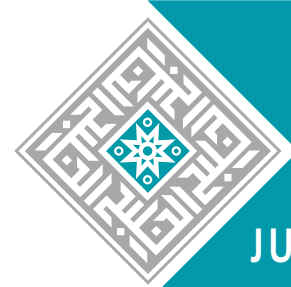
Gulf Petrochemicals in Light of the Current Crisis

Eng. Abdulaziz bin Hamad Al-Aqeel
June 2026



Maritime Security and Evolving Threats: Requirements for Building Gulf Maritime Capabilities

Gulf Research Center
June 2026

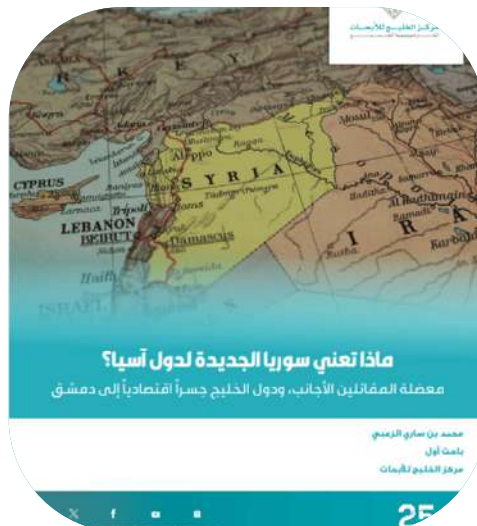


Selected Arabic Articles



The Dynamics of Conflict and Negotiation Between Iran and the United States Amid Regional and International Changes

Dr. Houda Raouf
June 2026



What Does the New Syria Mean for Asian States? The Foreign Fighters Dilemma and the Gulf as an Economic Bridge to Damascus

Mohammad S. Alzou'bi
June 2026



Situation Assessment: The U.S.-Iran Memorandum of Understanding and the Dilemma of the U.S.-Israeli Alliance

Gulf Research Center
June 2026



Transboundary Oil & Gas Offshore Fields in the Gulf: Promise of Cooperation or Potential for Conflict?

Dr. Naji Abi-Aad
June 2026



Gulf Finlandization

Prof. Saleh Alkhathlan
June 2026



Data Sovereignty and Strategic Autonomy in the Gulf

Dr. Zainab Ashkanani
June 2026



Selected Arabic Articles



Iraq, Syria, and Turkey in the Reshaping of the Middle East Geopolitical Landscape

Dr. Rasha Al Azzawi
June 2026



Follow-up (3): An Analytical Reading of the U.S./Israeli War on Iran

Rear Admiral (Retd) Eng. Saleh
Sunaydih Alotaibi
June 2026



Which Is the Gulf Arab States' Closest Economic Partner: China or India?

Dr. Fatimah Nawab Al-Din
June 2026



Iran and the Implications of the February–April 2026 War

Dr. Hamad Humaid Al-Balushi
June 2026

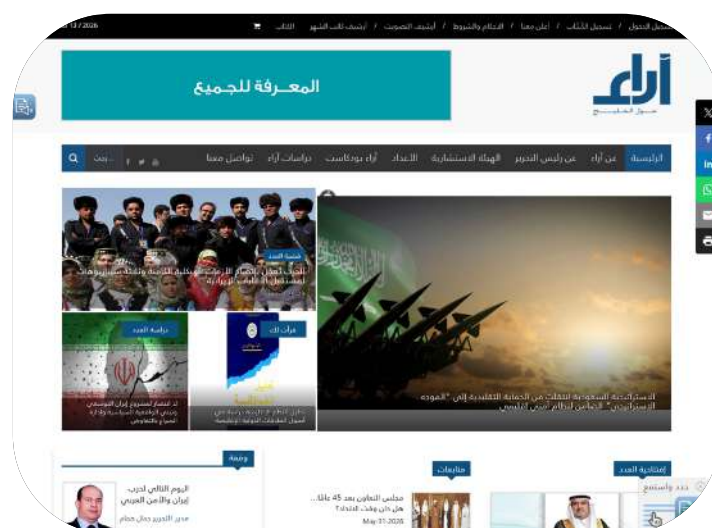


**The Middle East After the 2026 War:
Limits of Power and the Cost of the
Absence of a Settlement an Analysis
of the War's Repercussions and the
Outcomes of the Islamabad Memorandum**
Gulf Research Center
June 2026



