

Global & Gulf Regional Strategies for Security and Justice in an Age of Uncertainty

A Virtual Forum held on Friday, June 5, 2020

Main Takeaways

- Currently, the world is facing an imminent threat. The Covid-19 pandemic requires renewed cooperation by all countries, both globally and regionally.
- The need for the United Nations is more urgent today than ever before, with a pandemic that tests both our leaders and institutions. During the second half of 2020, we are likely to see a major debate at the United Nations on the economic repercussions of COVID-19.
- At the regional level, Qatar provides Covid-19 related humanitarian assistance to Middle Eastern countries, and on many other issues of regional cooperation, it actively supports the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Globally, Qatar is working to combat climate change, terrorism, and violent extremism through a combination of measures, including investments in education and science.
- Today marks the 3rd anniversary of the blockade against Qatar, which has generated mistrust in the Gulf region. Mistrust is not just a political issue that can be addressed in regional and global organizations, such as the United Nations; it is a problem that affects people and their communities directly.
- The Middle East has witnessed past failures in attempting to build effective regional organizations. The GCC and the Arab League are the only two such entities still standing in the region.
- Given that there is no coherent GCC policy to follow, it is a mistake to assume that there is a coherent relationship between the United States and the GCC.
- At UN headquarters in New York, the diplomatic mood is bleak. COVID-19 has highlighted deep-seated tensions that were already complicating diplomacy. Many countries argue that COVID-19 is not a moment of tension but one for greater multilateral cooperation. Although some major countries have been pushing the agenda of greater cooperation, we cannot escape that at the heart of the UN, fraught big power relations are threatening to address deep-seated problems.
- We are unlikely to achieve significant UN reforms over the next twelve months; however, with the help of pressure from civil society, some important reforms may be realized in the next five-to-ten year period.
- Peace and security are prerequisites for economic prosperity, social development, human rights, good governance, and respecting the environment. Better managing the nexus between security and justice goals is fundamental to how effective regional and

global organizations are in meeting the needs and aspirations of member countries and their citizens.