



Knowledge, Research Networks,  
& Development Policy



**Conference Agenda 2019**

10 - 12 March 2019

Kuwait City, Kuwait

## About ERF

### Our Mission

The Economic Research Forum (ERF) is a regional network dedicated to promoting high quality economic research to contribute to sustainable development in the Arab countries, Iran and Turkey.

### Our Objectives

Established in 1993, ERF's core objectives are to build strong research capacity in the ERF region, to lead and support the production of independent, high quality economic research, and to disseminate research output to a wide and diverse audience.

### Our Activities

To achieve these objectives, ERF carries out a portfolio of activities. These include mobilizing funds for well conceived proposals; managing carefully selected regional research initiatives, collecting and sharing micro data and providing training and mentoring programs to junior researchers. It also includes organizing seminars and conferences based on research outcomes; and publishing research output through multiple channels including working papers, books, policy briefs and perspectives, Middle East Development Journal (MEDJ) and the ERF Policy Portal - *The Forum*.

### Our Network

The ERF network comprises a distinguished Board of Trustees (BOT), accomplished researchers from the region and highly dedicated head-office staff. A not-for-profit organization, the Forum is supported by multiple donors, both regional and international.

### Contact Information

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**Telephone:** 00 202 333 18 600 - 603 **Fax:** 00 202 333 18 604

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**Website:** <http://www.erf.org.eg>

## CONFERENCE PROGRAM

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## ERF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The Economic Research Forum's (ERF) Annual Conference, a tradition maintained since 1995, has become the premier regional event for economists of the Middle East; where new ideas are created and disseminated, where the community of researchers meet, and where excellence is celebrated. This year's conference is very special as it marks the anniversary of the ERF, which was established in 1993 to build a strong research capacity in the region. It was one of the first institutions to connect economic researchers from across the region.

This year's conference is held under the theme of *Knowledge, Research Networks, and Development Policy*. Hosted by the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development, it will be held throughout 10-12 March 2019 in Kuwait City, Kuwait. This is a timely topic in light of the significant political, social, and economic transformation currently witnessed in the region, and it is also highly relevant to ERF's celebration of its achievements, aspirations, community, and partners. The plenary sessions will feature world-renowned economists and thought leaders to provide valuable, thought-provoking ideas and viewpoints to take forward the region's agenda towards economic growth and sustainable development.

The design of this year's conference will be different from previous years. There will be four main plenary sessions, and two special panels, which will feature prominent economists, social scientists, and policymakers. This year, a number of special events will be held in celebration of the ERF's anniversary. The parallel sessions will feature a larger number of diverse papers across cross-cutting critical themes selected on the basis of a rigorous refereeing process in response to an open call for papers. The closing plenary session will celebrate the winners of what has become a regional certificate of excellence: The Best Paper Award. The ceremonial gala dinner will be an opportunity to express the gratitude and acknowledgement of the ERF's founding members and management, and to the ERF prestigious community of researchers who have enriched the ERF with their valuable contributions.

### Conference Theme

Countries in the MENA region face a myriad of lingering and emerging development challenges, ranging from achieving sustained job-creating growth to meet the youth bulge and dealing with climate change and environmental degradation, to building peace and reconstructing societies and economies coming out of conflicts. The answer has been and will continue to be *strong institutions and good governance*. However, in the emerging increasingly *digitalized* global economy, MENA, like other developing regions, should deploy whatever institutional capacity it has to promote meaningful knowledge- and innovation-based development policy. As an economic development model, *Knowledge Economy* is based on the creation, transfer, and dissemination of knowledge and innovation. It hinges on four pillars: *economic and institutional framework, educated and skilled population, innovation systems, and dynamic information infrastructure*. These four pillars are necessary to create knowledge that needs to be transformed into products valued by the MENA markets to promote growth, create jobs, and increase welfare. Although some countries in the region have adopted concrete plans towards building knowledge economies and have started to invest in these four pillars, more work needs to be done, especially for those who have yet to take the first preliminary steps.



Networks, such as social networks, firm networks, and research networks, are major players in the *Knowledge Economy*, where they expand information and technologies and catalyze ideas and resources. For instance, social networks are widely used in the current economic literature given their importance in understanding the behavior of individuals and their decisions. In turn, this facilitates the implementation of policies that would effectively impact individual behaviors. Firms and research networks allow for the production and dissemination of knowledge as well as the creation of new jobs, which is crucial for the MENA region in light of its high level of structural unemployment, especially among youth.

Therefore, governments and other stakeholders in MENA countries should view the *research network* as a centerpiece of the eco-system of the envisaged knowledge economy that can achieve sustainable job-creating growth in the emerging technology- and knowledge-intensive global economy.

### Plenaries, Panels, and Special Sessions

Three plenaries are planned to address the following issues: first, *Knowledge, Economic Research Networks and Development Policy*; second, *The Role of Knowledge in the Process of Innovation in the New Global Economy*, and third, *Job-creating Growth in the Emerging Global Economy*. Another special plenary highly relevant to the ERF's anniversary asks the question of which schools of thought have dominated economic research and policymaking in MENA and how they evolved over time. In addition, the first panel documents the emerging role of the ERF in partnership with statistics offices in the region as a premier repository of labor, households, and other micro datasets from the region. The second panel addresses the role of the new ERF research agenda in tackling new challenges faced by the region. Finally, there will be a special session on the Faces and Voices from the ERF Community reflecting on their past experiences with the ERF and their aspirations for the future.

#### *Plenary Session 1: Knowledge, Economic Networks, and Development Policy*

The use and application of knowledge along with the expansion of information and communication technologies, known as the Knowledge Revolution, are a major source of economic development. However, MENA countries lag behind other countries in this regard, given the low investment in education, information infrastructure, and research and development. Thus, economic networks connecting firms with researchers, universities, and other stakeholders as policymakers and international organizations allow for the creation, transfer, and dissemination of knowledge and innovation. This knowledge may lead to the emergence of new industries or the reform of existing ones, which will therefore result in creating jobs, increasing growth, and achieving sustainable development.

This panel aims to tackle the process of moving forward on the path towards a knowledge economy by answering the following questions:

- What are the main barriers facing the MENA region?
- What are the main lessons to learn from the International community?

## ERF ANNUAL CONFERENCE

- What is the role of existing research networks, such as the ERF, in catalyzing knowledge and achieving sustainable development?
- What is the likely future direction of development research in the new era of digitalization, big data, and GVCs, and how should development research networks, such as the ERF, shape their future research agenda?

