

**POST-CONFLICT RE-CONSTRUCTION IN MENA:**  
**Previous experiences and stakeholders' inclusive involvement in the future**  
**reconstruction of Libya, Syria and Iraq.**

11th April 2016

Palau Pedralbes, Barcelona

**Presentation**

The Middle East and North African region is going through turbulent times. Some countries are experiencing instability and are vulnerable to terrorism; others see the (re)instauration of authoritarian regimes, and several are suffering wars that are devastating their social and physical infrastructures. Beyond the massive social suffering that these open conflicts are generating, the material destruction of Libya, Syria and Iraq is enormous. This devastation affects every single aspect of daily life, from urban utilities to roads and highways, from houses to hospitals and schools and from harbors to airports.

Recently, World Bank estimated that reconstruction of Libya and Syria would cost respectively \$100 billion and \$170 billion, considering the destruction caused by civil war in these two countries. Several other multilateral institutions are developing innovative ways of financing the reconstruction effort of these devastated countries, as the case of the concerted effort presented by United Nations, the World Bank Group and the Islamic Development Bank in a recent meeting in October 2015.

Whenever the factions of these conflicts reach a peace agreement, and a certain stability is restored, reconstruction will have to start, being a gigantic task due to the size of destruction, unresolved issues and remaining latent confrontations. A coordinated, efficient and inclusive effort from all stakeholders will be needed in terms of building a minimum consensus and a general accepted framework, as well as financing, managing, and to a certain extent, supervising this reconstruction process.

Thus, there is no way of achieving post-conflict reconstruction without political, financial and technical support of external stakeholders in the first years. However, reconstruction does not take place in a vacuum but in a particular, usually changing and unstable, context, where local factions, economic and political powers have been transformed by years of conflict and the economies of war. The implication of those local actors and dynamics coming out of the conflict will be needed to design a reconstruction scheme adapted to those new realities. Moreover, as previous experiences show, the use of particular reconstruction schemes and the implication of local stakeholders will be key in

shaping future social, economic and political structures in the country and, hence, its sustainability and peace itself.

Recent international efforts of reconstruction in the region, such as the cases of Lebanon, Iraq or the Balkans, are experiences that can draw lessons of what has reasonably worked well, what did not and what should be improved in order to restore stability and growth, always taking into account each country's unique and complex domestic realities and idiosyncrasy.

#### **Objectives:**

The objective of the international conference, which is the first of a series of two meetings that will be organized in Barcelona and Madrid during this year 2016, will be to tackle the different aspects and challenges related to reconstruction in post-conflict countries in the region. Taking into account previous experiences and stakeholders' inclusive involvement, the meetings will address first the evaluation and quantification of the physical reconstruction, as well as its impact in different economic sectors, to enter then in issues related to who and how to finance reconstruction as well as its different political economic dimensions.

Gathering a selective group of experts, different stakeholders and institutions, the final aim will be to publish a document with the conclusions and proposals of both meetings.

#### **Organizers:**

European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)  
Casa Árabe

#### **With the collaboration of:**

ICEX Spain Trade and Investment

## 9.00-9.30 Accreditations

## 9.30-9.50 Opening session

**Senén Florensa**, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

**Pedro Villena**, Director General, Casa Árabe

**Isaac Martín-Barbero**, Director General, ICEX

## 9.50-10.00 Special intervention

**Fathallah Sijilmassi**, Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean (UfM) (\*)

## 10.00-11.00 Session 1: Overview of the reconstruction challenges in the region: quantifying the needs and defining priorities.

What is the size of destruction in the region and the most urgent priorities for reconstruction? What are the main short-term and long-term challenges in the countries to be rebuilt? What are the first steps and priorities to be taken into consideration? What role should the resulting national authority and local actors play in the material reconstruction of these countries? What eventual role for the international community in this process? Are there regional positive synergies that could be promoted in the processes of reconstruction?

### Moderator:

**Javier Albarracin**, director socioeconomic development, European Institute of the Mediterranean

### Speakers:

- **Tim Eaton**, Project Manager, Syria and its Neighbours Policy Initiative, Middle East and North Africa Programme, Chatham House
- **Sladjana Cosic**, Expert in social impact and post-conflict investment, European Investment Bank
- **Samir Makdisi**, Senior Fellow, Institute of Financial Economics, American University of Beirut

### First comment:

- **Chloé de Préneuf**, Programme Coordinator for Transitions Forum, Legatum Institute

## 11.00-11.30 Debate

## 11.30-12.00 Coffee break

## 12.00-13.00 Session 2: Previous cases and experiences of reconstruction in the region:

What was the role of the local authorities and groups in the cases of Lebanon and the Balkans? What was the strategy of external governments involved in the reconstruction of these countries? How did the international community deploy its financial resources? How were the local banks and private sector involved in these processes? Is there a role for the diaspora in this financing? What were the reconstruction priorities in these countries? Who and how determined them? Does the case of the reconstruction of Iraq apply?

