

THE GLOBAL DIWAN'S

# Newsletter

CONNECTING  
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LEADERS



Fish farms off the Tunisian coast

EDITORIAL

## Towards a Euro-MENA Green Deal

Dear Friends of the Global Diwan,

In this monthly new delivery, the Global Diwan will focus on two countries: Tunisia and Iraq, united with a common worry about water, as a risk in Iraq, as an ambition in Tunisia.

Source of life, water is at the heart of environmental security.

Preparing our first annual forum in Nice (6, 7 October 2021) on these issues specifically, two decisive contributions are to be mentioned, first by Matthieu Brun, head of research at DEMETER's club, to better characterise the environmental and societal weaknesses in the Middle East, then by a dialogue with Sciences-Po researchers: Florent Parmentier, secretary general of the CEVIPOF and Fabien Laurençon, head of

corporate intelligence at the CNRS. Introducing the idea of a Euro-MENA Green Deal, these academic significant supports are preparing the plenary sessions and roundtable discussions for the Nice Forum which programme will be disclosed shortly. We are happy to introduce to our readers our friends and partners in the Arab world and in Europe. In this issue, we will start with the NUMOV association in Berlin and the Beirut Energy Club in Lebanon. You may soon browse on the Global Diwan's new website to find out all of our enriched contents.

Enjoy your reading !

Éric Schell

Executive Chairman of the Global Diwan

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THE GLOBAL DIWAN NICE FORUM

# A High Level Meeting on Food and Environmental Security

## October 6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The Global Diwan Florent Parmentier  | Fabien Laurençon 

IN 2020, MORE THAN 155 MILLION PEOPLE AROUND THE WORLD WERE IN A DRAMATIC SITUATION TO GET FOOD ONLY TO SURVIVE ACCORDING TO THE FAO, ESPECIALLY IN YEMEN AND SYRIA. CLIMATE CHANGE, WARS AND THE COVID PANDEMIC HAVE DRASTICALLY WORSENERED THE SITUATION EVERYWHERE. ALONG WITH FOOD SECURITY, ENVIRONMENTAL SECURITY IS NOW A MAJOR CONCERN ENCOMPASSING ISSUES LIKE BIODIVERSITY, OCEAN PROTECTION, AIR QUALITY, WATER SCARCITY AND FOOD TRACEABILITY. ALL THESE TOPICS HAVE BECOME A BURNING ISSUE FOR GOVERNMENTS, BUSINESSES AND CITIZENS.

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During the Forum, plenary sessions combined with round table discussions and side-events will offer a complete inventory of state-of-the-art technologies and best practices related to the challenges of food and environmental security.

The Nice Forum, the first in-person gathering of our already one-year established Global Diwan, will put on the table all these challenges that Europe and the Arab world have the responsibility to address in a coordinated fashion. How? Through shared analysis, vision and expertise which, combined together, will result in successful ventures.

This connection between East and West leaders that we are constantly promoting in our global yet multipolar world has got the academic support of Sciences-Po Paris and Club DEMETER. Likewise, the business sector has also been closely associated to our endeavour with the support of established players like Business France and the Franco-Arab Chamber of Commerce as well as companies JCDecaux and Egis

Group which we would like to thank very warmly for having accepted to be our first sponsors.

This Forum will offer a unique opportunity to explore perspectives for a renewed strategic partnership between European and Arab countries, at the local, national and regional levels. For instance, our keynote speakers will introduce a new blueprint for unleashing the potential of the Blue Economy throughout the MENA region, and more specifically between the shores of the Mediterranean. A discussion on a potential Euro-Arab Green Deal is also on the agenda.

Cooperation is the key to more sustainable growth models. This is particularly accurate for the strategic areas of agriculture, agroindustry, water and air safety as well as urban infrastructures.

Designing a new Arab sustainable city model which involves both historic metropolises like Beirut or Tangier and contemporary mega-projects like Masdar City or Egypt's New Administrative Capital is indeed essential for ensuring to one and all a decent quality of life. Moreover, the necessary protection of natural and cultural heritage and its promotion through sustainable tourism, a smart way for diversifying oil-exporting economies, will also be part of our reflections based on successful case studies, including AIUla.

