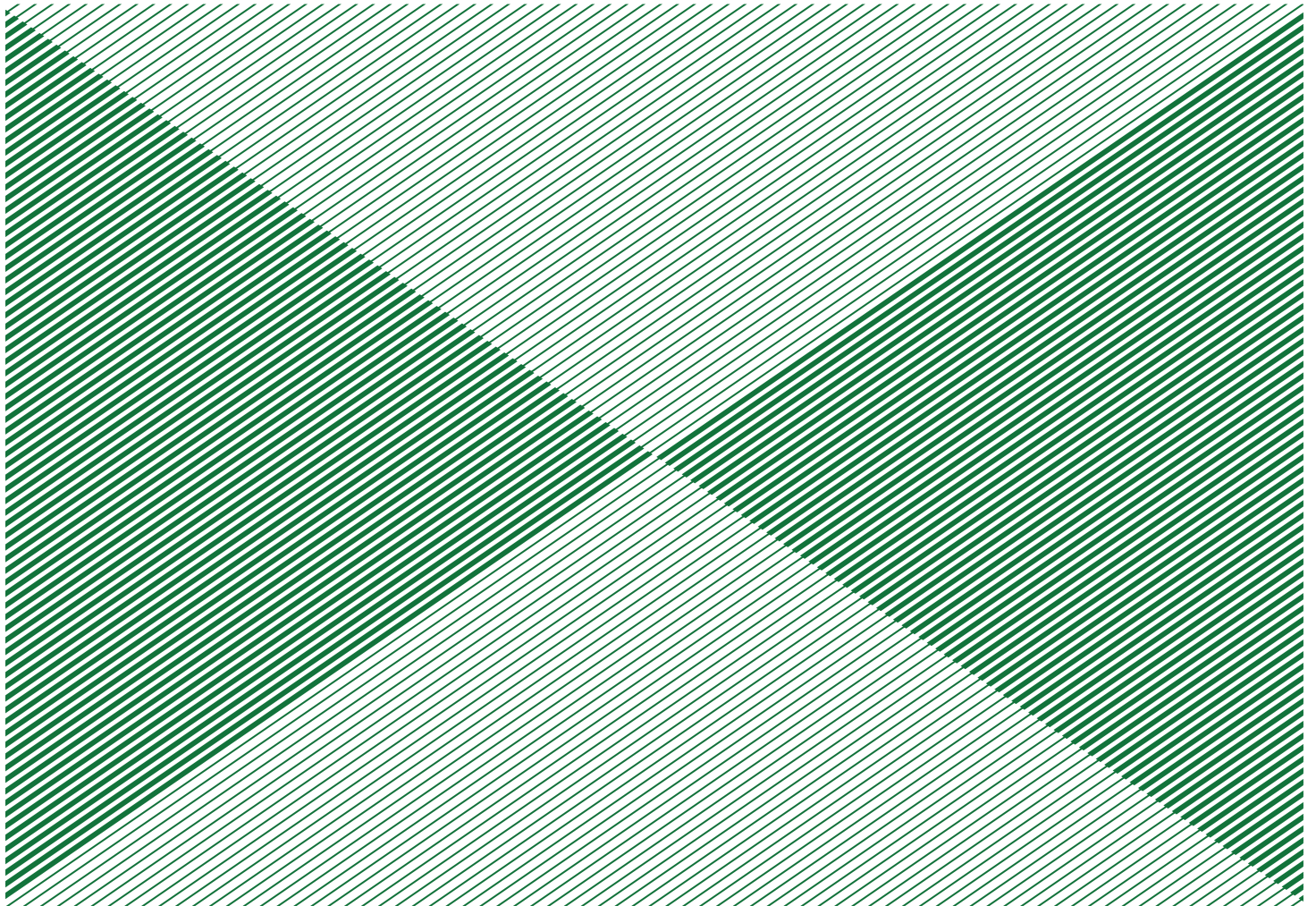


Regional Agenda

World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa Overview

Dead Sea, Jordan 19-21 May 2017



Enabling a Generational Transformation

Background

The transformation of the Middle East and North Africa region has never been as fast and complex as it is today. Pressure on government revenues, continued geopolitical shifts and humanitarian challenges are leading policy-makers to rethink youth empowerment in the region, diversify away from oil dependence and address their response to the growing refugee crisis. The Fourth Industrial Revolution and the reform momentum in many countries in the region are creating a unique opportunity for business, civil society and government to jointly boost inclusive and sustainable development.

