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Arab NGO Network for Development



ARAB NGO NETWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT

PROGRESS REPORT 2012

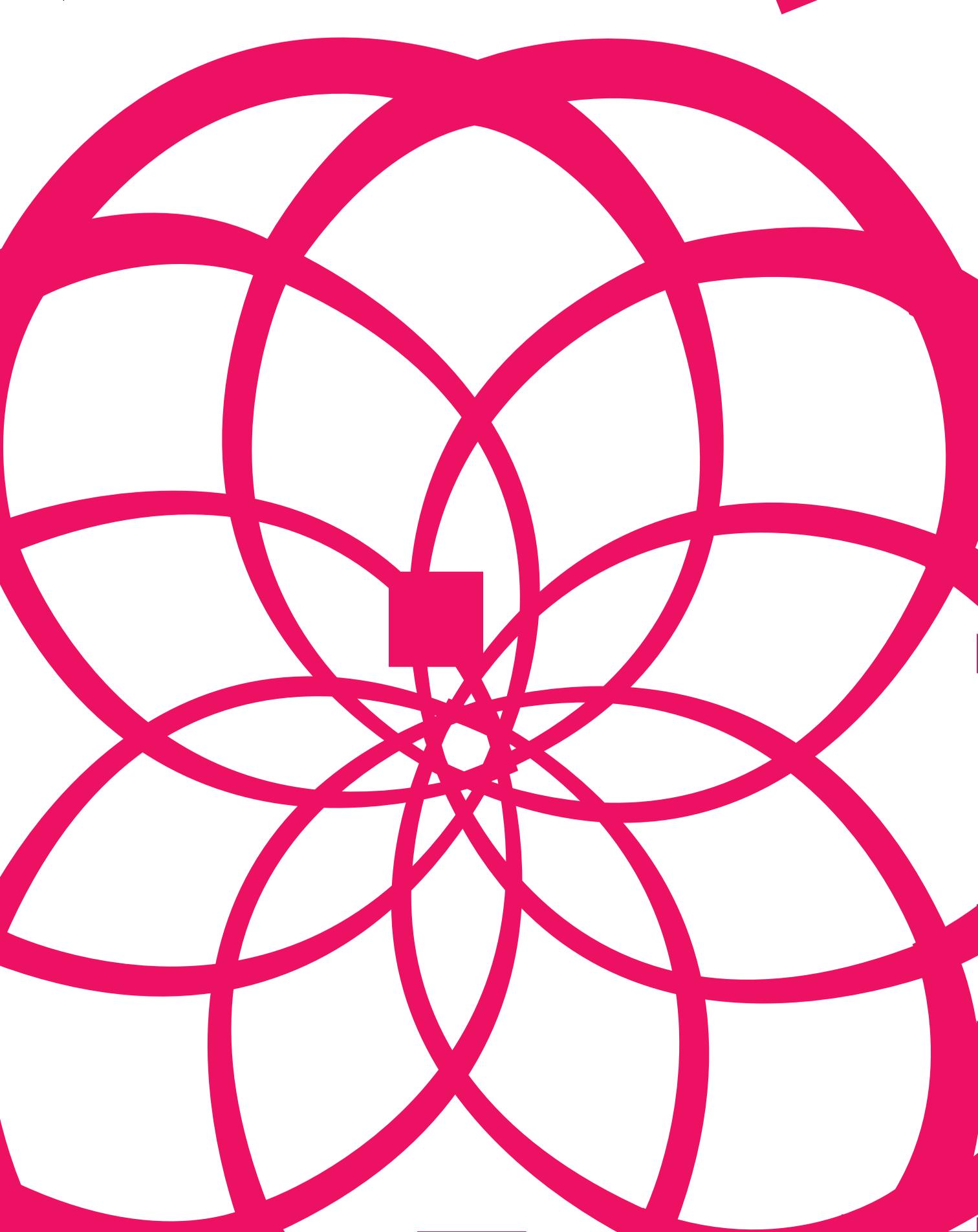




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ANND: A STEP FORWARD IN THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY

During the past years, the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) took steady and distinct steps to validate its vision, which was going through its most difficult trials one decade ago.

However, the events of the past two years, in particular, demonstrated the validity of ANND's credo, that no political freedoms or progress towards democracy will be possible in our Arab societies without freedom from poverty and want and achieve dignity for our peoples.

The popular Arab uprisings testified to the fact that the people's revolution will be to attain dignity, equality, and freedom from want and poverty. It showed that political and social stability in our countries will not come through bribing the people, but putting an end to tyranny and the appropriation of freedoms and wealth.

This is where the role of civil society becomes vital in creating change, but not just as a partner in establishing social movements, strengthening unions, or the increased activity of youth and protest movements. It is also a key ingredient in developing perception and visions for the desired democratic change.

In this context, strengthening the role of civil society becomes a key step, since it is set the third main pillar of the democracy transition triangle, by achieving comprehensive development in partnership with official institutions and the private sector.

Maintaining this role requires a fundamental evaluation of the situation of civil society organizations, their roles, and degree of presence.

ANND realized the importance of this step and the need to review the civil society track. Thus, it worked to adopt a new strategy and a serious reevaluation of its track in 2012, in collaboration with its partners and using strict objective and scientific methods.

The evaluation had a serious impact on the organizational level, regional roles, and creating a strategy, in line with the current developments witnessed by the organization. ANND's view, that these developments should be linked to the situation around us, was a major step in verifying that its view was correct.

I can say that ANND, in the past years, produced some distinctive work, which transformed it into a pioneering expert pool in economic and social rights, in international trade agreements, and in highlighting the rapid economic developments in the Arab World.

Through ANND, we can today provide a positive example of expanding work for Arab civil society, which aspires to play a pioneering role. As civil society, we cannot play a key and effective role without being a role model in administrative and institutional work and without having a forward-looking vision to meet the various challenges. We can confidently say that ANND was able to enhance this track in the past years and we are looking forward to the vital role it can play, with the racing developments in the region.

ANND's progress report shows the magnitude of this great effort in the past year, the evident regional role, and international presence, as a serious addition to a distinct march skillfully undertaken by civil society.

Ezzedine Al-Asbahi

ANND in the Eye of the Storm: Challenges and Tasks

The Arab region has moved away from the phase of uprisings against oppressive regimes, which had systematically denied their people from the most basic rights and freedom to live in dignity, security, and peace. Today witnesses an open conflict with some emerging forces which took power and were satisfied with current transformations and cosmetic reforms to existing political and economic relations.

On several occasions, the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) stressed the importance of continuing the mobilization until the establishment of a civil democratic state. People's aspirations will not materialize without the adoption of alternative choices on every level, which aim to guarantee the natural right to freedom from fear and want and the right to live in dignity. The desired state should have a political system based on a new contract between citizen and state, enshrined in a constitution governed by international human rights standards.

