

Conference - Agenda: Jordan Amid a Changing Regional and International Environment - New Opportunities and How to Invest in Them

November 6th-7th, 2021

Friday, November 5th

Arrival of guests from outside of Jordan

Saturday, November 6th

09.30 - 10.00h

Reception and Registration

10.00 - 10.30h

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Speech by Mr. Oraib Al Rantawi

Director-General of Al-Quds Center for Political Studies

Speech by Dr. Edmund Ratka

Resident Representative Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) -
Jordan Office

10:30 - 1:00h

Session 1: Jordan and the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict

Session Topics:

- From Netanyahu to Bennett: What has changed in Israel?
- Is the two-state solution still an option for Israel? Is a meaningful negotiation process still possible? How will the conflict unfold going forward?
- Can Jordan-Israel relations be developed under the Bennett-Lapid government? If so, in which areas?
- What impact will the increasing Israeli violations against Al-Aqsa Mosque (in numbers and in severity) have on Jordan-Israel relations?
- How can the two-state solution be pushed forward with U.S. reluctance, EU wariness, lack of Israeli initiative, and Palestinian divisions?

Host and Session Moderator:

H.E Dr. Mohammad Al Momani

Member of Upper House, Former Minister of Information

Speakers:

Dr. Ali Jarbawi

Director of the Abu Lughod Institute of International Studies at
Birzeit University

H.E Dr. Sami Abu Shehadeh

Member of the Knesset for the Joint List

Dr. Mohanad Mustafa

Director-General of Mada al-Carmel, Arab Center for Applied Social Studies

General Discussion

1.00 - 2.00h

Lunch

2.00 - 4.00h

Session 2: Jordan-U.S. Relations: From Trump to Biden

Session Topics:

- Jordan from a U.S. strategic perspective: What has changed? Are there impediments to the development of bilateral relations? What can be done?
- Jordan's wager on Biden's "vision" for the two-state solution: Is there any opportunity? If so, what are its limitations?
- How does Washington view Jordan's new approach towards Syria and the "New Sham" initiative?
- After Afghanistan, how have Washington's views on Jordan's role in the war on terror changed?
- The future of Jordan-U.S. Relations amid growing U.S. withdrawal from the region in favor of other, distant priorities?

Host and Session Moderator:

H.E. Dr. Mustafa Hamarneh

Member of Upper House Former President of The Economic and Social Council (ESC), Jordan

Speakers:

Dr. Curtis R. Ryan

Professor of Political Science at Appalachian State University, North Carolina, United States

Dr. Bessma Momani By ZOOM

Associate Vice-President and Professor of Political Science at the University of Waterloo

Dr. Edmund Ghareeb By ZOOM

Professor of International Relations at Georgetown University in Washington

Dr. Annelle Sheline

Research Fellow for the Middle East at the Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft

General Discussion

4.00 - 4.30h

Coffee Break

Session 3: Jordan and the EU: Economic and Political Partnership

Session Topics:

- How do EU states view Jordan's position and role amid the rapid regional and international changes?
- Jordan-EU cooperation in the war on terror: How can Jordan's position and role be strengthened? What are the impediments to this? What can be done by the EU and Jordan?
- The UK and Jordan after Brexit and AUKUS: Will there be any developments?
- Is there a need to reactivate the Munich Quartet? Has it lost its role after the Trump administration left office?
- Is there an opportunity to build on joint Jordan-EU positions on the two-state solution and UNRWA to take more initiatives, especially with the U.S. shifting its focus from the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict?

