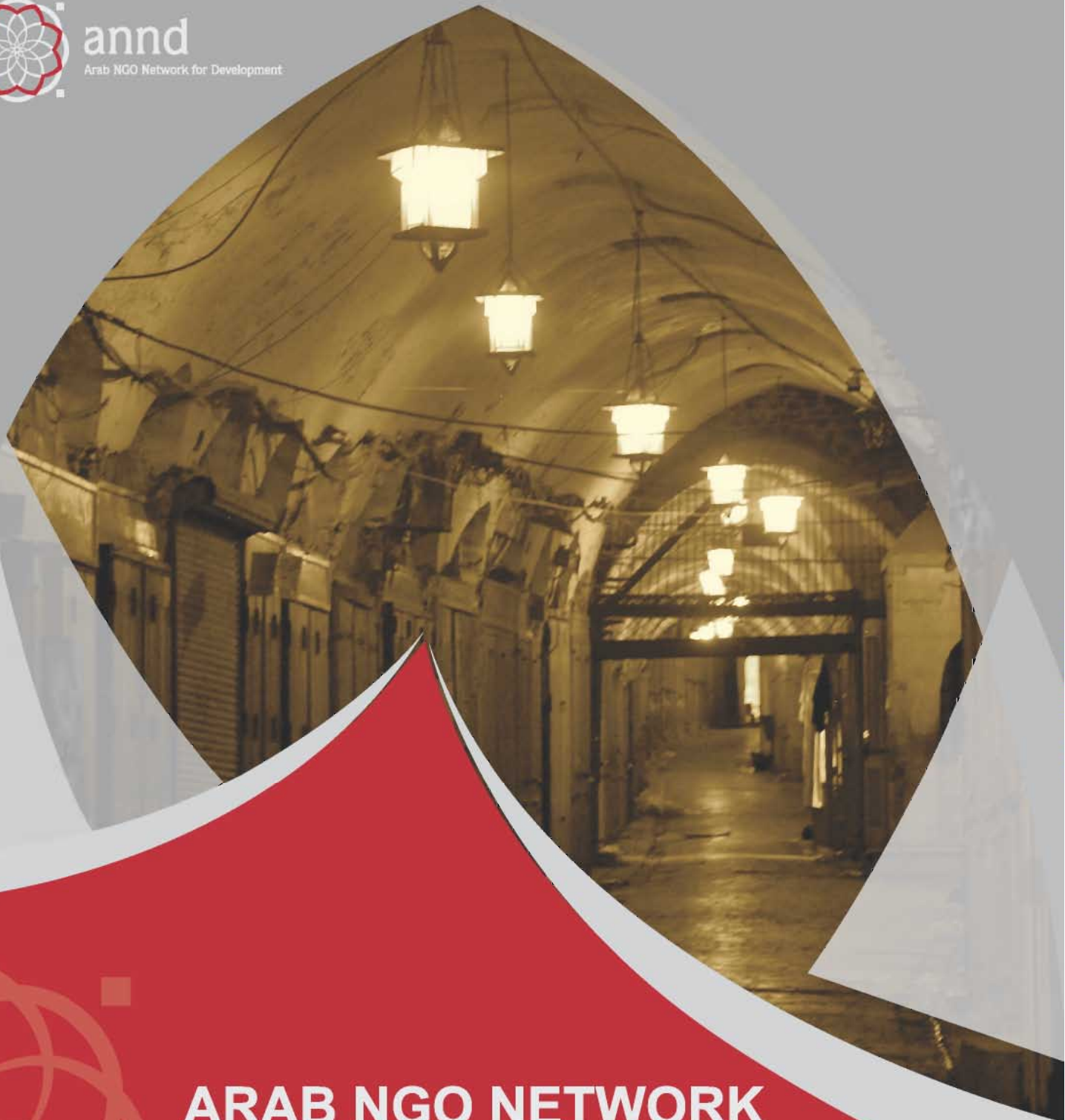




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Arab NGO Network for Development



