

The Bahrain Visions Forum: Shared Visions for a Successful Future

National, regional and global challenges and opportunities

Organized by the Kingdom of Bahrain and co-hosted by the Global Security Institute

Commencement Event: September 27, 2018

1-3 PM, Delegates Dining Room (4th floor)

United Nations, New York City, NY

Leaders and all thoughtful people feel the burden of the moment, and are well aware of the many unique and enormous challenges to the well being of people, the health of the natural world, the peace and stability of nations, and the threats posed by modern weaponry, especially weapons of indiscriminate and massive destruction. Despite ideologies that might seek to divide humanity, the reality is that many local issues are also global. Increasingly it is becoming obvious that the well being of our neighbors is the well being of our own nation. Thus, knowing the aspirations, vision and values of nations is a first and essential step toward greater harmony, peace and cooperation.

Context

1. The acceleration of international processes and emergence of new trends in global developments requires creative new responses and an articulation of vision and identification of priorities. There is, thus, a value, possibly a necessity, for a forum to bring together government leaders, policy makers, experts and senior UN officials to share their visions on the challenges, threats and opportunities at national, regional and global levels.

2. The Bahrain Visions Forum provides such a setting and is to be a yearly event taking place during the high level-segment of the annual sessions of the United Nations General Assembly. This an opportune moment to discuss strategic approaches to serious challenges to peace, security, sustainable development and stability at national, regionally and global levels. It is an apt time to provide substantive inspiring messages. It is a time when implicit recognition of our interconnected world will benefit from more explicit articulation.

3. The forum offers a unique setting to challenge assumptions, present new ideas and share country experiences and best practices.

Objectives of the Forum

4. The Forum is an opportunity for high-level presentations by Ministers of Foreign Affairs or Heads of Government to articulate their values, aspirations, goals, and policies for a sustainable peaceful future. In times of turbulence expressed clarity of values, purposes, vision and direction for the future is of the utmost importance. The Forum is an opportunity to surprise and inspire.

Highlighted issues

5. General Assembly debates are usually responsive to more immediate politically charged issues. It is believed however that the international community would be well served by hearing leaders' highest aspirations and visions for the future. It is difficult at the moment to comprehend what is deemed success for many nations.

- Are they looking to expand an ideology, an economic influence, a political influence?
- Are they looking to achieve greater integration with or independence from the process of globalization?
- Are they seeking to achieve a culture rooted in science, religion, or secularism?
- Are they aspiring to achieve a society that tolerates many viewpoints or just one?
- Are they depending on a planned economy or a market based economy?
- Are they seeking a united world or a divided world?

6. The list of alternative paths to the future is long and varied. It will be truly interesting to discover the various visions that compel leaders to act. Inviting leaders to address their best vision for the future will help in articulating new and innovative approaches to meet today's challenges and opportunities.

7. In this respect, the Forum will provide a platform for world leaders to stimulate dialogue to:

- Present issues and challenges arising from the current regional and global political situations.
- Facilitate an exchange of views among participants to build consensus on approaches to enhance strategies, policy and advocacy.

- Promote innovative approaches and initiatives
- Launch ideas and initiatives for collective action
- Build consensus on approaches to enhance strategies, policy and advocacy.
- Promote and facilitate exchanges regarding best practices and lessons learned in execution and financing of the of the SDGs

The First session of the Forum

8. The first Forum will be held on September 27, 2018. It can be mainly regionally oriented, although it is anticipated that in the future we will be able to present leaders from all over the world.

9. Each year high level policy makers will be invited to participate in the Forum. For the inaugural Forum, invitations have been extended to:

- H.E. Mr. Antonio Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations.
- H.E. Mr. Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
- H.E. Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed bin Sultan Al Nahyan, Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Arab Emirates.
- H.E. Mr. Ahmed Aboul Gheit, Secretary-General of the Arab League.
- H.E. Dr Abdullatif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Secretary-General of the Gulf Cooperation Council.

10. In addition, the forum will bring together approximately 150 participants, including high- level dignitaries attending the high-

level segment of the U.N. General Assembly, senior UN officials and academia.

TIME AND PLACE

11. Date: September 27, 2018

12. Time: 1-3 PM, Delegates Dining Room (4th floor)

13. Venue: United Nations, New York City, NY

Format

14. 5 minutes: Welcoming remarks.

15. 5 minutes: Video.

16. 40 minutes: Statements by keynote speakers.

17. 5 minutes: closing remarks.

18. Expected outcomes of the Forum

- Enhanced understanding and increased knowledge of regional and global challenges.
- Identification of new approaches for addressing regional and global sources of threats and instability.
- Providing inputs to relevant regional and global political consultations.

The Organizer and co-host of the Forum

19. The Kingdom of Bahrain, often labelled as the gateway to the Gulf, is strategically located in the heart of the Arabian Gulf region. It has a rich history and culture. Based on its heritage of diversity and multi-cultural tolerance, it has made significant contributions to promoting peace and security at the regional and global levels. It is a constitutional monarchy with an independent judiciary and a bicameral national legislature.

20. The Global Security Institute has for several decades been an influential internationally respected NGO focused primarily on the Rule of Law and nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament. Leadership of the Global Security Institute has a history of working with governments in convening forums, conferences, and symposiums to advance peace, security and sustainable development.

Contacts

The Court of H.R.H. the Prime Minister

Mr. Abdalla Abbas Hamad

Email: aabbas@pmc.gov.bh

Telephone:mobile +973 66339966

Office +973 17105305

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Sultan Abdulaziz Alkhalifa

Email: salkhalifa@mofa.gov.bh

Telephone: mobile +973 32224222

Office +973 17200510