



**U.S. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**  
International Affairs



**U.S. Chamber of Commerce's U.S.-Iraq Business Council**  
***Virtual Conference:***  
***Post COVID-19 Economic Priorities in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq***

done in cooperation with



**\*\*SUBJECT TO CHANGE\*\***

*All times in Eastern Time (EST)*

**Monday, November 23, 2020:**

- 9:00 a.m. Introduction & Virtual Conference Overview**
- Steve Lutes, President, U.S.-Iraq Business Council
- 9:05 a.m. Welcome Remarks**
- H.E. Bayan Sami Rahman, Kurdistan Regional Government Representative to the United States
  - Hon. Robert Waller, Consul General, U.S. Consulate Erbil
- 9:10 a.m. Keynote Remarks by the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Energy**  
Speaker:
- Hon. Mark Menezes, United States Deputy Secretary of Energy
    - *Introduction by:* Steve Lutes, President, U.S.-Iraq Business Council
- 9:20 a.m. Keynote Remarks by the Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Regional Government**  
Speaker:
- H.E. Masrour Barzani, Prime Minister, Kurdistan Regional Government
    - *Introduction by:* Ross Perot Jr., Chairman, The Perot Companies and Hillwood
- 9:45 a.m. Break**
- 9:55 a.m. In Conversation: *Partnering for a Future of Stability & Prosperity***  
Speakers:
- H.E. Safeen Dizayee, Head of the Department of Foreign Relations, Kurdistan Regional Government
  - H.E. Dr. Fareed Yasseen, Iraq Ambassador to the United States
  - Hon. Matthew Tueller, United States Ambassador to Iraq
- Moderator: Bilal Wahab, Nathan and Esther K. Wagner Fellow, The Washington Institute
- 10:15 a.m. Remarks by the Kurdistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce & Industry**  
Speaker:
- Dara Jalil Khayat, Chairman, Kurdistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry
- 10:20 a.m. Break**



**10:25 a.m.**

**In Conversation: *Why Invest in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq***

Speakers:

- Hon. David Copley, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Iraq Affairs
- Dori F. Abouzeid, Chairman, AmCham in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq
- Patricia Letayf, Co-Founder & Director of Operations, Five One Labs

Moderator: Lisa Podolny, Economic Affairs Chief, U.S. Consulate Erbil

**10:45 a.m.**

**Remarks: *Securing the Environment for Investment***

Speaker:

- His Excellency Reber Ahmed Khalid, Minister of Interior, Kurdistan Regional Government
  - *Introduction by:* H.E. Bayan Sami Rahman, Kurdistan Regional Government Representative to the United States

**10:55 a.m.**

**Fireside Chat with the CEO of Lezzoo**

Speakers:

- Yadgar Merani, CEO and Co-Founder, Lezzoo
- Steve Lutes, President, U.S.-Iraq Business Council

**11:05 a.m.**

**Roundtable: *U.S. Business Outlook on the Kurdistan Region of Iraq***

Speakers:

- Jeffrey Holachek, Vice President, Government Relations and Business Development, Honeywell
- Caroline Berson, Senior Director, Global Public Policy and Strategic Engagement, PepsiCo
- Alain Yazbeck, Regional Director, Middle East & Africa, Cochlear
- Ridha AlShabibi, Director and Country Head for Iraq, Citi

Moderator: Steve Lutes, President, U.S.-Iraq Business Council

**11:25 a.m.**

**Concluding Remarks & Preview Day #2**

- Steve Lutes, President, U.S.-Iraq Business Council
- H.E. Bayan Sami Rahman, Kurdistan Regional Government Representative to the United States

**11:30 a.m.**

**Adjourn**

**Tuesday, November 24, 2020:**

**9:00 a.m.**

**Day Two Introduction and Overview**

Speakers:

- Steve Lutes, President, U.S.-Iraq Business Council
- H.E. Bayan Sami Rahman, Kurdistan Regional Government Representative to the United States

**9:05 a.m.**

**Keynote Discussion: *Enabling the Drivers of Economic Growth***

- H.E. Qubad Talabani, Deputy Prime Minister, Kurdistan Regional Government
- Hon. Joey Hood, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs, U.S. Department of State

Moderator: Steve Lutes, President, U.S.-Iraq Business Council



**9:25 a.m.**

**Ministerial Panel: *Economic Priorities for 2021 & Beyond***

Speakers:

- H.E. Awat Janab Noori, Minister of Finance and Economy, Kurdistan Regional Government
- H.E. Dara Rashid Mahmud, Minister of Planning, Kurdistan Regional Government
- H.E. Mohammed Shukri, Chairman, Kurdistan Board of Investment

Moderator: Dlawer Ala'Aldeen, President, Middle East Research Institute

**9:55 a.m.**

**In Conversation: *The Future of U.S.-Iraq Energy Partnerships***

Speaker:

- Baz Karim, President & Chief Executive Officer, KAR Group
- Russell Freeman, Chief Executive Officer, Hillwood Energy
- Chris Bowers, Senior Advisor, Chevron

Discussion Leader: Hon. Dr. Matthew Zais, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary, International Affairs, U.S. Department of Energy

**10:15 a.m.**

**Interview: *Prioritizing Food Security for the Kurdistan Region of Iraq***

Speakers:

- H.E. Begard Talabani, Minister of Agriculture & Water Resources, Kurdistan Regional Government
- Dr. Hemin Mirkhan, University of Kurdistan Hewler

**10:35 a.m.**

**Speed Round: 3 Questions with Allison Minor, Managing Director at U.S. International Development Finance Corporation**

**10:45 a.m.**

**Final Reflections**

- Hon. Robert Waller, Consul General, U.S. Consulate Erbil
- H.E. Bayan Sami Rahman, Kurdistan Regional Government Representative to the United States
- Steve Lutes, President, U.S.-Iraq Business Council

**10:55 a.m.**

**Virtual Conference concludes**

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