



In the name of God

Guide for Writing and Submitting a Policy Brief

November 2025



1) Introduction to the Conference

The Annual Conference on Resilient Economy is an ongoing event organized by the Moqavemati Economy Think Tank with the aim of "improving the quality of decision-making in the country." This annual conference provides a platform for monitoring and assessing the main issues of the country's economy, strengthening the scientific and policy foundations based on the resilient economy model, and presenting operational proposals to fortify the economy, all within a specific thematic area and with the participation of experts. During the conference, proceedings, discussions, and the outputs of studies are disseminated through the media to create opportunities for engagement, participation, and feedback from all audiences and stakeholders in the country's policy-making space.

The approach of this annual conference, as the most prestigious annual event on the resilient economy in the country, is policy-oriented and operational. Its outputs are presented to the responsible authorities for utilization and are followed up by the Resilient Economy Think Tank. Therefore, this event is an opportunity for officials, experts, researchers, and academics to engage in critical, multi-faceted dialogue about the different perspectives presented to solve the country's economic challenges on the conference's topic, and to play a significant role in improving policy-making and strengthening the country's economy.

Annual Conference on Moqavemati Economy



The 12th Annual Conference on Resilient Economy, with the theme **"The New World Order: Reinventing Iran's Power,"** is on the agenda for this year.



2) Explanation of the 12th Annual Conference Themes

The 12th Annual Conference on Resilient Economy, under the theme "The New World Order: Reinventing Iran's Power," is structured around 3 main axes and 8 sub-axes:

I. Nature and Explanation

- Coordinates of the New World Order
- Iran's Position in the New Order
- Prospects of the New World Order
- Approaches for Iran

II. Opportunities and Initiatives

- Iran's Geopolitical and Geo-economic Capacities
- Strategic Interactions with Target Countries
- Regional Groups and Organizations
- Securing Supply Chains

III. Obstacles and Challenges

- The Sanctions Campaign and Maximum Pressure
- Regional Rival Countries

A detailed explanation of the conference axes and sub-axes is provided below.



Axis I: Nature and Explanation

This axis analyzes the theoretical foundations and tangible manifestations of the shift in the global power structure. The new world order is not merely an abstract concept but a reality in formation, shaped by signs such as the relative decline of American hegemony, the rise of new powers like China, and the increased activism of regional players. The goal of this axis is to provide a framework for understanding how to reinvent Iran's power by offering a precise analysis of this transitional environment. This reinvention requires a clear understanding of the rules, opportunities, and constraints of this new order to transform from a passive actor into an active and shaping force on the international stage.

- **Coordinates of the New World Order**

This section focuses on identifying the objective and structural characteristics of the emerging order. Unlike the post-Cold War unipolar order, where Western institutions (like the G7, World Bank, and IMF) set the rules of the game, the new world order is defined by characteristics such as "non-Western multilateralism" and competition over technological standards. The rapid growth of the BRICS group, which now accounts for over 45% of the world's population and a larger share of global GDP (by PPP) than the G7, is a clear example of this shift. Researchers are expected to deeply analyze the various dimensions of this order, supported by concrete examples. These dimensions constitute the main arenas of competition



and cooperation in the new world, and understanding them is vital for reinventing Iran's power. The most important of these dimensions are:

- **Technological Competition and the Political Economy of Knowledge:** In the new world order, power is more intertwined than ever with dominance over key technologies. This competition is clearly visible in the trade and technology war between the United States and China. Measures like the U.S. "CHIPS and Science Act" to restrict China's access to advanced semiconductors, and conversely, China's "Made in China 2025" plan to achieve technological independence, are not just economic rivalries; they are tools of power-building in the 21st century. This field presents both a threat and an opportunity for Iran. It is a threat because sanctions hinder Iran's access to these new generations of technology. However, reinventing power in this arena involves targeted investment in areas where Iran has a comparative advantage, as well as strategic cooperation with non-Western powers to break the West's technological monopoly.
- **Currency Wars and De-dollarization Efforts:** The dominance of the U.S. dollar in the global financial system has been the most powerful instrument of U.S. hegemony since World War II. This dominance allows Washington to isolate countries from the global economy