During the Forum, plenary sessions combined with round table discussions and side-events will offer a complete inventory of state-of-the-art technologies and best practices related to the challenges of food and environmental security. This will be complemented by a comprehensive overview of available financing solutions for implementing new projects and initiatives. In sum, the Nice Forum aspires to be the meeting place for people who are shaping the future of Euro-Arab relations, including Young and Female Leaders.

We are aware absolutely convinced that women in the region are a powerful tool for change and reform. This is why, with the help of HH Sheikha Intisar Al Sabah, chairwoman of our Advisory Board, The Global Diwan will launch an ambitious transnational mentoring programme to enable young female leaders to better connect the East and the West.

Last but not least, our Forum will provide insights on Africa, a neighbouring region for Europe and the Arab world, both of which do care about its future and sustainable development. Therefore, a round table discussion will be specifically dedicated to the Euro-Arab solutions for enhancing food and environmental security in Africa, a gesture which highlights our deep and resolute belief in the virtues of multilateralism to answer global challenges.

# The Global Diwan friends and partners in Germany and Lebanon

IN OUR NEXT ISSUES, WE WILL INTRODUCE OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS IN THE UK, TURKEY AND IRAQ.

## THE NUMOV IN GERMANY

[www.numov.de/en](http://www.numov.de/en)

NUMOV is Germany's oldest and largest organisation that promotes economic development between Germany and the countries of the Near and Middle East. This region is characterised by its dynamism and diversity and offers companies exceptional opportunities for economic success.

Since its foundation more than 87 years ago, NUMOV has supported its member companies in the establishment and development of business ties and has consistently promoted bilateral cooperation. NUMOV works together with the embassies of the region in Germany, the German embassies in the Near and Middle East, various German federal ministries and the Federal Foreign Office. Representatives of many institutions regularly supply NUMOV members with their expertise at NUMOV conferences, forums and seminars.

NUMOV members benefit from their full range of services. They provide their members with regular updates and information on current economic developments in the region in addition to the latest specialist publications on individual countries, published in cooperation with the German Orient-Institute (DOI), which was established by NUMOV. The DOI is also available to their members for market studies.

Delegation trips to the countries of the Near and Middle East as well as delegations visiting Germany give to NUMOV members the opportunity to establish groundbreaking contacts and build successful partnerships with companies from across the region. Another unique offer to NUMOV members is the opportunity to acquire a Berlin address on their premises in the government district of the German capital. The centrally located and well-equipped NUMOV Conference Center is also an ideal location for high-level events. Former Federal Chancellor of Germany Gerhard Schröder has been Honorary Chairman of NUMOV since 2005.



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# THE BEIRUT ENERGY CLUB

[www.mesp.me/beirut-energy-club/](http://www.mesp.me/beirut-energy-club/)

The Eastern Mediterranean is re-emerging as a distinct subregion, with its own set of players, stakes and rivalries, on the backdrop of natural gas discoveries over the past decade, in a dynamic that has since evolved beyond the sphere of energy.

The discovery of sizable natural gas reserves off the coasts of Cyprus, Egypt and Israel over the past years, and the potential for more discoveries to come, has turned the spotlight on the Eastern Mediterranean, a geographic space that elicited a relative indifference until recently, and was typically referred to either as the “Middle East”, “South-East Europe” or “North Africa”, depending on the case. The term, Eastern Mediterranean, long after falling into disuse, is now enjoying a renaissance.

In 2010, the United States Geological Survey estimated that the Levant basin and Nile Delta basin could hold a mean of 122 and 223 trillion cubic feet of recoverable natural gas respectively. On paper, the combined estimates have the potential to turn the Eastern Mediterranean into an energy hot spot. In reality, and while sizable reserves have been developed, the past decade has also revealed considerable challenges in converting much of this potential into exploitable commodities.

As a Beirut-based consultancy providing political risks services, Middle East Strategic Perspectives has been working on the gas sector in the countries of the Eastern Mediterranean since 2012. Over the years, it has built a vast network of partners and experts who share a similar professional interest in the sector, and in 2017, MESP decided to launch an informal club, the Beirut Energy Club, intended to provide members and guests – residing in Beirut or simply passing through – the opportunity to engage in discussions, share experience and connect with peers, under the Chatham House Rule.

