



Freedom of Association

مؤسسة
فريدريش ناومان
Ideas on Liberty. Training in Freedom
Friedrich Naumann
Foundation



Under the Patronage of His Excellency Amr Musa, Secretary General of the Arab League and the Arab League Civil Society Commission



With the Support of the European Union

**Under the Patronage of His Excellency Amr Musa,
Secretary General, the Arab League
and the Arab League Civil Society Commission**

International Conference

“Laws’ Reform between aspiration and reality”

Cairo 27/6/2007 – 28/6/2007

**Organised by
The Friedrich Naumann Foundation
The Arab Center for the Rule of Law and Integrity – Beirut**

**Venue:
The Arab League / Andalusia Hall
Accommodation: Sheraton Hotel – Cairo**

Tel.: 20 2336 9700, Fax 20 2336 4601

Arrival of Participants

26th June 2007

Dinner

At

Cairo Sheraton Hotel

Arous Al-Neel Ball Room

Time:

20:00 PM

FOR early arriving PARTICIPANTS

Wednesday, 27th June 2007

07:30 AM Gathering in the Lobby of the Hotel
07:45 AM Bus Departure to the Arab League premises.
08:30 - 09:00 Registration at the Arab League / Al Andalusia Hall

09:00 – 10:00	Opening Session Welcome and Introduction
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MC: Mrs. Ibtisam Hussein, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Cairo

***H.E. Taher al Masri**, Commissioner, Civil Society Commission, Arab League*

***Dr. Ronald Meinardus**, Regional Representative, Middle East and Northern Africa, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, Cairo*

Presentation of the project: objectives, partners, activities

***Annemie De Winter**, Resident Representative, Friedrich Naumann Foundation, in Jordan and to Lebanon, Syria and Iraq*

***Miriam El Harousy**, Political Section, Human Rights, Good Governance and rule of law officer, on behalf of HE Head of the European Commission Delegation, Cairo*

10:00 - 10:30	Break
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10:30 - 12:00	First Session Legislative Reform in the Arab World and the Role of the Arab League
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Chairperson: ***H.E. Hisham Youssef**, Manager, General Secretary Office, the Arab League*

Keynote speech: Legislative Reform in the Arab World: Challenges and Opportunities

H.E. Hisham Youssef

The Arab Parliament: Its Role and Achievements

***H.E Robert Iskandar Ghanem**, the Arab Parliament*

Unifying laws in the Arab World

***Radwan Bin Khadra**, Legal Consultant and Director of the Legal Department / the Arab League, Cairo*

Discussion

12:00 - 13:30 Second Session
Impact of regional and international politics on reform in the Arab countries

Chairperson: *H.E Taher Al Masri, Commissioner, Head of Civil Society Commission, the Arab League*

Dr. Osama Al-Ghazali Harb, *Editor in chief, Al-Siyassa Al-Dawliya, Consultant, Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies, Egypt*

Dr. Sam Dallah, *Dean of National Institute for Administration (INA), Syria*

Democracy & Islamic Movements

Dr. Iyad Barghouthi, *Ramallah Center for Human Rights, Palestine*

Discussion

13:30 – 15:00 Lunch Break – At the Arab League

15:00 - 16:30 Third Session
Reform experiences in the Arab world
Achievements and Challenges

Chairperson: *Hafez Abu Saada, Executive Director, Egyptian Organization for Human Rights*

Comparative study of current laws in five Arab countries

Dr. Issam Suleiman, *Legal Advisor, Arab Center for the Development of Rule of Law and Integrity*

The Arab Reform Initiative

Democratic reform in the Arab World: Approaches and achievements

Dr. Sayed Yassin, *Bibliotheca Alexandria*

Discussion

16:30 – 17:00 Break

17:00 – 18:30 Fourth Session
The Arab World: Inclusion, Dialogue and Trust:
Internal and External Obstacles

