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This report aims at promoting the work and strategies of the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) in supporting Arab civil society organizations, promoting development and formulating human rights-based economic and social policies.

Undoubtedly, this report and the information it contains will contribute to enlightening the reader about the importance of the Network's role in the promotion of human rights and development in our countries and its position on the Arab NGOs' scene. The Network has endeavored to broaden the circle of interest in the close interdependence between the issues of human rights, democracy and development. It has also proposed innovative work methodologies to reinforce the involvement of advocates and defenders of human rights in policy analysis and critique and in proposing alternative policies based on social justice.

The report is published at a particular historic moment. The revolution in Tunisia is the beginning of a new era in the history of the Arab countries, leading them into a long-term multi-dimensional transition path. Capacities of individuals and people in all countries are set free, calling for dignity, equality, freedom and justice and looking to achieve their transition to democracy.

Arab revolutions raise major questions on the role of civil society in contributing to breaking from the authoritarian past and building a new vision of Arab societies based on a social contract that respects freedom, dignity, equality and justice.

The Arab Network, with its accumulated experiences

over the last years, will definitely work together with its partners from various Arab countries to find answers to these questions.

Building the civil state, reforming institutions and laws, elaborating constitutions that guarantee human rights, completing transitional justice, supporting the continuity and independence of civil society and promoting a culture of citizenship and democracy are necessary tasks to achieve democratic transition paths in our countries.

These are tasks that require, more than ever, putting human rights at the core of our changing societies and making them one of the pillars of our vision of life.



The past year has seen unprecedented popular movements that led to developments affecting most countries in the region. As a result of these movements, changes occurred at the leadership levels of the regimes in Tunisia, Egypt, Libya and Yemen, where state-building on a new basis is still an ongoing process. Regimes in Morocco, Jordan, Kuwait, Algeria, and Oman have carried out limited reforms; however, these reforms contributed, even temporarily, to the reduction of the popular movement effects. In Syria and Bahrain, the conflict was bloody and hampered the process of peaceful transition of power. As for Saudi Arabia, it has witnessed sporadic popular movements that could lead to some changes in the future.

The main driving force behind all these uprisings is the absence of freedoms, the violation of dignity and human rights, and the lack of economic and social justice. In addition, the widespread corruption at various levels: in government, administration, and community has contributed to the uprisings.

It has been one year since the beginning of these movements; however, the nature of the new regimes is not yet clear. But what is clear and certain is that the will of the people will determine any future decision or choice. During this year, citizens regained confidence in their potential and their abilities, and they now have the courage and initiative to face authorities when their demands are ignored.

One of the direct results of the past year's events is the shift in the concept of power and its popular authority. Previous regimes derived their legitimacy from their ability to gain the support of the international decision-making hubs, while depending internally on security and military forces, and on some of the rentier economic circles. They benefited from their influence in power to increase their licit and illicit gains and profits.

Popular uprisings have returned authority to its natural place, i.e., to the citizens. The continuing protests in various countries, despite the departure of the presidents and their entourage, the holding of general elections, and the restructuring of power, is nothing but an indication of the transmission of authority to the people. Citizens seek to participate in determining their national choices that affect their fate and future and to express their opinions in the absence of institutional frameworks that allow for their peaceful participation.

Most of the Arab States are experiencing the formation of new popular authorities through the creation of new social forces and movements or through reorganizing existing ones on new bases. Women's movements, which had a leading role in fighting the previous regimes, continue to struggle for rejecting trends to reduce freedoms and equality. Labor and union movements are witnessing an increasing number of affiliates, particularly in Egypt, Tunisia and Morocco. New youth organizations that seek to organize young people and to activate their participation at the various political, economic, social and cultural levels are also being formed.

Moreover, key partners influential in the politics of the region, especially the United States and the European Union, and those who were supporting the previous regimes by various means, seek to influence the major choices taken by the new regimes, especially in the organization of economic relations and trade agreements. They commissioned the international financial institutions, particularly the IMF, and the regional ones such as the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, to implement the decisions of aids and loans and negotiate with governments on new policies.

Negotiations are now focused on how to boost the environment for foreign investment through in-depth negotiations on trade liberalization, particularly in the areas of investment and competition. The European Union clearly articulated its vision through a series of positions that call for support to the Arab Spring. It adopted what it called "more for more", in reference to providing more aid and trade for more democracy and reforms.

In this context, the Network has endeavored to keep up with all these changes and positions. It adopted an integrated strategy focusing on two directions. The first one is aimed towards decision-makers in the Arab countries undergoing fundamental changes through the strengthening and empowerment of civil society organizations. This could be done through indepth assessment of the situation and the provision of knowledge and resources necessary to carry out advocacy campaigns to influence decision makers. The second is aimed towards international and multilateral institutions that try to influence decisions and modify approaches adopted in the region.

The Network's position focused on economic options and social policies that should take into account the shift in the concepts of development on one hand. On the other hand, the failure of policies adopted in the past decades and which led to the current situation should be considered. And finally, acknowledging that authority and legitimacy is derived from citizens and not from external support or concentration of power in the hands of a certain class of citizens. The position of the Network can be summarized in the following points:

- I- Transformations that took place in the Arab region are the product and impact of its people who decided in a historic moment to stand up for their rights and dignity. Consequently, these people will not simply accept a number of nominal reforms and limited changes in regimes, but they will continue their struggle to implement a new contract between the state and society and market mechanisms. This contract will ensure justice, dignity and human rights and contribute to building firm pillars of the civil and democratic state based on rights, law and institutions.
- **II-** Countries in the region need to assess the implemented economic and social policies and trade agreements which had negative results on the economic and social rights of citizens. This assessment requires in-depth understanding of the concept of development adopted for decades and based primarily on achieving high growth rates, while ignoring the quality of this growth and the productive base that underlies it. On the other hand, the redistribution of growth revenues ensures justice and eliminates economic, social and regional disparities among citizens.
- III- Accordingly, it is necessary to reconsider the role of the State as a regulator, legislator and guarantor of citizens' rights. The nature of previous relationships and agreements shifted the functions of the State towards protecting the interests of investors at the expense of the rights of citizens. Trade agreements, especially bilateral ones, reduce the available space for national policies, promote policies that facilitate integration into the global economy, encourage investments and provide guarantees and freedom of movement.



