



Jordan and Morocco Access to GCC: Present and future questions

por Neama Al- Ebadi



Working paper # 24
Programa Medio Oriente

Jordan and Morocco Access to GCC: Present and future questions por Neama Al-Ebadi¹

In the midst of currently unprecedented events and repercussions take place in most of Arab countries focused on transition in certain countries and other candidates heading to the same destiny, a sudden and noticeable statement comes out to reconsider the possibility of joining Jordan and Morocco to GCC (Gulf cooperation countries).

Dozen questions and hundred question marks are still pending in relation to the timing, genuine implementation and the justifiable reasons? Which party will be the beneficiary? Is this demand initiating by the next two counties joining GCC or GCC offers the demand to the former countries?

If truly the former countries have initiated the offer, so which a perspective those two countries move to submit such a demand, although the events, developments and their domains make the demand odd? Why such a time is synchronous? Why this consensus set to a country locating at the east of Arab world and another in west of Arab world? Even if there is lacking a distinct field of relationship and coordination to such significant steps?

Assuming GCC are the initiator, so which country has this brainchild adopted < and what is its interest in such as a step?

Is it a consensus resolution taken by GCC? What is the need of GCC to two countries like Jordan and Morocco? Regardless to the economic benefits it is unreasonable that Rich oil gulf countries running high revenues will ask economic integration with such poor countries having simple resources and relying on subsidies particularly Jordan, also we don't anticipate that two countries represent deeper strategy or geopolitics to GCC? So, what are the anticipatory benefits of such access? Is it possible to culturally distant societies plagued with internal problems such Jordan and Morocco societies to harmonize with Gulf societies renowned for cultural and social particularities?

If we have passed such a phase of questions, another matrix will immediately inflow? is the western factor playing a role in such as a case?

Which countries or powers will be much in interest of such accession? are such interesting countries concerning with GCC or Jordan and Morocco? What does factors force GCC to respond such a foreign pressure? What are the benefits and interests negotiated with GCC for

Regarding future's questions: what if this accession is taken place? Will GCC maintain the old name of GCC even though newly accessed countries?

Will this accession be a new phase for significant institutional reforms by which former structures and bodies leave the council? What about the project of a single currency among GCC? What about the trade and transportation freedom among GCC? Will it include such new two countries? Is there any preconceived planning for cultural or economic integration between the two countries and GCC?

¹ General Director of Iraqi Center for Researches and Studies.



If such countries like Oman and Bahrain which are renowned for their inherently pure gulf identity representing a barrier ahead economic congruence to GCC! So, what will be the next for the newcomers? Are the current revolutions and uprising the motive and driver for such an accession and new pact?

What about the project of accessing Yemen to GCC? Why doesn't such thinking include Iraq to instead of Jordan and Morocco on the basis of Iraq's economic and political eligibility. Change concern has gone beyond, beside Iraq's accession to GCC will be an influential power to the region and undisputed chance for better-off economic force.

These questions will not be asked for just being answered as much as generally expressing significant thinking and excitement leading the simple reader who is concerned in searching in the content of lines and drawing out analyses and answers more precise than the essay's writer vision . however the exciting and exploring questions will still an important advantage in our essay.

GCC are plagued internal and external challenges and crises, regarding the internal perspective such as an unemployment, financial savings erosion, stock market swings, foreign investment problems and identities ones and cultural congruence amid the components of single country, beside, other countries and other issues, legislations, laws, constitutions which can answer their people aspirations and demands in addition to the, foreign labor and its impact over cultural and social construction and consequences of value and concept deviations such as UAE where can be exposed to demographic chance due to the huge size of the current foreign labor, beside the high rate of crimes and young problems, behavior deviations that represent other internal challenges. , it is not easily challenging the terrorism, extremism, violence and dispute between narrow and open minded.

