

**GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT  
IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES**

DEAD SEA, HASHEMITE KINGDOM OF JORDAN  
6-7 FEBRUARY 2005

**ARAB CIVIL SOCIETIES  
AND PUBLIC GOVERNANCE REFORM**

AN ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK AND OVERVIEW

**DRAFT**

**SALIM NASR**

JANUARY 2005



## FOREWORD

---

This report on “Arab Civil Societies and Public Governance Reform - An Analytical Framework and Overview” is among a series of reports conducted within the framework of the Good Governance for Development (GfD) initiative. The objective of this preliminary report is to examine the state of civil societies and the ongoing modernizing initiatives in a number of Arab countries.

The regional and national reports seek to define a framework, which could be used at a later phase to compile information and indicators paving the way for the launching of the initiative.

ADEL M. ABDELLATIF  
REGIONAL COORDINATOR  
Programme on Governance in the Arab Region  
United Nations Development Programme



## DEFINITIONS AND POTENTIAL ROLES OF ARAB CIVIL SOCIETIES

---

Civil society is today a very familiar term in Arab political and developmental discourses. However, as in the international debates, the definition and the meaning remain somehow elusive and controversial. Although there is generally an agreement that civil society is the social space outside of family, the state and the market, different views are offered on whether civil society is a descriptive or a normative concept and whether it should include such borderline groups as the informal and kinship based networks, the religiously based organizations or the political parties.

This paper will not review and discuss the many positions taken in this debate by Arab analysts and intellectuals over the last two decades. For the purpose of this overview, a descriptive definition of civil society will be adopted, excluding from it the necessary adoption of specific values, such as a secular orientation, civility in dealing with others, respect for differences, or a commitment to peaceful management of conflict

For us, Arab civil societies will encompass all associations or organizations that are private, voluntary, not for profit, at least partly independent or autonomous from the state and are pursuing a common interest, protecting a common value or advocating a common cause. We will exclude kinship based groups and family associations as too close to the space of the family. We will exclude political parties as too close to the political space and at least in theory, focused on the pursuit of political power. As for the religiously based organizations, we will include faith based charities, social services and development organizations, but exclude organizations focused on specifically religious practices and requirements of the cult.

In reviewing the available literature on Arab civil societies, one can note easily the predominance of speculative or notional debates, the tendency to generalize for the Arab region without a proper consideration of the significant intraregional variations and the pendulum swing between unrealistic hopes for the actual or potential roles of Arab civil societies and undue skepticism or structural pessimism concerning their contribution to change and public governance reforms. The domination of general and often ideological discourses about Arab civil societies has also been at the expense of analytical research, in-depth monographs and case studies, and empirical evaluation of specific experiences.

Although in the most recent years, more focused and empirical researches has been conducted, this paper will reflect by necessity the current state of studies of Arab civil societies and the severe limitations it put on any extensive assessment of the role of civil societies in public governance reforms. What is proposed here are mainly an analytical framework and an overview of the current conditions of Arab civil societies and what can be said of their emerging role in change and reforms: To what extent, civil society organizations (CSO's) or a certain part of them in certain Arab countries on certain issues, are starting to become agents of public governance reforms, agents of public policies alternatives, and agents of accountability and democratization.

## THE COMPOSITION AND SIZE OF ARAB CIVIL SOCIETIES

---

We will start by suggesting an analytical typology of Arab civil society's organizations, regrouping them into five main functional categories or categories of principal activity.

The five categories are the following:

1. Leisure and socializing activities
2. Social assistance and social service delivery
3. Knowledge oriented activities
4. Societal interest representation
5. Public interest advocacy

If we expand the five main categories of civil society's organizations into their main constitutive subcategories, we will obtain the following table:

### 1 LEISURE AND SOCIALIZING ACTIVITIES:

- Social, local and youth clubs
- Recreational associations
- Sports associations

### 2 SOCIAL ASSISTANCE AND SOCIAL SERVICES DELIVERY:

- Mutual aid groups and community development organizations
- Welfare associations
- Services and development NGO's

### 3 KNOWLEDGE ORIENTED ACTIVITIES:

- Cultural associations
- Research promotion association
- Educational associations

### 4 SOCIETAL INTEREST REPRESENTATION:

- Membership-based interest groups:
  - Business associations
  - Professional associations
  - Trade Unions
  
- Membership based sectoral movements:
  - Women's movements
  - Youth movements
  - Cultural movements

**5 PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY:**

- Issue oriented organizations:
  - Human rights
  - Women's rights
  - Worker's rights
  - Good governance and accountability:
    - Democratization
    - Rule of law
    - Transparency and integrity
    - Election monitoring
    - Civic and voter's education
  - Environment protection
  - Heritage protection
  - Consumer protection
- Independent public fora
- Independent policy research institutions

As we go from category one to category five we can assume that we go from the less to the more involved associations in issues of public governance reform and social and political change in the Arab region. We can assume also that we go from the more self centered associations to the service oriented associations, to the membership interest centered associations to the organizations presumably focused on the public interest. Thus in each Arab country the relative weight and the level of autonomy and activity of each category of civil society organizations might determine to what extent civil society is starting to influence public sector and public governance reform in the country concerned.

Unfortunately, there no available systematic mapping and substantial data bases of Arab CSO's on a regional or on a national basis, except under the format of simple listings or summary directories of associations for countries like Egypt, Palestine and Jordan and partly for Lebanon, Yemen and Morocco. These sources contain little information on size, activities, membership, or functional budgets. They are mostly based on registries of Ministries of Interior or Ministries of Social Affairs. They are sometimes outdated and do not necessarily distinguish between active or inactive associations. They are the bases on which some rough global figures are sometimes mentioned concerning the total number of associations in several Arab countries.

The following table presents figures compiled by the Arab Network of Civil Society Organizations on the estimated total numbers of civil society organizations and the evolution of these numbers over the Nineties of the last century

Civil society organizations in the Arab region  
(1991-2001)

Countries	Numbers in 2001-2	Numbers in 1991-2	Increase in %
Algeria	58,000	–	
Morocco	30,000	–	
Egypt	16,000	13,000	23
Tunisia	7,500	5,200	44
Lebanon	3,600	1,300	177
Yemen	2,700	250	980
Jordan	900	587	53
Bahrain	321	66	386
Sudan	246	262	-6
Saudi Arabia	230	125	84
United Emirates	113	89	27
Kuwait	103	55	87

The previous table gives an order of magnitude of the total identified civil society associations and organizations in twelve Arab countries at the beginning of the current decade. Although large numbers could be associated sometimes with high level of fragmentation or inclusion of peripheral categories of associations (like parents associations and students clubs in Algerian schools), they could reflect to a significant extent the degree of collective organization and joint action within a specific society and the size of its public space. In this respect, the North African countries, Egypt, Lebanon and Yemen seem to have numerically large (and active?) civil societies. The Gulf, Sudan and the rest of the Machrek seem to have much more limited civil societies.

If we consider now the evolution of numbers during the last decade, we could note interesting differential trends: An absolute decrease in Sudan; a small increase from a small base in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Emirates; a moderate increase from a large base in Jordan, Egypt and Tunisia; a large increase (twofold and fourfold) in Lebanon and Bahrain; and a very large increase from a relatively small base in Yemen. Unfortunately, no figure is available to measure the ten year trend in the two leading countries of Algeria and Morocco, although we can safely assume a very large increase (some authors speak of an explosion) in the case of Algeria, and a large increase in the case of Morocco.

Many factors could explain these trends of the nineties, including the end of the civil war in Lebanon, the semi-liberalization measures in Yemen and Jordan, the very liberal new regulation on associations in Algeria, and the fast expansion of the civil society organizations after the association of opposition to power in Morocco. In the above mentioned countries, the nineties were undoubtedly a period of horizontal expansion of civil societies.

A more weighted way to compare countries of the region is to relate the number of organizations to the respective population in each country. One would thus obtain a kind of density index of civil society organizations in the Arab region.

Density of civil society organizations in the Arab region  
(2001)

Countries	Number of organizations in 2001-2	Population in 20001 (in millions)	Organizations per 100,000 inhabitant
Algeria	58,000	31	187
Morocco	30,000	29,2	103
Lebanon	3,600	3,6	100
Tunisia	7,500	9,7	53,6
Bahrain	3,600	0,7	45,8
Egypt	16,000	65,3	24,5
Jordan	900	5,2	15,5
Yemen	2,700	19	14
Kuwait	103	2,3	4,4
United Emirates	113	3,3	3,4
Saudi Arabia	230	21	1,1
Sudan	246	37	0,6

The table confirms the wide variations in relative density of civil society organizations among Arab countries: A comparatively high density (between 100 and 200 organizations per 100,000 inhabitants) in Algeria, Morocco and Lebanon; a average density (between 25 and 50) in Tunis, Bahrain and Egypt; a relatively low density (around 15) in Jordan and Yemen; a very low density (between 1 and 5), in the Gulf states and Sudan. Although the Arab densities, on average, are much lower than averages in developed countries and many developing countries (from several hundreds to several thousands organizations per 100,000 inhabitants), variations within the Arab region are also quite large today extending from one to almost 200 organizations per 100,000 inhabitants.

In very few cases, one could go beyond the global figures to breakdowns according to the main categories of civil society organizations. A recently published compilation and survey of the Jordanian CSO's in the late nineties prepared by the New Jordan Research Center, gives more details on numbers of organizations and total membership by various categories of CSO's. In the following table we have regrouped the figures of the Jordanian survey according to the five analytical and functional categories suggested earlier in this paper.

Distribution of civil society organizations in Jordan (1998)

Categories	Number of organizations	Percentage of total number	Membership	Percentage of total membership
Recreational and socializing	306	19.9	26,500	3.7
Welfare and social services	734	47.6	106,000	14.8
Educational and cultural	256	16.6	14,000	1.9
Societal interest representation:				
Business and small owners	86	5.6	74,000	10.3
Professional associations	13	0.8	80,000	11.2
Workers trade unions	17	1.1	183,000	25.6
Women's movement	97	6.3	150,000	21
Youth movements	14	0.9	73,000	10.2
Public interest advocacy organizations	18	1.2	8,000	1.3
Total	1,541	100	714,500	100

The distribution table reveals a number of patterns particular to the Jordanian civil society but not very dissimilar to distribution patterns in other Arab civil societies, according to qualitative studies and partial surveys available on other countries.

