



**The Cooperation Council for the Arab  
States of the Gulf  
Secretariat – General**



## **Gulf Cooperation Council Vision for Regional Security**

Political Affairs and Negotiations

2024



## Introduction

Coordination of the positions of the GCC member States on regional and international issues is an important pillar of cooperation and integration between the GCC States, and an essential factor for formulating their unified foreign policy, which enabled the GCC to adopt common toward the possible most important regional and international issues, including regional security issues.

The common positions of the GCC States are based on the GCC Charter and the principles of international law that govern relations between countries, and preserve regional security and stability. They include the principles of non-interference in the internal affairs of states, mutual respect for their sovereignty, political independence, territorial integrity and natural resources, the resolution of disputes between states through negotiations, diplomatic means, and dialogue; and the rejection of the use or threat of force.



The GCC member states conceive of their security as indivisible, particularly in light of the instability that the region and the world are witnessing. The security of the GCC States is associated with the principle of a common destiny, based on the GCC Charter and the Joint Defense Agreement.

In line with the positions of the GCC states toward regional and international issues, the Ministerial Council (at its 158th session, December 3, 2023, Doha, State of Qatar) adopted the GCC Vision on Regional Security, to bolster GCC role in maintaining security, stability and peace in the region. The strategic objectives of this vision seek to maintain regional security, stability of the countries of the region and the prosperity of their people, as well as enhancing international security and peace, building strategic relations and regional and international partnerships, ensuring the security and stability of energy supplies and oil markets, fostering maritime security and freedom of maritime navigation, addressing climate challenges in a collective manner, securing and defending vital economic resources, and creating investment opportunities to enhance their capa-



bilities to achieve development and progress for their people, which will bring about sustainable security and peace, and regional and international prosperity.

The vision includes several topics focused on security and stability, economy and development, as well as the environment and climate change, which would help the GCC States deal with current and future security challenges, interference in their internal affairs and in neighboring countries, as well as the international geopolitical changes, and economic and cultural challenges.





# **Gulf Cooperation Council Vision for Regional Security**

## **Principles**

The security principles of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states and their vision on regional security are based upon the GCC Charter, the Charter of the League of Arab States, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Charter, the principles and purposes of the United Nations Charter, and the principles of international law, including respect for the sovereignty of states, non-interference in their internal affairs, as well as the principles of good neighborliness, refraining from the threat or use of force and resolving disputes through peaceful means.



## Motives

The GCC states' religious and cultural role, their geopolitical and economic pivotal significance, central location in the middle of the most important sea lanes, and their pioneering role in resolving political and economic crises both regionally and globally.



## Starting points

The security of GCC states is indivisible, which has become more urgent in light of the current regional and global instability. Their security is based on their shared destiny as enshrined in the GCC Charter, and in the Joint Defense Treaty, which stipulates that any attack against one GCC member states is an attack on all member states, and a threat against one of them is a threat against all. The GCC states are actively reinforcing their capabilities to deter dangers and sources of threat against their security and territorial integrity. They stand together against any aggression against any member state as aggression against all. They also play a pivotal role in supporting the security of neighboring countries and their political and economic stability, as well as fulfilling their role in ensuring international peace and security.





## Objectives

Preserving regional security, stability of the countries of the region, prosperity of their people, and enhancing international peace and security, through:

- Tackling challenges facing the region, transforming them into opportunities for development and prosperity, building the future through settling disagreements by peaceful means, finding consensus-based solutions that ensure respect for the legitimate interests of all parties while avoiding polarization attempts.
- Building strategic relationships and regional and international partnerships to deal with sources of threat and tension in the region and world-wide, including through GCC states' role in ensuring security of energy supplies and stability of oil markets, enhancing maritime security and freedom of navigation, and their concern for the non-proliferation regime.
- Collectively addressing climate challenges to achieve



environmental security and the Sustainable Development Goals.

- Exploring ways to prevent future risks before they occur.
- Securing and defending their vital economic resources, creating investment opportunities to enhance their capabilities toward development and progress for their people, and undertaking ambitious and innovative projects through diverse strategic partnerships for cooperation and integration in all fields, with the objective of contributing to sustainable peace, security and prosperity, regionally and internationally.



## Joint efforts to enhance regional security

1. Build upon the GCC states' efforts to mediate differences through negotiations, diplomacy and dialogue, and avoiding the resort to force or threats, in order to ensure regional security and stability, and preserve the development trajectory of the GCC states.
2. Intensify efforts to continue playing an effective leadership role to spare the region the repercussions of wars, tackle regional crises, provide good offices, and support mediation efforts; call for the implementation of relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions; safeguard the sovereignty, unity, and security of states in the region; and counter external interference, which leads to tearing apart national unity and state institutions, and to obstructing necessary reforms.