Membership in the Beirut Energy Club is open to professionals associated with the oil and gas and energy industry, in addition to ancillary activities, including experts, corporate officials, government representatives and members of civil society organisations.

## The Beirut Energy Club's aim is to:

- Connect professionals who have an interest in and/or are working in the energy sector in Lebanon and other countries of the Eastern Mediterranean.
- Brainstorm with leading experts and exchange ideas.
- Facilitate knowledge exchange.
- Provide a space for networking and sharing experience.



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the Beirut Energy Club is intended to provide members and guests – residing in Beirut or simply passing through – the opportunity to engage in discussions, share experience and connect with peers, under the Chatham House Rule.”



# Environmental vulnerabilities and socio-political inequalities in the Middle East: underestimated links?

Matthieu Brun 

THE MIDDLE EAST HAS SUFFERED AND CONTINUES TO SUFFER FROM MULTIPLE FORMS OF POLITICAL VIOLENCE. HOWEVER, THESE ARE NOT DISCONNECTED FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES THAT THIS REGION IS FACING. THEY ARE AN ADDITIONAL, EVEN CUMULATIVE, FACTOR OF RISK, INSECURITY AND INJUSTICE.

They are an additional, even cumulative, factor of risk, insecurity and injustice. Any attempt to establish peace, freedom and dignity without addressing these issues would be particularly precarious. In fact, political and environmental insecurity cannot be separated as their level of interdependence is so high, especially when resources are often limited, threatened or subject to misuse and covetousness. Some of the societies, economies and natural environments of the Middle East (Yemen, Syria and Iraq) are directly affected by the effects of conflicts and wars that exert a strong pressure on renewable and non-renewable natural resources. Others are facing an exponential demand for resources to the point that tensions are being exacerbated. While in many cases conflicts affect natural resources, the causality can also be reversed. Resources also induce political and social conflict. It is necessary to look at the interactions between environmental inequalities and social and political inequalities. They accumulate and worsen with each other, especially since the changes underway have repercussions on political and social functioning. We will try to illustrate it with the issue of climate change.

The various countries of the Middle East are all facing degraded environmental situations that directly threaten their ability to achieve

the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). These environmental challenges are multi-scalar, systemic, conjunctural and structural and require coordinated responses from often failing but also uncoordinated and underfunded governance systems. The countries of the region do not face the same environmental challenges, or at least not to the same extent, depending on whether they have access to fossil energy sources or depend on external sources for their water or food supplies.

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The countries of the Middle East offer clear examples of risks due to climate change, particularly on agricultural and food systems.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), since 1880, there has been a global temperature increase of about 1°C, while in the Mediterranean this increase exceeds 1.4°C. Temperatures will continue to rise throughout the 21st century. Summer warming is expected to be more intense than winter warming and the duration, frequency and/or intensity of heat waves are expected to increase throughout the region. The likelihood of a mean annual decrease in precipitation and intra-seasonal precipitation variations is very high. Similarly, very wet years will alternate with longer multi-year droughts. Middle Eastern and North African countries are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change due to multiple vulnerabilities including the aridity regime to which societies are subjected and the scarcity of water resources. According to UN statistics, by 2025, water supply in the Arab region will be only 15% of its 1960 level.

Egypt is the focus of much of the climate change challenge, which affects food, health and water security in the entire region threatening the livelihood of the population. In Egypt, the risks are great for the agricultural sector, which accounts for 30 % of jobs. By 2050, scientists predict a drop in yields of around 11% for rice and 18% for wheat. In addition to limited

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The countries of this region must face colossal challenges, in particular that of managing to resolve conflicts without ignoring the need for sustainable management of water, soil and biodiversity

water resources, climate change is causing changes in pathogens, such as diseases and locust attacks, which threaten crops. Wheat is however an essential cereal for the life of a country in which the same word, Eish, means bread and life. The Nile Delta, the economic lung of the country, is also one of the most threatened deltas in the world. The rising level of the Mediterranean Sea is causing salt to seep in, making the land unsuitable for agriculture forcing thousands of poor farmers to migrate. In addition, coastal areas are particularly vulnerable to sea level rise as a large part of economic activities are concentrated there.