### Moderator:

**Eva Pulido**, Deputy Director International Corporate, Development and Business Intelligence, ICEX

### Speakers:

- **Zane Kanderian**, Director of Middle East and North Africa, Adam Smith International
- **Hani Khabbaz**, Director General, Syria Recovery Trust Fund
- **Boutros Labaki**, President of the Lebanese Institute for Economic and Social Development and former director, Council for Development and Reconstruction, Lebanon

### First comment:

- **Inés Aquilué**, Department of Urbanism, Escuela Superior de Arquitectura de Barcelona (\*)

## 13.00-13.30 Debate

## 13.30-14.30 Lunch

## 14.30-15.30 Session 3: Rebuilding national energy and transport infrastructures and regional interconnections.

What should be the transport priorities in the reconstruction process? How can electricity production and transmission be restored and secured? What role could the private sector play in financing, building and operating these key infrastructures? Based on previous experiences, what are the requirements for a quick and secure regional grid interconnection? In the case of oil and gas pipelines and storage facilities, how should the reconstruction be managed? What should the priorities be?

### Moderator:

- **Anja Rohde**, Energy Policy Advisor, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ), Germany

### Speakers:

- **David Butter**, Independent Analyst
- **Basil Sadik**, Director, Stars Orbit Consultants & Management Development, Jordan

- **Ali Khwanda**, Infrastructure Enabling Expert, National Agenda for the Future of Syria Programme (NAFS), United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA)

#### First comment:

- **José Miguel Moreno**, Director, Energy and Sustainability Director, Engineering, Gas Natural Fenosa

### 15.30-16.00 Debate

### 16.00-17.00 Session 4: Priorities, experiences and cooperation schemes for urban planning and housing.

How can post-war urban planning avoid residential segregation along cultural, religious and ethnic lines as with the pre-war situation? What are the main priorities in urban reconstruction? What role did the citizens play in the new planning of previously destroyed cities, such as Beirut or Sarajevo? And what involvement should they have? How can displaced people be re-settled? What mechanisms should be put in place to avoid mismanagement and corruption in the reconstruction process at an urban level? What role should the private sector play in this process?

#### Moderator:

- **Mario Aymerich**, Director, Advisor to the Director General, Projects Directorate, European Investment Bank

#### Speakers:

- **Giovanni Pagani**, Expert on Urban Reconstruction
- **Toño Foraster**, AV62 Architects
- **Dan Lewis**, Chief of Urban Risk Reduction and Head of UN-Habitat City Resilience Profiling Programme, UN-Habitat

#### First comment:

- **Manel Vila**, Director General, Cooperation for Development, Government of Catalonia

### 17.00-17.30 Debate

### 17.30-18.00 Concluding remarks, emerging ideas and next steps

**Senén Florensa**, Executive President, European Institute of the Mediterranean (IEMed)

**Pedro Villena**, Director General, Casa Árabe

### Invited experts - Barcelona:

**Alejandra Pérez López**, Directora Negocio Internacional, Territorial de Cataluña, Grupo Santander

**Amaia Goenaga**, Independent Analyst

**Cale Salih**, The Institute for Integrated Transitions (IFIT)

**Eckart Woertz**, Senior Research Fellow Associate, CIDOB

**Eva Bufí**, Executive Director, PPP for Cities, IESE Business School

**Ferrán Izquierdo**, Barcelona Autonomous University

**Guillem Camarasa**, Director of Business Development and International Relations, Transports Metropolitans de Barcelona (TMB)

**Isidre Sala**, International Finance Institutions Specialist, Generalitat de Catalunya

**Luis Arribas**, Gestor de Relaciones Internacionales, Repsol

**Luis Herrero**, Director Territorial, Grupo Santander

**Lurdes Vidal**, Editor-in-Chief of afkar/ideas and Head for the Department of the Arab and Mediterranean World, IEMed

**Michael Pellot**, Director, Research & Development and International Affairs

**Olivia Orozco**, Casa Árabe

**Peter Hansen**, Director of International Relations, CaixaBank

**Rafael Vilasanjuan**, Director, Policy & Global Development, ISGlobal

**Roser de la Torre**, Socioeconomic Development, IEMed

**Salvador Planas**, Aresbank

**Shahd Zaroor**, Student of Architecture, Polytechnic University of Catalonia (UPC) BarcelonaTech

**Soledad López Postiglione**, Business Development Director Engineering, Gas Natural Fenosa

**Yumna Kassim**, Socioeconomic Development, IEMed

(\*) To be confirmed