- IV- Negotiations with international bodies and concluding multilateral and bilateral agreements in countries with incomplete constitutions, non-elected governments and interim parliaments not enjoying authority, cannot gain legitimacy and therefore cannot be considered a reflection of the interests of different social and economic groups as to ensure their rights.
- V- Regional integration and strengthening cooperation and exchange in countries of the region is a strategic choice that must be given the importance it deserves. Facing the challenges of globalization and integration into the global economy can only be enhanced by strengthening regional cooperation. This requires more efforts towards formulating regional agreements at various levels in order to facilitate this cooperation and to preserve the interests of people and different social groups. It also requires building institutions capable of following and keeping up with the agreements, developing cooperation and exchange at various political, economic, social, cultural and judicial levels.
- VI- The previous phase has stressed the importance of economic and social policies in preserving the rights of citizens in these two areas. It also stressed that stability cannot be restored and authority cannot exist while poverty, unemployment and social marginalization prevail. Despite the clear correlation between freedom and democracy on the one hand and between economic and social rights on the other hand, this does not mean they are less important than political and civil rights. Thus,

popular movements and civil society demands should contribute to the economic options, to formulating social policies, and to claiming the inclusion of economic, social and cultural rights in future constitutions due to their importance and their need for unquestionable constitutional protection.

Popular uprisings and democratic transformations entered their second year and still face many challenges. This requires civil society organizations to exert twice the effort and actively contribute to these uprisings by rebuilding a capable social movement leading to genuine participation of citizens, reconfiguring the civil and democratic authority, and drafting of major national choices through national and democratic institutions at different levels.

Civil society organizations need to keep on advocating and defending the rights of citizens, taking into account the fact that respect for human rights is an essential component of stability. It is therefore the proper approach to find a suitable environment for building a functioning, capable and stable state militarily, politically, economically, socially and culturally.

The role of civil society is not limited to the national and regional levels only. It also extends to the international level. Solidarity of the international civil society in the field of advocacy with international bodies and organizations is important for the success of efforts aiming to modify international approaches to be in line with domestic needs and reduce pressures and conditions exerted by international institutions on our countries. This emphasizes the importance of the involvement of the Arab Network in many active regional and international networks.

Based on the foregoing, and in conformity with its conviction for the need to respond to the challenges of this phase, the Network has been working on preparing for its periodic General Assembly meeting scheduled to take place during 2012. The meeting will adopt a new strategy that takes into account changes that occurred in the region at various levels. The role and position of civil society changed with the general situation and with the tasks of this phase. Instead of focusing on the power of rejection, it is imperative to get engaged in the process of building an alternative. The nature of the relationship between the various parties has changed, specifically between the state and society. This requires a contribution in drafting a new contract

that puts human rights at the center of the political process. Finally, the nature and role of the relationship with external development partners has changed. Civil society is required to push toward evaluation of policies and agreements formulated during the authoritarian rule period, and work on the drafting of agreements on new foundations. All of these are variables that must be taken into account when formulating Network programs for the next phase.

The next strategic plan, which will be presented to the meeting of members, will be based on two evaluation reports prepared for this purpose by experts from outside the Network, in addition to a quick research done by an independent expert to facilitate dialogue within the Network and between its members and partners.

I hope this report reflects these trends and strategies adopted by the Network to achieve its objectives.

Finally, I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the work of the Network and the achievement of the tasks that have been implemented: partners, donors, members, volunteers and employees. I call upon them to exert more efforts for the sake of a possible better world.

Ziad Abdel Samad Executive Director, ANND





A network is a mobile social body. Its survival or impact largely depends on the extent of its interaction with the political and economic environment. Civic organizations that do not take into account shifts in their environment will marginalize themselves, ultimately leading to their demise and extinction.

From this perspective, 2011 was a year packed with major events which have not only changed the local scene in numerous Arab countries, but their impact went beyond the Arab region, and their implications reached the most sensitive positions in the international arena.

The year 2011 was exceptional due to the Arab revolutions that shook the pillars of the four regimes, respectively Tunisia, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen; these regimes that appeared to be long-lasting and stable before December, 17 2010, the day Bouazizi set himself on fire. But things did not stop here; the repercussions of these revolutions are ongoing: confronting the powerful Syrian regime with the moment of truth, leading Bahrain into the circle of popular anger, and pushing many Arab regimes to start revising and adjusting their national trajectories such as Morocco and Kuwait, and the rest follows.

Since former Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali fled the country, the network realized it is directly and decisively concerned with these massive changes, and is strongly encouraged to modify its plan and review its strategy for various reasons including the following:

- Arab revolutions were and still are social revolutions in the first place. The severe deterioration in the standard of living and basic services, high unemployment, corruption, favoritism and discrimination among citizens were critical factors in accelerating revolutions, and emphasized the awareness of Arab citizens concerning the importance of their economic and social rights. This was clearly manifested in the slogans raised by young people behind these revolutions in various cities and squares. This also confirmed the validity of the bet put by the network since its inception, when it considered that stability, advancement and civil peace cannot be achieved without a minimum of social justice to protect the dignity of individuals and lay strong foundations for a real and effective citizenship.
- Arab revolutions are also democratic political revolutions. All revolutions called for fundamental freedoms and rejected all forms of tutelage, strived and still strive to end tyranny and the rule of individuals, families and communities. They aimed for thorough constitutional revisions and the adoption of fair elections as a fundamental basis for building new legitimacies. This was also an integral part of the network's actions and priorities because dictatorships are intolerant towards the participation of people, civil societies and political forces in creating a platform for an equitable and sustainable social development. On this basis, the network defended the principle of correlation between political democracy and social democracy based on the quarantee of fundamental economic and social rights. During the past twenty years, it has endeavored to provide awareness to Arab civil society organizations and to enable them to defend human rights system through all its interdependent and integrated components.

In light of these revolutions that are an undisputed historical event in its deepest sense, the network set out last year to adapt its activities according to the challenges imposed by this major shift. Network efforts have been focused towards the following priorities:

I- Providing political support for these revolutions through daily monitoring of the facts and merits of continuous clashes in some countries between the revolutionary forces and dictatorships, by issuing statements of support for the right of people to change their corrupt regimes and denouncing crimes committed against unarmed civilians, as well as mobilizing international public opinion in order to call for stopping support of the forces of tyranny and withdrawing confidence from repressive regimes.

