

Agenda



منتدى هيلي
Hili Forum

2026

Gulf at Crossroads: Conflict, Consequences and Course Correction



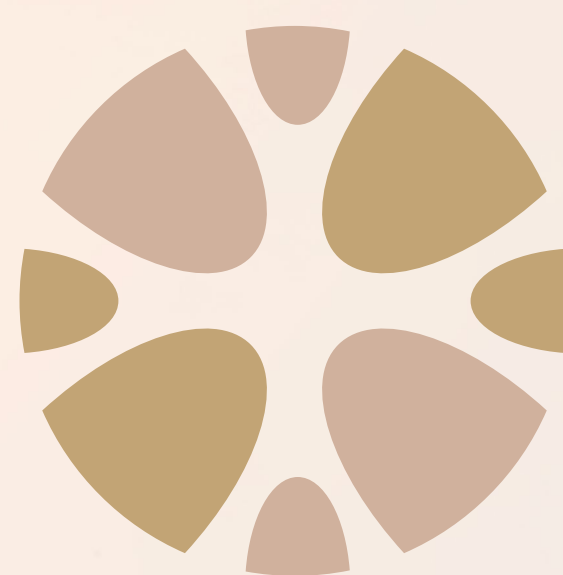
7–8 September 2026



The St. Regis Saadiyat Island Resort
(Regal Ballroom)
Abu Dhabi

Strategic Media Partners

Hilī منتد Forum هيلي



Day One

Monday, September 7, 2026

 8:30 – 09:15

 Registration Area

Registration:

 9:30 – 09:50

 Main Stage

Welcoming Remarks:



H.E. Dr. Sultan Al Nuaimi

Director General of the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR), UAE



H.E. Nickolay Mladenov

Director General of the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA), UAE

 9:50 – 10:30

 Main Stage

Plenary: Gulf Regional Security Complexes



H.E. Dr. Majed Al-Ansari

Advisor to the Prime Minister and Spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatar



Vice Admiral John W. “Fozzie” Miller (Ret.)

US Navy, President and CEO of The Fozzie Miller Group, USA



H.E. Muath Alwari

Director of Policy Planning Department, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UAE



Moderator:

H.E. Dr. Mohammed Al Dhaheri

Deputy Director General, AGDA

 10:30 – 10:50

 Main Stage

Fireside Chat

No Going Back: Can Gaza’s Recovery Revive the Two-State Solution?



H.E. Nickolay Mladenov

High Representative for Gaza Board of Peace,
Director General of the Anwar Gargash
Diplomatic Academy, UAE



Moderator:

Mina Al-Oraibi

Editor-in-Chief, The National

 10:50 – 11:10

 Main Stage

Special Address:

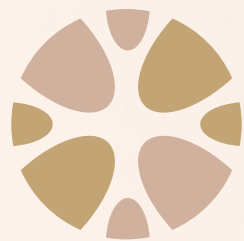


H.E. Dr. Anwar bin Mohammed Gargash

Diplomatic Advisor to His Highness the UAE
President

 11:10 – 11:25

Networking Break



Concurrent Sessions



11:25 – 12:25



Dialogue Hall

Layers of Security in the Gulf and Strategic Autonomy



Prof. Abdulkhaleq Abdulla

Non-Resident Senior Associate, ECSSR



Dr. Zafer Al-Ajmi

Executive Director, Gulf Monitoring Group, Kuwait



Firas Maksad

Managing Director, Middle East and North Africa Practice, Eurasia Group, USA



Dr. Dania Thafer

Executive Director, Gulf International Forum, USA



Dr. Khalid Al-Jufairi

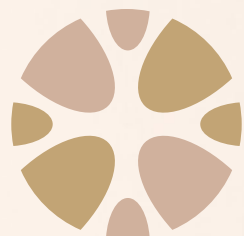
Adjunct Associate Professor of International Politics, Georgetown University, Qatar



Moderator:

Mohamed Al Dhuhoori

Researcher in US and Middle Eastern Affairs, ECSSR



11:25 – 12:25



Cooperation Hall

New Horizons: Gulf – Global Economic Cooperation 2.0



Dr. Bassem Kamar

Executive Director, Economic Policies,
Arab Monetary Fund, UAE



Dr. Christian Pauletto

Senior Advisor, Office of H.E. Dr. Thani Al Zeyoudi,
UAE



Anilesh Mahajan

Senior Deputy Editor, India Today, India



Dr. Ahmed Elsafty

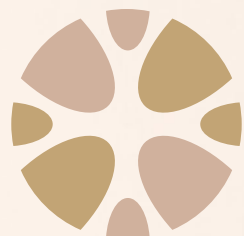
Economic Advisor, ECSSR



Moderator:

Mohamed Al Darmaki

Economic Researcher, ECSSR



11:25 – 12:25

Future Hall

The Cost of Deterrence: Who Can Afford the Next War?



