

STUDIO 1

ON
AIR

09 / 2020
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FREE CONNECTED MINDS



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Quotes from our Organizers



FRIEDRICH NAUMANN
STIFTUNG Für die Freiheit.

Connecting Free Minds

The world today is a very different one from just a few months ago. COVID-19 has fueled unprecedented change and the most volatile and vulnerable societies struggle to cope with this rapid development. The MENA Region is no exception in this regard. But the MENA region is packed with creativity, and engagement. FNF and its partners connect those free minds to support ideas that tackle the needs of a society in desperate times.

“FNF and its partners connects those free minds to support ideas that tackle the needs of a society in desperate times.”

Dirk Kunze
Regional Director
FNF MENA



Quotes from our Organizers



Freedom and Democracy

The MENA region is an ever vibrant and crucial region with changes almost daily, therefore it is so important to discuss, criticize or applaud several of these ground-breaking changes. VVD International is committed to those individuals, political parties and organizations that are connected there and simultaneously spread the words of Freedom and Democracy. Both core values for VVD International both Europe and the MENA region.

“VVD International is committed to those individuals, political parties and organizations that are connected there and simultaneously spread the words of Freedom and Democracy.”

Gijs Houben
International Officer
VVD International



Quotes from our Organizers



Freedom and Democracy

This conference deals with various security, political, economic, financial and social topics, by starting dialogues with leaders and opinion makers, as well as thinkers and writers.

So our journey for this year starts in a somewhat different framework because it is a hybrid formula, meaning it would be conducted through Zoom and inside the studios of the foundation.

“So our journey for this year starts in a somewhat different framework because it is a hybrid formula, meaning it would be conducted through Zoom and inside the studios of the foundation.”

Dr. May Chidiac
Founder and President
MCF



“MAN AND NOT NATURE
INITIATES, BUT NATURE IN
LARGE MEASURE CONTROLS.”

Halford John Mackinder

I.

Free Connected Minds

E-Conference | FCM 2020

in partnership with



20.09.2020
-
21.09.2020

E-Panel 1

Virtual Discussions Program

“How will the Middle East
be Affected by Rising
Geopolitical Tensions?”

The Middle East is currently witnessing one of the most stressful proxy wars in political history. However, despite the region's long history of being such a strategic point for geopolitical conflicts, the forms and consequences of the present turmoil are different. With the virtual clashes exchanged between the countries, the shape of the MENA is dramatically changing, whereas we could be faced with new bounds and alliances as well as new hegemonic risings.

H.E Hoshyar Zebari (Iraq),

Former Deputy Prime Minister, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Finance in Iraq

H.E Jeffrey Feltman (U.S.A.),

John C. Whitehead Visiting Fellow in International Diplomacy at Brookings Institution, Former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, and Former U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon

H.E/Dr. Marwan Muasher (Jordan),

Vice President of Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Former Deputy Prime Minister, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs

H.E/Dr. Tarek Mitri (Lebanon),

Director of Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the AUB, Former Minister of Environment, Administrative Development, Information, and Culture Former Special Representative under UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon, Former Head of UN Support Mission in Libya

Moderator: Dr. Maha Yahya (Lebanon),

Director, Carnegie Middle East Center

H.E. Mr. Ahmad Abou El-Gheit (Egypt),

Secretary-General of the Arab League

E-Talk 1

Moderator: Ms. Gisele Khoury,

Lebanese Journalist, TV Host on Skynews

FCM
2020

“ONE OF THE PENALTIES FOR
REFUSING TO PARTICIPATE
IN POLITICS IS THAT YOU
END UP BEING GOVERNED
BY YOUR INFERIORS.”

—
Plato

II.

20.09.2020
-
21.09.2020

E-Panel 2

Virtual Discussions Program

“Meet the Proxies: How are Regional Political Powers’ Proxies faring in the Middle East and how is Europe Responding to their Activities?”

Non-governmental military groups have carried out plots to attack multiple European countries such as France, Germany, Bulgaria, etc. These plots alongside other general conflicts threaten the economic and political stability of European countries. The criminalization of Non-State Actors’ activities has sparked controversy and heated debates across Europe.

H.E Tom Fletcher (U.K.),

*Principal of Hertford College, Oxford University
& former UK Ambassador to Lebanon*

Dr. Paul Salem (U.S.A.),

President of The Middle East Institute

Dr. Robert Danin (U.S.A.),

*Senior Vice-President, Foreign and Defence Policy Studies,
The American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research*

MP Sven Koopmans (Netherlands),

*Member of Parliament, former UN Mediation Expert,
Author of “Negotiating Peace” (OUP, 2018)*

Moderator: Mr. Brent Sadler (U.K.-Serbia),

*International Broadcast Journalist and
Former CNN Senior International Correspondent*

“IT IS IMPORTANT TO PUT THIS ON THE TABLE: THIS VIRUS MAY BECOME JUST ANOTHER ENDEMIC VIRUS IN OUR COMMUNITIES, AND THIS VIRUS MAY NEVER GO AWAY.”

—
Dr. Mike Ryan

III.

Virtual Discussions Program

The outbreak of COVID-19 left the world adapting to a new normal, leaving health systems, economies, and populations particularly vulnerable. This is highly noticeable in Lebanon which was already dealing with political and economic instability, which resulted in the devaluation of the Lebanese currency.

E-Panel 3

“How will the
World Economy
Change after COVID-19?”