- II- Coordinating directly with field players (many of them are members or friends of the network) in the Arab revolutions' arenas to study their needs, share their thoughts about the future, and help to connect between them since they have common issues and fate regardless of their different nationalities and their varied geographic or political specificities. The network deals with the Arab region as a strategic unit.
- **III-** Cooperating with the network's partners and members to deepen the debate on the challenges posed by the revolutions and the stages of democratic transition. For this purpose, two regional workshops were organized in both Tunisia and Egypt. The first workshop analyzed the root causes of revolutions, while the second one concentrated on the building blocks to formulate a new social vision.
- IV- Initiating the development of an alternative social contract after the collapse of the old contract under neopatrimonial states. The network has been proactive in this context because it realized that the events should go beyond changing regimes that can longer exist, and take the revolution to a deeper level that reshapes the relationship between state and society.
- V- Working on the constitutionalization of economic and social rights. Drafting new constitutions was imposed by the struggles of the previous phase that took the form of constitutional reforms. After the revolutions, this proposal developed into formulating new constitutions that restore and integrate rights and lay the foundations for a democratic civil state.
- VI- Deepening the debate on development patterns, since it is feared that political parties and civil society organizations become involved in the necessary political reforms and neglect formulating development alternatives able to surmount the fundamental flaws of the previous development pattern. Without a different understanding of the components of human development, revolutions will be susceptible to relapse and reproduce the same pattern that led to the deepening of social differences,

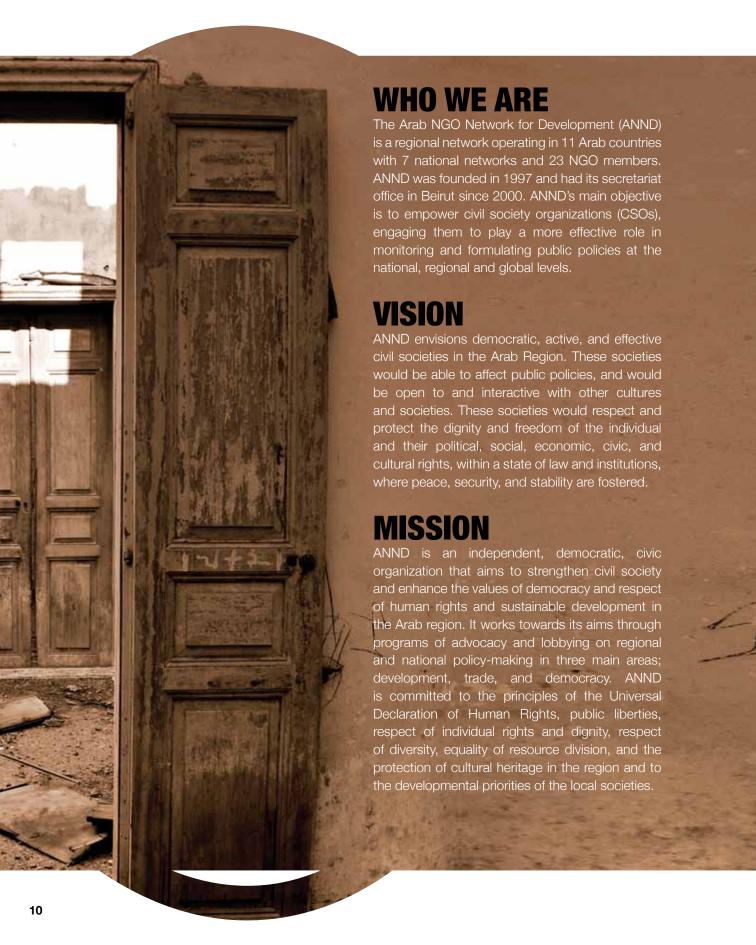
ruining of national economies, and impoverishing of local communities in favor of the dominant forces on the global markets.

VII- Pushing for a review of principles of partnership with Europe and the philosophy of cooperation with international financial institutions. The network considers this matter one of the vital issues that it tries to draw attention to. Western governments were forced to review their previous policies under the revolutionary movement pressure and accepted the major changes imposed by the people of the region in the balance of political forces, the recognition of freedoms, and the adoption of mechanisms for the peaceful transfer of power. Consequently, these governments exert pressure directly and indirectly in order to maintain the same choices of development and to perform partial adjustments on the unfair partnership mechanisms. On this basis, the network increased its actions and activities over the past year in order to shift this debate from the regional level to the international sphere, and attempt to conduct open and straight dialogues with the various international institutions and actors in the Arab region and in particular those having a direct impact on the economic and financial balance in countries in which revolutions took place, such as the European Union and the World Bank.

VIII- Developing the capacity of civil society organizations in countries where dictatorial regimes had fallen or those battling against the fierce regimes desperate to stay in power regardless of the cost and the various illegal means used. These organizations have found themselves faced with challenges and tasks quite different from those that used to constrain their movement and limit their effectiveness. Comprehensive confrontation with the dictatorship or addressing the problems of democratic transition requires different skills and alternative strategies.

Over the past year, these points were the main issues and concerns of the network. They prompted it to modify its course and initiate an ongoing strategic discussion to reposition the network at the heart of the political and social revolutionary movement which all countries of the region witness the impact, despite all the risks resulting from the collapse of the old regional order.

Salah Al-Din Al Jourchi Lead Coordinator of Research Work, ANND



The Arab region is witnessing a crucial moment in its contemporary history. Millions of women and men across the region are clamoring for change, dignity, freedom and social justice and voicing their aspirations for a say in the decisions that affect their lives. The region is embarking on a major revision of the long standing social contract towards establishing a new relation between the citizens and the state, based on new economic, social, and political paradigms.

ANND realized the necessity to accompany these long awaited transformations and to support democratic change in the region and the establishment of a framework of social justice that ensures rights, dignity, freedoms and equality of all people. ANND responded immediately to the emerging situation through engaging with its members and partners ina regional dialogue on the new social contract. This included two major regional events in 2011 aiming to contribute to the challenging debate about the tasks and the

role of the Civil Society in the alarming situation:

- A regional workshop on "Human Rights under the Democratic Changes and Equitable Development: Questions and Prospects in the Light of the Popular Revolution Model in Tunisia and Egypt" (Tunisia, 1- 2 March 2011) organized in cooperation with Diakonia and the Arab Institute for Human Rights. The workshop was concluded by a Statement entitled "Lessons of the Popular Tunisian Revolution and the Responsibilities of the Arab Civil Society" which identified the principles to be considered in order to protect this democratic movement from any relapse and to steer it towards the completion of Arab people demands.
- The regional meeting on "the Paths of Democratic Changes and Equitable Development in the Arab Region: towards building a civil state and the establishment of a new social contract", (Cairo, 29 30 May 2011) organized
- There is an urgent need for a national dialogue to reach a new social contract that supports the comprehensive approach to the process of reform, and that through linking the political reform with economic, social and cultural human rights-based reforms.



