

# INTRODUCTION

**Adil Alzarooni, CEO of Al Zarooni Emirates Investments and Al Bidayer Holding, Founder of Citizens School**

Thank you very much, the panel, the committee and all the attendees for giving us the pleasure of having this workshop together. We are going to try to discuss economic and social issues in the Middle East from many different perspectives. Allow me to introduce myself, my name is Adil Alzarooni, I run a couple of family offices, and I have been with the government of Dubai for 10 years and I have worked in a lot of countries helping to develop many economic zones. I think the best way to start the workshop is an introduction to the members of the panel itself, and if you do not mind, Dorothée, I will start with you. Could you give your name and title and what you want to discuss?

**Dorothée Schmid, head of the Türkiye/Middle East Program at Ifri**

I am going to try to talk about the rebuilding of Syria.

**François Gouette, Chairman of Pro Oriente Conseil, Vice-chairman for Public Diplomacy of The Global Diwan, Advisor to the Chairman of Diot-Siaci**

I have been the Ambassador of France in five Arab countries, and I will address the issue of economic and social changes in North Africa.

**Raed Charafeddine, Central and Commercial Banker, former First Vice Governor of the Central Bank of Lebanon**

I am an economic and social reformist and a commercial and central banker. I will be talking about Lebanon's path to recovery, overcoming the chaos and building a brighter future.

**Adil Alzarooni**

I will be talking about the private/public sector in the GCC and some of the challenges, as well as addressing elements to do with the education system and how we need to prepare for the work of actually generating jobs.

**Kamel Abdallah, Managing Director and CEO of Canal Sugar, Egypt**

I am the CEO of Canal Sugar, which runs a farm the size of Singapore or Bahrain in Egypt, which is part of the private/public sector initiatives, and I will be talking about social impact investments based on the experience in the region.

**Monica Malik, Chief Economist at Abu Dhabi Commercial Bank**

I am based in Abu Dhabi, and I will also be talking about the Gulf economies and highlighting recent progress in economic diversification and policymaking.

**Fareed Yasseen, Secretary General of the Iraq Pugwash Association, former Ambassador of the Republic of Iraq to the United States**

I used to be an Iraqi diplomat and served in both Paris and Washington, and more recently as climate envoy and I would like to talk about the combined impact of climate change, demography and water stress on Iraq, as an example for other countries.

**Ernesto Damiani, Professor at Khalifa University for the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, Director of the Center for Cyber-Physical Systems (C2PS)**

I am the Dean of the College of Computing and Mathematical Sciences at Khalifa University here in the UAE. I would like to talk about the risk and opportunities of the development and deployment of game changing technologies, for example, LMs and quantum in this new regionalized situation in view of the fragmentation we heard about in the plenary.

**Adil Alzarooni**

Amazing, thank you very much. I think we can follow the same order to get some thoughts with everyone taking five to seven minutes and then opening it up to questions and moving on to an interactive discussion, asking as many questions and debating as much as you want. The ultimate objective is to come out of this workshop with probably more questions but some answers and with that, we can all be more informed than when we came into the room. If you will allow me, Dorothée, I am putting the pressure on you, and they will copy you.