through financial sanctions. The new world order is characterized by the growing efforts of emerging powers to reduce their dependence on the dollar, or "De-dollarization." Actions such as bilateral trade between Russia and China in their national currencies, the proposal to create a common currency within BRICS, and Saudi Arabia's decision to consider selling oil to China in Yuan are all signs of this trend. For Iran, which is at the epicenter of dollar-based sanctions, this trend is a strategic opportunity. Reinventing Iran's economic power is directly linked to its success in joining this parallel financial architecture through bilateral currency swaps, leveraging the capacity of institutions like the BRICS' "New Development Bank (NDB)," and developing non-Western financial exchange mechanisms.

- **The Political Economy of Energy and Regional Realignment:** The world's energy map is changing. On one hand, the global move towards renewable energy will alter power dynamics in the long run. On the other hand, in the short and medium term, fossil fuels remain vital, and major energy producers are forming new coalitions. The formation of the "OPEC Plus" alliance, which brought Russia (a major non-OPEC producer) alongside the organization, is an example of an effort to manage the energy market independent of the will of Western powers. For Iran, as one of the world's largest holders of oil and gas reserves,



reinventing power in this domain means employing active "energy diplomacy." This includes strategic cooperation with other producers within frameworks like OPEC Plus and the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF), as well as becoming a regional energy "hub" through swaps and the transit of gas from neighboring countries (like Turkmenistan) to global markets.

- **The Growing Importance of Transport Corridors and Regional Cooperation:** In the new world order, which emphasizes connectivity and networking, control over trade routes and transport corridors has become as important as control over territory. The competition between projects like China's "Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)" and the "India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)" demonstrates the geo-economic significance of these routes. Iran's geographical location at the crossroads of these corridors presents an unparalleled opportunity to reinvent its power. The full activation of the "International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)," which could significantly shorten and reduce the cost of trade between India and Russia, and even India and Europe, would make Iran an essential and indispensable link in the global trade chain. This not only has direct economic benefits but also enhances the country's national security by tying the economic security of major powers to Iran's stability.



- **Iran's Position in the New Order**

This sub-axis assesses the multi-dimensional current position and potential capabilities of Iran within the transforming global power structure. In the new world order, relying solely on traditional power variables like GDP, oil production, or conventional military strength provides an incomplete assessment of a country's standing. Today, power is networked and hybrid, defined by a country's ability to leverage its unique advantages. This section seeks to precisely analyze Iran's sources of power and offer solutions for their synergy to reinvent national power. These include:

- **Enduring Advantages of Geopolitics and Geo-economics**

- **Dominance over Energy Arteries:** Iran's location remains a constant and vital variable in global energy security. Its control over the Strait of Hormuz, through which not only about 20% of the world's crude oil but also a significant portion of its LNG (especially from Qatar) passes, is a strategic lever for pressure and bargaining. In a new world order where competition over resource security has intensified, this position gains added importance.
- **Eurasian Connectivity and Transit Hub:** With the increasing importance of land routes and given Iran's geographical location,



the country's significance in new transport corridors is growing. The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC), connecting India, Iran, Azerbaijan, and Russia to Europe and potentially reducing transport time and cost by 30-40%, is a historic opportunity. Furthermore, Iran can act as a bridge in China's Belt and Road Initiative, providing a connection route from Western China to West Asia and Europe.

- **Asymmetric Influence Tools and Regional Strategic Depth**
 - **Regional Allies Network (The Resistance Front):** This network, comprising state and non-state actors in the region, is a unique source of power for Iran. It allows Iran to project its influence beyond its borders, create effective deterrence against rivals, and play a decisive role in regional crisis-resolution processes. In a new world order where conflicts are hybrid and proxy-based, this tool is especially important. However, a key question is how to expand this network's function from a purely security-military dimension to political and economic dimensions, and how to leverage its capacity to create regional cooperation blocs.
 - **Cultural and Civilizational Soft Power:** As the heir to an ancient civilization and a center of the Shi'a world, Iran possesses



significant cultural and ideological influence in the region and the Islamic world. This soft power, though overshadowed by political issues in recent years, remains a latent capacity for reinventing power. Ideas such as promoting the Persian language, scientific and academic diplomacy with neighboring countries, and joint cultural productions can help rebuild Iran's image and create deep-seated popular ties.

