



✂ **Extending Global Sea-Air Hub Status to the USA.** In 2021, Bahrain launched the fastest regional multi-modal logistics hub in the Middle East. By March 2022, during the visit of HRH Prince Salman bin Hamad AlKhalifa, Bahrain’s Crown Prince and Prime Minister, the United States was granted “Official Partner Status” in the Bahrain Global Sea-to-Air Hub.

✂ **Establishing a U.S. Trade Zone (USTZ) in Bahrain.** Considered to be a unique and original model, the USTZ will help boost bilateral trade between the two countries by creating a regional trade, manufacturing, logistics, and distribution hub for U.S. companies doing business in Bahrain.

✂ **Creating Business-Friendly Visas.** In 2022, Bahrain introduced a permanent residency visa intended to attract fresh talent and investment. This Golden Residency visa will be renewed indefinitely, including the right to work in Bahrain, unlimited entry and exit, and residency for close family members. This development comes on the heels of Bahrain’s new ten-year multiple entry visa, established in 2020, which is offered exclusively to U.S. passport holders (enabling them to come and go easily).

✂ **Extending Global Entry to Bahrain.** Global Entry is one of four branches of America’s Trusted Traveler Programs, which allows expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers upon arrival at U.S. airports. In January 2022, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) launched a full Global Entry partnership with Bahrain, the first agreement of its kind in the MENA region.

✂ **Adopting a Cloud-First Policy.** Amazon Web Services (AWS) opened a hub in Bahrain in 2019, the first of its kind in the MENA region, to provide cloud computing services. This step has enhanced investment in ICT in Bahrain, a critical sector for capacity-building among Bahraini young professionals. In 2022, consistent with the country’s Cloud Computing Services Law, Bahrain granted U.S. sovereignty over data – stored in Bahrain-based data centers – of U.S. beneficiaries.

✂ **Promoting Freedom of Navigation.** In August 2019, Bahrain was the first country in the Gulf region to announce that it had joined the U.S.-led International Maritime Security Construct. The goal of the Construct is to promote freedom of navigation in the region, which is integral to maintaining free-flowing global trade.