



**80** YEARS OF  
CULTURAL  
RELATIONS



# THE HAMMAMET CONFERENCE SERIES

CONNECT, CREATE, EMPOWER  
TRANSFORMATION THROUGH PARTNERSHIP

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## ABOUT THE BRITISH COUNCIL

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We create international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and build trust between them worldwide.

We work in more than 100 countries and our 7,000 staff – including 2,000 teachers work with thousands of professionals and policy makers and millions of young people every year teaching English, sharing the arts, and in education and society programmes.

For more information, please visit: [www.britishcouncil.org](http://www.britishcouncil.org). You can also keep in touch with the British Council through <http://twitter.com/britishcouncil> and <http://blog.britishcouncil.org>

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# THE HAMMAMET CONFERENCE SERIES

IN TODAY'S FAST MOVING, NETWORKED WORLD, ALL COUNTRIES ARE FACED WITH CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES THAT DO NOT START AND END AT THEIR NATIONAL BORDERS.

The Hammamet Conference Series seeks to identify these challenges share ideas and develop innovative and effective solutions.

The Series comprises two key elements: an annual conference and ongoing dialogue. Held each year in Hammamet, Tunisia, the conference is the centre piece of the series and is a mix of formal plenary sessions, informal workshops, discussion groups and networking opportunities. This inspires and informs the resulting Hammamet Conversation - a year round dialogue, facilitated through seminars, workshops, events and online activity, which brings together key leaders from the UK, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia.

Framed around the theme of leadership, the Hammamet Conference Series is an international platform for dialogue and progress in relations between the UK and North Africa.

It brings together new and established leaders from the worlds of business, civil society, media and government to engage in dialogue, build new relationships and identify actionable solutions to critical issues.

The network comprises Hammamet Fellows, those attending the annual conference, and Hammamet Strategic Partners, organisations which work with the British Council to make the conference and the conversation happen. All are leaders in their respective professions, and include foremost thinkers in policy making, civil society, business, think tanks, universities, entrepreneurs, artists and media.

Each is carefully chosen for their capacity to inform the outputs of the Hammamet Conference Series and to offer groundbreaking, innovative recommendations that will also build trust and understanding between the nations represented.

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'From the three days each year at Hammamet, to the year round engagement and dialogue provided by the Hammamet Conversation, we are creating lasting partnerships built on trust and understanding.'

**Atia Lawgali,**  
*Chairman, National Commission on Civic Education,  
Libya and Hammamet Conference 2014 Co-Chair*

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## SHARING NEW IDEAS, BUILDING TRUST AND UNDERSTANDING

The Series was launched by the British Council in 2011, in response to monumental change in North Africa, with the fall of old established systems and the emergence of new leadership. The focus of the first conference, held in Hammamet, Tunisia, was to look beyond the immediate needs of reconstruction and economic development and create the platform and channels that would enable shared understanding and trust to flourish between the UK and North Africa. This focus is now the established mandate of the Hammamet Conference Series, and one that is critical to progress, partnership and prosperity.

The conference is now held annually in Hammamet and includes a mix of formal plenary sessions and informal workshops, discussion groups and broader cultural content, as well as an opportunity for participants to mix socially and freely discuss their latest ideas and work.

It has become the centre piece of The Hammamet Conversation - year round dialogue, facilitated through seminars, workshops and events, and online.

The Conversation not only builds bridges between the UK, Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia, but also brings together key leaders in their professions to help build connections, and drive change and great opportunities for progress.

Our Fellows and Strategic Partners are a dynamic mix of rising and established leaders from across the UK and North Africa. Each is invited to participate because they demonstrate unrivalled insight and understanding of critical issues within their communities, industries and nations, and the energy, motivation and talent to formulate, share and implement innovative ideas that will transform societies.

Through this unique and engaging collaboration, they are able to stimulate lively and informative debate and harnesses new and innovative approaches supported by unrivalled experience and expertise.



# SUPPORTING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS

The aim of the Hammamet Conference Series is to create, connect, and empower young leaders in UK and North Africa to participate in the programme and play a genuine role in shaping progress in their own countries.

Over a short period of time, we have been able to build a vital network representing many professions and countries, and have established a number of initiatives to support and develop these talented young individuals and equip them with the skills, networks and ambition they need to drive change.

## THE HAMMAMET YOUNG LEADERS EXCHANGE

The Young Leaders Exchange is a unique community, currently numbering 20 Young Leaders, who comes together to share personal experiences and expertise.

It provides an important opportunity for rising young leaders to be recognised, heard and empowered to bring about positive change.

## THE HAMMAMET SCHOLARSHIPS

The Hammamet Scholarship is designed to give the brightest young minds in the Hammamet Conversation the chance to expand their knowledge and skills, and broaden their perspective on UK-North African relations.