The past year unveiled attempts by emerging powers to uphold the authoritarian nature of the regime, hiding behind the cloak of religion in a traditional and conservative society and taking advantage of charity and aid to communities that suffer from poverty, marginalization, and misery. This was carried out through enforcing emergency measures, adopting exclusionary mechanisms in drafting the new constitutions, or proposing legislations that restrict the work of parties, civil society, unions, and the media.

The above indicators do not reflect sincerity in commitment to the actual demands of protesters since the beginning of the revolution. The adopted economic and social policies do not carry signs that those powers possess an alternative vision to confront the challenges of development or one that is based on new principles, after the failure of previous efforts to achieve them.

The conflict between these powers and wide segments of society, especially trade unions and the women's movement, is an outcome of disappointment, despite the short-lived experience. However, it is a further indication that the people are keeping up their struggle to achieve the goals for which they made great sacrifices.

In its regular collective meeting held in mid-2012, ANND adopted a new strategy, based on an evaluation carried out in coordination with its partners over a period of several months. The process resulted in various conclusions in terms of organization and program, which was incorporated into the new strategy.

The essential elements in the strategy were not altered much, especially in relation to the importance of activating civil society organizations in the fields of advocacy and protection of economic and social rights. It is an issue that should be based on a precise analysis of policies that lead to the violation of those rights.

The most important aspect of the new strategy is its emphasis on the intersectionality of political alternatives with the nature of international relations, whose aspects and repercussions have a great impact on the space available for devising national policies. Therefore, it encompassed a strategic vision on how to organize advocacy work on the regional level, especially with the League of Arab States, in addition to developmental and international processes, through follow-up with partner states and international institutions involved in the region.

The new feature of the strategy focuses on the need to give the national dimension greater importance, especially in the fields of empowerment and capacity building. The General Assembly thus recommended the development of links with various civil society components, especially workers and professional unions, old and new political parties, and women and youth groups.

The past year was full of notable activities that took into account the new components of ANND's strategy, in line with regional and international developments. [At the end of 2012], the network launched the Arab Watch Report on Economic and Social Right, whose first installment dealt with the right to work and the right to education.

ANND also organized visits for Arab delegates to the European Union and the United States, who carried clear messages expressing the views of civil society on the challenges facing their countries and the region in general in terms of challenges and adopted policies.

The network held several regional meetings on the relationship with Europe in light of transformations in Arab countries, the challenges of the new developmental



model, and the Arab Economic and Social Summit. It organized consultative meetings on trade in services and its challenges in the region. Coordinating with its partners, it also held several regional consultations on the impact of the launch of bilateral negotiations with the EU on the deep and comprehensive free trade agreements.

The above regional and international processes reached a consensus that developmental models adopted in the past years are in need of review. This involves the following main points. First is the role of the state, which needs to be developments, meaning that it should coordinate the planning and implementation process, and thus guarantee the rights of citizens. Second is the nature of comprehensive economic choices, forming the necessary infrastructure for a productive economy that contributes to increasing growth rates. Third are policies that can contribute to a fair distribution of revenue from growth through taxation policies, providing public services, and adopting a fair wage policy. Fourth is endorsing a comprehensive development approach,

which incorporates the various sectors. Finally, these strategic approaches should be adopted on the basis of national dialogue with the participation of all sides.

However, the most prominent qualitative development in ANND's activities during 2012 was the launch of a series of guides (to advise civil society leaders and the training of trainers), as a contribution to developing the capacities of member and partner organizations and their preparation for advocacy in the field of economic and social rights. The guides were followed by consultative meetings about their content and ability to contribute to capacity building.

The year 2012 was a year of important progress for ANND, which will be carried on in its 2013 program and activities. Until we meet next year, in the hope that the situation in the region would have become more stable.

Ziad Abdel Samad

WHO WE ARE

The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) is a regional network operating in twelve Arab countries with nine national NGO networks and 23 NGO members. ANND was founded 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 would 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 fostered.

Mission

ANND is an independent, democratic, civic organization that aims to strengthen civil society and enhance the values of democracy and respect of human rights and sustainable development in the Arab region. It works towards its aims through programs of advocacy and lobbying on regional and national policy-making in the area of economic and social policies and rights. ANND is committed to the principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, public liberties, respect of individual rights and dignity, 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.

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ANND conducted a process of assessment and evaluation of its programs and activities for the three past years. It also launched a process with the aim to rethink its strategic directions for the upcoming three Years (2013-2015). This was imperative due to the current complex regional and international developments and particularly because ANND's program cycle, which started in 2009, ends in 2012. The new strategic plan was approved by the General Assembly, in its meeting in Beirut on the 29th and 30th of May 2012. The main objective of the newly adopted plan is to intensify ANND's added-value interventions and to propose actions in response to the changes occurring in the Arab region.

The strategy took into account the recommendations issued by three evaluation and assessment processes and included in three reports: i) the first, conducted by an independent expert/evaluator based in the region in 2009; this report addressed the mechanisms of the ANND and its strategies, ii) the second conducted by an independent company based abroad in 2011. This report addressed the program implemented by ANND with the support of Diakonia ("The advocacy role of civil-society organizations in social and economic policy-making in the MENA region"). The program reflects the overall strategy of ANND iii) the third, prepared by an independent consultant in May 2012 who compiled the results of the two previous reports and included the views and suggestions of ANND members that were submitted to the executive office.

The three reports noted that while ANND is actively engaged in linking national and regional campaigns with international processes, there is a need for it to strengthen its role at the national and local levels. Accordingly, the new strategy addresses this challenge by:

- implementing capacity development activities on the national level, alongside its existing work on improving dialogue and networking within civil society organizations, mainly through:
- Enhancing working relationship with labor groups and emerging trade unions.
- Enhancing dialogue and communication with the political forces on issues of public policy while maintaining ANND's identity and independence.
- Strengthening contacts with parliaments in the countries of the region.
- Strengthening relationship with the private sector, universities and academic institutions.

The General Assembly has reconfirmed the commitment to the mission that ANND followed since the inception of its work, in terms of enhancing and strengthening civil society advocacy roles on social and economic public policies. Moreover, ANND reconfirmed its commitment

The General Assembly welcomed the new members from Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Yemen, Sudan and Mauritania

New ANND members in 2012

1. Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights (ECESR), Egypt
2. Association of Human Rights Lawyers, Jordan
3. Nahwa El Mouwatineya, Lebanon
4. Réseau Mauritanien Pour L'Action Sociale, Mauritania
5. Yemeni Observatory for Human Rights, Yemen

Membership accepted during ANND General Assembly (29-30 May 2012).



