

POLICY MEMO

TO

Senior U.S. Official, International Energy Dialogue

SUBJECT

Gulf State Positioning in Clean Energy Markets: Strategic Implications for the United States

ISSUE

Saudi Arabia and the UAE are making large-scale investments in hydrogen, solar, and other clean energy technologies, positioning themselves to shape the next energy order as fossil-fuel dominance declines. Through initiatives such as ARAMCO's diversification strategy and Abu Dhabi's Masdar, Gulf states are acquiring stakes in global clean energy supply chains, including markets where U.S. firms compete directly.

WHY IT MATTERS

This is not simply a commercial development. Gulf states are leveraging clean-energy investments to preserve their geopolitical influence beyond the hydrocarbon era. If the U.S. does not engage this shift strategically, it risks ceding ground in key emerging markets to partners whose long-term alignment with U.S. interests is not guaranteed. Alliance relationships built around oil are not automatically transferable to a clean energy world.

RECOMMENDED ACTION

The official should raise the need for a dedicated U.S.-Gulf clean energy partnership framework, one that channels Gulf capital toward joint ventures aligned with U.S. supply chain and climate goals, while establishing clearer expectations about technology transfer and market access reciprocity.