Offered by Hammamet Strategic Partner, St Antony's College, Oxford, this high-level academic scholarship programme offers one Hammamet Young Leader from each participating country the opportunity to attend a short academic course at the College, followed by a week of professional development facilitated by the British Council.



'YLE doesn't only benefit two or three dozens of international participants, but the benefit goes further to include people who have never participated in YLE.'

### **Mahmoud Alaa**

*President of Enactus SCU  
Student, MA Public Policy International Affairs  
and International Political Economy  
at the University of Erfurt*

**Young Leaders Exchange Alumni, Egypt**

# THE HAMMAMET CONVERSATION

The Hammamet Conversation is designed to maintain the momentum of the dialogue, ideas and solutions that spring from the annual Hammamet Conference.

It is a customised network of Hammamet Fellows, Strategic Partners and externally invited contributors from across North Africa, the UK and EU, invited to take part in online discussions, debates, events, workshops and symposiums held throughout the year.

## CONVERSATION PRINCIPLES:

**Convene and build partnerships** – the Hammamet Conference Series brings together a wealth of expertise and insight from society and industry in the UK and North Africa, and is an innovative and engaging environment, which enables apposite and effective partnerships and coalitions.

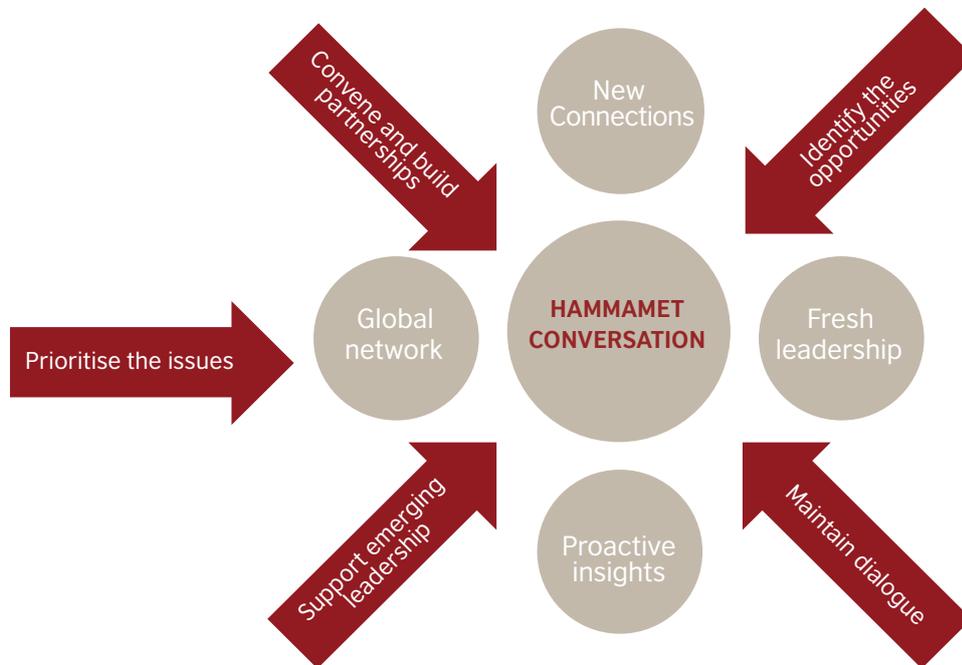
**Prioritise the issues** – by focusing on leadership issues that are relevant to both the UK and North Africa, participants can identify and prioritise issues that may limit progress and seek to offer credible solutions that are in the long term public interest.

**Identify opportunities** – having established what needs to change, Fellows and Strategic Partners can work together to focus on opportunities that will support this change.

**Create a road map for progress** – based on the learnings and outputs from the Series and Conversation.

**Maintain dialogue** – The Hammamet Conversation is the key mechanism of keeping the international network together. It maintains dialogue, updates on progress and shares best practice.

**Support emerging leadership** – The Hammamet Conference Series is committed to identifying, mentoring and connecting young leaders from North Africa and the UK. This helps not only to enrich the conversations and actions from the Series but enables international partnership, collaboration and opportunity, helping to maintain the Series long into the future.



## MAINTAINING THE HAMMAMET CONVERSATION

The Hammamet Conference Series is the only leadership conference focused on the UK-North Africa relationship. It is highly valued as a credible forum that provides insight into issues and challenges and enabling lasting relationships that support progress.

In order to maintain its longevity and impact, the British Council is launching an ambitious three year investment plan to accelerate the development of Hammamet Conference Series and Hammamet Conversation. We are seeking partners and funders who recognise the opportunities offered by this important platform.

Their investment will increase the reach and impact of the Hammamet Conversation throughout the year, and enable us to develop engagement tools, content and events.

