

# QUO VADIS MIDDLE EAST?

**5-6 October 2024**

Festsaal, University of Bonn  
Regina-Pacis-Weg 1  
Bonn, Germany

## CONCEPT NOTE

The dramatic escalation of violence in the Middle East once again highlights the urgency of the need to find a common solution between all parties.

There is great necessity to work sustainably on a post-war scenario with the participation of all relevant actors in the region.

With the aim of promoting peace in the Middle East, the ICI and the Bonn Center for Reconciliation Studies of the Bonn University organize an in-person meeting among representatives of relevant actors in the region.

The conference intends to bring together representatives from science, politics, business and civil society to discuss possible sustainable post-war scenarios.

The goal is to explore future challenges for all parties to the conflict and also to address Germany's role in formulating new strategies for sustainable peace and stability in the Middle East.

This format is structured as a pilot project. In order to ensure the sustainability of the talks, they take place over the next three years with a changing group of participants and include all civil society actors important for peace. This is the third iteration of the project.

The project is under the patronage of Armin Laschet, member of the Bundestag and chairman of the Abraham Accords Institute.

**With many thanks to our partners:**



# CONFERENCE AGENDA

## Day 1 | Friday, 4 October 2024

	Arrival of the participants
18:30	<p><b>Pre-event dinner</b> Rheinhotel Dreesen, Rheinstraße 45-49, 53179 Bonn (Bad Godesberg)</p> <p><b><u>Dinner speech</u></b> <b>Armin Laschet</b> Member of German Bundestag Chairman of the Abraham Accords Institute</p>

## Day 2 | Saturday, 5 October 2024

09:30-10:00	<p><b><u>Opening remarks</u></b> <b>Nicole Unterseh</b> Mayor of the Federal City of Bonn</p> <p><b><u>Introduction</u></b> <b>Prof. Dr. Hans-Georg Soeffner</b> Speaker, Bonn Center for Reconciliation Studies, University of Bonn</p>
10:00-11:30	<p>Session 1: <b><u>Postwar Gaza: Reconstruction and Recovery</u></b></p> <p><b>Dr. Usama Antar</b> Referent, Middle East and North Africa Department, Friedrich Ebert Stiftung, Germany</p> <p><b>Simon Engelkes</b> (<i>online</i>) Director, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung Ramallah, Palestine</p> <p>Moderation: <b>Dr. Iulian Romanyshyn</b>, ICI Institute</p>
11:30-12:00	<b>Coffee break</b>
12:00-13:30	<p>Session 2: <b><u>Peace-Building and State-Building: Complementary or Contradictory?</u></b></p>

**Yasmina Asrarguis**

Researcher, Sorbonne-Nouvelle University, France

**Pascal Bernhard**

Journalist, Zenith Magazine, Germany

Moderation: **Kristin Helberg**, Journalist and Author, Berlin

13:30-14:30

Lunch

14:30-16:00

Session 3:

**Escalation to an All-Out War in the Middle East? Syria, Lebanon, Yemen and the Gaza War**

**Oraib Rantawi** (*online*)

Founder and Director, Al Quds Center for Political Studies, Jordan

**Kristin Helberg**

Journalist and Author, Berlin

Moderation: **Dr. Abdullah Al-Jabassini**, Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Central European University and Max Weber Postdoctoral Research Fellow, European University Institute (EUI)

16:00-16:30

**Coffee break**

16:30-18:00

Session 4:

**A New Axis: Making Sense of Russia-Iran Cooperation in the Middle East**

**Dr. Hamidreza Azizi**

Visiting Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP), Germany

**Daniel Rakov**

Senior Fellow, Jerusalem Institute for Strategy and Security, Israel

Moderation: **Dr. Iulian Romanyshyn**, ICI Institute

18:00-18:10

**Concluding remarks**

18:30

**Dinner**

Restaurant [Ruland](#)

Bischofsplatz 1, 53111 Bonn

09:00-09:10	<b>Introductory remarks and recap</b>
09:10-10:40	<p>Session 5: <b><u>How does Germany View the Gaza War and How Can it Address the Conflict?</u></b></p> <p><b>Dr. Andreas Reinicke</b> (<i>online</i>) Director, German Orient-Institute, Germany</p> <p><b>Dr. Frank Umbach</b> Head of Research, European Cluster for Climate, Energy and Resource Security (EUCERS)/Center for Advanced Security, Strategic and Integration Studies (CASSIS), University of Bonn</p> <p>Moderation: <b>Esther Gardei</b>, Exectutive Director, Bonn Center for Reconciliation Studies, University of Bonn</p>
10:40-11:10	<b>Coffee break</b>
11:10-12:40	<p>Session 6: <b><u>The Role of the US in Brokering a Ceasefire in Gaza</u></b></p> <p><b>Prof. Dr. Stefan Fröhlich</b> University of Erlangen-Nuremberg / College of Europe, Germany / Belgium</p> <p><b>Merili Arjakas</b> Junior Research Fellow, International Center for Defence and Security, Estonia</p> <p><b>Dr. Sascha Arnautovic</b> Chairman and Secretary, Cologne Forum for International Relations and Security Policy (KFIBS), Germany</p> <p>Moderation: <b>Fenja Wiluda</b>, Associate Fellow, Center for Advanced Security, Strategic and Integration Studies (CASSIS), University of Bonn, Germany</p>
12:40-13:30	<b>Lunch</b>
13:30-15:00	<p>Session 7: <b><u>Students' Perspectives on the War in Gaza</u></b></p> <p><b>Lea Haupt</b> Political Science Student, University of Würzburg and Conflict Analyst at CONIAS Risk Intelligence, Germany</p>

**Marica Komarow**

Political Science Student, University of Halle and Tutor for Anglo-American Cultural Studies, Germany

**Maximilian Köhler**

M.A. Student of Political Science, University of Bonn, Germany

Moderation: **Tom Bergmann**, Economics Student at the University Bayreuth and Student Assistant in the German Federal Parliament

15:00-15:45

**Quo vadis Middle East?**  
**Concluding Remarks and Discussion**

**Esther Gardei**, Executive Director, Bonn Center for Reconciliation Studies, University of Bonn

**Dr. Iulian Romanyshyn**, ICI Institute

Photos will be taken at the conference. These may be used for public relations. If you do not agree with this, please let us know.

## HOTEL

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# PARTICIPANTS

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