



C-SIPA: A Model for Gulf Cooperation

HH Shaikh Nasser, US Intelligence Chief Discuss Gulf Security Framework

- Investments in energy, cybersecurity, and space pave way for growth
- Dialogue highlights multilateral defense, investment, and innovation deals

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TDT | Manama

His Highness Lieutenant General Shaikh Nasser bin Hamad Al Khalifa, National Security Adviser and Royal Guard Commander, underscored Bahrain’s commitment to regional security, stability, and prosperity during the opening session of the 21st IISS Manama Dialogue. The session featured a high-profile side-line panel discussion with US National Intelligence Director Tulsi Gabbard, focusing on the Comprehensive Security Integration and Prosperity Agreement (C-SIPA) and its broader implications.

HH Shaikh Nasser emphasized that C-SIPA, signed following Bahrain’s participation in the Abraham Accord, represents a comprehensive framework ex-



tending beyond defense cooperation to science, technology, and economic investment. “C-SIPA is not just a defense agreement; it is a multilateral platform that addresses regional conflicts while fostering a global framework for cooperation,” he said.

Key Security Enhancements

Bahrain has strengthened its military capabilities with the integration of F-16 Block 70 fighter jets and upgraded Patriot air defense systems, delivered ahead of schedule. These measures enhance Bahrain’s air power and preparedness amid rising regional tensions, particularly recent incidents involving Iran and Qatar. HH Shaikh Nasser noted that collaboration with the United States through Operation Posterity Guardian demonstrates a shared commit-

ment to stability in a turbulent Middle East.

Economic and Technological Gains

Beyond defense, C-SIPA is driving investment deals and innovation. Bahrain has signed multi-million-dollar agreements in energy, cybersecurity, and space sectors, including small modular nuclear reactors and satellite technology projects. HH Shaikh Nasser highlighted the trilateral cooperation with the United States and the United Kingdom, signaling a move toward a broader multilateral approach to regional security and economic prosperity.

Regional Challenges

Both HH Shaikh Nasser and Tulsi Gabbard reflected on the complexities of engaging with

Iran, noting that diplomacy and intelligence collaboration are essential in navigating threats and fostering long-term peace. “True security and prosperity cannot be forged in isolation but through collective efforts among peacemakers,” said Gabbard, stressing the importance of pragmatic, deal-driven foreign policy in preventing conflicts and stabilizing the region.

US-Bahrain Cooperation

The dialogue highlighted the United States’ role as a committed partner, facilitating both defense and economic collaboration across the Gulf. Gabbard praised Bahrain’s leadership in leveraging strategic partnerships to advance regional stability, noting that initiatives like C-SIPA link military preparedness with economic and tech-

nological development, creating a holistic approach to security.

HH Shaikh Nasser concluded his remarks by reaffirming Bahrain’s commitment to dialogue, collaboration, and multilateral cooperation as the foundation for regional peace and prosperity, reinforcing the Kingdom’s vision of stability amid a challenging geopolitical landscape.

Speakers at IISS Manama Dialogue

- Dr Abdullahif bin Rashid Al Zayani, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Bahrain
- Qasim Al Araj, National Security Adviser, Iraq
- Hon. Dr Anne Aly MP, Minister for International Development, Australia
- Sayyid Badr bin Hamad bin Hamood Al Busaidi, Foreign Minister, Oman
- Hon. Thomas J. Barrack, Ambassador to Türkiye and Special Envoy for Syria, US
- Admiral Sir Keith Blount, NATO Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe
- Ana Birchall, Former Deputy Prime Minister, Romania
- Ruben Brekelmans, Minister of Defence, Netherlands

Today

The summit opens at 8:25 a.m. with welcome remarks by Dr Bastian Giegerich, Director-General and Chief Executive of the IISS.

The first plenary session (8:30-10:00) explores The Future of Global Security Governance, featuring speakers from Jordan, Germany, and the United Kingdom.

A special address on National Security and Energy – The US Approach follows at 10:00 a.m., delivered by US Interior Secretary Doug Burgum.

After a short break, the second session (11:15-12:30) focuses on Securing the Gulf, with ministers from Bahrain, Oman, Greece, and the European Union.

The Geopolitics of Energy session (2:30-3:45) featuring senior officials from the Czech Republic, the Netherlands, the US, and the East Mediterranean Gas Forum.

The day concludes with US Policy in the Levant, featuring Ambassador Tom Barrack.

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