- Development justice is a key part in the course of Arab revolutions because it correlates with the demands of freedom and development to build an economic and social system based on dignity, liberty and equity, and this was the main demand of protesters in the entire region and what lead them to this profound change.
- Civil society organizations need to contribute in the provision of alternatives in the political, economic, social and cultural areas, and this can only be achieved when these organizations maintain their nature and independence and refuse to be employed by competing political forces.
- Civil society organizations in all Arab countries are invited to take practical steps in solidarity with the transformations... in order to protect them from any kind of external intervention, especially the military one, in addition to the intervention of Arab regimes scared of being affected by the change.

Lessons of the Popular Tunisian Revolution and the Responsibilities of the Arab Civil Society

in cooperation with the Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement, and the Arab Institute for Human Rights. The meeting was concluded by a Statement entitled "Towards a new social contract: Declaration of key principles by civil society organizations from the Arab region" which included the necessary principles to the process of establishing a new social contract.

ANND's planned work for 2011 revolved around the set objectives with flexible adaptation to the regional context. Accordingly, the report will be structured around the objectives of the program interventions:

Objective 1: Enhancing and strengthening civil society advocacy on social and economic policymaking processes.

Objective 2: Opening channels of influence for civil society organizations in the Arab region in policy-making processes, on the national, regional and global levels.

Objective 3: Enhancing the availability and production of indigenous resource material and research related to the role of CSOs in the Arab region.





- -The modern democratic civil state is the institutional framework for emerging revolutions, capable of assimilating diversity in Arab communities and consolidating the values of full citizenship and respect/celebration of difference.
- Equality and justice among men and women on political, economic, social, and cultural levels lie at the heart of the new social contract.
- The state has two functions:

- **1.** To regulate production and market relations and to protect national interests and public money.
- **2.** To guarantee the rights of vulnerable groups through the rule of law, the redistribution of resources and wealth between social and productive forces, and the development of key economic sectors.
- It is of great importance to thoroughly reconsider economic policies. Within this, the need to support productive sectors – particularly those related to agriculture and industry – is paramount.

Towards a new social contract: Declaration of key principles by civil society organizations from the Arab region







ENHANCING AND
STRENGTHENING CIVIL
SOCIETY ADVOCACY ON
SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
POLICY-MAKING
PROCESSES

ANND's main strategy focused on setting in place and operating a Watch Function within ANND's work on social and economic policies and rights, which was launched during a regional meeting (Beirut, 6-7 January 2011).

The substantive work of the Watch function in 2011 included:

A. Periodical reporting on economic and social rights through the Human Rights Council mechanism of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)<sup>1</sup>.

B. Monitoring the policies of EU and International Financial Institutions towards the Arab region, with a focus on policies around economic partnership, trade, investment, and aid. C. Setting the Foundations for an Arab Watch

Report on social and economic rights, which will be launched in 2012.

**D.** Developing a Manual on monitoring social and economic rights.

E. Integrating trade-related monitoring into overall strategy on monitoring social and economic policies and rights.

#### A. PERIODICAL REPORTING THROUGH THE UPR PROCESS

ANND perceives that the added value of civil society's engagement with the UPR process extends beyond the development and preparation of reports on human rights conditions. Indeed, such engagement contributes to enhancing the role of civil society organizations (CSOs) in monitoring and evaluating rights conditions, related public policy making, and levels of governmental accountability. In line with the

<sup>1</sup> More information on the UPR process are available on: www. ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/upr/pages/uprmain.aspx.

"Lebanon till date lacks a comprehensive rightsbased inclusive and applicable social policy. Lebanon continues to neglect its obligations under national and international law when negotiating trade liberalization agreements, with no a priori assessment of their expected impact on economic and social rights."

#### Written statement for Lebanon

"Given the Syrian government's long-standing neglect of the rightful and legitimate aspirations of its own people, which was reflected during the UPR session on October7th, the session was a missed opportunity for genuine reflection on the human rights record in Syria. Moreover, the politicization of Syria's UPR review session undermined the focus on human rights and on the conditions of the Syrian people."

#### Letter to HRC members on Syria UPR session

"The tension and conflicts between the governing parties of Sudan and South Sudan had been a major factor in the deterioration of political as well as economic and social conditions. Even after separation, this conflict continues to expose major sections of the population to insecurity and violation of their rights."

Oral statement during the HRC plenary session

"The uprisings are a culmination of years of inadequate policies that lacked recognition and realization of the rights ... Indeed, the commitment to obligations under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights have been weakened by the change introduced in 2002 to the Bahraini Constitution whereby reference to economic and social rights was changed from "ensuring" rights to "seek(ing) to ensure" rights, such as employment rights."

Submission for Bahrain Second Cycle UPR revision "The Jasmine Revolution resulted in the fall of the previous regime and the launch of processes for national elections, constitutional reforms, and other change measures. Yet, there remains a lot to be achieved in Tunisia both in the legislative framework and in implementation to ensure that the Tunisian government establishes a new development paradigm that is in conformity with general obligations of State to respect, protect and fulfill human rights, including economic and social rights as well as the right to development, and which meets the demands of citizens."

Submission for Tunisia Second Cycle UPR revision.

given spaces for civil society organizations participation in the UPR mechanism at the UN level, ANND together with civil society groups:

- Presented submissions on economic and social rights in Syria together with the Center for Economic and Social Rights for the 12th session of the UPR, and submissions for the second review of Tunisia in cooperation with The Forum for Social Sciences in Tunisia and for Bahrain in cooperation with Bahrain Transparency Association and Bahrain Human Rights Society<sup>2</sup>.
- Used the submissions as an advocacy tool to promote economic and social rights through mobilizing with partner organizations at the national level to undertake common work in follow-up of the UPR report.

The reports for Tunisia and Bahrain were presented in November
 2011 and will be part of the second UPR review process (13th
 session to be held during 2012).

"The European Neighborhood policy is expected to include recognition for the need to assess the human rights and development outcomes of trade and investment relations between Europe and the Arab countries before proceeding towards more of the same. Achieving coherence of trade policy with that of a country's development goals necessitates establishing cross-sectoral dialogue at the policy making level, and within institutionalized foras and mechanisms that monitor the developmental outcomes of trade policies. It is essential that civil society groups take part in the thinking around the mandate, design, mechanisms, and policy approaches of the Civil Society Facility and Democracy Endowment proposed within the revised ENP."