The welfare and social services category alone represent about half of the total number of organizations and associations. It is followed by the recreational and socializing category (one fifth) and the cultural and educational category (one sixth). Business associations (large and small) and women's organizations represent each about 5-6% of the total number. Professional associations, trade unions, youth movements (mainly students) and public interest advocacy organizations are few in numbers and represent each about 1% of the total number of organizations.

The distribution of membership according to the survey reveals a different structure. About one quarter of the total membership of civil society organizations belongs to the trade unions, a share not surprising and even relatively low compared to international figures. Almost as much, one fifth is affiliated with women's organizations, which is more surprising and could reflect the expansion of women's collective organization and action in Jordan (and probably in the region) in the last couple of decades. One sixth of

membership is affiliated with the numerous welfare and social services organizations which have spread across the whole national territory. One tenth of total membership goes to each of the business associations, the professional associations and the student organizations. Recreational and socializing, and educational and cultural organizations, although representing together 36.5% of the total number of organizations, do not include more than 5.6% of total membership. They seem to be mostly small and local organizations. Finally, the new and vocal public interest advocacy groups, about twenty organizations out of fifteen hundred, do not represent more than one percent of both the total number of organizations and the total membership.

These figures, which are often claims of membership by the various groups, do not tell a lot about levels of activities, efficiency or commitment of membership and could often rely on formal criteria and a limited level of members' participation. They do however give an approximate idea of the relative weight of the different category of CSO's in the Jordanian society.

A similar extensive survey of Egyptian CSO's was conducted in 1994 under the auspices of the Al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Research. It shows very comparable results, with a larger share for religiously based organizations, both Muslim and Christian and a significant component of rural community development organizations and urban migrants mutual aid associations on a regional origin basis mainly in Cairo and Alexandria.

Tables listing the most visible and maybe the most active CSO's in the categories four and five (societal interest representation and public interest advocacy), in ten Arab countries are included in the Annex to this paper. While again based on summary directories and/or the existence of internet sites, they nonetheless give a certain image of the current spread and diversity of Arab CSO's most concerned by issues of public governance reforms.

## THE STATE-CIVIL SOCIETY RELATIONS: FROM SUPPRESSION TO PARTNERSHIP.

---

State-civil society relationships are crucial determinants of the capacity of CSO's to be self organized and self regulated, to provide public goods and services, to conduct efficient social action or to influence the public sphere and public policy.

Within the Arab region today, there are wide variations in the way states relate to emerging civil societies and forms of associative life.

At one end of the spectrum few states, like Libya, Syria and most of the Gulf States, still directly suppress and prohibit the establishment of independent citizen organizations. Whatever social organizations exist is state or ruling party run or tightly state controlled through direct appointment of their leaderships and boards. Social services organization, professional associations or trade unions, when they exist, are like arms or appendages of the state, extending its outreach or control over society. The model is either a left conservative (corporatist) or right conservative (neo-patriarchal) vision of an integrated harmonious ensemble where the state, who knows better, orchestrates and guides the society and its components as one organic whole.

At the medium part of the spectrum, states in transition, like Kuwait, Bahrain, Egypt, Yemen or Tunisia, have a diversity of social organizations. Some of them are still of the state run or controlled type. Some of them have been for sometime semi-autonomous and the objects of claims by independent or oppositional forces, within their membership or leadership. Others are emerging independent organizations struggling to acquire legitimacy and efficiency as proponents of alternative development activities, articulators of societal interest or advocates of public interest issues and specific public policies.

In several of these societies, the nature of state-civil society relationship and the existing legal and regulatory frameworks have been recently objects of vigorous debates and contestation.

At the other end of the spectrum, states like Lebanon, Morocco, Algeria and the Palestinian Authority have accepted traditionally (for Lebanon) or have come recently to accept (for the others) the existence and expansion of a vibrant civil society that they still try to manipulate or co-opt, but also increasingly treat as a partner in development activities or public policy implementation.

In most of the states of the Arab region, freedom of association remains the exception rather than the rule. In almost all countries, establishing a civil society association requires a permit by the relevant ministry, and going through a tedious and lengthy administrative and security clearance process. Decisions of the administrative authority remain often discretionary and not open to judiciary recourse. For most civil society associations the authority delivering the permit of establishment is the Ministry of Interior in Jordan, Tunisia and Algeria, the Ministry of Social Affairs in Egypt, Yemen, Palestine and Kuwaiti, and the general secretariat of the Government in Morocco. Other categories of associations are sometimes linked to the ministries of culture, labor or economy.

This inhibiting legal framework is complemented by a tight regulatory control and a battery of legal measures that the administrative authority can use to restrict the autonomy and activities of civil society organizations. In many countries of the region the controlling ministry can: Cancel Board elections; oppose veto on candidates; appoint provisional boards; enforce merger of associations; close headquarters and offices; impose heavy fines for mismanagement; require prior approval for any donation; impose prior control on expenditures; dissolve associations by ministerial decree; requisition assets of dissolved associations and prohibit activities on security grounds.

In that respect, the more severe measures are included in the association laws and reflected in the administrative practices of Egypt, Jordan, Palestine and Tunis. Less severe measures are included in the recently reformed laws of Algeria, Morocco and Yemen.

Lebanon is the only case where no formal administrative permit is required by the old 1909 Ottoman law on associations still in effect. The only requirement is a notification of the act of incorporation and the by laws to the Ministry of Interior against deliverance of a receipt. Recent practices have tried to turn this deliverance of a receipt by the ministry into the equivalent of a permit. This practice has been vigorously opposed by Lebanese incorporators of civil society associations and was recently overturned by a ruling of the high administrative court.

## THE INTERNAL LIMITATIONS OF ARAB CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS

---

In addition to the restrictions imposed by authoritarian or semi-authoritarian states and to the often inhibiting legal and regulatory frameworks, Arab civil society organizations are limited in their autonomy and efficiency by constitutive and internal factors that affect their development and impact. We will briefly mention below the main limitative factors often underlined by analysts and observers of Arab civil societies.

### ■ A WEAK CONTEMPORARY CULTURE OF CIVIC PARTICIPATION.

A long history of external (Ottoman) and colonial domination followed by mostly authoritarian and repressive post independence regimes has bred a political culture of fear, apathy, withdrawal from the public sphere and instinctive mistrust. Against this entrenched background, a new culture of active citizenship, social collaboration, and autonomous collective action, favorable to the development of civil society, is emerging slowly and with difficulty.

### ■ A STRUCTURAL DEPENDENCY ON THE STATE.

Most Arab economies are still dominated by the public sector as a producer or as a client, far more than in other low or middle income countries in the world. The increasingly expanding private sector itself is still largely dependent on contracts, favors or incentives from the state. The share of public civil and military employment in urban sectors is still quite large. In this context, trade unions, development CSO's, chambers of commerce or professional associations cannot easily affirm their autonomy or challenge and contest state policies or state wishes.

### ■ LIMITED CONSTITUENCIES AND SHALLOW COMMITMENT OF MEMBERS.

Most of the Arab civil society organizations, even those claiming relatively large numbers of members, have weak capacities to relate to or to mobilize their members and even more so the larger constituencies that could support their action. Trade unions or professional associations' board elections, for example, often have turn out of no more than 10-15% of nominal membership in large countries like Egypt, and no more than 20-25% in smaller countries like Lebanon and Jordan.. Demonstrations and others forms of mass action, whenever they are allowed, include few hundreds or to the most few thousands participants from supposedly large organizations.

### ■ WEAK INTERNAL GOVERNANCE AND ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURES.

Several Arab civil society organizations have either bureaucratic structures that resemble in small the state bureaucracy authoritarian structures or they have loose and ineffectual structures unable to support sustained and complex organizational or mobilization work. In addition many organizations do not embody the accountable and transparent governance they have been calling for. Instead, leadership does not easily rotate and can be as entrenched as the dominant political power structure; decision-making can be very concentrated and opaque; and accountability to members and constituencies tend to be limited.

### ■ PRECARIOUS, CONDITIONAL, OR DONOR-DRIVEN FUNDING.

Many Arab civil society organizations lack financial autonomy and/or solidity. The mobilization of their own internal resources tend be limited either because of members' reluctance to pay significant dues and

contributions or because of the general socio-economic conditions. Several organizations rely largely on state funding but often with political strings attached or as political clienteles of state leadership. Local philanthropy is often limited to traditional support for social welfare organizations and in most Arab states there no legal framework and fiscal incentives for philanthropic donations. In several cases states look with suspicion and even prohibit private donations to civil society organizations that would increase their financial autonomy and reduce their dependency on the state.

In the last couple of decades, international donors have become a major source of funding in countries like Morocco, Egypt, Jordan or Palestine, for at least two sectors of Arab civil societies, the social services and development CSO's and the more recently established public interest advocacy group. The fears (sometimes paranoid) of foreign interference in "sensitive" issues, hidden agendas and political manipulation have made of foreign funding for civil society the object of much controversy within Arab societies and with the concerned states. Many states who do not have any hesitation to actively lobby for foreign funding for them want to prohibit or at least to tightly control any foreign funding of civil society organizations. In any case, sources and sustainability of funding remain a major issue for Arab civil society development.

#### ■ ORGANIZATIONAL FRAGMENTATION AND IDEOLOGICAL POLARIZATIONS.

Many Arab civil society organizations do not have the critical size to be able to carry alone significant or sustainable activities and to achieve a meaningful impact. In addition, most of them have difficulties working together, pooling resources, sharing services or building coalitions in order to increase the efficiency of their social interventions. Multiplication of competing and overlapping organizations affects several sectors such as health service providers, micro credit organizations, women's associations or human rights groups. In spite of the recent emergence of few regional or national networks mainly in countries like Lebanon, Morocco or Palestine, the cooperative work among Arab civil society organizations remain quite limited. In addition, in the last two decades, a growing ideological polarization and sometime a rift have developed between faith-based and, at the margin, fundamentalist inspired organizations, on the one side, and secularist and leftist oriented organizations, on the other side. In several instances Arab civil societies have been or appeared to be on the verge of civil strife.

