

Arab NGO Network for Development  
Progress Report 2009

تقرير  
التقدم  
2009

## Arab NGO Network for Development:

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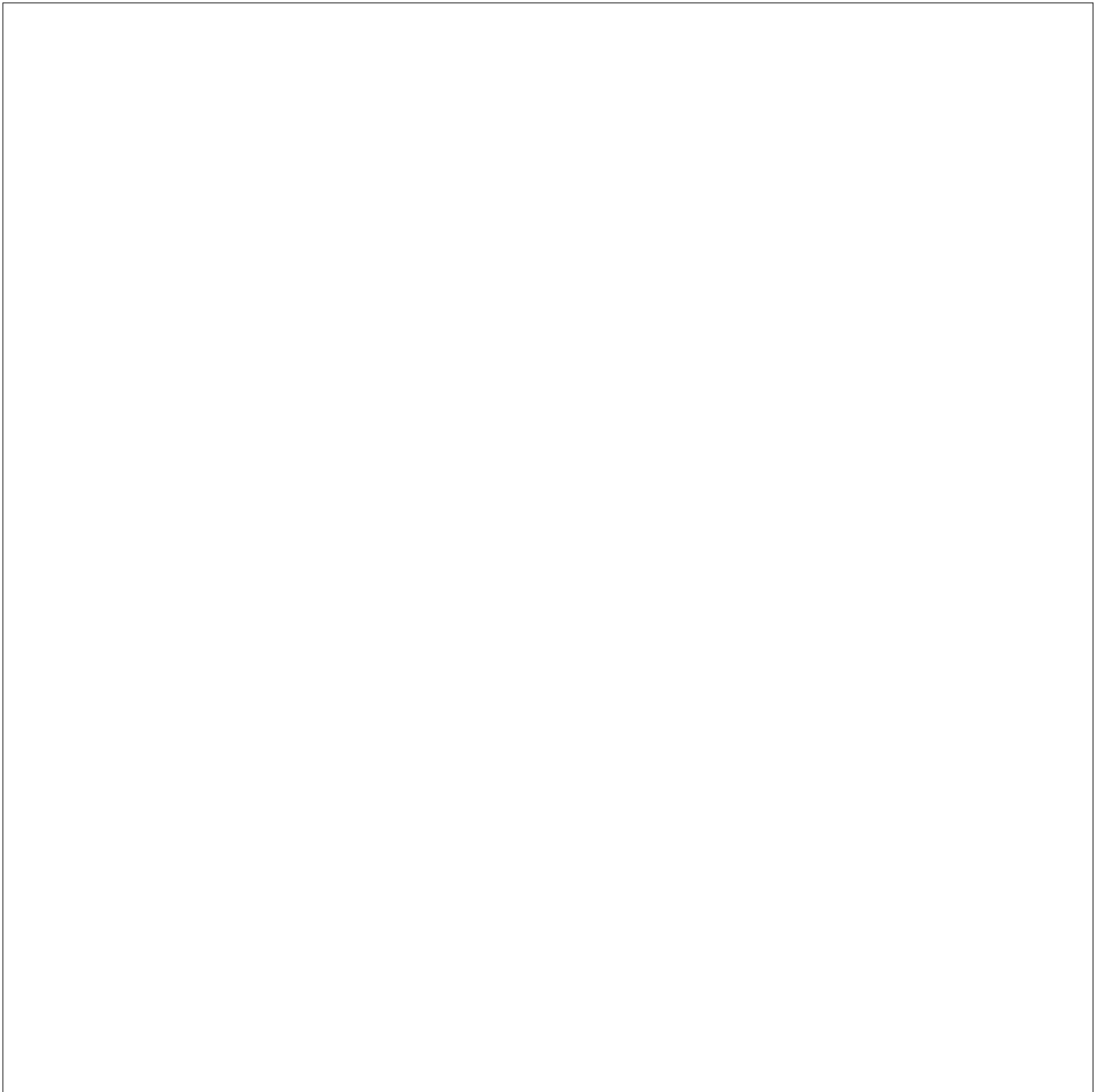
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## Who we are

