



المركز القومي للبحوث والدراسات
Arabic Center for Research & Policy Studies

SWI swissinfo.ch
Initiative - People Participation Forum
Organize



DEMOCRACY INTERNATIONAL

IRI Initiative and Referendum Institute Europe



GLOBAL FORUM ON MODERN DIRECT DEMOCRACY Decentralization by participation

At Carthage University / National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia
May 14th to 17th 2015

2015globalforum.com / swissinfo.ch/directdemocracy / people2power.info

FOCCUS

Citizens-Chance

ecacs

European Parliament

European Parliament

European Parliament

ZOGALO

ASU

people2power



Agenda (as of 11 May 2015)

Thursday, May 14

08:30 am Opening of Registration
INAT Main Hall, Welcome Coffee/Tea

09:30 am **2015 Global Forum Opening Plenary on People Power
Tunisian Style and the State of Participatory and Direct
Democracy around the globe**

Chaired by Bruno Kaufmann, Forum Co-President

Welcome Addresses by the Prime Minister of Tunisia, **Habib Essid**, the Secretary General of the UGTT **Houcine Abassi** and the University President **Lassaad El Asmi**.

Keynotes by **Yadh Ben Achour**, Former Chairman of the High Commission for the Preservation of the Revolution, and **Andreas Gross**, Former Chairperson of European Election Observers to Tunisia and President of the Socialist Group in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe

Briefings by **Mohamed Chafik Sarsar**, Chairman of the Independent Tunisian Election Commission (ISIE), and **Henri Malosse**, President of the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC)

11.00 Coffee/Tea

11.30 *Panel* with feedback and additions to the welcome addresses, keynotes and briefings by active participants in

the Tunisian constitution making process, representing different fields of politics and society: **Nadia Chaabane** (Massar) **Mongi Rahoui** (Jabha), **Mouldi Riahi** (Takatol), **Maya Jribi** (Jomhour), **Ferida Labidi** (Ennahdha), **Rim Mahjoub** (Afek Tounes), **Saida Ben Garrach** (Nidaa Touness) and **Jawhar Ben Mbarek** (NGO Destourouna).

Moderated by journalist and broadcast supervisor **Hichem Snoussi** (HAICA).

12.45 Towards a more participative democracy in the Arab world and beyond - statements by **Habib Choubani**, government minister for relations with the parliament and the civil society, Morocco, **Kamel Jendoubi**, Tunisian minister in charge of relation with civil society and **Lazhar Akremi**, Tunisian minister in charge of relations with the constitutional institutions and government.

Chaired by Joe Mathews, Forum Co-President

13.30 Global Forum "tour de table" with brief inputs across the world.

14.00 Sum-up and presentation of Forum Agenda and workshops and **Tunis Declaration**

14.15 Lunch

16:00 **Vote of the Day** (Model Initiative project)

16.05 **Prospects for Decentralization by Participation in Tunisia** with representatives of political parties including **Saïd Aïdi** (Nidaa Touness), **Noura Ben Hassen** (CPR) **Imed Hammami** (Ennahdha), **Kamel Gargouri** (Ettakatol), **Kais Allani** (AFEK), **Samir Ettaieb** (Massar), **Mouldi Jendoubi** (UGTT), **Aymen Aloui (Jabha)** and **Fayçal Kazzez** (Director at Tunisian Interior Minister)

Moderated by **Ons Ben Abdelkarim** (Al-Bawsala)