ARAB NGO NETWORK FOR DEVELOPMENT

PROGRESS REPORT 2013





Cover Photo: Ahmad Mroueh
Report Photos: Rayan Batlouni
Ahmad Mroueh

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FOREWORD

Amina al-Zoghbi
Member of ANND's Coordination Committee



Dear colleagues and fellow members of the Arab NGO Network for Development,

I am honored to present the foreword of this year's annual report, which coincides with the fragile atmosphere prevailing in the Arab region for the past years and citizens' struggle for freedom, dignity, their right to justice and decent

living, and the need to achieve a civil state governed by the rules of democracy, integrity, and adherence to the people's will.

As with previous ANND reports, this report is an indication of pioneering and momentous efforts. It highlights the pivotal role of ANND, in coordination with its member organizations and networks, in the framework of a wide array of activities, events, and positions.

Fair and comprehensive development, based on the pillars of democracy and human rights, has always been ANND's aim and purpose, ever since its inception. The Network and its members had the privilege to bring into the open various contentious issues related to development, democracy, the role of civil society, and the structural and external problems facing the region. They dealt with these files responsibly and professionally, through providing a mature and objective view of the situation and a wide range of strategies and programs, keeping pace with the needs and fundamental changes in the region. This situation has left us with one choice, real development and a modern civil state, the state of right, citizenship, and the rule of law.

How more how ever, ANND and civil society have become aware of the great responsibility of civil society and its important and true position in the map

of change, which cannot be granted by authoritarian governments.

This report clearly reflects the programs and activities of ANND in the past years which aim to build capacities and increase and accumulate awareness concerning fundamental issues, refuting the false consciousness related to numerous issues, and establishing serious and in-depth dialogue with local partners about the issues and priorities of the region.

The report also highlights the central role played by ANND's projects, through the participation of all its members in the various activities and programs mentioned in the report.

In particular, I refer here to ANND's papers, positions, research, and monitoring reports on civil and economic rights, which filled a large gap in the Arab region. As an addition to Arab developmental literature, ANND's publication consolidated a solid developmental theory and an Arab vision that accommodates the human values of democracy and development in their entirety. ANND's contributions, in this report as with previous ones, played a critical role in mobilizing intellectual and democratic efforts in the face of tyranny and marginalization.

Finally, I can only hope that ANND remains a wide and democratic space for us all and for our aspirations for change, progress, and leadership.

I would like to thank you and all ANND members and partners on their important contribution to the success of the Network's programs and projects. Thanks are due also to the members of the executive office, its executive director and staff for the tremendous and exceptional efforts in following up and creating all those achievements.

Allow me to express all pride and appreciation to Arab women – who struggle and sacrifice for change, for a civil state, and for social justice – and their precious achievements in the constitutions of Tunisia and Egypt. Particularly in Tunisia, the amendments brought back the rights of historically marginalized and excluded groups, consecrating equal rights between men and women, the cornerstone of a civilized social culture.

FOREWORD

Ziad Adel Samad
ANND Executive Director



CONTRIBUTING TO THE SEARCH FOR A NEW DEVELOPMENT MODEL

Following the outbreak of Arab peoples' revolutions, the Arab NGO network for Development (ANND) expressed on several occasions the need for these revolutions to continue until they achieve all their goals. It identified these goals as the establishment of a democratic, developmental state and the enactment of a new social contract. The latter would be based on the achievement of economic reforms and the adoption of adequate social policies that contribute to establishing the foundations of a new developmental model aiming at achieving social justice, in a citizen-centered approach grounded on international human rights principles.

In this regard, ANND's efforts are based on three areas, which will be developed further in this report and are present in most ANND's activities for the year 2013.

The first axis focuses on the prerequisites for transforming Arab economies from rentierism, which rests on investment in financial and real estate sectors and prioritizes investment in natural resources and oil derivatives, into productive economies. This would be based on investment in sectors that have an added value, are able to

compete in the international market, provide adequate job opportunities, and are geared towards local and regional markets, instead of focusing on exports. This entails that the state plays a crucial role in sponsoring a comprehensive national dialogue, involving all social, political, and economic sides.

