

reshaping the future

2025

Annual Conference  
**AGENDA**

ERF 31<sup>ST</sup> Annual Conference

**YOUTH**

DEMOGRAPHIC  
DIVIDEND &  
MIGRATION IN MENA:  
challenges & opportunities in uncertain times

ECONOMIC  
RESEARCH  
FORUM



منتدى  
البحوث  
الاقتصادية

## ERF 31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference

The Economic Research Forum's (ERF) Annual Conference, a tradition maintained since 1995, has become the premier 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 marks the 31st anniversary of ERF, which was established in 1993 to lead and support the production of independent, high quality economic research, and to disseminate research output to a wide and diverse audience.

This year's conference is held on the theme of Youth, Demographic Dividend and Migration in MENA: Challenges and Opportunities in Uncertain Times. It will be held 27 – 29 April, 2025 in Cairo, Egypt. This is a timely topic in light of the significant political, social, and economic challenges witnessed in the region.

The plenary sessions aim to address the multifaceted challenges and opportunities related to youth, migration, and economic development in the MENA region. They will feature distinguished 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.

This year, the conference is designed to also include one policy dialogue, two keynote speeches, two special panels, and 22 parallel sessions. The parallel sessions will feature 66 diverse papers across cross-cutting critical themes selected on the basis of rigorous refereeing processes in response to an open call for papers. The closing plenary will celebrate the winners of what has become a regional certificate of excellence: The Best Paper Award. ERF Annual Conferences also provide the opportunity for ERF Research Fellows to convene their annual meeting.

ERF gratefully acknowledges support from French Development Agency (AFD) and International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada.



# Agenda at a Glance

## DAY 1 | Sunday, April 27

- **8:00 - 9:00**  
Registration
- **9:00 - 10:30**  
Opening Ceremony  
and Keynote Speeches
- **10:30 - 11:00**  
Coffee Break
- **11:00 - 12:30**  
Parallel Sessions: Group (A)
- **12:30 - 14:00**  
Lunch Break
- **14:00 - 15:30**  
Parallel Sessions: Group (B)
- **15:30 - 16:00**  
Coffee Break
- **16:00 - 17:30**  
Special Panel A: Recent Trends  
in the Egyptian Labor Market:  
Employment, Earnings, Digitaliza-  
tion, and the Green Transition
- **18:00 - 19:00**  
Research Fellows Meeting  
(Closed Meeting)

## DAY 2 | Monday, April 28

- **9:00 - 10:30**  
Parallel Sessions: Group (C)
- **10:30 - 11:00**  
Coffee Break
- **11:00 - 14:00**  
BOT Meeting (Closed Meeting)
- **11:00 - 12:30**  
Parallel Sessions: Group (D)
- **12:30 - 14:00**  
Lunch Break
- **14:00 - 15:30**  
Parallel Sessions: Group (E)
- **15:30 - 16:00**  
Coffee Break
- **16:00 - 17:30**  
Special Panel B: Global Value  
Chains and Sustainable Develop-  
ment

## DAY 3 | Tuesday, April 29

- **9:00 - 10:30**  
Parallel Sessions: Group (F)
- **10:30 - 11:00**  
Coffee Break
- **11:00 - 12:30**  
Parallel Sessions: Group (G)
- **12:30 - 14:00**  
Lunch Break
- **14:00 - 15:30**  
Parallel Sessions: Group (H)
- **15:30 - 16:00**  
Coffee Break
- **16:00 - 17:30**  
Policy Dialogue on Renewable  
Energy in Promoting Growth
- **17:30 - 18:00**  
Celebrating Excellence and Closing



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**DAY 1** | Sunday, April 27

9:00 – 17:30

## Opening Ceremony & Keynote Speeches

### Youth and the Desire of Individuals for Control over their Own Lives: Human Development in the Arab Region

The keynote speech will explore the potential link between human development and emigration, framed within the broader context of the demographic dividend in the Arab region. When a substantial proportion of young individuals consider emigration, the potential benefits of the demographic dividend are undermined. This trend suggests that limitations in human development, particularly in autonomy, education, and income sufficiency, may play a critical role in these decisions.

