



2018 ENTREPRENEURSHIP FORUM

Friday | July 6, 2018 | Houston, Texas

PROGRAM

8:30 AM Registration and Breakfast

9:00 AM Opening & Welcome Remarks

Nejib Zaafrani

Chairman & Senior Executive Advisor, RNM Solutions (UAE)
Former Secretary General & CEO, Supreme Council of Energy,
Dubai Government (DSCE)
Former Chairman & Managing Director, Shell Abu Dhabi

Aida Araissi

Chief Executive Officer, Bilateral Chamber of Commerce

9:20 AM Unleashing Entrepreneurship & Innovation – Pathway for Africa’s Development

Speaker

Ambassador Linda Thomas – Greenfield*

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs (2013-2017)

9:40 AM Advancing Tunisia's Development: Strategies for Achieving Innovation-led Growth

Speaker

His Excellency Dr. Slim Feriani

Minister of Industry & SMEs, Republic of Tunisia



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PROGRAM (continued)

10:00 AM Private & Public Partnerships: Engaging the U.S. and Tunisia in Deeper Ties

Moderator

Aida Araissi

Chief Executive Officer, Bilateral Chamber of Commerce

Panelists

Marc Tejtel

Deputy Chief Counsel, Commercial Law Development Program, U.S. Department of Commerce

His Excellency Faycal Gouia

Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia to the United States

Joshua Harris*

Director, Office of Maghreb Affairs, U.S. Department of State

11:00 AM Coffee Break

11:30 AM Houston, a Case Study: The Role of Independent Organizations in Fostering a Local Entrepreneurship Ecosystem

Moderator

Kemal Farid

Managing Director, BlueVine Ventures and Farid Ventures

Panelists (TBD):

John S. Reale, Jr.

Co-Founder & CEO, Station Houston

Aruna Viswanathan

Chief Operating Officer, AlphaX Decision Sciences (Houston, USA)



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12:30 PM Lunch

2:00 PM Entrepreneurship in the 21st Century

Speaker

Dr. Sergio Kapusta*

Lecturer, Rice University: Global Challenges and Opportunities (Houston, Texas)

Emna Ghariani

Founder, Stealth Mode Startup: Tunisia Challenges & Opportunities (San Francisco, California)

Monther Khanfir

Consultant, Strategist, Innovation Policy Advisor (Paris, France)

**2:40 PM Private sector: Business Development
& Learning Experience**

Moderator

Mehdi Ben Abdallah

Managing Partner at Excalibur International Advisory EXIA (Tunis, Tunisia)

Panelists

Christina Lomasney

Chief Executive Officer, Modumetal (Seattle, Washington)

Fathi Ben Grira

Chief Executive Officer, Menacorp (Dubai, United Arab Emirates)

Nabil Felah

Chief Executive Officer and Founder, Sens Critic (Marseille, France)

Omar Yaacoubi

Co-Founder, Barac.io (London, UK and Tunisia)

4:00 PM Networking Reception