The Rise of Hybrid Diplomacy in Conflict Management in 2026 and Beyond

Dr. Khalid Boudeham
June 2026



**Special Issue: The Gulf States and the War on Iran:
Consequences, Outcomes, and Regional Implications**
June 2026



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



The Gulf Labour Markets, Migration, and Population (GLMM) Programme is an international independent, non-partisan, non-profit programme established in 2010, 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

For two years, GLMM has been engaged in the project **Highly Skilled Migration to the Gulf States: How Do GCC Countries Fare in the Global Competition for Talent?** For a detailed description of the project, 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.

Publications

Most Recent: [Magdalena Karolak: From Oil Economies to Knowledge Hubs: GCC Higher Education and Skilled Migration, GLMM Policy Brief No. 34, June 2026](#)

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](#)

Webinars

GLMM is also organizing a series of 3 webinars on the impact of the US-Israel-Iran war on labour markets and migration. Two were held in June:

- **2 June 2026 – 2pm AST: 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 AST: The US-Israel-Iran war: Labour and Migration Policy Outcomes in the Gulf States.** **Justin Alexander** is Director of Khalij Economics and a nonresident fellow at both the Arab Gulf States Institute and the Baker Institute for Public Policy. **Nejla Ben Mimoune** is a public policy professional and development economist. **Dr. Meshal Alkhowaiter** is an independent social scientist specializing in political economy, labour markets, and computational methods. **Dr. Mehmet Ali Soytaş** is the Senior Advisor for Labor Markets and Research, National Labor Observatory (NLO) of Saudi Arabia; Non-Resident Fellow, GLMM Programme, Gulf Research Center; and Adjunct Faculty, King Fahd University of Petroleum and Minerals (KFUPM). A summary of the webinar will be published [here](#).

One is scheduled for July:

- **8 July 2026 – 2pm-3:30pm AST: Social Protection for South Asian Migrants in the GCC. Views from the Countries of Origin and Destination.** With **Dr. Tasneem Siddiqui** (RMMRU, Bangladesh), **Dr. Irudaya Rajan** (IIMAD), **Dr. Bilesha Weeraratne** (IPS), **Dr. Jeevan Baniya** (CESLAM), **Prof. Nasra Shah** (GLMM, LSE), **Luca Pellerano** (ILO/STREAM), **Sarah Estermann** (CARITAS).

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

- [Kuwait: Holders of article 20 residence permits \(domestic sector\) by nationality group \(2019-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Holders of article 20 residence permits \(domestic sector\) by nationality group and sex \(2019-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Holders of article 17 residence permits \(government labour\) by nationality group and sex \(2019-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Holders of article 18 \(Non-governmental labour\) residence permits by nationality group \(2019-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Male holders of article 18 \(Non-governmental labour\) residence permits by nationality group \(2019-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Female holders of article 18 \(Non-governmental labour\) residence permits by nationality group \(2019-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Male residency permit holders by group of countries of origin \(2017-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Female residency permit holders by group of countries of origin \(2017-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Residency permit holders by group of countries of origin \(2011-2024\)](#)



- [Kuwait: Non-Kuwaiti population by migration status \(2015-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Non-Kuwaiti male population by migration status \(2015-2024\)](#)
- [Kuwait: Non-Kuwaiti female population by migration status \(2015-2024\)](#)

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 \(mid-year figures, 2010-2024\)](#)

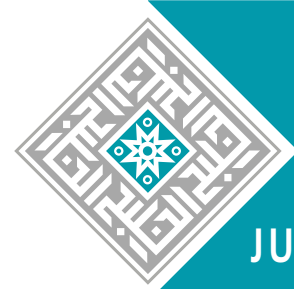
For all GCC Tables, click [here](#).