In this context, ANND succeeded in keeping up with trade and investment policies, particularly during bilateral and multilateral negotiations involving concerned Arab countries. It aimed to study taxation systems in those countries, in an attempt to propose suitable formulas so that taxes better realize redistribution. ANND also focused on social protection policies, as a human right for a dignified life. In the context of this task, ANND followed the debates with international institutions and partners, particularly the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), and the European Union (EU).

The second focus will be on following up international processes related to development issues, especially the international dialogue on the post-2015 agenda, after it became certain

that efforts exerted in the past decades had failed to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). This dialogue involves an argument on the inherent reasons behind the failure, at a time when the global financial, economic, and climate crisis confirms that the current system of financial, trade, and international relations bears responsibility for worsening disparities on various levels. Therefore, it is necessary to focus on the fundamental causes of this regression instead of remaining entangled in superficialities.

ANND organized several regional meetings to hone civil society perspectives on these issues. They concluded on the need to agree on a new developmental framework, which takes human rights as a reference for all policies and adopts a comprehensive approach, rather than separate sectoral interventions. ANND also participated in several international and regional meetings to discuss challenges to development and its relationship to international mechanisms.

The third focus will be on international mechanisms for the accountability of governments. The Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR) and consultation mechanisms with various international organizations, especially the European Commission (EC), the European Parliament, international and regional financial institutions, international organizations, and the

Arab league offer an opportunity to participate in expressing civil society opinions concerning obligations to legal and developmental approaches.

This led ANND to become involved in the activities of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, as well as occasions organized by the EU in Brussels and several other European cities (Barcelona, Lisbon, Malta and Marseille) to activate the participation of civil society in accountability related to economic and social policies.

The above was a result of the firm belief that civil society has an important role to play in accomplishing the transitional phase; protecting the diversity of opinions, ideas, and positions; and maintaining a rights-based foundation for policies. This is what ANND, its members, partners, and executive office has strived for.

The dialogue reached advanced steps in the framework of the search for a development model. But this will not come to fruition, unless it gets absorbed into adopted national policies and supporting or complementary international positions and orientations. Thus, 2014 will be the year to carry on with these efforts, in the hope that this will mean the beginning of a period of detailed exploration of alternatives needed to get out of the crisis.

ABOUT ANND

WHO WE ARE

The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) is a regional network operating in 12 Arab countries with nine national NGO networks and 32 NGO members. ANND was founded in 1997 and its secretariat office is located in Beirut since 2000. ANND's main objective is to empower civil society organizations (CSOs) and 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 local societies.

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List of Coordinating Committee (CC) Members (2012), Elected during ANND's 8 th General Assembly (29-30 May 2012).				
#	Country	Organization	Name	Email
1	Bahrain	Bahrain Transparency Society	Sharaf Al Moussawi	sharaf115@gmail.com
2	Egypt	The Egyptian Association for Community Participation Enhancement	Magdi Abdel Hamid	cpe_eg@yahoo.com
3	Iraq	Iraqi Woman League	Aida Fawzi	aidafawzi2006@yahoo.com
4	Jordan	Jordanian Woman Union	Amneh Falah	abisharatcenter@orange.jo
5	Lebanon	NGOs Platform of Saida	Magid Hamatto	tajamoh@inco.com.lb
6	Lebanon	Coordination Forum of the NGO's Working Among the Palestine Community in Lebanon	Kassem Aina	kassemaina@socialcare.org
7	Morocco	Espace Associatif	Moustafa Bouhadoue	m.bouhaddou@gmail.com
8	Palestine	Palestinian NGO Network (PNGO)	Monjed Abou Jeish	monjed@pal-arc.org
9	Sudan	Sudanese Civic Forum	Hassan Abdel Ati	h_abdelati@hotmail.com
10	Tunisia	Association Tunisienne des femmes Democrates	Wassila Al Ayashi	ayachiwassila@yahoo.fr
11	Yemen	Human Rights Training and Information Center	Ezzeddine Al Asbahi	ezzadin4@gmail.com



GLOBAL PROCESSES: INTERNATIONAL POLICIES TOWARDS THE ARAB REGION

Rationale and objective:

The changes that are occurring in the Arab countries have implications on the priorities and agendas of “international partners”, including the European Union (EU), the United States (US) and many other International and regional Institutions.

