

Strategic Foresight Group

Agenda for International Workshop:

Cost of Conflict in the Middle East

IC Hotel Green Palace, Antalya, Turkey, March 15-17, 2008

Co-hosted by

Department of Foreign Affairs of AK Parti of Turkey

Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

March 15

Morning and afternoon:
19.30 onwards

Arrival of participants

Welcome dinner for participants

- Welcome by Mr. Mevlut Çavuşoğlu, MP, Antalya, Turkey
- Welcome by Mr. Egemen Bağış, Vice Chairman of AK Party in charge of Foreign Affairs, MP, İstanbul, Turkey
- Welcome by Sundeep Waslekar, President, Strategic Foresight Group
- Keynote Address by Ambassador Hesham Youssef, Chef de Cabinet for Secretary General, League of Arab States
- Keynote Address by Prof. Dr. Mehmet Aydın, Minister of State and Deputy Prime Minister, Turkey

March 16

9.00 - 10.00

Introductory Session

(Chaired and introduced by Yasar Yakis, MP, former Foreign Minister of Turkey)

- Overview: Sundeep Waslekar, President of Strategic Foresight Group
- Keynote Address: Amb. Thomas Greminger, Head of Political Affairs, Human Security, in Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland

10.00-11.00

Turkish Perspectives of the Cost

(Chaired and introduced by Egemen Bağış, MP, Deputy Chairman of AK Parti for Foreign Affairs, Turkey)

- Ms. Esra Cuhadar Gurkaynak, Lecturer at Political Science Department of Bilkent University, Turkey
- Mr. Kerem Kiratlı, Deputy Director of Middle East General Directorate of the Turkish Foreign Ministry

11.00-11.30

Coffee Break

11.30-13.00

Social and Political Costs

(Chaired and introduced by Vidar Helgesen, former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Norway and Secretary General of International IDEA)

- Dr Khalil Gebara, Executive Director, Lebanese Transparency Association
- Dr Jon Pedersen, Managing Director, FAFO, Norway
- Roger Edde, President, Assalam Party, Lebanon
- Amb. Abdel Raouf El Reedy, President, Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, Egypt
- Dr. Mahmoud Labadi, former Director of Aid Coordination and UN Specialized Agencies and former Director General of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Palestine

13.00-14.00

Lunch

14.00-16.00

Economic Costs

(Chaired and introduced by Dr Mohammad Shtayyeh, President of PECDAR and former Minister of Housing and Public Works, Palestine)

- Dr. Kamal Field Al Basri, Sr. Economic Advisor to Prime Minister of Iraq and Director, Iraq Institute of Economic Reforms, Iraq
- Prof Talaat Abdel Malek, Professor of Economics, American University of Cairo, Economic Advisor to the Government, Egypt
- Major General MK Shiyyab, Head of Cooperating Monitoring Centre, Jordan
- Dr Riad Al Khouri, Director, Middle East Business Association, Jordan

16.00-16.30

Coffee Break

16.30- 17.30

Military Costs

(Chaired and introduced by Brig. Gen. Dov Sedaqa, former Head of Civil Administration of the West Bank and currently with Economic Cooperation Foundation, Israel)

- Prof Efraim Inbar, Director, Begin Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies, Israel
- Dr. Mahdi Abdel Hadi, Chairman, Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs

- 17.30-18.30 **Environmental, Diplomatic and other costs**
 (Chaired by Ephraim Sneh, former Minister for Health of Israel)
- Amb Aly Maher, Director, Institute for Peace Studies, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt
 - Salman Shaikh, Director for Policy, Office of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah, Qatar
 - Dr Haila Al Mekaimi, Head of Euro-Gulf Research Unit, Kuwait University, Kuwait
 - Mr Niccolo Rinaldi, Deputy Secretary General, ALDE, European Parliament
- 18.30-19.00 **Concluding Session**
 (Chaired by Saban Disli, MP, Deputy Chairman of AK Parti for Economic Affairs, Turkey)
- Ilmas Futehally, Strategic Foresight Group
 - Concluding Remarks by Thomas Oertle, Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
- Discussion on sources, inputs and suggestions for future research and workshops, including guidelines for aspects of costs not covered by the synopsis, cost escalation scenarios and cost reduction scenarios
- 19.30 **Formal dinner**
- March 17**
- 09.00-11.30** Departure from the Hotel for the local visits
 Antic Theatre, Antic city-Side
- 11.30-12.30** Departure from Side to Antalya City center
- 12.30-13.30** Lunch hosted by the Mayor of Antalya Municipality
- 13.30** **DEPARTURES**