All Country Tables

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

Contact: Mr. Imco Brouwer, GLMM Managing Director:
imco.brouwer@grc.net





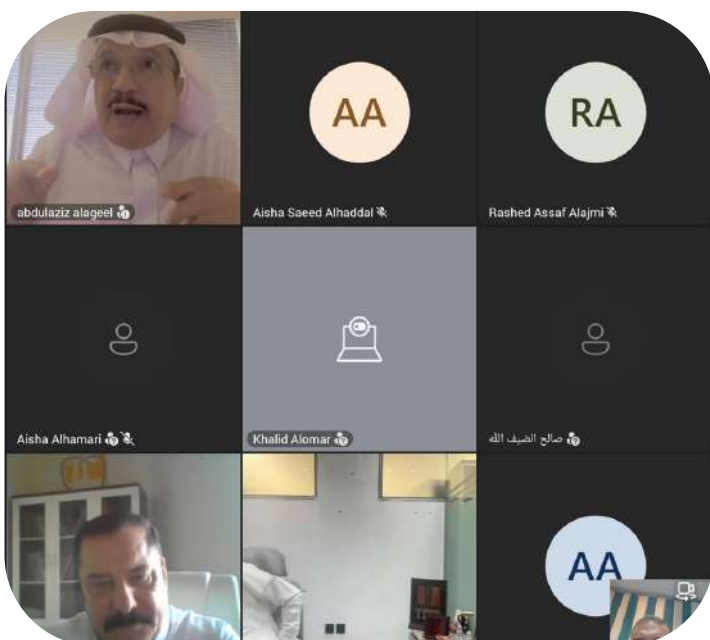
Environmental Security and Sustainability Program

3 June 2026

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Director of the Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program at the Gulf Research Center participated in the CSO consultation in preparation for the 17th session of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD COP17) that will take place in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia from August 17 to 28, 2026. The consultation focused on the COP17 logistics, agenda, and side events as well as other possibilities of engagement.

4 June 2026

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Director of the Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program at the Gulf Research Center and Mr. Abdulaziz Al-Aqeel from the GRC office in Riyadh participated in a telecall with National Center for Vegetation Cover Development and Combating Desertification to discuss areas of joint cooperation. During the call, the two sides agreed to take steps toward the preparation and signing of a memorandum of understanding.



10-13 June 2026

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Director of the Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program at the Gulf Research Center participated in the 64th session of the UNFCCC Subsidiary Bodies (SB 64) at the World Conference Center in Bonn, Germany. The mid-year conference served as a critical technical waypoint for delegates to advance global climate negotiations and lay the groundwork for COP31. Dr. Raouf Participated in side events for Climate Action Network and Science and Technology Major Group.



23 June 2026

Dr. Mohamed Abdelraouf, Director of the Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program at the Gulf Research Center participated in the third observers dialogue session with the new chair of the INC on plastic pollution to discuss negotiations for a global plastic treaty and the informal meeting for heads of delegates which took place in Nairobi from June 30-July 3, 2026.





Cultural & Media Program



June 23, 2026

The Dialogue Lab at the Gulf Research Center, in partnership with the Abdullah Bin Idris Cultural Center, held a discussion session titled "Humanities: Promoting Values and Building Societal Development," with the participation of a distinguished group of specialists from Saudi Arabia and across the Arab world.

The session explored the role of humanities in strengthening social awareness, values, and national identity, while discussing their place in educational institutions and their contribution to labor market needs and policymaking. Participants also highlighted the importance of enhancing the presence of humanities in education and research, emphasizing their role in fostering critical thinking, supporting cultural and social values, and contributing to comprehensive development.



