



**CHATHAM
HOUSE**

Iraq Initiative Conference 2025

Wednesday 1 October

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Iraq Initiative Conference 2025

As Iraq approaches a pivotal election in 2025, the country stands at a crossroads – balancing fragile stability with deep-seated governance challenges. The current economic climate shows positive momentum, driven by steady oil revenues, renewed infrastructure development, and expanding regional trade partnerships. Yet, beneath this progress lie mounting pressures: entrenched political fragmentation, a frustrated and growing youth population, an increasingly volatile regional environment, and escalating vulnerabilities to climate change.

With economic sustainability tied to the volatility of global oil markets and further complicated by uncertain regional and international trajectories, Iraq is striving to diversify its economy, attract foreign investment, and capitalise on its strategic position as a vital trade corridor linking Asia and Europe. Yet regionally, Iraq remains deeply enmeshed in shifting geopolitical currents. The reconfiguration of the ‘axis of resistance,’ Iran’s recalibrated influence amid its war with Israel, the evolving dynamics of the US–Iran confrontation, and the aftermath of regime change in neighbouring Syria all carry profound implications that shape Iraq’s security landscape, economic prospects, and political future.

Amid these shifting dynamics, Iraq must carefully navigate its relationships with regional powers, and manage and broaden its partnerships with the US and other global powers to safeguard its stability and foster sustainable growth, all while undertaking critical domestic reforms to address governance shortcomings.

Chatham House’s 7th annual Iraq Initiative conference explores key questions including:

- How can Iraq foster long-term stability in an era marked by regional and global uncertainty?
- What measures are essential to build a more resilient and inclusive economy that prioritises societal well-being?
- What roles should regional and international actors play in these efforts?

Join Iraqi and international policymakers, experts, and civil society as they convene in London to examine the pressing challenges facing Iraq and explore the country’s trajectory in the year ahead.



08.45 – 09.30 *Registration and refreshments*

09.30 – 10.00 **Opening Keynote | In conversation with Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani**

Speaker: HE Mohammed Shia' al-Sudani, Prime Minister, Republic of Iraq (*via Zoom*)

Moderator: Dr Renad Mansour, Senior Research Fellow, Middle East and North Africa Programme, Director of the Iraq Initiative, Chatham House

10.00 – 11.15 **Plenary Session 1 | Iraq's in an election year: Navigating the 2025 political landscape**

Over the past two years, Iraq has experienced a period of relative political and security stability and modest economic progress, despite mounting instability across the region. As the country moves towards its 2025 parliamentary elections, power has consolidated around the Shia Coordination Framework, with Prime Minister Sudani carefully balancing competing interests. Yet this equilibrium is under growing strain. Rivalries within the Shia camp are deepening, the Sadrists are still boycotting the formal political scene, and Erbil–Baghdad relations remain mired in unresolved disputes. Meanwhile, both Sunni and Kurdish parties remain fragmented, having seen their influence and autonomy significantly curtailed vis-à-vis the central government. Public disillusionment continues to mount, as the reformist momentum once carried by Tishreen-backed MPs has largely stalled under pressure from the political system.

The first session brings together policymakers and experts to examine the shifting positions of Iraq's key political actors and movements. It will explore whether the 2025 elections might offer a recalibration of power-sharing in Iraq or instead reinforce the dominance of the current ruling coalition. The discussion will also address the implications of this trajectory for the upcoming government formation process, as well as its broader impact on Iraq's political stability.

Speakers

Abbas Al-Anburi, Founder and President, Baghdad Rewaq Center for Public Policy

Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman, Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister, Foreign Affairs and Climate Change, Kurdistan Regional Government

Dr Munqith Dagher, CEO and Founder, Independent Institute of Administration and Civil Society Studies (IIACSS); Board Member, Gallup International

Dr Renad Mansour, Senior Research Fellow, Middle East and North Africa Programme; Director, Iraq Initiative, Chatham House

Moderator: Maryam Nemazee, News anchor, Broadcaster and Journalist

11.15 – 11.45 *Refreshments break*

11.45 – 13.00 **Plenary Session 2 | Infrastructure in the twilight: Can Iraq sustain its progress**

In recent years, Iraq has witnessed a visible wave of infrastructure development – new roads, revitalised public spaces, and ambitious state-led projects – that signal a country on a positive trajectory. Yet beneath this surface-level progress lies a critical question: is this development sustainable? The answer can only be found by examining the deeper social and political foundations that support (or undermine) it. While these developments signal progress, they risk primarily benefiting urban elites, leaving rural areas and broader populations underserved. Meanwhile, critical challenges in the energy sector persist – from unreliable electricity supply and inefficient generation to underinvestment in renewables and continued dependence on oil revenues.

