

Seminar: Kick-Starting Job-Creating Growth in the Middle East and North Africa
HQ2, Conference Hall 2 | Saturday, October 12 | 2:00–3:00 p.m.

Across much of the Middle East and North Africa region, growth is far too sluggish to raise incomes or to put a dent in chronically high unemployment. With regional growth averaging just over 2 percent in 2013, managing popular expectations for improved employment prospects and higher incomes remains a challenge. As urgent as short-term macroeconomic stabilization is for a number of countries across the region, progress on generating faster, job-creating growth is crucial for meeting the aspirations of a young and growing population, particularly in those countries undergoing political transition. The seminar will focus on what measures policymakers can take to kick-start growth and achieve positive results for their populations in the short-term.

Panelists:

Ragui Assaad, Professor of Planning and Public Affairs, University of Minnesota

Moncef Cheikh-Rouhou, Deputy Chairman of the Finance Committee, National Constituent Assembly, Tunisia

Arif Masood Naqvi, Founder and Group Chief Executive, Abraaj Group

Sidi Ould Tah, Minister of Economic Affairs and Development, Mauritania

Moderator: **Nemat Shafik**, IMF Deputy Managing Director