Publications

June 9, 2026



A cultural paper prepared by Dr. Omar Al-Raddad, Expert in Security and Political Affairs, titled: "The Shared Foundations and Strategic Intersections of These Movements." Read the full paper [here](#).

GRC Podcast Activities

June 8, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Dr. Mohammed Saleh Sedghian, Director of the Arab Center for Iranian Studies, in an episode of the program "Araa" titled: "Gulf-Iranian Relations Between Challenges of Trust and Prospects for Regional Stability." Watch the full episode [here](#).





June 9, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Dr. Hilal bin Ahmed Al-Habsi, Social Studies Expert, in an episode of the program "Araa" titled: "The Implications of the War on Iran and the Requirements of Gulf Security Amid Current Challenges." Watch the full episode [here](#).



June 11, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast published a "Wamda" episode titled: "FIFA World Cup 2026: Between the Qatar 2022 Experience and the Challenges of a New Edition," discussing the 2026 tournament in the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Watch the full episode [here](#).



June 14, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Dr. Dana Al-Enezi, Political Science Researcher, in an episode of the program "Araa" titled: "Lessons Learned from the War on Iran and Its Implications for Kuwait and the Gulf States." Watch the full episode [here](#).



June 21, 2026

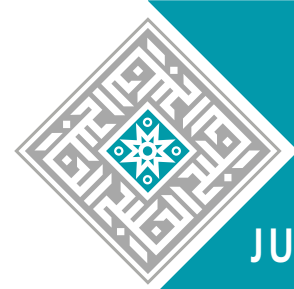
The Gulf Research Center Podcast hosted Vyacheslav Matuzov, former Russian diplomat, in an episode of the program "Tafaseel" titled: "Russia Between History, Identity, and the Future of Arab-Russian Relations." Watch the full episode [here](#).



June 21, 2026

The Gulf Research Center Podcast published a clip from the program "Tafaseel" featuring former Russian diplomat Vyacheslav Matuzov discussing the Camp David negotiations and the factors behind the failure to reach a Palestinian-Israeli final settlement. Watch the full episode [here](#).





June 4-6, 2026



Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research for the Gulf Research Center (GRC) and the Executive Manager of the GRC Foundation Brussels office, participated in the EuroMeSCo Annual Conference 2026, "Strategic Partnerships under Pressure: Rewiring Euro-Mediterranean Cooperation in an Age of Global Competition," held in Larnaca from 4-6 June 2026.

June 15, 2026

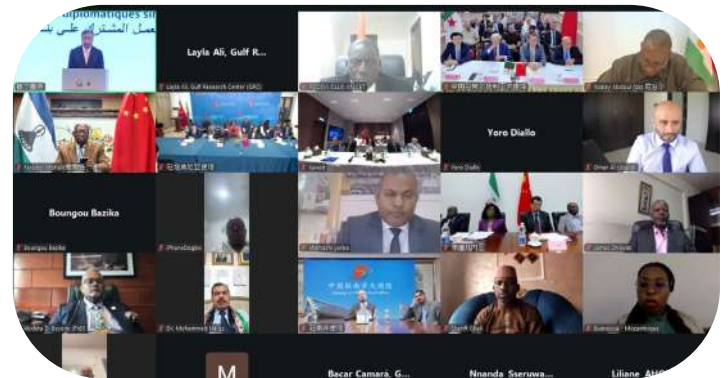


Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program at the Gulf Research Center, participated as the main speaker and dialogue director in

the Second Discussion Forum of the King Abdulaziz Foundation, under the chairmanship of His Royal Highness Prince Faisal bin Salman. This forum comes in response to the Foundation's desire to learn the opinions of researchers in the field of the services it provides, from access to historical materials, publishing, and procedures, to scientific reviews of historical books.