Environmental pressures, including water scarcity and pollution, remain unaddressed due to insufficient long-term planning. The lack of integration between infrastructure projects and energy reform further weakens Iraq's ability to diversify its economy or deliver reliable services. Without targeted reforms, these imbalances risk deepening social divides and fuelling instability. Panellists examine the impact of Iraq's infrastructure growth and explore what must be done to ensure that this progress is not only sustainable but also inclusive of society.

Speakers

Dr Mehdi Alhaddad, Senior Engineer, Transport for London

Lahib Higel, Interim Deputy Program Director, Middle East and North Africa; Senior Analyst for Iraq, International Crisis Group

Harry Istepanian, Co-Founder and Programs Director, Iraq Climate Change Center (IC3+)

Yousif Maki Knawi, Governor of Najaf

Moderator: Dr Mac Skelton, Director, Institute of Regional and International Studies (IRIS), American University of Iraq, Sulaimani; Senior Research Fellow, King's College London

13.00 – 14.15 **Networking lunch**

14.15 – 15.30 **Plenary Session 3 | Iraq's economic-demographic dilemma: Is there a way forward?**

Iraq has one of the world's fastest-growing populations, with over 60 percent under the age of 25. Each year, hundreds of thousands of young Iraqis enter a labour market already under immense strain. Successive governments have continued to rely on an overstretched public sector to absorb this demand, pushing the state budget to its limits. While reform initiatives such as the 2020 White Paper laid out a vision for economic restructuring, implementation has stalled due to a lack of sustained political commitment. With oil revenues still forming the backbone of the economy and private sector growth limited, Iraq risks a growing gap between demographic realities and economic capacity.

This session explores the structural challenges that continue to hinder Iraq's economic transformation, and what steps are needed to prepare for future labour market demands, reduce dependency on oil, and invest in the country's young population as a driver of long-term economic resilience and inclusive growth.

Speakers

Raghad Al-Abboodi, Founder and Director, She Codes Too

Dr Amer Al-Adhath, Advisor, Office of the Prime Minister of Iraq; Chief Executive, Reform Management Cell

Hayder Al-Shakeri, Research Fellow, Middle East and North Africa Programme, Chatham House

Dr Ziad Daoud, Chief Emerging Markets Economist, Bloomberg; Senior Fellow, Middle East Initiative, Harvard Kennedy School

Moderator: Dr Lina Khatib, Associate Fellow, Middle East and North Africa Programme, Chatham House

15.30 – 15.45 *Comfort break*

15.45 – 17.15 **Plenary Session 4 | Iraq's delicate balancing act in a shifting Middle East**

Iraq sits at the crossroads of a Middle East in flux, amid profound regional and geopolitical shifts. While the country has experienced a period of relative calm, this stability remains fragile – threatened by intensifying Israel-Iran rivalry, doubts over the US's long-term role, and uncertainty over shifting regional dynamics. Iraq's political leadership faces the complex task of sustaining a foreign policy of strategic multi-alignment: balancing relations with the US and its allies, while also maintaining close ties with Iran, China, and other emerging powers. This balancing act is shaped by competing pressures – domestic political consolidation, foreign influence, and a strategic yet at times strained partnership with Washington. As Iraq heads toward national elections, the durability of the country's capacity to navigate competing external influences will be tested.

Speakers explore Iraq's evolving place in the shifting Middle Eastern landscape, the risks and opportunities posed by its regional relationships, and the future of the country's foreign relations.

