

## Report



# 1<sup>st</sup> Conference on New Regionalism in the Middle East

Abu Dhabi, 18-20 June 2023



### Knowledge Partners





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Technology & Economy

Energy, Environment, & Climate Change

Geopolitics

People-To-People Connectivity

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# Middle East Normalization Timeline





## Executive Summary:

The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference on “New Regionalism in the Middle East” took place in Abu Dhabi, UAE, from June 18 to 20, 2023, and brought together researchers and professionals from the Gulf, Israel, and across the region, who collectively assessed the progress and setbacks, identified metrics, and set milestones for a regional cooperation agenda.

This dialogue was co-organized by the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy (AGDA), TRENDS Research & Advisory, B’huth (Dubai Public Policy Research Centre), the Emirates Policy Center (EPC), all from the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the Moshe Dayan Center for Middle Eastern and African Studies (MDC) at Tel Aviv University, in Israel.

The workshop’s objective was to create a process of net assessment that evaluates the current state of regional cooperation.<sup>1</sup> It also sought to leverage the current momentum around regional diplomatic reconciliation and create a unique annual net-assessment forum, using a Track II format for engagement. To facilitate dialogue and exchange ideas within the framework of assessing the state of regional cooperation, a separate working group was assigned for each theme. The purpose of the working groups was to collectively brainstorm how to measure and assess the progress, development, and challenges of regional cooperation. The ultimate goal was to establish mutually acceptable indicators and benchmarks for an annual evaluation process. This net-assessment report presents the preliminary outcomes of this groundbreaking dialogue.



# Milestones for the New Regionalism

The milestones below represent a quantifiable framework for assessing annual progress in four different areas – regional de-escalation, energy security, economy and technology, and people-to-people engagement – that were the focus of this conference:

- The number of joint high-tech **research and development** ventures in the region.
- The number of **free trade agreements** that incentivize economic cooperation and expand regional trade and investment flows.
- The development of **energy solutions**, development, and integration that strengthens availability, sustainability, and affordability of energy throughout the region.
- The expansion of **connectivity infrastructures** that facilitate a more efficient allocation and consumption of resources.
- The qualitative and quantitative expansion of new relationships between institutions of **secondary and higher education** across the region.

- New platforms for **people-to-people engagement** across the region, which include sports, music, heritage, interfaith dialogue, and tolerance.
- An **inclusive human security framework** for cooperation to address shared regional challenges.
- The development of a **regional network of emergency aid, rescue, and recovery resources** that could be rapidly mobilized to address environmental disasters and catastrophes.

**These milestones** will serve as a baseline for an annual net-assessment process that aims to evaluate the current progress, development, and challenges of regional cooperation.

This process will be the foundation for advancing a policy relevant “agenda for tomorrow” that aims to enhance regional integration.

## Introduction

As an evolving document, this net-assessment was collaboratively written and reflects the range of ideas exchanged during the working group discussions. It includes an assessment of the key themes and serves as a record of the shared commitment to understanding and advancing regional cooperation. It highlights our endeavor to establish measurements and milestones for cooperation and our recommendations for the **"Agenda for Tomorrow"**.

Overall, the report reflects a "common agenda" that is based on the diverse interests, evaluations, and perspectives expressed by representative regional stakeholders. We sincerely believe that the exchange of ideas between nearly forty researchers from ten countries across the region contributes significantly to jointly creating a roadmap for a policy relevant **"agenda for tomorrow."**

*A significant characteristic of the new regionalism is that it is being initiated and led by actors from the region (rather than external actors), which is an expression of greater agency within the region.*

## The New Regionalism

Regionalism refers to efforts by states to foster regional cooperation and integration in areas of mutual interest. New intra-regional initiatives contribute to **"the growth of societal integration within a region and often undirected processes of social and economic interaction,"** which we often refer to as people-to-people ties.<sup>2</sup>

This process of regionalization creates a positive feedback loop: strengthening trade, investment, and infrastructure links feeds into government aims of promoting mutual economic growth and development, and, as a by-product, fosters opportunities for expanding people-to-people ties.