The EU expressed its position and response to these changes issuing multiple joint communications and reports between 2011 and 2013. ANND reacted respectively to these communications and engaged with different institutions in order to bring about and expose a civil society perspective from the region.

Monitoring and advocacy to the EU in the midst of evolving EU-Arab relations.

ANND focused on Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (DCFTAs), the work of the European Financial Institutions, the national Action Plans and progress reporting for the implementation of the European Neighborhood Policy as well as the direct

advocacy to the European commission and parliament in Brussels.

Facing the turmoil that the Arab countries in transition are witnessing, the EU sought to enact policies focusing on enhancing democratic processes and furthering economic and trade liberalization. However, several CSOs from the region have expressed their concerns about the need to strengthen policy coherence in a way that serves democracy, peace, social and economic justice. Based on the principles of partnerships and mutual accountability, ANND aimed at voicing these concerns and channeling them to relevant EU policy makers.

ENP Action Plans and progress reporting: priorities set for the Partnership needs to be more focused on people’s aspirations

ANND took part in the first ENI southern Mediterranean strategy consultation, which covers an implementation period of six years (2014-2020). ANND noted that in its analysis of the current situation in the Southern Mediterranean region through economic

development trends, the Strategy weakly emphasizes on reduction of inequalities or on equitable redistribution of wealth.

For the full report, please visit: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/latest/file/82.pdf>

ENP progress reports

ANND submitted a report on Lebanon set for 2013 where it focused on the fact that Lebanon is facing significant and alarming challenges as a result of the regional situation following the people's uprisings particularly the escalation of the armed conflict in Syria causing a constant inflow of refugees.

ANND's members and partners in Egypt and Jordan submitted their report for the ENP as well.

For the reactions, please follow:

- Lebanon: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/folders/155.pdf>
- Egypt: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/folders/153.pdf>
- Jordan: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/folders/154.pdf>

Direct advocacy in Brussels: raising concerns of CSOs from the Arab region

A delegation from ANND met in December with officials from the commissions of EEAS and Enlargement, they also met with the special peace envoy to the Middle East. The visit was an occasion to raise concerns related to the efforts to enhance Civic Participation, including participation in various aspects of EU cooperation with Arab countries. Moreover, the delegation highlighted the urgent necessity to address the emerging development needs as well as inequalities in Arab countries. It was also an occasion to discuss the important decision

by the council to boycott the Products from the Israeli entities behind the 1967 line, as well as the guiding principles for the implementation of this decision issued by the commission. The delegation highlighted the importance of the implementation of the decision.

A second advocacy visit to European institutions was organized in cooperation and coordination with Eurostep, CNCD 11.11.11 and Bankwatch between the 4th and 8th of November of 2013. The delegation was comprised of members and partners from six Arab countries including Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine, Syria and Tunisia. They held extensive meetings with European civil society groups, officials from the European Commission, the European External Action Service, the European Parliament and the European Economic and Social Committee. The delegation met also with the Chair of the Subcommittee on Human Rights and the officials of the European Economic and Social Committee.

During the visit, a one-day open civil society forum was organized with the presence of partners based in the EU. The forum brought together European CSOs and European officials. A roundtable discussion session on the EU's blending mechanism and a discussion session on development cooperation and the role of the EU were organized by different European civil society partners.

Moreover, the delegation representatives participated in two special sessions in the European Parliament dedicated to the situation in Syria and CSO perspectives on democratic transition.