The effects of climate change are jeopardising the ability of states to meet the vital needs of their populations. Iraq, for example, has seen its precipitation regime change downwards, affecting in particular rain-fed agricultural regions. But the Centre and the South, which are more irrigated from rivers, are also affected by this change in rainfall, the effects of which are increased tenfold by the waterworks carried out in Turkey. It led to “thirst riots” in the Basra region in 2018 when people were experiencing one of the most intense droughts in the last twenty years. This phenomenon has consequences that are disastrous on the socio-political systems. Indeed, in Syria, between 2006 and 2011, 60% of the population suffered from droughts and the loss of cereal crops,

forcing hundreds of thousands of Syrians to leave their land to join cities that were already saturated. The discontent of the inhabitants with a regime that did nothing to alleviate their difficulties was thus accentuated, providing fertile ground for the 2011 uprisings.

The countries of the Middle East offer clear examples of risks due to climate change, particularly on agricultural and food systems. The consequences could be multiplied by the loss of biodiversity and land artificialisation which in turn would reduce ecosystem services (pollination, natural water purification, etc.). These services are vital for the inhabitants of the region. Indeed, in Iraq and in all the countries of the Middle East, the protection of biodiversity affects the populations in many different ways. The poorest are also the most vulnerable to the destruction of ecosystems, making biodiversity an issue of social justice.

The Middle East is facing numerous environmental and ecological crises, aggravated, if not favoured, by political crises and the resulting humanitarian consequences (war, population displacement, destruction of basic infrastructure, etc.). The countries of this region must face colossal challenges, in particular that of managing to resolve conflicts without ignoring the need for

sustainable management of water, soil and biodiversity. Without that, the relaunch of their economic and human development would remain futile and the price to be paid tomorrow would be even greater. The various examples of environmental crises also show that they contain a strong political dimension and even more so one of social justice insofar as it is the most vulnerable who always pay the price in the last instance for the inadequacy of public action, the fragility of institutions, poor governance and the scarcity of natural resources.



FOCUS ON

# Tunisia

## The maritimisation of the Tunisian economy

Mohammed Chorf 

The process of increasing and concentrating trade by sea involves development policies and leveraging the coastline through the creation of income-generating activities. The maritimisation of the economy is linked to the process of coastal development or the migration of populations to the coast. This process goes with the accommodation of major infrastructures (ports, airports, major roads) and concentrate the majority of the population and major cities of the country. The littoral land, which only represents a small quarter of the territory, gathers 85% of the urban population, and 34% of the rural population. The Carthaginian heritage laid the foundations for the maritimisation of the economy, but the latter is nowadays mostly explained by state voluntarism related to globalisation.

Focused towards its coast, Tunisia developed activities aimed at enhancing its maritime space and fully integrating into globalisation. The coast is the main center of economic activity and provides the bulk of agricultural and industrial production. It is also the main tourist attraction and where foreign trade takes place. The maritimisation of the economy creates 630,000 direct jobs and accounts for 12% of the country's GDP. This figure could even reach 18 to 20% of GDP, if development projects were implemented according to the 2018 report from the Blue Season's international conference. Tourism is a major sector of the Tunisian economy and is centered on the coast with 8 million foreign visitors in 2018. The development of international seaside tourism has contributed to the large occupation of coastal areas with sandy beaches where most tourist activities and facilities are concentrated. The coast accommodates 3/4 of the hotels and restaurants in the country, without forgetting the many fishing, commercial ports and marinas. 80%

of the country's industrial units are found on the coast. Tunisia's annual fish production has reached 130,000 tons in recent years and the sector brings together 52,000 players. The country benefits from many large ports such as Tunis, Bizerte, Sfax and Kélibia, which are perfectly integrated into international maritime transport and trade, and boost the national economy. The high concentration of population and economic fabric on the coast, the densification of transport networks around the port cities, particularly in Greater Tunis, shows fairly well Tunisia is a country completely oriented towards its coastline. The process is wanted and supported by the Tunisian administration through development policies so much that the coast became the social, political and economic heart of Tunisia while attracting most national and foreign investments.

