

World Economic Forum Calls Special Meeting on Economic Growth and Job Creation in the Arab World

17 October 2011

[Arabic](#)

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- His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to open the World Economic Forum Special Meeting on Economic Growth and Job Creation in the Arab World at the Dead Sea, Jordan, on 21 October 2011
- Over 1,000 participants from more than 50 countries will participate, including eight heads of state and government
- More information about the Meeting is available at <http://www.weforum.org/middleeast2011>

Geneva, Switzerland, 17 October 2011 – Recent shifts in the Arab world, coupled with an economic contraction at the global level, have created renewed urgency for decision-makers across the region to address the unfolding economic situation. Responding to this still-evolving landscape, the World Economic Forum will hold a Special Meeting on Economic Growth and Job Creation in the Arab World in Jordan from 21 to 23 October.

“Job creation has emerged as the key imperative in the Arab World,” said Børge Brende, Managing Director, Government Relations and Constituents Engagement, World Economic Forum. “This Special Meeting will gather key decision-makers from business, government and civil society to address the challenges and opportunities for job creation. Topping the list of essential elements for job creation in this region are employment, education and entrepreneurship, especially among the youth populations.”

The Meeting will bring together over 1,000 participants from more than 50 countries. The programme will focus on best practices in economic policy and reform around four thematic pillars: Conditions for Macroeconomic Stability and Growth; Employment; Education; and Entrepreneurship. Over three days, world leaders will discuss topics including resource management, digital innovation and development, the impact of social media, the advance of women and youth, US-Arab relations and much more. The discussions will be set against the backdrop of entrepreneurship and job creation to drive sustained growth and development in the region.

The programme is [available here](#).

The Meeting Co-Chairs will serve as the champions of multistakeholder dialogue and innovation, helping to drive active debate for actionable outcomes. The Co-Chairs include: **Mohammed H. Al Mady**, Vice-Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC), Saudi Arabia; **Yasmin Galal**, Global Shaper, Cairo Hub, Egypt; **Habib Haddad**, Chief Executive Officer, Wamda, United Arab Emirates, a Young Global Leader; **Muhtar A. Kent**, Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer, The Coca-Cola Company, USA; **Maurice Lévy**, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Publicis Groupe, France, a Member of the Foundation Board of the World Economic Forum; and **Soraya Salti**, Senior Vice-President, Middle East and North Africa, INJAZ Al Arab – JA Worldwide, Jordan, a Social

Entrepreneur.

“We are proud to welcome the World Economic Forum back to Jordan for the annual Middle East-focused meeting,” said Nasser Lozi, Chairman of the Board of Trustees, King Abdullah II Fund for Development, Jordan. “This past year has seen all eyes turned toward our region and we are proud to partner with the World Economic Forum to advance dialogue and collective action in the most critical areas of education and entrepreneurship.”

The Meeting will be opened by **His Majesty King Abdullah II Ibn Al Hussein** of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, with the participation of **Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah** of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, featuring the largest participation of heads of state and government for this regional meeting to date. The World Economic Forum is pleased to welcome **Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabr Al Thani**, Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs of Qatar; **Asif Ali Zardari**, President of Pakistan; **Traian Basescu**, President of Romania; **Salam Fayyad**, Prime Minister of the Palestinian Authority; and **Barham Salih**, Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government, Iraq.

In total, ministers from eight countries will join this Special Meeting along with more than 65 public figures from around the globe, among them **Edouard Balladur**, G8 Special Envoy to Support Arab Countries; **Tony Blair**, UN Middle East Quartet Representative; **Nabil Elaraby**, Secretary-General, League of Arab States, Cairo; **Donald Kaberuka**, President, African Development Bank (ADB), Tunis; **Hoshyar Zebari**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Iraq; **Shaikh Khalid Bin Ahmed Al Khalifa**, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bahrain; **Abdul-Kareem Luaibi Bahedh**, Minister of Oil of Iraq; **Mohammed Mohsen Al Busairi**, Minister of Oil of Kuwait; **John McCain**, Senator from Arizona (Republican), USA; **Jamal Rhmani**, Minister of Employment and Vocational Training of Morocco; **Mahmoud Abdel Al-Rahman Al Said Eissa**, Minister of Industry and Foreign Trade of Egypt; **Nemat Shafik**, Deputy Managing Director, International Monetary Fund (IMF), Washington DC, and many more. Ministerial participation in the Special Meeting includes representation from the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Palestinian Territories, Turkey, Bahrain, Iraq, Morocco, Egypt and Bulgaria.

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<http://www.weforum.org/events/special-meeting-economic-growth-and-job-creation-arab-world>.

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For more information about the Meeting, please visit our website at <http://www.weforum.org/middleeast2011>

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