3. Activate the Arab Peace Initiative, and support international efforts to reach a just resolution of the Palestinian cause in accordance with the two-state solution and relevant international resolutions, ending the Israeli occupation of Palestinian Territories and other occupied Arab territories, ensuring Israel's withdrawal to the borders of June 4, 1967, the establishment of the Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital, ensuring the rights of refugees, and the immediate cessation of demographic changes aimed at erasing the Arab identity of the Occupied Territories and Judaizing of the Islamic and Christian holy sites; call on the international community to take decisive actions in this regard, warning that the continued blocking of prospects for a just resolution is a key factor in destabilizing the region and is employed as justification for the spread of extremism, hatred, and violence, regionally and internationally.
  
4. Support international and regional efforts to preserve the non-proliferation regime and make the Middle East, in-



cluding the Gulf region, free of weapons of mass destruction, by urging regional countries to join the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and abide by all international resolutions related to non-proliferation, while stressing that addressing nuclear proliferation risks is essential for maintaining regional security and preventing a nuclear arms race in the region.

5. Support states' right to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes within the framework of international agreements and adherence to nuclear safety standards, asserting their readiness to cooperate and engage, seriously and effectively, toward achieving common goals and interests in this field.
6. Strengthen internal capabilities, deepen regional and international partnerships, and support cooperation and coordination mechanisms at regional and international levels, to enhance the concept of shared strategic interests, in order



to maintain maritime and waterways' security, and deter activities threatening maritime navigation lanes, international trade and energy supplies, and combat smuggling activities of all types and tracks, as well as ensure the coordination of regional and international efforts.

7. Enhance efforts to combat terrorism and extremism of all forms and manifestations, urge other regional and international parties to adopt a comprehensive approach built on peaceful coexistence and mutual respect between countries of the world, and combat all forms of terrorism and extremism, which should not be associated with any particular faith, people, or ethnic group.
8. Work to dry up the sources of terrorism and its finances, while actively engaging with other regional and international partners to improve legal frameworks and practices aimed at combating terrorism financing and money-laundering.



9. Demand the criminalization of all groups carrying out terrorist acts, irrespective of their political or sectarian affiliations, or ties to state institutions, and refrain from supporting, financing, and arming terrorist militias and sectarian groups, including supplying them with ballistic missiles and drones. Intensify action with regional and international partners to prevent access by non-state actors to arms, ammunitions, ballistic missile technology and drone systems, strengthening regional and international legal mechanisms, and holding accountable those who violate relevant UN resolutions.
  
10. Raise cybersecurity levels and counter cybercrime, a significant security challenge that has escalated recently at regional and international levels; enhance the use of joint action plans; take effective steps to raise awareness about cyber threats; and establish strategic partnerships with regional and international actors to bolster cybersecurity.



11. Enhance international partnerships aimed at preserving regional and international security and stability, addressing chronic crises, reinforcing legal regional and international mechanisms, and establishing a platform for direct negotiations to bridge differences between parties to conflicts.
12. Intensify work to ensure the stability of global energy markets, in a manner that serves the interests of both producers and consumers, spares the world from the negative effects of market fluctuations and disruptions to global supply chains; call for avoiding the politicization of these issues, given its negative repercussions on the global economy; strengthen economic cooperation among regional countries to serve the interests of dialogue, communication, and bridge building, in recognition of the close links between security and stability on the one hand and prosperity and dealing with socio-economic challenges on the other.
13. Intensify efforts to find effective solutions to climate change





challenges through a realistic, responsible and balanced approach; engage with regional and international partners to develop long-term strategies to help fully guide the implementation of pledges and commitments within the principles of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement, which form the basis for making progress toward achieving Sustainable Development Goals and investing in climate solutions, and development partnerships.

14. Implement the circular carbon economy approach, which enhances the development of renewable energy resources and the optimized use of hydrocarbons, through clean technologies, to manage their emissions, including technologies to capture and reuse of carbon dioxide, in order to support countries to reach the ambition of carbon emission neutrality, as a comprehensive and integrated framework to address the challenges emanating from emissions contributing to greenhouse effects, while preserving the



natural environment, raising the level of vegetation cover, and increasing reliance on clean technologies for all energy sources.

15. Intensify work to confront future challenges to water and food security, and the potential for the exacerbation of those challenges at regional and international levels, due to circumstances arising from environmental changes, conflicts and crises. Actively contribute, with regional and international parties, to finding sustainable solutions to tackle those challenges. Enhance coordination and cooperation with regional and global partners to safeguard global food supply chains and price stability, to prevent consuming nations from facing the risk famine.

\* Adopted by the GCC Ministerial Council in its (158) session, held on 3 December 2023, in Doha, State of Qatar.