



# IFI NEWSLETTER

September - October 2025



## NEWS



### INSTITUTE INSIGHTS: VARAK KETSAMENIAN

In the 10th and final episode of the first season of Institute Insights, Assistant Professor at the Department of History and Archaeology at AUB, Varak Ketsamenian, reflects on the tools of history being used as a tool for power and coercion, ways to broaden the historical narrative, and how Lebanon's debates around history and memory can be transformed into policies that promote inclusion and civic belonging.

[Watch Here](#)



### SECOND ANNUAL MENA THINK TANK FORUM

Our Institute and the Middle East Council on Global Affairs (ME Council) co-hosted the 2nd Annual MENA Think Tank Forum titled: "Arab perspectives on Global Public Goods and Their Governance," which focused on how global shifts impact the region and how regional actors, including think tanks, can engage with and influence the debate on global public goods to ensure it reflects the region's needs and priorities.

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### Arab TTN Newsletter - Quarter 3, 2025

News and updates from the members of the Arab Think Tank Network (Arab TTN)



### ARAB THINK TANK NETWORK NEWSLETTER - QUARTER 3

The latest issue of the Arab Think Tank Network newsletter is out, featuring publications and events on a wide range of topics, including the rights and freedoms of Yemeni women and girls, post-Assad Syria, Arab-Russian relations, and youth political engagement in Jordan.

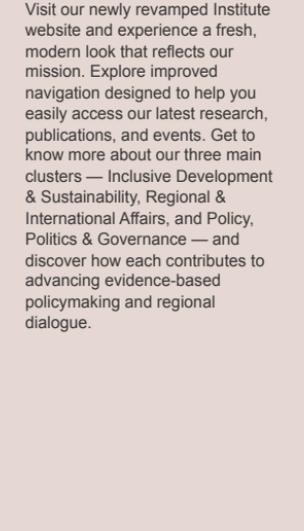
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### MOU WITH THE ARAB THOUGHT FORUM

The Institute and the Arab Thought Forum signed an MOU, reflecting their desire to strengthen and enhance cooperation between both institutions, recognizing the importance of collaboration and consultation in addressing issues of importance to the Arab region.

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### INSTITUTE WEBSITE REVAMP

Visit our newly revamped Institute website and experience a fresh, modern look that reflects our mission. Explore improved navigation designed to help you easily access our latest research, publications, and events. Get to know more about our three main clusters — Inclusive Development & Sustainability, Regional & International Affairs, and Policy, Politics & Governance — and discover how each contributes to advancing evidence-based policymaking and regional dialogue.

[Read More](#)



### INSTITUTE IN ACTION

During the past two months, our Institute has been actively engaged with and taking part in regional and international policy forums. These include:

- [11th Ed. of ISPI's MED-Mediterranean Dialogues](#) in Naples.
- [Water Diplomacy and Governance in the MENA Region](#) in Doha.
- ["Geopolitical competition, Geoeconomic Disruptions, What order can stabilize the international system?"](#) in Bangkok.
- ["The New Era of Peacemaking: What's Next for the Arab Mediation?"](#) in Doha.
- ["Research in Crisis Settings" Conference](#) at AUB.
- [30th anniversary of the launch of the Euro Mediterranean integration process](#) in Barcelona.

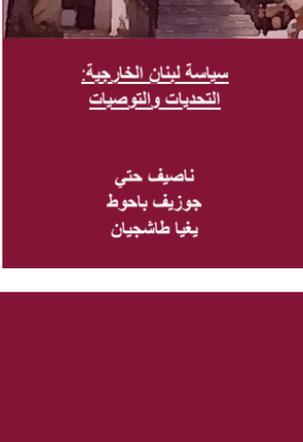


## PUBLICATIONS



### LEBANON'S FOREIGN POLICY: CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

NASSIF HITTI  
JOSEPH BAHOUT  
YEGHIA TASHJIAN

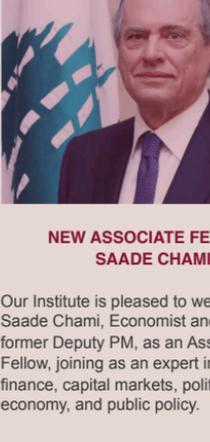


### سياسة لبنان الخارجية: التحديات والتوصيات

ناصر حطي  
جوزيف باحوت  
يغيا طاشجيان



## POLICY BLOG



### Short Term Priorities for Economic Recovery in Lebanon

Ishac Diwan and Ibrahim Jamali

"There is no question that in the medium-to-long term, Lebanon's economic growth will be highly dependent on raising competitiveness. This involves at least four mighty dossiers: improving the security situation, restarting the financial sector, reducing public debt, and resolving the electricity shortage."