### *Plenary Session 2: The Role of Knowledge in the Process of Innovation in the New Global Economy*

In a new global economy witnessing a knowledge revolution, investment in intangible assets has become the main characteristic of the *Knowledge Economy*. This intangible economy is driven by proprietary knowledge, ideas, and innovation. Although characterized by high upfront costs as well as high risks, these intangible investments pave the way for low marginal costs and large potential returns and rewards to strategic behavior.

Therefore, this panel will discuss the following questions:

- What are the main conditions needed for intangible investment?
- What are the main channels needed to produce knowledge and transform it into innovation in the MENA region?
- What is the institutional framework needed to incentivize the creation of patents and proprietary knowledge?
- How can we achieve a balance between protecting intellectual properties and protecting consumers against the power of innovative firms? What role should governments play on the national, regional, and global scales?

### *Plenary Session 3: Job-Creating Growth in the Emerging Global Economy*

A knowledge- and innovation-based economy requires young educated and skilled population able to utilize current knowledge to create new ideas that can be transformed into new products valued by the market. Innovation Networks such as “cluster” or “milieu innovateur” include innovative firms, universities, and other institutions. Created locally or globally, these networks are prime sources of knowledge creation and innovation. New ideas are therefore transferred and diffused between the different members of the network; consequently, creating new jobs to absorb new entrants to the labor market.

Therefore, this panel will attempt to answer the following questions:

- How might the emerging digitized global economy and GVCs, among others, affect the development strategies for MENA and other developing countries, including regarding:
  - o The relative effectiveness of manufacturing and services as enablers of job-creating growth
  - o The role of knowledge and innovation in shaping public policy and development strategies in general

- How might the collaboration between innovative firms and universities solve the existing mismatch between the outputs of the educational system and the needs of the labor market?
- What are the main challenges faced by the MENA region to invest in skilled and educated human capital? And what is the role of early childhood education in developing the skillsets needed for new jobs?
- How will governments react to the unemployment created by the disappearance of jobs due to the emergence of new technology and knowledge?

### *Special Plenary: Schools of Thought and Economic Research and Policymaking in MENA*

This special plenary deliberates the schools of thought that dominated the economic sphere in MENA. The discussions, which are based on a region-wide survey of economists, aim to apprehend how economic policies are and have been designed in MENA. Given the recent political and economic changes in the region, it is important to understand how the schools of thought play a role in shaping public policies as well as overall development strategies.

### *Panel 1: From Data to Policy – Rewarding Partnership with Statistics Centers in the Region*

This special plenary will convene the heads of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) from the region, as well as researchers and policymakers, to celebrate the achievements of the ERF Open Access Micro Data Initiative (OAMDI), and to showcase the ERF data collection and harmonization efforts made possible through the strategic cooperation with NSOs. The session will also highlight the value of sharing micro data and emphasize the research-to-policy link.

### *Panel 2: ERF in the Emerging New Normal and the Changing Nature of Works*

The ERF is a research network that generates and disseminates knowledge addressing the main challenges faced by the MENA region. These challenges include large scale violence and civil wars, inequality, employment, climate change, environmental damage, and subsidies and social justice.

However, in the emerging global context of technological progress and innovation changing the nature of work and the dramatic decline in oil prices known as the *New Normal*, these challenges will remain, and new challenges will appear. Although innovation is known to transform living standards, it may be the reason behind widespread unemployment as John Maynard Keynes warned in 1930. However recent research, for example, the new World Development Report 2019 *The Changing Nature of Work* showed that technology will provide “opportunities to create new jobs, increase productivity, and deliver effective public services. Through innovation, technology generates new sectors and new tasks.”

Against this backdrop, this panel will reflect on the quarter century of ERF research and policy outreach, including the first two years of the current ERF Strategy 2017/2021, and explore the future direction of the ERF, accounting for ideas from a wide and diverse group of ERF researchers; policy makers from the region; and partners from the development and knowledge community.

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Conference Venue

The **Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development**.  
P.O. Box 21923 Safat 13080 | Kuwait | Tel: +(965) 2495 9300.

### Travel Arrangements

In case of any delay in your departure, please send a message or call +(20) 12 2743 9154 to inform contact person in charge of visas and to reschedule your airport pickup.

Upon your arrival in Kuwait, you will be met by a representative from the Arab Fund for Economic & Social Development who will be carrying your original visa.

Transportation from the airport to the hotel will be provided to all participants.

### Hotel Accommodation

Participants will be residing at: **Four Points Sheraton** | Fahd Al Salem Street | Kuwait City, 13060 | Kuwait | Tel: +(965) 2242 2055 | Fax: +(965) 2448 032/34. To speed up the check-in process, please advise the check-in clerk that you are with the **Arab Fund Group**.

Free internet is available for all in-house guests. Kindly note that ERF does not cover expenses related to laundry, phone calls (local and long distance), room service, or use of the mini-bar.

### Meals

Daily breakfast is covered by ERF for conference participants and will be served at *Asseef International Restaurant | Second Floor | Four Points Sheraton*.

For participants arriving March 8 and/or departing March 13, you are invited to have your meals at *Asseef International Restaurant | Second Floor | Four Points Sheraton*. Please remember to sign the bill and indicate your room number.

During the conference period (March 10 – 12), group lunches are hosted by the Arab Fund at the premises of the **Arab Fund Headquarters**. Any lunches at the hotel on those dates will be charged to participants

The **Welcome Dinner** on March 10, will take place at 8:00 p.m. at the **Sheraton Kuwait Hotel | Crystal Ballroom**. You are invited to attend the **Gala Dinner** scheduled for March 11 at 8:00 p.m. at the **Sheraton Kuwait Hotel| Crystal Ballroom**.

Any individual plans for dinners on March 10 and 11 will be charged to the participants.

### Transportation

The trip from The Four Points Sheraton to the Arab Fund Headquarters takes approximately 10 minutes. Buses will be available to and from the hotel to the conference venue at 7:30 a.m. on the first day of the conference March 10 and at 8:00 a.m. on March 11 and 12, 2019.

### Departure

It is most important that you check out and be ready in the lobby *three* hours before your departure time.

*PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING TELEPHONE NUMBERS FOR EMERGENCY CONTACTS WHILE IN KUWAIT*

Mr. Ajeel Al-Mutoutah	(Assisting at the Airport)	24959238 - 99886417
Mr. Aziz Al-Dhafeeri	(Assisting at the Airport)	24959239 - 97260777
Mr. Maan Al-Kaed	(Assisting at the Hotel)	24959235 - 99163001
Mr. Hani Fayed	(Assisting at the Hotel)	24959240 - 99049854
Mr. Hassan Abu Melhem	(Assisting at the Hotel)	24959259 - 98765556
Mr. Hossam Omar	(Chairman Office/any further help)	24959300 - 99701693
Ms. Mervat El-Hawary	(Chairman Office/any further help)	24959304 - 97206833

## PRE-CONFERENCE EVENTS

10:00 – 13:00

ERF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING (CLOSED MEETING)  
Al-Shamiyah Ballroom | Four Points Sheraton Hotel

13:00 – 14:30

LUNCH BREAK  
Asseef International Restaurant | Four Points Sheraton Hotel

14:30 – 16:30

ERF FUTURE RESEARCH DIRECTIONS – A BRAINSTORMING SESSION (CLOSED MEETING)  
Al-Shamiyah Ballroom | Four Points Sheraton Hotel

08:30 – 09:00	REGISTRATION														
09:00 – 11:30	<p><b>OPENING AND PLENARY SESSION 1: KNOWLEDGE, ECONOMIC NETWORKS, AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY</b>   Main Conference Hall</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Abdlatif Al-Hamad</i> (Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development and ERF)</p> <p>Welcome Remarks <i>Ibrahim Elbadawi</i> (Economic Research Forum)</p> <p>Keynote Speaker <i>Paul Collier</i> (University of Oxford)</p> <p>Panelists <i>Xavier de Souza Briggs</i> (Ford Foundation)</p> <p><i>Hafez Ghanem</i> (World Bank)</p> <p><i>Barbara Shenstone</i> (IDRC)</p>														
11:30 – 12:00	COFFEE BREAK														
12:00 – 13:30	<p><b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Session 1</td> <td>OIL PRICE, STOCK MARKETS AND FINANCE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Session 2</td> <td>MACROECONOMIC POLICY AND UNCERTAINTY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Session 3</td> <td>TRADE, INVESTMENT AND THE NEIGHBORS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Session 4</td> <td>LABOR MARKET ISSUES: POLICIES, YOUTH AND EDUCATION</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Session 5</td> <td>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES: SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS &amp; POLARIZATION</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Session 6</td> <td>GROWTH PRODUCTIVITY AND STRUCTURAL CHANGE</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Session 7</td> <td>HEALTH, NUTRITION AND SOCIAL WELFARE</td> </tr> </table>	Session 1	OIL PRICE, STOCK MARKETS AND FINANCE	Session 2	MACROECONOMIC POLICY AND UNCERTAINTY	Session 3	TRADE, INVESTMENT AND THE NEIGHBORS	Session 4	LABOR MARKET ISSUES: POLICIES, YOUTH AND EDUCATION	Session 5	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES: SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS & POLARIZATION	Session 6	GROWTH PRODUCTIVITY AND STRUCTURAL CHANGE	Session 7	HEALTH, NUTRITION AND SOCIAL WELFARE
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Session 7	HEALTH, NUTRITION AND SOCIAL WELFARE														
13:30 – 15:00	LUNCH BREAK														
15:00 – 16:30	<p><b>SPECIAL PLENARY: SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH AND POLICYMAKING IN MENA</b>   Main Conference Hall</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Karima Korayem</i> (Al-Azhar University)</p> <p>Keynote Speakers <i>Mahmoud Mohieldin</i> (World Bank)</p> <p><i>Rana Hendy</i> (Doha Institute)</p> <p>Panelists <i>Kabbashi Suliman</i> (University of Khartoum)</p> <p><i>Hassan Hakimian</i> (University of London)</p> <p><i>Mohamed Marouani</i> (Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne)</p> <p><i>Almukhtar Al-Abri</i> (Sultan Qaboos University)</p> <p><i>Mine Cinar</i> (Loyola University)</p> <p><i>Nidal Sabri</i> (Birzeit University)</p>														
16:30 – 17:00	COFFEE BREAK														
17:00 – 18:30	RESEARCH FELLOWS MEETING (CLOSED MEETING)   Main Conference Hall														
20:00	<b>WELCOME DINNER</b> - CRYSTAL BALLROOM   SHERATON KUWAIT HOTEL														

SESSION 1	<p><b>OIL PRICE, STOCK MARKETS AND FINANCE</b>   Main Conference Hall</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Siddig Salih</i></p> <p>Discussant <i>Samir Ghazouani</i></p>	<p>Is There a Relationship between MENA Stock Markets, Oil, Bitcoin, Gold, and VIX? <i>Walid Mensi, Shawkat Hammoudeh, Aviral Tiwari &amp; Khamis Al-Yahyaee</i></p> <p>Oil Price Changes and Industrial Output in the MENA Region: Nonlinearities and Asymmetries - <i>Julie Ayton, Basel Awartani &amp; Aktham Maghyereh</i></p> <p>Credit and Oil Market Linkages - <i>Khalid ElFayoumi</i></p>
	<p><b>MACROECONOMIC POLICY AND UNCERTAINTY</b>   The Library - Ground Floor</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Kamiar Mohaddes</i></p> <p>Discussant <i>Hamid Mohtadi</i></p>	<p>Macroeconomic Policies and the Iranian Economy in The Era of Sanctions <i>Magda Kandil and Ida A. Mirzaie</i></p> <p>Interaction between Monetary and Fiscal Policy: Empirical Evidence from Algeria <i>Abderrahim Chibi, Mohamed Benbouziane &amp; Sidi Mohamed Chekouri</i></p> <p>Macroeconomic Uncertainty and Investment Relationship for Turkey <i>Pelin Öge Güney</i></p>
SESSION 3	<p><b>TRADE, INVESTMENT AND THE NEIGHBORS</b>   Rounded Room - Floor 4</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Abdulrazak Al-Faris</i></p> <p>Discussant <i>Nader Kabbani</i></p>	<p>Border Economies of the Middle East- Why Do They Matter for Political Economy? <i>Adeel Malik and Max Gallien</i></p> <p>FDI Determinants and Geographical Interdependence in MENA Region <i>Alaya Marouane</i></p> <p>Perspectives des Flux d'emigraants et de transferts de fonds entre la Tunisie et l'Europe <i>Hajer Habib and Ghazi Boulila</i></p>
	<p><b>LABOR MARKET ISSUES: POLICIES, YOUTH AND EDUCATION</b>   Mamluk Room - Floor 4</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Mongi Boughzala</i></p> <p>Discussant <i>Meltem Dayioglu Tayfur</i></p>	<p>The Effect of Labor Market Policies on the Labor Force Behavior in Algeria <i>Ali Souag, Ragui Assaad &amp; Caroline Krafft</i></p> <p>Vulnerable Employment Outcomes of Youth in Egypt and Jordan: Trends and Determinants <i>Shireen Alazzawi and Vladimir Hlasny</i></p> <p>Education and Labor Market Consequences of Student Protests in Late 1970s and the Subsequent Military Coup in Turkey - <i>Ahmet Ozturk and Semih Tumen</i></p>
SESSION 5	<p><b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES: SOCIAL CHARACTERISTICS &amp; POLARIZATION</b>   Tunisian Room - Floor 4</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Mustapha Nabli</i></p> <p>Discussant <i>Mohammad Pournik</i></p>	<p>Regional Inequalities in Turkey between 1900 -1965 and Impact of Minority Population Movements - <i>Güneş Aşık, Ulaş Karakoç &amp; Şevket Pamuk</i></p> <p>Polarization, Fractionalization and Reform: A Framework of Political Collaboration with Application to Lebanon - <i>Mounir Mahmalat and Declan Curran</i></p> <p>True Development or Just Some Nugatory Digits? A Social-Epistemological Study of Iran's Global Rank in Scientific Output - <i>Roohola Ramezani</i></p>
	<p><b>GROWTH PRODUCTIVITY AND STRUCTURAL CHANGE</b>   Glass Room - Floor 4</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Raimundo Soto</i></p> <p>Discussant <i>Hadi Esfahani</i></p>	<p>Agglomeration Effects in a Developing Economy: Evidence from Turkey <i>Cem Özgüzel</i></p> <p>Between Stabilization and Allocation in the MENA Region: Are Competition Laws Helping? <i>Jala Youssef and Chahir Zaki</i></p> <p>Fiscal Reform – an Aid or Hindrance to Economic Diversification in Saudi Arabia: A Computable General Equilibrium (CGE) Analysis - <i>Elizabeth Roos and Philip Adams</i></p>
SESSION 7	<p><b>HEALTH, NUTRITION AND SOCIAL WELFARE</b>   Training Room - Floor 9</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Maha El Rabbat</i></p> <p>Discussant <i>Turan Belji</i></p>	<p>Healthcare System's Efficiency and its Determinants: A two-stage Data Envelopment Analysis (DEA) Analysis: Empirical Evidence from MENA Countries - <i>Iyad Dhaoui</i></p> <p>Who Bears the Burden of Universal Health Coverage? <i>Mohammad Abu-Zaineh, Sameera Awawda &amp; Bruno Ventelou</i></p> <p>Some Socio-Economic Determinants of Antidepressant Use: Province Level Evidence from Turkey - <i>Asena Caner, Murat Çokgezen &amp; Hakan Yetkiner</i></p>

