



BEIRUT INSTITUTE

BEIRUT INSTITUTE SUMMIT

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Declaration from Abu Dhabi

**RECONFIGURING THE ARAB REGION AND ITS GLOBAL SPACE BEYOND POLITICAL ECONOMY
AND SECURITY THREATS**

At this first Beirut Institute Summit, we have started a conversation that will continue in the years to come. This inaugural discussion has been defined by a commitment to bringing non-traditional thinking to the most important challenges we are facing. Our conversation yielded a wide range of specific recommendations that we will distill and deliver to policy-makers at a later stage. That document will reflect the rich, off-the-record discussions that took place in our closed policy circles as well as the insights from our fascinating public discussions.

While the following is by no means a comprehensive, agreed summary of our findings, it provides a sense of the range of specific actions that we discussed. Specifically, our discussion included consideration of the following potential actions:

- **Decisive multi-lateral action to bring end to the current conflict in Syria.** This effort should include:
 - Placement of multi-lateral peacekeepers to create space for subsequent political and economic actions post military conflict
 - Immediate action to address the humanitarian crisis, including specific and increased assistance to the refugees and the establishment of humanitarian safe-zones
 - Creation of a legitimate vision for post-conflict Syria, underwritten by a GCC fund to support the critical need to rebuild infrastructure, social services, and the critical elements of the state that have been destroyed by the years of conflict

- **Re-intensify efforts to resolve the question of Palestine on the basis of a two state solution.** This is a critical first step in creating a positive cycle of change in the region
 - This effort should include a joint peace treaty between Israel on the one hand and Syria, Lebanon and Palestine on the other

- **Accelerate our efforts to strengthen intra-Arab relations,** moving beyond the traditional impediments to our collaboration to deepen our economic, social and cultural relationships, including through necessary reforms

- **Rapidly drive progress to a new regional order** that will allow us to deal with the diverse challenges that face us including state terrorism, non-state terrorism, the refugee crisis and economic dislocation and the need for economic diversification
 - This effort must include exploration of renewed, strengthened regional institutions, including political, security and economic organizations modeled on the most successful examples from around the world such as ASEAN and APEC
- **Comprehensively drive regional economic growth** through an integrated plan including:
 - A new, anticipatory GCC-centered regional fund to begin building the future now
 - Driving deep economic integration through an agreement that minimizes the barriers to intra-regional trade
 - Intensively drive economic inclusion of the Arab youth through new, technology-enabled approaches to job creation and entrepreneurship
 - Driving education & apprenticeship to maximize the employability of graduates in the new digital economy
 - Leverage technology to leapfrog gaps in traditional infrastructure wherever possible
- **Strengthen regional governance and the rule of law**, including through efforts on the following fronts:
 - Empower women as crucial economic, political and social leaders and as natural agents against extremisms
 - Advance inclusive political systems that provide for full participation of all segments of society
 - Bring the private sector deeply into policy deliberations as a key partner
 - Increase the levels of real accountability in the region, progress against corruption, and encouraging wider Arab membership in the ICC
 - Establish a new institute to train Arabic-speaking psychological professionals who can address the future costs of the traumas the region is undergoing today