- **Prospects of the New World Order**

This section examines and analyzes potential scenarios for the future of the international structure. This review is a necessary step in formulating a national strategy to reinvent Iran's power, as each scenario creates a different environment with its own specific opportunities and threats, requiring tailored policies.

- One of the most probable prospects is **the world moving towards a "new Cold War" between the United States and China**. Signs of this are visible in the intense competition for dominance in strategic technologies like AI and semiconductors, efforts by both sides to create rival military and economic blocs (e.g., the U.S.-led AUKUS pact versus the deepening strategic cooperation between China and Russia), and a growing ideological confrontation between governance models. This scenario has dual consequences for Iran. On one hand, aligning with



Eastern powers could provide strategic breathing room from U.S. pressure, making the 25-year agreement with China and the strategic agreement with Russia critically important. On the other hand, this choice could come at the cost of reduced foreign policy flexibility, relegating Iran to a junior partner in China's grand strategy. Reinventing power in such a scenario depends on the ability to adopt a "strategic balancing" act and avoid complete dependency on one pole.

- The second scenario is **the formation of a "multipolar world."** In this vision, global power is distributed not between two superpowers, but among a set of major and regional powers including the U.S., China, the EU, Russia, India, and influential regional actors. In such a world, alliances are temporary and issue-based, and countries cooperate or compete based on specific interests. For example, India is simultaneously in the Quad with the U.S. and in the SCO and BRICS with China, Russia, and Iran. This scenario provides the most favorable environment for reinventing Iran's power. In a multipolar world, Iran can leverage its geopolitical advantages and regional influence network to become an independent power pole in West Asia. In this space, strengthening regional organizations, deepening cooperation within the SCO and BRICS, and establishing balanced relations with all major powers become primary foreign policy priorities. The main challenge in



this scenario, however, would be managing intense regional rivalries with actors like Saudi Arabia and Turkey, who are also vying for the role of regional poles.

- The third, and more pessimistic, scenario is a **"chaotic and turbulent world"** with no stable poles or alliances. This world is defined by intersecting and unresolved crises. Climate change fueling water crises and mass migration in regions like West Asia and Africa, and security and food crises stemming from regional conflicts that disrupt supply chains, are all characteristics of this alarming outlook. In such a world, international institutions lose their efficacy, and national survival becomes the primary priority for governments. Reinventing Iran's power in this tumultuous scenario takes on a completely different meaning; it becomes less about external influence and more dependent on national resilience and internal cohesion. In this situation, a powerful country is one that can ensure food, water, and health security for its population and protect its borders from transnational threats.

Clearly, other scenarios can be proposed. A precise analysis of the implications of each scenario for Iran's national security and interests, and the clarification of the strategic necessities for confronting each, are the main objectives of this sub-axis.

- **Approaches for Iran**



This sub-axis focuses on formulating and evaluating grand strategies for the Islamic Republic of Iran's active agency in the new world order. After a thorough understanding of the international environment and a realistic assessment of the country's position, Iran faces specific strategic choices that will determine its future path. This section seeks analyses that address these fundamental choices in a reasoned and operational manner, drawing a roadmap for reinventing Iran's power.

- One strategic option is **adopting an explicit policy of "Joining the East."** This approach is based on the analysis that the world's economic and political center of gravity is irreversibly shifting eastward, and Iran must solidify its position within this new power bloc. The practical manifestations of this strategy go beyond membership in bodies like the SCO and BRICS, and include the comprehensive deepening of strategic relations with China and Russia. This could be realized through the full implementation of the 25-year comprehensive cooperation agreement with China in energy and infrastructure, and upgrading military-technical cooperation with Russia to a strategic alliance. The advantage of this strategy is the creation of a powerful supportive shield against Western political and economic pressures and access to alternative markets and technologies. However, its main challenge is the risk of becoming a junior partner in Beijing's or Moscow's grand strategy and losing foreign policy independence.