This is what is commonly referred to as a **"win-win"** outcome. The current trajectory of regionalism should not be viewed exclusively or primarily through the lens of security-driven cooperation and integration, although security ties are an important component of expanding regional ties. A significant characteristic of the **"new"** regionalism is that it is being initiated and led by actors from the region (rather than external powers), which is an expression of greater agency within the region.<sup>3</sup>

The new regionalism in the Middle East, which is still in its nascent stage, has been characterized by increased regional cooperation, a departure from historical rivalries, and a pursuit of shared interests. The interplay of geopolitical, ideational, and economic factors has fueled the emergence of this phenomenon. The result has been the growth of multilateral regional initiatives aimed at spurring greater integration across the region, which can serve as the building blocks for further cooperation.

## The Regional Context

The rise of new regional dynamics in the Middle East stem, in part, from broader geopolitical shifts, particularly the evolving role of the United States (U.S.) in the region. The aftermath of the American interventions in Iraq and Afghanistan and the repercussions of the 2008 global financial crisis led the U.S. to redefine its presence in the Middle East and prioritize domestic nation-building. During the past decade, the U.S. has focused more on the Indo-Pacific, where a more confident China was asserting itself, contributing to Washington's efforts to reduce its military commitments in the Middle East.

The so-called Arab Spring and its aftermath resonated across the Arab world and the Gulf States, which sought to restore stability and limit the spread of radicalism. The civil wars in Libya, Syria, and Yemen, along with Iran's nuclear development, which continued unchecked, also fueled a sense of instability in the region. The rise of the Islamic State (IS) or Daesh in Syria and Iraq and the global appeal of jihadism increased the fear that the region would soon become engulfed in violent chaos. These wars generated waves of refugees and displaced people, who were fleeing the conflicts in Iraq and Syria.

The defeat of the IS or Daesh, the coronavirus pandemic, and the Ukraine War have catalyzed a process of de-escalation and normalization in the region over the last three years. The Abraham Accords peace and normalization agreements between Israel, the UAE, and Bahrain, in September 2020, was the first major regional breakthrough. The process of intra-Gulf reconciliation, marked by the Al Ula GCC summit in January 2021, was another important step in de-escalation.

Turkiye's wave of normalization diplomacy between 2021 and 2023 reset its relations with the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Israel, and Egypt. Moreover in March 2023, Iran and Saudi Arabia have reached diplomatic reconciliation through China's mediation, after several rounds of dialogue beginning in 2021, contributing to an overall atmosphere of regional de-escalation and cooperation.

While recent diplomatic endeavors in the Middle East have created a window of opportunity to pursue regional cooperation, it's important to exercise caution against overestimating their effects. The region faces persistent and deep-rooted challenges, which include ongoing rivalries between Iran, Israel, and other regional actors; the Israeli-Palestinian conflict; and, governance deficiencies, which largely go unaddressed. Diplomatic initiatives can sustain communication, yet core issues persist. It's essential to view these developments within the broader context of enduring regional challenges, including economic hardships, governance shortcomings, demographic shifts, and the looming threat of escalated conflict.

The processes of normalization and de-escalation have created a sense of cautious optimism, which should be tempered by the substantial economic, demographic, environmental, and security challenges that remain. This conference was held with the goal of assessing this state-of-affairs and crafting a joint plan for sustaining success and addressing future challenges in some of these areas.

# The Dialogue

This 2-day strategic dialogue focused on four major themes exploring the current and future trends affecting the changing regional agenda:

## A **Regional De-Escalation in an Era of Renewed Great Power Competition:**

Examined the evolving security landscape, diplomatic dynamics, and geopolitical factors that affect regional cooperation. It looked at the changing dynamics of great powers and external influences and the evolving attempt to establish new regional agendas.

## B **Energy Security Beyond Transition:**

Addressed the crucial issues of energy availability, affordability, and sustainability, assessing the overlap between regional security and regional cooperation in these areas.

## C **Economy, Technology, Globalization & Regionalization:**

Assessed partnerships in business, technology, and trade and development, analyzing significant global and regional economic shifts and how they are affecting regional commercial ties, new technologies, and multilateral economic cooperation.

## D **The Role of People, Cultures & Societies in a Changing Digitized Region:**

Examined the role of people as agents of change in the region and explored the influence of the digital era on people-to-people relations and regional cooperation.

The report consists of two parts:

## • Part 1

Provides an overview of:

### **“Regional De-escalation & Energy Security in a Renewed Era of Great Power Competition”.**

It analyzes the most salient structural challenges in creating a more integrated region and identifies priorities in tackling broader geopolitical issues affecting the stakeholders. Besides the shift in the global center of economic gravity, an important topic discussed is de-escalation and de-confliction in the region. The discussion includes climate security and negotiations around mitigating the impact of global warming on the most vulnerable populations in the lead-up to the UN Conference on Climate Change (COP 28) in Dubai, UAE.

