
The Future of Syria: Towards Inclusive Peacebuilding

Chatham House, London | 15 March 2019 | #CHSyria

The Syrian conflict's continuation reveals the level of complexity in finding a road map to achieving sustainable peace, while Syria rapidly loses its human, social, physical, financial and natural assets. Yet the international community's efforts focus mainly on the balancing of power between fighting parties and on short-term stabilization instead of negotiating an inclusive peace agreement.

This conference brings together policymakers, experts, academics and civil society leaders to identify the main institutional and socio-economic challenges to stabilization in Syria, and to offer policy recommendations in support of an inclusive peacebuilding process.

08.45 – 09.15 *Registration and Refreshments*

09.15 – 09.30 *Opening Remarks*

Lina Khatib, Chatham House

09.30 – 11.00 *Session 1: Conflict Economy Dynamics*

The first session will provide an overview of the conflict's impact on different economic sectors and will offer examples of coping strategies utilised by local communities. It will also focus on the competition between different external actors and how they cooperate with internal ones to benefit from the Syrian conflict economy. Speakers will also discuss the effect of the conflict economy on the restoration of state functions.

Speakers

Basma Alloush, Norwegian Refugee Council

Haid Haid, Chatham House

Sinan Hatahet, Omran Center for Strategic Studies

Moderator: Emma Beals, Syria in Context

11.00 – 11.30 *Refreshments*

11.30 – 13.00 *Session 2: The Politics of Reconstruction*

This session will explore the current political context and funding mechanisms for reconstruction, and the social, economic and demographic implications for Syrians inside and outside of the country. It will offer policy recommendations in support of the formation of an inclusive reconstruction process.

Speakers

Steven Heydemann, Smith College

Nader Kabbani, Brookings Doha Center

Alia Moubayed, Jefferies International

Moderator: Neil Quilliam, Chatham House

13.00 – 14.00 *Lunch*

14.00 – 15.30 *Session 3: Challenges for Social Cohesion*

This panel will discuss the main drivers of deterioration in social cohesion and social capital, and will explore mechanisms used by different actors to increase polarization in Syrian society. Speakers will propose policy options to restore Syria's social capital and to create a hospitable environment for returnees.

Speakers

Ruwan Al-Rejoleh, Independent Researcher
Allaa Barri, Chatham House
Zaki Mehchy, Chatham House

Moderator: Sara Kayyali, Human Rights Watch

15.30 – 16.00 *Refreshments*

16.00 – 17.30 *Session 4: Beyond Stabilization and Towards Inclusivity*

This session will discuss current stabilization negotiations that focus on power redistribution among dominant parties. It will also highlight the role of external actors in any potential agreement and how they can support Syrian civil society to achieve sustainable peace.

Speakers

Salma Kahale, Dawlaty
Lina Khatib, Chatham House
Lina Sinjab, Chatham House

Moderator: Ruth Citrin, Chatham House

17.30 – 18.30 *Reception*