09:00 – 11:00	<p><b>PLENARY SESSION 2: THE ROLE OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE PROCESS OF INNOVATION IN THE NEW GLOBAL ECONOMY</b>   Main Conference Hall</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Shireen AlAzzawi</i> (Santa Clara University)</p> <p>Keynote Speaker <i>Rohinton Medhora</i> (Centre for International Governance and Innovation)</p> <p>Panelists <i>Hassan Aly</i> (Nile University)</p> <p><i>Shahrokh Fardoust</i> (College of William &amp; Mary)</p> <p><i>Albert G. Zeufack</i> (World Bank)</p>
11:00 – 11:30	COFFEE BREAK
11:30 -	ERF BOARD OF TRUSTEES (CLOSED MEETING)
11:30 – 13:00	<p><b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b></p> <p>Session 1 MICRO FINANCE AND CREDIT</p> <p>Session 2 MONETARY POLICY AND EXCHANGE RATES</p> <p>Session 3 TRADE, INVESTMENT &amp; ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY</p> <p>Session 4 WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER ISSUES</p> <p>Session 5 TRADE &amp; INVESTMENT: THE WIDER PICTURE</p> <p>Session 6 ISLAMIC BANKING &amp; FINANCE: ISSUES AND EVIDENCE</p> <p>Session 7 CIVIL WARS: CAUSES AND CONSEQUENCES</p>
13:00 – 14:30	LUNCH BREAK
14:30 – 16:00	<p><b>PANEL 1: FROM DATA TO POLICY - REWARDING PARTNERSHIP WITH STATISTICS CENTERS IN THE REGION</b>   Main Conference Hall</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Ibrahim Elbadawi</i> (ERF)</p> <p>Presenters <i>Yasmine Fahim</i> (ERF) <i>Ali Rashed</i> (ERF)</p> <p><i>Ragui Assaad</i> (University of Minnesota) <i>Touhami Abdelkhalek</i> (INSEA)</p> <p><i>Khalid Abu-Ismail</i> (ESCWA)</p>
16:00 – 16:30	COFFEE BREAK
16:30 – 18:00	<p><b>SPECIAL SESSION: FACES AND VOICES FROM ERF: REFLECTING ON PAST EXPERIENCES AND FUTURE ASPIRATIONS</b>   Main Conference Hall</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Heba Handoussa</i> (Egypt Network for Integrated Development)</p> <p>Presenters</p> <p><i>Policy Perspective</i> <i>Yousef Al-Ebraheem</i> (The Amiri Diwan, Kuwait) <i>Mustapha Nabli</i> (Former Central Bank of Tunisia)</p> <p><i>Institutional Perspective</i> <i>Fatima Al Shamsi</i> (Paris-Sorbonne University Abu Dhabi) <i>Mouna Cherkaoui</i> (Mohamed V University)</p> <p><i>Research Perspective</i> <i>Mohamed Trabelsi</i> (International Monetary Fund) <i>Racha Ramadan</i> (Cairo University)</p> <p><i>Nader Kabbani</i> (Brookings Doha Center) <i>Murat Kirdar</i> (Boğaziçi University)</p>
20:00	<p><b>GALA DINNER: ERF 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY</b>   CRYSTAL BALLROOM - SHERATON KUWAIT HOTEL</p> <p>Master of Ceremony - <i>Ahmed Ghoneim</i> (Cairo University)</p>