### Migration and Displacement: Challenges and Opportunities

The keynote speech will explore the complexities surrounding labor migration in the MENA region, specifically examining the challenges and opportunities from the perspective of countries of origin. It will explore the relationship between human capital, the labor market, and migration, shedding light on how these factors shape outcomes for both migrants and their home countries. Additionally, the speech will address the profound implications of forced migration and displacement within the region, highlighting the impact on human capital investment. In particular, it will focus on how these migration flows influence the labor market prospects and economic integration of young individuals in host countries. The discussion will provide a nuanced understanding of how migration—both voluntary and forced—affects the development of human development in the MENA region.

## Special Panel A: Recent Trends in the Egyptian Labor Market

### Employment, Earnings, Digitalization, and the Green Transition

In late 2023, ERF implemented the fifth wave of the Egypt Labor Market Panel Survey (ELMPS 2023). This session will highlight some of the most notable results of this rich longitudinal survey. The results highlighted will focus in developments in the structure and quality of employment, earnings and earnings inequality, the use of information and communication technology at work, and a mapping of green jobs in the Egyptian economy.



**Register to attend online**  
Opening Ceremony & Keynote Speeches



**Register to attend online**  
Special Panel A:  
Recent Trends in the Egyptian Labor Market: Employment,  
Earnings, Digitalization, and the Green Transition

## Meet Our Speakers



**Hania Sholkamy**  
The American University  
(in Cairo (AUC)



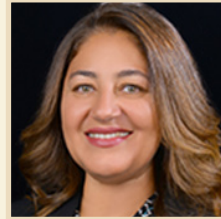
**Paul Makdissi**  
University of Ottawa



**Jackline Wahba**  
University of Southampton



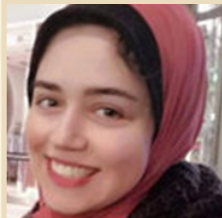
**Ragui Assaad**  
University of Minnesota



**Wessam El Beih**  
International Development  
Research Centre (IDRC)



**Clémence Vidal  
de la Blache**  
French Development Agency



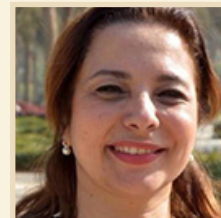
**Mona El-Sayed**  
Cairo University



**Rawane Yasser**  
French Development Agency



**Mona Amer**  
Cairo University



**Mona Said**  
The American University  
in Cairo



**Register to attend online**  
Opening Ceremony & Keynote Speeches



**Register to attend online**  
Special Panel A:  
Recent Trends in the Egyptian Labor Market: Employment,  
Earnings, Digitalization, and the Green Transition



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## DAY 1 | Sunday, April 27

9:00 – 17:30

- 9:00 - 10:30

### Opening Ceremony & Keynote Speeches

*Location:* C-West Ball-room - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

**Welcome Remarks:** Jackline Wahba, *University of Southampton & ERF*

**Chairperson & Moderator:** Hania Sholkamy, *American University in Cairo & ERF*

**Keynote Speakers:** Paul Makdissi, *University of Ottawa & ERF*  
Jackline Wahba, *University of Southampton & ERF*

**Lead Commentators:** Ragui Assaad, *University of Minnesota & ERF*  
Wessam El Beih, *International Development Research Center (IDRC), Canada*  
Clémence Vidal de la Blache, *French Development Agency (AFD), France*
- 10:30 - 11:00

Coffee Break
- 11:00 - 12:30

### Parallel Sessions Group (A)

Full details in page 7
- 12:30 - 14:00

Lunch Break
- 14:00 - 15:30

### Parallel Sessions Group (B)

Full details in page 8
- 15:30 - 16:00

Coffee Break
- 16:00 - 17:30

### Special Panel A: Recent Trends in the Egyptian Labor Market: Employment, Earnings, Digitalization, and the Green Transition