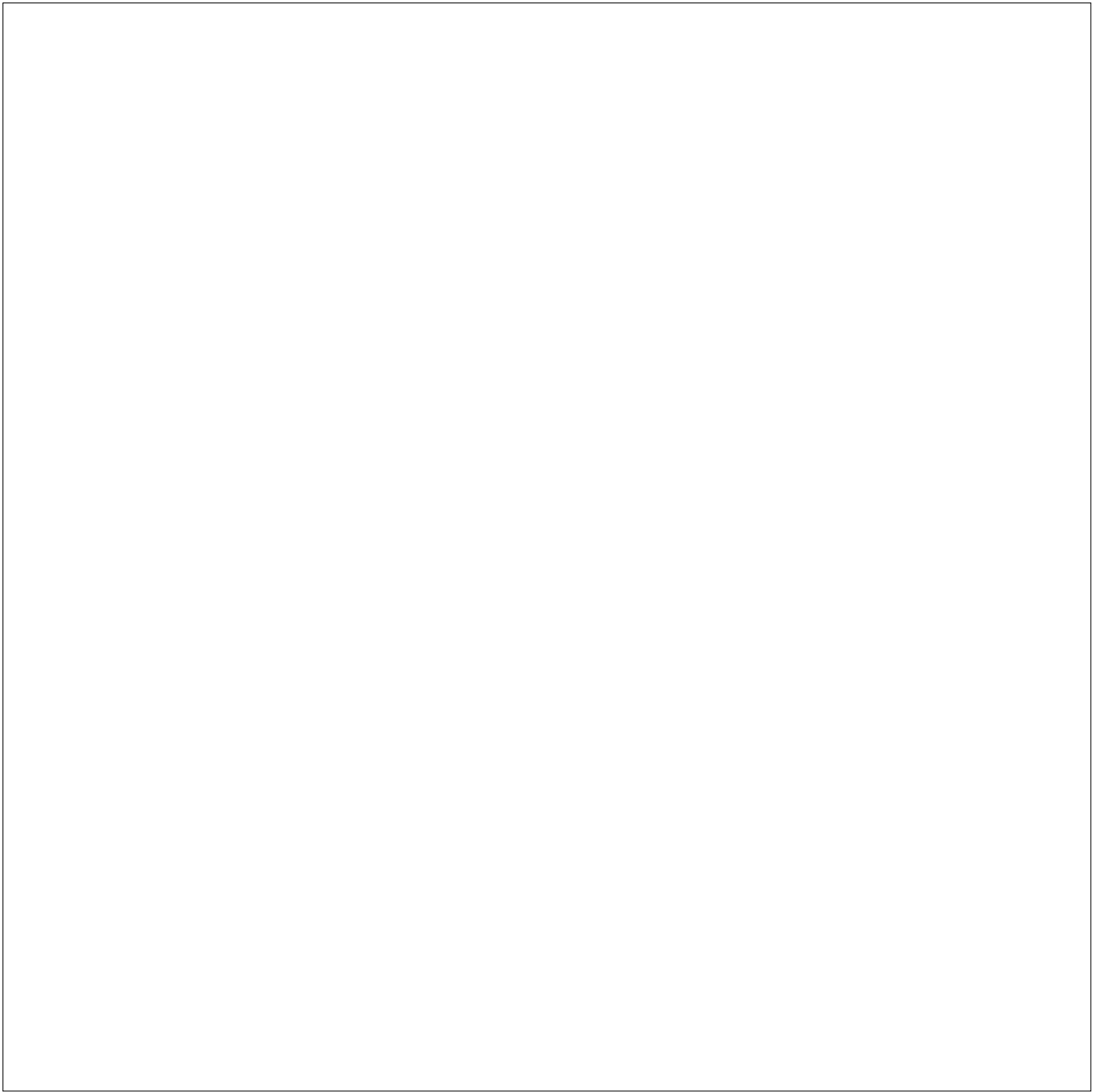
The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) is a regional network operating in 11 Arab countries with 7 national networks and 23 NGO members. ANND was initiated in 1997 and had its secretariat office in Beirut since 2000. ANND's main objective is to empower civil society organizations (CSOs), engaging them to play a more effective role in monitoring and formulating public policies at the national, regional and global levels.