## AN EMERGING CONTRIBUTION TO PUBLIC GOVERNANCE REFORMS

---

In spite of the constraining role of most Arab states and the structural and internal limitations of Arab civil societies, Arab CSO's have significantly diversified their forms of influence and increased their level of intervention in the public sphere in several Arab countries. Over the last decade, from Morocco to Yemen and from Algeria to Jordan, many CSO's started campaigning for changes in policies and legislation, mobilizing for the defense of the public interest and public values, engaging in observation and monitoring of public agencies and officials, producing alternative analysis and policy proposals and contributing actively to the development of the public debate.

In several Arab countries the public space today is quite different from what it used to be less than twenty years ago. The state and the political elite do not have any more a monopoly over the setting of the pub-

lic agenda or the content of public discourses. A new set of actors from the civil society is more and more engaging with or challenging official discourses and raising new issues of public governance that are slowly being put on the national agendas.

Among the most notable issues raised with different intensity by different Arab civil societies are: free and fair electoral processes, enforcement of basic human rights, decentralization and empowerment of local governance structures, more efficient public services, more transparent public expenditures, more progress toward gender equity, more universal health coverage, better social protection, sustainable environmental policies, better access to justice, or the right to access public information.

Off course, in most cases, the gap remains wide between the growing ability of Arab CSO's to expose problems and deficits and call for reforms, and their still weak capacity to affect effective change. Their own deficiencies in mobilization skills, alternative policy formulation or coalition building as well as the strong resistance of entrenched ruling elites and vested social interests are still preventing wide ranging public governance reforms.

However, in a number of Arab countries and in several sectors, CSO's were able, in the last few years, to contribute to partial progress on public policy issues. Few examples will illustrate the growing impact of Arab CSO's.

Environmental CSO's were able to raise crucial issues and affect policy change in the nineties in countries like Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt or Morocco. Their interventions ranged in Jordan, from water pollution in West Amman to imported food containing prohibited chemicals; and in Lebanon, from the proliferation of unlicensed quarries affecting landscapes and forests in Mount Lebanon to vehicles gas emissions and air pollution; and in Egypt from solid waste disposal in the suburbs of Cairo and Alexandria to industrial factories air and water pollution. Environmental CSO's were able document persuasively the issues, raise public awareness with the support of the press, and propose and lobby for alternative public policies. Their interventions led to receding import licenses (Jordan), or adopting new air pollution regulations (Lebanon), or enforcing existing laws on industrial pollution (Egypt). In addition to their own strategies, Arab environmental CSO's benefited from a number of favorable conditions: the fact that environmental issues were perceived by ruling elites as relatively non sensitive or threatening; that the vested interests challenged were more marginal or less powerful; and that environmental CSO's themselves were largely composed of and led by middle class or upper middle class elements with influential social and political connections. Environment is one of the few field of public policy where Arab governments are developing relations of consultation and partnership with CSO's, encouraging their role in public education, monitoring and studies and citizen's initiatives.

Public health related CSO's coalitions have succeeded largely in countries like Palestine, partly in Lebanon and Morocco and more marginally in Egypt or Yemen in promoting a more participative, preventative and cost effective approach to public health in their own practices and in proposed reforms of the public sector priorities and practices. They are now regularly consulted by ministries of health and they have participated to national studies of the public health system and to national strategies of public health reforms.

This growing impact has been facilitated, in the nineties, by the gradual retreat of many Arab states from extensive health services delivery and their attempts to rely more on private and civil society providers. By asking non state actors to play a larger role, states had to concede to them a significant voice in public health policy setting.

Women's rights CSOs and national coalitions of women organizations have succeeded in a number of Arab countries in making of gender equity and women empowerment a legitimate and visible issue on the national agenda.

Despite strong resistance by conservative social forces and sometimes by conservative members of parliament, women's CSOs have pushed through major or partial revisions of "personal status legislation" that significantly improved women's rights in marriage and divorce, custody and inheritance, travel abroad or granting of citizenship to children. In Morocco, the parliament recently approved a major progressive revision of the personal status code. In Egypt, through judicial decision, women can now travel abroad without the permission of husbands or fathers and a new legislation entitled them to transmit citizenship to their foreign father born children.

In the public sphere, recent electoral laws in Algeria, Jordan and Morocco mandated quotas for women to increase their numbers in parliament. In several Arab countries a growing number of women have been appointed to ministerial, judicial or diplomatic positions, most notably to the constitutional court of Egypt. Most recently, Lebanon, who was paradoxically behind many Arab countries in the indicators of women participation to public affairs, appointed two woman ministers, a woman acting attorney general, and might introduce a quota for women in its new electoral law.

Despite setbacks like the failure to enact legislation increasing penalties for violence against women in Jordan or legislation granting electoral rights to women in Kuwait, Arab women CSOs are actively pursuing their reformists agenda, sometimes with the support of a section of the ruling elite. In fact, in several Arab countries, the ruling elite has used its partial support for gender equity to project an image of progressiveness outside and to counter religiously based conservative oppositional movements inside.

Regional and local development CSOs, regional cultural associations, neighborhood committees and local clubs in Morocco, Lebanon, Algeria or Yemen have long lobbied for more decentralization, and more empowerment and devolution of functions to local governance structures. Significantly, these countries are relatively more decentralized than the Arab regional average, which is still characterized by a very centralized power structure. A new and progressive local governance law was adopted in Yemen in 2000, and revisions to local governance laws are being considered in the Moroccan and Lebanese parliaments.

In Morocco, local development associations have spread in many regions and were able in many cases to establish good working relations with local authorities. In Lebanon several civil society organizations have signed memorandum of understanding with municipalities. In fact, several of the associations' leaders have been elected mayors or councilors in the recent local elections of Morocco in 2003 and Lebanon in 2004.

Civic associations, democratic advocacy groups, elections monitoring associations as well as professional

organizations and other CSO's in Morocco, Algeria, Jordan or Yemen and to some extent Egypt, have contributed to pressures for more competitive and fairer electoral processes and for fewer attempts by the executive power to manipulate the electoral outcome,. Although the improvements were relative, in recent elections, voter registration, balloting, vote counting and the announcements of results were acknowledged to having been more efficient and transparent. The role of the independent electoral commissions was consolidated in Yemen and Palestine and in Egypt the judiciary took charge of elections oversight.

Finally, against a strong resistance of vested interests, a new type of CSO's started recently raising publicly issues of integrity and transparency of both the public and private sectors in countries like Morocco, Lebanon, Jordan, Kuwait or Palestine. Previously taboo topics such as wide spread corruption, traffic of influence, nepotism, abuse of public funds and properties, money laundering and tax evasion are progressively more openly discussed and sometime documented. Although there still a long way to go for the concrete identification, the effective prosecution and the sanctioning of the principal culprits, the growing activism of Arab CSO's has contributed to raising the issue of corruption in the public agendas of few Arab countries.

The examples briefly outlined above indicate that despite resistance, obstacles and limitations, Arab CSO's are starting to influence public governance reforms and public policies in several important fields. Even though many of the changes or the reforms are not yet radical and not necessarily irreversible, the role of the civil society organizations and their impact are gradually becoming more effective and more significant.

## BUILDING UP THE ROLE OF ARAB CIVIL SOCIETIES IN PUBLIC GOVERNANCE REFORMS

---

In conclusion, we will briefly evoke a number of factors or policies that could help develop and consolidate the contribution of Arab CSO's and their influence on public governance reforms.

A first set of policies and measures, to be adopted by Arab public authorities, would help create an **ENABLING ENVIRONMENT** that will improve the legal framework and ease the working conditions of Arab civil society organizations. Measures such as the following could be considered:

Revise and liberalize associations' laws and other legal and regulatory frameworks governing civil society organizations, including conditions for incorporation, registration, board elections, funding, scope of activities and public control. Instead of government ministries, the idea of an independent public commission to regulate and support the work of CSO's could be explored. In addition, adopt the principles of pluralism and freedom of association within the sector of interest representation (Trade unions, professional associations and business associations).

Adopt legislation and fiscal incentives to encourage national philanthropy, including the establishment of foundations, and to facilitate local private donations to eligible CSO's. Adopt also a more open and competitive framework for public funding and more liberal and transparent regulations for international funding of CSO's.

Empower and genuinely consult the second assemblies and the official consultative bodies, insuring a better representation and voice for the most active civil society organizations within these assemblies. Existing bodies include the Majlis Al Shura (Consultative Council) in Egypt, Bahrain and Yemen, the Majlis Al Mustasharin (Chamber of Councilors) in Morocco and Tunisia, the Majlis Al Ayan (House of Notables) in Jordan, and the Majlis Al Umma (National Council) in Algeria. They also include the Social and Economic Councils in Algeria, Tunisia and Lebanon. These assemblies could be revitalized as fora for rational social dialogue on public policy options and as a framework through which civil society organizations and networks can participate in national public policy formation.

Develop a regular practice of consultation of relevant civil society's organizations by Arab parliaments and parliamentary committees. Parliaments could develop different forms of consultations of CSO's including participation in hearings, presentation of testimonies, submission of policy studies, and recommendation of draft legislation. More formal parliament-civil society fora could also be established.

Include and consult relevant civil society organizations in the preparation and formulation of national sectoral strategies, national and regional development plans and major public projects,

Expand and improve citizen's access to public information, and establish a legally mandated right to information. Arab public documents that are difficult to access include the following, with variations in degree of publicity in the different Arab countries: decisions of Councils of Ministers; parliamentary debates; parliamentary committees' debates; laws and application decrees; detailed national budgets; reports of oversight bodies; national statistics; developments plans and projects documents; national strategies in various sectors; court rulings, and other various public policy documents. Arab civil society organizations and citizens in general should have the right and the practical means to access public documents essential for their understanding of and participation in public policy processes and for holding officials and public institutions accountable to the citizenry.

Strengthen the freedom of expression through expanding the freedom of the press and media, reinforcing academic and research freedoms, and eliminating the various forms of censorship and repression of assemblies, public debates, publications and cultural productions. Arab civil society organizations will directly benefit from an expanded freedom of expression in their capacity to communicate, persuade, dialogue and mobilize Arab citizens around the public interest.