List of Coordinating Committee (CC) Members (2012), elected during ANND General Assembly (29-30 May 2012).

#	Country	Organization	Name
1	Bahrain	The Bahraini Transparency Society	Sharaf Al Moussawi
2	Egypt	The Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement	Magdi Abdel Hamid
3	Iraq	Iraqi Woman League	Aida Fawzi
4	Jordan	Jordanian Woman union	Amne El Zoghbi
5	Lebanon	NGOs Platform of Saida	Maged Hamatto
6	Lebanon	Coordination Forum of the NGO's Working Among the Palestine Community in Lebanon	Kassem Aina
7	Morocco	Espace Associatif	Aziz Rhali
8	Palestine	(PNGO (Palestinian NGO Network	Monjed Abou Jeish
9	Sudan	Sudanese Civic Forum	Hassan Abdel Ati
10	Tunisia	Association Tunisienne des Femmes Democratres	Wassila Al Ayashi
11	Yemen	Human Rights Training and Information Center	Ezzedine AL Asbahi

to continue to face the challenges of building a civil democratic State, based on the respect of human rights, rule of law, and sound constitutional, political and administrative institutions. This State ensures the peaceful succession of power based on democratic, transparent, fair and just electoral systems, protects the right to participation, guarantees the rights of workers

and unemployed and secures the rights of minorities and the vulnerable. The General Assembly acknowledged that achieving security and peace in the region is the starting point for achieving justice, promotion and protection of human rights and the development of the democratic structure as a whole.



THE ARAB WATCH REPORT ON SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS

Rationale and Objective:

Building on the experience of monitoring rights and policies in the region, ANND established a Watch Function in 2011. The aim of this watch function is to empower civil-society advocacy role in areas of social and economic policies and rights. The findings and recommendations of the watch function are materialized in the “Arab Watch Report”.

The report is issued every two years with a specific thematic focus. It serve as reference for civil society in, specifically for advocacy and campaigning purposes. The report aims at: i) Supporting the ongoing efforts to protect Social and Economic Rights in the Arab region, ii) Documenting the experiences and the positions taken by development and Human Rights organizations in the region and iii) Providing a critical overview and proposing frameworks for alternative economic and social policies in the Arab region.

The focus of the report is on the national, regional and international policies that lead to the violation of rights.

Progress in 2012:

The first Arab Watch report on Social and Economic Rights was the culmination of two years’ preparations. The first report was launched in October 2012. It included 4 thematic papers, The Neo-Patrimonial Systems, The Role of the State, Social and Economic Rights for Women in Tunisia and Egypt, And Social and Economic Rights for Disabled Persons. The Report included twenty national reports focusing on “the right to work” and “the right to education” in ten Arab countries: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, Sudan, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan and Iraq.

At the National level

The national reports were prepared by local CSOs and experts. They were then discussed during national consultation meetings held in 2012 in Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia.

“The added value of the report lies in the fact that it shines into the imbalances in the economic and social models at the national and international levels by focusing on policies implemented on the daily lives of citizens. Since the paradigm on international level to address the challenges of development stems from the dominant global development thinking while the Arab Spring and the subsequent protests in the United States and Europe clearly indicate the need for an alternative model based on a different paradigm entitled to respond to the growing challenges of inequalities reflected by the increase of unemployment, poverty and marginalization”. Ziad Abdel Samad - Arab NGO Network for Development-Lebanon



At the Regional level

A regional consultation meeting was held in Beirut in February 2013. Fifty participants representing civil society organizations, partners and ANND members attended the meeting. In addition, a number of experts and representatives of research centers and international organizations active in the field of economic and social development were present at the meeting. The participants significantly contributed to the development and enrichment of the report.

The launching of the Arab Watch Report on Social and Economic Rights took place during a regional workshop held in Beirut on the 9th and 10th of October, 2012. The

workshop brought together participants representing government agencies, CSOs, media correspondents and representatives of international organizations. During the workshop, the main findings and recommendations were presented and discussed with the aim to enhance the advocacy activities in the region and to contribute to the preparations of the Arab Social and Economic Summit.

The full report is available in Arabic on <http://www.annd.org/arabic/data/publications/pdf/39.pdf>. The introductory sections and the executive summary of the main findings of the report are available in English on: <http://annd.org/english/data/publications/pdf/27.pdf>



DEVELOPING CSOS CAPACITIES FOR MONITORING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC POLICIES



Rationale and Objective:

ANND considers monitoring social and economic rights as a strategic priority. Accordingly, it has developed a Manual entitled “Questioning Policies: A Guidebook for Enhancing Economic, Social and Cultural Rights”.

The manual was designed to serve as a working document for practitioners and a learning material in the field of economic and social rights. It is a useful tool that will assist CSOs in monitoring and advocating for economic and social policies with a human rights-based approach. The manual seeks to highlight the crucial role that CSOs should play in the promotion and protection of economic and social rights. It documents case studies from the region showing the effective engagement of CSOs in monitoring economic and social policies and rights.

Progress in 2012:

The manual was finalized and reviewed by eminent experts in areas of development and human rights. It was then discussed and validated during the Advanced Training on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights held in Beirut (Check the “At the Regional level” below).

At the National level

The manual documented nine case studies from

Egypt, Palestine, Morocco, and Lebanon, in addition to regional and international experiences of NGOs effectively engaged in monitoring economic and social policies and rights.

ANND is planning to implement capacity development workshops in various countries in the region in order to promote the manual and to establish national groups of trainers and experts.

At the Regional level

ANND organized advanced training sessions in Beirut between the 5th and 8th of December, 2012 which targeted human rights defenders and CSOs, under the title of “Advanced Training on Social, Economic and Cultural Rights”. The aim of the training sessions was to enhance the work of the participants in monitoring economic and social policies and rights and to provide the space for the exchange of experiences and ideas in the area of economic and social rights.

The session was an opportunity to highlight the link between public policies and human rights, as well as to monitor approaches and channels for economic and social policies and rights.

The manual can be found in Arabic on: <http://www.annd.org/arabic/data/publications/pdf/45.pdf>

MONITORING SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RIGHTS FROM A GENDER PERSPECTIVE

Rationale and Objective:

ANND asserts that there is a need to rethink the development paradigm and to propose alternatives. It is therefore looking forward to a better understanding of the impact of social and economic policies on women. It is also aiming to advocate for policies focusing on reducing inequalities between men and women on the national and international levels.

Progress in 2012:

Within this objective, ANND produced in 2012 a documentary that was issued in 2012 under the title of “No revolution without Equality and Women’s Rights”. The documentary aimed at presenting the opinions of a number of women activists from different Arab countries on issues related to rights and the future development prospect for the region and the role of women’s movement in developing the socio-economic vision on both national and regional levels. The documentary was prepared by the initiative of the Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) with the generous donation received from Ms. Sylvia Borren, winner of the 2011 Peace Prize of the Soroptimist

International of Europe, obtained in 2011, in addition to the support of the Global Call to Action Against Poverty (GCAAP).