Statement from the delegation of civil society groups visiting the European Institutions

• Submitted written statements to the Human Rights Council mechanisms and participating through oral presentations at the Council session, engaging with the missions of the Human Rights Council members and other country delegations at the UN in Geneva.

#### B. MONITORING THE POLICIES OF EU AND INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS

During 2011, ANND was active on the front of continuous monitoring and advocacy in regards to the European-Arab relations, including the Euro-Mediterranean partnership and the policy response of the EU to the revolutions and peoples' mobilizations in the Arab region.

## ANND undertook direct advocacy work on the European-Arab relation:

ANND organized a one-week advocacy visit to the EU institutions (27 – 30 June 2011), in partnership with Eurostep and CNCD-11.11.11 with a focus

"The Country Strategy Papers and the Action Plans reflecting the partnership between the EU and Southern Mediterranean Arab countries need revisions based on a transparent mechanism and in which a national dialogue and ownership is respected and accomplished."

"...a reassessment and reconsideration of the basis of international economic partnerships undertaken by Tunisia, including the economic relations with the European Union and the European financial and development institutions including the European Investment Bank and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development."

Highlights from the contributions to ENP Progress Reports of Egypt and Tunisia

on the policy issues around EU development and aid policy, trade and development coherence, and Euro-Mediterranean Partnership.

- The visit engaged 13 civil society activists from 7 Arab countries. It includes extensive set of meetings involving European civil society groups, officials from the European Commission, European External Action Service, and European Parliament.
- The visit ended with adopting and disseminating the "Brussels Declaration" which tackled the following subjects: economic and social reforms in the Arab region; the revised European Neighborhood Policy and EU response to the Arab Spring; the new approach to civil society; the financial support from the EU and related development concerns; and the role of the EU member States, European Parliament, and European civil society groups.

Moreover, ANND developed several advocacy letters and critical analysis pieces directed towards European official institutions and Arab countries partners of the EU. The work produced presented a rights-based analysis of the approaches promoted by EU on policy areas such as aid policy, social policies, migration policies, employment, and trade and investment policies. It also presented a set of policy recommendations on the issues discussed. This work informed civil society groups of the EU policies and was used as core material for the advocacy work that included:

• A regional contribution to the discussion of the EU communication on its development policy entitled "EU development policy in support of inclusive growth and sustainable development: Increasing the impact of EU development policy"<sup>3</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> www.annd.org/userfiles/file/latestnews/ANND-CONTRIBUTION\_ TO\_GREEN\_PAPER-EU\_DEVELOPMENT\_POLICY.pdf



- Series of advocacy letters tackling the human rights situation in countries witnessing uprisings (Egypt, Tunisia, Bahrain) and a letter to EU Development Ministers.
- A Civil Society Reaction to the Joint Communication "A Partnership for Democracy and Shared Prosperity", which presented the EU response to the Arab Spring. This document was developed in cooperation with EuroStep and Social Watch<sup>4</sup>.
- Position statement entitled "Aid Supporting the People's Revolutions should not restrict the Democratic Transition; A Call Against Diverting the Revolutions' Economic and Social Justice Goals through the role of IMF, WB, EIB and EBRD". This statement was supported by over 65 organizations and was widely covered by media groups<sup>5</sup>.

• Submission to the EU Public Consultation on Trade and Development Communication.

Furthermore, ANND continued monitoring the implementation of the European Neighborhood Policy Action Plans in partner countries. This included contributions to the consultation process around the ENP Progress reports. ANND submitted contributions covering the "Economic Development and Reform" and Trade, Market, and Regulatory Reform" sections of the Egypt and Tunisia Action Plans<sup>6</sup>.

www.annd.org/userfiles/file/latestnews/Civil%20Society%20
 Reaction%20to%20the%20Joint%20Communication%20on%20
 MENA%20partnership\_final%20version.pdf
 www.annd.org/userfiles/file/latestnews/Statement-EN.pdf
 www.annd.org/userfiles/file/latestnews/Arab%20NGO%20Network%20for%20Development\_submission\_trade%20and%20
 development\_Sept%202011.pdf



#### C. SETTING THE FOUNDATIONS FOR AN ARAB WATCH REPORT ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

ANND is producing an Arab Watch report on Social and Economic Rights. The report aims i) to support the ongoing efforts to protect Social and Economic Rights in the Arab region, ii) to document the experiences and the positions taken by development organizations and human rights activist in the region and iii) to provide a critical look and propose directions for alternative economic and social policies in the Arab region.

The report will be produced once every 2 years. Each version will focus on 2 or 3 rights that are selected based on the regional context and the spaces for discussing related policies. It is developed in a participatory process, based on experiences of groups and coalitions that are active in the field. In 2011, ANND set the foundations for the report, this included:

- A regional consultation meeting (Beirut, 5-6 April 2011), which brought together a number of ANND members and other partner organizations that are actively engaged in advocacy on social and economic rights. The participants agreed that the report will include 4 regional papers and 8 national reports. It will focus on addressing public policies and their impact on enjoying social and economic rights.
- The process for developing the report is based on the added value of the coalition work, perpetuating the integration of field work with the research work in the area of public policy. The thematic focus of the 2012 report will be: the right to work and the right to education.
- It is expected that the report will be launched in 2012.



#### D. DEVELOPING A MANUAL ON MONITORING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

ANND's work was intense with regard to developing an education tool on monitoring economic and social rights in order to enhance Watch function operations and contribute to capacity building among civil society groups. The Manual provides basic background and information on economic and social rights, the approaches in monitoring these rights and various policy channels to follow and be actively engaged with while monitoring economic and social rights. The manual include several Case Studies from the practices of the civil society organizations on monitoring economic and social rights in the region.