Promote a culture of civic participation, active citizenship and partnership between the state and civil society through the curricula of the public education system and through the programs of the public national Medias.

A second set of initiatives and measures to be adopted by the civil society organizations themselves, would help build up the internal capacity and the external efficiency of Arab CSO's. Measures such as the following could be considered:

Give a priority to the development of membership commitment and participation and to the extension of the larger constituencies in each of the sectors concerned.

Strengthen organizational capacities through training and professionalization of staff when needed and when possible and through building up of communication and advocacy skills.

Adopt democratic and transparent rules of internal governance and improve accountability of leadership to members and constituencies. Rules should include term limits for CSO's leadership and increased financial transparency

Promote a younger, more gender balanced and more charismatic leadership of the civil society organizations.

Build sectoral and national CSO's coalitions for change, learning to work together and to pool services, resources and mobilization capacities.

Develop internal and independent, nationally based sources of funding.

Contribute to a unifying vision for social and political reforms at the national level.

Finally, a number of macro political and economic factors and long term processes will ultimately determine and shape the future of Arab civil societies. Among the most important of these external determinants:

A significant and sustained economic growth and the development of stronger, more independent, private economic actors could reduce the dependency of civil society on the state and the state domination of national economic resources and employment opportunities. A multiplicity of competing economic power centers within Arab societies could strengthen the material base for social and political pluralism.

The breakdown of states and regimes monopolies on media and mass communication, and the gradual emergence of an open, plural and competitive Arab virtual public space will erode and marginalize state control of the public discourse and state constraint on the free circulation of information, opinions and perspectives. In that changing communication context, Arab civil society organizations could significantly improve their ability to reach out for, persuade and influence Arab public opinion and shape the Arab policy and public debates.

The formation of national coalitions for political reforms and the rise of new political elites could produce a new trend of genuine political liberalization in the Arab region. This would create the political will needed to transform state-civil society relations from relations of suppression, control or cooptation to relations of partnership, cooperation and mutual accountability.

The societal and political transformations mentioned above will enlarge in the longer term the sphere of liberty in Arab societies and will create the structural conditions for more active and more influential Arab civil society organizations.



**ANNEX**

**ARAB CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS**

**SOCIETY INTEREST REPRESENTATION  
AND PUBLIC INTEREST ADVOCACY**



## INTERESTS GROUPS

---

### BUSINESS ASSOCIATION

#### MAGHREB

##### ■ ALGERIA

- Association des chefs d'entreprise.
- Confédération Algérienne du Patronat.
- Confédération générale des opérateurs économiques Algériennes.
- Algerian chamber of commerce and industry
- Algerian Confederation of Businessmen

##### Sectoral

- Association Of The Chief Executive Officers.
- General Confederation Of Algerian Economic Operators.

##### ■ MOROCCO

- Association des Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises du Maroc
- Association Marocaine d'Appui pour la promotion de la petite Entreprise.

##### ■ TUNISIA

- Tunisian Union of Industry, Commerce and Artisans
- The Tunisia Chamber Of Commerce And Industry

#### MACHREK

##### ■ EGYPT

- Egyptian Business Women Association
- General union of the Egyptian chambers of commerce
- Egyptian Businessmen Association

##### Sectoral

- Economic Advancement of Business Women in Port Said
- Association Of Egyptian Banks
- Cooperative Of Small Enterprises.
- Cotton Exporters Union
- Egyptian Industrial Union
- Egyptian Insurance Union
- Egyptian Union Of Touristic Chambers
- General Union Of Free Zones Investors.
- The General Union Of Poultry Producers.

#### ■ JORDAN

- Jordan Trade association
- Business & professional Women Forum
- Amman chamber of industry
- Jordanian businessmen association
- The Jordan Trade Association

#### Sectoral

- Association of banks in Jordan
- Jordanian Union of Artists
- Jordan Tourist Guide Association
- Jordanian Association Of Manufactures Of Pharmaceuticals And Medical Supplies
- Agricultural Products Wholesale Dealers Association
- Gas And Fuel Distributors Association
- Jewellers Association
- Jordan Construction Contractors Association
- Jordan Federation For Insurance Companies
- Jordan Hotel Association
- Jordan Investors Association Of Amman Industrial Estate.
- Printer Association Union
- Union For Product Transportation And Clearance, Companies, Offices And Individuals.
- Union Of Medical And Scientific Appliances Traders.

#### ■ PALESTINE

- Palestinian Chamber of commerce, industry and agriculture.
- Federation of the Palestinian Chamber of commerce, industry and agriculture.
- Palestinian Businessmen Association
- Palestinian Economists Association
- Palestinian Federation Of Industries.
- Palestinian Trade centre.

#### Sectoral

- Palestinian Advertising Society.

#### ■ LEBANON

- Federation Of The Chambers Of Commerce, Industry And Agriculture
- Beirut Merchants Association
- Lebanese Businessmen Association

#### Sectoral

- Association Of Banks In Lebanon
- Association Of Financial Companies In Lebanon
- Association Of Lebanese Industrialists

- Syndicate Of Chemical Industries
- Syndicate Of Clothes Manufacturers
- Syndicate Of Electrical Equipment Manufacturers.
- Syndicate Of Food Industries.
- Syndicate Of Tanners In Lebanon
- Syndicate Of Textile Industries
- Syndicate Of Wood Furniture Industries.
- Lebanese Contractors Syndicate
- Association Of Lebanese Insurance Companies-ACAL
- Industrial Traders And Craftsmen Association
- Union of Owners of Restaurants and Sweet Shops in Lebanon
- Professional Computer Association
- Union Of Hotel Owners In Lebanon
- Union Of Oil Importing Companies
- Union Of Touristic Maritime Complexes.
- Institut des Finances.
- World Association of Opinion and Marketing Research Professionals (ESOMAR)
- Rassemblement de Dirigeants et Chefs d'Entreprises Libanais - RDCL

## GULF

### ■ BAHRAIN

- Bahrain Chamber of Commerce and Industry

### ■ KUWAIT

- Kuwait Chamber of Commerce And Industry.

### ■ UAE

- Federation of UAE Chamber of Commerce and Industry

#### Sectoral

- UAE Contractors' Association

### ■ YEMEN

#### Sectoral

- Association of Yemen Tourism and travel agencies.

Sources: Arab Decision ([www.arabdecision.org](http://www.arabdecision.org)) and Programme On Governance In The Arab Region (POGAR-UNDP)

## INTERESTS GROUPS

---

### PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

#### MAGHREB

##### ■ ALGERIA

- Syndicate of Air Algeria Pilots
- Syndicate of Teachers (syndicat national de l'enseignement superieur S.N.E.S)
- Syndicats des etudiants

##### ■ MOROCCO

- Moroccan Union of Labour
- Confederation of Democratic Labour
- National Union of Moroccan Journalists
- The Moroccan Association of researchers and scholars.

##### ■ TUNISIA

- General Union of Students
- National Union of Agriculturists

#### MACHREK

##### ■ EGYPT

- Egyptian Bar Association
- General Union for Press, Printing and Information
- Press Union
- Syndicate of Egyptian Engineers
- Union of Egyptian Medical Professionals
- Union of Egyptian Publishers
- Society of Egyptian Architects – SEA
- Egyptian Pharmacy syndicate.
- Egyptian Medical Syndicate.

##### ■ JORDAN

- The General Trade Union of Public Services and Free Professions
- Agricultural Engineers Association
- Jordan Bar Association
- Jordan Dental Association
- Jordan Engineers Association
- Jordan Medical Association
- Jordan Nurse and Midwives Council

- Jordan Pharmaceutical Association
- Jordan Press Association
- Jordanian Association of Certified Public Accountants
- Jordanian Geologists Association
- Jordanian Professional Association
- Jordanian Veterinary Association
- Jordanian Writers League
- Jordanian Writers Union

#### ■ PALESTINE

- Palestinian Bar Association
- Dentist Association
- Engineer's Association
- General Union Of Palestinian Educationalists & Teachers
- General Union Of Palestinian Farmers & Agriculturists.
- General Union Of Palestinian Teachers.
- General Union Of Radio And TV Private Stations-Palestine.
- Medical Association
- Palestinian Accountants And Auditors Association.
- Palestinian Journalists Syndicate.
- Palestinian Physician Syndicate
- Palestinian Writers' Union
- Pharmacists' Association.
- Union Of Agricultural Work
- Scientific Medical Association
- Palestinian information technology association.

#### ■ LEBANON

- Association of Telecommunications Engineers in Lebanon
- Lebanese Bar Association
- Lebanese Dentists Association
- Lebanese Engineers Association
- Lebanese Management Association
- Lebanese Press Association
- Lebanese Solar Energy Association
- Ordre Des Medecins in Lebanon
- Union of Lebanese Certified Accountants.
- Lebanese association of Public Accountants.
- Union of Owners of Professional Security Companies in Lebanon
- Union of Topographs in Lebanon
- Lebanese dental association
- L'Ordre des Ingenieurs et des Architectes.
- Association of Lebanese industrialists.

- Syndicate of Lebanese Taxi Drivers.
- Syndicate of Lebanese Decorates.

Sectoral

- North Lebanon Bar Association

## GULF

### ■ BAHRAIN

- Bahrain society of Engineers

### ■ KUWAIT

- Kuwait society of Engineers
- State Audit Bureau

### ■ UAE

- Accountants and Auditors Association
- Dubai Press Club
- Emirates Medical Association
- Engineers Society
- Journalists Association

### ■ YEMEN

- Monazamet al Khaleej le horeyat al sahafa

---

Sources: <http://www.islamic-world.net>  
<http://www.arabdecision.org>

## INTERESTS GROUPS

---

### TRADE UNIONS

#### MAGHREB

##### ■ ALGERIA

- General Union of Algerian Workers (UGTA)
- Union of Islamic Workers
- Syndicate of Airport Technicians
- National Union of Algerian Youth

##### ■ MOROCCO

- General Union of Moroccan Workers
- Confederation Démocratique du travail (CDT)
- Union Marocaine des Travailleurs (UMT).
- Centre pour la Démocratie et les Services Syndicaux

##### ■ TUNISIA

- General Union of Tunisian Workers

#### MACHREK

##### ■ EGYPT

- General Union of Egyptian Workers
- Organizing Committee for the Defence of Union and Workers' Rights and Freedoms
- Nile Valley Association for Immigration Workers Affairs
- National Committee for the Defence of Workers' Rights
- Center for Trade Unions and Workers Services

##### ■ JORDAN

- The General Federation of Jordanian Trade Unions

##### ■ PALESTINE

- Palestinian General Federation Of Trade Unions
- Electric Co-Workers Union
- Federation Of Labor Unions In The Gaza Strip
- The Workers' Rights Association (WRA)
- Arab Federation for Democracy and Workers Education Associations
- Democracy and Workers' Rights Center

■ LEBANON

- Confédération Générale des Travailleurs du Liban (CGTL)
- National Federation for syndicates, Labor and Employees.