Speakers

Dr Mohamed Al Hassan, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General for Iraq; Head of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI)

Farhad Alaaldin, Advisor, Foreign Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister of Iraq

Maria Luisa Fantappiè, Head, Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa Programme, Istituto Affari Internazionali

Stephen Hickey, Director, Middle East and North Africa, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

HE Dr Saeed Khatibzadeh, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Islamic Republic of Iran; President, Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS)

Moderator: Dr Sanam Vakil, Director, Middle East and North Africa Programme, Chatham House

17.15 – 18.30 *Conference close and networking reception*

Ruins, Rubble, and Renewal

The Chatham House Iraq Initiative Conference 2025 features an exhibition of Iraqi artwork which forms part of a collaborative research project titled [‘Ruins, Rubble, and Renewal: Exploring Iraq’s Mesopotamian Past through Contemporary Art’](#).

The exhibition is curated by the project’s founder and principal investigator, Hanaa Malallah, and features works by Iraqi artists Reyah Abd Al-Redah, Mohammed Abd Al Wasi, Fatima Jawdat, Betoul Ameen, and Kadhim Nwir.

This long-term, interdisciplinary project seeks to help Iraqis in reconnecting with their ancient Mesopotamian and cultural heritage sites, while inspiring them to reimagine their future by drawing inspiration from the past.

The project explores the potential for a form of artistic research that attends to Iraq’s political and social context, and to a new aesthetic where this ancient Mesopotamian heritage is reclaimed for Iraq’s current traumatic identity, and its people’s future.

Through collaborative research, the project engages with this ancient heritage as a reciprocal relationship with the unbroken continuity of its history – where ruins and their attendant rubble enable creative responses and where past and present merge into new possibilities – as renewal.



www.3rrr.site

Speaker profiles



Engineer Muhammad Shia' al-Sudani became Iraq's Prime Minister on 27 October 2022 after being officially assigned by the President of the Republic, Abd al-Latif Rashid, to form the government. Al-Sudani won membership in the Parliament representing Baghdad for three consecutive terms in 2014, 2018, and 2021. Al-Sudani, held the position of Minister of Human Rights from 2010 to 2014, and was appointed acting minister of the Ministry of Migration and Displacement, the Ministry of Agriculture, and head of the Political Prisoners Association. He served as Minister of Labor and Social Affairs in 2014-18, and at the same time, as acting Minister of Industry and the Ministries of Commerce and Finance.

Al-Sudani began his political life after the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003, and held a number of civil service positions between 2004 and 2010, including: the mayor of the city of Amarah, a member of the Maysan Provincial Council, then governor of Maysan Governorate. Al-Sudani was one of the candidates for the position of prime minister in 2019 after the resignation of former Prime Minister Adel Abdul-Mahdi, amid protests in October 2019. Al-Sudani founded the Euphrates Movement in January 2019, and he is its elected general secretary. Al-Sudani was a chairman and member of dozens of government service committees, drawing up local strategies and international relations, and mobilizing political and popular pressure to protect the Iraqi industry. He holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural sciences from the University of Baghdad.



Farhad Alaaldin is an Advisor on Foreign Relations to the Prime Minister of Iraq Mohammad Shia al-Sudani. He is Head of the Iraqi Advisory Council and previously served as Political Advisor to Presidents Barham Saleh and Fuad Masum. Earlier, he was Chief of Staff (2009–2011) and Senior Advisor (2011–2012) to the Prime Minister of the Kurdish Regional Government. Farhad holds a BA in Law from AlBayan University, Baghdad, and master's degree in Leading Innovation and Change from York St. John University, UK.



Raghda Al-Abboodi is the founder and director of She Codes Too, a charity she established to equip women in Iraq with digital and technical skills for careers in the tech sector. Under her leadership, She Codes Too provides practical training and supports women's entry into technology roles. Previously, Raghda worked as a software engineer in Stockholm and as a university lecturer in Baghdad. She holds an MSc in Advanced Computing from the University of Bristol and a BSc in Computer Science from the University of Babylon. Raghda is committed to advancing women's participation in technology and building a more inclusive and diverse tech community.

