

# BUILDING A BETTER LEBANON

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## Building a Better Lebanon

Wednesday, June 30, 2021

9:00– 10:30 a.m. ET

Online event via Zoom

## Welcome Remarks



**Ambassador James Jeffrey**

*Chair of the Middle East Program, Wilson Center*

Ambassador James F. Jeffrey joined the Wilson Center in December 2020 as Chair of the Middle East Program. Ambassador Jeffrey served as the Secretary's Special Representative for Syria Engagement and the Special Envoy to the Global Coalition To Defeat ISIS until November 8, 2020. He is a senior American diplomat with experience in political, security, and energy issues in the Middle East, Turkey, Germany, and the Balkans. He has held senior assignments in Washington, DC, and abroad, including as Deputy National Security Advisor (2007–2008); United States Ambassador to Iraq (2010–2012); United States Ambassador to Turkey (2008–2010); and United States Ambassador to Albania (2002–2004). In 2010 Jeffrey was appointed to the highest rank in the U.S. Foreign Service, Career Ambassador. From 1969 to 1976, Jeffrey was a U.S. Army infantry officer, with service in Germany and Vietnam.

## Opening Remarks



**Ambassador Giampiero Massolo**

*President, Italian Institute for International Political Studies*

Ambassador Giampiero Massolo is President of Fincantieri S.p.A (2016) and President of the Italian Institute for International Political Studies – ISPI (2017). A career diplomat, Ambassador Massolo was the Coordinator of the Italian Intelligence Community (2012-2016), the Prime Minister's personal representative (Sherpa) for the G8 and G20 Summits (2008-2009), the Secretary General of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2007-2012). He is adjunct professor of National Security and International Relations studies both at the School of Government of the LUISS University in Rome and at Sciences Po's Paris School of International Affairs. He regularly contributes on international and security matters to the newspapers "La Stampa" and "La Repubblica."

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## Keynote Remarks



**David Hale**

*Distinguished Diplomatic Fellow, Wilson Center*

David Hale is currently a distinguished diplomatic fellow at the Wilson Center. He served as Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs from August 30, 2018 to April 30, 2021. Previously, he was the Ambassador to Pakistan (2015-18), Ambassador to Lebanon (2013-15), Special Envoy for Middle East Peace (2011-2013), Deputy Special Envoy (2009-11), and Ambassador to Jordan (2005-8). Earlier, he had multiple tours in Jordan and Lebanon and served in Tunisia, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, and at the U.S. Mission to the UN. In Washington, Hale was Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Israel, Egypt and the Levant (2008-9) and Director for Israel-Palestinian Affairs (2001-3). He held several staff posts, including Executive Assistant to Secretary of State Albright. Hale joined the Foreign Service in 1984 and holds the rank of Career Ambassador. He is a recipient of the Distinguished Service Award, a Presidential Rank Award of Meritorious Service, and several Department Superior and Meritorious Honor awards. He speaks Arabic, is a graduate of Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, and a native of New Jersey.

## Speaker Bios



**Dr. Rand Ghayad**

*Adjunct Professor & Former IMF Economist, Harvard University*

Dr. Ghayad has extensive experience advising governments and other sovereign entities on complex financial and economic matters, including debt restructuring, job creation, and fiscal and monetary policy issues. He has more than a decade of experience as a macroeconomist including serving most recently at the International Monetary Fund where he worked on low-income countries and fragile states, participating both in bilateral discussions on macroeconomic surveillance and on negotiations of programs involving IMF financial assistance. In addition to providing expert advice on economic policy and labor reforms to numerous governments, including most recently France, the UK, and Kuwait, Dr. Ghayad has also advised the Federal Oversight Board of Puerto Rico and its counsel on a broad range of macroeconomic and financial issues related to the Commonwealth's debt crisis and bankruptcy proceedings. He also worked closely with various regulatory bodies and key institutions, including the US Department of Justice and the Securities and Exchange Commission, in developing economic and financial analyses in a variety of matters involving false claims, Ponzi schemes, financial market fraud, and shams. Between 2012 and 2013, he was part of an ongoing effort at the White House to develop best practices for hiring and recruiting the long-term unemployed. In 2014, Ghayad advised the Prime Minister and Employment Policy Council of France on strategies to reduce the incidence of long-term unemployment. Dr. Ghayad began his career at the Brookings Institution working on unemployment and labor market reforms. He also served in various positions at the Federal Reserve Bank, International Labor Organization, and MIT. He holds a PhD in Economics and has held research and teaching positions at Harvard University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Boston University, and Northeastern University.

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## **Ms. Merissa Khurma**

*Program Director, Middle East Program, Wilson Center*

Ms. Merissa Khurma is the program director of the Middle East Program at the Wilson Center. She was a non-resident fellow in the International Security program at New America. She has leadership experience working in a range of development projects in the Middle East that focused on economic development, the Syrian refugee crisis, education, youth, gender development, and governance. Additionally, Khurma served as director of the Office of Jordan's Prince Ali Bin Al Hussein (2010-2013) and as press attaché and director of the Information Bureau at the Embassy of Jordan in Washington, D.C. (2003-2010). Khurma has a master of public administration degree from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, a master of science in international security and foreign policy degree from Georgetown University, and a bachelor of art in political science degree from McGill University. She is also an adjunct professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in leadership development.