Chairperson: Saed Karajah, Attorney at Law, Amman

Civil Society and Democratization in the Arab World

Mr. Mohamed El Sayed Said, Deputy Director of the Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies, Cairo

Commented by:

Dr. Bashir Musa Nafi, Historian at Birbeck College, London, Senior researcher, al-Jazeera Centre for Studies

Dr. Sabri Rbeihat, Former Minister of Political Development, Former Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Jordan

18:30 End of Session first day
Bus transport back to the hotel for participants

19:30 Participants gather at the Hotel Lobby

20:00 Bus Departure to the Restaurant

20:30 Dinner at Abo Elseed Restaurant – Maadi

Thursday, 28th June 2007

07:30 Gathering at the Lobby of the Hotel

07:45 Bus Departure to the Arab League premises

9:00 - 13:30	Three specialised parallel workshops A two-way path: reforming laws, reforming civil society
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Participants join one of the three parallel sessions according to their field of specialisation as mentioned in the group lists

How to reach regional and national consensus without compromising international standards

Workshop Venue: Al-Andalusiya (East)

Political parties and political parties' laws

Facilitator: Dr. Ayman Abdulwahab, Civil Society Unit, Al-Ahram Center for Studies, Egypt

The Draft Palestinian Political Parties' law: Comparative Analysis
Azmi Shuaibi, Director AMAN Coalition for Transparency

Comments by:

Dr. Joerg Fedtke, Director of Institute of Global Law, University College London

Group discussion

Agreement on guidelines and principles

Workshop Venue: Alandalusiya (West)

NGOs and NGOs' laws

Facilitator: Fayez Shakhatrah, National Center for Human Rights, Jordan

The Arab Initiative for the Freedom of Association: Comparative Analysis
Dr. Ghassan Mukhaiber, Member of Parliament, Lebanon

The Guiding Principles for Legislations of Nongovernmental Organizations in the Arab Region, Egypt

Dr. Amani Qandil, Arab NGO Network

Commented by: Mr. Mahmoud Rashed, Manager, Human Rights Directorate, Arab League

Group discussion

Agreement on guidelines and principles

Workshop Venue: Andalusiya Lobby

Labour Unions and Labour Unions' Laws

Facilitator: Firas Ta'amneh, Barrister at Law, Jordan

ILO standards for the Freedom of Association: Case study ALO standards
Mr. Walid Hamdan, Senior Labour specialist ILO, regional office Beirut

Commented by:

Islam Sanaá, Legal Consultant, the Arab Labour Organization

Dr. Rajab Ma'touq, International Confederation of Arab Trade Union

Group discussion

Agreement on guidelines and principles

13:30 – 15:00 Lunch Break – At the Arab League

**15:00 – 16:30 Continuation of Discussions
Final reporting**

16:30 – 18:00 Presentation of achievements of working groups

Panel Discussion

A unified Arab approach to Freedom of Association

The rapporteur of each working group presents the guidelines and principles that have been adopted

Remarks from the audience will be taken by the expert group for further elaboration

Final Statement on the Freedom of Association and Declaration of Principles

18:00 End of Second Day Session
End of Conference Activities

A Bus will bring back participants to the hotel

19:30 Participants Gather at the Hotel Lobby

20:00 Bus Departure to the Restaurant

20:30 Farewell Dinner at Le Pasha Restaurant - Zamalek

Friday, 29th June 2007

- *Departure of all participants*
- *Late checkout for those travelling in the afternoon*
- *Lunch will be served at the hotel for those travelling after 16:00*

This event is organized under the patronage of the Arab League and with the Cooperation and participation of:

Egypt:

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation – Cairo

The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights

Palestine:

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation – Jerusalem

Coalition for Accountability & Integrity "AMAN"

Jordan:

The Friedrich Naumann Foundation – Amman

The National Center for Human Rights

Arab Civil Society Commission, Arab League, Amman

Lebanon:

The Arab Center for the Development of Rule of Law and Integrity