



## The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Israel and the Moshe Dayan Center (MDC) for Middle Eastern and African Studies

Cordially invite you to attend the nineteenth virtual meeting of the Hiwar Forum for Intra-Regional Dialogue

Hiwar

A KAS-MDC Forum for Intra-Regional Dialogue

### “THE IMPACT OF THE ISRAEL-LEBANON MARITIME BORDER AGREEMENT”

WITH

**PIERRE AKEL** (Lebanon)

Founder and Editor of Middle East Transparent (Shaffaf).

**STEPHANE COHEN** (Israel)

Founder of “Northstar,” a geostrategic and security consultancy.

**DAVID DAUD** (United States)

Director of Lebanon, Israel and Syria research at United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) and a nonresident fellow at the Atlantic Council.

**ORNA MIZRAHI** (Israel)

Senior Researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies.

Moderator: **NIR BOMS**

**WEDNESDAY, 16 NOVEMBER 2022**

**16:00 - 17:30 (ISRAEL STANDARD TIME)**

**9:00 - 10:30 (EASTERN STANDARD TIME)**

**VENUE: ZOOM**

#### PROGRAM:

This meeting will be conducted in English.

16:00-16:05 **Opening remarks and brief introduction from Philipp Burkhardt, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, and Moshe Dayan Center Hiwar staff**

16:05-16:10 **Dr. Nir Boms** introduces discussion and speakers.

16:10-16:50 **Discussion** between moderator and speakers.

16:50-17:30 **Q&A** from audience to speakers.

[Please RSVP here](#)

**The link to the event will be sent to the email used to register.**

\*This event is being held under the [Chatham House Rule](#).

**On October 27, 2022, Israel and Lebanon signed an American-brokered agreement demarcating a joint maritime border and regulating their rights to gas reserves at sea. Technically still at war, this agreement has stirred fierce debate in the two countries, and the region more broadly. Some view it as a path to increased regional cooperation between Israel and its neighbors, with the chief Lebanese negotiator, Elias Bou Saab, calling the agreement the beginning of a “new era.” Others, however, have argued that the agreement will only embolden Hezbollah, and may lead to all out war. So what are the implications of this historic agreement be? In this month’s Hiwar, a distinguished group of experts from Israel, Lebanon and the United States will discuss the ramifications of this agreement, its benefits, and the winners and losers.**

#### PANELISTS:

**Pierre Akel** is a Lebanese and French national, and currently resides in Normandy (France). He is the founder and editor of Middle East Transparent, or Shaffaf, a trilingual (Arabic, English and French) website founded in 2004 as an independent liberal website dedicated to combatting Islamic fundamentalism – in its Sunni and Khomeini versions. The website also aims to promote democracy, human rights and peace between Arabs and Israelis. Pierre is also a founding member of the National Council to End Iranian Occupation of Lebanon.

**Stéphane Cohen** is an experienced national security expert specializing in Israel’s northern borders. His interest in the area takes form both as a military liaison officer in reserves and an academic researcher. In 2018, Cohen co-founded “NorthStar,” a geostrategic and security consultancy. He is a member of the MDC’s Syria Forum at Tel Aviv University and has lectured at the National Security College (MABAL) and the ALMA Research Center. Until late 2017, Cohen served as the Director of the Diplomatic Program at the Israel Project (TIP), a non-profit education group based in Washington and Jerusalem that provided facts to the press, policymakers, and the public on issues affecting Israel and the Middle East, the Jewish people, and America’s interests in the Middle East.

**David Daoud** is the director of Lebanon, Israel and Syria Research at United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI). He is also a Non-Resident Fellow at Atlantic Council’s Rafik Hariri Center. Formerly, he was a research analyst at the Foundation for Defense of Democracies, focusing on Lebanon, Hezbollah, and Israel. David previously worked as a staff member on Capitol Hill, advising on matters related to the Middle East, Israel, and Iran.

**Orna Mizrahi** is a senior researcher at the Institute for National Security Studies (INSS), which she joined in December 2018 after a long career in the Israeli security establishment. In particular, she served for 26 years in the IDF (ret. Lt. Col.) and 12 years in the National Security Council (NSC) in the Prime Minister’s Office (she served under 8 heads of the NSC). In her last position (2015 – 2018) as Deputy National Security Adviser for Foreign Policy, she led strategic planning on regional and international policy on behalf of the NSC for the Prime Minister and the Israeli Cabinet, and was responsible for preparing the papers for the Prime Minister’s meetings with leaders in the international arena.

**Moderator: Dr. Nir Boms** is a research fellow at the Moshe Dayan Center at Tel Aviv University. He is the Chairman of the Syria Research Forum and the Gulf-Israel Policy Forum, as well as the coordinator of the TAU Workshop on Israel and the Middle East and the Hiwar Forum for Intra-Regional Dialogue. Dr. Boms received his doctorate from the University of Haifa, and among other publications, has written a book – *The Syrian War – Between Justice and Political Reality* (Cambridge University Press, 2020) – which is an edited volume on the Syrian War (2011 – 2019).

#### PLEASE NOTE

We cordially invite the audience to participate in thirty minutes of Q&A with the speakers following a round of opening remarks.