List of Participants

1. Amb. Abdel Raouf El Reedy, President, Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs, Egypt
2. Amb Aly Maher, Director, Institute for Peace Studies, Bibliotheca Alexandrina, Egypt
3. Brig. Gen. Dov Sedaqa, former Head of Civil Administration of the West Bank and currently with Economic Cooperation Foundation, Israel
4. Egemen Bagis, MP, Deputy Chairman for Foreign Affairs of AK Parti, Turkey
5. Prof Efraim Inbar, Director, Begin Sadat Centre for Strategic Studies, Israel
6. Ephraim Sneh, former Minister of Health, Transportation and Defence, Israel
7. Ms. Esra Cuhadar Gurkaynak, Lecturer at Political Science Department of Bilkent University, Turkey
8. Dr Haila Al Mekaimi, Head of Euro-Gulf Research Unit, Kuwait University, Kuwait
9. Amb Hesham Youssef, Chef de Cabinet for Secretary General, League of Arab States
10. Amb. Hussein Elkamel, International Cooperation Senior Advisor, IDSC, Egypt
11. Ms Ilmas Futehally, Executive Director, Strategic Foresight Group, India
12. Dr Jon Pedersen, Managing Director, FAFO, Norway
13. Dr. Kamal Field Al Basri, Sr. Economic Advisor to Prime Minister and Iraq and Director, Iraq Institute of Economic Reforms
14. Mr. Kerem Kıratlı, Deputy Director of Middle East General Directorate of the Turkish Foreign Ministry
15. Dr Khalil Gebara, Executive Director, Lebanese Transparency Association, Lebanon
16. Mr. Mahdi Abdel Hadi, Secretary General, Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs, Palestine
17. Dr. Mahmoud Labadi, Director of Aid Coordination and UN Specialized Agencies and former Director General of the Palestinian Legislative Council, Palestine
18. Major General MK Shiyyab, Head of Cooperating Monitoring Centre, Jordan
19. Dr Mohammad Shtayyeh, President of PECDAR, and former Minister of Housing and Public Works, Palestine
20. Mehmet Aydın, Minister of State and Deputy of Prime Minister
21. Mevlüt Çavuşoğlu, MP for Antalya, Turkey
22. Mr Niccolo Rinaldi, Deputy Secretary General, ALDE, European Parliament
23. Dr Riad Al Khouri, Director, Middle East Business Association, Jordan
24. Mr. Roger Edde, President, Assalam Party, Lebanon
25. Saban Disli, MP, Deputy Chairman for Economic Affairs of AK Parti, Turkey
26. Mr Salman Shaikh, Director for Research and Policy, Office of Her Highness Sheikha Mozah, Qatar

27. Mr Sundeep Waslekar, President, Strategic Foresight Group, India
28. Prof Talaat Abdel Malek, Professor of Economics, American University of Cairo, Economic Advisor to the Government, Egypt
29. Amb Thomas Greminger, Head of Political Division IV-Human Security, Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
30. Thomas Oertle, Head of the Middle East Desk at Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, Switzerland
31. Vidar Helgesen, former Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, Secretary General of International IDEA, Sweden
32. Yasar Yakis, MP, former Foreign Minister, Turkey
33. Ms Camino Kavanagh, Special Adviser, International IDEA, Sweden
34. Ms Devika Mistry, Research Analyst, Strategic Foresight Group, India

Additional Participants from Turkey

1. Doç. Dr. Yalçın Akdoğan, Political Advisor to Prime Minister
2. Taha Ozhan, SETA
3. Mustafa Akyol, Op-ed Author
4. Doç. Dr. Nuray Mert, Lecturer of Political Science Department of İstanbul University
5. Cengiz Çandar, Journalist-Author specialized on the Middle East
6. Ali Çarkoğlu, Lecturer of Art and Social Sciences of Sabancı University
7. Kemal Kirişçi, Professor at Political Science and International Relations Department of Bosphorus University
8. Ahmet Mücahit Ören, CEO of Ihlas Holding
9. Yusuf Ziya Irbec, MP representing Istanbul

Background

This initiative is an innovative approach to engage people of the Middle East in collaboratively assessing future risks, at a time when there has been complete failure to engage the parties in a negotiating process to find lasting solutions to the conflict. Since SFG already has expertise in cost of conflict, as well as other scenario methodologies, it is proposed to engage experts from all parts of the Middle East to use these methodologies for futuristic assessment of the region. The report produced from this exercise will be publicised widely to engage public opinion.

The initiative has attracted initial interest from important international actors. The Department of Foreign Affairs of AK Parti of Turkey and Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland are jointly sponsoring the planning workshop to define the parameters of the project in March 2008. The European Parliament is expected to host an international roundtable of all major political parties and civil society groups in Europe and the Middle East to deliberate the final outcome of the project in November 2008. Several other governments and leaders are exploring their engagement with this initiative.