Free evening/special gatherings

21.30 - *Global Forum Bar at Hotel Majestic → 36 Avenue du Paris*

Friday, May 15

- 08:30 am Opening of Venues at INAT
- 09:00 WORKSHOPS (Part I)
- Women and Democratization (WS2)*
Democracy and Islam (WS5)
Free Trade and Direct Democracy (WS6)
Infrastructure for Participatory Democracy (WS7)
Why Tunisia? (WS8)
Storytelling Direct Democracy (WS12)
- 10.45 Coffee/Tea Break
- 11.15 WORKSHOPS (Part II)
- Democracy and Islam (WS5)*
Why Tunisia? (WS8)
Towards Participative Democracy Worldwide (WS9)
The State of Local Democracy (WS10)
Storytelling Direct Democracy (WS12)
Participatory Democracy in Morocco (WS13)
- 13.00 Lunch
- 14.30 **Vote of the Day**
- 14.35 **2015 Global Forum Panel on Arab Spring and the role of young people, women and social media for democratization**
- Chaired by Anne-Marie Sigmund, Former President, European Economic and Social Committee*
- Keynote by **Amel Azzouz** Tunisian Secretary of State for International Cooperation with comments by **Donia Ben Romdhane**, International IDEA and others.
- Q&A

15.30

Participatory Session – Your Vote please?

An interactive panel with **Ali Anouzla** (Morocco), Editor-in-chief Lakome.com; **Wael Abbas** (Egypt), journalist and human rights activist; **Saloua Ghazouan** (Tunisia), director for ARTICLE 19; **Abdullah Abdulaziz Elmdifer** (Saudi Arabia), TV host and journalist; **Naji Bghouri**, head of the Tunisian Journalists Union.

Moderated by **Anass Bendrif**, RNW Multimedia Editor

16.45

Concluding address of the day by **Chiheb Bouden**, Tunisian minister of Higher Education and Research

18.30

Global Forum Gathering at **Cultural Center Ibn Rachiq** in central Tunis with movies on the democratic transition including “**Film 7½**” directed by Néjib Belkadhi.

21.30 -

Global Forum Bar at Hotel Majestic → 36 Avenue du Paris

Saturday, May 16

09:30 am

Opening of Venues at INAT

10:00

WORKSHOPS (Part II)

Social Media and Democracy (WS1)

New Citizens Movements/Parties (WS3)

Citizens Media & Journalism (WS4)

Why Tunisia? (WS8)

Participatory Democracy (WS11)

Storytelling Direct Democracy (WS12)

Transparency, Participation, Petitioning (WS14)

12.00

Lunch

13.30

Global Forum Plenary on the Tunis Declaration for Decentralization by Participation

Chaired by Joe Mathews, Forum Co-President

Presentation, inputs from workshops and seminars

- 14.55 **Vote of the Day**
- 15.00 Coffee/Tea
- 15.30 **Global Forum Break Out Session**
Democracy International Annual Meeting and network meetings

Late evening Global Forum Bar at Hotel Majestic → 36 Avenue du Paris

Sunday, May 17

- 09:30 am Opening of INAT HALL
- 10:00 2015 Global Forum Concluding Plenary **on Decentralization by Participation in Tunisia and the Prospects of Modern Direct Democracy worldwide**
- Chaired by Bruno Kaufmann and Joe Mathews, Forum-Co-Presidents*
- Inputs and Outlooks by **Mehdi Mabrouk** (Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies) and **Mourad Ben Mouelli** (ISIE – Election Authority)
- 11.30 Coffee/Tea
- Tunis Declaration voting and approval and Preview to the 2016 Global Forum in San Sebastian/Donostia (November)farewell speeches
Including University President **Lassaad El Asmi** and others
- 13.00 *End of Global Forum*

WORKSHOPS

WS1. Social Media and Democracy

- Saturday, 10-12, D1 [Maison de l'Eau]
- Convener: Assya Kavrakova, assya.kavrakova@ecas.org (ECAS)
- Inputs by Seif Soudani (Nawat), Wissem Tlili, Aziz Amami, Hana Trabelsi

Social media is taking the world by storm. From new, interactive websites to portable apps, there is an increasingly diverse array of options for “plugging in.” While much of this new technology focuses on casual communication for social purposes, it is also being used for political communication and civic information/education. In this workshop, we are interested in discussing the rise of social media and its impact on political participation – and to present various toolkit for direct and participatory democracy.