**This is followed by**

## • Part 2

Which focuses on:

### **“Reimagining Regional Networks & Building Greater Connectivity”.**

It traces how economic and social dynamics such as de-globalization and fragmentation affect the region and uncovers challenges confronting regional stakeholders in the emerging new world order. An essential part of the assessment is to identify mechanisms to address transboundary challenges such as immigration, business continuity, and food and water security. Enhancing finance and investment, digitalization and mobility, tourism, and cultural diplomacy are among other vital opportunities examined for closer regional cooperation.



The organizing framework for the report consists of two sub-sections in each part:

- The first, **"Where We Are"**, is a collection of expert assessments of what has been achieved in terms of regional integration, as well as an evaluation of obstacles and opportunities related to each theme. It defines Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to serve as reference points.
- The second, the **"Agenda for Tomorrow"**, articulates opportunities for enhancing regional cooperation and action points to measure progress toward achieving set milestones on an annual basis.

*The Abraham Accords and the recent rapprochement between Iran and Saudi Arabia reflect a sense of agency among regional actors taking the initiative to adopt policies that reflect their own interests.*

# 1 Regional De-escalation & Energy Security in a Renewed Era of Great Power Competition

## A. Where We Are: Achievements and Roadblocks

While the Abraham Accords are a tremendous achievement in our region, they are still a work in progress. We recognize that normalization and de-escalation are dynamic processes that must be invested in. The Accords could indicate to other nations that rapprochement could exist in the future but in other forms. What remains unclear is whether similar agreements in the future will follow a similar path, as each state faces varying external and internal issues to reach the goal.

### Taking Agency of One's Own Interests: How do global shifts in power affect the "new regionalism"?

The Accords could indicate to other nations that rapprochement in the future is possible but in other forms. What remains unclear is whether similar agreements in the future will follow a comparable path, as each state faces varying external and internal issues to reach the goal.

### Building on the Abraham Accords: Can the Abraham Accords be expanded beyond the initial signatories, as well as Morocco and Sudan?

Minimal trade has occurred between Israel and Bahrain. Further attention needs to be paid to trade deficiencies. Otherwise, the Accords run the risk of receding to a bilateral agreement between the UAE and Israel. For example, during 2022, bilateral trade between Israel and the UAE reached \$2.59 billion, compared to \$12.7 million between Israel and Bahrain.<sup>4</sup>

The "image" of Israel within the Arab world has not changed, except for in the UAE. Continual efforts need to be placed on emphasizing that Israel is a safe place to visit and that it remains committed to building constructive bridges and developing peace with others.

### Palestinians in the aftermath of the Abraham Accords: How can the Accords make an impact on the Palestinian issue, given these Accords were signed in the context of both preventing annexation and enabling the creation of a two-state solution?

The lack of progress on the Palestinian issue has had a negative impact on promoting, sustaining, and expanding the positive atmosphere and cooperation of the Abraham Accords. We need to identify a way to engage with the Palestinian issue within the context of the New Regionalism in a substantive way, including by bringing more Palestinians into these discussions.

There are three main categories of Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to measure regional integration in a renewed era of great power competition. These are:

 **Global Challenges and Opportunities for Collaboration**

 **Climate Mitigation and Adaptation**

 **Energy Transition**

**The goal is to have a functioning regional framework for tackling these pressing issues.**

**1. Global Challenges Provide Opportunities for Collaboration:** The COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the recent earthquake in Türkiye and Syria, are prime examples of how nations were able to come together for the sake of global health and survival.

**Climate change, energy security, and food and water security** will require opponents to collaborate to solve our planet's global challenges, which do not respect borders. Likewise, extreme weather conditions brought on by climate change, such as dust storms, flooding, or droughts have transboundary implications.

Adapting to the ramifications of climate change requires bringing together multiple players to the table to start a conversation. Such impacts have changed how states define security and the politics of survival.

**2. Climate Mitigation and Adaptation:** There has not been much substantial progress to be celebrated regarding the **current state of climate negotiations**. If the current trend of rising temperatures continues, many parts of the region could become uninhabitable in this century. Regional coordination is lacking because of a divergence between nations. Water, food, and energy security will ultimately motivate both regional allies and adversaries to coordinate on critical issues that impact the region.

