

**PANEL ON
“REVITALIZATION OF
ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN
RURAL AREAS OF
SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC”**



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**"REVITALIZATION OF ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES
IN RURAL AREAS OF SYRIAN ARAB
REPUBLIC"**

2 November 2025
(14.00-15.30)

Moderator

Dr. Sinan HATAHET

Panelist

Prof. Dr. M. Thameur CHAIBI

Panelist

Prof. Aykut GÜL

Panelist

Mehmet Okan ATEŞ

Over the past decade, the protracted conflict in Syrian Arab Republic has had a profound and lasting impact on the country's rural regions—areas that once served as vital centers of agricultural production, employment, and local economic resilience. The cumulative effects of large-scale displacement, destruction of critical infrastructure, disruption of agricultural systems, and limited access to markets and services have severely diminished rural livelihoods and undermined food security.

In this context, the revitalization of rural economic activity is not only an urgent humanitarian and development priority, but also a strategic entry point for broader stabilization, social cohesion, and post-conflict recovery. Reactivating rural economies requires a multidimensional approach simultaneously addressing infrastructure rehabilitation, agricultural recovery, and employment generation, while promoting inclusive governance and community-based resilience.

In light of the importance of the issue, the panel titled 'Revitalization of Economic Activities in Rural Areas of the Syrian Arab Republic' will be held on November 2nd , 2025, during the 41st Session of the Ministerial Meeting. In this sense, the panel aims to explore potential strategies and policies to revitalize economic activities in Syrian Arab Republic's rural areas.

The panel will consist of a moderator and three speakers. The speakers will address the delegates of the OIC Member States, including ministers from the Islamic World as well as representatives of International organizations, civil society organizations and the academia. It will last a total of one and half hour, with each speaker being allotted 15 minutes to speak.



Dr. Sinan HATAHET

- Holds a Ph.D. degree in computer science and focused on issues specifically in MENA region.
- Syrian expert on Syria's political economy, governance reform, and post-conflict transitions.
- His work has been featured by major international institutions including the Atlantic Council, Chatham House, and the European University Institute.
- He currently serves as Chief Innovation and Business Officer at Elevate Holding, Senior Non-Resident Fellow at the Atlantic Council, and General Partner of the Invest in Syria VC Fund.



Prof. M. Thameur CHAIBI

- He earned his PhD in Agricultural Engineering and Climate Technologies from the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).
- He has led numerous international projects funded by the EU, FAO, DAAD, World Bank, USAID, and other organizations.
- He is a Fellow of the World Academy of Sciences (TWAS), the African Academy of Sciences (AAS), the Islamic World Academy of Sciences (IAS), and the French Water Academy.
- He has also served as an associate member of the Environmental Security Panel under NATO's Science for Peace and Security Programme.



Prof. Aykut GÜL

- Faculty member in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Çukurova University's Faculty of Agriculture.
- Research Areas: Agricultural economic policy and marketing, agricultural management, agriculture and the environment, and agribusiness management.
- Member of the Presidential Agriculture and Food Policies Board.
- Has published studies and commentaries that analyze and recommend policies on Syria's agricultural transformation.



Mehmet Okan ATEŞ

- He graduated from Ankara University, Faculty of Political Sciences, Department of Finance in 2007.
- He served in the University Audit Team, conducting audits of the financial accounts and transactions of various universities.
- After 2011, he has served in the Audit Team of the Undersecretariat of Treasury, where he has been involved in audit activities focusing on public finance, debt management, and the effective use of public resources.
- Serving as the Deputy General Manager of Agricultural Credit Cooperatives of Türkiye since 2018.