### **Vision**

ANND envisions democratic, active, and effective civil societies in the Arab Region. These societies would be able to affect public policies, and would be open to and interactive with other cultures and societies. These societies respect and protect the dignity and freedom of the individual and their political, social, economic, civic, and cultural rights, within a state of law and institutions, where peace, security, and stability are prosperous.

### **Mission**

ANND is an independent, democratic, and civic organization that aims at strengthening civil society and enhancing the values of democracy and respect of human rights and sustainable development in the Arab region. It works towards its aim through programs of advocacy and lobbying on regional and national policy-making in three main areas; development, trade, and democracy. ANND is committed to the International Convention on Human Rights, freedom, respect of the individual, respect of diversity, equality of resource division, and the protection of cultural heritage in the region and to the developmental priorities of the local societies.



## Forward by ANND Coordination Bureau Member

Dear reader,

Prefacing the annual report of the ANND is quite confusing inasmuch as one must have a clear end in view.

Is the intended objective to go over the numerous and diverse activities carried out by the network by and large, as well as by each and every NGO separately, those same activities which are expounded in the report?

Or rather does the foreword shed light on the achievements in the different sectors, which are also included in the report?

Or is the whole point of the foreword to present the future challenges the network must take up, in view of assuming the responsibility of achieving its statutory objectives?

In writing this brief introduction, I am more inclined towards the latter, in an attempt to contribute to methodologically enhancing the working practices of the network.

As stated in its 2009 annual report, the network is both a coordination point amongst regional and Arab networks, and a platform for initiatives via members and associated or cooperating NGOs in the fields of development sought by NGOs' projects and programmes worldwide.

Indeed, the network has a paramount interest in following the lead of the international organizations of the civil society in dealing with the global challenges human beings are facing, with respect to their various rights and recent ambitions, responsive to the growing human needs.

Assuming that poverty or rather hunger are still the two main tragic blights that predominate when compared with all others, due to, as much their causes as their outcome; insofar as they deprive men of their bare essentials, sucking out of them all sense of security, understanding, thought and decision, causing complete deterioration of their will. Ultimately, what remains

is a miserable desperate being, content with all plaguing disasters and readily giving up the components of citizenship, which presupposes free will;

Moreover, given the fact that many countries in the Arab region are also stricken by poverty and hunger, as a result of the decline and fall of the regimes, which fail to grant citizens their basic rights;

How can we even envisage discussing democracy, freedom and citizenship, or consider the development of our societies, so as to keep pace with the rapid cultural train evolving at such a breakneck speed that we are driven to despair?

Furthermore, assuming that global warming has become the most catastrophic danger scourging the entirety of humanity; a danger that called for the Copenhagen Summit, which was reluctant to adopt salutary decisions, crushed under the sway of the leverage of the international industrial community;

Nonetheless, the world community has, at least, realized the universe is in grave peril. Consequently, the remedial wheels have been set in motion –though timidly - hoping against hope that mankind will finally strive for security, and what simpler faith is there but precisely clinging to this hope...

The list of current challenges goes on.

It is incumbent upon us, as network or Arab NGOs, to seriously attend to each and every one of them, drawing on the professionalism and thought we claim to possess and putting to good use a modern and progressive approach.

The fact remains that we cannot maintain nor settle for the routine status quo which we learnt to master so well up until today, especially since it had been of one & common accord. It is our duty to face the future using the 'think tank' the network has formed, to derive both personal and general contentment and to gain the satisfaction and confidence of our nations and people. As it is, in the end, with the people that we should make every endeavour to take quantum and worthy leaps forward.