Ms. Mona Haddad (U.S.),
Global Director of Country economics IFC

H.E Ghassan Hasbani (Lebanon),
*Former Deputy Prime Minister, Former Minister of Health,
Former CEO of STC International and Graycoats*

Dr. Jihad Azour (Lebanon),
*Director of the Middle East and Central Asia at the
International Monetary Fund, Former Minister of Finance*

Ms. Nadereh Chamlou (U.S.A.-Iran),
*International Development Advisor, Former Senior
Advisor to the Chief Economist of MENA*

Mr. Markus Loening (Germany),
*Managing Director and Senior Strategy Advisor
and former Human Rights Commissioner of Germany*

Moderator: Mr. Yasser Akkaoui (Lebanon),
Editor in Chief of Executive Magazine

“IF KNOWLEDGE CAN
CREATE PROBLEMS, IT IS NOT
THROUGH IGNORANCE THAT
WE CAN SOLVE THEM.”

Isaac Asimov

IV.

20.09.2020
-
21.09.2020

E-Panel 4

“Artificial Intelligence and the
Impact of Big Data on Industry,
Banking, and Consumer Cultures.”

Dr. Rita Mokbel (Sweden),

*Vice President of Ericsson Worldwide and Head of Global Sales
PhD Holder Information and Communication Technology ICT*

Mr. Christian Bauer (Austria - U.S.A.),

*Senior Lead UX Product Designer I UX Product
Architect I Senior Visual Designer I AI & VR*

Mr. Gabriel Deek (Lebanon),

*General Manager at Omni Systems SAL, and Founding
Member & Chair of ISOC LB Chapter since 2016,
Entrepreneur, University Professor at USJ, Mentor & Activist*

Mr. Hisham Dalle (CA - Lebanon),

*Member of the Lebanese Canadian Coalition leading the infrastructure
rebuild, founder of Cloud Zero, and AI/ Blockchain evangelist*

Moderator: Mr. Nadim Jawhari (Lebanon),

Director Consultcom ICT and Telecom Strategy Advisor

Virtual Discussions Program

Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology is persistently growing and the adoption of this leveraging technology is also getting the impetus. Industries have been looking for applications powered by AI to help them in their digital transformation. Of late, there are many other businesses, especially smaller ones, that are unable to gauge the advantages of AI implementation. Speakers in this panel explain the advantages of AI, as well as the alarming challenges for the future of industry, banking, and consumerism.

E-Talk 3

“Reclaiming Data from
Cambridge Analytica”

E-Talk 4

“Black Wave and
The End Of October ”

Mr. David Carroll (U.S.A.),

Associate Professor of Media Design

Moderator: Ms. Youmna Naufal,

Host of YChats & Former Head of English News Department at Future Television

Mr. Lawrence Wright (U.S.A.),

An Author, Screenwriter, Playwright, and Staff Writer for The New Yorker magazine

Moderator: Ms. Youmna Naufal,

Host of YChats & Former Head of English News Department at Future Television

“WHAT MENTAL HEALTH
NEEDS IS MORE SUNLIGHT,
MORE CANDOR, AND MORE
UNASHAMED CONVERSATION.”

—
Glenn Close



Virtual Discussions Program

Ever since the beginning of 2020, the world has faced a life changing pandemic, altering people's everyday lives and their small habits... While doctors and nurses were fighting for people's lives and trying to fight off a pandemic, civilians were confined for up to three months. Multiple businesses shutdown, people were stuck either abroad or away from their families. How will people cope with the mental repercussions of COVID-19 & its damages?

E-Panel 5

“How will People's Lifestyles be like after COVID-19? What are the Mental Challenges Faced by People around the World?”

Dr. Iman Shankiti (Jordan),

WHO Representative in Lebanon

Dr. Saqib Latif (U.A.E.),

Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Port Mission in Libya

Dr. Michel Nawfal (Lebanon),

MD MA. Mental Health Specialist and Founder of Nawfal Clinics

Dr. Pia Zeinoun (Lebanon),

Assistant Professor of Psychology at AUB and Board Member at Embrace

Moderator: Mr. Chaker Khazaal,

Palestinian - Canadian Reporter, Speaker and Award-Winning Author.

I.

“How will the Middle East be Affected by Rising Geopolitical Tensions?”

The Middle East is currently witnessing one of the most stressful proxy wars in political history. However, despite the region’s long history of being such a strategic point for geopolitical conflicts, the forms and consequences of the present turmoil are different. With the virtual clashes exchanged between the countries, the shape of the MENA is dramatically changing, whereas we could be faced with new bounds and alliances as well as new hegemonic risings.



Speakers:

- H.E Hoshyar Zebari
- H.E Jeffrey Feltman
- H.E/Dr. Marwan Muasher
- H.E/Dr. Tarek Mitri
- H.E. Mr. Ahmad Abou El-Gheit

Moderators:

- Dr. Maha Yahya
- Ms. Gisele Khoury

H.E Hoshyar Zebari

Former Deputy Prime Minister, Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Minister of Finance in Iraq

Hoshyar Zebari is the current Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq. Mr. Zebari was born in 1953 in Aqra, Iraqi Kurdistan.

He earned a bachelor degree in Sociology from the University of Jordan in 1976 and Master degree in in Sociology of Development from the University Of Essex, UK, in 1980.

Mr. Zebari was responsible for the Kurdish Student Society in Europe and Chairman of the Overseas Student Committee in the UK between 1978 and 1980. He was also elected as the Kurdistan Democratic Party's Leadership in 1979. He became an elected member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party's Political Bureau and Chief Representative of the Kurdistan Front in Europe in 1989.

He was the foreign spokesperson for the Kurdistan Democratic Party in the 1990s and represented the party in the United States Of America and the UK.



