

المعهد العربي لحقوق الإنسان

أول معهد عربي إقليمي غير حكومي تأسس سنة 1989 ، يهدف إلى نشر قيم حقوق الإنسان ذات المرجعية الكونية في البلاد العربية معتبرا من أولوياته بناء القدرات في مجال تطبيق حكم القانون .



G8 Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative (G8-BMENA)

2010 Forum for the Future



The national seminar on “The development of national and regional recommendations in light of the results of the regional preparatory workshops in Doha, Istanbul and Beirut”

Tunis: November 6th, 2010

Final Report, Recommendations and Assessment

The Arab Institute for Human Rights organized, with the support of the International Development Research Center, the National seminar on “The development of national and regional recommendations in light of the results of the regional preparatory workshops in Doha, Istanbul and Beirut. This national seminar was held in the 6th of November 2010 within the framework of the Seventh Forum for the Future, 2010.

Participated in the seminar, 45 participants from a number of Tunisian ministries, Governmental and non-governmental organizations, trade unions, political parties and the mass-media (see annexed the list of participants).

The works of the seminar:

Opening Session:

The opening session was attended by Dr. Taïeb Baccouche, the President of the AIHR Board of Directors, Dr. Sultan Hussein Al Jamaly, Financial and Administrative Director of the National Commission for Human Rights in Qatar, Mr. Wahid Labidi Representative of U.S. Embassy in Tunis, Mr. Mohamed Saleh Kherigi, Member of the AIHR's Board of Directors and Ms. Lamia Grar the AIHR's Executive Director.

Dr. Sultan has delivered a speech on behalf of the president of the National Commission for Human Rights of Qatar, and reported the greetings of the President of the NCHR to the attendees and expressed his thanks to the organizers the invitation of the NCHR to attend this seminar as it is one of the sponsors of the Seventh Forum for the future.

In his speech, Dr. Taïeb Baccouche has focused on the reasons for selecting the AIHR to organize this seminar because of its regional role, its objectives of spreading the culture of human rights in The Arab region and of strengthening the capacity of civil society and its capacity to link channels of dialogue and cooperation between them and between the governments and their institutions concerned with human rights.

Dr. Taïeb Baccouche also expressed the importance of an evaluation of this Forum for the future process after six years of its creation and an assessment of the degree of respect of the objectives of the forum and the recommendations emanating from. The President of the Institute at the end of his speech suggested some questions that could enrich the discussion topics of the Forum for the Future VII:

For the peaceful resolution of conflicts and democratic transition: the Arab region is still facing risk of wars and conflicts. Can we make an evaluation of the democratic transition without taking into account the specific situation of each country?

For the subject of youth and active participation: Is the situation in many Arab countries encouraging young people to engage in social work and to what extent? Are there studies to analyze and choose the appropriate tools to deal with young people in this area?

On the subject of the private sector and its role in social responsibility: In the light of the successful experiences at the global level in the field of private sector's participation in social work (e.g.: Ford Foundation and the Bill Gates Foundation), how can this strategic sector be attracted in the Arab region?

Interventions during the plenary session:

- 1- Presentation of the Forum for the Future 2010 and the objectives of the national seminar: Ms. Lamia Grar, the Executive Director of the AIHR:**

After the opening statements, Ms. Lamia Grar presented a paper on the general framework of the workshop and its goals consisting in the presentation to the Actors of civil society organizations, private sector and governmental institutions in Tunisia of the objectives of the Forum for the Future, and the exposal of the regional preparatory workshops results, in order to come to national recommendations that will be submitted to the Sub-Ministerial Meeting which will be held in Ottawa in Canada on November 8, 2010, as well as to the ministerial meeting which will take place in the beginning of January 2010 in Doha.

She also expressed the importance of going out with practical recommendations and achievable ones which can provide new ideas of what has been drafted in the rest of the recommendations at the regional and national levels, and inform the governments of the region about the Tunisian priorities.

