



2009 Emerging Leaders for Democracy Conference Series

TENTATIVE Schedule

Beirut, Lebanon: October 26-28, 2009

Monday, October 26, 2009

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

- Welcoming remarks
- Participant introductions
- Open discussion

Tuesday, October 27, 2009

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM—**Breakfast**

9: 15 AM – 9:30 AM-- **Keynote address** by U.S. official & Lebanese official

9:40 AM – 10:30 AM—**Setting the Scene: Evaluating Lebanese Reform & Prospects for the Future**

- *Suggested discussion questions: What is the status of political reform in Lebanon? 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 Lebanese reform?*

10:30 AM- 10:45 AM—**Coffee break**

10:45 AM – 11: 45 AM—**Roundtable Discussion on Elections & Political Processes:**

- *Suggested discussion questions: How can the aftermath of the elections be leveraged to improve the political process? What are the consequences for reform in Lebanon when the government formation is delayed? Before and after elections, what are the major obstacles facing the public in trying to maintain an open and transparent political process? Which electoral reforms should be made high priority in advance on the 2010 municipal elections? What was the role of the US and European Union in assuring transparency (monitoring and funding civil society) and what is the impact of the continuous support to the Lebanese civil society on the electoral reform process in Lebanon?*

11:45 AM- 12:00PM: **Briefing** on breakout sessions and drafting of recommendations

12:00 PM – 12:45 PM: **Break out session:** groups draft recommendations on elections and political processes.

12: 45 PM – 2: 00 PM: **Lunch break**

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM-- **Roundtable Discussion on Religious Freedom & Inclusion:**

- *Suggested discussion questions: Is the Ta'if recommendation which call for a dismantling of Lebanon's confessional system a priority for reform? Is it possible? If not, what is the best way to maintain Lebanon's unique confessional make-up and pursue democratic reforms? What can the US and Europe do to promote the inclusion of all citizens who wish to express their political ambitions, whether inspired by religion or not? What obstacles does religious diversity in Lebanon pose for the future of democracy?*

3:30 PM – 4:15 PM: **Break out session:** groups draft recommendations on religious freedom & inclusion

4: 15 PM – 4: 30 PM: **Coffee Break**

4:30 PM – 5:45 PM: **Plenary session:** Groups share their recommendations, debate them, and vote on the final recommendations to be included in the report.

5:45 PM – 6:00 PM: **Concluding remarks**

Wednesday, October 28, 2009

8:30 AM – 9:00 AM—**Breakfast**

9:00 AM – 10:30 AM-- **Roundtable Discussion on Women's Rights & Empowerment:**

- Suggested discussion questions: *How does US and European policy impact women's development 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? What is the relationship between the 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?*

10:30 AM – 11:15 AM: **Break out session:** *groups draft recommendations on women's rights & empowerment.*

11:15 AM - 11:45 AM: **Coffee break**

11:45 AM – 1:15 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 Lebanon? 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?*

1:15 PM – 3:00 PM: **Lunch break**

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM: **Break out session:** *groups draft recommendations on human security & development.*

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM: **Coffee break**

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM: **Plenary session:** *Groups share their recommendations, debate them, and vote on the final recommendations to be included in the report.*

5:30 PM – 6:00 PM: **Synthesis:** *Review final recommendations & final remarks*

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