Moreover, ANND published a booklet including texts on “Women Rights and Social and Economic Equality in the Arab Region”. The booklet included: i) a paper discussing the need to put women rights at the center of rethinking the development paradigm in the Arab region, ii) Economic Empowerment of Women in the Arab Region, iii) Social and Economic Rights for Women in Egypt and iv) Social and Economic Rights for Women in Tunisia.

Furthermore, ANND organized a regional workshop on “Reforming Social and Economic Policies in the Arab Region: the Role of Women’s Movements”. The workshop took place in Beirut on the 8th of October 2012. It provided a platform to deepen the discussions on the role of women’s movement in advocating for gender sensitive policies and to suggest possible joint action (research, advocacy, and networking) to widen those discussions.





UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Rationale and Objective:

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR) is a human rights monitoring and review mechanism established by the UN General Assembly. It is a cooperative mechanism which allows the participation of all relevant stakeholders in the process (including: regional intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), civil society representatives, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), human rights defenders,

academic institutions and research institutes). ANND was involved in this process since its conception.

ANND perceives that the added value of this engagement extends beyond the preparation and development of the report collectively to enhance networking among the various actors. Indeed, such engagement can contribute to enhancing the role of CSOs in monitoring and evaluating rights conditions, and advocating for

We welcome the recommendations made by the Working Group members calling for major policy reforms but regret that the realities of human rights conditions in Bahrain were not reviewed in depth.-
Bahrain Press release aftermath of the WG Session

In addition to intensification of use of military force, the reaction of Syrian government shows no serious commitment to implement political rights and to reform social and economic policies in line with international human rights standards. **Oral Statement on Syria**

The violation of international humanitarian and human rights law and the continuous violation of related legal obligations by Israel as the occupying power are the core reasons of human rights abuses and persistent suffering that the Palestinian people is facing today. **Joint Submission for Israel**

related public policy making, and levels of governmental accountability.

Progress in 2012:

During 2012, ANND pursued the active engagement with the periodical examination of the human rights performance, the Universal Periodic Review.

ANND's input in the process encompassed:

- A follow-up of the previous submissions through advocacy at United Nations level Working Group sessions for Bahrain and Tunisia.
- A national coordination around midterm reporting on recommendations accepted and refused by Egypt and Lebanon.
- An oral statement during the Human Rights Council plenary session that included adoption of the Working Group Report of Syria.
- A joint submission tackling the violations of the economic and social rights that Israel is committing

At the national level

In Lebanon and Egypt, ANND, together with the national group signatory of the joint submissions, coordinated on the midterm reporting for the accepted and rejected recommendations.

The report on Egypt was finalized and sent to HRC member states; the report's findings and relevant recommendations will be used by the groups for national level advocacy.

As for Lebanon, coordination meetings were held and the groups agreed on a work plan whereby separate groups will work on specific economic and social rights and collect information and data to contribute to the Midterm Report. This will cover:

- a. The progress on the implementation of the accepted recommendations
- b. The assessment of human rights conditions in Lebanon in relation to rejected recommendations
- c. Civil society recommendations with regard to economic and social rights in Lebanon

At the international level

ANND was present, as part of the Working Group, at the official revisions for Bahrain and Tunisia (May 21st and May 22nd). ANND and its members co-organized a side event with CIVICUS focusing on human rights conditions in both countries on May 23rd. Furthermore, the ANND Delegation present in Geneva organized advocacy meetings with the President of the Human Rights Council and the MENA Chief in OHCHR to raise concerns on human rights conditions.



ANND was an active member in the plenary session on Syria during which the Working Group Report for Syria was adopted. The ANND delegate delivered an oral statement on the human rights conditions in Syria. ANND contributed as well to the Syria side event that was co-organized with the International Federation of Human Rights (FIDH), Cairo Institute for Human Rights, Human Rights Watch, CIVICUS and the Euromed Human Rights Network.

ANND together with "Mossawa" (The Advocacy Center for Arab Citizens in Israel) presented a joint submission on the economic and social rights conditions in Israel, highlighting the violations committed by the state of Israel. The report recalled that the major challenge facing the development efforts of the Palestinian society is the Israeli occupation, particularly the separation wall, the extended settlement process and the continued aggressive strikes targeting civilians.



ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT POLICIES

Rationale and Objective:

ANND perceives that earning the benefits of the integration in the world economy depends on the terms and conditions in which that integration takes place. Accordingly, “one of the main challenges that the Arab countries are facing in any prospective development process is how to design trade policy to be supportive and conducive to development policy space”. Within this context, ANND has been endeavoring to highlight the importance of the trade agreements and providing local CSOs with necessary tools to advocate for trade and investment relations that are in full compliance with human rights and in support of sustainable development. Progress in 2012:

In late 2011, The EU Foreign Affairs Council authorized the opening of trade negotiations with Egypt, Jordan Morocco and Tunisia in order to establish Deep on Comprehensive Free Trade Areas (DCFTAs). The DCFTAs will go beyond merely removing tariffs to cover all regulatory issues relevant to trade, such as investment protection and public procurement

From ANND perspective, this necessitates the enhancement of civil society participation and monitoring the processes in order to secure that human rights are at the core of the trade agreements and that these agreements will improve the enabling environments for sustainable development.

Accordingly, ANND implemented the following activities focusing on trade:

At the national level

- **National Workshop in Egypt (10-11 September 2012):** In the purpose of organizing capacity-building support to national civil society organizations, a workshop was held in Egypt on the 10th and 11th of September, 2012 in cooperation with the Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights, the Egyptian Association for Collective Rights, Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement, the New Woman Foundation, Housing and Land Rights Network and the Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights. The meeting contributed to enhance the knowledge about trade and investment policies and their development impact and gathered a workgroup interested in following these topics and having joint action in Egypt. The discussion highlighted the correlation between trade liberalization policies and development goals, including the building of national productive capacities and employment creation. The workshop involved a variety of CSOs including farmer groups, workers unions and youth movements.
- **National Workshop in Tunisia (17 December 2012):** For the same purpose, another workshop was held in Tunisia on December 17, 2012 in cooperation with the General Union of Tunisian Labors, The Tunisian General Labour Union, the Tunisian Association of Democratic Women and the Association for Democracy and Development

Research. It was arranged as a seminar entitled “Trade and investment relations between Tunisia and the EU and their impacts on development and rights”. The seminar discussed the orientations in light of the political declaration to grant Tunisia an “advanced status” within the EU and expand the trade and investment relations through the negotiation of trade in services, investor protection, competition law and public procurement, all of which may have deep economic, development and human rights dimensions. Thus, these issues should be publicly and openly debated as an important component of rethinking the development paradigm and reviewing economic policies in Tunisia.