[f Hoshyar Zebari](#)

[@HoshyarZebari](#)

H.E Jeffrey Feltman

John C. Whitehead Visiting Fellow in International Diplomacy at Brookings Institution, Former United Nations Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, and Former U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon

Jeffrey Feltman is the John C. Whitehead Visiting Fellow in International Diplomacy at the Brookings Institution and a Senior Fellow at the UN Foundation. He is also a senior adviser to Kissinger Associates, a member of the Board of Advisers to the Dialogue Advisory Group, a Senior Advisor to the European Institute of Peace, and a member of the Board of Governors of the Middle East Institute.

From July 2012 until April 2018, Mr. Feltman served as United Nations Under-Secretary-General For Political Affairs. Frequently briefing the Security Council, Mr. Feltman was the chief foreign policy advisor to the Secretary-General and traveled extensively. He oversaw UN mediation and conflict prevention work and provided guidance to UN Special Representatives and Envoys heading UN political missions.

Before joining the UN, Mr. Feltman was a U.S. Foreign Service Officer, focused largely on the Middle East and North Africa. From 2009 until 2012, Mr. Feltman was the Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs. Prior to his 2004-2008 tenure as U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon, he served in Erbil, Baghdad, Tunis, Amman, Budapest, and Port-au-Prince.



H.E/Dr. Marwan Muasher

Vice President for Studies, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Marwan Muasher is vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, where he oversees the Endowment's research in Washington and Beirut on the Middle East. Muasher served as foreign minister (2002–2004) and deputy prime minister (2004–2005) of Jordan, and his career has spanned the areas of diplomacy, development, civil society, and communications. He was also a senior fellow at Yale University in 2010–2011.

Muasher began his career as a journalist for the *Jordan Times*. He then served at the Ministry of Planning, at the prime minister's office as press adviser, and as director of the Jordan Information Bureau in Washington.

In 1996, he became minister of information and the government spokesperson. From 1997 to 2002, he served in Washington again as ambassador, negotiating the first free trade agreement between the United States and an Arab nation. He then returned to Jordan to serve as foreign minister, where he played a central role in developing the Arab Peace Initiative and the Middle East Road Map.

In 2004, he became deputy prime minister responsible for reform and government performance, and led the effort to produce a ten-year plan for political, economic, and social reform. From 2006 to 2007, he was at the Jordanian Senate.

Most recently, he was senior vice president of external affairs at the World Bank from 2007 to 2010.

He is the author of *The Arab Center: The Promise of Moderation* (Yale University Press, 2008), and *The Second Arab Awakening and the Battle for Pluralism*, (Yale University Press, 2014).

Muasher is a trustee of the American University of Beirut, and an ex-member of the board of directors of the Global Centre for Pluralism.



H.E/Dr. Tarek Mitri

Is the President of St George University of Beirut, Chair of the Board at Sursock Museum and Institute of Palestine Studies. Former Lebanese Minister and Former UN Special Representative.

President of St George University of Beirut, Chair of the Board at Sursock Museum and Institute of Palestine Studies. Former Lebanese Minister and Former UN Special Representative.

Former director of the Issam Fares Institute on Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut (AUB).

From 2012 to 2014, he was the special representative of the United Nations secretary-general for Libya.

Between 2005 and 2011, he served in four successive Lebanese governments as minister of environment, administrative reform, culture, and information, as well as acting minister of foreign affairs.

Previously, he worked in various capacities in the area of intercultural and inter-religious dialogue and taught in multiple universities.

He holds a PhD in political science from the University of Paris X.



Dr. Maha Yahya

Director, Carnegie Middle East Center

Maha Yahya is the Director of the Carnegie Middle East Center, where her work focuses broadly on political violence, identity politics, inequality, citizenship, and the refugee crisis.

She has two PhDs in the social sciences and humanities from Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) and the Architectural Association (AA) in London.

She has consulted with international organizations including the United Nations organizations and the World Bank as well as the private sector on a broad range of issues in Lebanon, Pakistan, Oman, Egypt, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, and others.

She serves on a number of advisory boards including the UNESCO International Commission on the Futures of Education; Co-Chair of the International Advisory Board for the Asfari Institute for Civil Society and Citizenship at the American University of Beirut; and Member of the Board of Directors of the Ana Aqra Association.

Yahya is the author of numerous publications, including most recently *Unheard Voices: What Syrian refugees need to return home* (April 2018); editor of *Contentious Politics in the Syrian Conflict: Opposition, Representation, and Resistance*, co editor of *Visualizing Secularism and Religion, Egypt, Lebanon, Turkey, India* and was the director and principal author of *The National Human Development Report 2008–2009: Toward a Citizen's State in Lebanon*.



H.E. Mr. Ahmad Abou El-Gheit

Secretary-General of the Arab League

Ahmed Aboul Gheit is an Egyptian diplomat who has been Secretary-General of the Arab League since July 2016.

Aboul-Gheit served as the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Egypt from 11 July 2004 to 6 March 2011; previously he was Egypt's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

In December 2005, he began mediating the Chad-Sudan conflict. He was succeeded as Minister of Foreign Affairs by ICJ judge Nabil Elaraby in March 2011, following the overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak. He was elected as Secretary-General of the Arab League in March 2016.



Mrs. Giselle Khoury

Talk show host on Skynews Arabia. President of the Samir Kassir Foundation

Mrs. Giselle Khoury is a renowned Lebanese journalist who started her career in 1986 on LBCI, hosting cultural talk shows. She is currently the Talk show host on Skynews Arabia.

President of the Samir Kassir Foundation. From 1992 to 2001 she hosted one of the most prestigious political talk shows and interviewed the Arab world's most prominent political officials. She joined the pan-Arab media group MBC in 2002 and contributed to the launching of the 24-hour news channel Al-Arabiya. She hosted a weekly political talk show on Al-Arabiya from 2003 to 2013.

