



Arab Forum For Alternatives
منتدى البدائل العربي



Democratic Transition Challenges: Egypt in a Comparative Perspective

28 - 29 May, 2011

*Venue: Kempinski Nile Hotel
Cornish-el-Nile, 12 Ahmed Ragheb Street, Cairo
Conference room: 'Chic Dining'*

**Seminar organised by the Arab Forum for Alternatives (AFA)
and the European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS)**

**in collaboration with the CIDOB, Barcelona, CITpax, Madrid,
the CERSS, Rabat, the IEEI, Lisbon,
the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation and the
Portuguese Institute for Development Assistance (IPAD)**

Programme

Saturday 28 May

9:30-10:00 Opening session

Welcome

Amr ElShobaki, President, Arab Forum for Alternatives (AFA), Cairo

Alvaro de Vasconcelos, Director, European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), Paris

Introductory remarks

Juan Antonio Yañez-Barnuevo, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, MAEC, Madrid

10.00-12:00 I – Crafting democracy: constitutional and institutional reform

Chairman: Hisham El-Bastawisy, Judge and Presidential candidate, Cairo

Egyptian Constitutional Assembly and challenges of drafting a new constitution

Mohamed Nour Farhat, Director, Department of Law, Zagazig University, Cairo

Experiences from Portugal: the Constituent Assembly and the main issues in the constitutional debate

Pedro Bacelar de Vasconcelos, National Coordinator of the Alliance of Civilizations and Director of the
"Human Rights Research Center" of the University of Minho Law School, Porto

Experiences from India: the constitutional process: accommodating diversity through citizenship
Radha Kumar, Trustee and Director, Peace and Conflict Programme, Delhi Policy Centre, Delhi

12:00-12:30 Coffee Break

12:30-14:00 II - Organising free and fair elections

Chairman: Emilio Cassinello, Director-General, Toledo International Center for Peace (CITpax), Madrid

A perspective on electoral law reform

Ahmed Shoukry, founder of Al-Adl Party and parliamentary candidate, Cairo

Reforming laws governing political parties and civil society associations

Mohamed El Agati, Executive Director, Arab Forum for Alternatives (AFA), Cairo

Experiences from Portugal: building a new electoral system from scratch

José Luis da Cruz Vilaça, Professor of Law and Partner, PLMJ, Lisbon

14:00-15:00 Lunch – Blue Room

15:00-16:30 III - Security sector reform

Chairman: Maria do Rosario de Moraes Vaz, IEEI, Lisbon

Security Sector Reform: challenges and recommendations

Sameh Seif ElYazal, Director, Al-Gomhoreya Institute for Security Studies, Cairo

Experiences from Spain: the military transition: democratic reform in the armed forces

Narcís Serra, President, CIDOB, Barcelona

16:30-17:00 Coffee Break

17:00-18:30 IV - Articulating democratic demands and reconstructing the public space

Chairman: Emad Abou-Ghazi, Minister of Culture, Cairo

Re-politicising society: a new formula

Mostafa Higazy, CEO & President, ACME Corp, Cairo

Building civil political parties: the challenges

Amr Hamzawy, Professor, Cairo University, Cairo

Experiences from Morocco: The relationship between political parties, constitutional reform and democratic transition: desired and probable outcomes

Ahmed Boujdad, Centre d'Etudes et de Recherches en Sciences Sociales (CERSS), Rabat

Sunday 29 May

9:30-11:00 V - Social demands, a challenge to transition

Chairman: Nataliya Apostolova, Deputy Head of Delegation of the European Union to Egypt, Cairo

Economic policies in a period of transition: how to take the social impact into consideration?

Heba Handoussa, Director and Lead Author, National Human Development Report for Egypt, Cairo

Understanding and dealing with social protests in Egypt: a socio-political perspective

Nadine Abdalla, Researcher, Arab Forum for Alternatives (AFA), Cairo

11:00-11:30 Coffee Break

11:30-13:00 VI - The 'Social Pact': an important component of democratic transition

Chairman: Ahmed Hassan El-Borai, Minister of Manpower and Migration, Cairo

Workers' Unions: a transformative role?

Kamal Abbas, General Coordinator, Centre for Trade-Union & Workers' Services (CTUWS), Cairo

Labour relations: a new definition in the making?

Hisham El Ghezendar, Businessman, Cairo

Experiences from Spain: negotiating and implementing the 'Social Pact'

Nicolás Sartorius, Executive Vice-Chairman, Fundación Alternativas, Madrid

13:00-13:30 Coffee Break

13:30-15:00 VII - The religious question and integration of Islamists into the political process

Chairman: Luis Peral, Research Fellow, European Union Institute for Security Studies (EUISS), Paris

Al-Azhar and democratic transition: a re-defined role?

Abuel Ela Madi, President, Al-Wasat Party, Cairo

Integrating Islamists into the political process

Amr Elshobaki, President, Arab Forum for Alternatives (AFA), Cairo

Experiences from Turkey: the role of the AKP in democratisation

Cemal Haşimi, Office of the Prime Minister of Turkey, Ankara

15:00 Closing remarks

15:30 Lunch – Blue Room