- Another strategic option is **pursuing a policy of "active non-alignment" or "strategic balancing."** This approach is based on the principle that in a multipolar world, exclusive commitment to one bloc eliminates opportunities for engagement with other power poles. According to this view, Iran, like powers such as India or Turkey, should pursue balanced, interest-based relationships with all major players, including China, Russia, the European Union, and other emerging powers. For example, while developing the North-South corridor with Russia and India, non-sanctioned trade cooperation with Europe could be maintained, and the rivalry between powers could be leveraged to attract investment in key projects like the development of Chabahar port. This strategy provides maximum flexibility and independence for the country, but its implementation requires high economic capability and a highly complex and intelligent diplomacy, and it always faces the risk of distrust from all sides.

Ultimately, each of these grand strategies must be supported by an optimal mix of power tools. This section must answer the question: What combination of economic diplomacy (e.g., focusing on transit economy and energy diplomacy), cultural soft power (leveraging civilizational, religious, and linguistic capacities in the periphery), and defensive deterrence (as a guarantor of security and territorial integrity in a turbulent environment) can best secure Iran's national interests? The analyses



presented here must go beyond general recommendations and, by offering operational models, assist policymakers in selecting and effectively implementing the most effective path for reinventing Iran's power in the coming decades.



Axis II: Opportunities and Initiatives

This axis focuses on identifying specific opportunities and presenting innovative solutions for enhancing national power in the new world order. The main feature of this new order is the breaking of Western economic and political monopolies and the creation of new spaces for agency. For Iran, this means a historic opportunity to overcome the limitations of sanctions and isolation and to define a new role for itself. The recent military conflict with the Zionist entity, while revealing threats, has acted as an accelerator, turning the necessity of exploiting these opportunities from a strategic choice into a national security imperative. This axis seeks to transform the country's potential capacities into actual components of power aimed at reinventing Iran's power in a post-crisis environment.

- **Iran's Geopolitical and Geo-economic Capacities**

Iran's geographical location in the new world order, where competition over land-based trade routes has intensified, is a strategic asset that has taken on vital importance after the recent military conflict with the Zionist entity. This military confrontation showed how vulnerable the national economy can be in times of crisis when solely reliant on oil revenues and traditional maritime transport routes. Consequently, activating the country's transit capacities has transformed from an economic priority into a national security imperative for reinventing Iran's power. Projects like the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) take on a



deeper meaning in this new context. This corridor, which can reduce freight time from Indian ports to Russia by up to 40%, is no longer just an economic alternative to the Suez Canal; it is a strategic route that operates outside of crisis points and Western spheres of influence. The recent conflict demonstrated the vulnerability of traditional maritime routes in the Eastern Mediterranean and the Red Sea, doubling the attractiveness of a secure and stable route through Iranian territory for powers like India and Russia. Similarly, the development of Chabahar port as a gateway to Central Asia is not just an economic project to bypass regional competitors, but as an economic and strategic anchor outside the tense Gulf region, it increases the country's economic and security breathing room. The goal of this section is to present operational plans for **transitioning Iran from a raw material exporter to a "Regional Connectivity Hub."** This transition requires a fundamental review of economic diplomacy. After a military conflict, the main question from international partners will be the security and reliability of these routes. Therefore, reinventing power in this area means Iran's ability to guarantee the physical and legal security of these corridors and to become a "provider of stability" for trade routes. This not only creates sustainable foreign currency revenues by diversifying sources, but more importantly, it creates an **"economic shield."** When the vital economic interests of countries like China, India, and Russia are tied to infrastructure within Iran, any military threat to Iran's territorial integrity and stability will also mean a direct



threat to the interests of these powers, thereby significantly enhancing the country's national security.

