

The 8th meeting of The Global Strategy Group Middle East

13-14 February 2011, Marina Hotel, Kuwait City

Agenda

Sunday 13 February	<i>Sessions will take place at the Marina Hotel, Salmiya, Gulf Rd., 22000 Kuwait Meeting room: Coral Ballroom (Lower Ground level) All sessions are private, held behind closed doors</i>
9:00 - 9:15 Coral Ballroom	Welcome and introduction
9:15 - 10:45 Coral Ballroom	<p><i>Assessing the Tunisian and Egyptian revolutions: What prospects for an orderly evolution?</i></p> <p>The Ben Ali regime in Tunisia was the first Arab regime brought down by a popular uprising and the Tunisian revolution was just what was needed to set the stage for the popular uprising in Egypt. Although major differences exist between the two countries, one common key factor was the inability of the regimes to respond to the frustrations of their people. What are the prospects for an orderly transition to a new regime in both countries and for restoring stability?</p> <p><u>Opening points:</u> Omar Ashour, Director, Middle East Studies, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter, United Kingdom Adnan Abdulaziz Al-Bahar, Chairman and Managing Director, The International Investor (TII), Kuwait Hakim Ben Hammouda, Tunisian Economist and Member of the Arab Economists Circle, Switzerland J. Scott Carpenter, Keston Family Fellow and Director of Project Fikra, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, United States Tarik M. Yousef, Dean, Dubai School of Government, United Arab Emirates</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Shafeeq Ghabra, President, Jusoor Arabiya, Kuwait</p>
11:00 –12:45 Coral Ballroom	<p><i>Assessing the domino impact on the whole Arab world: What implications for the region's stability?</i></p> <p>The events in Tunisia and Egypt have created shockwaves throughout the whole Arab world. What brought down the Ben Ali and the Mubarak regimes reflects forces and changes at play in the MENA region. From Yemen to Jordan to Algeria, most regimes are now under tremendous pressures for change that might not necessarily be peaceful. How does this impact an already tense situation in Lebanon? What impact – if any – can the ripple effects in the Arab world have on the approaching transition of power in Saudi Arabia?</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>What should we be watching next in terms of a domino effect?</i> ➤ <i>What impact on the region's prospects for growth and stability?</i> ➤ <i>What to expect in terms of geopolitical implications?</i> <p><u>Opening points:</u> Jamal Khashoggi, General Manager, Alwaleed 24h News Channel, Saudi Arabia Richard Murphy, President, Richard W. Murphy Associates, United States Emad Omar, Specialist in Conflict Resolution, Media and Civil Society, Jordan Ziad Al Sudairy, Principal, the Law Office of Ziad A. Al-Sudairy and President, and Partner of Badrahn Enterprises, Saudi Arabia</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Claude Smadja, Founder and President, Smadja & Associates Strategic Advisory, Switzerland</p>
13:00 - 14:30	<p><i>Luncheon</i></p> <p>At the Six Palms Restaurant (Lower Ground level)</p>
14:30 –16:00 Coral Ballroom	<p><i>What do the events in the region mean for US foreign policy? What course of action for the Obama administration, between now and the end of 2012? Any prospects for significant action – especially in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict?</i></p> <p>The developments in Tunisia and Egypt have caught the US diplomacy flat-footed. A lot of the initial prestige of President Obama in the Arab world has faded away. How will Washington adjust to the new realities emerging in the region?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Where is US policy in the region going?</i> ➤ <i>Does Washington have any option to break the deadlock in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?</i> ➤ <i>What does this portend for the region?</i> <p><u>Opening points:</u> Wendy Chamberlin, President, Middle East Institute, United States Adib Jarrar, International Independent Organizational Development and Leadership Consultant; Clinical Psychologist, Palestine Allen L. Keiswetter, Scholar, Middle East Institute; Senior Consultant, C&O Resources, United States</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Shafeeq Ghabra, President, Jusoor Arabiya, Kuwait</p>
16:00 –16:20	<p><i>Break</i></p>
16:20 -18:30 Coral Ballroom	<p>Brainstorming</p> <p><i>Identifying the trends and forces that will have the greatest impact in shaping events in the Middle East over the next 5 to 7 years</i></p> <p>The members of the Group will engage into a “thinking together” process to identify and assess the key trends, forces and factors that should be of greatest relevance for the Middle East economic and geopolitical evolution over the next five to seven years.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Each of the trends or forces selected will also be analyzed in terms of its positive or negative potential for the region's evolution.</i> ➤ <i>This process should lead to a list of “what to watch for” – factors or elements – as signposts to monitor the evolution of the region</i>

	<u>Brainstorming led by:</u> Claude Smadja , Founder and President, Smadja & Associates Strategic Advisory, Switzerland
19:30 - 21:30	<i>Dinner</i> At the Al Bardawny Restaurant

