The political grievances at the heart of the Arab Spring, rooted in economic disenfranchisement, have led to the improbable overthrow of four long-standing regimes and political reform in others. Yet the revolutions have been costly. International reserves, investment flows and fiscal balances have deteriorated. While the political process played out, little was done to address long-standing issues of youth unemployment, at 30% in Tunisia two years ago and now 42%. The private sector holds the key to fiscal revenue, investments and jobs that are needed for any broad-based recovery, but has asked for reforms to enable it to play these roles more effectively. They will not hire new graduates if their skills are irrelevant. Yet, in an increasingly polarized environment, the confidence and trust between the government, private sector and civil society needed to create real reform is also in short supply. What is the emerging agenda for investment climate reform? What roles can policymakers, the private sector an international actors play to bring this about?

Thursday, December 13, 2012 | 4:00- 5:30 pm
West Hall – Room 310

Magdi M. Amin, Manager of Investment Climate Advisory Services in the Middle East and North Africa for the International Finance Corporation (IFC) will lead a brainstorming discussion to explore this topic. Magdi Amin was educated at the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at Johns Hopkins University and the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton University. Since joining the World Bank Group as a Young Professional in 1998, Magdi has held positions in East Asia & Pacific, Africa and MENA. He is a co-author of “After the Spring: Economic Transitions in the Arab World” (Oxford: 2012) with Ragui Assad, Nazar Al-Baharna, Kemal Dervis, Raj Desai, Navtej Dhillon, Hafez Ghanem, Homi Kharas, Carol Graham, and Daniel Kaufmann.