- **Strategic Interactions with Target Countries in the New World Order**

In the new world order, where alliances are more fluid and based on specific interests, the recent military conflict with the Zionist entity has also acted as a catalyst, turning the need to redefine and deepen Iran's strategic partnerships from a choice into a national security imperative. This conflict was a test of the reliability of international partners and showed that in a high-risk environment, reinventing the country's political power requires a multi-layered and resilient foreign policy architecture. On this basis, deepening relations with key non-Western powers is the cornerstone of this new architecture. The 25-year comprehensive cooperation document with China is no longer just an economic agreement, but a strategic pact to create stability against post-war pressures. Beijing's political support in bodies like the UN Security Council and its capacity to provide economic breathing room outside the Western financial system are of vital importance. Similarly, military and technical cooperation with Russia, tested in shared theaters, must be elevated to a sustainable partnership to counter common threats and balance against rival alliances. These two powers are Iran's main anchors to prevent strategic isolation in the post-crisis era. At the regional level, the recent conflict has created a complex environment. On one hand, some neighboring countries may be driven towards



Western-led alliances in search of security guarantees. But on the other hand, the demonstration of Iran's deterrent capabilities and the visible risks of escalating conflict have made the necessity of de-escalation and finding diplomatic solutions clear to other regional actors. The goal of this section is to present a model for **"Network Diplomacy"** that leverages this dual environment. This includes strengthening ties with reliable regional partners while simultaneously managing regional tensions intelligently, emphasizing shared interests in regional stability and the security of trade routes. Beyond these two layers, reinventing Iran's political power requires creating strategic depth on a global scale. This is achieved by establishing balanced and beneficial relationships with emerging regional powers like India, Brazil, and South Africa, as well as smaller but strategically important countries in Latin America and Africa that hold critical views of the unipolar order. This broad network of relations transforms Iran from an actor confined to regional crises into an actor with a global presence and influence, and by creating a diverse diplomatic front, it significantly reduces the country's vulnerability to unilateral pressures.

- **Regional Groups and Organizations**

Iran's full membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and its accession to the BRICS group in 2023 are significant milestones in the foreign policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran. These developments, which are signs of the



opportunities available in the new world order, have transformed in the post-military conflict environment from mere diplomatic achievements into vital pillars of national security and economic reconstruction. These organizations provide a platform for security and economic cooperation outside of Western control and influence, and for this reason, they are considered key tools for reinventing Iran's power in a new strategic environment. In the economic dimension, the capacities of the BRICS group are critically important. The financial institutions and tools of BRICS, including the New Development Bank (NDB), are a potential alternative to Western financial institutions like the World Bank and the IMF. The country's critical infrastructure, already in need of reconstruction and modernization due to over a decade of severe sanctions, suffered additional damage during the recent military conflict. Hence, accessing financial resources for a comprehensive reconstruction has become an immediate and strategic priority. Accordingly, Iran can submit specific proposals to this institution and similar bodies for financing key projects, including the modernization of the power grid, development of port terminals, and completion of rail transport corridors. Success in attracting resources from these institutions not only aids in economic reconstruction but is also considered a political victory in breaking the Western financial monopoly and neutralizing sanctions. Furthermore, BRICS' mechanisms for trade in national currencies provide a platform for reducing dependence on the dollar and immunizing the country's foreign trade against future financial pressures. In the security



dimension, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) holds a unique position. The recent military conflict has increased hybrid security threats, including the risk of extremist and terrorist groups being activated by hostile actors on the country's eastern borders. Within this framework, Iran can transform from a mere member into an indispensable security partner for the organization. This can be achieved through active participation in the "Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS)" and by sharing its extensive intelligence data and experience in combating terrorism in West Asia. Playing such a role not only helps secure Iran's own borders but also solidifies the country's status as a "provider of stability" in Central Asia and counters narratives that seek to portray Iran as a destabilizing actor. Therefore, this sub-axis seeks to examine practical solutions for transforming these memberships from a symbolic presence into an effective instrument of power. Answering these challenges will pave the way for reinventing Iran's power in the economic and security dimensions of the new world order.