June 17, 2026

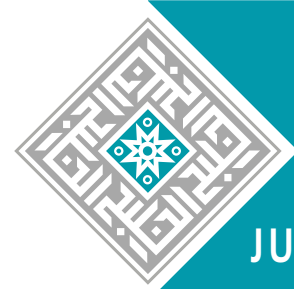


Layla Ali, Senior Research Associate at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), participated virtually in the seminar titled "70 Years of China-Africa and China-Arab Diplomatic Relations: Jointly Building a Community with a Shared Future," organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China and the China Institute of International Studies (CIIS). The event brought together Vice Foreign Minister Miao Deyu, senior Chinese officials, representatives of think tanks, diplomatic envoys, and scholars from China, Africa, and the Arab world to discuss the evolution of China's relations with Africa and Arab states over the past seven decades, as well as prospects for strengthening cooperation and advancing a shared future in an increasingly multipolar international environment.

June 18, 2026



Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan, Senior Advisor at the GRC, met with a delegation from The International Institute for Democracy & Electoral Assistance, at the GRC office in Riyadh on June 18, 2026. During this meeting, both sides discussed areas of mutual interest.



June 19, 2026



Dr. Christian Koch, Director of Research for the Gulf Research Center (GRC) and the Executive Manager of the GRC Foundation Brussels office, and Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist at the Gulf Research Center, provided a briefing to the members of the Middle East/Gulf Working Party (MOG) of the European Council in Brussels on June 16, 2026. The MOG handles work on the EU Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) relating to Iran, Iraq, Yemen, and the GCC states, including in the context of EU-Gulf Cooperation Council bilateral relations. The working party is composed of national experts from EU member states and reports to the EU's Foreign Affairs Council. The briefing focused on EU-GCC cooperation and regional developments, including in economic and energy-related sectors. Delegates engaged with Dr. Koch and Dr. Sfakianaki on a range of questions in the discussion period including the impact of the recent Israel-United States-Iran War on the geopolitical and geostrategic position of the GCC states and lessons for GCC-European Union relations.

June 21, 2026



Prof. Saleh Al-Khathlan, Senior Advisor at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), met with Ms. Kenza Aqertit,

Resident Director of the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in Yemen at the GRC's office in Riyadh. During the meeting, both sides discussed areas of mutual interest.



June 22-23, 2026



Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels and Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center participated in the international conference organized by the Institute for International Cooperation, Technological Diplomacy and Communication (ICI) and the Bonn Center for Reconciliation Studies of Bonn University entitled "Quo Vadis Middle East?" in Bonn, Germany. Dr. Koch spoke on the session "Stunned, Sidelined and Disunited: Europe and the Iran War" arguing that while Europe has largely been a non-factor in the recent crisis in the Middle East, it is taking steps that could result in a more impactful role in any post-war arrangement.



June 24-25, 2026



Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels and Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center took part in a closed-door “Saudi-Palestinian-European Dialogue” organized by the Carter Center and the European Council on Foreign Relations and held in Brussels, Belgium. The event brought together Saudi, Palestinian, and European experts to assess current developments and identify practical avenues in support of Palestinian agency. Dr. Koch provided remarks on where Saudi Arabia and Europe are heading in the aftermath of the Iran War and how this impacts coordinated engagement with the Palestinians.

June 26, 2026



Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels and Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center participated

in the “Med-Gulf Summit: Strategic Dialogue for Stability and Economic Cooperation” organized by the Istituto Affari Internazionali, the Fondazione CSF, the Fondazione Compagna di San Palo and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs held in the Palazzo Cipolla in Rome, Italy. The meeting provided an opportunity to hold in-depth discussions on mediation pathways and the Iran-Israel-Gulf crisis, the regional flashpoints of Lebanon and Syria, and economic risks and opportunities in the Med-Gulf.