*Location:* C-West Ball-room - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

**Chairperson & Moderator:** Ragui Assaad, *University of Minnesota & ERF*

**Speakers:** Mona El-Sayed, *Cairo University & ERF*  
Rawane Yasser, *French Development Agency (AFD)*  
Mona Amer, *Cairo University*

**Lead Commentator:** Mona Said, *American University in Cairo & ERF*
- 18:00 - 19:00

### Research Fellows Meeting (Closed Meeting)



**Register to attend online**  
Opening Ceremony & Keynote Speeches



**Register to attend online**  
Special Panel A:  
Recent Trends in the Egyptian Labor Market: Employment, Earnings, Digitalization, and the Green Transition

**DAY 1** | Sunday, April 27

Parallel Sessions - Group (A)  
11:00 - 12:30

**Theme: Microeconomics**

Startups and the Youth

**Parallel Session 1:**

Location: Regency 3

**Chairperson & Discussant**

- Riham Ahmed Ezzat

**Papers & Speakers**

Startups' Performance:  
Evidence from Tunisia

- Achraf Khallouli  
and Rim Mouelhi

Youth Entrepreneurial Capabilities  
and Performance  
of their Businesses

- Mohamed Elsayed  
Abdelmomen  
and Munira Abdalla Yousif

Is ChatGPT Detrimental  
to Innovation? A Field Experiment  
among University Students

- Mazen Hassan, Engi Amin,  
Sarah Mansour and Zeyad  
Kelani

**Theme: International Economics**

GVC and Integration

**Parallel Session 2:**

Location: Sky Meeting Room

**Chairperson & Discussant**

- Chahir Zaki

**Papers & Speakers**

Market Integration in the Ottoman  
Empire and Eastern Mediterra-  
nean from the Sixteenth Century  
until World War I

- Pinar Ceylan, Kivanç  
Karaman and Şevket Pamuk

Energy GVCs and Value-Added  
Growth: Evidence from  
EXIOBASE-3

- Taner Turan, Halit Yanıkkaya  
and Hüseyin Alperen Özer

Global Value Chain Participation  
and Economic Growth in MENA:  
Examining Nonlinearities

- Insaf Guedidi, Inmaculada  
Martínez-Zarzoso  
and Leila Baghdadi

**Theme: Labor Economics**

Migrant Labor

**Parallel Session 3:**

Location: Regency 2

**Chairperson & Discussant**

- Jackline Wahba

**Papers & Speakers**

Understanding the Gender  
Employment Gap: A Cross-Coun-  
try Comparison of Syrian Ref-  
ugees in Lebanon, Turkey, and  
Germany

- Maye Ehab, Lidwina Gun-  
dacker and Stefanie Heyne

Forced to Migrate in A Warming  
World: Labor Migration Respons-  
es to Drought-Induced Shocks in  
Tunisia

- Esther Delesalle, Minh-  
Phuong Le, Mohamed Ali  
Marouani and Federica Alfani

Migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa  
in Tunisia: A Storm in A Teacup?

- Mohamed Amara



**Hybrid Session**  
Register to attend online



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**DAY 1** | Sunday, April 27

Parallel Sessions - Group (B)  
 14:00 - 15:30

**Theme: Political Economy**

Political Economy

**Parallel Session 4:**

Location: Regency 2

**Chairperson & Discussant**

- Samer Atallah

**Papers & Speakers**

The Effect of International Sanctions on the Size of the Middle Class in Iran

- Mohammad Reza Farzanegan and Nader Habibi

Politicians on the Boards of Firm Directors in the MENA Countries: Do Connections Affect Confidence in Business Sales?