Joseph Farah  
General coordinator of the Lebanese NGOs Network  
Vice-President of Caritas Internationalis  
President of Caritas Mona



## Foreword from ANND Executive Director

Dear reader,

Early in 2009, Israel launched war on the Palestinian people in Gaza, targeting the infrastructure, services and livelihood sectors especially the economic and social ones. Different kinds of weapons were used therein, some of which were used for the first time, thus causing an unprecedented destruction that reached unarmed citizens such as children, women and the elderly. Despite the diversified stances of the Arab countries, several positions denounced the treacherous aggression. Furthermore, the international community accused Israel of committing massacres and using prohibited weapons against civilians. These practices were documented in the international investigators' report, known as "Goldstone". Notwithstanding the institutions and laws of the international community, the latter is still unable of reaching a fair and comprehensive solution to a cause that has been lasting for more than a century.

In addition, the year 2009 started with an Arab Economic, Social and Development Summit that tackled development challenges. Civil society organizations and private sector institutions should have participated in that summit along with governments' representatives; however, they were deprived from this right after replacing their participation by organizing a forum prior to the summit, thus mitigating its efficiency.

This booklet presents a summary on the activities held in 2009 by ANND and a number of NGOs. This product is characterized by its intellectual outcome and effective contribution in the dialogue on development challenges, international economic and commercial policies, the international crises' impacts on the region and the ways of combating them. Hence, ANND has submitted to the Arab Summit a paper in which it presented recommendations and suggestions after holding wide consultations with a number of CSOs in the Arab Region. Moreover, ANND has intensified its research work in order to develop better understandings of the economic and social challenges faced by the Arab Region and to positively participate in the discussions of issues in that field.

It is worth noting that the international contemporary challenges tackled by ANND's programs

have direct impacts on citizens' daily lives as well as on the civil society's activity in general. It goes without saying that the climate change crisis will not exclude the Arab region and population, in addition to the clear impacts of the global financial and economic crisis on the region, in several Arab countries. All of these challenges require preventive measures which protect citizens from the impacts, and necessitate the intervention of the civil society to lobby for adopting the appropriate policies. Therefore, it is essential to develop the role of the civil society in a way that it does not only appeal to reformative policies, but also suggests alternative ones.

In the framework of the preparation for the United Nations General Assembly Meeting on the global financial and economic crisis, ANND has drafted a research paper entitled "Facing Challenges of Poverty, Unemployment and Inequalities in the Arab Region: Do policy choices of Arab governments still hold after the global economic crisis?", which played an essential role in its follow-up activity in the field of protecting the socio-economic rights. Furthermore, ANND has participated along with other CSOs in the discussions that went in parallel with drafting the report of the committee, assigned by the UN General Secretary, headed by the economist Joseph Stiglitz to study the impacts of the crisis and suggest effective solutions to overcome it. In addition, ANND has organized regional meetings about all of these issues. In the framework of the preparation for the Global Summit on Climate Change, held late in 2009 in Copenhagen, ANND organized a regional meeting and drafted a research working paper that addressed the climate change crisis from its legal, economic, social and environmental aspects.

In the framework of developing guided research, ANND has contributed in drafting a report on the status of socio-economic rights in Egypt, through the Human Rights Council's mechanism "Universal Periodic Review"(UPR), in coordination with the Egyptian organizations following up this mechanism. It is worth noting that in late 2009, preparations to draft the report on socio-economic rights in Lebanon were launched in collaboration with CSOs. Moreover, ANND has assisted in drafting remarks on Lebanon's National Strategy presented in the frame of the European Neighborhood Policy, and has submitted it to the European Commission in Brussels, with the effective contribution of Lebanese NGOs.

Besides its regional and national active presence, ANND has continued to activate its international presence through its membership in networks and its participation in international activities which tackled international policies and challenges, including the food crisis, climate change crisis and the global economic and financial crisis. Hence, ANND has effectively participated in the social watch interventions in addition to the CSOs International Coalition (Civicus), the International Coalition against Poverty, the global coalition of "Our World Is Not For Sale", "Reality of Aid Network" as well as the Euro-Mediterranean Platform and the activities of CSOs following up "Aid Effectiveness". In addition, ANND has attended international forums such as

the United Nations General Assembly Meeting, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund annual meetings and the World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference.