Speaker profiles



Abbas Al-Anburi is the Founder and President of the Baghdad Rewaq Center for Public Policy. He holds a master's degree in public policy from the University of Malaya and is pursuing a PhD at the National University of Malaysia. He has also completed academic programs at Hiroshima City University in Peace Studies and at the University of Marburg on political transformations in the Middle East. Al-Anburi previously served as Head of International Relations at the Iraqi Council of Representatives (2006) and, since 2014, has been a Political Advisor to the Council's Foreign Relations Committee. He is a regular commentator on political affairs and publishes widely on intellectual and political issues.



Dr Amer Al-Adhahd is Chief Executive of Iraq's Reform Management Cell, Advisor to the Prime Minister, and a member of the UNECE PPP Working Party. His academic work spans complexity theory, game theory, and financial economics, with research on military spending, market equilibrium, and dynamic game models. He has received awards from the Institute for Mathematical Behavioural Sciences (2004) and the Institute for the Study of Complexity in Paris (2008). He is currently writing a book on Iraq's political economy, exploring the resource curse and institutional reform.



Dr Mehdi Alhaddad is a Chartered Engineer with over 15 years of multidisciplinary experience across the civil infrastructure sector. His career spans client-side leadership, design consultancy, and on-site delivery for some of the UK's most complex and high-profile infrastructure projects. Mehdi holds a PhD from the University of Cambridge and completed his undergraduate studies at University College London, including a year abroad at Columbia University in New York. Mehdi currently leads infrastructure design and asset resilience strategies at Transport for London, ensuring the safety and sustainability of critical underground systems. Prior to joining TfL, Mehdi worked at Arup, contributing to some of the world's most complex civil engineering projects.



Dr Mohamed Al Hassan was appointed Special Representative for Iraq and Head of the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) by UN Secretary-General António Guterres in July 2024. Dr Al Hassan career spans over 30 years working on preventive diplomacy, peacebuilding and development. He previously served as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary/Permanent Representative of the Sultanate of Oman to the UN since August 2019. Prior to that, he held various positions at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Muscat, including Acting Under-Secretary for Diplomatic Affairs, Chief of Staff to the Minister Responsible for Foreign Affairs, and Head of the Minister's Department at the Foreign Ministry. Among various senior-level positions, Dr Al Hassan served as Ambassador of the Sultanate of Oman to the Russian Federation and concurrently as non-resident Ambassador to Belarus, Ukraine, Armenia and Moldova. Prior to that, he was Deputy Permanent Representative of Oman to the UN in New York, and, previously, Deputy Permanent Representative of Oman to the UN in Geneva. Dr Al Hassan holds a bachelor's degree in political science from the University of Washington, a master's in international relations from St John's University, and a PhD in economics from Moscow State University. He speaks Arabic, English, Norwegian and Russian.

Speaker profiles



Hayder Al-Shakeri is a Research Fellow with the Middle East and North Africa programme at Chatham House. Prior to joining Chatham House, Hayder supported the Arab regional cooperation programme in the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining. Before this, he worked with the UN and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency in Baghdad. He frequently provides commentary on Iraqi affairs on several platforms. Hayder holds a BA in public administration and political studies from the American University of Beirut (AUB), and an MSc in development studies from SOAS, University of London. He is also a fellow with the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC).



Dr Munqith Dagher is the CEO and Founder of Almustakilla group for research (IIACSS). He is also Director of West Asia and North Africa in the World Association of Public Opinion Research (WAPOR) and a Board Member at Gallup International. He was Advisor the Prime Minister of Iraq between 2021 and 2022. Dr Dagher conducted Iraq's first-ever public opinion poll and since that time has been responsible for undertaking over 2,000,000 interviews for a range of agencies and topics. He established IIACSS in 2003 while he was a Professor of Public Administration and Strategic Management at Baghdad University. He has managed more than 800 public opinion and various market research projects, becoming one of the most cited sources on public opinion in Iraq and the Arab world. He was awarded the Ginny Valentine Badge of Courage for Bravery from the Research Liberation Front in 2015 and became a board member and director of the MENA region at Gallup International in 2018. Dr Dagher holds a PhD in Public Administration from the University of Baghdad, and master's degree in war sciences.



Dr Ziad Daoud is the Chief Emerging Markets Economist at Bloomberg, and a Senior Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School's Middle East Initiative. Prior to that, he was the Chief Middle East Economist at Bloomberg, Head of Economics at QNB Group, and an economist at Fulcrum Asset Management. He holds a PhD in economics from the London School of Economics and a BSc in economics and statistics from University College London.