In order to fully exploit the potential of its coastline, Tunisia has adopted a new strategy for the maritimisation of its economy: the blue economy strategy. This concept reflects the desire to carry out activities such as tourism, fishing or even maritime transport, while giving particular importance to environmental issues. Through the eyes of national public and private institutions in partnership with the World Bank, the sea is considered as a source of wealth and an engine of the Tunisian economy. Indeed, in 2019 Tunisia carried out a study on the economic potential of a greater maritimisation of its economy. Several events such as the Blue Season, the Sea Forum in Bizerte, MedFish4Ever or the WestMed Conference have brought together national authorities and private economic players towards policies aimed at leveraging maritime space. Large scale economic projects are being set up on the coast. The Ministry of Agriculture

WITH 1348 KM OF COASTLINE AND AT THE HEART OF THE MEDITERRANEAN CROSSROADS, TUNISIA HAS BEEN FOCUSED ON ITS MARITIME SPACE SINCE ANTIQUITY.

already launched in 2015 the "The 2020 Strategy for the Promotion of Fisheries and Aquaculture Sectors".

The project of the deep-water port of Enfidha exemplifies the major asset represented by the Tunisian coast in terms of economic attractiveness, wealth production and investment opportunities. Such project aims at establishing Tunisia as a preponderant maritime hub in Africa and worldwide thanks to the significant reduction in maritime transport costs.

The port of Enfidha would be a global hub port like other international HUB ports such as Long Beach in California, Rotterdam, Singapore, Shanghai and Hongkong which would attract investments and the largest shipowners in the world: Maersk, CMA-CGM, Evergreen or even China Line. The importance of the coast is all the more visible as legal and regulatory procedures are used as tools participating in the policy of maritimisation of the Tunisian economy. The question of the delimitation of the Tunisian EEZ (Exclusive Economic Zone) is an issue of strategic and economic sovereignty. Public-private partnerships raise questions of a legal nature, particularly around competition rules and port governance. The goal here is to give a legal framework to a high potential space in order to make it safe and attractive to investors. This is precisely what the maritimisation of trade seeks and produces: making the Tunisian coast a hub for capturing investments. The environmental issue has not been left out, with wastewater treatment projects and the fight against pollution from large industries concentrated on the coast. Through legal tools, regulation and better environmental protection, the Tunisian government is laying the foundations for a prosperous and sustainable maritime economy.



FOCUS ON  
**Irak**

# Water Crisis in Iraq: internal weaknesses and regional rivalries

by [SSF \(Scutum Security First\)](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE, FREQUENT DROUGHTS, DEMOGRAPHIC PRESSURE, WOBBLY INFRASTRUCTURES CAUSED BY RECURRING CONFLICTS AND DEFICIENCIES OF THE IRAQI STATE HAVE WORSENED, AMID REGIONAL RIVALRIES, IRAQ'S WATER ISSUES. STAKES ARE HIGHER THAN EVER FOR THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE. BY 2025, THE DECREASE IN THE OVERALL WATER SUPPLY COULD REACH 60% COMPARED TO 2015. ACCORDING TO THE WORLD BANK, THE ECONOMIC COST RESULTING FROM AN INADEQUATE WATER SUPPLY WOULD CAUSE A CONTRACTION OF 2.3% OF GDP PER YEAR.

Thanks to the Tigris and Euphrates, Iraq benefits from considerable water resources among the most abundant in the Middle East. But this major geostrategic asset is offsetted by a strong dependency towards the upstream management of the rivers by Iran and Turkey especially.

The "Land of the Two Rivers" has witnessed a decrease of its water access and quality for the past few years, hence undermining some of the most essential sectors of its economy, namely agriculture and oil. This deterioration also induced social, environmental and health crises, the consequences of which were disastrous for the Iraqi population.

In a country in the midst of multiple crises favored by foreign meddling as much as by the resurgence of actions from the Islamic State organisation, many studies showed that an equal access to water was essential to support a post-conflict transition, sustainable growth and a lasting state of peace in Iraq.