GULF

BAHRAIN

- General Federation for Bahrain Trade Unions

KUWAIT

- General Confederation of Kuwaiti Workers

UAE

YEMEN

- General Federation of Trade Unions in Yemen

---

Sources Arab Decision ([www.arabdecision.org](http://www.arabdecision.org))

Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (POGAR-UNDP)

European Institute for Research on Mediterranean and Euro-Arab Cooperation ([www.medea.be](http://www.medea.be))

## SECTORAL MOVEMENTS

---

### WOMAN MOVEMENTS

#### MAGHREB

##### ■ ALGERIA

- SOS Femmes en Détresse – SOSFD

##### ■ MOROCCO

- Association des Femmes Chefs d'Entreprises du Maroc
- Association Forum des Femmes
- Association Amal pour la Femme et le Développement
- Agence De Recherches D'information Et Formation Pour Les Femmes
- Association marocaine pour la promotion de l'entreprise féminine
- Association Marocaine Pour La Promotion De La Femme Rurale
- Comite Des Femmes Marocaines Pour Le Developpement
- Espace de la Femme pour la Solidarité et le Developpement
- Forum de la Femme pour l'Égalité et le Développement – FFED
- Oxygene
- Union de l'Action Féminine – UAF
- Association d'Appui à l'Intégration de la Femme Rurale au Développement Durable
- Centre Annajda SOS/Union de l'Action Feminine - Al Najda
- Centre d'Aide pour Femmes Victimes de Violence – UAF
- Centre d'assistance pour femmes maltraitées – CAFMAT
- Centre d'Ecoute et d'Orientation Juridique Psychologique Femmes Agressées – CEOJPF
- Association de Recherche Féminine pour le Développement et la Coopération
- Rassemblement pour l'action féminine.
- NISSAA : Association Multidisciplinaire de Recherche et d'Action en Faveur des femmes
- Association Initiatives féminines
- Union Nationale Des Femmes Marocaines

##### ■ TUNISIA

- Centre de Recherche, d' Etudes, de Documentation et d'Information sur la Femme – CREDIF
- Center of Arab Women for Training and Research

#### MACHREK

##### ■ EGYPT

- League of Egyptian Women Voters - LEWV
- Egyptian Society for Prevention of Harmful Practices to Woman and Child – ESPHP
- Nawal el Saadawi – NAWAL
- New Woman Research and Study Center – NWRC
- NGO Forum for Women in Development – NGOSFWID

- Arab Women Solidarity Association – AWSA
- Women and Memory Forum – WMF
- Forum for Dialogue and Partnership Development – FDPD
- Egyptian Business Women Association
- Woman and Society Association
- Alliance for Arab Women

#### ■ JORDAN

- Jordanian National Forum for Women – JNFW
- Jordanian Women's Qualifying & Training Society
- Wadi Al Urdun Women Organisation
- Jordanian Society for Women, Environment Development
- Women's Organisation to Combat Illitracy
- Princess Basma Women's Resource Center
- Arab Women Media Center

#### ■ PALESTINE

- Women's Center for Legal Aid and Counseling – WCLAC
- Women's Affairs Center - Gaza – WAC
- Jerusalem Center for Women – JCW
- Women's Studies Center - WSC – Wameed
- Arab Feminist Movement in Support of Victims of Sexual Abuse – ASSIWAR
- Center for Women's and Family's Issues

#### ■ LEBANON

- Arab Women's Forum- AISHA
- National Commission for Lebanese Women
- Institute for Women's Studies in the Arab World

### GULF

#### ■ BAHRAIN

#### ■ KUWAIT

- Women Cultural Social Society - WCSS

#### ■ UAE

#### ■ YEMEN

- Women's Forum for Researches and Training – WFRT
- Progressive Centre for Women Equalization Studies and Research – PCWESR
- Women Economic Empowerment Association- WEFA
- Society for the Development of Women & children

## SECTORAL MOVEMENTS

---

### YOUTH MOVEMENTS

#### MAGHREB

##### ■ ALGERIA

- National Union of Algerian Youth (UNJA)
- Conseil Superieur de la Jeunesse (CSJ)
- Federation of Algerian Youth Hostels (FAAJ)
- National Union of Algerian Students (UNEA)
- National League of Algerian Students (LNEA)
- National Youth Forum of Algeria (FNJA)
- Union of Youth of Saguia El-Hamra Rio De Oro
- Comite National D'entraide De La Jeunesse Et De L'enfance – Cneje
- Association Algérienne Pour La Protection De L'enfance Inadaptée – Aapei
- Bayhamad Organization for Culture and Youth

##### ■ MOROCCO

- AIESEC Morocco
- Association des Amis Marocain des Nations Unies
- Chantiers Jeunes Maroc (CJM)
- Federation Royale Marocaine des Auberges de Jeunes
- Jeunesse de l' Union National des Forces Populaires (JUNFP)
- Jeunesse Istiqlainne Maroc
- Jeunesse Ittihadia- Maroc
- Jeunesse Marocaine pour le Progres et la Socialism
- Jeunesse Ouvrier Marocaine (JOM)
- Jeunesse Travalliste Marocaine (JTM)
- Union General des Etudiantes du Maroc (UGEM)
- Association jeunesse populaire – AJP
- Organisation de la Jeunesse Indépendante (Istiqlalienne) – OJL
- Centre des droits des gens – CDG
- Al Gameya Al Sahraweya Lel Aamal men Agl al Ghad
- Association Femmes Jeunesse Dans l'environnement Maghrebin - AFJDEM

##### ■ TUNISIA

- Association des Etudiants en Sciences Economiques et Commerciales (AIESEC)
- Association Tunisienne d'Action Volontaire (ATAV)
- Jeunes Constitutionnels Democrates (JCD)
- Union Tunisienne des Organisations de Jeunesse (UTOJ)
- Youth Ending Hunger (YEH)
- Jeunes Science Association of Tunisia – JSAT

## MACHREK

### ■ EGYPT

- AIESEC Egypt
- Arab Office of Youth and Environment (AOYE)
- The Arab Office for Youth and Environment (AOYE)
- Egyptian National Council of Young Women's Christian Association (ENC-YWCA)
- Egyptian Youth Hostel Federation (EYHF)
- Association of Arab Universities (AARU)
- National Council of the Young Men's Christian Associations (NC-YMCA)
- Orthodox Youth of Egypt (OYE)
- Union Progressive Youth (UPY)
- Arab Office for Youth and Environment – AOYE
- iEarn Egypt – iEarn
- El Jeel Center for Youth and Social Studies - El Jeel
- Association of Upper Egypt for Education and Development – AUEED
- Health and Environment Education Association – HEEA
- Youth Association for Population and Development – YAPD
- Small Eagles – SE
- Youth Entrepreneurs Society – YES
- Egyptian Youth for Development and Environment – EYDE
- Egyptian Association for Comprehensive Development – EACD
- Egyptian Youth for Development and the Environment
- Ma'an Foundation for Youth Development
- Egyptian Youth Association for Environment and Development – EYED

### ■ JORDAN

- Jordanian Young Men's Christian Association
- Jordanian Young Women's Christian Association
- National Union of Jordanain Students
- National Union of Jordanian Youth (NUJY)
- Orthodox Youth Education Society
- Youth Society for Self Development Cultural Society for Youth and Children – CSYC
- Young Muslim Women's Association - YMWA

### ■ PALESTINE

- Palestinian Youth Association for Leadership and Rights Activation – PYALARA
- East Jerusalem YMCA and Vocational Training Center –
- YMCA - Palestine –
- Zajel Youth Exchange Program – ZYEP
- Arckan, for Youth Empowement – Arckan
- Save Youth Future Society – SYFS
- Palestinian Progresve Youth Union – PPYU

- Youth Activities Center – YAC
- Palestinian Center for Democracy and Conflict Resolution – PCDCR
- Rahhala for Youth Development – Rahhala
- Youth Activities Center - Aida Camp – YAC
- Palestinian democratic youth union

#### ■ LEBANON

- Association Chretienne de Jeune Filles du Liban (ACJFL)
- Lebanese Youth and Student Movement for the United Nations
- Organization de la Jeunesse Progressive (OJP)
- Progressive Youth Organization
- Union Chretienne de Jeunes Gens du Liban (UCJCL)
- Union de la Jeunesse Democratique Libanaise (UJDL)
- Union National des Etudiants de l'Universite Libanaise (UNEUL)
- WCRP International Youth Committee
- Union of Lebanese Youth
- iEarn - Lebanon
- Ajjalona

#### GULF

#### ■ BAHRAIN

- Student Representative Council
- Future of Children and Youth

#### ■ KUWAIT

#### ■ UAE

- National Union of Students of the Emirates (UNESAM)
- Student Representative Council (SRC/UAEU)
- United Arab Emirates Youth Hostel Association (UAEYHA)

#### ■ YEMEN

- Central Council of Yemeni Students (CCYS)
- Fattah Socialist Youth Union (ASHEED)
- General Union of Yemeni Students
- General Union of Yemeni Youth
- Student Association
- Supreme Student Committee of the Yemen Arab Republic (SSC)
- National Cultural Center for Youth – NCCY
- Youth Center – YC
- Yemeni Development Foundation - YDF

