

A conversation with US Acting Assistant Secretary Joey Hood on economic priorities in the Middle East

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

11:00 – 11:45 a.m. EST

Online event via Zoom

Speaker Bio



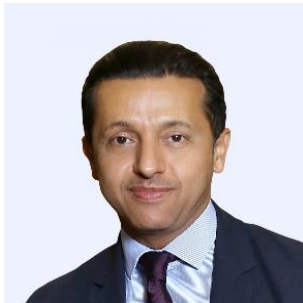
Acting Assistant Secretary Joey Hood

Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, US Department of State

Mr. Joey Hood is the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs. Mr. Hood has spent much of his career working in the Middle East, particularly on the Arabian Peninsula. He has served as Deputy Chief of Mission in Iraq and in Kuwait, as well as Consul General and Principal Officer in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia. Prior to these assignments, Mr. Hood was Acting Director of the Office of Iranian Affairs at the U.S. Department of State. Mr. Hood has also served in Riyadh, where he coordinated US-Saudi military cooperation, and in Asmara, where he was a liaison to rebel leaders from Sudan's Darfur region. He has also been assigned to US embassies in Yemen and Qatar. Prior to the Foreign Service, Mr. Hood was a Fulbright scholar in Burkina Faso and worked at a bank in Vermont. He earned a

master's degree from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and a bachelor's degree from Dartmouth College.

Moderator Bio



Mr. Amjad Ahmad

Director and Resident Senior Fellow, empowerME, Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East, Atlantic Council

Mr. Amjad Ahmad is director and resident senior fellow of empowerME at the Atlantic Council's Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East. He focuses on shaping innovative investments to empower entrepreneurs, women, and youth in the Middle East. He develops strategies and policies to drive sustainable prosperity through the creation of dynamic entrepreneurial economies, the economic participation of women, and educational

transformation. Amjad is also managing partner of the venture capital firm Precinct Partners and serves on the boards of Eyewa, Tapal Tea, RSA Global, Mumzworld, Mr. Usta and The Luxury Closet. Based in the United Arab Emirates for fifteen years prior to moving to Washington, DC, Amjad has collaborated with business leaders and entrepreneurs to build leading companies in the Middle East. Through his work as a venture capital and growth investor, Amjad established two investment firms in the region that provided over \$1 billion in funding to over fifty companies in sectors ranging from technology and education to healthcare and finance. During the past five years, Amjad has focused his investments on entrepreneurship, innovation, and technology. Amjad holds a master's degree in international affairs with a concentration in international finance and economics from Columbia University and is a graduate of the general management program at Harvard Business School.