## **Mr. Hung Tran**

*Nonresident Senior Fellow, GeoEconomics Center, Atlantic Council*

Mr. Hung Q. Tran is an accomplished economist, with broad experience across the private sector, international organizations, and research institutions. Mr. Tran has produced important research and shaped policy decisions concerning advanced and emerging market economies, global capital markets, debt and capital flows, and financial stability issues. From 2007 until retirement in 2018, Mr. Tran was at the Institute of International Finance (IIF). Since 2012 he served as IIF's Executive Managing Director while simultaneously leading its Global Capital Markets Department. During 2011-2012, he played an important role coordinating the negotiations of the Private Creditor-Investor Committee for Greece with the European Commission, the Euro Group, the European Central Bank (ECB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). The negotiations led to the successful restructuring of €206 billion of Greek Government Bonds, the largest sovereign debt re-structuring in history. Before that, serving as Counsellor and Senior Director of the Capital Markets and Emerging Markets at the IIF, he was responsible for the Institute's highly regarded market policy research, which included multiple publications and services for its members. Prior to his work at the IIF, Mr. Tran served for six years at the International Monetary Fund as Deputy Director for the Monetary and Capital Markets Department. His responsibilities included being the Chairman of the Editorial Committee of the Fund's semi-annual flagship publication, the Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR). From 1998 to 2001 Mr. Tran was based in London serving as Managing Director, Chief Economist and Global Head of Research for Rabobank International, a Dutch multinational bank. He spent the previous 12 years at Deutsche Bank, serving first as Director of Global Fixed Income Research from 1987-1990 in New York, then as Co-Founding Managing Director of Deutsche Bank Research GmbH from 1991-1995 in Frankfurt, and finally as Head of Equity Business (Sales, Trading, Derivatives, Research) for the Deutsche Bank Group in Asia-Pacific, based in Singapore from 1995-1998. Earlier in his career he had served in senior positions in international fixed income research for Merrill Lynch (1984-1987) and Salomon Brothers (1979-1984) in New York. Mr. Tran received his undergraduate and graduate degrees in Economics and Accounting from California State University, Fullerton and completed the doctoral course work in Economics at New York University.

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## Discussant Bio



### **Dr. Mohsin Khan**

*Nonresident Senior Fellow, Atlantic Council and Former Middle East and Central Asia Director, International Monetary Fund*

Dr. Mohsin Khan is a nonresident senior at the Atlantic Council focusing on the economic dimensions of transition in the Middle East and North Africa. Dr. Khan was a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Previously he was the director of the Middle East and Central Asia Department at the International Monetary Fund (IMF). This department is responsible for monitoring macroeconomic developments and providing policy advice to thirty-two countries in the Middle East, North Africa, and Central Asia, and for advising IMF management and Executive Board on country-specific and regional matters. He holds degrees from Columbia University (MA) and the London School of Economics (BSc and PhD). Dr. Khan's publications cover macroeconomic and monetary policies in developing countries, economic growth, international trade and finance, Islamic banking, Middle East oil markets, exchange rates, and IMF programs. He has edited seven books, published numerous articles in major economics journals, and serves on the editorial boards of ten academic journals. In 2003 he was awarded the Islamic Development Bank Prize in Islamic Economics for outstanding contributions to the field.

## Moderator Bio



### **Ms. Hadley Gamble**

*Anchor and Reporter, CNBC*

Ms. Hadley Gamble is CNBC's Anchor based in Abu Dhabi. Hadley anchors Capital Connection from CNBC's Middle East Headquarters based within Abu Dhabi Global Markets. In addition, Hadley also fronts CNBC's popular documentary franchise, Access: Middle East where she speaks to world leaders, international CEOs and philanthropists. Recent guests include Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, Lebanon's Prime Minister Saad Hariri, Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir, HRH Princess Reema bin Bandar Al-Saud, as well as U.S Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and U.S Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. In addition, Hadley has profiled some of the biggest names in business including the man behind the world's tallest tower, Emaar Chairman Mohammed Alabbar, bitcoin brothers Tyler and Cameron Winklevoss and the only Western investor to hold a telecom license in North Korea, billionaire Egyptian businessman Naguib Sawiris. Hadley regularly reports for CNBC from the World Economic Forum in Davos, moderating panels on topics ranging from the geostrategic outlook for the Middle East to the future of education and infrastructure. Hadley is also a passionate advocate for women in the workplace and their advancement across the Arab world. She moderated the first ever women's business forum in Saudi Arabia and provided exclusive content to CNBC as the Kingdom lifted its decades-old driving ban. An experienced journalist, Hadley has also worked for ABC News and Fox News in Washington, DC producing news programs and covering national and international political events, including the 2008 Presidential Debates, Election Night 2008 and the Inauguration of US President Barack Obama.