<b>SESSION 1</b>	<p><b>MICRO FINANCE AND CREDIT</b>   Main Conference Hall</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Mouna Cherkaoui</i></p> <p>Discussant <i>Mine Cinar</i></p> <p>Funding Micro-Small and Medium Size Enterprises in North Africa: Is there a Mismatch between Demand and Supply? - <i>Imène Berguiga and Philippe Adair</i></p> <p>Microequity for Microenterprises: Evidence from an Artefactual Field Experiment and Survey - <i>Muhammad Meki</i></p> <p>Predicting Financial Distress of Companies - <i>Fayçal Mraïhi and Inane Kanzari</i></p>
<b>SESSION 2</b>	<p><b>MONETARY POLICY AND EXCHANGE RATES</b>   The Library - Ground Floor</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Bassem Kamar</i></p> <p>Discussant <i>Diaa Noureldin</i></p> <p>Real Exchange Rate and Exports in a Rich Resource Economy <i>Reza Boostani and Pouya Jabal Ameli</i></p> <p>Egypt's Government Debt: Perpetual Deficits and Exchange Rate Depreciations <i>Sara B. Alnashar</i></p> <p>A Small Open Economy Model: Assessing the Role of Monetary Policy in Egypt <i>Thibault Lemaire</i></p>
<b>SESSION 3</b>	<p><b>TRADE, INVESTMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY</b>   Rounded Room - Floor 4</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Hala Abou Ali</i></p> <p>Discussant <i>Ida A. Mirzaie</i></p> <p>The Environmental Effects of FDI: Evidence from MENA Countries <i>Imad A. Moosa</i></p> <p>Energy Interdependence and Foreign Policy Affinity: Introducing the Global Energy Dependence Dataset - <i>Osman Zeki Gökçe</i></p> <p>Trade Openness and Domestic Market Share Evidence from Egypt Firm-level Data <i>Aya Elewa</i></p>
<b>SESSION 4</b>	<p><b>WOMEN EMPOWERMENT AND GENDER ISSUES</b>   Mamluk Room - Floor 4</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Khamis Al-Yahyee</i></p> <p>Discussant <i>Izak Atiyas</i></p> <p>Gender Discrimination Under Religiosity and Ethnicity Concerns - Evidence from a Developing Country - <i>Binnur Balkan and Seyit Mumin Cilasun</i></p> <p>Public Employment Shocks and Female Labor Force Participation in Palestine: Evidence from Quasi-Natural Experiment - <i>Belal Fallah</i></p> <p>The Dynamics of Female Labor Force Participation in Selected MENA Countries (Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Palestine and Tunisia) - <i>Moundir Lassassi and Aysit Tansel</i></p>
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<b>SESSION 6</b>	<p><b>ISLAMIC BANKING &amp; FINANCE: ISSUES AND EVIDENCE</b>   Glass Room - Floor 4</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Mohamed Chaffai</i></p> <p>Discussant <i>Wafik Grais</i></p> <p>Islamic Finance and Herding Behavior Theory: a Sectoral Analysis for Gulf Islamic Stock Market - <i>Mustapha Chaffai and Imed Medhioub</i></p> <p>An Artificial Neural Network Augmented GARCH Model for Islamic Stock Market Volatility: Do Asymmetry and Long Memory Matter? - <i>Manel Hamdi and Walid Chkili</i></p> <p>Sukuk Market Development and Islamic Banks' Capital Ratios <i>Houcem Smaoui and Hatem Ghouma</i></p>
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09:00 – 11:00	<p><b>PLENARY SESSION 3: JOB-CREATING GROWTH IN THE EMERGING GLOBAL ECONOMY</b>   Main Conference Hall</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Yousef Al-Ebraheem</i> (The Amiri Diwan)            Keynote Speaker <i>Lant Pritchett</i> (University of Oxford)            Panelists <i>Massoud Karshenas</i> (University of London)  <i>Ishac Diwan</i> (Paris Sciences et Lettres)</p>														
11:00 – 11:30	COFFEE BREAK														
11:30 – 13:00	<p><b>PARALLEL SESSIONS</b></p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Session 1</td> <td>PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND FINANCIAL MARKETS</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Session 2</td> <td>BUSINESS CYCLES AND MACROECONOMIC POLICY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Session 3</td> <td>TRADE POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Session 4</td> <td>HIGHER EDUCATION: MARRIAGE &amp; LABOR MARKET OUTCOME</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Session 5</td> <td>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES: GEOPOLITICS, OIL &amp; ECONOMIC COMPLEXITY</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Session 6</td> <td>GROWTH PRODUCTIVITY AND LABOR MARKET</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Session 7</td> <td>WELFARE SYSTEMS, PERSONAL FREEDOM AND MASS MEDIA: VOTING BEHAVIOR AND TERRORISM</td> </tr> </table>	Session 1	PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND FINANCIAL MARKETS	Session 2	BUSINESS CYCLES AND MACROECONOMIC POLICY	Session 3	TRADE POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT	Session 4	HIGHER EDUCATION: MARRIAGE & LABOR MARKET OUTCOME	Session 5	ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES: GEOPOLITICS, OIL & ECONOMIC COMPLEXITY	Session 6	GROWTH PRODUCTIVITY AND LABOR MARKET	Session 7	WELFARE SYSTEMS, PERSONAL FREEDOM AND MASS MEDIA: VOTING BEHAVIOR AND TERRORISM
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13:00 – 14:30	LUNCH BREAK														
14:30 – 16:00	<p><b>PANEL 2: ERF IN THE EMERGING NEW NORMAL AND THE CHANGING NATURE OF WORKS</b>   Main Conference Hall</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Samir Makdisi</i> (American University in Beirut)            Presenter <i>Ibrahim Elbadawi</i> (ERF)            Lead Commentary <i>Noha El-Mikawy</i> (Ford Foundation)            Panelists <i>Rabah Arezki</i> (World Bank)  <i>Adel Abdellatif</i> (UNDP)</p>														
16:00 – 16:30	COFFEE BREAK														
16:30 – 18:00	<p><b>AWARD CEREMONY AND CLOSING SESSION: CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE</b>   Main Conference Hall</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Ibrahim Elbadawi</i> (ERF)            Speakers <i>Jeffrey Nugent</i> - Institutions &amp; Macroeconomic Policies in Resource-Rich Arab Economies  <i>Mongi Boughzala</i> - The Tunisian Labor Market in an Era of Transition  <i>Adeel Malik</i> - Crony Capitalism in the Middle East  <i>Ragui Assaad</i> - Jordanian Labor Market: Between Fragility and Resilience  <i>Sherine Ghoneim</i> - ERF Policy Portal - <i>The Forum</i></p>														