It will help to ensure that talented new and emerging leaders are able to take part in specially commissioned development programmes that enhance their learning and expand their opportunities. It will also support the development of Hammamet Conference Series conference and symposia in all countries in the series, providing greater access to leaders in each country and raising the profile of the programme.

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‘The common principles that guide the Hammamet Conversation, not only determine the way we sustain the dialogue and ideas, but are fundamental to building long term understanding, trust and opportunities.’

**Nigel Bellingham,**  
 Director, British Council Tunisia and  
 Director, Hammamet Conference Series

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# THE HAMMAMET CONFERENCE LEADERSHIP

## **Lord Lothian PC QC**

### *Co-Chair Hammamet Conference Series*

Lord Lothian (formerly Michael Ancram) is the Co-Chair of the Hammamet Conference Series. He served in the last Conservative Government and from 2001 to 2005 held the portfolios of Deputy Leader, Shadow Foreign Secretary and Shadow Defence Secretary.

He served on the House of Commons Intelligence Select Committee until he stood down from Parliament at the May 2010 General Election. On 22nd November 2010, he was created a Conservative life peer as Baron Kerr of Monteviot.

## **Nigel Bellingham**

### *Conference Director*

Nigel Bellingham is the Director of the Hammamet Conference Series, a role he has held since the inaugural conference in 2011. He is also the Director of the British Council Tunisia, and leads the British Council operations across the Maghreb.

He joined the British Council in 1991, as a teacher of English and has held a variety of posting in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and Czech Republic, before taking up his role in Tunis.

## **Atia Lawgali**

### *Co-Chair Hammamet Conference Series*

Atia Lawgali is the Chairman of the National Commission on Civic Education, Libya and served as a Deputy Minister of Culture and Civil Society in the Libyan transitional government. During the revolution, he was a member of the executive office of the National Transitional Council.



# THE HAMMAMET CONFERENCE STEERING COMMITTEE

Our steering committee members represent the individual countries within the Series and come with a wealth of cross sectorial expertise.

The steering committee is responsible for reviewing the content of the annual Hammamet Conference and helping to identify the themes from which dialogue flows from.

**Atia Lawgali**

*Chairperson, National Committee on Civic Education, North Africa Co-Chair*

**Lord Lothian PC QC**

*Chairman Global Strategy Forum, Member of the House of Lords, UK Co-Chair*

**Karima Admane**

*Member of Parliament, TAJ party, Rassemblement Espoir de l'Algérie - Rally Hope of Algeria*

**Dr Assia Bensalah Alaoui**

*Ambassador at large of His Majesty King Mohamed VI, Morocco*

**Mohamed El-Sawy**

*Founder - El Sawy Culture Wheel, Egypt*

**Marc Kidson**

*Chair, British Youth Council, UK*

**Maya Ksouri**

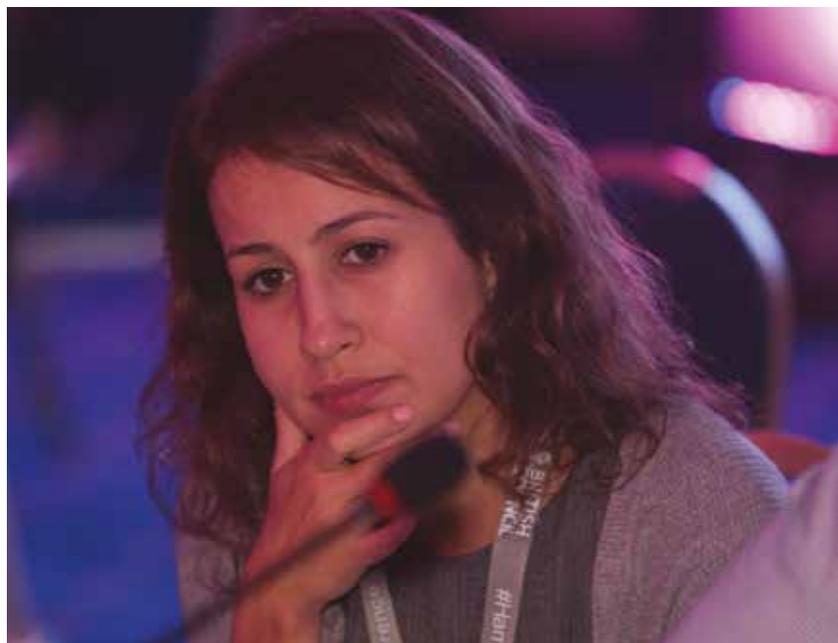
*Lawyer and TV Presenter Tounsiya, Tunisia*

**Professor Emma Murphy**

*Head of School - School of Government and International Affairs, Durham University, UK*

**Dr Michael Willis**

*Director of Middle East Centre, Oxford University, UK*



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