• ANND organized a regional discussion session of the draft Manual (Beirut, 20-21 November 2011) to enhance the participatory approach in the preparation phase and to help ensure a final

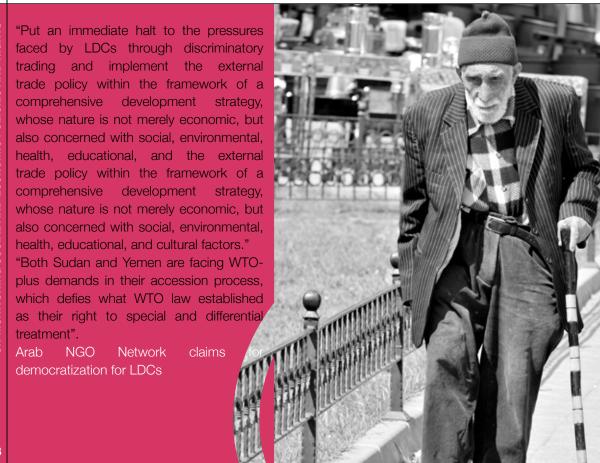
product that meets the needs of the Civil Society and reflects the issues and concepts at stake in the Arab region.

• The manual is expected to be published in 2012.

#### E. INTEGRATING TRADE-RELATED MONITORING INTO OVERALL STRATEGY ON MONITORING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES AND RIGHTS

During 2011, ANND deepened their interlinks between the trade related work and the broader rights and development based work it undertakes. ANND focused on monitoring and evaluating the impacts of trade and investment policies and agreements on the progressive realization of rights and development goals in the region.

In 2011, ANND continued to address the issues of Arab countries acceding to the WTO. These issues were raised at:



• The Fourth UN Summit for the Least Developing Countries through a position statement that focus on Yemen and Sudan, which was presented and discussed at a workshop organized together with Eurostep and Social Watch at the Summit.

• The annual WTO public forum (September 2011) and the WTO 8th Ministerial Meeting (December 2011). In partnership with the global network 'Our World is not for Sale', Say No to WTO Committee, Vanuatu; Third World Network (TWN); and Pacific Network on Globalization (PANG), ANND organized a session on the challenges of LDC countries acceding to the WTO. Moreover, ANND together with 53 organizations from the Arab region raised their concerns on the WTO negotiations and its development implications to relevant ministries in the Arab region.

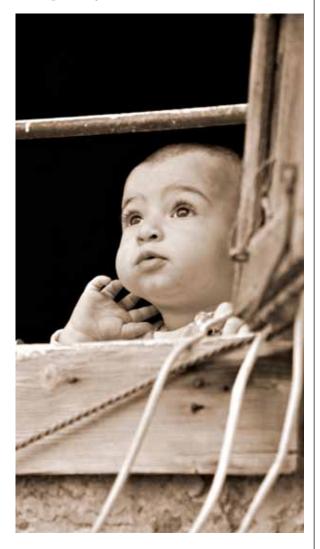
During 2011, ANND focused on developing analysis around trade in services, which is a very strategic sector in terms of development processes, employment generation, and implications on rights to basic services such as education and health services.

• Together with a group of experts and researchers from the Arab region, ANND developed a series of four research papers entitled: "Challenges of Services Liberalization in the Multilateral and Regional Contexts: The Case of Arab Countries", "Challenges of Negotiating Trade in Services with Major Trading Partners: the Case of Egypt and Jordan in their Negotiations with the EU", "Domestic Regulations and their Importance for Trade in Service and Development Outcomes: The Case of Arab Countries" and "Arab Countries Acceding to the WTO; Challenges under the GATS and Developmental Dimensions".

• The draft papers and policy recommendations were discussed with a group of researchers and officials dealing with trade in services in a regional discussion session (Beirut, December 2011). This work will be produced in a booklet directed

to policy makers and civil society organizations during the first half of 2012.

ANND continued the exercise of developing a compilation of tools and methods that link trade and human rights issues, and support civil society organizations in monitoring the implications of trade and investment agreements on human rights. These tools were designed as part of a manual that addresses monitoring economic and social rights more generally. organizations in monitoring the implications of trade and investment agreements on human rights. These tools were designed as part of a manual that addresses monitoring economic and social rights more generally.



OPENING CHANNELS OF INFLUENCE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE ARAB REGION IN POLICY-MAKING PROCESSES, ON THE OBJECTIVE NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND GLOBAL LEVELS

With a view to contribute to enhancing channels of influence for civil society organizations in the Arab region, ANND focused its work in 2011 on 3 major axes:

- A. Strengthening the monitoring of regional policies, engagement with agencies of the League of Arab States, specifically in regards to the Second Arab Economic and Social Summit.
- B. Supporting an enabling environment for civil society organizations in the Arab Region
- C. Mobilizing civil society groups around international policy processes including: the Millennium Development Goals, the UN

conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) process and the aid effectiveness process.

A. STRENGTHENING THE MONITORING OF REGIONAL POLICIES, ENGAGEMENT WITH AGENCIES OF THE LEAGUE OF ARAB STATES, SPECIFICALLY IN REGARDS TO THE SECOND ARAB ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL SUMMIT. (SHARM EL SHEIKH, JANUARY 2011)

- · ANND convened a civil society regional preparatory meeting before the Arab Economic and Social Summit which was entitled "The Regional Forum on Economic and Social Rights in Light of the Global Crises: What is the Alternative Development Model in the Arab Region?" (Beirut, 6-7 January 2011).
- The forum adopted a collective statement that was supported by 65 civil society organizations from around the region.
- The outcome document was widely discussed during a session organized by ANND and the

"The organization of a direct dialogue between the institutions of the Arab League and representatives of local, national and regional representatives of civil society organizations in the Arab region with the participation of the United Nations, in order to discuss the mechanisms that lead to the formation of a framework of institutional dialogue, cooperation and partnership.

... we call upon the leaders and presidents meeting at the summit to do an invitation to a high-level meeting held one year later, and devoted to the social issue in Arab countries. Its recommendations should be submitted to the Third Economic and Social Summit held after two years and the following summits should stay committed to the balance between the social and economic dimensions.

Calling upon the Arab summit to turn national and international tendencies into a real national path that contains regional obligations regarding the common cases linked to MDGS, and that surpasses formalities.

Taking the brave decision to review the position of equality between men and women, women's empowerment and their active

participation in development, as an internal national and regional path and not as a response for foreign agendas."

Message from Civil Society Organizations To the Arab Economic and Social Summit in Sharm El-Sheikh (2011)



Al-Ahram Center for Journalism in (Cairo, 17 January 2011).

- The recommendations were raised to the Summit and to the civil society preparatory forum that was organized by the League of Arab States.
- Coming out of the Summit and the related ANND preparatory work was an inclination towards the need to undertake more work on issues related to (1) employment, labor rights, and labor movement in the region, and cooperation among Arab countries in this regards (2) corporate social responsibility, the role of the private sector, and private-public partnerships in major infrastructure and development projects that are decided upon in the Official Summit.

