

Gulf activists plan parallel meeting to GCC summit

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Civic organisations from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) plan to hold a meeting parallel to the next GCC summit to achieve more popular participation, one organiser said Friday.

Leaders of the GCC, which groups Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Saudi Arabia, hold annual summits and their next meeting is scheduled in Muscat in December.

Civic organisations have formed a four-member preparation committee to hold the parallel meeting which is expected to take place on the eve of the summit, member of the committee Anwar al-Rasheed said.

The parallel meeting aims at "enhancing popular participation in the decision-making process and propose recommendations from GCC civil society organisations to the leaders," he said in a statement.

Rasheed, secretary general of Kuwait's Society for the Defence of Public Funds, said the recommendations of the parallel meeting will be submitted to the GCC foreign ministers meeting, which prepares the agenda of the summit.