- Hassan F. Gholipour and Mohammad Reza Farzanegan

Youth 'Not in Education, Employment, or Training' (NEET) in North Africa

- Aomar Ibourk and Zakaria Elouaourt

**Theme: Macroeconomics**

Fed Spillover Effects, Exchange Rates, Monetary Policy, and Informality

**Parallel Session 5:**

Location: Sky Meeting Room

**Chairperson & Discussant**

- Sherine Al-Shawarby

**Papers & Speakers**

Monetary Policy Spillover Effects of the Fed and the ECB: Evidence from Turkiye

- A. Yasemin Yalta and A. Talha Yalta

Pricing Behavior and Exchange Rate: Evidence from Iran Consumer Prices

- Hamidreza Aziminia, Seyed Ali Madanzadeh and Amineh Mahmoudzadeh

Monetary Policy and Informality: Understanding Policy Transmission in Tunisia from a Heterogeneous Agents Model

- Mohamed Safouane Ben Aïssa and Firas Nfikha

**Theme: Financial Economics**

Islamic Banking

**Parallel Session 6:**

Location: Regency 3

**Chairperson & Discussant**

- Ahmed Elsayed

**Papers & Speakers**

The Role of Financial Inclusion in Reducing Youth Unemployment and Mortality in the MENA Region

- Jabrane Amaghous and Hanane El Masmari

Financialization and Income Inequality

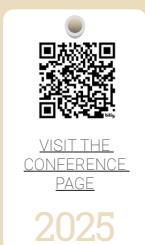
- Abdullah Gülcü, Erdal Özmen and Fatma Taşdemir

MENA Stock Markets Decoupling: Winners and Losers from the Wars in Ukraine and Middle East

- Sam Hakim and Simon Neaime



**Hybrid Session**  
 Register to attend online






**DAY 2** | Monday, April 28

9:00 – 17:30

## Special Panel B: Global Value Chains

### Global Value Chains and Sustainable Development

This session will examine an important and policy relevant issue for the MENA region, namely, Global Value Chains from a sustainable development perspective. Three papers will be presented addressing Sustainable Global Development in different ways. First, from an industrial and macroeconomic perspective (SDG9), the first paper examines the role of undervaluation in promoting GVC. Second, in line with SDG7 and SDG13, the second paper analyzes the impact of environmental stringency on firm's participation in GVCs. Finally, in line with SDG16, the third paper examines how political connections affect GVC participation using firm level data.

## Meet Our Speakers



**| Chahir Zaki**  
University of Orleans



**| Mariz Abdou**  
Clermont Auvergne University



**| Nada Hazem**  
Cairo University



**| Nora Aboushady**  
Cairo University



**Register to attend online**

Special Panel B:

Global Value Chains and Sustainable Development



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## DAY 2 | Monday, April 28

9:00 – 17:30

- 9:00 - 10:30 **Parallel Sessions Group (C)** Full details in page 11
- 10:30 - 11:00 **Coffee Break**
- 11:00 -14:00 **Board of Trustees Meeting (Closed Meeting)**
- 11:00 - 12:30 **Parallel Sessions Group (D)** Full details in page 12
- 12:30 - 14:00 **Lunch Break**
- 14:00 - 15:30 **Parallel Sessions Group (E)** Full details in page 13
- 15:30 - 16:00 **Coffee Break**
- 16:00 - 17:30 **Special Panel B: Global Value Chains and Sustainable Development**
  - Location:** C-West Ball-room - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor
  - Chairperson & Moderator:** Chahir Zaki, *University of Orleans & ERF*
  - Speakers:** Mariz Abdou, *Clermont Auvergne University*  
Nada Hazem, *Cairo University*  
Nora Aboushady, *Cairo University & ERF*



**DAY 2** | Monday, April 28

Parallel Sessions - Group (C)  
9:00 - 10:30

Theme: International Economics

Trade Policy

**Parallel Session 7:**

Location: Regency 3

**Chairperson & Discussant**

- Nora Aboushady

**Papers & Speakers**

Making Trade Policy Innovation Friendly: What Role of Trade Agreements?