H.E. Lieutenant General Stefano Mannino

President, Centre for Higher Defence
Studies (CASD), Italy



H.E. Major General (Ret.)

Khalid Abdullah Al Buainain Al Mazrouei

Advisor at the Office of the Supreme Commander
of the UAE Armed Forces



Dr. Lisa Saum-Manning

Associate Director, International Security and
Defense Policy Program, RAND, USA



Dr. Warren Anthony Chin

Program Chair Defense & Security, Rabdan
Academy, UAE



Moderator:

Dr. Jack Andrew Harding

Assistant Professor, Defense and Security,
Rabdan Academy



11:25 – 12:25



Connectivity Hall

Strait of Hormuz: Open by Law, Contested by Power



Dr. Habib AlMulla

Non-Resident Senior Associate, ECSSR



Nick Childs

Senior Fellow for Naval Forces and Maritime Security, IISS, UK



Dr. Adam Ramey

Associate Dean for Curricular Affairs, New York University Abu Dhabi, UAE



Dr. Gerasimos Rodotheatos

Assistant Professor, College of Security and Global Studies, American University in the Emirates



Dr. Emma Salisbury

Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Research Institute's National Security Program, UK



Dr. Victoria Stewart -Jolley

Senior Research Fellow, AGDA



Moderator:

Khamis Al Ali

Researcher in Israeli and Middle Eastern Affairs, ECSSR

 12:25 – 12:40

Networking Break

 12:40 – 1:20  Main Stage

Plenary: **The Gulf and the World:
Navigating the New Geoeconomic Reality**



H.E. Abdulaziz Al Obaidli
Director General of Regulatory Affairs,
Department of Energy, UAE



Dr. Samir Saran
President, Observer Research Foundation
(ORF), India



Róbert Vass
Founder and President of GLOBSEC, Slovakia



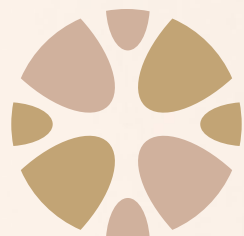
Dr. Ralf Wiegert
Head of Middle East and North Africa Economic
Forecasting Teams, Economics & Country Risk,
S&P Global, Germany



Moderator:
Salim A. Essaid
Business Editor, The National

 1:20 – 1:35

Networking Break



Concurrent Sessions



1:35 – 2:35



Dialogue Hall

Great Power Politics and Multilateralism



Mohammed Baharoon

Director-General, Dubai Public Policy Research Center, UAE



Anthony Bubalo

Chief Executive Officer, Asia Society Australia



Dr. Jodie Wen

Fellow at the Center for International Security and Strategy (CISS), Tsinghua University, Director of International Communication for the China Forum, China



Grant Rumley

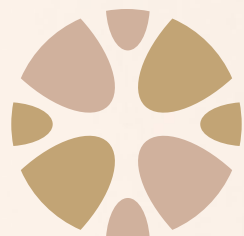
Senior Fellow, Washington Institute for Near East Policy, USA



Moderator:

Dr. Robert Mason

Associate Professor, AGDA



 1:35 – 2:35

 Cooperation Hall

Gulf Economic Resilience: Energy, Infrastructure, and Influence



Dr. Luay al-Khatteeb

Former Minister of Electricity and Member of Iraq's Federal Energy Council, Iraq



Hussein Shoukry

President, Middle East and Africa, Siemens Energy, UAE



Dr. Karen Young

Senior Research Scholar, Center on Global Energy Policy, Columbia University SIPA, USA



Dr. Abdulla Isa Alabbasi

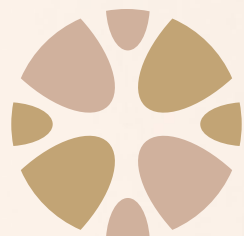
Director of Energy and Environmental Studies Program, Bahrain Center for Strategic, International, and Energy Studies (Derasat), Bahrain



Moderator:

Dr. Mohamed Al Zarouni

Lecturer, AGDA



1:35 – 2:35



Connectivity Hall

Changing Patterns in Foreign Aid



Ambassador Takeshi Okubo

Special Assistant to the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Japan, Ambassador in charge of Gaza Rebuilding Assistance, Japan



Sajeda Shawa

Head of UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), UAE



Prof. Sultan Barakat

Senior Professor Public Policy at Hamad Bin Khalifa University; Honorary Professor, University of York, Qatar



Dr. Anna Velikaya

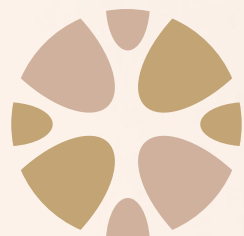
Senior Research Fellow, Primakov National Research Institute of World Economy and International Relations (IMEMO), Russia



Moderator:

Dr. Rikard Jalkebro

Associate Professor, Humanitarian Action and Development, AGDA



 1:35 – 2:35

 Future Hall

Food Security: Resilience Under Pressure



Khamis Alsheryani

Advisor to the Director General, Abu Dhabi
Agriculture & Food Safety Authority, UAE



Dr. Tarifa Alzaabi

Director General at the International Center
for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), UAE



Dina Mongy

Head of Corporate Affairs and Sustainability,
Nestlé MENA



Imelda (Dada) Bacudo

Climate Finance and Partnership Engagement
Expert, FAO



Mannat Jaspal

Director & Fellow, Climate and Energy, ORF
Middle East, UAE



Moderator:

Maja Kent

Non-Resident Fellow, Center for Climate
Diplomacy, AGDA

 2:35 – 2:50

Networking Break



2:50 – 3:10



Main Stage

Fireside Chat



H.E. Jasem Mohamed AlBudaiwi

Secretary General of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)

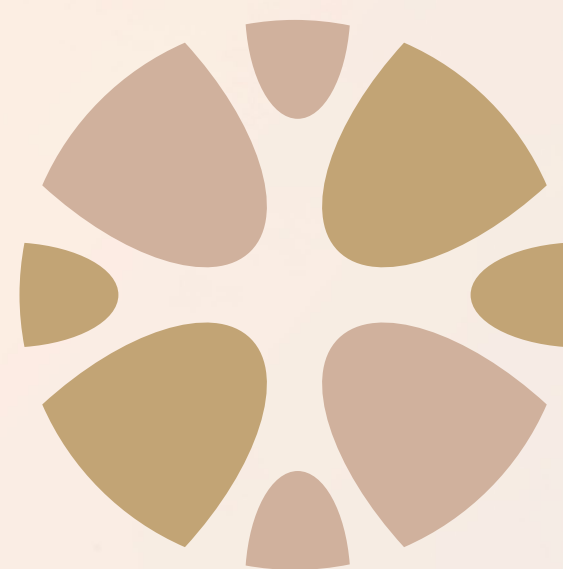


Moderator:

H.E. Dr. Sultan Al Nuaimi

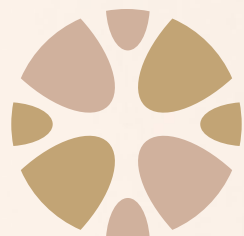
Director General of the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research

Hili Forum منتدى هيلي



Day Two

Tuesday, September 8, 2026



 9:30 – 10:00  Registration Area

Registration:

 10:00 – 10:10  Main Stage

Keynote Speech:



H.E. Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi

Minister of Foreign Trade, UAE

 10:10 – 10:50  Main Stage

Plenary: **Data, Drones, Digital (Dis) Order**



H.E. Dr. Mohamed Al Kuwaiti

Head, Cyber Security Council, UAE



Daniel Mouton

Vice President and Chief Executive, Middle East,
Lockheed Martin Corporation



Talal AlKaissi

CEO, Core42 & Acting Group Chief Global
Affairs Officer, G42, UAE



Ambassador Yoo Jeh Seung

Former Ambassador of the Republic of
Korea to the UAE



Moderator:

Mohamed Al Dhuhoori

Researcher in US and Middle Eastern
Affairs, ECSSR

 10:50 – 11:00

 Main Stage

Presentation

The Counter Terrorism Trends Shaping
Today’s World and the Next Decade

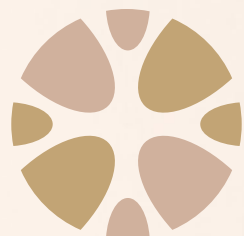


Dr. David Scharia

Director and Chief of Branch, Counter-Terrorism
Committee Executive Directorate, UN Security
Council