In October 2013, she moved to BBC Arabic where she conducted interviews with world leaders.

French Ambassador His Excellency Mr. Bruno Foucher has awarded renowned journalist Gisele Khoury the French order of chivalry (chevalier dans l'ordre Français de la Légion d'honneur) during a ceremony held at the Pine Residence.

Gisèle has already interviewed presidents Chirac, Gül, Bouteflika, Ali Abdullah Saleh, Omar Bachir, Hosni Mubarak, Yasser Arafat and Mahmoud Abbas, among many others. In 2009, she co-founded a production company "Rawi" whose first project was a four-episode biography of Yasser Arafat.

She is the wife of late journalist Samir Kassir, assassinated on June 2, 2005. In February 2006, Gisèle Khoury founded and headed the Samir Kassir Foundation, which quickly became the largest freedom of expression organization in the Levant.



II.

“Meet the Proxies: How are Regional Political Powers’ Proxies faring in the Middle East and how is Europe Responding to their Activities?”

Non-governmental military groups have carried out plots to attack multiple European countries such as France, Germany, Bulgaria, etc. These plots alongside other general conflicts threaten the economic and political stability of European countries. The criminalization of Non-State Actors’ activities has sparked controversy and heated debates across Europe.

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H.E Tom Fletcher
Dr. Paul Salem
Dr. Robert Danin
MP Sven Koopmans

Moderator:

Mr. Brent Sadler



H.E Tom Fletcher

Principal-Elected of Hertford College at Oxford University

Principal of Hertford College, Oxford, from September 2020.

Former Foreign Policy Advisor to three UK Prime Ministers (2007-11) and the UK's Ambassador to Lebanon (2011-15).

More recently, he was a Visiting Professor at New York University, and chaired the International Advisory Council of the Creative Industries Federation, promoting Britain's most dynamic and magnetic sector overseas.

In 2018 he founded The Foundation for Opportunity.

Fletcher led a review of British diplomacy for the UK Foreign Office in 2016, and on the future of the United Nations for the UN Secretary General in 2017. In addition to a report in 2018 on the skills the next generation needs to thrive in the 21st century.

His book on the future of statecraft, *'The Naked Diplomat: Power and Politics in the Digital Age'*, was published in June 2016 by Harper Collins.

He regularly writes for The National, Prospect and other publications, and is working on a murder novel and a new book on 21st Century Statecraft.



Dr. Paul Salem

President, The Middle East Institute

Paul Salem is president of The Middle East Institute.

He focuses on issues of political change, transition, and conflict as well as the regional and international relations of the Middle East.

Salem is the author and editor of a number of books and reports including *Escaping the Conflict Trap: Toward Ending Civil Wars in the Middle East* (ed. with Ross Harrison, MEI 2019); *Winning the Battle, Losing the War: Addressing the Conditions that Fuel Armed NonState Actors* (ed. with Charles Lister, MEI 2019); *From Chaos to Cooperation: Toward Regional Order in the Middle East* (ed. with Ross Harrison, MEI 2017), *Broken Orders: The Causes and Consequences of the Arab Uprisings* (In Arabic, 2013), & *Thinking Arab Futures: Drivers, scenarios, and strategic choices for the Arab World*; *The Cairo Review Spring 2019*; “*The Recurring Rise and Fall of Political Islam*” (CSIS, 2015), *Bitter Legacy: Ideology and Politics in the Arab World* (1994), and *Conflict Resolution in the Arab World* (ed., 1997).

Prior to joining MEI, Salem was the founding director of the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, Lebanon between 2006 and 2013.

From 1999 to 2006, he was director of the Fares Foundation and in 1989-1999 founded and directed the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies, Lebanon’s leading public policy think tank.



Dr. Robert Danin

Senior Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School

Robert Danin is a Senior Fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center, where he has served since 2015.

He is also a Principal at Georgetown Global Strategy. From 2010 through January 2020, he was Senior Fellow for Middle East Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations.

Prior to that, he headed the Jerusalem mission of Quartet Representative Tony Blair from April 2008 until August 2010.

Dr. Danin spent over 20 years working on the Middle East as a career State Department Official.

He served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs with responsibilities for Israeli-Palestinian issues and Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Egypt from 2005-2008.

From 2003-2005, he served at the White House/ National Security Council as Director for the Levant and then as acting Senior Director for Near East and North African affairs. Dr. Danin also served as a Middle East specialist on the Secretary of State's Policy Planning Staff.

Dr. Danin holds a doctorate in the International Relations of the Middle East from St. Antony's College, Oxford University, an MSFS degree from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, and a BA in History from the University of California, Berkeley.



III.

“How will the World Economy Change after COVID-19?”

The outbreak of COVID-19 left the world adapting to a new normal, leaving health systems, economies, and populations particularly vulnerable. This is highly noticeable in Lebanon which was already dealing with political and economic instability, which resulted in the devaluation of the Lebanese currency.



Speakers:

Ms. Mona Haddad
H.E Ghassan Hasbani
Dr. Jihad Azour
Ms. Nadereh Chamlou
Mr. Markus Loening

Moderator:

Mr. Yasser Akkaoui

Ms. Mona Haddad

IFC's Director for Country Economics and Engagement

Mona Haddad is the IFC's Director for Country Economics and Engagement based in Washington, DC.

Mona joined the World Bank in 1992, and has held various technical and managerial positions in operations in several regions including Lead Economist and Regional Trade Advisor in the East Asia Region, Manager of the World Bank Trade Department, and Manager of the Trade & Competitiveness Global Practice for East Asia.