2- Presentation and assessment of the Forum of the Future process and the recommendations of the regional preparatory workshop in Doha on: "The peaceful resolution of conflicts and the democratic transition." Mr. Salahedine Jourchi

Mr. Salahedine Jourchi started his intervention with assessing the Forum for the Future, and the circumstances of its birth. He gave an idea about the most prominent features and developments since its beginning as well as the changes of its actors because of the political and economic transformations at the international and regional levels.

Then he introduced in the second part of his intervention the results of the regional preparatory workshop held in Doha about the peaceful resolution of conflicts and democratic transition, highlighting the following important topics presented in this workshop:

- 1 the importance of human security as a guarantee of respect of democracy and human dignity development and liberation of human being from fear and need,
- 2 the importance of the adoption of mechanisms for the peaceful resolution of conflicts and democratic transition,
- 3 the establishment of a laboratory for the analysis and the reflection on the mechanisms of conflict resolution in the region.

3- Presentation of the recommendations of the regional preparatory workshop held in Istanbul about: "The role of the private sector in social responsibility: The Corporate Social Responsibility" ". Ms. Emna Jebblaoui.

Ms. Emna Jebblaoui provided in her intervention, an overview of the activities of this workshop and focused on the most important recommendations that emerged

from them, which were addressed to the governmental organizations and institutions, to the private sector and to the civil society.

4- Presentation of the recommendations of the regional preparatory workshop held in Beirut about: "Youth and active participation." Mr. Hafedh Jendoubi.

Mr. Hafedh Jendoubi exposed the debate during this workshop on the active participation of young people in various sectors and the challenges and obstacles facing young people's involvement in those sectors. The intervener submitted the topics of the workshop and the recommendations on:

- the role of youth in political participation
- the social participation of young people
- the role of youth in economic development
- the question of cultural enrichment and cultural pluralism

Summary of the debates during the plenary session:

After the three presentations, the attendees discussed the following topics:

- The need to assess the results of this forum after six years of its existence,
- The phenomenon of the reluctance of youth to participate in social and political action in Tunisia and the Arab region and the necessity of thinking about the mechanisms and the process to make it able to attract young people by the adoption of appropriate tools (modern means of communication, social networks ... etc),
- Developing plans for the rehabilitation of political parties in order to ensure greater effectiveness in the democratic process in Tunisia and the Arab region
- Determining the specificity of the private sector in Tunisia, and build on it to establish relations of cooperation and communication and trust between this sector and the civil society and to encourage it to engage in social work. This aim can be reached by following the example of successful experiences in some countries, including the Turkish experience.

Recommendations:

Following this plenary session, the attendance was divided into three working groups to develop viable and practical recommendations at the national and regional levels in the three questions that have been put forward in the regional workshops:

- * Peaceful resolution of conflicts and the democratic transition
- * The Role of the private sector in social responsibility (the CSR)
- * Youth and the active participation

These recommendations were developed and associated with the role of governmental institutions, private sector and civil society.

Group I: Recommendations related to the role of Governmental Institutions

- Act to resolve conflicts in peaceful ways, with a spirit of moderation, and of internal and external dialogue.
- Respect the media's role in promoting civil society actions based on transparency, promotion of different views, and support the capacities of media professionals in the field of conflict resolution and in the dissemination of a culture of peace.
- Establish an official monitoring body to control the respect of the constitution and laws offering to it the necessary independence and powers.
- Facilitate the creation of a space composed of representatives of civil society with the aim of standardization diagnosis and proposals to raise the official organizations in relation with the peaceful resolution of conflicts and democratic transition.
- Support freedom of association and its inclusion in the constitutional laws and facilitate the formation of associations and the creation of a mechanism to ensure their permanent sources of funding.
- Support the efforts of civil society in the diffusion of the principles of democracy, pluralism, respect of human rights values and tolerance and the right to the difference.
- Support the role of civil society in the protection of women in conflict zones and create mechanisms to encourage their participation in political life, in the trade unions and in associations.
- Strengthen the role of civil society in the socialization of young people in public life, in all spaces of dialogue and in the consolidation of these spaces with the presence of various political actors and civil society representatives.
 - Support the role of civil society in empowering people with special needs to participate in public life and promote democracy.
- Generalizing the use of modern means of communication and the use of Internet to develop the capacity of civil society and reject the illegal blocking of information.