## SECTORAL MOVEMENTS

---

### CULTURAL MOVEMENTS

#### MAGHREB

##### ■ ALGERIA

- Association Algerriene d'Alphabetisation – AAA
- Al Shaheed Mohammed Bu Diaf Cultural Association
- Bayhamad Organization for Culture and Youth
- Rassemblement pour la culture et la démocratie - RCD

##### ■ MOROCCO

- Association Al Moultaqa
- Association AT-TAWASSOL
- Wahda pour la culture et développement – WCD
- Association Solidarité pour le Développement l'Education et la Culture – ASDEC
- Association Chouala pour l'éducation et Culture - ACEC

##### ■ TUNISIA

#### MACHREK

##### ■ EGYPT

- Egyptian Society for Cultural Development – SCD
- Talaat Harb Center Training and Consuting – THCTC
- Association for the Advancement of Education - AAE
- Association for the Advancement of Education – AAE
- Center for Crisis of Management – CCM
- National Association for Human Rights and Development – NAHRD
- Arab Association for Arts, Culture and Information – AAACI
- Sofaraa al Asala letanmeyat al fenoon wal thakafa - Al Asala
- Arab Cultural Union Association
- Egyptian Asociation for Culture & Dialogue

##### ■ JORDAN

- Association of Arab Universities – AARU
- Women's Organisation to Combat Illitracy – WOCI
- Haya Cultural Centre
- Arab Cultural Society – ACS
- Cultural Society for Youth and Children – CSYC
- Civil Society Development Center - JUST
- Turab

## ■ PALESTINE

- Arab studies society
- Al-Mashriq Al-A'amal Center for Cultural & Development Studies
- Anat Women Folk& cultural Center.
- Baladna Cultural Center
- Basma for Culture & Arts
- Beit Ula Cultural Center
- Culture & free thought Association-CTFA
- Palestinian Pen Center
- Shaza Association for Culture &Arts
- Yafa Cultural Center

## ■ LEBANON

- Thaqafat, Culture and Arts Promotion Association
- The Lebanese Cultural League
- Independent Resource and Information Services – IRIS
- Center for Research and Training on Development – CRTD
- Fondation Arabe pour l'Image – FAI
- Shams
- Lebanus - Association Humanitaire et Culturelle
- Al Ain Association for Development – AAS
- Cedar Trust – CT
- Al Massar
- Culture & Science Foundation – CSF
- IEarn - Lebanon
- Lebanese Association for the Development of Private Funding for Culture – LADPFC

## GULF

## ■ BAHRAIN

## ■ KUWAIT

## ■ UAE

- Jomaa Al Majed Center for Culture & Heritage
- Tiryam Omran Establishment for Cultural and Humanitarian Services

## ■ YEMEN

- Yemen Center for Arab Studies

## PUBLIC INTEREST ASSOCIATIONS

---

### HUMAN RIGHTS

#### MAGHREB

##### ■ ALGERIA

- Ligue Algerienne De Defense Des Droits De L'homme
- Ligue Algerienne Des Droits De L'homme (Ladh)
- Agence National de l'Amélioration et du Développement du Logement
- Algeria Watch
- Algerian Forum for the Development of Democracy
- Rassemblement pour la culture et la démocratie
- Land Center for Human Rights
- Comite algerien des droits de l'homme et des peuples
- Association Internationle des Juristes Democrates
- Assotiation de promotion et d' integration les cadres chaumeurs
- Hijra international organization
- Human rights watch.
- Mouvement fidelite et justice.

##### ■ MOROCCO

- Association Marocaine pour la defense des droits de l'homme
- Association Marocaine Des Droits De L'homme
- ATTAC Maroc
- Centre des Droits des Gens/Kalaat Sraghna
- Centre pour les Droits du Peuple
- Collectif 95 Maghreb Egalite
- Comité de Défense des Droits Humains
- Forum Marocain pour la Vérité et la Justice
- Human Rights Advisory Council - Conseil Consultatif des Droits de l'Homme
- Mountada Al Mouwatana - Forum de la Citoyenneté
- Observatoire National des droits de l'enfant
- Organisation marocaine des droits de l'homme
- Association Marocaine Des Droits Humains (Amdh)
- Centre for Documentation, Information and Training in Human Rights
- Centre de Documentation, d'Information et de Formation en Droits de l'Homme

##### ■ TUNISIA

- Association Internatiolle de Soutien aux Prisonniers Politiques
- Campaign for Human Rights in Tunisia
- Committee for the Respect of Human Rights and Freedom in Tunisia
- Conseil National Pour Les Libertes En Tunisie (Cnlt)
- L'Association tunisienne de défense des droits de l'homme et des libertés publiques

- L'autre Tunisie
- Ligue Tunisienne de Defense des Droits de l'Homme
- Ligue Tunisienne Des Droits De L'homme (LTDH)
- Organisation tunisienne des jeunes médecins sans frontières
- Tunis Wake up - Tunisie Reveille Toi

## MACHREK

### ■ EGYPT

- Al Fagr
- Alexandria Association for Human Rights Advocates
- Anti Globalisation Egyptian Group
- Arab Centre for the Independence of the Judiciary and the Legal Profession
- Arab Organization for Human Rights
- Arab Working Group for Human Rights Defenders
- Arabic Network for Human Rights Information
- Arabs Against Discrimination
- Association for Human Rights Legal Aid
- Association of the Egyptian Civilian Observer
- Centre for Justice and Human Rights
- Centre of human rights legal Aid.
- Coordinating Committee for Trade Union Rights and Freedoms
- Egyptian Anti-Globalisation Group
- Egyptian Centre for Housing Rights
- Egyptian Centre for National Unity
- Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights
- Egyptian Organization Against Torture
- Egyptian Popular Committee in Solidarity with Palestinian People
- Hisham Mubarak Law Centre
- Judicial Assistance Association for Human Rights
- National Centre for the Human Rights and Aid for the Disabled
- Popular Committee for Citizens' Rights
- Rayat Al Tanweer
- Right in Life Association
- South Centre for Human Rights
- Temporary Preparatory Committee to Protect Citizen's Social Security Rights
- Egyptian Organization For Human Rights (Eohr)
- Human Rights Association For The Assistance Of Prisonners (Hraap)

### ■ JORDAN

- Amman Centre For Human Rights Studies
- Jordan Society For Human Rights (Jshr)
- Jordanian Society for Citizen Rights

- Interaction Forum
- One World Jordan Country Guide
- National Centre for Human Rights
- Crossing Borders.
- Al-Mizan- law group for human rights.
- The Arab Organization for human rights in Jordan.

#### ■ PALESTINE

- Adalah
- Al Haq
- Association For Civil Rights In Israel (Acri) B'tselem
- Palestinian Centre For Human Rights (Pchr)
- Ad-Dameer Association For Human Rights
- Addameer Prisoners' Support & Human Rights Association
- Al Mezan centre
- Arab Association For Human Rights(HRA)
- Arab Lawyers For Human Rights
- Association of 40
- Centre for the Defence of the Individual
- Children of the Land
- Civic Forum Institute
- Civil Rights Centre - Orient House
- Committee for the defense of Palestinian refugees rights
- Freedom Defence Organization
- Freedoms' Defence Centre
- Galilee Society
- Gaza Centre for Rights and Law
- Human rights association
- Labor Association for Studies and Employment
- Land Defence General Committee-Palestine(Ldc)
- Mandela Institute for Human Rights
- Palestinian association for human rights
- Palestinian Centre for Human Rights
- Palestinian Conflict Resolution Centre
- Palestinian Diaspora & Refugee Centre
- Palestinian Human Rights Information Centre
- Palestinian Human Rights Monitoring Group
- Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights
- Palestinian Lawyers For Human Rights
- Palestinian Prisoners and Ex-Prisoners Association
- Palestinian youth association for leadership and rights.
- People to People Program
- Physicians For Human Rights
- Public Committee against Torture In Israel (PCATI)

- Ramallah Centre for Human Rights Studies
- The Palestinian Society For The Protection Of Human Rights & The Environment

#### ■ LEBANON

- Arab Commission for Human Rights
- Association for the Defense of Rights and Freedoms - ADL
- Fondation René Moawad
- Human Rights with No Discrimination
- Institute for Human Rights Lebanon
- Lebanese Association for Human Rights
- Lebanese Association for Popular Action
- Memory for the Future - Mémoire pour l'avenir
- Movement for People's Rights
- Foundation For Human And Humanitarian Rights In Lebanon (Fhhrl)
- Lebanese Association for Human Rights (Aldhom)
- Nouveaux droits de l'Homme-International

#### GULF

#### ■ BAHRAIN

- Bahrain Human Rights Society (Bhrs)
- Bahrain Centre for Human Rights
- Bahrain Human Rights Organization
- Alwefaq National Islamic Society
- Committee for the Defence of Human Rights

#### ■ KUWAIT

- Kuwaiti Bidoon Human Rights Organization
- Kuwaiti Lawyers Association
- Kuwait Society for Human Rights

#### ■ UAE

#### ■ YEMEN

- Al Majd for Awareness, Development, Democracy and Human Rights.
- Al Wajeh Organization for the Defense of Rights and Freedoms
- Arab Human Rights Foundation
- National Organization for Defending Rights & Freedoms
- Sisters' Arabic Forum For Human Rights (Saf)
- Human Rights Information And Training Center (Hritc)
- Collective of NGOs for children's Rights in Yemen.