- **Securing Supply Chains**

The succession of global crises in recent decades—from financial shocks like the 2008 crisis, to geo-economic tensions like tariff wars, global health crises like the COVID-19 pandemic, and direct military conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia—has clearly shown that the era of reliance on "just-in-time" global supply chains is over. Control over the supply chains for essential goods (food, medicine, energy, and



industrial parts) has become a vital component of national power in the new world order. Countries vulnerable in these areas can be easily subjected to political and economic pressure. For Iran, which has been under severe and prolonged sanctions, this issue has always been important, but the recent military conflict with the Zionist entity has turned this strategic priority into an immediate and unavoidable national security imperative. This conflict demonstrated that in a time of all-out crisis, the ability to maintain the essential functions of the state and meet society's needs is as important as military capability. This section seeks to provide solutions for reinventing power through a comprehensive increase in **"National Resilience."** This resilience goes beyond merely increasing domestic production; it includes strategic initiatives such as off-territorial farming in allied countries to diversify food sources, investing in modern agricultural technologies to manage the water crisis, and establishing secure regional supply chains with neighboring countries for essential goods. Similarly, in the health sector, securing the supply chain means achieving self-sufficiency not only in the final drug but, more importantly, in **Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients (API)**, to break the dependence on a few specific countries for these critical inputs. The recent conflict also highlighted the need to secure the industrial supply chain, from raw materials to key intermediate goods, to ensure that the country's industrial and defense foundations are not paralyzed by disruptions. This requires active economic diplomacy to create alternative trade routes and conclude bilateral currency agreements to bypass the dollar-based



financial system. Ultimately, this approach transforms the concept of a "Resilient Economy" from a defensive strategy for survival against pressure into a proactive strategy for gaining power. A country that cannot be pressured through its basic needs will enjoy greater independence and freedom of action on the international stage.



Axis III: Obstacles and Challenges

The path to reinventing Iran's power in the new world order is not smooth and is fraught with serious internal and external obstacles. Many of these challenges are legacies of the previous order that still cast a shadow on Iran's agency. On the other hand, some obstacles are rooted in inefficient domestic structures and incorrect perceptions of decision-makers. A precise, candid, and scientific understanding of these obstacles is the first and most important step to overcoming them. This axis, with a diagnostic approach, dissects these challenges.

- **The Sanctions Campaign and Maximum Pressure**

The U.S. unilateral sanctions regime, as the primary tool of power remaining from the unipolar order, has taken on a far more complex and hostile nature following the recent military conflict with the Zionist entity and the subsequent activation of the "Snapback mechanism" by the European Troika. This campaign is no longer just a tool to contain Iran's strategic programs; it has turned into an all-out economic war, directed with full coordination between Washington, Tel Aviv, and European capitals, with the aim of preventing the reinvention of Iran's power in the post-crisis era. In this architecture of pressure, the United States, leveraging the dollar's dominance and control over global financial arteries through institutions like the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), tightens the economic siege. Simultaneously, the Zionist entity, using its political influence in Western capitals and its intelligence



and cyber capabilities, identifies and disrupts Iran's financial and trade networks that seek to mitigate the impact of sanctions. The European countries' action in activating the snapback mechanism in recent months has fully consolidated the Western front in this economic confrontation. This alignment is the main external obstacle to economic reconstruction and the development of the country's damaged infrastructure. Therefore, this sub-axis seeks a deep examination of the legal, economic, and technical dimensions of this integrated sanctions regime and to provide creative solutions to counter it within the context of the new world order. These solutions must go beyond tactical measures for sanction evasion and move towards creating a parallel and resilient financial architecture. For example, the capacity for bilateral banking and financial cooperation with strategic partners must be seriously explored. Connecting to alternative financial messaging systems like Russia's SPFS and China's CIPS is no longer a choice but a strategic necessity to create a secure financial corridor outside the reach of the dollar-based system. Most importantly, active diplomacy in institutions like BRICS must focus on the "de-dollarization" agenda and strengthening institutions like the "New Development Bank." Success in these areas would mean the gradual neutralization of the most powerful weapon of Iran's enemies and laying the genuine groundwork for reinventing economic power in the new world.