The preparation and follow up of this visit entailed the development of a number of statements and critical analysis about the EU's policies towards the Arab Region.

For the Visit's statement: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/latest/file/131.pdf>

Free Trade Agreements: repacking old proposals and shortcomings in addressing the political and economic contexts in the Arab region

The EU continues to promote Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (DCFTAs) as a tool for economic growth and investment attraction. However, ANND believes that DCFTAs do not necessarily serve as the best guarantee to the success of democratic processes, to public policy and to state economic sovereignty. To a further extent, it is not clear yet, how the socio-economic, political and cultural rights of citizens in Arab countries will be properly safeguarded within the framework of DCFTAs.

In this regard, ANND issued a statement in the occasion of the launching of the DCFTA negotiations between the EU and Morocco. The statement was supported by 61 organizations in total (from Morocco and the region). It clearly indicated that the negotiations will include an expansion of the trade agreement already existing between the

EU and Morocco to include, in addition to tariff reduction, regulations on trade in services, new investment framework, government procurement liberalization, competition policy and intellectual property protection. These negotiations will address areas that are at the heart of the macroeconomic policies and sectors and may directly affect the policy space and the ability of the state's ability to realize national development goals.

A Statement on the EU trade and investment policies can be found in the following link: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/latest/file/106.pdf>

ANND contributed to the meeting held in Amman in February 2013 in cooperation with the program "ENPI civil society south"; the meeting discussed the challenges of sustainable development in the region and public policy in the Mediterranean's both shores. It tackled the economic model and its impact on inequalities and social injustices, as well as environmental violations. The conference discussed the green economy as a new notion being promoted by the EU. The participants concluded that a

Deepening trade or Deepening inequalities?

The EU's DCFTA negotiations:

The first round of negotiations between Morocco and the EU about a deep and comprehensive free trade agreement started in Rabat on April the 12th, 2013. The second round of negotiations took place in June 2013. These agreements' sole aim is to provide maximum unconditional protection to European investors and to find new markets for European companies irrespective of implications on rights or social and economic concerns. Civil Society Organizations are hence demanding a halt to these negotiations until proper assessments on the impact on rights are undertaken. Basic services sectors crucial for citizens' enjoyment of their social and economic rights have to be excluded from the negotiations, these include: healthcare, education, social security and water supply. From a civil society perspective, the most pressing concerns of these agreements are that they lack a holistic developmental approach and that they would most probably result in increasing inequalities. An appropriate response to Arab upheavals would be a new paradigm that allows for the enactment of effective economic policies that would result in a reduction of poverty and inequality, not the other way round.

new economic model focusing on productivity, competitiveness and redistribution should also be environment friendly.

ANND's contribution enabled the Euromed Civil platform to hold the General Assembly by securing the presence of the majority of the members. The GA discussed the progress report [Prepared by the president of the board] and they also elected a new board. ANND was elected for the presidency of the board for the years 2013-2014.

Monitoring and advocacy to the U.S

ANND took part in the IMF/World Bank Civil Society Fellowship Program that was organized by the two Bretton Woods institutions in Washington D.C. on 6-11 October, 2013. During the course of the program, ANND met with IMF directors and World Bank representatives working on the Middle East and North African (MENA) region and debated the institutions' visions over the path of development in the Arab region. In addition, ANND participated in the IMF-World Bank civil society town hall meeting, which brought together President Jim Kim of the WB and Managing Director Christine Lagarde of the IMF with global civil society to discuss issues related to the progress over MDGs, WB safeguards, corruption and debt – among others.