<b>SESSION 1</b>	<p><b>PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND FINANCIAL MARKETS</b>   Main Conference Hall</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Oussama Kanaan</i>            Discussant <i>Shawkat Hammoudeh &amp; Walid Mensi</i></p> <p>Credit Card Debt: Nescience or Necessity?  <i>G. Gulsun Akin, Ahmet Faruk Aysan, Sezgin Dasdogan &amp; Levent Yildiran</i></p> <p>Real Effects of Credit Supply Disruptions: The Case of 2011 Embezzlement Scandal in Iran - <i>Sajad Ebrahimi, Ali Ebrahimnejad &amp; Mahdi Rastad</i></p> <p>Discernible Differences in the Building Façades, but not in the Productivity Numbers: A Comparison Between Domestic and Foreign Banks in North Africa - <i>Mohamed Chaffai</i></p>
<b>SESSION 2</b>	<p><b>BUSINESS CYCLES AND MACROECONOMIC POLICY</b>   The Library - Ground Floor</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Abla Abdel-Latif</i>            Discussant <i>Chahir Zaki</i></p> <p>The Trinity of Budgetary Institutions, Political Institutions and Fiscal Cyclicity: Evidence from Egypt - <i>Sarah El Khishin and Mohamed Zaky</i></p> <p>Les fluctuations cycliques de la production et du chômage au Maroc: une approche sectorielle de la loi d'Okun - <i>Zakaria El Faiz and Said Tounsi</i></p> <p>Developing an Optimal Early Warning System for Financial Crises in Developing Countries under Model Uncertainty - <i>Mamdouh Abdelmoula M. Abdelsalam and Hany Abdel-Latif</i></p>
<b>SESSION 3</b>	<p><b>TRADE POLICY AND DEVELOPMENT</b>   Rounded Room - Floor 4</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Bernard Hoekman</i>            Discussant <i>Ahmed Ghoneim</i></p> <p>Do AEO Programs Facilitate Trade? An Empirical Assessment of the OIC Member States  <i>N. Nergiz Dincer and Ayça Tekin-Koru</i></p> <p>Remittances and Disaggregated Country Risk Ratings in Tunisia: An ARDL Approach  <i>Dorsaf Sridi and Wafa Ghardallou</i></p> <p>Trade and Jobs - An Input-Output Analysis for Morocco  <i>Ibourk Aomar and Tayeb Ghazi</i></p>
<b>SESSION 4</b>	<p><b>HIGHER EDUCATION: MARRIAGE &amp; LABOR MARKET OUTCOME</b>   Mamluk Room - Floor 4</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Aysit Tansel</i>            Discussant <i>Djavad Salehi-Isfahani</i></p> <p>Access to Higher Education and the Chance of Marriage  <i>Seyed M. Karimi and Golnaz Taghvatalab</i></p> <p>Education as Opportunity? The Causal Effect of Education on Labor Market Outcomes in Jordan  <i>Huiqiong Duan and Daniel Hicks</i></p> <p>The Power of Demand: A Natural Experiment in Higher Education  <i>Mahdi Majbouri</i></p>
<b>SESSION 5</b>	<p><b>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ISSUES: GEOPOLITICS, OIL &amp; ECONOMIC COMPLEXITY</b>   Tunisian Room - Floor 4</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Hassan Hakimian</i>            Discussant <i>Shahrokh Fardoust</i></p> <p>The Changing Geopolitics in the Arab World: Implications of the 2017 Gulf Crisis for Business - <i>Jamal Bouoiyour and Refk Selmi</i></p> <p>A Risk-Hedging View to Refinery Capacity Investment in OPEC Countries  <i>Hamed Ghoddusi and Franz Wirl</i></p> <p>Determinants of Economic Complexity in MENA Countries  <i>A. Yasemin Yalta and A. Talha Yalta</i></p>
<b>SESSION 6</b>	<p><b>GROWTH PRODUCTIVITY AND LABOR MARKET</b>   Glass Room - Floor 4</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Faten Al Jabsheh</i>            Discussant <i>Jeffrey Nugent &amp; Paul Makdissi</i></p> <p>An Anatomy of Firm-Level Productivity in Turkey in the AKP Era  <i>N. Nergiz Dincer and Ayça Tekin-Koru</i></p> <p>Stochastic Growth Model and the Role of Shocks to Trend in the MENA Region  <i>Houda Boubaker, Eric Girardin &amp; Christophe Muller</i></p> <p>The Informalization of the Egyptian Economy (1998 – 2012): A Factor in Growing Wage Inequality? - <i>Amirah El-Haddad and May Gadallah</i></p>
<b>SESSION 7</b>	<p><b>WELFARE SYSTEMS, PERSONAL FREEDOM AND MASS MEDIA: VOTING BEHAVIOR AND TERRORISM</b>   Training Room - Floor 9</p> <p>Chairperson <i>Samir Makdisi</i>            Discussant <i>Adeel Malik</i></p> <p>Democracy, Personal Freedom, Islamic State Fighters  <i>Moamen Gouda, Shimaa Hanafy &amp; Marcus Marktanner</i></p> <p>Thank You, Infidels! Social Welfare and Islamic State Recruitment  <i>Moamen Gouda and Marcus Marktanner</i></p> <p>The Impact of Mass Media on Voting Behavior: The Cross-Country Evidence  <i>Walid Merouani</i></p>



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**Abdlatif Al-Hamad** is director general and chairperson of the board of directors of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development; chairperson of the Board of Trustees of the ERF; trustee at the Arab Planning Institute; member of the International Finance Corporation Banking Advisory Board Group (World Bank); board member of the Kuwait Investment Authority; chairperson of the Development Committee Task Force on Multilateral Development Banks; and board member of BlackRock. Since the early 1960s, he has been highly active in promoting economic and social development, particularly in the Arab world. He served as chairperson of the United Bank of Kuwait (1966-1981) and executive director of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (1972-1981). In addition, he was Kuwait's minister of finance and minister of planning (1981-1983). Al-Hamad has also served on numerous commissions and boards, including the United Nations Committee for Development Planning (1982-1991) and the Commission on Global Governance (1992).



**Touhami Abdelkhalek** is a professor of higher education at the National Institute of Statistics and Applied Economics (INSEA) in Rabat, Morocco. He has worked as a consultant for numerous national and international organizations in Morocco as well as several Arab and francophone African countries (ONDH, World Bank, PNUD, UNICEF). Currently, his expertise spans the quantitative, statistical (surveys), and econometrics aspects of development issues (poverty, inequality, public policy impact evaluation and economic modeling). In 2005, he was the chapter author of Poverty in Morocco, as part of the 50th anniversary report on 50 years of human development in Morocco (RDH50). Furthermore, he was decorated as a Knight of the Throne medal (Wissam Al Arch) by His Majesty the King of Morocco in July 2017.



**Adel M. Abdellatif** is Senior Strategic Advisor, at the Regional Bureau for Arab States, of the United Nations Development Programme. In this post he oversees the UNDP flagship Arab Human Development Report (AHDR). Recently he coordinated and supervised the AHDR 2016 on "Youth and the Prospects for Human Development in a Changing Reality". He advises on UNDP policies in the Arab Region and leads the strategy of implementing Agenda 2030 in Arab countries. He came to UNDP following a two-decade career at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Egypt. He holds a doctoral degree in Political Economy from the Graduate Institute of International Relations, Geneva, Switzerland.