## PUBLIC INTEREST ASSOCIATIONS

---

### WOMEN'S RIGHT

#### MAGHREB

##### ■ ALGERIA

- Espoir (El Amal) Espoir
- Rassemblement Contre la Hogra et pour les Droits des Algériennes – RACHDA

##### ■ MOROCCO

- Al Farah
- Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc – ADFM
- Association Femmes et Jeunesse dans l'Environnement Maghrebin
- Association Marocaine Des Droits Des Femmes – AMDF
- Association Marocaine Des Femmes Progresistes – AMFP
- Collectif 95 Maghreb Egalite
- Fatema Mernissi – FATEMA
- Initiatives Pour la Protection des Droits de la Femme – IPDF
- Jousour - Forum des femmes marocaines – Jousour
- Ligue Democratique Pour Les Droits De La Femme (Au Maroc) – LDDF
- Ligue Nationale Des Femmes Fonctionnaires Des Secteurs Public Et Semi Public
- Moroccan Association for the Defense of Women's Rights – AMDDF
- Mouvement Feminin Du Mouvement National Populaire
- Organisation de la Femme Istiqlalienne – OFI
- Solidarites Feminines
- Association Amna pour defendre les femmes contre la violence – AADFV

##### ■ TUNISIA

- National Union of Tunisian Women
- Association des Femmes Tunisiennes pour la Recherche et le Developpement – AFTURD
- Tunnisian Association for Democratic Women – TADW
- Women for Sustainable Development – WSD
- National Union of Tunisian Women
- Association Feminine Tunisie 21
- Women for Sustainable Development
- Women's organizations in Tunisia
- Association de la femme democrate

#### MACHREK

##### ■ EGYPT

- Women's Progressive Union
- Egyptian Center for Women's Rights – ECWR
- Center for Egyptian Women Legal Assistance – CEWLA

- Association for Defence of Women's Rights – ADWR
- Protection of Women's Rights
- Women's Support Group - Al Mutamadeya
- Association for the Development & Enhancement of Women
- National Council for Women
- Association for the Development & Enhancement of Women
- Egyptian Women and Development Association

#### JORDAN

- Arab Regional Resource Center on Violence Against Women – AMAN
- Human Forum for Women's Rights – HFWR
- Arab Women Organization of Jordan – AWO
- Jordanian Women Union

#### PALESTINE

- Women's Organization For Political Prisoners (Wofpp)
- Association of Women Against Violence – WAVO
- General Union of Palestinian Women
- Rural Women's Development Society
- Gameyat Tatweer al Maraa al Filasteeneya
- Palestinian Working Women Society for Development

#### LEBANON

- The Non-Governmental National Committee For The Follow Up Of Women's Affairs
- Lebanese Women Democratic Gathering – LWDG
- Lebanese Council to Resist Violence Against Women – LCRVAW
- Arab Women's Court – AWC
- League of Lebanese Woman's Rights – LLWR
- Lebanese women's association
- General Union of Palestinian Women- Lebanon branch
- Women's Work Association

#### GULF

##### ■ BAHRAIN

- Bahrain Young Ladies Association

##### ■ KUWAIT

##### ■ UAE

##### ■ YEMEN

- Women National Committee
- Association de l'Action féminine pour le développement durable
- Yemen Women Union

## PUBLIC INTEREST ASSOCIATIONS

---

### GOOD GOVERNANCE AND DEMOCRACY

#### MAGHREB

##### ■ ALGERIA

- Union for culture and democracy
- Society movement of peace.
- Algerian Forum For The Development Of Democracy
- Union For Culture And Democracy
- Association Internationale Des Juristes Democratés

##### ■ MOROCCO

- Commission Of Ethics And Good Governance
- Espace Associatif

##### ■ TUNISIA

- Conseil National Pour Les Libertés en Tunisie.
- Association de la Femme Democraté.

#### MACHREK

##### ■ EGYPT

- Social Democratic Egyptian Center
- Democracy-Egypt
- Group Of Democratic Development

##### ■ JORDAN

- National Society For The Enhancement Of Freedom And Democracy

##### ■ PALESTINE

- Democracy & Workers' Rights Center (WDRC)
- Palestinian Center For Peace And Democracy.
- Arab Organization For Democracy Education And Conflict Resolution
- Association Of Palestinian Local Authorities(APLA)
- Democratic Front For Peace And Equality.
- Miftah: The Palestinian Initiative for the Promotion of Global Dialogue and Democracy.

##### ■ LEBANON

- Campaign For Good Governance In Lebanon
- Lebanese Democratic Movement
- Lebanese Association For Democratic Elections (Lade).

## GULF

### ■ BAHRAIN

- National Democratic Action Society

### ■ KUWAIT

### ■ UAE

### ■ YEMEN

- Foundation For Civic And Democratic Support

## PUBLIC INTEREST ASSOCIATIONS

---

### TRANSPARENCY, ELECTIONS, CITIZENSHIP, CIVIC EDUCATION

#### MAGHREB

##### ■ ALGERIA

- Association El Amel pour le developpement social

##### ■ MOROCCO

- Association marocaine de lutte contre la corruption.
- Transparence Maroc.

##### ■ TUNISIA

#### MACHREK

##### ■ EGYPT

- Future generation foundation
- Egyptian association for culture and dialogue transparency

##### ■ JORDAN

##### ■ PALESTINE

##### ■ LEBANON

- Lebanese transparency association- No corruption
- Lebanese foundation for permanent civil peace.

#### GULF

##### ■ BAHRAIN

##### ■ KUWAIT

##### ■ UAE

- Environmental institutions and governance

##### ■ YEMEN

Sources: [www.transparencymaroc.org](http://www.transparencymaroc.org)  
[www.transparency.org](http://www.transparency.org)  
[www.hahoo.com](http://www.hahoo.com)

## PUBLIC INTEREST ASSOCIATIONS

---

### RULE OF LAW

#### MAGHREB

- ALGERIA
- MOROCCO
- TUNISIA

#### MACHREK

- EGYPT
  - Arab center for independence of Judiciary and the legal profession.
- JORDAN
- PALESTINE
- LEBANON
  - Arab center for the rule of law and integrity
  - Center for Democracy and Rule of law

#### GULF

- BAHRAIN
- KUWAIT
- UAE
- YEMEN

## PUBLIC INTEREST

### ENVIRONMENT

#### MAGHREB

##### ■ ALGERIA

- Association Alger la Blanche
- Association d'aménagement urbain et de protection de l'environnement
- Association de jeunes pour la protection de l'environnement – AJPE
- Association de réflexion d'échanges et d'action pour l'environnement et le développement – AREAED
- Association écologique de Boumerdes – AEB
- Association écologique pour la protection de l'environnement, de la faune et de la flore de la Wilaya de Bechar – AEPEFFWB
- Association for the Protection of the Environment – APE
- Association Memoire de SETIF
- Association nationale "IBN-AL-AWAM"
- Association pour la protection de l'environnement et la nature
- Association pour le développement et la protection de la steppe et des ressources naturelles – ADPSRN
- Association protection de l'environnement et la lutte contre la pollution – APELCP
- Association protection de l'environnement et le développement durable – APEDD
- Femmes Environnement et Développement – FED
- Mouvement Algerienne Ecologique – MEA
- National Committee of Algerian NGOs for Combating Desertification
- Societe algerienne pour le droit de l'environnement – SADE
- Touiza
- Association Recherche Climat Environnement – ARCE

##### ■ MOROCCO

- Association développement de la vallee du Dra (ADEDRA)
- Alliance Maghreb-Machrek pour l'Eau - ALMAE/SOMADE
- Association Homme Environnement et Reseaux de Developpement
- Association jeunesse populaire – AJP
- Association Marocaine d'Etudes et de recherche sur les Migrations
- Association Marocaine pour la Protection de l' Environnement – ASMAPE
- Association Nour pour le Développement, L'Environnement et l'Alphabétisation – ANDEA
- Association pour la lutte contre l'érosion la sécheresse et la deshertification au Maroc - L'AL CESDAM
- Association Tisghinout pour le Développement et l'Environement Ait Ourir – ATDEAO
- ENDA-Maghreb
- Environnement, Developpement et Action au Maghreb - ENDA-Maghreb

- Forum Maghrébin pour L'environnement et Le Developpement – FMED
- INAFORM
- Oasis Ferkla de l'environnement et de patrimoine
- Organisation Argan-Souss pour le Développement et la Protection de l'Environnement – OAS DPE
- Societe Protectrice des Animaux – SPA
- Women Society for Childhood and Environmental Protection – AFPE

#### ■ TUNISIA

- Association de Developpement et de Protection de l'Environnement
- Association de Maîtrise des Ressources Hydrauliques et de l'Environnement – AMRHE
- Association de protection des animaux et des plantes sauvages – APAPS
- Association des Amis des Oiseaux – AAO
- Association for the Protection of Nature and the Environment – APNE
- Association Nationale Tunisienne de la Protection de la Faune Sauvage – ANTPFS
- Association Tunisie Mediterranee pour le développement durable – ATMDD
- Association Tunisie-Méditerranée pour le Développement Durable
- Association Tunisienne pour la Protection de la Nature et de l'environnement – ATPNE
- Enda - Inter Arab – EIA

## MACHREK

#### ■ EGYPT

- Afro-Asian Peoples Solidarity Organization
- Al Gameya al amma lehemayet al higra al dakheleya wal beea
- Al Gameya al Amma lehemayet al Mogtamaa wal Bei'a
- Al Gameya al Misreya Letatweer al Ashwaeyat wal Bei'a
- Al Shabab Lereayet al Maraa wa Tahseen al Bei'a
- Arab Federation for Youth and Environment – AFYE
- Arab Office for Youth & Environment
- Arab Regional Environmental Information Network – AREIN
- Association for Friends of Environment in Alexandria – FOE
- Association for Health and Environmental Development – AHED
- Egyptian Association for Comprehensive Development – EACD
- Egyptian Association for Development and Rehabilitation – EADR
- Egyptian Biodynamic Association – EBDA
- Egyptian Organization for Comprehensive Development – EOCD
- Egyptian Society for Cultural Development
- Egyptian Society for the Protection of the Family and the Environment
- Egyptian Youth Association for Environment and Development – EYED
- Egyptian Youth for Development and the Environment\*
- Egyptian Green Party
- Environment Development Association of Mukattam – EDAM

- Environmental Protection Association in Suez
- Family Planning and Environmental Protection – FPEP
- Friends of the Environment and Development Association
- Gameyat hemayet al beea wa tatweerha - Helwan
- Habitat for Humanity, Egypt
- Hemaya – Hemaya
- Ibn Rushd for Development
- North Sinai People on Environment Protection Society – NSPEPS
- Planners Society
- Right in Life Association – AAG
- Rode el Fatag Organization for Community Development and the Protection of the Environment
- Social Organization for Environmental Protection – SOEP
- Society for the Protection of Animal Rights – SPARE
- Society for Upgrading the Built Environment – SUBE
- Society of Writers on Environment and Development – SWED
- Zeinab Kamel Hassan Organization
- Health and Environmental Education Association
- Nature friends Association

#### ■ JORDAN

- Al Nasser Ladies Center – ANLC
- Arab Network for Environment and Development – ANED
- Center for the Study of the Built Environment – CSBE
- Friends of Environment Society – FOE
- Friends of the Earth/ Jordan – FOE
- GEF Small Grants Environmental e-forum - GEF-SGP
- Human Centre for Animal Welfare – HCAW
- Jordan Environment Society – JES
- Jordan River Foundation – JRF
- Jordan Society for the Protection of Animals – JSPA
- Jordanian Society for Desertification Control and Badia Development JSDCBD
- Jordanian Society for Women, Environment Development
- Land and Human to Advocate Progress – LHAP
- One World Jordan Country Guide
- Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature – RSCN
- National Environment and wild life society
- The Jordanian Society for the Control of desertification and Badia development
- The royal society for the conservation of Nature.

