

A Roundtable Discussion on the Emirates Mars Mission and UAE Science and Technology Vision

Monday, December 9, 2019

11:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Atlantic Council Headquarters

Biographies



Her Excellency Sarah bint Yousif Al Amiri

UAE Minister of State for Advanced Sciences

Her Excellency Sarah bint Yousif Al Amiri was appointed as Minister of State for Advanced Sciences during the Cabinet reshuffle of October 2017. Her responsibilities include enhancing the contributions of advanced sciences to the development of UAE and its economy. Her Excellency serves as chairperson of the UAE Council of Scientists, and she also holds the position of Emirates Mars Mission Deputy Project Manager at the Mohammed Bin Rashid Space Centre. Al Amiri started her career in sciences when she worked as programs engineer on Dubai Sat-1 and Dubai Sat-2. Her Excellency holds a BA and MS degrees in computer engineering from the American University of Sharjah.



Mr. Omran Sharaf

Project Director, Emirates Mars Mission

Currently, Omran Sharaf serves as the project director for the Emirates Mars Mission (Hope Probe). He holds an MS in science and technology policy from the Korea Advanced Institute of Technology in South Korea and a BS in electrical engineering from the University of Virginia.



Ms. Kirsten Fontenrose

Director, Scowcroft Middle East Security Initiative, Atlantic Council

Kirsten has twenty years of experience working with the national security apparatuses of nations in the Middle East and Africa from within the US Department of Defense, Department of State, White House, private industry, and non-profit sector. She served as Senior Director for Gulf Affairs at the National Security Council, leading the development of US policy toward nations of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Yemen, Egypt, and Jordan. Most recently, she was Senior Vice President for Global Relations at the Sonoran Policy Group. Previously, Kirsten led the Middle East and Africa team in the interagency Global Engagement Center, built relationships with military officers and diplomats from the Middle East and South Asia for the Near East Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University, which she helped establish. Her career began in the non-profit sector at the National Council on US-Arab Relations, and in the private sector working on US-Arab business projects with Arthur Houghton Associates. She holds a BA in Middle East studies from the College of William and Mary, an MA in Middle East studies from Indiana University, and an MBA from Harvard Business School.