WS2. Women and Democratization

- Friday, 9-11, B2 [INAT THEATRES]
- Convener: Zohra Lili Chabaane, zohra.lili.chabaane@gmail.com (University of Carthage)
- Moderators: Radhia Saidi and Nejiba Hamrouni
- Inputs by Samira Merai Friaa (Tunisian Minister of Women Affairs and Family), Shana Kaiser (IDEA), Sanaa Mersni, Leila Haj Amor, Sana Ghenima, Raja Ben Slama and Lobna Jeribi.

The growing role of women in the democratization processes in Tunisia and other countries is a key issue to be assessed. A more accessible and equal society, where women and men are on similar footing, **[[ADD COMMA HERE]]** is an important factor for success and progress. In this workshop we will share stories, experiences, research and promoting projects form Tunisia, other Arab countries and around the world.

WS3. New Citizens Movements/Parties

- Saturday, 10-12, C2 [INAT Admin]
- Convener: Riccardo Fraccaro, alex.marini1977@gmail.com (M5S)

→ Inputs by Benedikt Poetz (University of Freiburg, paper), Zoheir Ismail (Citizen People Mouvement), Slim Amamou (Pirate Party Tunisie), Wafa Makhoulf (Nidaa), Kabil Daoud (AFEK Tounes), Zied Lakhdhar (Jabha), a representative from UPL, Samir Taieb (Massar).

A growing number of new political parties across Europe and the world underlines the need for more direct and participative democracy. Their political approaches and successes are different from country to country – this workshop offers an overview and better understanding for how indirect and direct democracy can interact .

WS4. Citizens Media & Journalism

→ Saturday, 10-12, C1 [INAT Admin]

→ Convener: Joe Mathews, joe@zocalopublicsquare.org (Zocalo)

→ Inputs by Renat Künzi (Swissinfo), Bruno Kaufmann (people2power), Kalina Vlaikova (NovaTV), Julia Manuel (Café Babel), Lotfi Hajji, Mahmoud Dhaouadi, Néji Bghouri, Arbi Chouikha, Ouannes Hafiane

Linking active citizens and new ideas for better democracy with media and journalism is an emerging and most interesting development across the world. Citizens media and journalism can become an important source of democratic conversations and in this workshop we will address current examples, made experiences and forthcoming challenges.

WS5. Democracy and Islam

→ Friday, 9-13, A1 [INAT Auditorium]

→ Convener: Amr Huber, Amr.Huber@swissinfo.ch (Swissinfo)

→ 1st Sessions Presentations on DD and Islam: Kamel Dhif, Omer Awadallah, Rached Ghanouchi, Lotfi Chedly

2nd session: Interactive session moderated by Slaheddine Jourchi

Participants Youssef Sedik, Kamel Dhif, Omer Awadallah, Zouhair Ismail

How to reconcile religion and democracy; this is not only a challenge for the Arab world but also an important question across the globe. Beliefs and religious doctrines offer important values and foundations for the purpose and goals of a free community but can also become instrumentalized to legitimize oppression, injustice by elites. This workshop addresses a key issue for the

further prospects of democracy and direct participation in Tunisia, the Arab and Muslim world.

WS6. Free Trade and Direct Democracy

→ Friday, 9-11, C2 [INAT Admin]

→ Convener: Roman Huber, roman.huber@mehr-demokratie.de (More Democracy)

→ Inputs by Mongi Smaili (University of Tunis), Majdi Hassen (executive director of Institut Arabe des Chefs d'Entreprises) Slim Amamou and Olfa Ben Ouda.

