

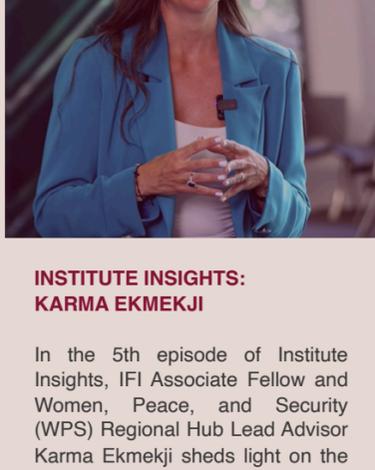


# IFI NEWSLETTER

November-December 2024



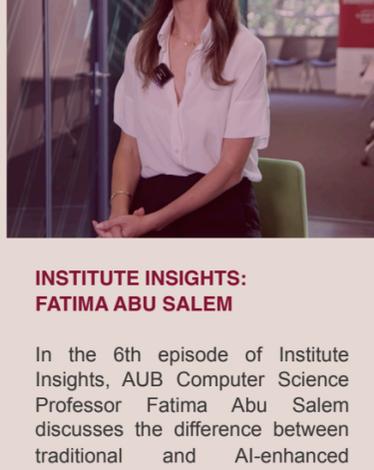
## NEWS



### INSTITUTE INSIGHTS: KARMA EKMEKJI

In the 5th episode of Institute Insights, IFI Associate Fellow and Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Regional Hub Lead Advisor Karma Ekmekji sheds light on the WPS Agenda's significance and main implementation challenges on the eve of the Agenda's 25th Anniversary.

[Watch Here](#)



### INSTITUTE INSIGHTS: FATIMA ABU SALEM

In the 6th episode of Institute Insights, AUB Computer Science Professor Fatima Abu Salem discusses the difference between traditional and AI-enhanced policymaking, how AI can help shape the policymaking process, and whether it could ever replace the human contribution to the process.

[Watch Here](#)



### THE CLI-HEALTH PROGRAM: CLIMATE CHANGE, HEALTH, AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Global Health Institute (GHI) in collaboration with IFI and Asfari Institute, with the support of IDRC & the Ford Foundation, launched the Cli-Health Program on October 23, 2024, in a virtual event with around 100 representatives from different organizations including funding agencies, UN organizations, the public sector, academia and civil society. This program aims to explore the nexus of the Climate Change, Health, and social justice with a focus on the MENA region.

[Read More](#)



### SWANA FoW HUB CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Early Career Scholars Program at the SWANA Future of Work Hub is your chance to join a dynamic research community at the American University of Beirut for the 2025-2026 academic year. This fully funded opportunity supports PhD candidates and recent graduates researching AI, climate change, and the future of work in the SWANA region. Based in Lebanon, you'll contribute to transformative research, gain expert mentorship, and connect with the global FutureWORKS Collective network.

[Read More](#)



## PUBLICATIONS



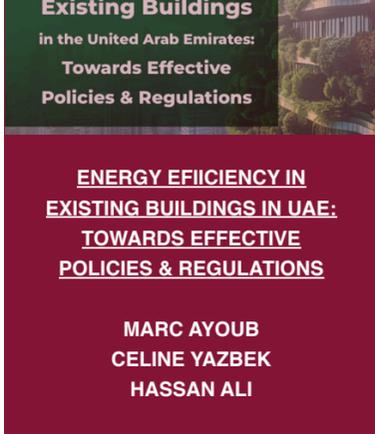
### THE "UNNECESSARY WAR" SOME PRINCIPLES AND A ROADMAP

ALBERT KOSTANIAN



### FIXING FUEL FLOWS: PETROLEUM AND FINANCE TRAJECTORIES IN LEBANON

CHARLES LAWRIE



Whitepaper

### Energy Efficiency in Existing Buildings in the United Arab Emirates: Towards Effective Policies & Regulations

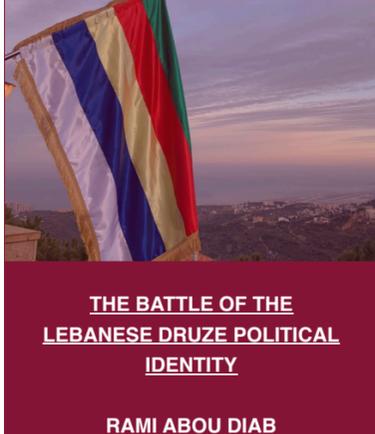
### ENERGY EFFICIENCY IN EXISTING BUILDINGS IN UAE: TOWARDS EFFECTIVE POLICIES & REGULATIONS

