

# KHALIFA SHAHEEN AMARAR

Minister of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, United Arab Emirates

## **Fareed Yasseen, Ambassador of Iraq to the United States**

We have a stellar cast to discuss these issues and I will introduce them as I give them the floor and will start with His Excellency Khalifa Shaheen Almarar, the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates to Turkey since 2016. He is a veteran diplomat of our host country, with postings to Syria and Iran prior to that, as well as Japan and the United Nations. You have the floor, sir.

## **Khalifa Shaheen Amarar**

Thank you very much. I will just start by thanking the organizers of this conference. As we touch on the Middle East and external powers, I would say that the Middle East has always been of strategic importance to the world powers and to the international community as a whole. This is a result of its strategic location, its energy resources and because the state of the region's security and stability has effects on the region as a whole and the international community as well. With the engagement of world powers in the Middle East also come rivalries and competition, but we also have to acknowledge that there is legitimate concern and interest of world powers in the development of the Middle East and so far as the stability and security of the region is concerned.

With that concern, we think there is a positive contribution that world powers can make to the future of the region. The Middle East and our region, especially over the last decade or so, has gone through a lot of crises and conflicts that have taken a lot of efforts and resources and shook the foundation of national state institutions. Now, there is a consensus among Arab countries that any malicious intervention in the crises in the region only exacerbates these crises and conflicts and make an already very complex situation even more so. We think what is needed is to promote stability, security and peaceful resolution of conflicts and that is what we in the United Arab Emirates are focusing on. We have always promoted stability in the region and working for it and promoting the stability that could lead to prosperity and the long-term security of the region. In quest of that, we have promoted building bridges with all the countries and nations of the region to work for the peaceful settlement of conflicts for prosperity and long-term stability and security for the region.

Now, we think that world powers as well as regional ones need to refrain from interfering in the internal affairs of Arab countries, assisting them in finding peaceful solutions to conflicts and in building or rebuilding the region. With all the challenges we face in the region, more connections are needed to bring all the countries together for dialogue and to promote peace, security and the peaceful settlement of conflicts. The Abraham Accords is one example of that, and I must emphasize here that when we signed them, we were showing an example of



how problems and conflicts could be solved, rather than just managed. We want to work on a world peace that reflects and provides tangible results to the population, where the region would see the benefits of peace.

The other issue we have been emphasizing is that the Abraham Accords are not directed against any third party in the region. We put the emphasis on connection, dialogue and finding ways to mitigate the adverse effects of external intervention in the internal affairs of Arab countries. We want to connect and create more space for cooperation, the economy, investment and wellbeing and prosperity for the whole region, which will positively affect the quest to solve conflicts and problems in the region.

**Fareed Yasseen**

Thank you, sir. You mentioned dialogue, the search for prosperity and engagement and the UAE has been doing all of that.