In her new role at IFC, Mona's department is responsible for assessing economic trends and opportunities for private sector development at country and regional levels, and formulating strategies that engage the private sector in playing a more meaningful role in the growth and development of countries.



[f](#) Mona E. Haddad

[t](#) @MonaEHaddad

H.E Ghassan Hasbani

*Senior Executive Advisor, Former Deputy Prime Minister
and Minister of Public Health*

Executive and expert at an international level in planning, economics and technology.

Born in 1972 in Rmeil, Beirut, married with three children.

After completing his studies in London, he occupied several industry leadership positions in Europe and the Middle East, the most notable of which was vice-president and partner in a strategic and management consulting firm “Booz & Company” and CEO of International Operations at STC Group (Saudi Telecom Company).

He is a current and former member of several boards of directors for multinational companies with various sizes in Europe, Asia and the Middle East; he is also a member of the global agenda council with the world Economic Forum and a fellow of the global leadership network of the “Aspen Institute”.

He has written several books including: “*Republic outside the cave, Lebanon in a changing world*” and “*Oasis Economies, The Middle East in 2030*” in addition to several other local and international writings, papers articles and lectures. Hasbani holds a first class honors degree in Engineering and an MBA from the United Kingdom. He is a member of the Institute of Engineering and Technology and the Engineering Council of the UK, and the President of Cedar Institute for Economic and Social Affairs, in Lebanon.



Dr. Jihad Azour

*Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department
at the International Monetary Fund*

Dr. Jihad Azour is the Director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the International Monetary Fund where he oversees the Fund's work in the Middle East, North Africa, Central Asia and Caucasus.

Mr. Azour served as Lebanon's Finance Minister between 2005 and 2018.

While he served as a minister, he coordinated the implementation of important reforms, including modernizing the country's tax and customs systems.

Before and since his time as finance minister, he held many positions in the private sector, including McKinsey and Booz and Co, where he was a Vice-President and Senior Executive Advisor.

Before joining the IMF in March 2017, he was a Managing Partner at investment firm Inventis Partners.

Mr. Azour has a PhD in International Finance and a post-graduate degree in International Economics and Finance, both from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris.

He also worked on researches on emerging economies and their integration into the global economy as a post-doctoral fellow at Harvard.

Mr. Azour worked on publishing several books and articles on economic and financial issues.



Ms. Nadereh Chamlou

International Development Advisor

Nadereh Chamlou is currently an International Development Advisor and was formerly a Senior Advisor at the World Bank.

During her three-decade career with the World Bank Group, she held technical, coordination, managerial, and advisory functions in diverse fields such as economic management, corporate governance, private sector development, financial markets, environment, infrastructure, and gender.

Her experience extends to North and South America, East Asia, Europe, and the Middle East and North Africa regions.

Her focus has been on entrepreneurship and private sector development, particularly highlighting sustainable growth and competitiveness through better utilization of the talent pool, inclusion, and gender equality.

She authored seminal publications on these topics and now serves on the board of organizations focusing on research, empowerment, and innovation, among them: iBridges for hi-tech innovative startups; International Iranian Economic Association; Arab International Women's Forum; International Advisory Committee of Nyenrode Business Universiteit in The Netherlands.

She is advisor to the Center for International Private Enterprise, Tunis-based Center for Arab Women's Training and Research, and was co-founder of The Billion Dollar Fund for Women that strived to attract early stage venture capital for women-owned/led businesses.

She went to Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and Graduate School for

Economics and received The International Alliance for Women's 2015 "Making a Difference" Global Award.



🐦 @nchamlou

Mr. Yasser Akkaoui

Editor in Chief of Executive Magazine

Through Capital Concept sal, Mr. Akkaoui has become one of the reference names in Corporate Governance activism in the Middle East.

In 2013, Capital Concept became the first corporate governance rating and advisory firm to review and rate listed companies in the MENA region.

In 2015, Capital Concept launched Shareholder-Rights ©, which advocates for the protection of shareholder rights by producing Environment, Social and Governance assessment methodologies in collaboration with UN Lebanon, IFC and EBRD.

Capital Concept was instrumental in the creation of Hawkama, the Dubai based institute of corporate governance for the Middle East which helped raise funds for its setup.

As of 2014, Akkaoui is on the steering committee of the Middle East and North Africa Private Equity Association.

He is a member of the Organization of Economic Development and Cooperation's taskforce for Middle East and North Africa stock exchanges.

He is the Regional Consultant for the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE). He is the Chair of Lebanon committee of Human Rights Watch in the Middle East and Member of its MENA advisory committee.

Since 2011, Mr. Akkaoui has been a founding member of the Lebanese Center for Policy Studies.

Mr. Akkaoui has been representing the interests of Executive Magazine since 2001, a media platform he uses to advocate reforms in the Middle East. Mr. Akkaoui is a Business Ethics instructor at The American University of Beirut.

Since its inception in 2010, Mr. Akkaoui has been a strategic partner for the Beirut Art Fair.



IV.

“Artificial Intelligence and the Impact of Big Data on Industry, Banking, and Consumer Cultures.”

Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology is persistently growing and the adoption of this leveraging technology is also getting the impetus. Industries have been looking for applications powered by AI to help them in their digital transformation. Of late, there are many other businesses, especially smaller ones, that are unable to gauge the advantages of AI implementation. Speakers in this panel explain the advantages of AI, as well as the alarming challenges for the future of industry, banking, and consumerism.