- **Regional Rival Countries**



While the new world order provides opportunities for Iran, the fact that these same opportunities are equally, and sometimes more, available to regional rivals should not be overlooked. These countries are also seeking to reinvent their own power in the relative vacuum left by reduced U.S. focus on the region, creating a complex and multi-layered competitive environment. Countries like Saudi Arabia and the UAE, relying on vast financial resources, have adopted a "smart power" strategy focused on economic diversification and active diplomacy. Initiatives like Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and massive projects like NEOM are attempts to transform these countries from mere oil powers into global hubs for technology, tourism, and logistics. Simultaneously, through security alliances like the Abraham Accords, these countries are seeking to create a regional security architecture that isolates or even contains Iran. On another front, Turkey, as a traditional and powerful rival, is pursuing a multi-faceted strategy that extends from influence in northern Iraq and Syria to expanding its presence in the Caucasus and Central Asia. Relying on its industrial and military strength, Turkey aims to become an energy hub and a key transit route via the "Middle Corridor," which directly competes with Iran's plans to play a role in East-West routes. Meanwhile, India, as an emerging power, has also become an important player in regional equations. Although not a direct ideological or military rival to Iran, it represents serious competition in the geo-economic arena. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) project, designed with U.S. support and the participation of the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and the Zionist entity,



is a strategic plan to create an alternative trade route that openly bypasses Iran and challenges the potential of initiatives like China's Belt and Road or the North-South Corridor. Therefore, this section addresses the deep analysis of these rival actors' strategies and presents options for managing this complex competition. The key question is, on which model should Iran's strategy be based: direct confrontation in spheres of influence, indirect containment by strengthening allies, or finding grounds for cooperation amidst competition on issues like regional stability or energy security? The intelligent management of these regional rivalries, which have become even more complex after the recent military conflict, is a crucial piece of the puzzle for Iran's success in the new order.



3) Type of Submissions

The overarching goal of the Annual Conference on Resilient Economy is to improve the quality of decision-making in the country. Therefore, this conference accepts and evaluates scientific works in the format of a **"Policy Brief."** The selected policy briefs, in addition to being presented at the conference's closing ceremony in the presence of high-ranking state officials, will be followed up by the Moqavemati Economy Think Tank with the responsible agencies after the conference, to, God willing, create a real impact. The "Policy Brief" is a domestically developed model designed with a focus on effectiveness and the effort to provide real, precise answers to the country's economic problems. The level of discussion in a policy brief can be at the "strategy," "policy," or "solution" layer, and there are no restrictions in this regard for presenters.

- **Defining the Policy Brief**

The main characteristic of a policy brief is that it identifies **"what the problem is"** and **"how it can be addressed"** to ultimately provide a specific **"policy recommendation"** for the country and relevant officials. The policy brief has a different format than a conventional article and possesses several features:

- **Problem-oriented with a specific solution:** In the policy brief model, mere categorization or study of a subject without a policy-oriented and



operational outcome is not accepted. The result of the brief must lead to solving one of the real problems of the country's economy.

- **Concise and brief:** In this model, the author does not need to spend a long time writing a lengthy text with conventional academic frameworks. Even a busy executive can present their idea for solving emerging problems in their field of work in this format.
- **In-person judging and evaluation:** An opportunity for an in-person presentation to the conference's judging committee—composed of professors, experts, and selected officials in the relevant subject area—and interactive, in-person judging is another feature of the policy brief.



4) Submission Phases and Timeline

The acceptance and judging of submissions will be conducted in three phases:

1. **Phase One:** According to the schedule, **abstracts** of the works will be received and evaluated. The deadline for this phase is **December 10th** of the current year.
2. **Phase Two:** While providing evaluation feedback on the submitted abstracts, an opportunity will be given to prepare the **full version of the brief**. The full version must be submitted in the PowerPoint template available for download on the conference website. The deadline for this phase is **December 25th** of the current year.
3. **Phase Three:** After the approval of the PowerPoint file and notification to the author, an **in-person judging** will be conducted by the conference judging committee, (comprising the scientific committee and selected experts). The selected policy briefs will be presented on the closing day of the conference in the presence of high-ranking officials and will be honored.