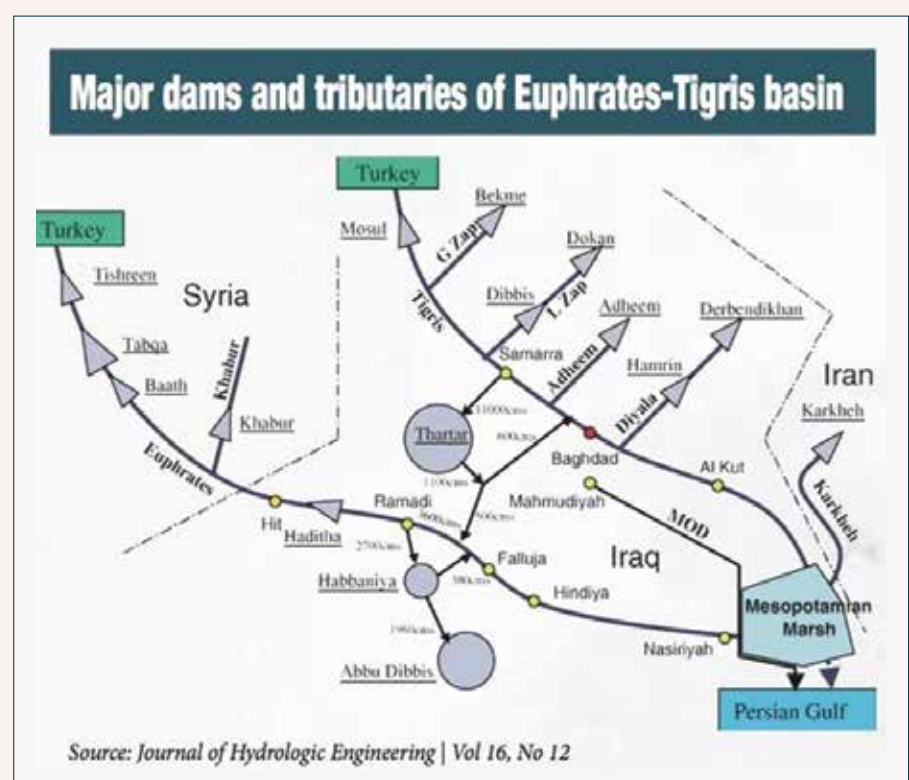
## The appropriation of water resources, a factor of regional instabilities at Iraq's disadvantage

Upstream from rivers Tigris and Euphrates, Turkey benefits from an advantageous geographical position and has established since the 1960s its water strategy as a trump card. The Turkish hydraulic installations have upsetted the traditional way of sharing

water with both neighbouring countries Iraq and Syria. This policy was implemented by Ankara for industrial and agricultural ends as illustrated by the Southeastern Anatolia Project (Güneydoğu Anadolu Projesi, GAP) that eventually aims at the construction of 22 dams and 19 hydroelectric plants. Assuming that Turkey would complete all these hydraulic construction projects, the water flow at the Iraqi-Turkish border could be reduced by two thirds. It could also come

with a degradation of water quality, through pollution and the retention of sediments fostering agricultural soils' fertility.

New dams being put into operation, like the gigantic hydraulic facility « Illisu » in 2020, provoke tensions between Ankara and Baghdad and exemplify the difficulties to establish a balanced water diplomacy in the region.







## FOCUS ON Irak

The regional conflict centered on the issue of the Euphrates and Tigris water management adds to many other preexisting conflicts, essentially of political nature. Firstly, the Kurdish issue has regularly been addressed in the course of history through the problem of the allocation of the Euphrates' water reserves between Turkey and Syria. In 1990, the GAP Turkish construction project had encouraged former Syrian President Hafez al-Assad to expand his support to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), while receiving its leader Abdullah Öcalan. Despite Turkish injunctions backed by the United States, Syria had refused to negotiate with Turkey until its military deployment at the Syrian border at the end of the 1990s. Without Russia's support in a post-Cold War context, Hafez al-Assad had finally accepted the Iranian-Egyptian mediation that led to the Adana Agreement between Turkey and Syria in 1998. The agreement legitimises a Turkish military intervention as far as 5 kilometers into Syrian territory if Damas were to support Kurdish militias.