# B. SUPPORTING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE ARAB REGION

ANND perceives that in order to enhance the advocacy role of civil society organizations on public policy matters, it is primordial to support an enabling environment for civil society organizations and this requires a convenient legal framework as well as access to information and resources (financial and human). In this context ANND, in partnership with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) organized a series of activities on Freedom of Association as essential factors for CSO empowerment. This work came within a wider project designed to develop a strong and sustainable network of activists in seven target countries that can be mobilized to support (1) CSO framework law reform; (2) CSO capacity building, (3) improved implementation of CSO laws by local governments; and (4) successful public outreach



and advocacy in favor of freedom of association, it included:

- ANND organized with the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL) a Forum on Freedom of Association in the Arab Region (Beirut, 16–17 November 2011). The Forum brought together a group of prominent participants to review the obstacles facing CSOs and to discuss methods to overcome these challenges and ways to improve the enabling environment for civil society. The Forum also provided participants with the opportunity to discuss the role of CSOs following popular uprisings across the region.
- ANND and ICNL are developing in cooperation with Ms. Mervat Rishmawia Tool-kit on Freedom of Association (Laws, challenges and strategies) that is meant to be a resource manual, to provide practitioners with ideas and tools and contribute to the important debates and strategies on

freedom of association, in its connection with other rights like freedom of peaceful assembly, opinion and expression.

#### C. MOBILIZING CIVIL SOCIETY GROUPS AROUND INTERNATIONAL POLICY PROCESSES INCLUDING

ANND was active in 2011 in mobilizing civil society groups around the following global processes: the preparations for the UN conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20), the preparations for Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness and Follow-Up Process of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The preparations for the UN conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20)

ANND perceives Rio+20 process as a key moment to stress the fundamentals of sustainable development established through the international development processes led by the UN throughout

"Any consensus on the concept of the 'Green Economy' should fully integrate the previously established consensus on Sustainable Development."

"there is a need to re-establish the role of the state in sustainable development processes"

"Partnership arrangements or other implementation tools emerging from the Rio+20 process must integrate coherent and inclusive strategies that do not allow for "parallel" decision making structures".

Submission Presented by ANND as Contribution to the Zero Draft Document Rio+20

"The effectiveness of aid in the region is witnessing a historic shift and demand for a just alternative development; Review of international development approaches: aid at the service of the

democratization of development;

Adjusting aid to support democratic transitions, and not to limit the national policy space for economic and social policy-making and;

Mobilizing sources for development in developing countries and cooperation among them"

Key Demands Raised by a Number of Civil Society Groups from the Arab Region In the course of the Effectiveness of Aid



the nineties, at the core of which is a comprehensive understanding linking environmental, economic, and social policies. The efforts within this process included:

- Participation in the debates around Rio+20 process organized by the UN agencies in the Arab region.
- Organization of a regional preparatory meeting for civil society organizations (Beirut, 12-13 October, 2011 in collaboration with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), the Issam Fares Institute for Public Policy and International Affairs at the American University of Beirut, and the Mediterranean Information Office for Environment Culture and Sustainable Development.
- As a result of the discussion, ANND submitted a contribution to the discussion around the draft zero of the negotiating text of the Rio+20 Summit.
- ANND participated in the Arab ministerial meeting in preparation to Rio+20 Summit, which

was held at the league of Arab States.

### Preparation for the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness.

ANND have been engaged in Aid Effectiveness discussions since the second High Level Forum in Paris, followed by the Third High Level Forum in Ghana (2008), and lately the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Korea (2011).

- ANND participated in organizing two meetings within the context of the Open Forum for CSO Development Effectiveness<sup>7</sup>: Aid Effectiveness Workshop and Multi-Stakeholder Consultation for Lebanon (Beirut, 21- 22 June) and the MENA Regional Consultation on CSO Development Effectiveness (Beirut, 15 November).
- The outcome of the meetings was a statement including "Key Demand Raised by a Number of Civil Society Groups from the Arab Region In the course of the Effectiveness of Aid and Preparation for the Fourth High-Level Forum on



Aid Effectiveness was issued".

• ANND supported the participation of an Arab Non-Governmental delegation in Busan Global Civil Society Forum (BCSF) (26-28 November 2011) and in the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness (HLF4) (29 November-1 December 2011). The delegation pointed out the crucial moment in the Arab region, where demands of political reform are associated with questions about: the development model, social and economic policies and the role of international aid providers.

• ANND organized in collaboration with Oxfam International a side Event "The Arab Spring Ripple Effect will the waves reach Busan and beyond?" (30 November 2011).

## Follow-Up Process of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In 2011, ANND continued its efforts to follow up the MDG process and to mobilize the civil society around this process.

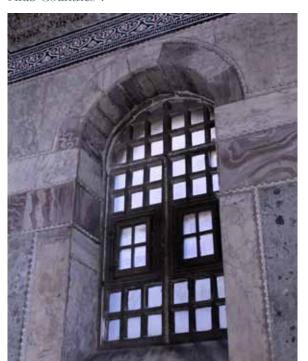
• ANND and UNDP are developing a guide on MDGs for parliamentarians aiming to contribute to the consolidation of the cooperation between parliamentarians and CSOs and activating their role in achieving the Millennium Development Goals. The guide provides information about mechanisms that should be followed by parliamentarians with regards to their different functions (legislation, oversight, representation and the budget). The guide includes some success stories for Arab parliaments to be shared with their counterparts in the region.

• To support the process of developing the guide, ANND organized an Experts Group Meeting and a Regional Seminar to get feedback on the contents and test its validity and relevance. Participants in the Experts Group Meeting emphasized the need for basic information to be presented in the guide in a clear form, including basic information of the Millennium Developments Goals, their state in the Arab region, and parliamentarians insisted on the need to include basic information about parliamentary processes of which some MPs are unaware.

• The Regional Seminar allowed for "testing" of the

guide through an exercise on planning for MDG implementation in legislation, oversight, budgeting and participation. The participants were also solicited to prepare presentations on best practices from their countries that will be included in the guide as case studies.

• In parallel, ANND organized in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia(ESCWA) and the Center of Arab Women Training and Research –(CAWTAR), a training for trainers (Beirut, 8-13 August 2011) on the use of the MDGs in the planning and development work. The training aimed to prepare participants from government institutions, international organizations, civil society and the media about the MDGs and the needed policies and programs for their achievement. It also aimed to enable participants to transfer their experiences to their institutions. The training included a plenary session for all the participants and parallel sessions on: planning for the MDGs, the work of civil society to achieve the MDGs, and the work of the media to achieve the MDGs. The training material is primarily based on a manual previously produced by the UNDP, ANND and CAWTAR and entitled "Working towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Arab Countries" produced by the UNDP, ANND and CAWTAR and entitled "Working towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in Arab Countries".