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Dr. Rita Mokbel
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Mr. Lawrence Wright

Moderators:

Ms. Youmna Naufal
Mr. Nadim Jawhari



Dr. Rita Mokbel

*Vice President of Ericsson Worldwide and Head of Global Sales
PhD Holder Information and Communication Technology ICT*

Rita Mokbel is a senior technology executive in the Telecoms & Fintech industries, and is currently the Head of Global Sales Mobile Financial Services with Ericsson.

With a focus on increasing financial inclusion and accessibility in developing markets, Rita leads technology and financial companies through transformative change enabling digital business agility, and drives the creation of digital payment ecosystems, enabling financial interoperability, and connecting payment participants to a greater global financial network.

With more than 14 years of experience in management consulting, sales and business management in senior leadership roles, Rita also holds a PhD in Financial Engineering and two master's degrees in Modelling & Computer Simulation and Telecom Engineering as well as executive program certifications from Oxford in fintech and from Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Artificial intelligence and Big Data.



Mr. Christian Bauer

Senior Lead UX Product Designer | UX Product Architect

| Senior Visual Designer | AI & VR

Christian Bauer is an ICT specialist with a focus on digital Social Networks, 3D Online Communities, Social Media, Future Internet (FIRE related projects), Future Emerging Technologies and related topics. Christian Bauer was a pioneer in Geographical Information Systems and later in 3D Online Communities, Shared Virtual Worlds, Computer Simulation, Virtual Reality and Web3D/VRML technologies and co-invented the method of geographically digitizing Austria (a 10 year project for 250 people processing 80.000 paper maps) and conducted, among others, the first ever 3D Online Community in 1993 with Partners in Japan and the USA.

He is a book author and cooperated with many known organizations in the technology domain, like the NASA Ames Research Center (Intelligent Mechanisms Group), the Harvard University (Graduate School of Design), the Media Lab (MIT), the German Aerospace Establishment (DLR), several Fraunhofer Institutes and with organisations like Silicon Graphics, CosmoSoftware, Sense8, IBM Germany, the Ars Electronica Center and many others.

Christian Bauer was 10 years (1996-2005) a member of Siggraph's International Committee (in New Orleans, Los Angeles, Orlando, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Los Angeles, San Antonio, San Diego and Los Angeles), the world's largest event on Computer Graphics. He was Chair of VRML-99 (Paderborn, Germany), Co-Chair of VRML-98 (Monterey), both ACM sponsored conferences, Co-Organizer of the Virtual Reality World '95 (Stuttgart, Germany), Initiator of the Virtual Reality Vienna '93 (Vienna, Austria) and others. Christian Bauer is a Co-Founder of

the World Summit Award, an initiative within the United Nation's World Summit on the Information Society. He was from 1998 to 2002 assistant professor at the University of Innsbruck, Austria, the Institute for Urban Design and Regional Planning, constructing virtual cities and teaching new media techniques.

He had teaching assignments from 2003 till 2006 at the Institute of Experimental Architecture and since 2012 at the University of Applied Sciences in Vienna at the Institute for Renewable Energy.

Christian Bauer has been working since 1996 as a Technology Expert, Evaluator and Reviewer for the European Commission (Framework Programmes 4 to H2020) and has completed jobs in Brussels, Luxembourg, London, Glasgow, Paris, Angouleme and others.

Christian Bauer holds a "Recognition of Service Award" from the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) in New York.



Mr. Gabriel Deek

President Internet Society Lebanon Chapter

Gabriel Deek is the General Manager of OmniSystems sal. an affiliate company to OmniTech Holdings and MIDIS Group, specialized in digital media solutions and Digital Transformation.

As founder and CEO of multiple companies related to digital media and eBusiness solutions for the past 25 years, he was involved in various projects related to eGovernment Infrastructure, multimedia, advanced collaboration, video production, post production and news-room automation systems.

While keeping a close relationship with the Academia, he chaired the PCA(Professional Computer Association) from 2003 to 2007 acting on public initiatives that aimed at developing the internet infrastructure and the legal framework.

He was a key driver behind the establishment of the eTransaction law in 2010, 2011.

Founder and President of the ISOC Lebanon Chapter since 2010, he founded in 2012 the Lebanon Knowledge Network (LebKnoC) an initiative aiming to open knowledge centers in various remote areas in order to promote local economy and bridge the digital divide.

National Expert and Executive Board Member of the World Summit Award (WSA) and a Digital Content and ICT Consultant for the UN-ESCWA, he is a Professor of Knowledge Economy, Entrepreneurship and Negotiations at USJ and a member of Confideo, the MIT Mentoring Program in Lebanon.



Mr. Hisham Dalle

Founder of Cloudzero and Onechain

Hisham Dalle is the founder and CEO of Cloud Zero, a Canadian consulting and integration company focused on helping companies, governments, and institutions accelerate their digital practices.

As a technologist who advises clients around transformation and disruption, Hisham is excited about the Internet of Trust, the up-and-coming Data Economy, and the tremendous impact these forces will have on existing business and innovation environments.

He believes that two elements must go hand-in-hand: customer focus and internal engagement through effective leadership and team synergies.

Prior to his work with Cloud Zero, Hisham held numerous leadership regional sales positions at companies such as Cisco Systems and Nokia-Siemens Networks.

Recently, he's been focused on the insurance industry, and has successfully co-founded the Emerging Technologies and Innovation Committee for the Property and Casualty Insurers and Brokers in Canada.



Mr. David Carroll

Associate Professor at The New School

David Carroll is an Associate Professor of Media Design at Parsons School of Design at The New School.

He is known as an advocate for data rights by legally challenging Cambridge Analytica in the UK in connection with the US presidential election of 2016, resulting in the only criminal conviction of the company by the Information Commissioner's Office.