This effort falls into the main objective of ANND. It is worth noting that in order to bridge the gap between the objective academic and research work on one hand, and the direct guided work implemented by CSOs on the other hand, plans are needed. Most researches in the Arab Region study the history, organization and role of the civil society. They are restricted to quantitative indicators in terms of number, geographical distribution as well as the nature and load of the services provided. Nevertheless, what is needed from the important available researches is the subject that will enable the civil society to deepen discussions and hence, negotiate with decision-makers, exert pressure and influence its decisions in the favor of social justice and equality. Coordinating between centers of study, research and academia on one hand, and the civil society organizations on the other hand, has become essential to bridge this gap while seeking complementarity and enhancing cooperation.

Pertaining to the future programs to be implemented by ANND, they depend on the results of last year's activities. With the collaboration of experts and researches, ANND has conducted six research studies which have been all discussed in workshops and developed based on experiences and challenges witnessed in the Arab Region. The goal of this program is to establish a resource center which would contribute to providing support to the civil society through widening the borders of cooperation between CSOs, academia and research centers.

This report presents the activities implemented by ANND in 2009.

Ziad Abdel Samad

Executive Director



## Introduction



ANND General Assembly Meeting

Addressing social and economic rights in the Arab region: issues of democracy, development, and economic and trade policies

ANND's work focuses on advocating for social and economic rights in the region. It works in two main areas in this context: (1) policies for social development focusing on the social and economic rights, (2) trade liberalization and its social and economic

implications. ANND advocates for more sound and effective rights based socio-economic reforms in the region, which integrate the concepts of sustainable development and gender justice. Among other topics, ANND focuses on promoting the role of monitoring, evaluation, and engagement with policy-making processes and related institutions among civil society groups.

ANND perceives two chronic problems threatening the ability to ensure progress towards achieving social and economic rights for citizens in the Arab region; (1) The lack of social and economic visions and plans at the national and regional levels, while limiting the policy discussions to one model that is advocated by players outside the region, including international financial institutions and country actors with interest in the region, and (2) Very limited capacities and role for local civil society organizations (CSOs) in the area of policy influencing

and shaping, especially the policies related to social and economic concerns.

During 2009, ANND continued its work in support of enhancing the role of civil society organizations in advocacy on the social and economic fronts. ANND's strategy focuses on increasing the participation of civil society actors from the region in national, regional and global policy-making processes and events, opening channels of influence in policy-making processes, and increasing the availability of indigenous and alternative resource material in these areas.

Through these processes ANND integrates gender perspectives in various approaches and analysis, in addition to considerations for concerns of conflict areas.

Through its advocacy work, ANND has relied on the Millennium Development Goals as a monitoring background and utilized the human rights mechanisms, especially the Universal Periodic Review process, besides other similar available tools. Such tools are regarded as crucial importance for monitoring the governments' accountability towards social and economic rights.

Furthermore, ANND continued to issue a periodical newsletter with the aim of highlighting major national, regional, and global policy processes and foras in addition to possible action that civil society groups in the Arab region can get engaged with. A series was issued, just before the Arab Economic, Social and Development Summit 2009, held in Kuwait on January 19-20, that raised the awareness in the region and kept CSOs of the region informed about the developments on the Summit.

The following report includes a brief overview of some of the main activities that ANND and its partners have undertaken during 2009.

## ANND working on Social and Economic Rights in the Arab Region

### **At the national level:**

- ❖ Finalizing the project “Development in Lebanon: The role of NGOs, Civil Society and Other Actors Follow-up Process (February 2009): During 2009, ANND finalized this pilot development project in Lebanon, which have extended since 2005, and have focused in its last stages on addressing multi-stakeholders’ partnerships for local development. The project ended with initiation of two local development projects in regions of Marjehyoun/Hasbaya and Baalbeck/Hermel through local development councils including civil society organizations and local authorities. The project was in cooperation with Oxfam Quebec/Canadian Fund for Social Development.
- ❖ Following the process of Lebanon’s Accession to WTO: (8-9 May 2009, Beirut) In partnership with the International Labor Organization and the International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC), ANND organized a two-day workshop on the discussion of Lebanon’s accession to the WTO and its implications on decent work, in light of the global economic crisis (8-9 May 2009). The workshop gathered representatives from civil society groups, labor unions, various syndicates in Lebanon, UN agencies and international organizations, and representatives of Ministry of Economy and Trade and negotiation team following the accession.
- ❖ Enhancing discussions on the implications of the global economic crisis: ANND organized a discussion session on the implications of the global economic crisis on the Arab region (September 11, 2009, Beirut). Colleagues from ANND and Christian Aid presented and discussed with the participants a common paper produced by the two organizations, entitled “Facing Challenges of Poverty, Unemployment, and Inequalities in the Arab region: Do Policy Choices of Arab Governments still hold after the Global Economic Crisis”.