- Yasmine Eissa and Chahir Zaki

Adjustment Strategies and the Costs of Adjustment to Trade Liberalization: Firm Level Evidence from Egypt

- Abeer Elshennawy and Mohammed Bouaddi

The Impact of Expectations and Uncertainty on Export Dynamics: Evidence from Türkiye

- Nazire Nergiz Dincer, Yeliz Yalcin and Cengiz Arıkan

Theme: Poverty and Inequality

Education & Inequality

**Parallel Session 8:**

Location: Sky Meeting Room

**Chairperson & Discussant**

- Paul Makdissi

**Papers & Speakers**

The Colonial Legacy of Education: Evidence from Tunisia

- Mhamed Ben Salah, Cédric Chambru and Maleke Fourati

The Causal Effect of 2012 Compulsory Education Law on NEET in Türkiye: A Regression Discontinuity Design

- Cansu Bahçeci, Şenay Üçdoğruk Birecikli, Ozgur Ozdamar and Eleftherios Giovanis

Short-Term Impacts of Unconditional Cash Transfers on Child Labor and Schooling in Turkey

- Aysun Hiziroglu Aygun

Theme: Labor Economics

Female Labor Force Participation and Early Marriage

**Parallel Session 9:**

Location: Regency 2

**Chairperson & Discussant**

- Ragui Assaad

**Papers & Speakers**

Harassment and Women's Employment: Micro-Level Evidence in Egypt

- Marina Hesham, Ariane Dupont-Kieffer, Racha Ramadan and Hanan Nazier

The Impact of Conflict on Early Marriage in Yemen: A Test of the Insecurity Mechanism

- Maia Sieverding

The Digital and Digitally Enabled Economy As A Driver of Women Employment? The Case of Jordan

- Tina Zintl



**Hybrid Session**  
Register to attend online



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## DAY 2 | Monday, April 28

## Parallel Sessions - Group (D) 11:00 - 12:30

### Theme: Macroeconomics

Productivity, Financial Inclusion and Market Power

#### Parallel Session 10:

Location: Regency 3

#### Chairperson & Discussant

- Abdullah Talha Yalta

#### Papers & Speakers

Fiscal Limits in the MENA Region: A Structural Analysis of Debt Sustainability

- Nadine Yamout

Market Power in The Middle East

- Yevgeniya Korniyenko, Ahmed Tohamy and Weining Xin

Financial Inclusion for Inclusive Growth

- Nidhaleddine Ben Cheikh and Christophe Rault

### Theme: Labor Economics

Gender Wage Gap and Unemployment Duration Gap

#### Parallel Session 11:

Location: Sky Meeting Room

#### Chairperson & Discussant

- Insan Tunali

#### Papers & Speakers

Examining the Gender Pay Gap Among Youth: Insights from Egypt, Jordan, and Palestine

- Ali Fakih and Sara Kassab

Occupational Segregation and the Gender Wage Gap in Egypt, 1998–2023

- Shireen Alazzawi and Vladimir Hlasny

Women's Waiting Time in Labor Market: Evidence from Iran

- Sana Rashidi, Kowsar Yousefi and Mohammad Hossein Rahmati

### Theme: Microeconomics

Informality and Sustainability

#### Parallel Session 12:

Location: Regency 2

#### Chairperson & Discussant

- Seyit Mumin Cilasun

#### Papers & Speakers

Impact of Informal Credit on the Informal Micro and Small Enterprises (MSEs): Evidence from Egypt

- Mohamed El-Komi and Pansye ElKashef

Innovation Activities and Sustainable Firm Growth in Arab Countries: The Role of Bank Funding, Institutional Quality and Bank Competition

