



# POST-CONFLICT RE-CONSTRUCTION IN MENA

## Previous experiences and stakeholders' inclusive involvement in the future reconstruction of Libya, Syria and Iraq

Monday, 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2016  
Casa Árabe (C/ Alcalá 62), Madrid

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## PRESENTATION

The Middle East and North African region is going through turbulent times. Some countries are experiencing instability and are vulnerable to different kinds of violence, others see the (re)instauration of authoritarian regimes while several are suffering wars that are devastating their social and physical infrastructures. Beyond the massive human 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 harbours to airports. Moreover, conflicts are distorting the economic structures of these countries, destroying institutions and changing power relations while creating new spaces of interaction and distribution.

The 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 October 2015.

When the factions of these conflicts reach a peace agreement, and a certain stability is restored, reconstruction will have to start. It will be a gigantic task due to the size of destruction, unresolved issues and remaining latent confrontations. Moreover, 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. It is a complex and multidimensional process with economic, political and social dimensions involving local, national, regional and international actors, across public and private sectors.

Hence, the coordination between both local and external actors, considering the dynamics coming out of the conflict, will be needed to design a reconstruction scheme adapted to those new realities. Besides, as previous experiences show, the use of particular reconstruction schemes and local stakeholders` active participation will be key in shaping future social, economic and political structures in the country and, so, the effort`s sustainability and peace itself. Therefore, a coordinated, efficient, and inclusive effort from all stakeholders will be needed in order to build a minimum consensus among them and create a common accepted framework to finance and manage the reconstruction process.

Recent international efforts of reconstruction in the region, such as the cases of Lebanon, Iraq, or the Balkans, are experiences from which lessons can be drawn about what has worked reasonably well, what did not, and what should be improved. In order to restore stability and growth, this should take into account each country`s unique and complex domestic realities and idiosyncrasies.

## OBJECTIVES

The objective of the international conference “Post-Conflict Re-Construction in MENA: Previous experiences and stakeholders` inclusive involvement in the future reconstruction of Libya, Syria and Iraq” will be to tackle the different aspects and challenges related to reconstruction in post-conflict countries in the region. Given the dimension and complexity of the subject, the conference has been structured in a double meeting. The first one took place in Barcelona on the 11<sup>th</sup> of April 2016 and the second one is scheduled for the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2016 and will take place in Madrid.

The first meeting organized in the IEMed in Barcelona addressed the evaluation and quantification of the physical reconstruction and examined priorities and strategies, taking into account previous experiences of post-conflict reconstruction, to then analyze its impact in different economic sectors (energy, transport infrastructures, urban planning and housing).

The second meeting to be hold in Casa Árabe in Madrid will be focused on different dimensions of post-conflict reconstruction from the perspective of political economy. It will analyze first the different models and approaches to be taken into account and stakeholders' inclusive involvement, to enter then into issues related to development and cooperation assistance, the different schemes to finance reconstruction, as well as the institutional and legal aspects of post-conflict reconstruction processes.

Gathering a selective group of experts, different stakeholders, institutions and experts, the final aim is to publish a document with the conclusions and proposals of both meetings. Participants in the second meeting will have access to the summary report of first meeting's discussions and conclusions.

## PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

08:30 Accreditations

09:00 Opening

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

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

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

09:30 Session 1: *Schemes and approaches to reconstruction*

- Time and context in choosing different reconstruction models: State-building versus locally-adapted models; bottom-up versus top-down approaches
- Role of peace negotiations and power-sharing in defining the new centers of power
- From economies of war to economies of peace: impact and role of economic and social structures coming out of a conflict on the reconstruction process
- Economic impact of conflicts and trends in post-conflict recovery

Chair/Moderator: **Olivia Orozco**, Coordinator of Education and Economics, Casa Árabe

Speakers:

**Graciana del Castillo**, Senior Fellow, Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies Graduate Center, City University of New York (CUNY), Member of the Council on Foreign Relations

**Anke Hoeffler**, Research Officer, Centre for the Study of African Economies, Oxford University

**Adib Nehmeh**, Regional Advisor on Peace building, Transition and Governance, ESCWA

10:15 *Debate*

First reaction - **Haizam Amirah Fernández**, Senior Analyst for the Mediterranean and the Arab World, Elcano Royal Institute

10:45 *Coffee break*

11:15 Session 2: *Inclusive reconstruction? The involvement of different stakeholders*

- Civil society and local private sector (businessmen, financial sector, local elites)
- Role and situation of diasporas, displaced people and refugees
- The gender dimension of post-conflict reconstruction

Chair/Moderator: **Carlos Conde**, Head of Middle East and Africa Division, OECD

Speakers:

**Sultan Barakat**, Director, Doha Centre for Conflict and Humanitarian Studies, Doha Institute for Graduate Studies

**Kholoud Mansour**, Academic Associate, Chatham House

**Hibaaq Osman**, Founder and CEO, El-Karama

12:00 *Debate*

First reaction - **Karim Hauser**, Head of Governance, Casa Árabe

12:30 Session 3: *Development and cooperation assistance in post-conflict reconstruction*

- Main developmental and economic challenges of reconstruction

- Sustainable development and reconstruction
- Intervention of international corporations, multilateral institutions and development agencies
- Responding to social emergencies and correcting economic structural problems

Chair/Moderator: **Eva Pulido**, Deputy Director, International Corporate, Development and Business Intelligence, Icx

Speakers:

**Nadim Karkutli**, Manager, EU Regional Trust Fund in Response to the Syrian Crisis, the 'Madad Fund', DG NEAR, European Commission

**Hani Khabbaz**, Director General, Syria Recovery Trust Fund

**Representative**, Islamic Development Bank

13:15 *Debate*

First reaction - **Pilar Sanchez-Bella**, Policy Analyst, Middle East and Africa Division, OECD

13:45 *Lunch* - Halal lunch offered by courtesy of Ambar Connect, promoters of ExpoHalal 2016

15:00 Session 4: *Financing the reconstruction: schemes, alliances and impact*

- Who and how: implications
- Model to follow (internal, external, mixed; private, public): advantages, disadvantages, conditionality and its impact on economic policy
- The role of local and international banks in the reconstruction processes
- Implication of multilateral institutions and regional development banks: Existing initiatives in the region

Chair/Moderator: **Barah Mikail**, St. Louis University and director of Strategia Consulting

Speakers:

**Tony Addison**, Chief Economist and Deputy Director, UNU-WIDER

**Ghassan Dibeh**, Professor of Economics, Chair of the Department of Economics, Lebanese American University

**Ibrahim K. Dajani**, Senior Infrastructure Specialist, World Bank

15:45 *Debate*

First reaction - tbc

16:15 Session 5: *The institutional and legal framework: which rules of the game?*

- Juridical problems related to post-conflict reconstruction: Ownership and private property, land reform
- Institutions, state-building and governance
- Rent-seeking and corruption, checks and balances
- How other countries faced those issues in previous post-conflict experiences

Chair/Moderator: **Gabriel Reyes**, Director of Project Development, Citpax

Speakers:

**Claudia Gazzini**, Senior Analyst, Libya, International Crisis Group

**Mansoor Murshed**, Professor of Economics, Coventry University, and Professor of the Economies of Conflict and Peace at the Institute of Social Studies (ISS)

**Javier Parrondo**, Head of Cooperation Department with Arab World and Asia, AECID

17:00 *Debate*

First reaction - **Isaías Barreñada**, Professor of International Relations, Complutense University of Madrid

17:30 *Conclusions*

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

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

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

**Date:** 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2016

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