This work is featured in the Oscar shortlisted and BAFTA nominated Netflix original documentary *The Great Hack* (2019) and his writings on the effort have been published in *WIRED*, *PAPER*, *Quartz*, *The Guardian*, *Motherboard*, and *The Boston Review*.

He was awarded prizes from The Philosophical Society and the Law Society at Trinity College Dublin in 2019.

He received a BA from Bowdoin College and an MFA from Parsons.



Mr. Lawrence Wright

*Author, Screenwriter, Playwright, and Staff Writer
for The New Yorker Magazine*

Lawrence Wright is an Author, Screenwriter, Playwright, and Staff Writer for The New Yorker Magazine.

He is a graduate of Tulane University, in New Orleans, and the American University in Cairo. He began his writing career at The Race Relations Reporter in Nashville, Tennessee, in 1971.

In 1980, Wright went to work for Texas Monthly. He also became a contributing editor to Rolling Stone.

In 1992, he joined the staff of The New Yorker, where he published a number of prize-winning articles, including two National Magazine Awards.

Wright is the co-writer (with director Ed Zwick and Menno Meyjes) of “The Siege” (1998) starring Denzel Washington, Bruce Willis, and Annette Bening. He also wrote the script for the Showtime movie “Noriega: God’s Favorite” (2000) starring Bob Hoskins.

Wright is the Author of ten non-fiction books. “Going Clear: Scientology, Hollywood, and the Prison of Belief” (Knopf, 2013) was a New York Times bestseller and was made into an HBO documentary, winning three Emmys.

His book about the rise of al-Qaeda, “The Looming Tower: Al-Qaeda and the Road to 9/11” (Knopf, 2006) was published to immediate and widespread acclaim.

It won many awards, including the Pulitzer Prize for General Nonfiction. It has been published in 25 languages.

It was made into a series for Hulu in 2018, starring Jeff Daniels, Alec Baldwin, and Tahar Rahim.

In 2006, Wright premiered his one-man play, “My Trip to al-Qaeda,” at The New Yorker Festival, which then enjoyed a sold-out six-week run at the Culture Project in Soho.

It was made into a documentary film of the same name for HBO. Wright also wrote and performed another one-man show, “The Human Scale,” concerning the standoff between Israel and Hamas over the abduction of an Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit. The Public Theater produced the play, which ran for a month off-Broadway in 2010 before moving to the Cameri Theater in Tel Aviv.

In addition to his one-man productions, Wright has written five other plays that have enjoyed productions around the country, including “Camp David,” about the Carter, Begin, and Sadat summit; and “Cleo,” about the making of the movie “Cleopatra.”

Wright has published two novels. “God’s Favorite” (Simon & Schuster, 2000), and the bestselling, critically acclaimed “The End of October” (Knopf, 2020).

Wright is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations and the Society of American Historians. He also serves as the keyboard player in the Austin-based blues band, WhoDo.



[@LawrenceWright](#)

Ms. Youmna Naufal

Host of Y Chats & Former Head of English News

Department at Future Television

Youmna Naufal is the Executive Director of the “Lebanese Youth Forum,” previously titled “Lebanese Student Society,” a Beirut based foundation focused on giving Lebanese youth an opportunity to articulate their vision by preparing them for their professional endeavours and connecting them with the right stakeholders.

Naufal is also the Producer and Host of “Y Chats,” Lebanon’s first up close and personal discussion show in the English language where guests cover a range of political, social and cultural topics, and success stories are highlighted.

Y Chats is meant to give hope and a voice to the young generation facing obstacles in the country.

Previously, she was the Head of the English News division at Future Television (broadcast throughout the GCC) where she was tasked with producing and anchoring the daily news bulletin and conducting live interviews with political figures and analysts.

To date, Naufal has interviewed more than 600 figures including Former French President Nicolas Sarkozy, WikiLeaks Founder Julian Assange, former US Senator John McCain, Author of Science Lucy Hawking, UN Special Representative for Iraq Nikolay Mladenov and Brazilian Football Legend Ronaldinho.

To date, Naufal has participated and/or moderated more than 70 high level panels, most recently in Davos where she took part in panels regarding the evolution of political Islam as well as the role of the public sector in attracting millennials.

Naufal received her MA degree in International Relations/International Business from New York University in New York.



V.

“How will People’s Lifestyles be Like After COVID-19? What are the Mental Challenges Faced by People Around the World?”

Ever since the beginning of 2020, the world has faced a life changing pandemic, altering people’s everyday lives and their small habits... While doctors and nurses were fighting for people’s lives and trying to fight off a pandemic, civilians were confined for up to three months. Multiple businesses shutdown, people were stuck either abroad or away from their families. How will people cope with the mental repercussions of COVID-19 & its damages?

Speakers:

- Dr. Iman Shankiti
- Dr. Michel Nawfal
- Dr. Pia Zeinoun
- Dr. Saqib Latif

Moderator:

Mr. Chaker Khazaal



Dr. Iman Shankiti

WHO Representative in Lebanon

Dr Iman Shankiti was appointed WHO Representative for the WHO Lebanon country office effective 1 July 2018. She holds a BSc in Pharmacy from Jordan University and a Master's Degree in Health System Management from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

She began her career with the organization in the Iraq country office, focusing on strengthening the country's primary health care system and fostering partnerships in health.

This was followed by her appointment as the Emergency Coordinator for Sudan for a period of five years.

In 2014, she was reassigned as the Emergency Coordinator to Kabul. In both Sudan and Afghanistan, Dr Shankiti focused on building national preparedness capacity and organizational readiness for emergencies, in addition to ensuring an effective response to natural disasters and conflict related emergencies.

