

Gulf Cooperation Council

September 22, 2020

The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was **established by an agreement concluded on 25 May 1981 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia** among **Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and UAE** in view of their special relations, geographic proximity, similar political systems based on Islamic beliefs, joint destiny and common objectives. The **official language is Arabic**.

More about GCC

- GCC comprises some of the fastest growing economies in the world, mainly due to an **increase in oil and natural gas revenues coupled with a building and investment boom backed by reserves**.
- Due to their **geographic proximity, similar political systems and common sociocultural stances**, the immediate goal was for these countries to protect themselves from threats after the Iran-Iraq War.
- The **structure of the GCC** consists of the Supreme Council, the Ministerial Council and the Secretariat General. The Secretariat is located in the city of Riyadh.
- The **Supreme Council (the highest authority of the GCC) comprises the Heads of State** of the six member countries.
- The **chairmanship** of the Supreme Council is **held by each member state in turn**.
- The **Ministerial Council comprises the Foreign Ministers** of the six member countries and it draws up **policies and makes recommendations**.
- The **Secretariat General** prepares **reports, studies, accounts and budgets** for the GCC.
- In 1984, the GCC established a **standing coalition land force, the Peninsular Shield Force**, tasked to defend the six nation states. It is composed of infantry, armor,

artillery and combat support elements from each of the states, numbering 40,000 in total.

- **GCC Monetary union** is ratified by **Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar and Bahrain**. Oman had opted out of it in 2006 and UAE did so in May 2009.
- **Riyadh** is selected as the location for the monetary council and the future central Bank.
- The GCC promotes **economic, security, cultural and social cooperation** between the six states and holds a summit every year to discuss cooperation and regional affairs.