Monday 14 February	
08:45 - 10:00 Coral Ballroom	<p><i>Looking at a strengthened economic recovery in 2011? Assessing the region's prospects</i></p> <p>Most forecasts assume that economic recovery will continue in the Middle East in 2011. Rising oil prices and massive government spending, along with a revival in financial markets, are expected to spur economic activity. However, nobody was expecting any return to “boom times”, with the recovery remaining a government spending-led one. What will be the economic impact of the major political developments shaking many countries in the region?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Assessing the impact of the political turmoil on economic prospects for the region</i> ➤ <i>What could help restore private sector growth to healthier levels?</i> ➤ <i>Where could the surprises – good or bad – come from in the coming months?</i> ➤ <i>How to keep governments focused on the necessary economic reforms?</i> <p><u>Opening points:</u> Randa Azar-Khoury, Group Chief Economist, National Bank of Kuwait, Kuwait Tim Fox, Head of Research & Chief Economist, Emirates NBD, United Arab Emirates Wassim Shahin, Professor of Business Economics and Dean, School of Business, Lebanese American University and Founding Editor, Review of Middle East Economics and Finance, Lebanon</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Claude Smadja, Founder and President, Smadja & Associates Strategic Advisory, Switzerland</p>
10:00 -10:45 Coral Ballroom	<p><i>Is it Abu Dhabi's moment? How could this impact on the region?</i></p> <p>In the recent period, Abu Dhabi has not been shy of harboring big ambitions whether with a spat of “green initiatives”, its plans to become a manufacturing hub for semi conductors and a cultural center. The Emirate’s aim is to be number one in every domain it touches and it has shown that it is ready to devote whatever financial resources it takes to achieve that goal. With GDP growth forecast to be at 8% for 2011, confidence is high in Abu Dhabi.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Does Abu Dhabi have the means of its ambitions, or is the danger of hubris looming ahead as with Dubai?</i> ➤ <i>What does Abu Dhabi's emergence as a new star, and its increasing clout, mean for the region?</i> <p><u>Opening points:</u> Tarik M. Yousef, Dean, Dubai School of Government, United Arab Emirates</p>

	<p><u>Chair:</u> Shafeeq Ghabra, President, Jusoor Arabiya, Kuwait</p>
<p>11:00 - 12:00 Coral Ballroom</p>	<p><i>Iran under pressure: Assessing the regime next moves</i></p> <p>International sanctions are biting, the nuclear development program seems to be facing major new obstacles and a number of elements point out to continuing divisions among the regime in Tehran while Ahmadinejad keeps pushing aside his opponents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Is there any chance that sanctions will bring Tehran into line and make the regime change its nuclear plans?</i> ➤ <i>How could the power play in Tehran evolve in the coming period?</i> ➤ <i>Will the domestic and international pressures lead to a more conciliatory or a more antagonistic Iran in the region?</i> <p><u>Opening points:</u> Mahmood Sariolghalam, Professor of International Relation, School of Economic and Political Sciences, the National University of Iran, Iran</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Claude Smadja, Founder and President, Smadja & Associates Strategic Advisory, Switzerland</p>
<p>12:15 - 13:15 Coral Ballroom</p>	<p><i>Iraq: the challenges of stabilization as the US military presence winds down</i></p> <p>With Prime Minister Al Maliki's government formed at long last, the remaining US troops officially due to leave by the end of the year, and oil investments steadily increasing production capacity, is Iraq on a normalization path? However, the solidity of the cabinet coalition between Sunni, Shi'ite and Kurdish blocs will have to be tested and Iraqis citizens are getting increasingly wary of poor living conditions, unemployment and insecurity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Is the risk of a full scale resurgence of ethnic and sectarian violence now under control?</i> ➤ <i>What are the elements that need watching for in the coming months?</i> ➤ <i>Is the Arab world coming to terms with the reality of a new Iraq?</i> <p><u>Opening points:</u> Saifaldin Abdul-Rahman, Partner, Taj Al-Khairat Group and Former Advisor on International Relations & Senior Aid coordinating public policy and public relations for Tariq Al-Hashimi, the Vice President of Iraq, Iraq J. Scott Carpenter, Keston Family Fellow and Director of Project Fikra, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy, United States Salem Chalabi, Iraqi Lawyer and first General Director of the Iraqi Special Tribunal, United Arab Emirates</p> <p><u>Chair:</u> Claude Smadja, Founder and President, Smadja & Associates Strategic Advisory, Switzerland</p>
<p>13:15 - 13:30 Coral Ballroom</p>	<p><i>Key points to take back home</i></p>
<p>13:30 - 14:45</p>	<p><i>Closing luncheon</i></p> <p>At the Atlantis Restaurant (Lobby level)</p>