## At the regional level:

- ❖ Addressing the Trade policies and its implications in the Arab region: Given the centrality of following the impacts of trade liberalization agreements on social and economic rights in the Arab region, several activities were organized around major policy fora that happened in the region:
- ❖ Liberalization and Human Development in Arab Region: ANND organized in partnership with the Arab Organization for Administrative Assistance, UNDP/ Trade and Development Program, and Third World Network, a Regional Conference on “Economic Liberalization Policies and Free Trade Agreements in the Arab Region; Implications and Opportunities for Human Development” (5-7 January, 2009, Cairo). The conference took place at the headquarters of the League of Arab States. The outcome recommendations of the meeting were raised to the Arab Heads of States on Social, Economic and Development Summits.
- ❖ Preparations for the World Trade Organization (WTO) 7th ministerial conference: ANND organized a regional meeting with the Economic and Social Commission of West Asia (ESCWA) and in cooperation with the Lebanese Ministry of Economy and Trade (11-12 November 2009, Beirut).

- ❖ Following regional governmental processes on social, economic and developmental policies: In the context of following this process, ANND organized a civil society preparatory meeting before the Arab Economic, Social and Development Summit (9-10 January 2009, Cairo), which included representatives from 30 organizations who came from 11 Arab countries. The meeting engaged representatives from the



High Level Expert Group Meeting on the Preparation of the Arab Countries for the 7th WTO Ministerial Conference



League of Arab States department of Liaison with civil society. It resulted in a series of recommendations on reforms of social, economic, and development policies in the Arab region, which were raised to the Summit, where representatives from ANND participated (16-19 January, 2009, Kuwait)

- ❖ Promoting civil society use of the Civil Society Index: ANND participated with CIVICUS Citizens' Alliance and UNDP in organizing a regional training on the use of the Civil Society Index (1-4 March 2009, Beirut).
- ❖ Addressing the role of civil society organizations in monitoring social and economic policies: A regional discussion on this issue was organized (6-7 March 2009). It included a review of the results and discussions made during the Kuwait summit and other global summits that Arab countries have participated in during 2008 (Aid Effectiveness process and Financial for Development Process).
- ❖ Promoting the climate change related discussions in the Arab region: ANND organized several discussions addressing climate change, including a one day discussion session in Lebanon (18 June 2009, Beirut) and a three day regional conference (17-18-19 August 2009, Beirut) in partnership with Arab Climate Alliance, the Arab Organization for Administrative Assistance, and IndyACT. These discussions engaged civil society groups, media groups, academics, as well as governmental representatives UN agencies and other international organizations. They aimed to inform the discussions around climate change and highlight the specific regional concerns, including policies and positions of Arab countries in the negotiations; and to provide a forum for concerned civil society organizations to come



Regional Conference on “Climate Change Crisis and the role of national governments and civil Society in facing the challenges”

together to address climate change.

- ❖ **Enhancing the participation in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism of the Human Rights Council:** for Egypt: ANND in collaboration with 15 other NGOs (national NGOs from Egypt and international NGOs) submitted a 10 page report to the Office of UN High Commissioner of Human Rights, focusing on Egypt's compliance with its obligations in relation to the respect, protection, and fulfillment of economic and social rights. It presented and analyzed key data relating to the enjoyment of people's rights to an adequate standard of living, the right to work, the right to education, the right to health and the right to social security. It also presented data on poverty and the implications of trade liberalization on the realization of economic and social rights in Egypt. The report also included a set of recommendations for remedial action.
- ❖ **Working with the UN-ESCWA to highlight the role of civil society in social policies and safety nets:** ANND actively participated in the Forum on Social Integration organized by ESCWA in October in Lebanon and presented a paper on the role of civil society in social protection. It also participated in the focus group organized in Beirut in December 2009 on social protection as well.