**Khalid Abu-Ismail** is chief of economic development and poverty at the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. With over 15 years in policy advice on human development, macroeconomics, and poverty covering 18 Arab States, Abu-Ismail is also lead author/co-author of several UNI flagship publications including: Rethinking Fiscal Policy in Arab States" (ESCWA, 2017), Syria Five Years After 2010" (ESCWA and University of St. Andrews, 2015), " Arab Vision 2030 Report" (ESCWA, 2015), "Arab Middle Class" (ESCWA, 2014), "Rethinking Economic Growth" (ILO and UNDP, 2012), and "Arab Multi-Dimensional Poverty Report" (LAS, OPHI, UNICEF and ESCWA, 2017). He received his D. Phil. in development economics from the New School for Social Research in New York, M.Phil. in development planning and environment from the University of Dundee in Scotland, and his BA in economics from the American University in Cairo.



**Almukhtar Saif Al-Abri** is an associate professor in the department of economics and finance, Sultan Qaboos University, and has been a faculty member of the department since 1997. His teaching interests are in the areas of microeconomics, macroeconomics, applied econometrics, and international money and finance. His research interests focus on exchange rate economics, international financial integration, and the macroeconomics of oil exporters and importers. He served as editor and supervisor of the economics section in the Omani Encyclopaedia, inaugurated in 2014. He has published in a number of internationally refereed journals including: Economics Letters, Economic Modelling, International Review of Economics and Finance, International Review of Applied Economics, and OPEC Energy Review. Al-Abri was awarded the Outstanding Academic Award by Sultan Qaboos University in 2011.



**Shireen AlAzzawi** is a lecturer in the economics department of the Leavey School of Business, Santa Clara University, USA, and an ERF research fellow. Her research focuses on poverty and inequality, labor economics, and international trade, with special emphasis on the MENA region. She has published her work in the Review of Income and Wealth, the Quarterly Review of Economics and Finance, Economic Development, and Cultural Change, and the Journal of International Trade and Economic Development, among other scholarly journals. AlAzzawi received her PhD in economics from the University of California, Davis, and has master's degrees from both Stanford University and the American University in Cairo. Before joining Santa Clara, she was an assistant professor at the American University in Cairo.



**Yousef H. Al Ebraheem** served as minister of finance, minister of planning, and minister of state for administrative development affairs in Kuwait. Prior to that, he was minister of education and higher education. Al Ebraheem also served as dean of the school of business at Kuwait University and was the cultural counselor/director of the cultural division at the Embassy of the State of Kuwait in Washington, DC. He is a board member of Investcorp and the Kuwait Foundation for the Advancement of Sciences, and was the chairman of the Gulf Investment Corporation and vice chairman of Al Mal Investment Company, among other positions. Currently, Al Ebraheem is an economic advisor at Amiri Diwan in the capacity of a minister. He has a PhD in economics from Claremont Graduate University, and has authored a number of publications, reports, research papers, and books.



**Fatima Al-Shamsi** is deputy vice chancellor for administrative affairs at Sorbonne University, Abu Dhabi, and is the former secretary general of United Arab Emirates University. She holds a PhD in economics from the University of Exeter, United Kingdom, and a Master of Economics from the University of Baltimore, USA. She held several academic and administrative positions and served as a consultant to the UAE National Human Resource Development and Employment Authority. Al-Shamsi's research interests deal with economic development issues and women studies. She has many research publications in refereed academic journals and presented research papers in different scientific conferences. She is currently the vice chair of the board of trustees of the Arab Gulf States Institute, Washington D.C., and a member of the ERF board of trustees since 2014.



**Hassan Aly** is an emeritus professor at Ohio State University since 2015. He has been climbing the ranks of faculty at the university's economics department since 1989 to reach the full professor status. Aly also serves as a consultant (technical advisor) to the IMF (2012-present). His previous positions include his role as the founding dean of the School of Public Administration and Development Economics in Qatar (2014-2016) and lead economist at the African Development Bank (2009-2012). Currently, Aly is a professor of economics and the dean of the business school at Nile University, Egypt. He has over 50 publications in nationally and internationally refereed journals. Moreover, his google scholar H-index is 17, i10 index is 21, and has over 1,750 public citations.



**Rabah Arzeki** is chief economist for the MENA Region at the World Bank. He was formerly chief of the commodities unit in the research department at the IMF. He was a senior fellow at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, a non-resident fellow at the Brookings Institution, an external research associate at the University of Oxford, and a resource person for the African Economic Research Consortium. He received his MSc in statistics and economics from Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l'Administration Economique in Paris and holds a PhD in economics from the European University Institute, Florence. He has written on energy, commodities, development economics, and international macroeconomics. Arzeki is an ERF research fellow.



**Ragui Assaad** is a professor at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, University of Minnesota, where he chairs the global policy area and co-chairs its Master of Development Practice program. He has been a research fellow at ERF since 1994 and currently serves as its thematic leader for Labor and Human Resource Development and as a member of its board of trustees. His current research focuses on topics related to labor markets in the Arab world, youth transitions to adulthood, and inequality of opportunity. He holds a PhD in city and regional planning from Cornell University and an MA in mechanical engineering from Stanford University.



**Mongi Boughzala** is an emeritus professor of economics at the University of Tunis El Manar. He previously served as dean of the faculty of economics and business administration from 1993 to 1996 and chairman of the department of economics from 1990 to 1993. He has published in several journals, including the International Labor Review, Saving and Development Quarterly Review, and the Annales d'Economie et de Gestion published by the University of Tunis El-Manar, of which he is an editor. His research interests include macroeconomic policy, international trade, public finance, and microeconomics. Boughzala holds a PhD in economics from the University of Minnesota in the United States, and a Bsc in economics from Faculté de Droit et des Sciences Economiques de Tunis.

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**Xavier ("Xav") de Souza Briggs** is Vice President for US Programs at the Ford Foundation. He oversees the Foundation's domestic programming for Civic Engagement and Government, Creativity and Free Expression, Future of Work(ers), Just Cities and Regions, Technology and Society, Mission Investments and Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Justice. He is a former professor of Sociology and Urban Planning at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's. An award-winning author, commentator and educator, he has led groundbreaking research in economic opportunity, democracy and governance, segregation, and racial and ethnic diversity in cities and metropolitan regions. From January 2009 to August 2011, Briggs served as Associate Director of the Office of Management and Budget in the White House. Earlier in his career, Briggs served as a Community Planner in the South Bronx, a Policy Adviser and R&D Director at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, and a Faculty Member in Public Policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government. Briggs holds an Engineering degree from Stanford University, an MPA from Harvard and a Ph.D. in Sociology and Education from Columbia University.



