



ARAB  
NETWORK FOR  
DEMOCRATIC  
ELECTIONS



الجامعة اللبنانية الأمريكية  
Lebanese American University

## “Effectiveness of Electoral Systems in Securing Fair Representation; Countries in Transition”

### International Conference

Byblos, 7 and 8 December 2017

Science Building – Room 607 and 608

### AGENDA

| Day One: Thursday, 7 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 |  |
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| 09:00 – 09:30                                    | Registration   |
| 09:30 – 11:00                                    | <p><b>Session 1: Opening</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Welcoming remarks: (20 min) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Lebanese American University<br/><i>MARWAN ROWAYHEB, Chairperson, The Department of Social Sciences, School of Arts and Sciences</i></li> <li>o Arab Network for Democratic Elections<br/><i>ZIAD ABDEL SAMAD, General Director</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>- Keynote speech; Political context of transitions in the Arab region: its impact on electoral reform and fair representation (40-45 min)<br/><i>GHASSAN MOUKHEIBER, Member of the Lebanese Parliament</i></li> <li>- Discussion</li> </ul>  |
| 11:00 – 11:30                                    | Coffee Break   |
| 11:30 – 13:30                                    | <p><b>Session 2: Electoral Systems: Challenge to Achieve Fair Representation in Polarized and Societies in Conflict in the Arab Region</b></p> <p><i>This session is a political and technical introduction focusing on the Arab region, to unpack the regional experiences in designing different electoral systems and the challenges faced to attain fair representation.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator: Dr. Marwan Rowayheb</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- General overview on electoral systems in the Arab countries (20 min)<br/><i>SAID SANADIKI, Senior Expert, European Centre for Electoral Support MENA</i></li> <li>- Lebanon; Moving from majoritarian to proportional system: challenges and opportunities (20 min)<br/><i>ZEINA EL-HELOU, Secretary General, Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections, Lebanon</i></li> <li>- Palestine: Experience with proportional representation (20 min)<br/><i>ASHRAF SHUAIBI, Deputy Chief Electoral Officer, Central Election Commission, Palestine</i></li> <li>- Yemen: The relation between the electoral system and the political change (20 min)<br/><i>MOHAMED AL-MEKHLAFI, Former Minister of Legal Affairs &amp; President of Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights</i></li> <li>- Algeria: Electoral system and people’s will (20 min)<br/><i>TOUFIK BOUGAADA, Activist &amp; Professor of Political Science, Algeria</i></li> <li>- Discussion</li> </ul> |

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| 14:30 – 16:30 | <p><b>Session 3: International Experiences on Designing Electoral Systems in Heterogeneous or Deeply Divided Societies</b></p> <p><i>In this session, international experiences will be presented emphasizing the lessons learned upon crafting electoral laws and designing electoral systems to achieve representation.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator: Dr. Makram Ouais</u></p> <p><i>NICOLE ROWSELL, National Democratic Institute</i><br/> <i>HE ALEX LENAERTS, Ambassador of Belgium in Lebanon</i><br/> <i>TBC-FABIO BARGIACCHI, Executive Director, European Centre for Electoral Support</i></p> <p>- Floor Discussion</p> |
| 16:30 – 17:00 | Coffee Break   |

| Day Two: Friday, 8 <sup>th</sup> December 2017 |  |
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| 09:00 – 11:00                                  | <p><b>Session 4: Equal Opportunities for All Participants; the Key Factor for Fair Representation</b></p> <p><i>Fair representation cannot be achieved without equal opportunities of electoral participation being provided for all citizens. In this session, there will be a panel discussion on the importance of the regulations and guarantees for securing equal opportunities amongst all voters and all candidates as well.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator: Amine Ghali</u></p> <p>- Equal vote power/weight and electoral districting: what are the criteria? (60 min)<br/> <i>ELIA ELIA, Professor of Political Science, Lebanon</i><br/> <i>MAJED AL-MOTAIRI, Secretary General, Kuwaiti Transparency Society, Kuwait</i></p> <p>- Equal candidacy requirements and regulations for election campaigns &amp; expenditure (30 min)<br/> <i>MANSOUR AYOUNI, Deputy Secretary General, Mourakiboun, Tunisia</i></p> <p>- Discussion</p>                            |
| 11:00 – 11:30                                  | Coffee Break   |
| 11:30 – 13:30                                  | <p><b>Session 5: Models and Experiences on Introducing Specific Tools to Enhance Participation and Representation of Groups</b></p> <p><i>When speaking about representation, we cannot but to consider quota, as a crucial tool to enhance the representation of under-represented groups (women, youth, minorities...). This is going to be an interactive session for sharing experiences of participation enhancement in the Arab countries.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator: Omar Kabboul</u></p> <p>- Minorities, Ethnic &amp; Religious Groups (40 min)<br/> <i>SARBAST RASHID, Former President of the Independent High Electoral Commission, Iraq</i><br/> <i>AMR EL-SHOBAKI, Former Member of Parliament &amp; Expert at Al-Ahram Center, Egypt</i></p> <p>- Women Quota (30 min)<br/> <i>TAYSEER AL-NOURANI, Gender Expert, Sudan</i><br/> <i>ABDELRAHIM SIOUI, Coordinator, Collective Association for Monitoring Elections, Morocco</i></p> <p>- Discussion</p> |

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| 14:30 – 16:30 | <p><b>Session 6: The Role of Different Actors in Electoral Reform to Enhance the Representation of Under-represented Groups</b></p> <p><i>There are key players influencing the public through political practices and messages in addition to electoral legislations and tools. In this session, the role of the political parties and media in promoting the electoral participation of women, the youth, and minority groups will be discussed. The session will also discuss role of the electoral administration and civil society organizations in promoting electoral reform towards fair representation of groups in the Arab region.</i></p> <p><u>Moderator: TBA</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Political Parties (20 min)<br/><i>TALEB AWAD, President, Arab World Monitor for Democracy and Elections, Palestine</i></li> <li>- Media (20 min)<br/><i>AYMAN MHANNA, Executive Director, SKeyes Center for Media &amp; Cultural Freedom, Lebanon</i></li> <li>- Electoral Management Bodies (40 min)<br/><i>SHAFIK SARSAR, Former President of the Independent High Authority for Elections, Tunisia</i><br/><i>ALI ABU JAMOUS, Director of President's Office, Independent Election Commission, Jordan</i></li> <li>- Civil Society Organizations (20 min)<br/><i>AREF JAFFAL, Executive Director, Arab World Monitor for Democracy and Elections, Palestine</i></li> <li>- Discussion</li> </ul> |
| 16:30 – 17:00 | <i>Coffee Break</i>   |
| 17:00 – 18:00 | <p><b>Session 7: Wrap Up &amp; Closing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Presenting recommendations developed during the two days<br/><i>ZIAD ABDEL SAMAD, General Director, Arab Network for Democratic Elections, Lebanon</i></li> <li>- Open discussions to finalize recommendations to improve electoral reform process in the region towards fair representation</li> <li>- Closing</li> </ul>  |