### **At the global level:**

- ❖ **The Global Economic Crisis and its Implications on Development Processes:** During 2009, ANND focused in its global level engagements and discussions with various partners and networks on the implications of the global economic crisis. ANND followed closely the United Nations process on the crisis. ANND participated actively in the UN Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and its Impact on Development held in June 2009, and was part of the civil society speakers in the roundtable addressing the "Present and future impacts of the crisis on employment, trade, investment and development goals and the Millennium Development goals". Furthermore, ANND in cooperation with Dr Azzam Mahjoub from Tunisia, presented input to the UN Commission addressing the implications of the crisis (i.e. the Stiglitz Commission).

## ANND's Engagement with Global Partners and Processes

- ❖ The Aid Effectiveness Process: Following up on its engagement in the Aid Effectiveness process during 2008, ANND participated in the International CSO Steering Group (ISG) on Aid Effectiveness and related meetings during 2009. It has organized the Middle East and Northern Africa CSO Consultation Workshop and the Multi-stakeholders' Consultation on Aid Effectiveness on 7-8-9 December 2009, bringing together representatives from CSOs around the Arab region, funder organizations as well as governments and parliaments. ANND facilitated the participation of some of its members in the regional consultation on the AID effectiveness held in Thailand.
- ❖ Partnership with Social Watch: ANND continued its active participation in the Social Watch and contributed in Social Watch Report 2009, entitled "Making Finances Work: People First". It also actively participated in the global general assembly of the social watch and was elected to be represented in the Coordination Committee.
- ❖ Euro-Med NGO Platform: ANND served as board member with the Euro-Med NGO Platform throughout 2009. ANND and the Euro-Med NGO Platform in Lebanon presented, on April 30th 2009, the comments concerning the draft concept of Lebanon under the Mid-Term Review of ENPI Strategy Papers and Indicative Programs process. In addition, ANND contributed to the organization of the Socio-Economic Forum organized in Egypt and to the organization of the conference entitled "The Global Economic Crisis and Youth in the Euro-Med Region: Discussing Impacts and Solutions" as well as the conference on "the Socio-Economic Agenda of the Euro-Mediterranean Partnership: Ways forward in light of the implications of the global crisis" on 16-17-18 December 2009. This event was organized in close coordination with the Eurostep and it aimed at enhancing the debate on the role of civil society in the region.

ANND in coordination with Nagde Association, Lebanese Physically Handicapped Union and Le Mouvement Social Libanais prepared a second review on the National Strategy Paper for Lebanon within the framework of the European Neighborhood policy. The review was presented to the concerned desk in the commission and all the Lebanese concerned ministers.

- ❖ Participation in the World Social Forum 2009: ANND continued its active participation in the World Social Forum and the international council. In 2009 ANND attended the Forum in Belem, Brazil, where it contributed to discussions on global crisis and development goals.
- ❖ Collaboration with Arab Council of Social Sciences: In line with the aim of producing indigenous resource material by continuous research work and promoting networking especially at the regional level, ANND is supporting the institutionalization of the Arab Council of the Social Sciences and enhancing cooperation and dialogue with it. The Council represents the efforts by leading Arab scholars and experts to address the region's deficiency in self-produced research.
- ❖ Working with Christian Aid: Cooperation with Christian Aid increased throughout 2009. The focus was on common work related to the impact of the global crisis on the Arab region. The two organizations issued a common analysis brief in this regards; they also issued common statements raised to the World Economic Forum held in Jordan and the Africa Union meeting addressing the crisis.
- ❖ Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP); ANND continued its engagement with GCAP, through engagement on the GCAP Global Council and GCAP Foundation Board. ANND and coalitions in the Arab region, focused on developing the GCAP message and work on peace and security, which was the focus on work on Global Peace Day/ September 21st 2009.
- ❖ Our World is Not for Sale (OWINFS): ANND continued its engagement with OWINFS through being part of the coordination team of the Network. ANND's focused on enhancing participation of organizations from the Arab region in OWINFS, and increasing the engagement of OWINFS in following the trade liberalization agenda in the Arab region. ANND took active part of the delegation of the OWINFS to the seventh WTO ministerial held in Geneva in December 2009.
- ❖ ANND participated in annual meeting of the Word Bank and the International Monitory Fund held in Istanbul in October 2009: ANND participated in the Civil Society Parallel Forum and presented a paper on the Challenges and the Role of Youth in the Arab Region.
- ❖ Joining Takreem Initiative; ANND joined the initiative Takreem as a member. The Takreem is a regional initiative with the mission of uniting people by rising above social and cultural barriers, rallying Arab communities by recognizing Arab achievements around the world, encouraging a positive Arab identity by removing false and negative perceptions ([www.takreemawards.com](http://www.takreemawards.com)).