For instance, because of global food insecurity in relation to the impact of the Ukraine war, there has been increased discussion on establishing a food corridor from India, across the Gulf, into Haifa.

**3. Energy Transition:** The region will face unprecedented risks because of the energy transition - but with such risk comes **increased opportunity and the possibility to expand on the idea of "new regionalism."** Hydrogen and gas are expected to play a significant role in terms of a regional energy transition.

While no one expects this era to be the ultimate "end of oil," looking toward the future, a **just energy transition will require extensive research and development** and most importantly - an increase in capital.

## B. Agenda for Tomorrow: Action Points

The discussion focused on nine critical regional issues: geopolitics economic security, health security, logistics, supply chains, climate change impacts, food security and water scarcity, cyber security, energy security, and disaster management.

Such issues require a state-driven, broad framework for regional coordination. While the Abraham Accords agreements served as a starting point, today's most pressing challenges will force regional states to think more broadly. The key is thinking outside the box and leveraging international platforms as a bridge to peace.

### The following concrete projects were discussed:

1. Develop a regional platform based on the World Economic Forum format that focuses on human security, which links government, the private sector, and civil society in a manner that is unique and allows stakeholders to discuss a range of issues from economy, society, and education to energy. Success would be dependent on defining security in human terms rather than state-security terms to aid in de-politicizing discussions.

Dubai's Expo 2020 is an example a successful event that brought together the world's nations - irrespective of their relationships or animosity, serving as a source of connectivity. Replicate Expo 2020 on a smaller scale to include regional players, who could alternate hosting "Regional Expos" each year to increase people-to-people dialogue to discuss trade, energy, finance, and climate - without a political undertone to ensure its success.

2. Map the breadth of investment/financing in energy security so far in terms of exploration/transportation/pipelines. What is the proposed future investment in development and pipelines within the region? Who are the stakeholders? Public and private, how can they be brought together in a regularly scheduled inclusive forum.

Level of interconnection and modernization of the region's electricity grids regarding renewable energy. The UAE and the KSA are doubling down on their solar power projects, while Egypt is capitalizing on wind power. How can these two types of power sources become interoperable within the electricity grid regionally?

*While the Abraham Accords agreements served as a starting point, today's most pressing challenges will force regional states to think more broadly.*

3. The establishment of a regional "electrification" forum not just in the GCC but the entire Middle East (similar to the Eastern Mediterranean Gas Forum) could be an option for countries that do not have relations with each other but do have a shared interest in creating infrastructure that benefits all parties. The megawatts and/or kilowatts being exchanged between countries in the region as a result of electric interconnectors would be a benchmark.
4. For a transition to hydrogen, the region should expand and reconfigure existing electricity grids to adapt to them while also ensuring that the grids are more resilient and less inclined to fail. A related measure would be to understand where the region stands in terms of renewable energies, where they exist, who the key players are, and who is financing these projects.
5. Create better regional Crisis Management and Emergency Response coordination. Better prepare and coordinate resources for health emergencies and catastrophes. Build capacity to coordinate relief efforts for natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, and fires.

## 2 Reimagining Regional Networks & Building Greater Connectivity

Today's problems encompass a complex mixture of local, regional, and global dynamics. Pressing issues such as immigration, food security, and water scarcity cannot be tackled by a single actor. Enhanced connectivity, cross-border collaboration, and knowledge-sharing are crucial.

The goal is to move the broader Middle East to act as an autonomous power to improve its position internationally. As the world becomes more independent and operates within a multi-polar environment, there is a need for a more inclusive regional order that addresses fault lines in the geopolitical, geo-economic, and financial architectures. Toward that end, we seek to strengthen connectivity within the region that will allow a more effective use of resources and knowledge. This will foster better understanding of shared challenges, which we hope will create incentives to transition away from confrontation and conflict and toward a "win-win" framework of regional problem solving. The "cultural" and the "people" dimensions of connectivity are seen as means of de-radicalization and a key dimension of the effort to develop agents of change that accept and promote the partnership agenda.

### A. Where We Are: Achievements and Roadblocks

In the new era of de-escalation, regional countries are prioritizing their economic interests, recognizing the potential for a win-win outcome with like-minded regional actors. There are three main categories of cooperation to measure regional integration. These are:

 Economic collaboration

 Technology and connectivity

 People-to-people engagement and cultural diplomacy

The goal of economic collaboration is to enhance cross-border trade, investment, and financial interconnectivity. Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) in this category include the scope of trade partnerships, coordination in investment promotion, and level of financial connectivity.