- Ahmed Chafai, Rym Oueslati and Hatem Salah

The Impact of the Informal Sector on Firm Performance

- Hassan Ertuğrul, Ömer Tuğsal Doruk and Ömer Faruk Tekdoğan



**Hybrid Session**  
Register to attend online




**Monday, April 28**
**Parallel Sessions - Group (E)**  
**14:00 - 15:30**
**Theme: Political Economy**

Social Contract and Collective Action

**Parallel Session 13:**

Location: Regency 2

**Chairperson & Discussant**

- Nader Kabbani

**Papers & Speakers**

The Social Contract and Collective Action: Grievances, Cleavages, and Protests in Tunisia and Lebanon

- Markus Loewe and Holger Albrecht

Operationalising Social Contracts: Towards an Index of Government Deliverables

- Markus Loewe, Amirah El-Haddad and Tina Zintl

The Effect of the "Woman Life Freedom" Protests on Life Satisfaction in Iran: Evidence from Survey Data

- Mohammad Reza Farzanegan and Sven Fischer

**Theme: Environment & Energy**

The Economics of Climate Change

**Parallel Session 14:**

Location: Sky Meeting Room

**Chairperson & Discussant**

- Abeer Elshennawy

**Papers & Speakers**

Water Scarcity and Improved Water Use Efficiency in Tunisia

- Maha Mili, Mohamed Adel Dhif and Houyem Chekki

Dust Storms and House Prices

- Mohammad Ahmadizadeh, Amirhossein Amini and Hadi Esfahani

Teetering on the Brink of Debt and Hunger

- Assem Abu Hatab and Emmanuel Orkoh

Price Elasticity of Residential Natural Gas: Evidence from Billing Data in Iran

- Mohammad Mahdi Jafari and GholamReza Haddad

**Theme: Financial Economics**

Financial Inclusion

**Parallel Session 15:**

Location: Regency 3

**Chairperson & Discussant**

- Jasmin Fouad

**Papers & Speakers**

Do Policy Incentives Foster Wise Financial Choices or Encourage Missteps?

- Sadettin Haluk Çitçi, Halit Yanikkaya and Yunis Dede

Investor Herding and Islamic Moral Economy and Finance: Evidence in the Islamic Banking Sector of the GCC Stock Market

- Mustapha Chaffai, Imed Medhioub and Amir Saadaoui

Does High Liquidity Creation Reduce the Efficiency of GCC Islamic Banks? The Role of Sustainable and Governance Factors

- Wafa Khémiri


**Hybrid Session**  
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## Policy Dialogue on Renewable Energy in Promoting Growth

### Policy Dialogue on Renewable Energy in Promoting Growth, Food Security, and Climate Resilience

The nexus of water, food, and energy is critical to achieving sustainable development. Renewable energy plays a pivotal role in this nexus by providing clean and reliable energy solutions that support water management and agricultural productivity. Organized in partnership with IDRC, this session will explore how integrated policy approaches can harness the potential of renewable energy to drive economic growth, ensure food security, and enhance climate resilience. Two case studies supported by IDRC will be highlighted. One related to Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and solar-powered desalination for irrigation. The session aims to share latest research recommendations to senior policymakers from Egypt and Morocco.

## Meet Our Speakers



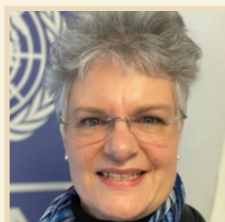
**Wessam El Beih**  
 International Development  
 Research Centre (IDRC)



**H.E. Rania Al Mashat**  
 Minister of Planning, Economic Development  
 and International Cooperation, Egypt



**Khalid Ghozlani**  
 International Development  
 Research Centre (IDRC)



**Mary Mathews**  
 United Nations  
 Development Programme



**Tayeb Amegroud**  
 OCP Policy Center Fellow,  
 Morocco



**DAY 3** | Tuesday, April 29

9:00 – 17:30

9:00 - 10:30 **Parallel Sessions Group (F)** Full details in page 16

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30 **Parallel Sessions Group (G)** Full details in page 17