Subsequent to the Fellowship, ANND organized an advocacy visit to Washington DC between the 11th and 15th of October. The delegation was comprised of eight civil society representatives coming from five different countries. The delegation met with several people and institutions including:

- USAID,: the delegation raised its concerns over the institution's two pre-conditions for funding, particularly the Partner Vetting System and two pre-conditions for funding under USAID, particularly the Anti-Terrorist

- Clause and the Partner Vetting System, both of which lack – the delegations argued – due process, violate privacy, and defeat the purpose of civic work
- USIP (United States Institute for Peace): The delegation discussed mainly IFIs' intervention in the Arab region, with special focus on the IMF and the World Bank in light of the former's fiscal consolidation recommendations to authorities of the region and the latter's potential loans to Arab governments that host Syrian Refugees. Furthermore, the meeting included a debate around free trade agreements between the US and countries of the Arab region – including on QIZs – and their impact on social and economic rights of the people.
- NAF (New America Foundation): ANND, in collaboration with NAF, organized and participated in a public event entitled "U.S. Policy in the Arab World: Perspectives from Civil Society". The event predominantly focused on the US interventions in the Arab region, especially regarding its potential militarily intervention in Syria and its passive reaction to political changes in Egypt;
- NED (National Endowment for Democracy): The main concerns brought forward by the delegation were the US's foreign policy towards the region, especially those pertaining to Syria, Egypt and the Palestinian territories, the US development assistance and aid and the issue of debts. About debts, the most pressing issue put forward is the verification of the source and amount of stolen money. The importance of social and economic rights in development challenges, the need for a new holistic development paradigm for the post 2015 agenda were also central subjects highlighted by the ANND delegation.

For more information: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/latest/file/120.pdf>

MONITORING AND ADVOCACY TO IFIs

Rationale and objective:

ANND perceives that the Interventions of IFIs, namely the IMF, WB, EIB and EBRD encourage and promote a common paradigm based on more liberalization and increased integration in the global economy. Several CSOs, however, ANND among them, believe that a paradigm shift should take place enhancing a Rights based, citizen centered and participatory approach as well as the role of the developmental state. The new paradigm should be founded on a new social contract based on a new developmental framework that empowers productive capacities, redistributive mechanisms and social justice. These were the core issues raised during the visit to Washington DC.

Furthermore, ANND took part in the IMF and WB annual meeting that took place between the 5th and 12th of October. They were an occasion for ANND's delegation to raise the above-mentioned concerns as to these IFIs' policies towards the region.

a. The International Monetary Fund (IMF)

ANND and the Third World Network (TWN) organized in cooperation with the Cairo-based Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Right and the Initiative for Policy Dialogue at Columbia University in New York an event in April 20th entitled: "From the Arab Revolutions to Global Austerity," this event was on the

sidelines of the spring meetings (19-21 April) of the IMF and World Bank.

The event was an occasion to highlight some of the dynamics and challenges of the IMF's role in the Arab region, in a context of continuing popular uprisings that are calling for social and economic justice and for transforming the national development paradigm, and to link it to the waves of austerity across Europe, the US and other regions,.

For more information on the meeting: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/folders/126.pdf>

With respect to the delegation that visited D.C, its members raised the issue of the fund's recommendations of unwinding Arab countries from governmental subsidies foodstuffs and oil derivatives, with the stated aim of reducing the treasury deficit caused by increased spending especially throughout the transition process. These "recommendations" are often given the mantle of prerequisites to any IMF loan or support. To further their recommendations and concerns, ANND delegation members conducted separate meeting with IMF and WB cadres and senior officials. A meeting was set up with the IMF's Managing director for the Middle East and Central Asia, Dr. Adnan Mazrai. The fund's austerity policies in the Arab region were extensively discussed.

ANND also organized two meetings: the first one, in cooperation with the Third World

Network, was a parallel meeting to discuss wages, taxation and subsidies in the Arab region, in the presence of Martin Sirisola, the IMF's Assistant director in Middle East and Central Asia. The second one was organized in cooperation with the Middle East Task Force (New America Foundation) and provided a space to discuss the IMF policies on unwinding subsidies on food and petroleum in Arab countries. This meeting was also attended by Carlo Sdravovich, the IMF's mission chief for Iraq. The impacts of these policies on the overall enjoyment of economic and social rights, on the political and security situation on the short term were also discussed.