1. Several members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) signed trade agreements within and outside the GCC. The removal of trade barriers is a positive development, but the scope of these partnerships has been bilateral rather than multilateral. The UAE took the initiative outside the confines of the GCC to do bilateral Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreements (CEPAs) with Israel (2022), Indonesia (2022), and Turkiye (2023), to advance its economic and political priorities faster. The UAE is not alone in doing so, as Bahrain and Oman had signed bilateral Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) separately with the U.S. in 2006 and 2009, respectively.

Technological advancement and connectivity aim to improve the productivity and mobility of people and labor. KPIs in this category are level of technical skills, transportation and connectedness, and ease of mobility.

2. In terms of technical skills, the region does not want to be caught between great powers in the race for new technologies. Many countries in the region have implemented critical social and business reforms to develop a young, tech-savvy, and educated population open to learning and keen to make an impact on emerging fields such as AI and robotics. Apart from the UAE, Israel and Turkiye have similar policies in that direction. Turkiye has a diversified industrial base, and a Turkish student helped develop Huawei's key telecommunications technology. The American University of Sharjah students built a radar chip for drones for \$100K when the market price was \$5 million. Israel is a top developer of cybersecurity products, and it received a record deal from Intel to invest \$25 billion in an Israeli factory due to open in 2027.<sup>5</sup> But such large-scale production capacity and know-how are uncommon across the Middle East. Nations do not tend to share their technology with each other. The link between geopolitics and economics is conspicuous here. There is a need to develop the potential for expanding civilian high-tech research and development capabilities in the region.
3. For intra-regional transportation, countries spent \$400-600 billion on high-speed trains, but rail networks lag behind highway development. The number of cities with rail stations and connections between them is still minimal. The Gulf Railway project had challenges in financing and misalignment in partnering states but regained its momentum recently by completing part of the project in some GCC countries.

The GCC Secretary General Jasem Mohamed AlBudaiwi said, "The railway project supports joint investments among member states and strengthens Gulf economic integration and its impact on the global economy."<sup>6</sup> For inter-regional transportation, Iraq completed a design study for a 1,175 km rail link worth \$17 billion through Turkiye to Europe, and GCC countries are also interested in participating in this project.<sup>7</sup> These initiatives can help unlock the \$230-billion of GDP potential and create 100,000 new jobs in the region through greater economic integration.<sup>8</sup>

Tourism and cultural diplomacy aim to develop people-to-people contacts for mutual understanding, tolerance, and respect. KPIs in this category are the expansion of joint cultural events/sites and the celebration of cultural heritage.

4. Exchange, leadership, and training programs - particularly long-term engagement that lasts beyond a "seminar duration" needs to be developed taking into account cultural and political sensitivities. A regional platform that could enhance opportunities for exchange and provide a menu of accessible programs such as academic programs, professional training, internships, joint humanitarian work, and related ventures could significantly contribute to the validation of the regional partnership. This should be developed using region-wide lenses toward the enhancement of the regional connectivity and the creation of a variety of opportunities for young people to experience the region and its cultures while engaging in a positive learning and experiential opportunity."
5. The Middle East has strong leaders, and inevitably, relations are personalized. Institutionalizing these relations around the theme of "common heritage" is essential. Defining the region and its shared commonalities is a political act that requires political will from the leaders and support from the people. The "Abrahamic Family House" is an example that encompasses a mosque, a synagogue, and a church. It serves as a powerful platform for inspiring and nurturing acceptance between people of goodwill.<sup>9</sup> For the celebration of cultural heritage, people gravitate toward religion. In the Middle East's volatile atmosphere, sacred places, and artifacts play a unique role in bringing together people from diverse but related backgrounds around a common goal.

Abraham Accords intended to create a positive snowball effect, and it led to identity deconfliction among people of the Middle East. It is a signal to the Middle East that they must come together. The security contract between the U.S. and the region is outdated, but people still seek to emulate the West due to its prosperity and understanding of dignity.

## B. Agenda for Tomorrow: Action Points

To move the broader Middle East to act as an autonomous power requires creating a shared identity, a new narrative, and smoothing out sharp edges. Civilian/Track II diplomacy and people-to-people connections to develop local solutions are crucial. The key is to build on the momentum of normalization and reconciliation processes that would bring more collective gains. For each category of cooperation, there are several action points to measure the level of regional integration.

