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Dr Jean-Loup Samaan is a Senior Research Fellow specialising in Middle East strategic affairs, with a particular focus on the Israel-Hezbollah conflict, and the evolution of the Gulf security system. Prior to joining MEI, he held various positions in the policy sector. He worked as a visiting scholar with the Rand Corporation (2007-2008) and as an adviser at the Directorate for Strategic Affairs of the French Ministry of Defence (2008-2011).

He then gained extensive experience in the domain of military education and training, first as a deputy director for the Middle East Faculty of the Nato Defense College (2011-2016) and as an associate professor in strategic studies with the UAE National Defense College (2016-2021).