



BEIRUT INSTITUTE

Beirut Institute Summit Edition II in Abu Dhabi

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Constructing the Arab Region's Engagement in the Emerging Global Future

The Beirut Institute Abu Dhabi Declaration

At Beirut Institute Summit Edition II in Abu Dhabi, we advanced a dialogue that will continue in the years to come. In the context of the accelerating transformations underway in the Arab Region, our discussion focused not only on facing the challenges confronting us, but also on building on the tremendous progress already underway. We agreed that the Arab Region has entered a fundamentally new period requiring new, Arab-led approaches. We generated a rich diversity of recommendations that we will synthesize and present to policy-makers in the coming weeks. That report will draw from specific proposals developed in our off-the-record policy circles and our insightful public discussions. Although not an agreed, comprehensive summary of our findings, the following provides an overview of the specific courses of actions that we discussed:

- **Accelerate Arab-led progress toward a comprehensive, sustainable regional order:**
 - Focus immediately on developing an Arab-led pathway toward ending the conflict in Syria that can serve as the foundation for and model of a sustainable regional security architecture
 - Renew and invigorate progress toward a just and durable solution to the Palestine conflict
 - Support Libya in establishing the conditions for an inclusive, productive political dialogue that can restore governance and security
 - Build on existing regional institutions to foster Arab-led mediation and dispute resolution
- **Intensify efforts to drive good governance and political inclusion across the region:**
 - Support progress toward to the emergence of new citizen-led social contract based on the creation of a thriving economic ecosystem inclusive of women
 - Reduce sectarian political divisions by advancing more inclusive political processes, building on examples such as the recent elections in Iraq and successful modernization efforts in the UAE and Saudi Arabia and other countries
 - Strengthen decentralized local representation and voice in policy-making by empowering local bodies supported by strong, effective central governments
 - Advance a program to make best practices in digital governance available to government institutions at all levels across the region drawing on the example of the UAE

- **Advance Arab-led investment in regional economic development and integration**
 - Establish a regional Arab Development Bank and expand upon existing economic and development efforts to accelerate Arab-led progress toward realizing the vast human potential of the region, particularly among its youth, addressing poverty, refugee assistance, conflict stabilization and ultimately reconstruction
 - Harness the “One Belt One Road” initiative to drive regional integration and growth
 - Intensify efforts to create environments conducive to entrepreneurship across the region and at all levels of economic development
 - Establish effective frameworks for facilitating the creation of Public-Private Partnerships that harness market forces in transparent ways to create public goods

- **Intensify efforts across the region to empower women and advance national identity and moderation**
 - Encourage leading institutions of Islamic learning to promote a return to authentic Muslim values and culture
 - Systematically encourage the empowerment of the region’s women and youth, who represent an untapped source of knowledge and expertise, in political, economic and other leading institutions
 - Design and drive a targeted, proactive and integrated media, education and aid campaign focused on promoting shared Arab identity and weakening the appeal of sectarianism

- **Deepen Arab technological integration with global innovation networks and supply chains**
 - Invest in enhancing the digital, connective infrastructure of the Arab world including to key global economic and innovation networks, harnessing the promise of the 4th Industrial Revolution
 - Leverage technology to empower local governments, increase transparency, advance legal literacy and combat corruption
 - Deploy new technologies to drive more efficient and sustainable management of water, food and energy resources across the region