Second group: Recommendations related to the role of civil society:

**** Recommendations on the role of civil society in the field of peaceful conflict resolution and democratic transition:***

- The need for the participation of civil society as an essential partner in resolving conflicts and not as a marginal body, with the need to support its capabilities in order to be an active partner in training and exchanging successful experiences in this field,
- Create a Maghreb Center for early detection of conflicts and the formation of professional negotiators to resolve conflicts (the group's readiness to participate to the preparation of a reference paper for this center) and support

regional organizations such as the Arab Institute of Human Rights to host this center.

- Work to promote a culture of human rights and the values of citizenship to all communities and groups,
- The need to link between the peaceful resolution of conflicts and democratic transition while ensuring that there is no impunity.

**** Recommendations on the role of civil society in the field of private sector involvement in social responsibility:***

- Create a mechanism to guide and attract private sector to participate in the social responsibility: and in human rights activities,
- The need for awareness of the specificity of the Tunisian private sector when dealing with it: the economic sector is based on a small or medium economical structures and based on the family structure,
- Establish mechanisms for civil society organizations to push in the direction of the protection of the private sector when engaging in human rights actions,
- The need for the associations to elevate the level of transparency in their administrative and financial management to gain the confidence of the private sector
- Rising awareness and training about the feasibility and the advantages of the private sector's participation in the work of civil society organizations,
- Communication with the Tunisian trade Union to push toward the private sector's involvement in the social action.

**** Recommendations about the role of civil society in the field of youth and active participation:***

- Creation of a training and documentation center for the youth in the Maghreb and the Middle East on political strategies and citizenship,
- Build a research program to encourage young researchers working on issues of human rights and development in the Arab region,
- Launching a monthly electronic magazine of the forum for the future that disseminates and communicates the voice of Arab civil society in the framework of the Forum with a focus on youth participation in this magazine,
- Adoption of practical mechanisms to ensure the presence of young people in places of leadership in the various organizations of civil society components,
- Good use and exploitation of modern communication technologies, social networking sites and blogs to attract young people to be involved in the associative work and to build awareness among them about the importance of political and civic participation,
- Create a forum and/or virtual space in the Arab Institute for Human Rights website to promote human rights topics,
- Support e-learning programs in the field of human rights education and citizenship for the youth,
- Create a laboratory for research about the various expressions and tools of communication used by the Tunisian youth,

- Develop the Tunisian legislation to create a category of "youth associations",
- Support youth initiatives based on the concept of youth development community for the benefit of the local and national communities,
- Use irregular/informal methods and tools in the training of youth,
- Support social entrepreneurship to create a new generation of young promoters who have the ability to contribute to the operation and the openness to the social and cultural environment.

Group III: recommendations related to the role of the private sector

****In the level of legislation:***

- To provide legislation organizing the fundraising of the private sector and starting to engage on development projects such as to impose taxes to protect the environment or culture,
- To provide privileges to the private sector to encourage it to engage in social work and in the financing of the civil society organizations activities,
- To activate the role of social work departments within the private institutions,
- To impose legislation to control the business sector to respect the universal rights for example the abolition of child labor, respect of the environment and ethical approval.

****Create a climate of confidence between the private and the civil sector:***

- To promote more credibility and transparency in the management of funds of civil society, to create a climate of confidence between the private and civil sector
- To develop the communication and the persuasion methods when dealing with the private sector such as the idea of social responsibility is based on the principle of Win-Win relationship

****Social responsibility awareness:***

- To promote the culture of responsibility within the private sector,
- To involve the media in urging the private sector awareness of social responsibility,
- To adopt the social networks and the Internet to connect and communicate with the private sector example of facebook and twitter ,
- To organize regular meetings between civil society and the private sector,
- To exploit forums and exhibitions as an opportunity to define civil society actions and the social responsibility of the private sector,
- To create an electronic bulletin within the Forum describing the importance of social responsibility of the private sector, which will be distributed broadly to the institutions

****Establishment of organizational structures:***

- To develop strategies addressed to the private sector to support its administrative transparency and promote its independence,
- To create fund that cuts a percentage from the profits of the private sector to finance the CSOs.