## ANND's Publications during 2009

- ❖ Set of recommendations raised to the Arab Summit on Economic, Social, and Development Policies (January 2009)
- ❖ Facing Challenges Of Poverty, Unemployment, And Inequalities In The Arab Region, Do Policy Choices of Arab Governments Still Hold After the Global Economic Crisis (Analysis Briefing paper – June 2009)
- ❖ Thematic report "Mounting Development Challenges Posed by the world economic crisis: policy options in the Arab region", published in the Social Watch Report 2009 (September 2009)
- ❖ Role of Civil Society in Social Protection, presented in the regional forum on social policies and published by ESCWA, October 2009
- ❖ National Report "No dialogue on the crisis; Case of Lebanon"- published in the Social Watch Report 2009, (September 2009)
- ❖ Five papers addressing the follow-up of policy engagement of Arab countries and role of CSOs in monitoring (April 2009), including:
  - ❖ Development Aid in Areas of Conflict; case of Palestine (Dr. Nader Said- Palestine)
  - ❖ Foreign Direct Investment and Implication on Development Processes; case of Jordan (Dr. Moussa Shteivi- Jordan)



شبكة المنظمات العربية غير الحكومية للتنمية



- ❖ Role of Civil Society Organizations in the Discussion around Financing Development (Mr. Yusri Mustafa- Egypt)
- ❖ Economic Reform and its Interlink with Political and Institutional Reforms (Dr. Azzam Mahjoub- Tunisia)
- ❖ Right to Information in the Arab Region; Areas of Collaboration between Media and Civil Society (Ms. Itidal Moujabri- Tunisia)
- ❖ Paper on "Climate Change and the Role of Civil Society Groups in the Arab Region"; (not published yet)

# Financial Report for the period from 01/ 01/ 2009 31/ 12/ 2009

Project: all Projects  
Currency = US Dollar

## A- 2009 Expenses

<b>Description</b>	<b>Expenses 2009</b>
Administrative cost	69,694.00
Networking	54,020.00
Information and Communication	15,190.00
Democracy Program	54,840.00
Development Program	67,525.00
Trade Program	70,437.00
Complementary Program	110,829.00
Solidarity	5,175.00
<b>Total Expenses for the year 2009</b>	<b>447,710.00</b>

**B- 2009 Incomes**

Description	Incomes 2009
<b>a- Brought forward</b>	61,208.00
<b>b- From Contract with Funders:</b>	
Ford foundation	152,232.00
Arab Democracy Foundation	20,000.00
Oxfam Q	23,396.00
Oxfam UK	7,400.00
Norwegian People Aid (NPA)	6,200.00
International Civil Society Forum for Democracy (ICNRD)	31,600.00
International Labor Organization (ILO)	8,000.00
United Nations Development Program (UNDP)	44,949.00
Heinrich Boell Foundation (HBF)	5,854.00
Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Foundation	21,970.00
Centre National de Coopération au Développement (CNCD-11.11.11)	17,895.00
Civicus	16,459.00
Others	34,880.00
<b>Total funders incomes</b>	<b>390,835.00</b>
<b>Total incomes for the year 2009</b>	<b>452,043.00</b>
<b>Deficit Balance at 31 /12 /2009</b>	<b>4,333.00</b>