



| Chatham House Middle East & North Africa Programme |
Hosted in partnership with the Arab Stabilization Plan

Economies in Transition: Strategic Planning in a Changing Middle East

17 September 2013

09.15 *Registration: Coffee and pastries*

09.30 **The Macroeconomic Outlook for the Arab World**

What is the broad outlook for the Arab economies over the next five years, in a context of continued uncertainty? Are governments and international financial institutions making the right policy prescriptions to deal with issues of fiscal sustainability, especially subsidy reform, job creation and private sector development?

Speakers: Dr Florence Eid, Founder & CEO, Arabia Monitor
Bjorn Rother, Advisor, International Monetary Fund
Chair: David Butter, Associate Fellow, Chatham House

11.00 *Coffee break*

11.30 **Structural Economic Challenges and the Role of the Private Sector**

The second session will focus on practical solutions relating to both short-term capital infusion and long-term economic reform. Participants will discuss innovative solutions and fresh approaches to business as a means to creating a more inclusive, less cronyistic private sector.

Speakers: Rabea Ataya, CEO, Chairman, CoFounder, Bayt.com
Dr Steffen Hertog, Senior Lecturer, London School of Economics
Majid Jafar, CEO, Crescent Petroleum
Chair: Dr Claire Spencer, MENA Programme Head, Chatham House

12.30 *Lunch*

13.30 **The International Response**

What is the outlook for financial and technical support to the Arab world? How are the transitions affecting aid and investment? What are the implications of the recent developments in Egypt for Western and Gulf aid policies and for multilateral efforts such as the Deauville Partnership? And what role are regional public and private sector actors likely to play?

Speaker: David Butter, Associate Fellow, Chatham House
Chair: Jane Kinninmont, Senior Research Fellow, Chatham House

15.00 *Close*

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