

EMTA Forum on the MENA/GCC Outlook in Dubai

February 17, 2025

Panel 1

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JEAN-MICHEL SALIBA (MODERATOR) **BofA Securities**

Jean-Michel Saliba is a Managing Director, Head of Emerging Europe, Middle East and Africa (EEMEA) and Middle East – North Africa (MENA) region economist at Bank of America (BofA Global Research). He is responsible for the formulation of the regional macroeconomic outlook and related forecasts, and Fixed Income/FX investment strategies across the MENA region, as well as overseeing economics research across the EEMEA region.

Prior to joining the firm in 2010, Saliba served as a MENA economist and strategist at both Pantera Capital Management and J.P. Morgan. He has been the #1 ranked Middle East - North Africa economist in the Institutional Investor research surveys since 2013. He is a frequent commentator on regional economic affairs in local and international media outlets.

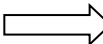
Saliba holds a Bachelor's degree in Computer and Communications Engineering from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, and a Master's degree in economics from the London School of Economics and Political Science. He is based in London.

FAROUK SOUSSA **Goldman Sachs**

Farouk Soussa is an Economist at Goldman Sachs International, responsible for the MENA region.

Prior to joining Goldman's, Mr Soussa had been Head of Middle East Economics at Citigroup, and head of government ratings for the Middle East and Africa at Standard & Poor's, both in Dubai and London.

Mr Soussa started his career at the Bank of England, and has spent time with the UK Financial Services Authority and as a Jean Monnet Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence.

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SIMON WILLIAMS
HSBC

Simon Williams joined HSBC in 2006 as Chief Economist for MENA in Dubai, before moving to London in 2014.

Simon returned to Dubai in 2023, where he continues to head the Central and Eastern Europe, Middle East, and Africa (CEEMEA) region's economics coverage and lead the bank's macro research in the Middle East.

Simon has more than 25 years' experience as a country analyst and economist for the emerging markets.

ALEXANDER PERJESSY
Moody's Ratings

Alex is Vice President – Senior Credit Officer at Moody's Sovereign Risk Group.

Based in Dubai, he has lead and backup analyst responsibilities for a number of sovereigns across the Middle East and North Africa, including most of the Gulf Cooperation Council member states and Türkiye, as well as several regional multilateral institutions.

He is a regular speaker at Moody's and other third-party events covering Middle East credit and macroeconomic outlook. He also leads the sovereign risk group's contributions to Moody's Islamic Finance franchise as well as the group's strategic thinking about credit implications of global carbon transition.

Prior to joining Moody's in November 2017, Alex worked for two years as senior economist at the Islamic Development Bank in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia.

Before relocating to the Middle East, Alex spent more than 12 years covering macroeconomic developments and sovereign credit risk assessment in the emerging markets of the EMEA region for AllianceBernstein and The Rohatyn Group, both US-based asset management firms in New York, as well as for Goldman Sachs in London.

Alex holds an MA in Economics from the University of Maryland, College Park, and a BA in Economics from Middlebury College.

CARLA SLIM
Standard Chartered

Carla is an economist covering the Middle East, based in Dubai. She has close to a decade of experience in sell-side research, providing on-the-ground analysis to external and internal stakeholders of the Bank. She speaks at industry conferences and regularly appears in global and regional media. She was nominated in 2020 to represent the Bank at the Institute of International Finance's (IIF's) Future Leaders programme, which recognises young leaders in the financial services industry.

Carla holds a Bachelor of Arts in economics from the American University of Beirut and has completed the IIF's course on forecasting macroeconomic variables in the Middle East. She speaks French, English and Arabic fluently.