

NOTE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the American University of Beirut's Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs!

As a university-embedded policy think-tank, we devote our mission to better understanding the dynamics, processes, and developments in Lebanon and its broader regional and international milieu, to identify policy options and scenarios, and to raise and debate them with relevant stakeholders, from policymakers to key civil society players.

Working both with the vibrant and talented AUB community, as well as with the broader network of non-resident fellows, our clusters cover three main areas of policy research: Sustainability and Inclusive Development (including political economy, infrastructure, and human security); Regional and International Affairs (including Lebanon and the World, Levant geopolitical and security aspects, East and EuroMed interconnections, and global power politics); and Politics and Governance (including state structure and reforms, electoral processes and political trends, social movements, and security).

Our presence and visibility are showcased through a wide variety of year-round events, publications, and a dynamic social media presence. This is how we aim to solidify our participation in the public policy discussion and have a meaningful impact on our collective public life.

I invite you to actively engage with us, take part in our online and in-person events, follow us online, and subscribe to our mailing list to stay updated on all our latest news, announcements, publications, policy blogs, partnerships, and participation in conferences and meetings across the world to better help us fulfill our mission.

Sincerely,

Joseph Bahout, PhD

Director, Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs
Associate Professor of Practice, Political Studies
American University of Beirut

LEARN MORE & FOLLOW US

PUBLICATIONS

Access our wide range of publications – including analysis, op-eds, policy briefs, working papers, research reports, and conference reports, among others – on our website.



POLICY BLOG

www.ifipolicyblog.com

The Institute Policy Blog is a platform whereby our researchers, fellows, and other experts tackle current hot topics in a brief yet insightful manner.

FELLOWS

www.ififellows.com

Our University and Associate Fellows constitute the intellectual network of academics, researchers, professionals, and practitioners that gravitate around the institute, contributing to its work, knowledge production, and activities.

INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

Our Internship Program is open to motivated university students interested in contributing to the fields of public policy and international affairs. Visit our website for details and application deadlines.

EVENTS

www.eventsatifi.com

For announcements of the institute's upcoming events and to revisit previous events, through summaries and recordings of discussions you may have missed, make sure to visit our Events Page.

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**AMERICAN
UNIVERSITY
OF BEIRUT**



**American University of Beirut's
INSTITUTE
FOR PUBLIC POLICY
& INTERNATIONAL
AFFAIRS**

ABOUT THE INSTITUTE

The American University of Beirut's Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs was inaugurated in 2006 to serve as an independent, research-based, and policy-oriented institute with the aim of initiating, developing, and communicating policy-relevant research from and about Lebanon and the region, contributing to the realms of both academia and policymaking. Treading the sensitive interface between research and "real" politics, the institute navigates the often-arduous process of dialogue between experts and policymakers, integrating the constraints of real-time policymaking and the intricacies of governmental, inter-agency work. More importantly, it has made large and successful contributions to the shaping of research agendas and has introduced local and international stakeholders to novel and innovative ways of thinking and understanding the world's problems.

Forming a bridge between academia and policymaking, the institute's central mission is threefold:

- 1 conduct and disseminate high-quality research on the complex issues, problems, and challenges faced by Lebanon and the Arab world within rapidly shifting global contexts
- 2 generate research and evidence-based policy recommendations to address local and regional challenges
- 3 create a space for interdisciplinary dialogue, engagement, and exchange of ideas among various stakeholders



CLUSTERS

The institute's wide array of expertise in issues related to climate change, sustainable development, refugees and displacement, local and regional politics, political economy, women, peace, and security, among other important subjects, has laid the foundations for promoting a cluster approach to realizing its mission and objectives. It continuously seeks to spearhead and partake in projects and initiatives that are multidisciplinary, interdisciplinary, and transdisciplinary in focus. Currently, the institute's work revolves around three interconnected clusters of focus: Sustainability and Inclusive Development; Lebanon in the World: Regional and International Affairs; and Policy, Politics, and Governance.

SUSTAINABILITY AND INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

The Sustainability and Inclusive Development Cluster aims to generate knowledge and influence policy around the human, social, economic, and environmental pillars of sustainability and inclusive development. The institute addresses current local and regional challenges, such as climate change, energy, social protection, refugees, education, and economic recovery, through policy dialogue and research that promote sustainable and equitable development.

LEBANON IN THE WORLD:

REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Under Lebanon in the World: Regional and International Affairs Cluster, the institute investigates the driving forces and power dynamics that shape policies at varying levels of governance. It delves into the real-world practice of policy formation and politics related to Lebanon and the region. The institute explores the wider global system, Lebanon in the international order, Lebanon abroad, and its neighbors, while also focusing on current developments in Syria and its impact on Lebanon.

POLICY, POLITICS, AND GOVERNANCE

Within the Policy, Politics, and Governance Cluster, the institute undertakes the task of examining the various mechanisms that make up and define Lebanon's political structure and governance system. It investigates how public policies are formulated, implemented, and contested within Lebanon's governance framework and political context.