June 28, 2026

Dr. Christian Koch, Executive Manager of the Gulf Research Center Foundation Brussels and Director of Research at the Gulf Research Center took part in the 5th Conference on Regional Security and Stability in the Gulf and the MENA Region organized by the European Union External Action Service and held in Bussels. The meeting allowed for an exchange of views on the US-Iran MoU and its implications for the Gulf and the wider MENA region. Participants included policy analysts from think tanks in Europe and the Gulf.



Gulf Research Center
مركز الخليج للأبحاث



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



Dr. Mohammed Abdelraouf, Director of the Environmental Security and Sustainability Research Program at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), was featured on "2 Degrees Only," a podcast produced by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace as part of its project on the impacts of climate change in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

During the episode, Dr. Abdelraouf discussed the key environmental challenges and security risks facing the Arabian Gulf, particularly in light of the repercussions of the U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict. He also explored the Gulf's green transition and examined how environmental pressures intersect with economic fragility, governance challenges, and regional conflicts.

The full episode is available here: <https://youtube.com/watch?v=ICw-6depiVA>



On 2 July 2026, Dr. Abdulaziz Sager, Founder and Chairman of the Gulf Research Center, appeared on Al

Jazeera as part of the network's special coverage of the latest regional developments and their implications for the trajectory of the U.S.-Iran negotiations.

During the interview, Dr. Sager provided analysis of the evolving regional landscape, examining the strategic implications of recent developments and their potential impact on diplomatic efforts between Washington and Tehran.

Watch the full interview here: <https://youtu.be/BFe8Lot9wsk>



Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist and Head of Economic Research at the Gulf Research Center, spoke with the BBC on 10 June 2026.

Watch the full interview here: <https://youtu.be/pjTlvGDZ9VU>



Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf, Senior Research Fellow at the Gulf Research Center, appeared on Algeria International



Channel to discuss potential scenarios for a renewed conflict in the Middle East.

During the interview, Dr. Gherraf examined the prospects of escalating regional tensions and assessed the strategic implications of a possible return to conflict, with particular attention to the evolving security dynamics across the Middle East.

Watch the full interview here: <https://youtu.be/Rr49661cZt0?si=MeeJJEGWLHy73Rlo>



On 16 June 2026, Dr. Zaid Alfadeil, Director of the Cultural and Media Program at the Gulf Research Center (GRC), appeared on Baghdad News Agency to discuss the regional implications of the ongoing conflict.

During the interview, Dr. Alfadeil emphasized that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is not a party to the war and has not participated in any of its developments, underscoring the Kingdom's position amid the evolving regional landscape. Watch the full interview here: https://x.com/Gulf_Research/status/2066811173039665265?s=20



On 18 June 2026, Dr. Abderrezzaq Gherraf, Senior Research Fellow at the Gulf Research Center, appeared on Algeria International Channel to discuss the Iran–U.S. framework agreement.

During the interview, Dr. Gherraf examined the significance of the framework agreement, assessing its implications for regional stability, the future of U.S.-Iran relations, and the broader geopolitical dynamics of the Middle East.

Watch the full interview here: <https://youtu.be/jwq739qi5MY?si=SPT-pN086Hj4le8i>



On 24 June 2026, Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist and Head of Economic Research at the Gulf Research Center spoke with Al Jazeera.

Watch the full interview here: <https://youtu.be/h1iv5RleW34>



On 27 June 2026, Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist and Head of Economic Research at the Gulf Research Center, spoke with the BBC, providing analysis of the latest economic and geopolitical developments and their implications for the regional and global economy.

Watch the full interview here: https://youtu.be/54ZlrBBGVYk?t=48&si=ECV3Y_FV1SH_zN1k



On 29 June 2026, Dr. John Sfakianakis, Chief Economist and Head of Economic Research at the Gulf Research Center, spoke with NDTV, sharing insights on the latest global economic and geopolitical developments and their implications for international markets.

Watch the full interview here: <https://youtu.be/QUmOQit7Vl0>



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