

WHITE PAPER

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



**IN RESPONSE TO SAFEGUARD SAUDI ARABIA'S
NATIONAL INTEREST AND PROMOTING ENERGY
STABILITY BY PURSUING CONSTRUCTIVE NEUTRALITY
AND PRIORITISE DE-ESCALATION.**

1. Executive Summary

The crisis arising from U.S. military action against Canada on 30 August 2025 poses grave risks to global security, NATO stability, and energy markets, especially after its spillover into Venezuela. For Saudi Arabia, the United States remains its primary defense partner, while Canada is a valued economic partner with merchandise trade worth \$4.1 billion in 2022. As the world's largest oil exporter and a key member of OPEC+ and the G20, the Kingdom's priority is safeguarding energy stability and preventing economic disruption. Guided by Vision 2030, Saudi Arabia will pursue strategic neutrality, uphold international law, and leverage its roles in the OIC and GCC to promote dialogue, regional stability, and peaceful resolution.

2. National Interest and Strategic Goals

- *Petroleum Reserves and Market Stability:* Saudi Arabia controls 17% of the world's proven petroleum reserves¹, any North American crisis affecting trade and market stability will directly impact the Saudi's revenues. Under OPEC+ commitments Riyadh will ensure the oil market supply and reassure the global markets.
- *Maintaining Strategic Alliances & Commitments:* Since 2014, USA has authorized the permanent export of approximately over \$8.2billions to Saudi Arabia².

Canada is also an important economic partner, with merchandise trade between the two countries valued at \$4.1billion(approximately)³.

Saudi Arabia is committed to safeguard this economic ties by maintaining diplomatic relationships with both the countries.

Alongside these partnerships, Saudi's membership in BRICS+ reflects its growing role in multipolar diplomacy ensuring its strategic engagements are diversified and responsive.

- *Territorial and regional stability:* This crisis will diver the global attention from the Middle East which will create security concern for Saudi as adversaries such

¹ International Trade Administration

² US Department of State

³ Government of Canada

as Iran and other extremist group could exploit the power vacuum to expand their influence over the Middle East.

- *Global Leadership Role:* According to its Vision 2030, Saudi aspires to project itself as a global power broker and a hub for diplomacy based on Kingdom's previous initiatives such as its mediation efforts in the Russia-Ukraine peace discussions in Jeddah (2023).

3. Key Challenges

- *Escalation in US- Canada relations:* The parliamentary use of emergency powers, signals at retaliation which will lead to counter retaliations, destabilizing NATO, further dragging in allies.
- *Tensions in Latin America:* The U.S. launched an aggressive attack against Base Aérea Mayor Buenaventura Vivas Guerrero, in Venezuela risks a wider segment of Latin American bloc siding with Cuba and Russia.
- *Political rift in Washington:* The fleeing of the US defence minister hints at internal breakdowns in the US governance, further undermining the confidence of US allies.
- *Energy Market shocks:* The continued tensions in the Atlantic region may cause volatility in the global economic sphere, further threatening economic stability.
- *Global polarization:* The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia must avoid having to side with NATO, USA, or anti-capitalist states, in alignment with Riyadh's foreign policy.

4. Proposed Actions/ Policies

- *Call for ceasefire*
- *Offer of Riyadh as a mediation hub:* The kingdom of Saudi Arabia offers Riyadh as a mediator to facilitate the dialogue between USA -Canada and USA - Venezuela to resolve the rising tensions and potential conflict within the region.
- *Call for an emergency UNSC conference to address the escalation:* Under Article 35 of the UN charter, Saudi Arabia would call upon the United nation security council to address the escalation, and mediate the same. Further, The

kingdom would urge all the parties, including the US to return to diplomatic channels.

- *Commitment to stabilize Energy market:* As the leading global energy exporter, Saudi Aramco commits to uninterrupted supply and stable production level to mitigate the risk of geopolitical volatility.
 - If required, productions will be adjusted according to the OPEC+ partners to align with the global security needs.
 - Aramco stands to calibrate output disruption arising due to any significant disruption in the shipping lanes or supply chain. We will further ensure that no region faces any critical shortage.
- *Facilitation of dialogue between the parties:* The kingdom of Saudi will be practicing constructive neutrality, prioritising dialogue over escalation.
- While Saudi reaffirms the commitment to keep the global energy stabilized, however Saudi Arabia will avoid any actions which might be interpreted as siding with either of the blocs within the ongoing conflict.
- *Internal Security Measures:* The kingdom of Saudi Arabia recognizes that the external conflicts often pave the way to extremist narratives within the region. To mitigate any potential extremist rhetoric, and escalation within the Kingdom, Saudi Arabia will strengthen domestic security to ensure unity, counter narratives, and national cohesion.

5. Risk Analysis:

- Short term: The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia recognizes that the current geopolitical instability may cause shocks in the global energy Market. Further there is a possible risk of division within the NATO countries with the attack, and the speculated retaliation. There is further, a possibility of sanctions ripple effect, which will affect the Global community at large.
- Medium term: The parties of the ongoing conflict are global powers, this might lead to polarization of allies, and might require other states to side. Which will further escalate the situation to an unfathomable extent.
- Long term: With the current conflict of the USA with the states which are its allies, there exists a risk of weakening U.S credibility as a traditional security partner to Saudi.

6. Additional geopolitical sensitivities:

- *U.S leadership vacuum*: With the Defence minister fleeing, there exists a political fracture within Washington. In the long term, Saudi will be required to recalibrate these security ties with the US.
- *Latin America*: The U.S. strike in Venezuela may pull Cuba, Russia, and possibly Iran into open confrontation, leading to further escalation of the already escalating conflict.
- *Canada & NATO*: Invocation of Article 5 is now complicated by U.S. instability. It is now on NATO, as to how they navigate the crisis.
- *Energy Nationalism*: Other producers may exploit the ongoing chaos for leverage, Saudi reassures its role as sole credible guarantor of stability.

7. Alignment with International Law and Commitments

<i>LAW</i>	<i>ALIGNMENT</i>
1. UN Charter	Stresses on Article 2(4), which prohibits the use of force and supports peaceful dispute resolution.
2. Geneva Convention	Recalls commitment to article 27, 32 & 33 to ensure humane treatment, prevent torture and avoid collective punishment of civilians.
3. OIC & GCC	According to Article 1(3) of OIC & Article 2 of GCC, Saudi invokes the principle of respecting sovereignty, resolve dispute peacefully and commits states to political and security cooperation for stability and advocate for the dialogue in the present crisis.