For further details on the meeting, the minutes can be found on the following link: <http://www.brettonwoodsproject.org/2013/10/subsidy-reform-arab-countries-reflection-imf-recommendations/>

b. The World Bank (WB)

ANND's delegation participated in a meeting with Inger Anderson, the IMF's Vice President for the MENA region, through which the network's representatives discussed two fundamental issues. The first concern tackled the loans granted to Jordan and the possibility of granting loans to Lebanon in order to support the budget spending on Syrian refugees. However, with the increasing inflow of Syrian refugees, ANND delegates emphasized the need for direct assistance and support instead of granting loans that will further the indebtedness of these countries. The second concern was on the review carried out by the Bank on safeguard policies. Regarding this issue, Inger Anderson was asked on the extent of the Bank's inclusion of human rights in their new policy in accordance with demands related to extreme poverty and human rights.

ANND delegates also took part in a meeting with Jonathan Walters, the WB's director for regional programs. The delegation deliberated

on two essential concerns; primarily the role of the MENA transitional Fund, which was established within the framework of the Deauville partnership. More specifically, if this fund has any added value compared to similar IFIs seeing as the region's experience with such funds hasn't been fruitful of late. The second issue that was brought up is related to this fund's transparency and its consent to allow for the participation of CSOs as stakeholders in negotiations processes with governments and if any policy conditionalities accompany the fund's loans and assistance.

Statement on the WB loans: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/latest/file/123.pdf>

c. The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) and the European Investment Bank (EIB)

In line with the Deauville Partnership, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) started financing several projects in Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia and Egypt. Yet the current interventions' genuine contribution to development aspirations of peoples of the region through ensuring sustainability and impacts on job creation and reducing poverty remain problematic. ANND in this regard, together with members and international partners (Bankwatch) sent advocacy letters to officials requesting further clarification. ANND also presented related recommendations especially on Banks policy of supporting PPPs and noting the problematic in PPPs that the private sector abandons the partnership, and thus the burden is transferred to the public sector, thus carrying a negative impact on the state budget, where the funds could be used for development purposes. ANND also prepared a statement on the Bank's



Environmental and Social Policy (ESP), Public Information Policy (PIP) and Project complaints mechanism (PCM)

Statement on the EBRD interventions: http://eipr.org/sites/default/files/pressreleases/pdf/join_statement_0.pdf

Statement on the EBRD's ESP, PIP and PCM: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/folders/172.pdf>

In monitoring the work and involvement of these banks, ANND adopted a sectoral approach. The main sectors at hand here were the ones holding the largest portion of the banks investments, namely: Finance and SMEs, energy, agribusiness and climate change. ANND's aim in this is to monitor these interventions' impact on development and social and economic rights in a broader sense. To this end, ANND started drafting background and analytical papers on each of

the aforementioned sectors.

The letters concerning projects sent to EBRD officials can be found on the following links:

- Letter to EBRD-Egyptian Refinery Company Project-May 2013
<http://www.annd.org/english/data/latest/file/101.pdf>
- Letter to EBRD on Jordan projects-June 2013
<http://www.annd.org/english/data/folders/130.pdf>
- Letter to EBRD on Morocco projects-June 2013
<http://www.annd.org/english/data/folders/131.pdf>
- Letter to EBRD-Egypt project-April 2013
<http://www.annd.org/english/data/folders/132.pdf>
- Letter to EBRD-Egyptian Refinery Company Project-May 2013
<http://www.annd.org/english/data/latest/file/101.pdf>

THE POST 2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

Rationale and objectives:

Concerning the post 2015 agenda, ANND's advocacy and views are not limited to specific goals and objectives, but they rather tackle the framework under which the agenda is being crafted. Indeed, ANND, in all its post-2015 related activities reiterated the need to have a new citizen-centered development paradigm and to create coherence between the implemented policies and the principles of Human Rights and Democracy.