12:30 - 14:00 Lunch Break

14:00 - 15:30 **Parallel Sessions Group (H)** Full details in page 18

15:30 - 16:00 Coffee Break

16:00 - 17:30 **Policy Dialogue on Renewable Energy in Promoting Growth, Food Security, and Climate Resilience**

*Location:*  
C-West Ball-  
room - 3<sup>rd</sup> floor

**Chairperson & Moderator:** Wessam El Beih, *International Development Research Centre (IDRC)*

**Panelists:** H.E. Rania Al Mashat, *Minister of Planning, Economic Development and International Cooperation, Egypt (TBC)*  
Khalid Ghozlani, *International Development Research Centre (IDRC)*  
Mary Mathews, *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)*  
Tayeb Amegroud, *OCP Policy Center Fellow, Morocco*



**Register to attend online**

Policy Dialogue on Renewable Energy in Promoting Growth, Food Security, and Climate Resilience



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## DAY 3 | Tuesday, April 29

## Parallel Sessions - Group (F) 9:00 - 10:30

Theme: International Economics

Trade and Power

### Parallel Session 16:

Location: Regency 3

#### Chairperson & Discussant

- Raed Safadi

#### Papers & Speakers

Twisting Ties: Analyzing the Impact of Shifting Diplomatic Relations on FDI in Egypt

- Ahmed Rashad

International Sanctions and Internal Conflict: The Case of Iran

- Mohammad Reza Farzanegan and Jerg Gutmann

The Impact of Soft Power on Inward Foreign Direct Investment in the MENA Region

- Helmi Mansour and Monia Ghazali

Theme: Environment & Energy

Climate Change

### Parallel Session 17:

Location: Sky Meeting Room

#### Chairperson & Discussant

- Hala Abou-Ali

#### Papers & Speakers

Climate Change Negotiations Under the Shadow of History

- Sheheryar Banuri, Ha M. Nguyen and Ernest J. Sergenti

CBAM and Exporting Sectors in the MENA Region

- Hoda Assem and Aya Elewa

Assessing Economic and Distributional Impacts of Restoring Degraded Rangelands in Jordan

- Sawsan Abdul-Jalil and Jonas Luckmann

A Dynamic Spatiotemporal Analysis of Growth Convergence, Natural Disasters and Climate Change in The MENA Region

- Jamel Boukhatem and Marouane Alaya



**Hybrid Session**  
Register to attend online

Theme: Labor Economics

Policy Regimes and Productivity

### Parallel Session 18:

Location: Regency 2

#### Chairperson & Discussant

- Murat Kirdar

#### Papers & Speakers

Firm-level Effects of Minimum Wages

- Yusuf Emre Akgunduz, Ugur Aytun and Seyit Mumin Cilasun

Do Employment Subsidies Have an Impact on Skill Intensity and Technological Level of Production?

- Güneş Aşık and Çağlar Yüncüler





**DAY 3** | Tuesday, April 29

Parallel Sessions - Group (G)  
11:00 - 12:30

Theme: Political Economy

Conflict

**Parallel Session 19:**

Location: Regency 2

**Chairperson & Discussant**

- Nader Habibi

**Papers & Speakers**

Impact of Ongoing Conflict and Pathways to Recovery in Sudan

- Khalid Siddig, James Thurlow, Mosab Ahmed, Josée Randriamamonjy and Mariam Raouf

The Long Shadow of PKK Conflict in Turkey

- Mevlude Akbulut-Yuksel  
Dozie Okoye and Belgi Turan

Theme: Microeconomics

Challenges of the Digital Economy

**Parallel Session 20:**

Location: Sky Meeting Room

**Chairperson & Discussant**

- Hassan Aly

**Papers & Speakers**

The Role of Artificial Intelligence Within the Algerian Economy:

An Opportunity or A Threat to the Job Market?