Host and Session Moderator:

Dr. Zaid Ayadat

Director of the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan

Speakers:

Dr. Alan George

Senior Visiting Research Fellow, Department of Middle Eastern Studies, King's College London

Dr. Paul M. Esber By ZOOM

Visiting Researcher - El Colegio de México

Dr. Tobias Borck By ZOOM

Research Fellow, Middle East Security Studies – RUSI

Dr. Edmund Ratka

Resident Representative for KAS Jordan Office

General Discussion

Sunday, November 7th

09.30 - 10.00h

Reception and Registration

10.00 - 12.00h

Session 4: Jordan, Syria and the “New Sham” Project

Session Topics:

- Why this “new approach”? What has changed? What are the opportunities and obstacles?
- What is Jordan trying to achieve and what interests is it striving to protect?
- How does Damascus view this “approach”? What are its interests and concerns?
- Is Syria willing to respond to this approach? How have different Syrian parties responded to Arab overtures to Damascus?

Host and Session Moderator:

H.E. Dr. Sabri Rbeihat

Former Minister of Culture, Parliamentary Affairs and Political Development and Director of the South - North Center for Dialogue & Development

Speakers:

Dr. Mohamed Ezz Al Arab

Head of the Arab and Regional Studies Unit at Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies

Dr. Haider Saeed

Senior Researcher at Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies in Qatar

Dr. Dia Al-Asadi

Academic, Leader in Sadrist Movement, Former Head of the Al-Ahrar Bloc in Iraqi Parliament

Dr. Samir Al-Aita

President of the Arab Economists Forum, former Editor-in-Chief of Le Monde Diplomatique, The Arab Bulletin

Ammar Waqqaf

Director of Gnosos Research Institute

General Discussion

12.00 - 12.30h

Coffee Break

12.30 - 2.30h

Session 5: Jordan-Gulf Relations in a Changing Environment

Session Topics:

- Jordan and the Gulf: Bilateral relations and differing priorities
- Jordan and the Gulf: Opportunities and limitations
- Jordan and Qatar after the Gulf reconciliation

Host and Session Moderator:

Dr. Musa Shteivi

Professor of Sociology at the University of Jordan, former President of the Center for Strategic Studies at the University of Jordan.

Speakers:

Dr. Khaled Batarfi

Professor of Political Science at King Faisal University

Dr. Ali Alhail

Professor of political science at Qatar University

Dr. Ebtisam Ekitbi

President of Emirates Policy Center.

Dr. Sebastian Sons

Researcher at CARPO – Center for Applied Research in Partnership with the Orient Bonn/Berlin.

General Discussion

2.30 – 3.30h

Lunch Break

3.30 - 5.30h

Session 6: Jordan amid Regional Changes

Session Topics:

- Jordan-Iran relations, prospects of the Vienna nuclear talks and Saudi-Iranian talks in Baghdad
- How does Tehran view Jordan's new approach towards Syria and the emergence of a new tripartite bloc (New Sham)? What are its concerns, challenges, and opportunities?
- How does Russia view Jordan's new approach towards Syria? How does Moscow understand the attempt to "change the regime's behavior"? What is the Russian leadership's vision for the political process and Syria's future?
- Joran-Turkey relations amid the "rapprochements" and de-escalation between regional axes and Turkish overtures to Cairo, Riyadh and Abu Dhabi?
- Turkey, Jordan's new approach towards Syria and the "New Sham" project: Is Turkey concerned? How can these concerns be addressed?

Host and Session Moderator:

H.E. Dr. Ibrahim Badran

Former Minister of Education and Advisor to the President of Philadelphia University for International Relations and Scientific Centers/Jordan

Speakers:

Dr. Samir Salha

Professor of International Law and International Relation

Dr. Muhammad Marandi

Professor of Political Science at the University of Tehran

Dr. Hesam Dastpish

Professor of Political Science, Writer and Political Analyst

Dr. Elena Suponina

Russian Political Analyst

Al-Quds Center for Political Studies

7, Haifa St. Jabal El-Husein, P.O Box: 21356

11121 Amman

Jordan

Email: h.salem@alqudscenter.org

KAS Jordan Office

23, Isma'eel Haqqi Abdoh Street, Sweifieh

11183 Amman

Jordan

Email: hala.abu-ghazaleh@kas.de

The conference will have simultaneous translation Arabic-English.