At the regional level

- **Regional Study Week on Trade and Investment policies Geneva (9-14 December 2012):** in partnership with the South Center and the Third World Network. This event stems from ANND’s perception that there is a need to support the capacities of young policy researchers and activists on addressing policy issues of macro-economic policies, trade, investment and development policies. During the course of one week, the participants were given detailed presentations and received several substantial material on issues related to the Free Trade Agreements and bilateral investment treaties, legal enforcement mechanisms and implications of investor-state disputes, overview of the global trading system and managing international integration in trade, investment and finance.

At the international level

ANND has undergone an active preparation for the thirteenth ministerial meeting of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD XIII) held in Qatar between April 21st and 26th, 2012. In parallel to the ministerial meeting, a parallel Civil Society forum was held, in which several regional and international NGO networks were present. ANND was represented in the civil society preparatory committee to the conference, which worked closely with UNCTAD and designed the civil society parallel forum. The Committee played a central role in bringing together a civil society declaration that engaged with the main themes of the conference. Moreover, ANND organized two side events in the Civil Society policy discussion forum and contributed to the civil society statement and press releases.

- **The first side-event that ANND organized was in the form of an interactive discussion of CSOs**

focusing on the main principles and policy alternatives discussed as part of a renewed societal contract in Arab countries, the main functions of the developmental state that ought to be pursued, economic and social issues that CSOs are working on, women’s economic and social rights, and perspectives on inter-Arab cooperation, the new emerging political groups’ approaches to economic and social policies and the role of UNCTAD in the Arab region.

- **The second side-event was entitled “Right to Development in the Arab Region; Rethinking Trade and Investment Policies for an Alternative Development Model”** in which the participants discussed the challenges that the new democratically elected governments in Arab countries are witnessing in redesigning trade and investment policy frameworks in support of development processes.

Another contribution in the trade arena is ANND’s joint work with Mr. Hatem Abdel Kader to release a new policy analysis paper on rethinking investment policies by Arab countries to support a renewed development model. This paper will soon be released and includes the following: The role of foreign direct Investment in development, Challenges of investment policy framework, Development and FDI in the Arab world, Investment arbitration clauses in the Arab world, Economic growth, investment and development after the Arab spring (Egypt and Tunisia), conclusions and recommendations.

ANND’s objective to foster constructive discussions among concerned stakeholders from governmental, private, academic and civil society circles on development processes, trade policies and human rights, it produced a publication entitled “The services sectors, trade policy, and the challenges of development in the Arab region” in 2012. The publication is divided into two books:

Book (1) includes two papers on “Challenges of Services Liberalization in the multilateral and Regional Contexts: The Case of the Arab Countries” and “Domestic Regulations and their importance for trade in Service: The case of Arab Countries”

Book (2) includes three papers on “Challenges of negotiating Trade in Services with major Trading partners: The Case of Egypt’s Negotiations with the EU”, “Arab Countries Acceding to the WTO; Challenges under the GATS and Developmental Dimensions” and “Yemen’s Accession to the WTO; Challenges of the Services Sector”.

The publication is made available online on www.annd.org and was distributed during the UNCTAD XIII.

MONITORING INTERNATIONAL POLICIES TOWARDS THE ARAB REGION

Rationale and Objective:

The changes that are currently taking place in the Arab countries have their implications on the priorities and agendas of the partners, including the European Union and the United States. The European Union expressed its position and response to these changes issuing multiple joint communications during the year 2011 and 2012.

ANND reacted to these communications and engaged with different concerned institutions in order to bring and explain a civil society perspective from the region on the EU policies as well as other important actors such as the US.

Progress in 2012:

ANND organized advocacy visits to the EU and US for delegations of CSOs active in the struggle for

transition processes in their countries. The aim was to create an opportunity to deepen the discussions on the expectations and demands from the EU and US, with special attention given to the support of the developmental efforts. These initiatives aimed at attaining collective understanding and elaborating propositions from civil society perspective to be raised with the policy-makers in the EU and US.

Regional workshop on Euro-Arab Relations

The Arab region is going through a period of transition. This necessitates the adoption of a new social contract between the citizen and the state, which induces a re-thinking of priorities and approaches in the cooperation and partnerships with the European Union.

Accordingly, ANND co-organized a forum on the European-Arab Relations in Beirut in June 2012. The forum was an opportunity to discuss and suggest the demands and propositions from a civil society perspective. It tackled the ways of cooperation and consultation in addition to the priority policy areas.

Reaction to the EU trade and investment policies:

ANND engaged with the EU on its trade and investment policies whereby it was monitoring and reacting respectively on policies, positions or events. Following are the activities led by ANND in this regard:

ANND, together with forty two CSOs from the Arab

ANND Members monitoring IFIs in their respective countries

Representatives of CSOs and political parties in Egypt, including the Egyptian Initiative for Personal rights, have addressed a letter to Dr. Hisham Qandil, Prime Minister of Egypt, and Ms. Christine Lagarde, the Managing Director in the IMF, to express their concerns about the proposed International Monetary Fund (IMF) loan to Egypt that is currently under negotiation. They highlighted their rejection to the loan negotiations based on many premises.

- The lack of transparency on the part of both the IMF and the Government of Egypt.
- The negotiations that continued to take place in the absence of an elected parliament and with the president of Egypt holding full legislative authority.
- The signatories stated that “any agreement under these circumstances would contravene the democratic principle of separation of powers and Egypt’s longstanding constitutional requirement of parliamentary oversight over executive decisions”. They also indicated that the carried-out public consultations by the government do not fully represent Egypt’s civil society and political groups since the feedback on the consultations was inaccessible
- The non-clarity on the part of the government, about how the loan will contribute to a national economic plan of inclusive growth and social justice that addresses the structural problems of the Egyptian economy and will meet the needs of the Egyptian people.



region and twenty five European NGOs, prepared and sent letters concerning the EU trade and investment strategy for the Southern Mediterranean to each of the relevant EU institutions and parliamentary committees including the Committee on Human Rights, Foreign Affairs, Development and Trade. The letter asked the EU to support the partners in the South to achieve their constitutional institutions building and to conduct national consultations involving the citizens before launching the negotiations.

ANND received numerous responses, mainly from the Vice-chair of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe, the offices of the EU Representative for Foreign Policy, the European Commissioner for Enlargement and other relevant bureaus at the European level. This opened further channels of dialogue between civil society and EU policy-makers.

The letter was followed by an advocacy visit by a delegation from ANND members to the Directorate General of Development and the Directorate General of enlargement as well as relevant European Parliamentarians. Moreover, the delegation participated in a hearing organized by the Green Party in May 2012 at the EU Parliament on the EU policy coherence.