Maria Luisa Fantappiè is Head of the Mediterranean, Middle East and Africa programme at Istituto Affari Internazionali and an external adviser to the EU Special Representative for the Gulf. She served as Special Adviser at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue in Geneva (2020-2023) and at the International Crisis Group (2012-2020), engaging at the highest level of policy in Europe, the United States and across MENA (Iraq, Jordan, Saudi Arabia, Iran, Qatar, Oman and United Arab Emirates). Her research interests include the MENA region, EU foreign policy and great powers competition in this area, conflict prevention and mediation as well as cultural diplomacy. She has published in Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, The New York Times, La Repubblica, and frequently provides expert insights to international and Italian news outlets such as the New York Times, Financial Times, The Wall Street Journal, the Washington Post, Al-Jazeera, NPR e Radio 3 Mondo.

Speaker profiles



Stephen Hickey was appointed Director for the Middle East and North Africa at the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in 2022. Prior to that, he was Her Majesty's Ambassador to Iraq in September 2019. Prior to this appointment, he was the Ambassador and Political Co-ordinator in the UK Permanent Mission to the United Nations. Stephen joined the FCO (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) in 2001 as a Desk Officer in the South East Asian Department. Some of his previous postings include Deputy Head of Mission to Egypt (2013 to 2015) and Syria (2010 to 2011); Political Counsellor in South Africa (2011 to 2012) and Head of Office and Deputy Special Representative for Libya (2011). He is an Arabic speaker and has made the Middle East a focus of his career.



Lahib Higel is the Interim Deputy Program Director for the Middle East and North Africa and Senior Analyst for Iraq at Crisis Group, focusing on politics, governance, security, and conflict. She has worked in Iraq and the Kurdistan region since 2013, with experience at the Dialogue Advisory Group, INSO, and as a researcher for the EU, UNDP, and Minority Rights Group. She holds an MSc in International Relations from LSE and an MA in International Security from Sciences Po, Paris.



Harry Istepanian is co-founder and Program Director of the Iraq Climate Change Center (IC3+), a Washington DC-based think tank. An independent energy and water specialist with more than 35 years of experience, he has led large-scale projects across Southeast Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, New Zealand, and Australia. He previously held senior roles with international engineering consultancies, including WSP | Parsons Brinckerhoff and AECOM. After 2003, he served as a senior adviser to the Coalition Provisional Authority on Iraq's electricity sector, and he has been engaged by the World Bank, USAID, GIZ, and the US Trade and Development Agency on assignments in Asia and Africa, and most recently with CCAC on short-lived climate pollutants for Iraq. Istepanian is recognized for his pioneering work on energy economics, policy, and reform in post-conflict states, particularly Iraq. He has published widely in outlets such as the Brookings Institution, the Atlantic Council, the Washington Institute, Power Engineering International, Petroleum Economist, and The Electricity Journal.



Dr Lina Khatib is an associate fellow with the Middle East and North Africa Programme at Chatham House and visiting scholar with the Harvard Kennedy School's Middle East Initiative at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. Previously, she was director of the SOAS Middle East Institute and Professor of Practice at the Department of Politics and International Studies at SOAS University of London. Prior to that, she served as director of the Middle East and North Africa programme at Chatham House and director of the Carnegie Middle East Center at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. She also co-founded and led the Program on Arab Reform and Democracy at Stanford University's Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law and was a senior associate at the Arab Reform Initiative. She has published several books and is a frequent writer and commentator on current affairs in the Middle East.

Speaker profiles



HE Dr Saeed Khatibzadeh is Deputy Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran and President of the Institute for Political and International Studies (IPIS). Prior to the current position, he has worked as Ambassador of Iran to Croatia, Deputy Foreign Minister and Spokesman of Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Adviser to Foreign Minister, and Director General of the IPIS. He has also been posted to Iran's embassies in Germany and Canada. During his career, Dr Khatibzadeh has also published and conducted numerous articles and national projects and has officially represented Iran in various international events and assemblies. His Excellency Dr Khatibzadeh joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1998.