**ENHANCING** AVAILABILITY AND PRODUCTION OF INDIGENOUS RESOURCE MATERIAL AND RESEARCH RELATED TO OBJECTIVE THE ROLE OF CSOS IN THE ARAB REGION

To enhance the availability and production of indigenous material and research in the Arab region, ANND produced in 2011:

- A. List of 2011 Publications
- B. An e-archiving program/ database established and maintained
- C. ANND newsletters and website

#### A. LIST OF 2011 PUBLICATIONS

#### TITLE AND URL CONTENT Climate Change, Regional and This publication includes two papers: Global Issues. 1. Climate Change and the Role of ANND. 2011. Civil Society organizations in the Arab http://csr-dar.org/content/climate-Region. change-regional-and-global-issues 2. The Equitable Sharing of Atmospheric and Development Space. This paper consists of 5 chapters: Paper on Democracy in the Arab 1. Motives of external initiatives. سناه أبو شقرا region (Reprinted with a revised 2 Internal motives for reform. introduction). initiatives. Comparison Between International and Regional Initiatives. 3. Critical review of initiatives. 4. Obstacles to development. SanaaAbouChagra for ANND. Version 2, 2011. 5. Inter-Arab cooperation. http://www.annd.org/administrator/ بارية مقارنة بين البادرات الدولية والإقلي pubfile/Sanaa%20Arabic%20Book.pdf This paper consists of 3 chapters: A Paper on Civil Society Organizations and the 1. The crisis of the national state democratization dilemma in the and the emergence of civil society's role in backing initiatives to establish Arab World (Reprinted with a revised introduction) democracy. Salaheddine Al Jourshi for ANND. 2. The capacity of civil society to Version 2. 2011. address the issue of democracy. منظمات المجتمع المدني ومعذ التحول الديموقراطي في العالم الع http://www.annd.org/administrator/ 3. The performance of civil society in pubfile/Salah%20Arabic%20Book.pdf the reform initiatives: assessment and examples.

#### **TITLE AND URL**



### The Demands for New Development Models at the Center of the Peoples' Revolutions in the Arab Region.

Threats from Multilateral and Regional, Financial and Development Institutions.

Kinda Mohammadieh for ANND

http://www.annd.org/administrator/pubfile/New%20Development%20Eng.pdf

#### CONTENT

This paper consists of 3 chapters:

- 1. The Arab Economies and the Role of International Financial Institutions.
- 2. Overview of the Policy Advice and Orientation from Global Powers and Institutions to the 'Arab Spring'.
- 3. Threats to the Peoples' Revolutions.

#### **UPCOMING PUBLICATIONS**

### The following publications have been partially or totally developed in 2011, but are expected to be published in 2012:

- $\cdot$  Paper on Woman and Economic and Social Rights. Mona Ezzat for ANND.
- · Manual on monitoring social and Economic Rights. ANND.
- $\cdot$  Arab Watch report on social and economic rights. ANND.
- · Manual on Freedom of Association.

#### ANND and ICNL.

· Manual on MDGs and Parliamentarians.

ANND and UNDP.

- · Report on Integrity in Sectors. ANND and UNDP.
- The Role of Regulatory Frameworks in Benefiting from Trade in Services; Negotiating Domestic Regulations under GATS and Preserving the Right to Regulate. ANND.
- · Challenges of Negotiating Trade in Services with Major Trading Partners: the Case of Egypt and Jordan in their Negotiations with the EU.
- · Arab Countries Acceding to the WTO; Challenges under the GATS and Developmental Dimensions.

### B. AN E-ARCHIVING PROGRAM/ DATABASE ESTABLISHED AND MAINTAINED

With the aim of presenting the knowledge and resources resulting from this work to civil society stakeholders and other partners, ANND has initiated the Civil Society Resources for Development in the Arab Region (CSR-DAR). CSR-DAR is an online resource portal initiated by ANND with the purpose of making accessible a variety of resources on development issues in the Arab region that can be used as information tools for advocacy. It includes books, papers and articles, guides and methods, and other relevant resources that are produced by ANND, its members, and partners. It also contains some other relevant documents from official sources. In addition to being a disseminator of valuable information, CSR-DAR is also a platform where civil society organizations active in the Arab region or on

issues pertaining to the region can share their own news, events, and resources. The online database in its Beta form was released in October 2011, and work continues to enhance the availability of material and use of the tools provided on this platform.



http://csr-dar.org/

#### C. ANND NEWSLETTERS AND WEBSITE

- ANND produced 12 newsletters in 2011 that were disseminated to a list of 8000 members, partners and practitioners.

http://www.annd.org/newsletter.php

- Work continued in 2011 to enhance the availability of material and use of the tools provided on ANND website.

http://www.annd.org/index.php

### Financial Report Covering the Period from January 1, 2011 till December 31, 2011

Project: all Projects

Currency = US Dollar

### A- Incomes

INC	COMES ITEM	Received USD	
a- I	Brought forward	302,835.00	
b- From Funders			
	Ford foundation	134,990.00	
	Diakonia	665,720.00	
	Norwegian People Aid (NPA)	6,200.00	
	Christian Aid	32,000.00	
	The International Center for Non-for-Profit Law (ICNL)	94,340.00	
	Le Centre National de Coopération au Développement (CNCD-11.11.11)	39,470.00	
	Social Watch	21,530.00	
	UNDP - Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (POGAR)	35,034.00	
36	The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UN-ESCWA)	65,851.00	
-	Reality of Aid	8,180.00	
	CONCORD	2,687.00	
	Canadian Embassy	47,231.00	
	GCAP Global Foundation	25,600.00	
23	Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS)	17,220.00	
	Total incomes from Funders	1,196,053.00	
c- Membership fees		200.00	
d- (	Others	12,086.00	
Tota	1,511,174.00		

B- Expenses	
Budget Item	Paid USD
Administrative cost	138,124.00
Networking	56,751.00
Information & Communication	57,017.00
ANND projects and activities	885,048.00
Solidarity	4,331.00
Total expenses for the year 2011	1,141,271.00
Balance	369,903.00
The state of the s	