Given Jordan's central role in the region, the World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa will convene more than 1,000 key leaders from government, business and civil society at the Dead Sea to support a comprehensive and progressive vision for prosperity and peace. With the full support and presence of Their Majesties King Abdullah II and Queen Rania Al Abdullah, the meeting will provide a collaborative platform for addressing multi-generational challenges and unlocking new opportunities for inclusive growth, social modernization, and technology enabled progress.

The meeting will build on the World Economic Forum's System Initiatives on a select number of issues for which extended public-private collaboration is needed to accelerate progress. The meeting will unlock systems leadership and strategic dialogue to set priorities and shape the agenda in the key areas of employment, infrastructure, education, gender and energy. Special attention will be paid to how collaborative and inclusive efforts can revive and accelerate economic and social modernization and drive positive transformation.

In recognition of the timely opportunities that are arising from the Fourth Industrial Revolution and in support of the emerging generation of young entrepreneurs, the World Economic Forum will extend its regional summit platform to 100 of the Arab world's most promising start-ups.

Top decision-makers from Gulf Cooperation Council countries, the Levant and North Africa, as well as key international stakeholders from the United States, Europe, East Africa and other regions will also explore the Fourth Industrial Revolution – a new era in the global economy promising huge opportunities resulting from the convergence of digital information and technological advances in various economic fields.

Co-Chairs

Dominic Barton, Global Managing Partner, McKinsey & Company, United Kingdom

Khaled H. Biyari, Chief Executive Officer, Saudi Telecom, Saudi Arabia

Børge Brende, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway

Philippe Le Houérou, Executive Vice-President and Chief Executive Officer, International Finance Corporation, Washington DC

Majid Jafar, Chief Executive Officer, Crescent Petroleum, United Arab Emirates; Young Global Leader

Khadija Idrissi Janati, Founder and Chief Executive Officer, KMK Group, Morocco; Young Global Leader

Maurice Lévy, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Publicis Groupe, France

Arif Naqvi, Founder and Group Chief Executive, Abraaj Group, United Arab Emirates

Ursula von der Leyen, Federal Minister of Defence of Germany



“

We will solve the problems of our region only when we build on its strengths.

”

H.M. King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

Meeting Objective

The World Economic Forum on the Middle East and North Africa brings together the foremost business, government and civil society leaders to advance public-private cooperation on critical issues for the future of the region. The programme will revolve around the following thematic pillars:

Enabling Innovation and Entrepreneurship through the Fourth Industrial Revolution

Technological change is disrupting economies and shifting the nature of our globalized world in ways that are both complex and interconnected. More technological change will be seen over the next decade than in the past 50 years. This creates significant potential for leveraging the Fourth Industrial Revolution in the region to drive innovation and growth, and reduce unemployment.

- How can technology and economic collaboration act as a catalyst for regional stability and prosperity?
- How can the region harness innovation to improve competitiveness?
- What role can digitization play in supporting entrepreneurship and job creation?
- How can the new generation of businesses support economic transformation and social inclusion?

Building Inclusive Economies

Lower oil prices, political transitions and geopolitical tensions in some parts of the region have impacted economic growth, but have also tremendously increased the potential of structural reforms and industrial diversification, thus creating an unprecedented momentum. Many countries of the region have presented transformational reform plans, such as the Saudi Arabia Vision 2030. Yet, the reforms can only deliver on their promises if they are inclusive and accompanied by a conducive framework that includes efficient infrastructure, sound governance and improved access to social services such as energy, health and education.