ANND prepared a letter commenting on the Technical Assessment Reports of Egypt and Tunisia on February 29th, 2012 which was addressed to EBRD officials. The presidency office of the EBRD replied to the letter

clarifying and justifying several points raised in the letter.

- ANND contributed to an online public consultation on the Issues Paper on Social Protection in EU Development Cooperation.
- ANND co-organized with Bankwatch an advocacy visit to the EBRD. The delegation met with staff members and directors of a number of countries (Finland, Canada, Germany, France, and UK). The delegation raised the main concerns from civil society perspective.

EU advocacy visit

ANND organized a delegation of members and partners from seven Arab countries, in cooperation with EuroStep and CNCD- 11.11.11. The delegation visited the European institutions in Brussels to raise several policy issues and recommendations considered as priorities to enhance policy coherence within the cooperation and partnership between the EU and Arab countries.

The core message of the delegation was the need to address policy coherence within the economic relations – namely trade and investment – between the EU and Arab countries, as well as to highlight the partnership and development objectives.

The visit included the following events:

- A one-day forum entitled “Dialogue on Policies of Cooperation and Partnership between European

and Arab countries; Enhancing Policy Coherence within the Partnership”. It involved thirty participants representing CSOs from different European countries.

- A hearing in the European Parliament organized by the European Parliament Delegations of Maghreb and Mashreq. This meeting attracted more than one hundred participants from parliamentarians, the European Commission, diplomatic delegations and CSOs.
- A full day dedicated for capacity development and strategy sessions around the advocacy strategies targeting the EBRD and EIB.
- Bilateral meetings with different institutions took place during the visit. This included meetings on trade policies with the lead negotiators responsible for relations with Arab countries at the EU Trade Commission, as well as with members of parliaments of the International Trade Committee of the European Parliament.

Advocacy visit to the United States (14th -18th of May 2012)

A delegation from twelve civil society representatives from the Arab countries (Iraq, Yemen, Tunisia, Morocco, Bahrain, Palestine, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Sudan) was assembled to visit Washington DC to meet with representatives from civil society groups, academics

working on Middle Eastern studies, representatives of think tanks, Congresspersons, State Department staff, the World Bank and International Monetary Fund staff working on issues in the Arab region.

The visit aimed at reflecting the positions and perspectives of CSOs from the Arab region on major policy issues within the frame of US-Arab relations and US foreign policy towards the region. The twelve representatives of the delegation sought as well to enhance the spaces for discussion and dialogue between CSOs from the Arab region and civic stakeholders and policy-makers from the United States.

The main messages of the delegation focused on 1) recognizing the Palestinian rights to democratic and development processes and self-determination 2) rebuilding the credibility of US foreign policy by expanding dialogue with various stakeholders 3) rethinking trade and investment relations 4) remodeling US development assistance and 5) rethinking debt of Arab countries to the United States.

During its visit, the delegation participated in public events, including a discussion session in the American University, a press conference in the National Press Club. ANND recruited a media specialist to increase the media coverage of this important visit which has successfully been covered by a number of TV channels, radio stations and newspapers.



THE ARAB SUMMIT ON ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT



Rationale and Objective:

ANND considers the process of the Arab Summit for Economic and Social Development organized by the League of Arab States an important channel of influence for CSOs in the Arab region. Two previous summits were organized respectively in Kuwait in 2009 and in Sharm EL Sheikh in 2011. ANND focused in 2012 on raising civil society propositions to the Third Arab Economic and Social Summit. ANND considers the summit to be of great importance given the current situation in the Arab region. For the latest developments in the countries of transition proved that changes should not be limited to the nature of the state but should also include the macro-economic and micro-economic choices and their impact on economic, social and cultural rights of citizens.

Progress in 2012

The third Arab Summit on Economic and Social Development was held on January 21st and 22nd, 2013, in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia.

ANND organized a CSO regional consultation meeting in Beirut on January 7th and 8th, 2013 for the preparation of a joint statement to be raised to the summit. More than eighty participants discussed the challenges in the region and the main topics on the agenda of the Summit. They expressed their interests in adopting a new pattern based on productive economy, generating decent and sustainable jobs, reforming tax systems towards securing a fair redistribution and strengthening

the pan-Arab economic relations as well as with the countries of the global South.

The regional meeting resulted in a detailed outcome document (declaration) clarifying the main asks of CSOs including the reform of the League of the Arab States, improving civil society engagement. The declaration tackled the post-2015 agenda and the need to adopt new socio-economic and trade policies. The declaration highlighted the need to enhance private sector role in development; however, it stressed on the necessity to define and clarify the characteristics of this role.

ANND reacted on the declaration issued after the Arab Summit on Economic and Social Development. It criticized the exclusion of civil society from the participation in the summit. It also criticized the outcomes of the summit since the leaders did not address the challenges deriving from the turmoil that the region is witnessing. The Arab leaders attending the summit discussed a traditional agenda, and by that neglected the radical changes in the region. The outcome document of the Summit reflected the absence of a serious discussion on the need to reform the regional institutions for a better cooperation and did not expose new economic and social policies to address the developmental challenges.

The outcome document of the CSO meeting, the Arab Summit and ANND's reaction statement on the latter can be found on: <http://annd.org/english/programStatements.php?programId=2>



DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS AGENDA

Rationale and Objective:

ANND has been engaged in the process of aid effectiveness since the second High Level Forum held in Paris (2005). It was involved in the preparatory process of the Third High Level Forum in Ghana (2008) and in the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness in Korea (2011). ANND participated in the CSO discussions around aid effectiveness agenda by actively engaging with Better Aid Open Forum. Recently, ANND took part in the new platform created by CSOs for Development Effectiveness which reflects its serious contributions in coordinating the regional efforts.

Progress in 2012

ANND organized a Consultative Meeting for the Arab CSOs On the “The CSOs Partnership for Development Effectiveness” in the post Busan period on July 12 and 13, 2012 in Beirut. CSOs from the region (Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Syria, Lebanon, Palestine, Jordan, Kuwait, Bahrain and Yemen) attended the meeting at the national level. Moreover, representatives from different sectors such as human rights, women, youth, transparency, and environmental and religious organizations at the regional level were present. (See list of participants).

The meeting was one of several meetings that were organized in various regions of the world in June and July of 2012, such as Asia, Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Arab region. The aim was to partake in the consultative founding of the global platform for further approval, disapproval or engagement – hence, to enhance civil society development issues and concerns.