 11:00 – 11:15

Networking Break



Concurrent Sessions



11:15 – 12:15



Dialogue Hall

The Future of Iran, the Region, and Beyond



Dr. Khaled AlJaber

Executive Director of the Middle East Council on Global Affairs, Qatar



Ambassador Douglas A. Silliman

Former US Ambassador to Iraq, President, Arab Gulf States Institute, USA



Dr. Mahmood Sariolghalam

Non-Resident Fellow, ECSSR, and Professor of International Relations, Loyola Marymount University, USA



Dr. Paul Salem

Non-Resident Senior Associate in the Middle East Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), USA



Konstantin Valkov

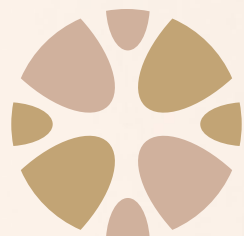
Director of Special Projects and Journalism Lecturer, New Bulgarian University, Bulgaria



Moderator:

Abdulrahman Al Haddadi

Researcher in Iranian and Middle Eastern Affairs, ECSSR



🕒 11:15 – 12:15

📍 Cooperation Hall

A World of Chokepoints and Blockades?



Dr. Jens Hillebrand Pohl

President and Secretary-General, Helsinki
Geeconomics Society, Finland



Dr. Mary Papaschinopoulou

Co-Founder and Managing Director, MARDIPLO
S.A. Maritime Corporate Diplomacy, Greece



Allison Minor

Director, Project for Middle East Integration,
Atlantic Council, USA



Dr. Li-Chen Sim

Assistant Professor, Khalifa University, UAE,
and Associate Fellow at the Middle East
Institute, USA



Dr. Inna Rudolf

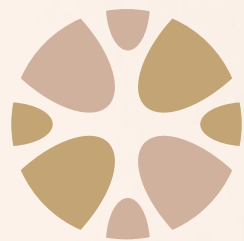
Senior Research Fellow at the International
Centre for the Study of Radicalisation (ICSR) at
King's College London, UK



Moderator:

Dr. Damyana Bakardzhieva

Senior Research Fellow, Economic Diplomacy,
AGDA



11:15 – 12:15

Future Hall

From Water Stress to Water Security: The Road to the UN Water Conference at Abu Dhabi and Beyond



Mohamed Al Jneibi

Deployment Director at The Mohamed bin Zayed Water Initiative, UAE



Dr. Dalal Alshamsi

Director of the National Center for Water and Energy, UAE University



Dr. Mohammed Mahmoud

Lead, Middle East Climate and Water Policy, UNU, Canada



Dr. Christopher Rossi

Professor of International Law, AGDA



Fayrouz Eldabbagh

Political Science Researcher, International Water Management Institute (IWMI), Egypt



Moderator:

Moustafa Bayoumi

Research Fellow, Center for Climate Diplomacy, AGDA

 11:15 – 12:15

 Connectivity Hall

Sovereign Infrastructure:
Space, Surveillance, and Security



H.E. Jean-Yves Le Gall
Former International Astronautical Federation
President and Honorary IAF Ambassador, France



Mohsen AlAwadi
Director of the Space Missions Department,
UAE Space Agency, UAE



Andrey Baklitskiy
Senior Researcher, UNIDIR’s Weapons of
Mass Destruction Programme, Switzerland



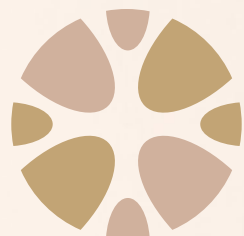
Dr. Aleix Nadal Campos
Analyst Defense, Security and Justice, RAND
Europe



Moderator:
Dr. N. Janardhan
Director of Research and Analysis, AGDA

 12:15 – 12:35

Networking Break



12:35 – 12:55



Main Stage

Fireside Chat:

The Gulf Security Order: Where Does Europe Stand?



H.E. Luigi Di Maio

European Union Special Representative for the Gulf Region



Moderator:

Dr. Ebtesam Al Teneiji

Deputy Director General, ECSSR



12:55–1:30



Main Stage

Plenary: Role of Middle Powers in a Ruptured Global Order



H.E. Carl Bildt

Co-chair, ECFR Council; Former Prime Minister and Former Foreign Minister of Sweden



H.E. Vuk Jeremić

Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Serbia



Zhandos Shaimardanov

Director, Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies under the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan



Moderator:

Saqer Al Nuaimi

Researcher in US Affairs, ECSSR