



GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY



## 2009 Emerging Leaders for Democracy Conference Series

### TENTATIVE Schedule

**Cairo, Egypt: November 4-6, 2009**

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*Wednesday, November 4, 2009*

6:00 PM – 8:30 PM: **Welcoming dinner**

- Welcoming remarks
- Participant introductions
- Open discussion

*Thursday, November 5, 2009*

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM—**Breakfast**

9:45 AM – 10:30 AM-- **Keynote address** by U.S. official & Egyptian official

10:35 – 11:20 AM—**Setting the Scene: Evaluating Egyptian Reform & Prospects for the Future**

*Suggested discussion questions: What is the status of political reform in Egypt? How have recent domestic and regional developments impacted this process? What are the most prominent challenges and opportunities for the future of reform? What should be the top priority areas for Egyptian reform?*

11:20 AM- 11:30 AM—**Coffee break**

11:30 AM – 12:45 PM—**Roundtable Discussion on Elections & Political Processes:**

*Suggested discussion questions: What role should the US and Europe play during the upcoming legislative and presidential elections in Egypt? Can international observers play a role? In the lead-up to a vote, what are the major obstacles to the conduct of free and fair elections, and how can external actors support reforms in these areas?*

12:50 PM- 1:15 PM: **Briefing** on breakout sessions and drafting of recommendations

1:15 PM – 2:00 PM: **Break out session:** groups draft recommendations on elections and political processes.

2:00 PM – 2:45 PM: **Lunch break**

3:00 PM – 4:30 PM-- **Roundtable Discussion on Religious Freedom & Inclusion:**

*Suggested discussion questions: How should religious freedom be defined in the context of democratization? What kind of barriers exist that would inhibit full inclusion of all members of society in the political system? How do limits on religious activism fit into efforts to curb freedom of association and expression? How can inclusion of religious parties be reconciled with respect for religious minorities? What*

*can the US and Europe do to support the inclusion of citizens in political processes, whether inspired by religion or not?*

4:30 PM – 5:15 PM: **Break out session:** *groups draft recommendations on religious freedom & inclusion*

5: 15 PM – 5: 30 PM: **Coffee Break**

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM: **Plenary session:** *Groups share their recommendations, debate them, and vote on the final recommendations to be included in the report.*

6:30 PM – 6:45 PM: **Concluding remarks**

*Friday, November 6, 2009*

9:00 AM – 9:45 AM—**Breakfast**

10:00 AM – 11:30 AM-- **Roundtable Discussion on Women’s Rights & Empowerment:**

Suggested discussion questions: *How does US and European policy impact women’s empowerment in political life in the region? Are Western funded women’s programs targeting the right projects and addressing the most pressing needs? What does political reform mean for the status of women? Are quotas a means to an end or do they hinder women’s equal participation in politics? What is the relationship between the political empowerment of women and progress toward other goals that Middle Easterners have for their societies? Does American foreign policy have a positive or negative effect on local debates about the status of women in the Middle East, and why?*

11:30 AM – 12: 15 AM: **Break out session:** *groups draft recommendations on women’s rights & empowerment.*

12:15PM – 2:00PM: **Lunch break and Friday prayer**

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM: **Roundtable Discussion on Human Security & Development:**

Suggested discussion questions: *How can human security and political development be reconciled and prioritized in U.S. and European policy? How do ongoing conflicts in the region, including the Israeli-Palestinian and Israeli-Arab conflicts and the war in Iraq, impact the chances for political reform in MENA? Is resolution of these conflicts a prerequisite to political reform? Is political reform a prerequisite for resolving these conflicts? Or are they independent of one another? What impact do internal security threats have on political reform and economic development, and how should U.S. and European approaches adapt to meet these challenges? What relationship exists between economic development and democratic development, and how can the U.S. and Europe work to advance both?*

3:30 PM – 3:45 PM: **Coffee break**

3:45 PM – 4:30 PM: **Break out session:** *groups draft recommendations on human security & development.*

4:30 PM – 4:45 PM: **Coffee break**

4:45 PM – 6:00 PM: **Plenary session:** *Groups share their recommendations, debate them, and vote on the final recommendations to be included in the report.*

6:00 PM – 6:30 PM: **Synthesis:** *Review final recommendations & final remarks*

7:30 PM – 9:00 PM: **Concluding Dinner**