MARC AYOUB  
CELINE YAZBEK  
HASSAN ALI



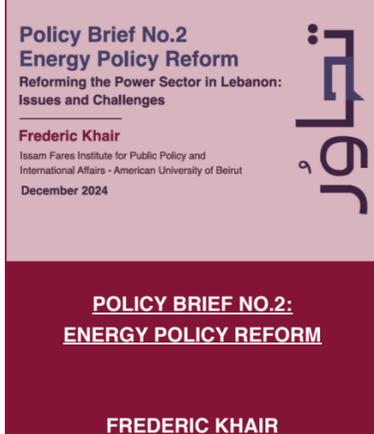
### EMERGING FROM THE ASHES: A SNAPSHOT OF SYRIA ON THE EVE OF REGIME COLLAPSE

ZEDOUN ALZOUBI  
OMAR ABDULAZIZ HALLAJ  
NIHAD ALAMIRI



### THE BATTLE OF THE LEBANESE DRUZE POLITICAL IDENTITY

RAMI ABOU DIAB



### Policy Brief No.2 Energy Policy Reform

Reforming the Power Sector in Lebanon: Issues and Challenges

Frederic Khair  
Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs - American University of Beirut  
December 2024

### POLICY BRIEF NO.2: ENERGY POLICY REFORM

FREDERIC KHAIR



## POLICY BLOG



### The Middle East Viewed From Eurasia: It's All About Realpolitik

"Eurasian powers are not in a position to form a unilateral alliance or bloc to contain the US just yet... [and] will continue engaging in a strategic balancing between Iran and Israel to secure their geopolitical and geo-economic interests."

[Read More](#)



### Lebanon on the Grey List: What You Need to Know

"To get off a list, a country must address the deficiencies that were identified by the FATF assessment. This is not an impossible task."

[Read More](#)



### Lebanon's Post-War Economy: No Substitute to Reform

Without comprehensive reforms "Lebanon will remain as an economy of illusory prosperity, scrambling to make the most of, and save as much from, short-term gains, in the midst of growing inequality, until the next storm hits."

[Read More](#)



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### INTERNSHIP PROGRAM: SPRING COHORT NOW OPEN FOR APPLICATIONS

To all university students interested in public policy and international affairs: spread the word and make sure you apply to our Institute's Spring 2025 Internship Program!  
Deadline: Friday, December 27, 2024.

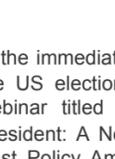
[Read More](#)



### IFI IN THE NEWS: ONGOING ANALYSIS

IFI's inhouse and fellow experts featured on local, regional and international media, discussing the escalation of the war on Lebanon and its repercussions. Read and listen to their interventions in our X thread.

[Read More](#)



## EVENTS

11/08/2024

### AN INCOMING PRESIDENT: A NEW US MIDDLE EAST POLICY AMIDST TURMOIL?

In the immediate aftermath of the US elections, IFI held a webinar titled "An Incoming President: A New US Middle East Policy Amidst Turmoil?" The discussion reviewed the legacy of the Biden administration and what to expect from the upcoming Trump administration and its implications for the region.

[Watch here](#)

### AN INCOMING PRESIDENT: A NEW US MIDDLE EAST POLICY AMIDST TURMOIL?

**SPEAKERS**

- RANDA SLIM**  
Senior Fellow and Director, Conflict Resolution and Track II Dialogues program, Middle East Institute & Non-resident Fellow, SAIS Foreign Policy Institute
- TAREK MASOUD**  
Ford Foundation Professor of Democracy and Governance, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University
- STEVEN A. COOK**  
ENI Enrico Mattei Senior Fellow for Middle East and Africa Studies, Council on Foreign Relations

**MODERATOR**

- JOSEPH BAHOUT**  
IFI Director, Associate Professor of Practice, Department of Political Studies, American University of Beirut

For a roundup and summary of the Institute's events, visit [Events at IFI](#).