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Abu Dhabi to host summit to reposition Arab region on the global landscape

Issues to be explored include topics like "Smart Cities in the Arab Region – Are They Exclusive or Inclusive?", "Celebrating Our Innovators – Listening Carefully To Their Dreams", "Arab Women Directors: Their Global Impact and their Fans at Home, Literally", and "Conversations with Policy Makers"

BY URBAN MOJIB

ABU DHABI: Beirut Institute, a cutting-edge independent and indigenous think tank for the Arab region, will convene a summit in Abu Dhabi from Oct. 10-11, to reposition the region on the global landscape. The summit will serve as a catalyst for intergenerational, innovative, action-oriented thinking for current and future policy opportunities and challenges.

The Beirut Institute Summit will probe a range of issues which impact the region within the global arena moving well beyond the fundamentals of political economy and security threats.

Dubbed as one of the most powerful gatherings of Arab region and international minds, the summit will be attended by more than 150 distinguished personalities, including Deputy Secretary General of the United Nations Jan Eliasson as well as five current government ministers, two former presidents, three former prime ministers, 25 top level CEOs, in addition to tier one global officials,

dignitaries and senior public policy experts from the region and beyond.

The summit will explore a number of important issues during dynamic sessions including: 'Smart Cities in the Arab Region – Are They Exclusive or Inclusive?', 'Celebrating Our Innovators – Listening Carefully to Their Dreams', 'Arab Women Directors: Their Global Impact and their Fans at Home, Literally', and 'Conversations with Policy Makers'.

Raghida Dergham, founder and executive chairman of Beirut Institute, said that the summit will come out with recommendations for a blueprint to reposition the Arab world's standing within the global landscape.

"As a pivotal destination for those interested in what matters to the Arab region and in Arab relations with East and West, the Summit will serve as a catalyst for intergenerational, innovative, action-oriented thinking for current and future policy opportunities and challenges," she explained.

She said that the summit features a policy circle which will be held on an off-the-record, Chatham House Rule

basis, with delegates from the Arab region, USA, Europe, Russia, China, South America and Africa.

"Policy makers and policy influencers across different sectors will brainstorm with a view of producing policy options that will then be delivered to policy makers in office across the Arab world and globally," added Dergham.

"In addition to discussing the realignment of regional and global powers, the summit will address matters that will shape the future of the Arab region, including innovation, technology and the central role of women."

The Summit's plenary session will include: The Beirut Institute Abu Dhabi Declaration through which the policy options and recommendations generated during the Summit will be relayed to decision makers in the region and beyond.

"We will not ignore the pain we're going through in this region and will certainly address our shortcomings but we also want to celebrate our capabilities and the region's diversity," explained Dergham. "The Summit will think constructively and explore options realistically."