- Rachid Azzaz  
and Lylia Sami

Access and Use of Digital Technologies and Firm Performance: Evidence from a Firm-Level Survey in Egypt

- Emmanuel Orkoh  
and Assem Abu Hatab

From Bytes to Business: Mobile Broadband, Firm Creations and Digital Divide in Tunisia

- Jean-Baptiste Guiffard  
and Mohamed Ali Marouani



**Hybrid Session**  
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**DAY 3** | Tuesday, April 29

Parallel Sessions - Group (H)  
 14:00 - 15:30

**Theme: Microeconomics**

Analysis of Public Policies

**Parallel Session 21:**

Location: Regency 2

**Chairperson & Discussant**

- Rim Mouelhi

**Papers & Speakers**

Advancing Economic Freedom Through Digital Government in the MENA Region

- Amale El Maiss and Ola Sidani

The Impact of Price, Legality, and Flavor Availability on Consumer Decisions: A Discrete Choice Analysis of Nicotine Products in an Illicit Market

- Asena Caner, Belgi Turan, Berna Tari Kasnakoğlu and Yenal Can Yiğit

Explaining the Increase in Food Subsidy Expenditures in Tunisia

- Mustapha Jouili and Mohamed Amine Welleni

**Theme: Poverty and Inequality**

Cash Transfers, Poverty and Energy Transition

**Parallel Session 22:**

Location: Sky Meeting Room

**Chairperson & Discussant**

- Racha Ramadan

**Papers & Speakers**

Harnessing Administrative Data for Impact: The Case of Jordan's Unified Cash Transfer Programme

- Teresa Janz and Zina Nimeh

Powering Minds and Empowering Lives

- Yasmine Abdelfattah, Vladimir Hlasny, Shireen Alazzawi, Rania Megally and Hala Abou-Ali

Poverty Estimation in Data-Poor Countries: Parametric Approximations Based on Limited Statistics

- Hassan Hamie, Jinane Jouni and Vladimir Hlasny



**Hybrid Session**  
 Register to attend online



# General Information and Links

## Conference Venue and Facilities

Hyatt Regency Cairo West  
Pyramids Heights Business Park,  
Km 22 Cairo - Alexandria Desert Rd,  
First 6th of October, Giza, 8655, Egypt

All plenary sessions will take place in  
**C-West Ballroom - on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor**

All other parallel sessions will be in breakout rooms:  
**Regency 2, Regency 3, and Sky Meeting Room**  
**- All on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor**

Wi-Fi connection will be accessible across the entire hotel  
for all participants.

## Conference Material

All information about the plenary sessions can be accessed  
through the following link:

<https://bit.ly/43ECTTi>

All conference papers for the parallel sessions can be ac-  
cessed the following link:

<https://bit.ly/43y0wNa>

For further information or queries, please contact:  
Mrs. Hoda Azmi - Conference Manager  
[hazmi@erf.org.eg](mailto:hazmi@erf.org.eg)

## Virtual Attendance\*

To attend all the annual conference hybrid sessions,  
please register through the following links:

### April 27, 2025

- Opening Ceremony & Keynote Speeches
- Parallel 2 - International Economics
- Parallel 5 - Macroeconomics
- Special Panel A: Recent Trends in the Egyptian Labor Market

### April 28, 2025

- Parallel 8 - Poverty and Inequality
- Parallel 11 - Labor Economics
- Parallel 14 - Environment & Energy
- Special Panel B: Global Value Chains and Sustainable Development

### April 29, 2025

- Parallel 17 - Environment & Energy
- Parallel 20 - Microeconomics
- Parallel 22 - Poverty and Inequality
- Policy Dialogue and Closing Session

\* Please note that Egypt will begin observing daylight saving time on April 25, 2025. This will change the Egyptian time zone ahead of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) and Greenwich Mean Time (GMT) to be three hours ahead (GMT+3) and (UTC+3). Kindly double-check the time difference with your local timezone to avoid any confusion.



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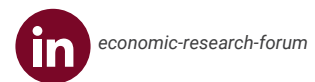
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