### For economic collaboration:

1. Scale up national strategies for economic progress to develop a joint regional vision, such as **GCC Vision 2030 or Middle East Vision 2040**. It is better to take personal relationships and partnerships from the leadership level to an institutional level and form a collective voice.
2. Upgrade bilateral trade partnership agreements to a **multilateral level**. Standardize tariffs and quotas across the region. "**Healthy interdependence**" should be the proposed phrasing of the goal. This happens when nations share their interests and are less likely to be threatened by neighbors. It would minimize "beggar-thy-neighbor" trade policies and take the entire region from pursuing self-interest to a collective Pareto-optimal front.
3. There is de-dollarization in progress. Even though it won't happen overnight, the pile will get bigger since two-thirds of the world lives in the East. **Economic diversification, interdependence, and removal of trade barriers** should be top economic priorities. The broader goal is the flow of prosperity across the region.
4. Introduce **cross-border work permits and a regional digital currency**. Remove systemic roadblocks in financial and legal institutions. **Streamline procedures** to set up business, address barriers to customs clearances, and transit of goods/people in the region. **Clarify, simplify, and integrate** counter-productive investment policies. Leverage the Middle East's geographic advantage to become **a gold/precious metal trade center** by offering a vault/store of gold and foreign currency reserves in the GCC as an alternative to Europe.

### For technological advancement and connectivity:

1. Develop region-wide 5G and 6G mobile networks. Since governments are slow to act, the **private sector and academia should leverage their agility** to link universities and create a program to build joint technology.
2. In terms of **intellectual property (IP)**, since there is insufficient technology to worry about theft of property rights in the GCC, state actors can come to the table easily and say, "Let's build our own technology." Focus on the strategic development of scientific capabilities. Civilian technology shapes geopolitics, be proactive.
3. The rest of the region should learn from the success stories of the UAE and Israel. **Connect Israeli and Turkish transfers of technology and commercialization to the rest of the region.** Create a legal framework to facilitate sharing of technology. Position the discussion as a "strategic necessity" for the region, not just a commercial endeavor. Develop capabilities to produce semiconductors. Enable private enterprises to enhance their cyber capabilities.
4. Increase the number of inter-city railway connections across the region.

### For people-to-people connectivity and cultural diplomacy:

1. Develop a "regional exchange" platform that facilitates students and young professional exchanges in the form of professional internships accompanied by immersive cultural experiences.
2. Create support mechanism for academic exchange of both students and faculty and create a target number of deeper regional academic collaborations.
3. Create public diplomacy channels for cross-media pollination (television, podcasts, social media, etc.) to advance the regional cooperation agenda.
4. Enable exchanges between museums and support joint exhibitions. Open an "Abrahamic Museum" with artifacts from around the region, such as the UAE, Israel, Palestine, and Jordan. It can be done via setting up a museum of sacred texts in the Middle East. Address accessibility issues of humanitarian sites.
5. Create opportunities for sports diplomacy, as well as any popular culture (music, art, dance, film, literature, entertainment, leisure) engagement, and use these events to amplify people-to-people relations.
6. Initiate and support interfaith dialogue in order to share our connections to our respective belief systems in the spirit of tolerance and co-existence.
7. Use education curricula to foster historical and cultural understanding of "the other" and increase engagement between educators who influence future generations across the region.



# Participating Conferees

in the Net Assessment Gathering



## 1<sup>st</sup> Conference on **New Regionalism in the Middle East**

Abu Dhabi, 18-20 June 2023



**Technology & Economy**



**People-To-People Connectivity**



**New Regionalism  
in the Middle East**



**Geopolitics**



**Energy, Environment, & Climate Change**



# Notes

Technology & Economy  
Energy, Environment, & Climate Change  
People-To-People Connectivity  
Geopolitics

1. Net assessment recognizes that broad policy agendas, like regional cooperation, involve complex sprawling organizations, creating an important need to break these big policy challenges into manageable smaller problems. The idea is to model simple and think complex. In the context of our event, net assessment is valuable because it allows us to account for competitive dynamics across multiple stakeholders, and across time periods, even when our cooperation and partnership agenda is ostensibly focused on promoting “win-win” outcomes for all. See: Paul Bracken, «Net Assessment: A Practical Guide,» *Parameters* 36:1 (Spring 2006), 90-100.
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# Highlights



**H.E. Noura Al Kaabi,**  
Minister of State, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, UAE



# Highlights



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# **New Regionalism in the Middle East**

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