Yousif Maki Knawi has served as Governor of Najaf since early 2024, following his election by the provincial council. Born in 1983 in the old city of Najaf, he holds a bachelor's degree in political science and a master's degree in computer engineering. Prior to his appointment, he worked as a chief engineer at the Ministry of Oil. Knawi advanced through leadership roles within the Hikma Movement and is now considered one of the most prominent emerging figures in the local political scene.



Dr Renad Mansour is a Senior Research Fellow with the Middle East and North Africa Programme and Director of the Iraq Initiative at Chatham House. He is also a senior research fellow at the American University of Iraq, Sulaimani, and a research fellow at the Cambridge Security Initiative based at Cambridge University. Dr Mansour was previously a lecturer at the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), where he taught the international relations of the Middle East and, from 2013, he held positions as lecturer of international studies and supervisor at the Faculty of Politics, also at Cambridge. He was previously a senior research fellow at the Iraq Institute for Strategic Studies in Beirut and was adviser to the Kurdistan Regional Government Civil Society Ministry between 2008 and 2010. He received his PhD from Cambridge University. He is co-author of *Once Upon a Time in Iraq*, published by BBC Books/Penguin to accompany the critically acclaimed BBC series.



Maryam Nemazee is a television news presenter, correspondent, broadcaster and journalist. For over fifteen years she has worked on multiple continents, across a variety of countries in Europe, the US, the Middle East, and Asia. She's covered global news and international politics with a particular focus on the Middle East. Previously, Maryam was a London-based anchor and correspondent with Bloomberg Television during the peak of the 2008 global financial crisis. She was the host of the prime-time morning programme broadcast across all global markets. Prior to that she was selected as one of the original anchors for Al Jazeera International. She was on air broadcasting during the first 14 hours of the channel's launch. Maryam is a graduate of the University of Durham, and City University in the UK.

Speaker profiles



Bayan Sami Abdul Rahman is Senior Advisor for Foreign Affairs and Climate Change to Prime Minister Masrour Barzani of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG), where she consolidates climate efforts across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq and advise the Prime Minister on his climate action strategy. Prior to her current post, Ms. Abdul Rahman was the KRG Representative to the United States of America from 2015 to 2023, and to the United Kingdom from 2005 to 2015. Ms. Abdul Rahman worked as a journalist for various British newspapers for 17 years, including the Financial Times, before her career in public service. She was elected the Kurdistan Democratic Party Leadership Council from 2010 to 2022 and remains a committed member of the party.



Dr Mac Skelton is Executive Director of the Institute of Regional and International Studies (IRIS) at the American University of Iraq, Sulaimani, and a Senior Research Fellow at King's College London. Trained as an anthropologist, he has led fieldwork and research across Iraq and the MENA region, focusing on conflict's impact on health systems, the climate-health nexus, and water governance. His research has been published in medical journals such as The Lancet and a variety of policy publications. He holds a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Johns Hopkins University and an M.A. in Anthropology from the American University of Beirut.



Dr Sanam Vakil is Director of the Middle East and North Africa Programme at Chatham House. Her expertise spans Iranian and Gulf politics, regional security dynamics, and US foreign policy, with a particular focus on the evolving strategic landscape of the Middle East and its global connectivity. In addition to her policy work, Vakil holds the James Anderson Professorial Lectureship in Middle East Studies at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS Europe) in Bologna, Italy, where she has taught Middle East politics since 2008. She previously served on the faculty of SAIS Washington's Middle East Studies Program.



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This conference is organized by the Middle East and North Africa Programme as part of Chatham House's Iraq Initiative.

The Chatham House *Iraq Initiative* tackles the root causes of state failure to challenge assumptions held in Western capitals about stabilization and peacebuilding and reach a more nuanced approach to navigating Iraq's complex and interlinked political, security, and economic environment.

The work is based on original analysis and close engagement with a network of researchers and institutions inside Iraq. At the local level, it maps key political, business, military, tribal, clerical, and civil society figures across Iraq. At the national level, it explores the struggle over the state.

Field-based insights are used to inform international policy towards Iraq. Chatham House convenes Iraq Initiative activities in the Middle East, the UK, the US and Europe.



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