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### NEW ASSOCIATE FELLOW SAADE CHAMI

Our Institute is pleased to welcome Dr. Saade Chami, Economist and Lebanon's former Deputy PM, as an Associate Fellow, joining as an Associate in economics, finance, capital markets, political economy, and public policy.

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### INTERNSHIP FALL COHORT

The Institute launched its Fall Internship Program with 14 interns, starting with an orientation whereby they met the team and learned about IFI and its activities. Besides their work in their respective clusters and units, interns will be attending a series of training workshops throughout the program.

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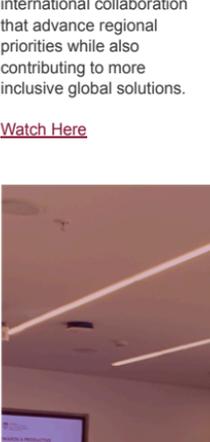
## EVENTS



### PANEL DISCUSSION ON: "LEBANON'S FOREIGN POLICY: CHALLENGES AND RECOMMENDATIONS"

In light of shifts in regional and global power dynamics, can Lebanon have a state-centric foreign policy? Following a presentation of the Institute's policy paper on the subject, the panelists discussed the viability of adopting a state-centric foreign policy based on 'positive neutrality' and 'pro-active diplomacy'; while reviewing realistic options for Lebanon to reform its diplomatic apparatus and reposition the country on the regional and international diplomatic map.

[Watch Here](#)



### PANEL DISCUSSION ON "BUILDING AN ARAB VOICE ON THE GOVERNANCE OF GLOBAL PUBLIC GOODS"

On the sidelines of the 2nd Annual MENA Think Tank Forum, held in Beirut on September 15-16, the discussion addressed key challenges and opportunities for the Arab region on global public goods, and explored avenues for regional and international collaboration that advance regional priorities while also contributing to more inclusive global solutions.

[Watch Here](#)



### PANEL DISCUSSION ON: "WHAT KIND OF RECOVERY? QUICK WINS AND SHORT TERM PATHS OUT OF THE CRISIS"

Our Institute and the Department of Economics at AUB held the first panel discussion as part of the "Lebanon: Towards a Productive Economy" series titled "What kind of recovery? Quick wins and short term paths out of the crisis." The panelists examined the feasibility of the following proposals: supporting the demand side, implementing partial reforms in the banking or electricity sectors, improving the business climate through swift administrative reforms, and rebuilding the state by increasing tax revenues or utilizing externally funded reconstruction projects to energize the economy.

[Watch Here](#)



### WPS WORKING GROUP CONCLUDES ABU DHABI DIALOGUE WITH WHITE POLICY PAPER

The Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Working Group in the Arab States held their fourth meeting in Abu Dhabi. The discussion covered past achievements, upcoming challenges, and ways to increase women's participation in humanitarian efforts and policy-making. The event, hosted by the Anwar Gargash Diplomatic Academy and the Emirates Centre for Strategic Studies and Research highlights the Institute's ongoing partnership with regional and international organizations to promote the WPS agenda.

[Read More](#)



### RE-ENVISIONING WOMEN, PEACE & SECURITY IN THE ARAB STATES

The Women, Peace & Security (WPS) Regional Hub at the Issam Fares Institute convened the diplomatic community for a briefing on the WPS Working Group in the Arab States. Beyond commemorating 25 years of the WPS Agenda, this briefing focused on addressing gaps and challenges, translating the Working Group's insights into action, and shaping pathways for inclusive peace and security in the region.

[Read More](#)

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