#### ■ PALESTINE

- Al-Ard Society for Environmental Awareness and Protection - Al Ard
- Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem – ARIJ
- Arab Network for Sustainable Agricultural Development – ANSAD

- Center for Agricultural Services – TCAS
- Centre for Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences – CEOHS
- Children for the Protection of Nature – CPNP
- Development and Environment Association—Baladna Cultural Center - DEA = Baladna
- Friends of the Earth Palestine – FOE
- Galilee Society – GS
- Local Committee for the Protection of the Environment
- Palestine Wildlife Society – PWS
- Palestinian Environmental NGOs Network – PENGON
- Palestinian Hydrology Group – PHG
- Roads and Environment Safety Center – RESC
- The Palestinian Society For The Protection Of Human Rights And Environment.
- Center for Development in Primary Health Care – CDPHC

#### ■ LEBANON

- Green Line association
- Green peace Mediterranean
- Makhzoumi Foundation
- Lebanese Development Organization – LDO
- Centre for Development and Planning – CDP
- Association for Forest Development and Conservation – AEDC
- Green Square
- Lebanese Environment Forum – LEF
- Association Libanaise pour la Maîtrise de l’Energie et de l’Environnement – ALMEE
- AMWAJ pour l’Environnement
- Protection of the Environment
- Environmental Protection Club at BAU - EPC-BAU
- Friends of Nature for Better Environment – FON
- Protection of the Environment and Natural Resources
- Al-Shouf Cedar Reserve - Al Shouf
- Cedar Environmental – CE
- Environment Development Association - Rashaya – ADERA
- NGO Platform of Saida
- Al Ain Association for Development – AAS
- Cedar Trust – CT
- Environment Without Borders – EWB
- Protection of the Environment and People\*
- Association Liban Nature Environnement – LINE
- Window on the Environment
- Lebanese Organization for the Environment and Development
- Antranik Cultural and Environmental Association
- Society for the Protection of Nature in Lebanon

## GULF

### ■ BAHRAIN

- Youth and Environment Society
- Environment Electronic Friends – EEF

### ■ KUWAIT

- Kuwait Environment Protection Society – KEPS

### ■ UAE

- Emirates Environmental Group

### ■ YEMEN

- Environmental Protection Society

---

Source <http://www.unccd.int/>  
<http://www.mengos.net>

## PUBLIC INTEREST ASSOCIATIONS

---

### CONSUMERS

#### MAGHREB

■ ALGERIA

■ MOROCCO

- Association Atlas-SAIS
- Association Marocaine des consommateurs.

■ TUNISIA

- Organisation tunisienne de la défense du consommateur ODC

#### MACHREK

■ EGYPT

■ JORDAN

- National society for consumer protection.

■ PALESTINE

■ LEBANON

- Consumers of lebanon

#### GULF

■ BAHRAIN

■ KUWAIT

■ UAE

■ YEMEN

---

Sources : [www.consumersinternational.org](http://www.consumersinternational.org)  
[www.wto.org](http://www.wto.org)

## PUBLIC INTEREST

---

### HERITAGE

#### MAGHREB

- ALGERIA
- MOROCCO
- TUNISIA

#### MACHREK

- EGYPT
- JORDAN
- PALESTINE
  - Center for Cultural Heritage Preservation
  - In'ash Al-Usra Society- Center for Heritage & Folklore Studies
  - Palestinian Group for the Revival of Popular Heritage-Ihya'a Baladna
  - Palestinian Heritage Center
- LEBANON

#### GULF

- BAHRAIN
- KUWAIT
- UAE
  - Zayed Center for Heritage & History at Al Ain
- YEMEN

Sources <http://www.mengos.net>

## PUBLIC INTEREST

---

### RESEARCH INSTITUTIONS

#### MAGHREB

##### ■ ALGERIA

- Centre de recherche en Anthropologie sociale et culturelle.

##### ■ MOROCCO

- Association Marocaine d'Etudes et de recherche sur les Migrations
- NISSAA : Association Multidisciplinaire de Recherche et d'Action en Faveur des femmes
- L'association Maroc 2020
- Association Homme Environnement et Reseaux de Developpement – AHERD
- Aziz Belal Research and Studies Centre – CABR
- Association de Recherche Féminine pour le Développement et la Coopération t - ARFEDEC

##### ■ TUNISIA

- Association des Femmes Tunisiennes pour la Recherche et le Developpement – AFTURD
- El-Taller - Arab Program
- Centre de Recherche, d' Etudes, de Documentation et d'Information sur la Femme – CREDIF
- Center of Arab Women for Training and Research

#### MACHREK

##### ■ EGYPT

- Social Democratic Egyptian Center - SDEGC
- National Research Center – NRC
- El Jeel Center for Youth and Social Studies - El Jeel
- Al-Hurria Center for Strategic Studies - Al Hurria
- Al-Ahram Centre for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPSS)
- Almishkat Centre for Research
- Arab Society for Economic Research
- Cairo Demographic Centre (CDC)
- Center for Criminal Research
- Center for Developing Countries Studies
- Center for Political Research and Studies (CPRS)
- Center of Environment Research and Studies
- Institute of Arab Research and Studies
- Middle East Research Center
- National Center for Educational Research
- National Center for Research

- Public Administration Research and Consultation Center (PARC)
- The Bibliotheca Alexandrina
- Center of New Women Studies
- Institute for Gender & Women Studies
- The NGO Service Center
- Legal Research and Resource Centre for Human Rights.

#### ■ JORDAN

- Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Center
- Arab Corporation for Researches and Publication
- Arab Thought Forum
- Jordanian Center for Social Research
- Middle East Studies Center
- The Academic Center for Political Studies
- The Jordanian Center for Research and Information
- The Queen Zein Al Sharaf Institute for Development (ZENID)
- Center of Strategic Studies at The University of Jordan
- Center of Excellence for NGO\_s
- Information and Research Center at King Hussein Foundation – IRC
- Arab Regional Resource Center on Violence Against Women – AMAN
- Amman Center for Human Rights Studies – ACHRS
- al-Urdun Al-Jadid Research Center - UJRC

#### ■ PALESTINE

- Center for Palestine Research & Studies (CPRS)
- Center for research & documentation
- Institute for Palestine Studies – IPS
- Al Mezan Center for Human Rights
- Muwatin, the palestinian institute for the study of democracy.
- Palestinian Council for GREN(Global Ratification & Elections Network)
- Palestinian Council on Foreign Relations
- Palestinian Institute for the Study of Democracy – Muwatin
- Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies – RCHRS
- Refugee Research Center
- The Mattin Group
- Al-Manhal Women and Child Cultural Center- Nablus - Al Manhal
- Alternative Information Center
- Applied Research Institute - Jerusalem – ARIJ
- Bisan Center for Research & Development
- Center For Research and Documentation of Palestinian Society – CRDPS
- Citizens Right Center
- Al Multaka
- Middle East Nonviolence and Democracy – MEND

- Palestinian Academic Society for the Study of International Affairs, Jerusalem – PASSIA
- Women's Studies Center – WSC
- Peace Research Institute in the Middle East

#### ■ LEBANON

- Center for Arab Unity Studies
- Centre d'Etudes et de Recherche sur le Moyen-Orient Contemporain CERMOC
- Educational Center for Research and Development
- Lebanese Center for Policy Studies (LCPS)
- Centre for the Comparative Study of Law and Society - CCSLS
- Center for Research and Education on Democracy – CRED
- Arab Initiative for the Freedom of Association – AIFA
- Lebanese Studies Association

### GULF

#### ■ BAHRAIN

- Bahrain Center for Studies and Research

#### ■ KUWAIT

- Arab Planning Institute-Kuwait

#### ■ UAE

- Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research
- Institute for International Research
- RAK Center for Studies & Documentation
- Madar Research
- Environmental Research and Wildlife Development Agency ERWDA
- Emirates Center For Strategic Studies and Research - ECSSR

#### ■ YEMEN

- Aswan Center for Social and Legal Research
- Yemen Center for Arab Studies

Sources <http://www.mengos.net>  
<http://www.ylcint.com> , [www.emro.who.int/ceha/useful\\_east.asp](http://www.emro.who.int/ceha/useful_east.asp) ,  
[www.library.cornell.edu](http://www.library.cornell.edu) , [www.arab-api.org](http://www.arab-api.org)

## PUBLIC INTEREST

---

### PUBLIC FORA

#### MAGHREB

##### ■ ALGERIA

- Algerian Forum for the Development of Democracy

##### ■ MOROCCO

- Mountada Al Mouwatana - Forum de la Citoyenneté -
- World Heritage Youth Fora
- Morocco Social Forum (MSF)
- Forum for the Future

##### ■ TUNISIA

#### MACHREK

##### ■ EGYPT

- Third World Forum - Egypt2020 – TWF
- Arab Reform Forum

##### ■ JORDAN

- Business & Professional Women Forum
- Jordanian National Forum for Women(JNFW)
- Interaction Forum - IF

##### ■ PALESTINE

- Arab Thought Forum-ATF
- Southern Cultural Forum

##### ■ LEBANON

- Lebanese NGO Forum

#### GULF

##### ■ BAHRAIN   ■ KUWAIT   ■ UAE

##### ■ YEMEN

- Sister's Arabic Forum for Human Rights

Sources: <http://www.mengos.net>   <http://www.safyemen.org>  
Arab NGO Network for Development <http://www.annd.org>