ANND, in coordination with the Open Forum, afterwards organized a regional capacity building workshop in Erbil/Iraq on CSO effectiveness. The workshop focused on the training manuals on CSO effectiveness in general and the enabling environment and managerial skills in particular. In addition to the aforementioned meetings, ANND published a brochure about the process of Aid Effectiveness, entitled: “Getting to know the “Aid Effectiveness Process”. It included an introduction to the aid effectiveness process, key milestones through which the concept was developed, main principles that define the concept, challenges that face the implementation of aid effectiveness, with a highlight on the context of the Arab region and the role of civil society.

The brochure can be found on: <http://annd.org/english/data/publications/pdf/25.pdf>

CAPACITY-BUILDING SYRIAN CIVIL SOCIETY

Rationale and Objective:

Violence in Syria has escalated throughout 2012. During this period, new associations emerged with an attempt to respond to the urgent needs arising inside and outside Syria. They are aiming at providing assistance to the vulnerable and victims of the violent actions and working with the refugees and the IDPs. These newly-established associations could be the core of the Syrian Civil Society in the future and their contribution to peace and institutional building would be essential. Consequently, ANND is committed to contribute to the empowerment and development of Syrian Civil Society expertise.

ANND believes that the role of the Syrian civil society – if provided the necessary support, means and tools – can effectively contribute to end the violence and enhance a national dialogue leading to a political solution to the crisis. ANND also believes that civil society in Syria can play an important role in national reconciliation as well as building and sustaining peace during and after the crisis.

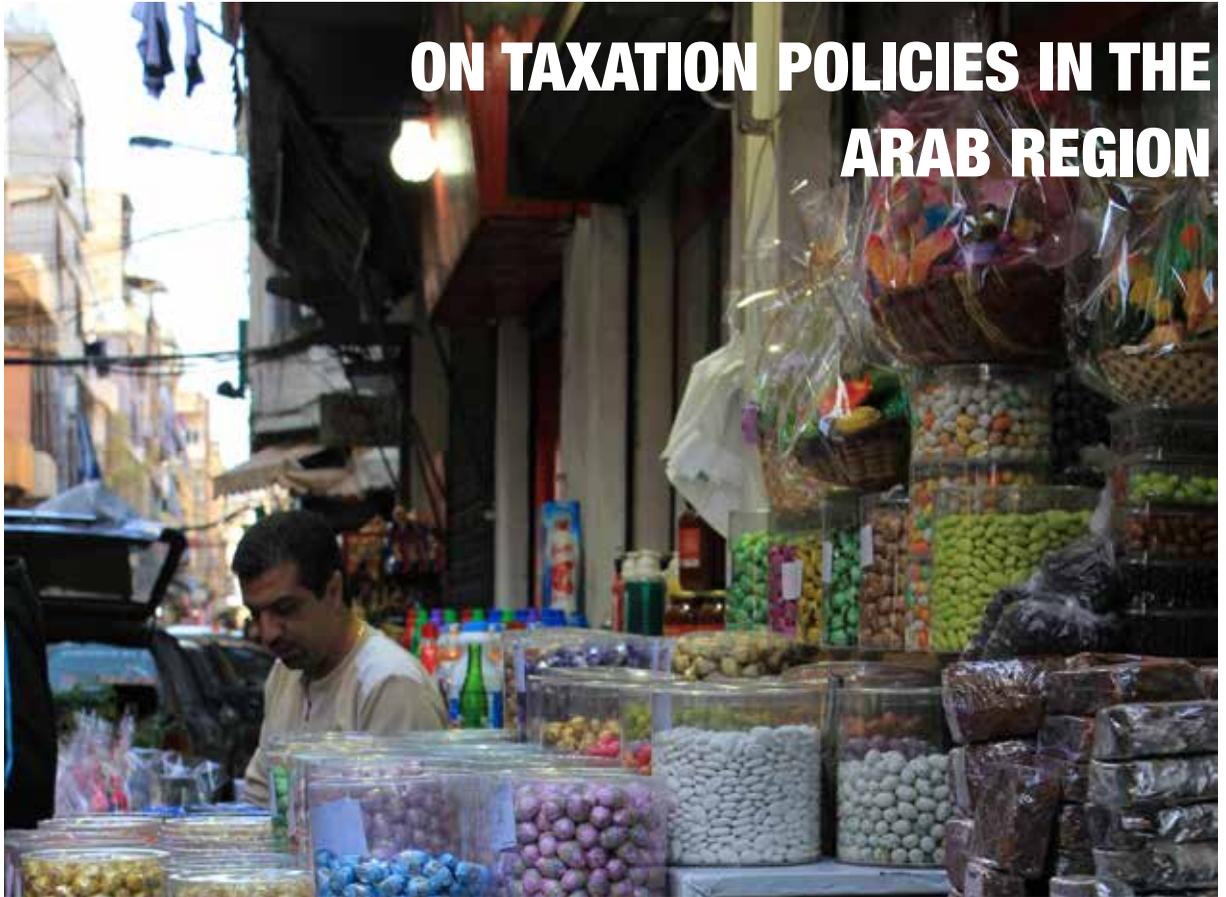
Progress in 2012

ANND launched a program that includes a series of workshops aiming to empower civil society in Syria. The program was designed in close coordination with a group of Syrian actors. They, along with civil society experts from the region, informed the process of needs and priorities identification. Around thirty persons were selected from different regions, with various political and social backgrounds; the participants included CSOs representatives and independent active actors.

ANND, in partnership with the Norwegian's Peoples Aid (NPA), organized two workshops in Beirut. Both workshops focused on the principles of human rights, international mechanisms and tools for documentation and reporting violations. Participants covering all the geographical areas were also invited to tackle the political dimension of the conflict as well as the humanitarian relief and networking.

The capacity development efforts will be pursued in 2013, with a focus on human rights mechanisms, managerial and institutional skills, basics of peacemaking, conflict resolution and mediation.





ON TAXATION POLICIES IN THE ARAB REGION

Rationale and Objectives:

Some countries (such as Tunisia and Egypt) achieved economic growth, while other indicators such as inequity, poverty and unemployment were not improving. This shows that the link between economic growth and development is not systematic. This is mainly due to social and economic policy choices that failed to meet the developmental goals and to attain justice. The participation of citizens at different levels, including political, economic, social and cultural, is an entry point for justice. Other policies, particularly tax policies, public services and wages are strong tools for the redistribution of wealth, addressing inequality and poverty – which are all at the core of building government accountability.

ANND perceived the critical role of tax in achieving development and justice. Accordingly, it engaged in monitoring and advocating for fair and effective tax policies.

Progress in 2012

In 2012, ANND prepared a paper entitled “Regional

Taxation System”. The paper studied the essential category of social justice system in the Arab countries with a special focus on the taxation system. Taxation is considered one of the pillars of the national economy since it provides a financial asset for the government to use in delivering services for the citizens.