Externally, Gulf is facing significant challenges and threats in concern of Iran nuclear issue, its repercussion and general track of the conflict in the region and strained situation between Iran and GCC and residual of Iraq-Kuwait invasion, its repercussion and foreign intervention in thee region and continuous need of GCC for foreign protection and globalization and repercussion. Adding risk of the current revolution and uprising to these challenges in the region will inevitably reach to intrinsic changes in those countries. As well, human rights and woman issues are in particular other challenges dominating the richest region.

On the other hand, (Jordan, Morocco) suffer from significant internal, external challenges and problems, both of them suffer incongruous demographic status and multi layered societies which are not eligibly economic and cultural in line of rights and privileges.

Beside, they are run by monarchy system although they adopted constitutional monarchy, however, the fact asserts that both of families of monarchs are consecutively ruling for long time. This is not consistent with powerful aspirations which are witnessed by region's people participating in the ruling, power and peaceful transition, fair elections having influential consequences in decision making.

Beside, deteriorating economic situation, unemployment, debts, financial deficit and water troubles such as a considerable internal challenges, while externally the regional and international situation is still strained and needed a protection and foreign aids, continuous assistances, higher political and





security blackmail is getting much higher in return for the aids in ways of new challenges and obstacles ahead of the two countries.

The currently unanswered question is: what shall both parties (GCC) and (Jordan and Morocco) present in encountering their internal and external challenges?

I believe that even though GCC views a list of internal and external challenges and dangers which in prior is mentioned, however there still two considerable dangers, one is internally represented in the people aspiration for changes, demonstrations, revolutions by a certain population such as Bahrain or what is called Saudi Shiites, while external danger is represented in Iran (regarding GCC perspective).

The problem is held on basis of perceptual combination of internal and external danger alleged by gulf countries that any internal movement is driven by external plot namely Iran.

From this essential perspective, how could importance of newly suggested relationship (Jordan and Morocco accession to GCC) be conceived?

Nowadays, any observer realizes the role of international determiner leading any revolution or movement to be successful on the basis of being decisive factor.

It is clearly noticed in holding comparison between the Egyptian and Bahrain scenarios. Every government has means of sufficient suppression against people demonstration unless international factor and excessive force problem is deeply concerned by which leads to international condemnation and penalties.

Let's see what took place in Bahrain when the world and UN disregarded the brutal procedures against revolution till it is gradually faded away unlikely the international situation in Libya, Syria and Yemen.

Morocco and Jordan are still the closest and most interested allies to Israel in regard of security issues. It is unquestionably that super powers are keen to maintain Jordan stable and secure. Beside they are still remaining regimes of old guards regime which have flexible relationships upholding essence of independent Israel state in the region. As well Israel's security and existence represent western interests in full compliance of that. So naturally defending Israel's allies is an obligation . thus if Jordan and Morocco accession to GCC will be a reward to those two countries in return of being secure against the current situations and revolutions dominating the region.

Thus, Gulf countries are capable to assist those countries to overcome their challenges and problems particularly economic ones, beside two countries people will not think to take action against their regime in light of a weak glimmer of hope to GCC accession in terms of oil, job opportunities and well-being.

While the price received by those Gulf countries will be in return of exorbitant tax in terms of silencing any uprising, revolution whatever and cracking down all procedures taken against Gulf governments in such as situations particularly against Shiites. Beside assurance of protection those GCC against





external danger represented in Iran, furthermore Superpowers will degrade Iran's power in favor of gulf force.

Assuming this case is just unreal suggestion, it will give guarantees to Jordan and Morocco to crackdown evil of change waves against their rulers in such a way of the most significant reward in this hard time.

Regarding the real implementation anticipation will certainly GCC's remorse in accepting such an impulsive step in which tiresome burden will continue and deprive them from tactic and strategic importance.

Such as a subject is still probable and ambiguously undisclosed, this essay is just a small periscope assisting in contemplating and pondering the events amid the essay's lines, beside it calls the decision makers every country which is concerned in this matter for further seriousness and reconsideration to this critical event.

