



Expert Conference

**The Arab Gulf States' Engagement in Egypt and Tunisia-
Rationale and Implications**

26 May 2015

Location: German Council on Foreign Relations

Rauchstr. 17/18 in 10787 Berlin

Concept and Aim of the Conference

The expert conference concludes a DGAP project, funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, which analyzed the impact of economic and political support by Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Qatar on politics and economics in Egypt and on the political and economic transition process in Tunisia. The conference aims to discuss specific strategies and interests guiding the foreign policies of each respective Gulf country, to shed light on major sectors and fields of involvement in Egypt and Tunisia, and to scrutinize the political as well as economic implications of these endeavors and projects. Findings, conclusions, and recommendations developed by the project team will equally be presented and will be discussed with experts from or based in Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the UAE, and from Egypt and Tunisia. The analysis and recommendations shall among others inform German experts and political decision-makers. The raised questions are of special relevance for Germany due to its presidency of the G7 in 2015 and the Deauville Partnership.

Panel 1 will introduce the major determinants of the foreign and regional politics followed by Saudi Arabia, the UAE, and Qatar. This shall form the basis for a better analytical understanding of specifics of these countries' economic and political support and non-support respectively for Egypt (Panel 2) and Tunisia (Panel 3).

Panels 2 and 3 shall cover the main projects and sectors of recent Gulf support, analyze their impact on the political and economic processes in Egypt and Tunisia – also in comparison to strategic approaches by European countries – and scrutinize the perceptions of Gulf and European support among Egyptian and Tunisian stakeholders. Panels 2 and 3 will furthermore discuss assumptions and predictions about the medium and long term scope and sector focus of Gulf support to Egypt and Tunisia.

Based on the insights gained from panels 1-3, panel 4 will critically discuss the potential for cooperation between Gulf and German/European partners to foster sustainable and inclusive growth, reduce poverty, and generate employment.

Tuesday, 26 May

08.30 – 09.00 **Registration**

09.00 – 09.30 **Welcome and Introduction**

Dr. Dr. h.c. Harald Kindermann, Secretary General, DGAP

Dina Fakoussa, Head of Program, Middle East and North Africa Program, DGAP

Amb. Miguel Berger, Deputy Director General for Middle East and Maghreb, Federal Foreign Office Germany

09.30 – 11.15 **Panel I – The Foreign Policy of the Gulf States Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Qatar: General Strategies and Regional Interests**

The Case of Saudi Arabia

Dr. Saud Al-Tamamy, Assistant Professor of Political Science, King Saud University, Saudi Arabia

The Case of the UAE

Dr. Karen Young, Research Fellow at the Middle East Centre, London School of Economics, UK

The Case of Qatar

Dr. Khaled Al-Mezaini, Coordinator Gulf Studies Program and Assistant Professor, Qatar University, Qatar

Comments: Thomas Schneider, Head of Middle East Division, Federal Foreign Office Germany

Facilitation: Inken Wiese, Program Officer, Middle East and North Africa Program, DGAP

11.15 – 11.45 *Coffee Break*

11.45 – 13.30 **Panel II - The GCC States in Egypt: Interest-Oriented Policy, Perceptions, and Perspectives for Future Engagement**

The Economic Engagement of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE in Egypt

Sebastian Sons, Program Officer, Middle East and North Africa Program, DGAP

The Need for Economic Reforms in Egypt and Gulf Investments

Dr. Nora Aboushady, Faculty of Economics and Political Science, Cairo University, Egypt

On Perceptions - How the Elite in Egypt and the UAE view their Countries' Relations

Dr. Eman Ragab, Ahram Center for Strategic Studies, Egypt

Facilitation: Dina Fakoussa, Head of Program, Middle East and North Africa Program, DGAP

13.30 – 14.30 *Lunch Break*

14.30 – 16.15 **Panel III - The GCC States in Tunisia: Interest-Oriented Policy, Perceptions, and Perspectives for Future Engagement**

The Engagement of Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and the UAE in Tunisia

Inken Wiese, Program Officer, Middle East and North Africa Program, DGAP

Tunisia's Economy - Needs, Will, and Possibilities

Youssef Cherif, Consultant, North African Affairs, Tunisia

The Gulf Countries and Polarization in Tunisia - What is Relevant Beyond the Myth?

Dr. Michael Béchir Ayari, Senior Analyst Tunisia, International Crisis Group, Tunisia

Facilitation: Sebastian Sons, Program Officer, Middle East and North Africa Program, DGAP

16.15 – 16.30 *Coffee Break*

16.30 **Panel IV - Recommendations and Perspectives for German and EU Engagement: Chances for Cooperation?**

An Egyptian Perspective – The Business Case for Social Justice

Sherif el-Diwany, Executive Director, The Egyptian Center for Economic Studies, Egypt

The EU and the Gulf Countries - An Insurmountable Conflict of Interests in North Africa?

Prof. Dr. Annette Jünemann, Institute for International Politics, Helmut Schmidt University – University of the Bundeswehr, Germany

Comments: Michael Reuss, German-Arab Partnership Program, Deputy Head of Maghreb Division, Federal Foreign Office Germany

Facilitation and Final Statement: Dina Fakoussa, Head of Program, Middle East and North Africa Program, DGAP