The main objective of the paper is to strengthen the voice of a group of local and regional CSOs to advocate for an alternative, fair and effective tax system. This paper covered four countries in the Arab region: Morocco, Palestine, Lebanon and Jordan. It addressed the different types of tax systems, the justifications, the challenges facing tax systems and their implications on social and economic rights in each of the aforementioned countries. Finally, the paper concluded policy recommendations. The study can be used as a sound tool for partners and civil society actors to design advocacy campaigns at the local level.

ANND’s work on tax policies and systems will continue in 2013. It will expand to reach other countries in the region.

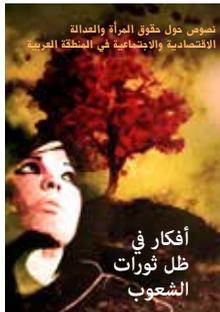
Enhancing availability and production of indigenous resource material and research related to the role of CSOs in the Arab region

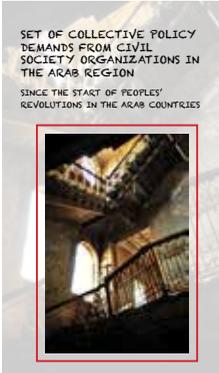
To enhance the availability and production of indigenous material and research in the Arab region, ANND produced in 2012:

- A. List of 2012 Publications
- B. An e-archiving program/ database established and maintained
- C. ANND newsletters and website

a. List of 2012 Publications

TITLE AND URL	CONTENT
 <p>Fundamentals of the European Investment Bank and its Role in Southern Mediterranean Arab Countries: an introduction for civil society organizations Language: Available in Arabic and English Copy: Hard and Electronic copies available</p>	<p>This brochure gives a general overview on EIB, its structure and to whom it is accountable, the EIB involvement in the region, and what are the financing instruments that are being used by the EIB in the region. It includes a table of the sectoral breakdown of EIB operations in MENA and present a case study: "The Giza Electricity Project- the missing developmental aspects"</p>
 <p>Fundamentals of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and its Role in Southern Mediterranean Arab Countries: introduction for civil society organizations Language: Available in Arabic and English Copy: Hard and Electronic copies available</p>	<p>This brochure gives a general overview on the EBRD, when it was founded, how it is governed, how and where it is involved in the Arab region, Moreover it includes a table of EBRD documents that should be followed and addresses of review positions by civil society groups.</p>
 <p>MDGs Parliamentarians Manual Language: Available in Arabic Copy: Hard and Electronic copies available</p>	<p>This guide provides information on the Millennium development goals and realities in the Arab world, in addition to some mechanisms that parliaments can use to play an active role in legislation, oversight and representation and balance. This guide also includes some success stories of Arab parliaments.</p>

	TITLE AND URL	CONTENT
	<p>Study on the importance of integrating economic, social and cultural rights in the constitutions (paper 4) Language: Available in Arabic Copy: Hard and Electronic copies available</p>	<p>The aim of this paper is to study the national constitutional and legislative frameworks in the Arab countries, to identify deficiencies and change that should be implemented. It also provide a critical analytical assessment for change with a focus on economic, social and cultural rights</p>
	<p>The Arab Watch Report (the right to education and the right to work) Language: Available in Arabic and English - Translated to English in 2013 Copy: Hard and Electronic copies available</p>	<p>This report was prepared by ANND in cooperation with its member from 10 Arab countries. It is considered a result of the new direction that was followed after the revolution outbreak in the region. It is the first report of the Arab Watch for social and economic rights. The English version of the Arab Watch includes regional reports through which ANND provide civil society organizations with the resources to develop their direction and negotiate with other stakeholders to adopt appropriate policies</p>
	<p>Texts on women's rights and economic and social justice in the Arab Region: ideas during peoples revolutions, Language: Available in Arabic and English Copy: Hard and Electronic copies available</p>	<p>This document is part of an effort to promote discussions on economic and social reforms in the region from a women's perspective. The document contains four papers dealing with the development policies and ways to promote gender equality and justice in the process of making economic and social policies in the Arab region</p>
	<p>Social Watch Report 2012: Right to a Future, Language: Available in Arabic Copy: Hard and Electronic copies available</p>	

TITLE AND URL	CONTENT
 <p>القطاعات الخدمية وسياسة التجارة وتحديات التنمية في المنطقة العربية</p> <p>annd</p>	<p>The Services Sectors, Trade Policy, and the Challenges of Developments in the Arab Region I</p> <p>Language: Available in Arabic and English</p> <p>Copy: Hard and Electronic copies available</p>
 <p>القطاعات الخدمية وسياسة التجارة وتحديات التنمية في المنطقة العربية</p> <p>annd</p>	<p>The Services Sectors, Trade Policy, and the Challenges of Developments in the Arab Region II</p> <p>Language: Available in Arabic and English</p> <p>Copy: Hard and Electronic copies available</p>
 <p>SET OF COLLECTIVE POLICY DEMANDS FROM CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS IN THE ARAB REGION</p> <p>SINCE THE START OF PEOPLES' REVOLUTIONS IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES</p>	<p>Set of Collective Policy Demands From Civil Society Organizations in the Arab Region: since the start of peoples' revolutions in the Arab countries</p> <p>Language: Available in Arabic and English</p> <p>Copy: Hard and Electronic copies available</p>

TITLE AND URL	CONTENT
	<p>On the Road to Rio +20 Preparations for the United Nations Conference on Sustainable development Language: Available in Arabic and English Copy: Hard and Electronic copies available</p>
	<p>The Aid Effectiveness Process Language: Available in Arabic and English Copy: Hard and Electronic copies available</p>

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.



C. ANND newsletters and website

- ANND produced 12 newsletters in 2012 that were disseminated to a list of 10000 members, partners and practitioners.
<http://www.annd.org/newsletter.php>
- Work continued in 2012 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, 2012 till December 31, 2012

Project: all Projects

Currency = US Dollar

A- Incomes

INCOMES ITEM	Received USD
a- Brought forward	369,903.00
b- From Funders	
Diakonia	643,898.00
Norwegian People's Aid (NPA)	58,267.00
The International Center for Non-for-Profit Law (ICNL)	54,470.00
IBON International	42,680.00
The Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS)	14,800.00
The Mediterranean Institute (IMED)	38,355.00
Christian Aid	28,960.00
National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO)	7,778.00
Total incomes from Funders	889,208.00
c- Others	12,226.79
Total incomes for the year 2012	1,271,337.79

B- Expenses

Budget Item	Paid USD
Administrative cost	143,123.00
Networking	127,805.00
Information & Communication	51,759.00
ANND projects and activities for 2012	851,843.00
Solidarity	9,625.00
Total expenses for the year 2012	1,184,155.00
Balance 31/12/2012	87,182.79