International agreements on free trade have become powerful instruments of opening up economies and countries; many times they contribute to developments of wealth and welfare. However, there are also many downsides including direct challenges to modern democracy as currently discussed in the framework of the new Transatlantic Trade Agreement (TTIP). This workshop addresses these issues and what can be done to safeguard and develop people power

WS7. Infrastructure for Participative Democracy

→ Friday, 9-11, D1 [Maison de l'Eau]

→ Convener: Anne-Marie Sigmund, sigmund@freie-berufe.at (EESC)

→ Inputs by Amaia Agirreolea (San Sebastian), Kai Masser and Franziska Fischer (German Research Institute for Public Administration), Mostafa Ben Ltaief, Lassaad El Asmi

The growing use of participative and direct democratic instruments for active citizenship requires public infrastructure for information and consultation. Many governments have started to meet these new requirements by developing participative infrastructures – including efforts at the transnational level in Europe it is expected that the 2016 Global Forum will be held on this issue in San Sebastian, Spain, with the establishment of a network of pro-active cities and regions across the world.

WS8. Why Tunisia? And what to learn for the World?

→ Friday, 9-13, C1 [Maison INAT], Saturday, 10-12, A1 [Auditorium]

→ Convener: Andi Gross, hpandigross@hotmail.com [parts I&II] (IRI) and Mehdi Ben Mimoun [III], mehdibenmimoun@yahoo.com (University of Carthage)

→ Inputs by A H M Abdul Hai of options and limits of democratic transition and others Mehdi Mabrouk, Michael Ayari, Salem Labiadh, Mohamed Sghaier Achouri, Chedly Souga

Tunisia has been applauded as the first democracy in the Arab world and the only one to fulfill at least some parts of the revolutionary hopes and goals in the beginning of the 2010s. What **distinguishes** Tunisia from other Arab countries – and other societies in transition to more democratic societies? And what can be learnt from it worldwide? Which are the next steps and requirements to make decentralization by participation possible? This workshop addresses these important issues

WS9. Towards participative democracy worldwide

→ Friday, 11-13, D1 [Maison de l'Eau]

→ Convener: Daniel Schugurensky, dschugur@asu.edu (ASU)

→ Inputs by Kamel Gargouri (Sfax), Clibre association (Sayada Municipality) and Hajer Ben Chikh Ahmed (La Marsa Municipality), Fraser Henderson (World Bank), Rami Brahem (Taharok)

Beyond initiative and referendums many other forms of participatory democracy has been developed in recent decades including participative budgets and deliberative polls. Based on concrete practices from Tunisia and worldwide, this workshop looks into the options of such participatory tools to make democracy more democratic.

WS10. The State of Local Democracy – a Global Assessment

→ Friday, 11-13, B2 [INAT Theatres]

→ Convener: Matshidiso Kgothatso Semela-Serote (Senior Programme Officer) and Mélida Jiménez, State of Democracy Programme (m.jimenez@idea.int), International IDEA

→ Inputs by Chaima Bouhlel, Al Bawsala

Inter-active session will aim to:

→ Introduce the main building blocks of local democracy as described in International IDEA's new State of (Local) Democracy assessment frameworks (see figure below).

→ Discuss assessment questions that relate to participation in decentralization and to ways in which direct democracy mechanisms can help in strengthening (local) democracy.

→ Explore how citizen-led assessments could be used in assessing and monitoring decentralization processes and (new) laws that will influence the quality of local democracy, focusing on the current process in Tunisia.

WS 11. Participatory Democracy: between the desirable and the possible [external workshop in french/arabic]

→ Saturday, Attention! 9-12 at Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies

→ Convener: Mehdi Mabrouk, rania.zitouni@dohainstitute.org (CARP)

→ Inputs by KCHAOU Mounir, HFAIEDH Abdelwaheb, LABBESSI Tahar, SAHBENI Abdessattar, Mr AYARI Adel

La question de la démocratie participative est d'une grande actualité surtout pour les pays où la culture et le régime démocratiques ne sont pas bien ancrés. La participation a été l'une des fortes demandes sociales et requêtes lors du printemps arabe et ailleurs dans une bonne partie du monde.