In April 2017, Dr Iman Shankiti was appointed as emergency operations manager in the new WHO Health Emergencies Programme, based in the Regional Office in Cairo.

From April 2017 to May 2018, Dr Shankiti supported the regional response to 10 graded emergencies, including 4 Grade 3 emergencies.



Dr. Michel Nawfal

WHO Representative in Lebanon

Dr. Michel Nawfal is a Mental Health Professional. He's a Medical Doctor and a Licensed Clinical Psychologist with a focus on Cognitive Behavioral Therapy. He received his undergraduate education in premedical studies (BS: Bachelors of Science) at the American University of Beirut in 1998 after which he earned his medical degree (MD degree) in 2003 from St. George's University School of Medicine with clinical rotations at the Brooklyn Hospital Center in New York, a Cornell University affiliate.

Dr. Nawfal had an interest in psychological disorders and their complexity. Deciding to practice in the Psychological and Behavioral Sciences, he has pursued graduate education again at the American University of Beirut to earn a Masters in Psychology with an internship in psychotherapy at the American University of Beirut Medical Center in 2005. Dr. Nawfal was trained and supervised in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy at the Beck Institute through the extramural program. With a post-graduate course in psychopharmacotherapy from Harvard Medical School and being a medical doctor registered at the Lebanese Order of Physicians (LOP registration number N/507), he is legally eligible to prescribe medications in Lebanon. Dr. Nawfal currently practices in major locations in Lebanon (Beirut, Jounieh, Antelias and Batroun).

Dr. Nawfal is currently a Professional Colleague and Fellow Member of the Academy of Cognitive Therapy (ACT). Since 2005, Dr. Nawfal has been a full member of the American Psychological Association (APA). He served on the board of the Lebanese Psychological Association (LPA) for 2 consecutive mandates from 2011 to 2014 and then from 2014 to 2017. He is a past member of

the board of directors of the Middle-East Eating Disorders Association (MEEDA) as Social Affairs Director since January 2017. He is also a board member of the Lebanese Medical Association for Sexual Health (LebMASH) since September 2017. Dr. Nawfal is also the vice president of the Middle East Psychological Association (MEPA) since September 2017.

It has always been Dr. Nawfal's plan to follow the complete academic track in order to teach, practice and do research- all of which he has accomplished. Among his research work, Dr. Michel Nawfal was the study coordinator of two research projects for Janssen-Cilag Pharmaceuticals. In conjunction with the chairperson (at the time) of the Social and Behavioral Science at the American University of Beirut Dr. Arne Dietrich, PhD, Nawfal worked on a Neuroscience research investigating the activity of certain brain areas in running individuals and its implication on Depression and Anxiety. This study involved PET scanning of the brains of running candidates – a world's first at the time!

In 2006 he was also granted by the American University of Beirut the Sheikh Fawzi Azar Award for an outstanding analysis and critique of the MMPI-2 (Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory 2nd Edition), the most widely used personality test in the world, and how it could be used in the Middle-East, as it is written in English and published in the United States of America. He was also granted the UFE medal in 2007 from the Union of the French outside France (Union des Français de l'Étranger: UFE) for his help in evacuating European citizens who were living in Lebanon during the Lebanon-Israel war of 2006.



[@DrMichelNawfal](#)

[Dr. Michel Nawfal](#)

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Dr. Pia Zeinoun

Assistant Professor of Psychology at the American University of Beirut's Department of Psychology

Dr. Pia Zeinoun is an Assistant Professor of Psychology at the American University of Beirut's Department of Psychology. As a clinical psychologist, she specializes in the assessment and treatment of children and adults with neurodevelopmental disorders.

As a published scientist, Dr. Zeinoun has written more than 20 studies focused on psychological testing, and personality in the Arab region.

As a leader in the community, Dr. Zeinoun is also co-founder and current Vice President of the NGO Embrace, and has previously served as the co-founder and director of the Psychological Assessment Center at the AUB Medical Center.

Her educational background includes a fellowship at the Johns Hopkins/Kennedy Krieger Institute in Maryland, USA, a Fulbright sojourn at Illinois State University where she obtained her MA in Clinical/Counseling Psychology, and a PhD in Psychology from Tilburg University in the Netherlands.



🐦 @DrMichelNawfal

📷 @PiaZeinoun

Mr. Chaker Khazaal

Canadian Reporter, Speaker and Award Winning Author.

Chaker Khazaal, born in Lebanon in 1987, is a Palestinian-Canadian Reporter, Speaker, and Award-Winning Author. Growing up in a refugee camp, he immigrated to Toronto, Canada to study International Development and graduated from York University in 2009 with a BA.

An advocate for refugees and young writers, Khazaal is an engaging communicator, regularly featured at global events and conferences. Khazaal traveled to conflict zones and refugee camps worldwide for his articles and books.

His trilogy, Confessions of a War Child (Part One); Part Two (Lia) and Part Three (Sahara) was followed by the release of Tale of Tala, an Amazon Best Seller that resulted in a book tour of 35 cities.

For his fifth and most recent novel, Life Dice - due for release September 2020 - the author traveled to Iraq to interview Yazidis, Kurdish Fighters and the internally displaced.

During the COVID19 crisis, Chaker launched a literature experiment where he shared one chapter of Life Dice for people to suggest plot changes. He also launched the Candle of Hope app where people light digital candles to featured stories, with ad-revenue being donated to grant someone's wish.



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Tel: 00961 1 256220

Mobile: 00961 70 266994

Dora Highway, Cebaco Center,
Block A, 5th Floor, P.O. BOx 90517

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