- What drives productivity and competitiveness in the region?
- What are the key success factors to transforming Arab economies?
- How can public-private collaboration enhance and support inclusive growth?
- How can we bridge the gap in infrastructure, education and health services?

Supporting Humanitarian Efforts and Diplomatic Dialogue

Instability and geopolitical disruptions continue to pose unprecedented challenges and threaten long-term prosperity in the region. With around 87 million people directly affected by war in Iraq, Libya, Syria and Yemen and 16 million people forced to migrate, there is a clear global urgency to resolve conflicts in the region. There is, however, a unique opportunity for the World Economic Forum's multistakeholder community to catalyse conflict resolution through diplomatic dialogue and public-private collaboration.

- What new international mechanisms are needed to stabilize the Mediterranean region?
- How can the international community provide more sustainable support to countries hosting refugee populations?
- How can public-private collaboration and industry innovation help address the humanitarian imperative?
- How can new leaders at the UN and in the US help de-escalate the Syria crisis?
- How can diplomatic dialogue enhance the momentum for peace and stability?
- How can public-private collaboration create positive change among refugee populations?

FAQ

Where will the meeting take place?

The meeting will take place at the Dead Sea, Jordan.

Where will I stay?

PublicisLive, the Forum's operations and production provider, will arrange accommodation at the Jordan Valley Marriott Resort & Spa, the Kempinski Hotel Ishtar Dead Sea and the Mövenpick Resort & Spa Dead Sea. You will be contacted on confirmation of your registration.

What is the working language of the meeting?

Sessions will be held in English. Simultaneous interpretation in Arabic and French will be available in some sessions.

Do I need a visa?

Check with the Jordanian embassy or consulate nearest you for visa requirements. The World Economic Forum is not responsible for providing visas.

Who can I contact for more information?

Participant Services Team
Tel.: +41 (0)22 869 1315
Fax: +41 (0)22 594 8119
MiddleEast@weforum.org

Programme at a Glance

Friday 19 May

07.30 Registration opens

12.00 - 19.00 Community Sessions

19.30 - 20.30 Welcome Reception

Saturday 20 May

07.30 Registration opens

07.30 - 08.45 Breakfast Session

07.30 - 08.45 Community Sessions

09.00 - 10.00 Interactive Sessions in Parallel

10.00 - 10.30 Community Break/ Hub Sessions

10.30 - 11.15 Opening Plenary Session

11.20 - 12.15 Plenary Session

12.15 - 13.30 Community Lunch/ Hub Sessions

13.30 - 15.00 Interactive Sessions in Parallel

15.00 - 15.30 Community Break/ Hub Sessions

15.30 - 17.00 Interactive Sessions in Parallel

17.00 - 17.30 Community Break/ Hub Sessions

17.00 - 19.00 Interactive Sessions in Parallel

20.00 - 22.00 Cultural Dinner

Sunday 21 May

07.30 Registration opens

07.30 - 08.45 Breakfast Session

07.30 - 08.45 Community Sessions

09.00 - 10.00 Interactive Sessions in Parallel

10.00 - 10.30 Community Break/ Hub Sessions

10.30 - 12.00 Interactive Sessions in Parallel

12.00 - 13.00 Community Lunch/ Hub Sessions

13.00 - 14.00 Interactive Sessions in Parallel

14.00 - 15.00 Closing Plenary Session

15.00 - 16.00 Farewell Reception



COMMITTED TO
IMPROVING THE STATE
OF THE WORLD

The World Economic Forum, committed to improving the state of the world, is the International Organization for Public-Private Cooperation.

The Forum engages the foremost political, business and other leaders of society to shape global, regional and industry agendas.

World Economic Forum
91–93 route de la Capite
CH-1223 Cologny/Geneva
Switzerland

Tel.: +41 (0) 22 869 1212
Fax: +41 (0) 22 786 2744

contact@weforum.org
www.weforum.org