The template for the abstract and the necessary points for drafting the full policy brief for the conference secretariat are provided below.

- **Phase One Submission (by December 10th) - Abstract**

Annual Conference on Moqavemati Economy



Those interested in submitting a "Policy Brief" for the 12th Annual Conference on Resilient Economy must first email their abstract to **moqavemati.economy@gmail.com**. The abstract will be reviewed, and the result will be communicated via a reply to the submitted email, so that the author may proceed with preparing the full policy brief if approved. The policy brief abstract must have a suitable title and a text of **maximum 700 words**, and include the following:

1. **Problem Statement:** What problem is Iran facing?
2. **Indication of the Problem's Roots and Impacts:** What is the root cause of the problem? What are the effects of the problem and the consequences of not solving it?
3. **Indication of the Solution:** What must be done to solve the problem? What change must occur in the current process, and which individual or institution must make the decision?

- **Phase Two Submission (by December 25th) - Full Policy Brief**

If the abstract is approved by the conference's scientific committee, the author can proceed to prepare the full version of the policy brief by the deadline, using the provided PowerPoint template, and email it to **moqavemati.economy@gmail.com**.



5) Important Points for Drafting the Policy Brief

- **Pay attention to content organization:** Use the "inverted pyramid" style in drafting the policy brief. Therefore, place the most important message of the brief at the beginning and the least important information at the end.
- **Be professional, not academic:** The audience for a policy brief is not interested in the research/analysis methodology used to generate the evidence. They are very interested in knowing the presenter's idea and perspective on the problem and potential solutions based on new evidence. However, to defend your policy proposal, you should also review theories and the latest research.
- **Have a clear focus and objective:** Clearly define the problem you want to address, and specify its dimensions, boundaries, the angle from which you are addressing it, and the level of analysis and solution. Also, identify a specific target audience in the policy brief. This audience could be an agency or a decision-making individual, an influential group, or even the media.
- **Write concisely:** A policy brief uses clear, simple, and familiar language for the audience. Avoid excessive use of technical jargon and long sentences. When technical terms are necessary, explain them.



- **Have a suitable design:** A policy brief should attract the attention of potential audiences through a professional and creative design. Therefore, it is necessary for the authors to include features such as the appropriate use of color, logos, photos, charts, conceptual models, slogans, illustrated quotes, etc., in the brief.
- **Employ an evidence-based approach:** The goal of a policy brief is to persuade. A large part of persuading the audience is supporting your ideas with evidence. Therefore, solutions must be evidence-based. Also, use evidence to show the weaknesses and flaws in existing policies.
- **Ensure recommendations are practical and feasible:** A policy brief is a pragmatic tool that targets policy experts and influential actors in each subject. Therefore, propose recommendations that seem realistic to the audience and have taken into account operational and managerial constraints, resource and budget limitations, and political and ideological dimensions, in light of past experience as well as the experience of other countries.



6) Submission Notes and Benefits

Regarding submissions, the following notes apply:

- The provided axes and sub-axes are intended to give direction and improve the conceptual space; they do not imply a limitation on submitting policy briefs on other topics and challenges within the conference's subject area.
- Abstracts for policy briefs do not require a large amount of time for drafting. If a known challenge and a specific solution are simply identified and mentioned, it is sufficient.
- The rejection of an abstract or the non-selection of a full policy brief as a winning entry by the scientific committee creates no liability for the scientific committee or the conference organizers.

The following benefits will be awarded to approved and selected works:

- Follow-up on the policy brief using the capacities of the Annual Conference on Resilient Economy during and after the conference, and collaboration with the policy brief presenter in the decision-making process.
- Opportunity to present the policy brief in the presence of decision-makers and high-ranking officials at the conference's closing ceremony.
- Publication of accepted policy brief abstracts in the conference's special issue and on the website.

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- Special recognition, a valuable prize, and the conference trophy for the selected winning policy briefs.