The completion of the Tabqa dam close to the Syrian city of Raqqa on the Euphrates in 1973 had provoked acute tensions between Iraq and Syria that were competing regionally for the control of the Ba'ath party. More recently between 2014 and 2017, this highly strategic dam fell into the control of the Islamic State (ISIS) and was reconquered with difficulty by the Syrian Democratic Forces. Ahead of this offensive supported by the Global Coalition, the Syrian army had failed to reconquer the dam thus allowing Daesh to use it as a propaganda tool. Such an example points out the importance for governments of security issues pertaining to water reserve control and their related infrastructures. These matters are crucial for Iraq and Syria's reconstruction and will undoubtedly require bilateral and regional cooperation as illustrated by the World Water Forum in Istanbul.

### Water stress, mirroring the difficulties of the Iraqi State

In this perspective, the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources has organised in March



Mesopotamian marshes, South East Iraq. Source : The New York Times

2021 the first international conference on water in Baghdad. An unprecedented initiative revealing the needs of regional cooperation expressed by the Iraqi government so as to solve the water supply and management issues. Weakened and disorganised by years of civil war, the Iraqi administration will inevitably have to contend with its neighbours to eventually meet the needs in water of its population and agriculture. The government will also need to make efforts on a national level. As an example, the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) considers the agricultural sector as accounting for 80% of the country's total consumption of water, while Iraq hasn't managed to reach food self-sufficiency.

Consequences of water stress have a growing impact among the Iraqi population, favouring the country's instability. During the summer of 2018, there was an uprising of Farmers and residents of the Diwaniyah and Basra province because of the deterioration of essential services especially related to water. The riots were among other things provoked by the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture's decision to forbid rice, corn and millet harvests as a result of water shortages. Water pollution has furthermore led to a major health crisis in Basra, where close to 118,000 residents were hospitalised following water related poisoning. Health services saturation provoked weeks of riots severely repressed by the Iraqi security forces. For lack of a substantial resolution of the water problem in Iraq, these periods of instability and violence could normalise

in the coming years in the most exposed regions to water crisis.

The question of water management and distribution between the Iraqi provinces and its propensity to generate conflicts have long been out of the limelight due to water management conflict occurring on a regional scale. Indeed, the water supply coverage in urban area reaches an estimated 73% and 40% in certain rural areas. Many incidents occurring these last few years have revealed the growing tensions between provinces on the sensitive subject of water distribution quotas defined by the Iraqi Ministry of Water Resources. For instance, in 2018, the Dhi Qar Governate authorities have accused the neighbouring province of Wasit of violating the water allocation rules, which resulted in a shortage in the Dhi Qar province with disastrous consequences for the population largely dependent on income from agriculture. In these circumstances, it is no exaggeration to assert that water stress, more or less important depending on the province, threatens no less than the durability and stability of the federal system already compromised by the weaknesses of the central government.

The United Nations (UN) ranks Iraq as the 5<sup>th</sup> most vulnerable country facing global warming. Government action to save water reserve is thus urgent. The initiatives set forward during the International Water Conference in Baghdad, of which Mustafa al-Qadimi was an important actor, indicated that a national defense policy of the environment could provide the beginning of a solution.



TO CELEBRATE WITH  
OUR JORDAN FRIENDS THEIR

# Independence Day

## May 25

THERE WILL BE NEXT MONTH  
A DEDICATED ARTICLE ON DOING  
BUSINESS IN JORDAN.

### CALL FOR papers

For more details  
[contact@theglobaldiwan.org](mailto:contact@theglobaldiwan.org)

Besides being a business club, intellectual work and curiosity – the gate to understanding other cultures – hold a distinct place in our Diwan. We welcome people from different horizons and nothing interests us more than

to have contributors sharing their insightful and challenging views in our columns. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with us if you wish to share your work with our audience.

THIS LETTER WAS WRITTEN WITH THE PARTICIPATION OF SSF



[www.securite-sf.com](http://www.securite-sf.com)

Established in 2000, Scutum Security First (SSF) is a security company specialized in risk management and prevention for international businesses. SSF is a leading provider of security and safety information. SSF secures the operational development of its clients, large companies as well as small and medium businesses and provides them with competitive intelligence.



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