WS12. Storytelling on Modern DD activities

→ Friday, 9-13, Saturday 10-12, B1 [Inat Theatres]

→ Convener: Daniel Schily, d.c.schily@gmail.com (Democracy International)

→ Inputs by Carmel Carcopardo, Ivaylo Hlebarov, Armin Steuernagel, Lina Barrebo & Bertil Markstedt, Paul Jacobs, Dane Waters

Encouraging, depressing, empowering, hard, funny, interesting and informative stories about active citizenship and participative democracy across the world.

WS13. Towards participatory democracy in Morocco

→ Friday, 11-13 C2 [Inat Admin]

→ Convener: Ms. Aziza el Bakkali Kacemi, nahoucine@yahoo.fr (Chargée d'études at the office of Minister, and former member of the national commission in charge of dialogue with civil society)

As one of the few Arab countries Morocco knows a couple of provisions of participatory and direct democratic provisions in its national constitution featuring a petition and a popular agenda initiative right. Around these provisions a debate about the role and possibilities of civil society organizations have developed – and many stakeholders have engaged in a public conversation and development work. This workshop will introduce and share this interesting process and discuss the options and limits of active citizenship and participatory democracy in Morocco and beyond.

WS14. Transparency, Participation, Petitioning - From ParliamentWatch to change.org

→ Saturday, 10-12, B2 [Inat Theatres]

→ Convener: Gregor Hackmack, hackmack@abgeordnetenwatch.de (ParlamentWatch)

→ Inputs by Emna Chebaane Al Bawsala, the Tunisian counterpart of Parliament Watch and Hssan Allouini (I Watch).

Are we witnessing a 21st century/democracy revolution? Looks like it. The world wide web has radically advanced. And with it the very nature of democracy. Not so very long ago, the people that represented us in parliament would speak, and we would listen. *Speech* was the quintessential form of communication. Now everyone can *talk*. Ask questions. Demand follow-up. Present own ideas. The web makes this possible and we are seeing a rapid shift from one-way communication to true exchange. This implies a big step from indirect to direct democracy. The change is so dramatic that it is no exaggeration to say: yes, we are witnessing a revolution!

Global Forum Workshop Guide

Room #	Rooms	Capacity	Friday, May 15		Saturday, May 16
			9-10.45	11.15-13	10-12
A	INAT Auditorium	With translations from to English/Arab (and French?)			

A1	Auditorium	250 persons	WS5 Democracy and Islam (2) @Amr Huber (Swissinfo)		WS8 Why Tunisia (3/3)? And what to learn for the World? @mehdibenmimoun (University of Carthage)
A2	Room 1	VIP (Thursday)/Press room (All Days)			
B	INAT theaters				
B1	Theater Jamoussi	60 persons	WS12 Storytelling on Modern Direct Democracy (3) @Daniel Schily (Democracy International)		
B2	Theater Amami	80 persons	WS2 Women and Democratization @Zohra Chabaane (UOC)	WS10 The State of Local Democracy – A Global Assessment @Matshidiso Kgothatso Semela-Serote (IDEA)	WS14 Transparency, Participation, Petitioning – from Parliament Watch to change.org @Gregor Hackmack (Parlament Watch)
C	INAT Admin				
C1	Room 1	40 persons	WS8 Why Tunisia? And what to learn for the World? (2) @Andi Gross (IRI)		WS4 Citizens Media and Journalism @Joe Mathews (Zocalo)
C2	Room 2	20 persons	WS6 Free Trade and Direct Democracy @Roman Huber (More Democracy)	WS13. Towards participatory democracy in Marocco	WS3 New Citizens Movements and Parties @Riccardo Fraccaro (M5S)
C3	Room 3	20 persons	Host Committee Back Office		
D	Maison de l'Eau-INAT				
D1	Room	30 persons	WS7 Infrastructure for Participative Democracy @Anne-Marie Sigmund (EESC)	WS9 Towards participative democracy worldwide @Daniel Schugurensky (ASU)	WS1 Social Media and Democracy @Assya Kavrakova (ECAS)
E	Outside INAT Campus				
E1					WS11 Participatory Democracy (9-12)