**Mouna Cherkaoui** is a professor of economics at Mohamed V University Faculty of Law, Economics and Social Sciences in Rabat Agdal since 1989. She previously served as an advisor to the minister of higher education and scientific research. Cherkaoui was a member of the Advisory Committee on Economic Research and Policy Analysis on gender (GERPA) of the World Bank. She was invited as a teacher and researcher to many universities and conducted research and consultations for various national and international organizations such as UNCTAD, UNDP and the World Bank. Her research focuses on topics related to macroeconomics, financial markets, economic development and growth. She also coordinated a number of research projects related to international trade, pro-poor growth and migration. She received her PhD in economics from Arizona State University. Cherkaoui is an ERF research fellow and a member of the Arab Development Portal Strategic Advisory.



**Mine Cinar** has taught in Texas A&M, Oklahoma State, and Bogazici Universities, and was a research fellow in the University of Wisconsin, the Poverty Institute, and Northwestern University, MEDS. She is director of the Center for International Business at Loyola University, Chicago. She has received grants from Fulbright-Hays, the Ford Foundation, the Population Council, and the SSRC. Cinar has published works on different aspects of economic development, finance, and gender. She is the former president of the Middle East Economics Association and is the editor of the online proceedings journal. Cinar holds a master's degree from Vanderbilt University and received her PhD from Texas A&M University.



**Paul Collier** is a professor of economics and public policy at the Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford. His research covers fragile states, restoring growth in African economies, the implications of group psychology for development, migration and refugees, urbanization in poor countries, and the crisis in modern capitalism, which is the subject of his most recent book, *The Future of Capitalism*. He received a knighthood in 2014 for his services in promoting research and policy change in Africa, and has been listed as one of the 100 most influential public thinkers in five of the past ten years.



**Ishac Diwan** is the chair d'excellence monde arabe at Paris Sciences et Lettres, and visiting professor at SIPA, Columbia University. His research focuses on topics related to the political economy of the Middle East, development and growth in Africa, financial flows, and domestic and global trade issues. He received his PhD in economics from the University of California, Berkeley. He is an ERF research fellow and a member of the ERF board of trustees.



**Ibrahim Elbadawi** is managing director of the ERF. Earlier, he served as director of research at the Dubai Economic Council, which he joined in March 2009. Before that, he was lead economist at the Development Research Group of the World Bank, which he joined in 1989. He has published widely on macroeconomic and development policy, democratic transitions and the economics of civil wars and post-conflict transitions. He was the thematic leader of the Natural Resource Management and Economic Diversification theme at the ERF for five years and is a member of the advisory board of the Arab Planning Institute. He holds a PhD in economics and statistics from North Carolina State and Northwestern Universities.



**Noha El-Mikawy** is a representative of the Ford Foundation's MENA office in Cairo. Her work concentrates on issues of inclusion in social, economic, and cultural rights; independent arts and culture; and the role of local philanthropy in the region. Between 2005-2012, El-Mikawy served as team leader for governance at the UNDP regional center for the Arab states and as policy adviser at the UNDP's Oslo Governance Center in Norway. Between 1999-2005, she led comparative research on the political economy of MENA at the Centre for Development Research of the University of Bonn, Germany. Before that, she lectured on politics of the Middle East at the American University in Cairo, Free University of Berlin, and Erlangen-Nuremberg University in Germany. El-Mikawy holds a PhD and MA from the University of California, Los Angeles, and has three books and multiple articles on the political economy of MENA.



**Yasmine Fahim** is director of research and programs at the ERF. Her research areas of interest include labor markets, education, and women empowerment. She is a graduate of the faculty of economics and political science of Cairo University.



**Shahrokh Fardoust** is a research professor at the Global Research Institute at the College of William and Mary. From 2008 to 2011, he was director of strategy and operations, Development Economics, the World Bank. His previous positions at the World Bank included senior adviser to the director-general of the Independent Evaluation Group, and senior economic adviser to the senior vice president and chief economist. He is co-editor of and contributor to *Post Crisis Growth and Development: A Development Agenda for the G20* (World Bank, 2011); and *Towards a Better Global Economy: Policy Implications for Global Citizens Worldwide in the 21st Century* (Oxford University Press), 2016. He is a member of the SovereignNet Advisory Council at Tufts University; member of the Expert Advisers group for the European Investment Bank-Global Development Network project; non-resident scholar at the Middle East Institute, Washington, DC; and member of Millennium Challenge Corporation's, Economic Advisory Council. Fardoust obtained his PhD in economics from the University of Pennsylvania.



**Hafez Ghanem** is vice president of the World Bank for Africa since July 2018. A development expert with over 30 years of experience, Ghanem leads an active regional portfolio consisting of over 600 projects totaling more than \$71 billion. Prior to his appointment, Ghanem served as vice president of the World Bank for the MENA region (2015-2018), overseeing the World Bank's engagement with 20 countries. Leading up to this, he was a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution in the Global Economy and Development Program. He also served as the assistant director-general at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) (2007 – 2012). He has many publications in professional journals and was a member of the core team that produced the World Bank's 1995 World Development Report. He holds a bachelor's and master's degree in economics from the American University in Cairo and a PhD in economics from the University of California, Davis.



**Ahmed Ghoneim** is currently a professor in the faculty of economics and political science at Cairo University. He is a research fellow at the ERF for Arab Countries, Iran, and Turkey, and the Center for Social and Economic Research in Poland. He is a consultant to several international and national organizations including the World Bank, WTO, UNCTAD, UNDP, and the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO). He holds a PhD in economics and has published widely in trade policy, trade in services, regional trade integration, and political economy, among others. He held different policy-oriented positions, among which was his role as advisor on foreign trade issues to the minister of foreign trade and advisor to the minister of industry on foreign trade issues and international agreements. In 2014, he was appointed cultural counsellor for Egypt in Berlin and Vienna and head of the student mission in Germany, Austria, and a number of European countries.



**Sherine Ghoneim** is director of communications and policy outreach at the ERF. Prior to that, she was director of the Global Development Network Office and director of GDNet, a knowledge hub that brings together and communicates policy-relevant research from the Global South. She has more than 15 years of experience in the field of knowledge networks and research communications capacity building. Ghoneim holds a PhD in information management (The Management School, Imperial College, UK), an MSc in Management (Boston University, London Campus), and a BA in economics from the American University in Cairo. Her research areas of interest include digital technologies, e-government, e-business, ICT and development.

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