ANND carried on the Global dialogue and took part in international forums aiming to draw the post-2015 development framework. The Network believes that developing countries and all stakeholders, especially Civil Society, must participate in the discussions related to the development framework in order to guarantee that their demands are taken into consideration in a proper manner. Furthermore, ANND considers that the development agenda should not be goal oriented and a reformulation of the Millennium Development Goals. Rather, it should enact international partnership that enhances the global enabling environment, redefines development objectives and the governance mechanisms of international institutions. In addition, ANND's advocacy on the matter revolved around: reconsidering the international trade and investment architectures, achieving social justice via equitable redistribution policies and also the role of the private sector as a development stakeholder.

ANND's related progress during 2013:

1- A regional consultation with ESCWA on the post 2015:

ANND held a regional consultation at the ESCWA headquarters in Beirut on March 14,

2013. This consultation brought together around 40 participants including: representatives of several civil society organizations and trade unions in 9 Arab countries (Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Morocco, Tunisia, Palestine, Yemen and Sudan), as well as representatives of UN agencies, the league of Arab States and other development organizations. The participants issued a declaration tackling the conceptual framework, the process and the agenda of the post 2015. This declaration focused among others on the need for the agenda to be sensitive to country-specificities when it comes to development objectives and the role of the state. Follow up processes to this consultation include: participation in other consultation organized by ESCWA, an international conference on the post 2015 agenda, a talk show on an Arabic channel and the dissemination and advancement of the declaration and its demands in all the aforementioned events.

<http://www.annd.org/english/data/post/file/7.pdf>

2- The UN General Liaison Committee regional consultation:

ANND took part in the UN-NGLS teleconference consultation, held in July 2013 that brought together representatives from 16 regional civil society networks based in nine Arab countries. The consultation was one in the series of consultations on post 2015 organized by the UNGLS; the concrete aim of the teleconference was to discuss and provide analytical contributions to the four reports recently submitted to the UN Secretary General on the post 2015 development agenda. The report of the conference was holistic and entails a broad view on the post 2015 agenda reflecting the participants' views. It tackled, among others, the question of rebalancing power

relations to achieve justice, i.e.: the rethinking of the trade and investment frameworks, the 8th goal on developing a global partnership for development, the state's extraterritorial obligations, finance, militarization, technology transfers and intellectual property rights.

For the full UN-NGLS report, where ANND's contribution can be found, please click here: <http://bit.ly/2015RegionalConsultation>

3- Contribution to the UNGA side event to follow up on efforts made towards achieving MDGs.

ANND, represented by its executive director was invited to contribute on the 25th of September to the launching of the UNGLS report on the regional consultations on the post 2015. The contribution focused on two main subjects: the general developmental framework and Peace and Security with relation to development objectives.

For more information: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/post/file/13.pdf>

4- ANND's reaction to the Secretary General report on post 2015:

The Arab NGO Network for Development (ANND) welcomed the UN secretary general report and joined the general call towards a life of dignity for all, particularly in light of the recent developments in the Arab region and the repercussions of the global crises on the efforts to meet the goals. ANND endorsed the Secretary General call in the report: "the world's quest for dignity, peace, prosperity, justice, sustainability and an end to poverty has reached an unprecedented moment of urgency." For the full reaction: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/latest/file/105.pdf>

5- ANND's reaction to the HLP reports:

The HLP report was made public on May 30th. In ANND's view, the report marks a difference in the approach adopted by diverting from the previous Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) setting and reflecting a more inclusive process through consultations undertaken and inputs received from different stakeholders. ANND also sees many positive aspects in this reports including but not limited to: "universality, a stand-alone goal for women and the environment-development nexus". However, ANND adds its voices to others in calling the UN secretary general to go beyond the HLP report and to ensure that post-2015 process does not fail to address the structural causes hindering sustainable development that brings in "the new development framework."

For ANND's reaction to the HLP reports: <http://www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/07/ANND-reaction-to-HLP-report.pdf>

6- ANND contribution to Christian Aid report: "The world we want to see: perspectives on post-2015"

Christian Aid published a report on September 2013 on how to address issues related to the Post-2015 agenda. ANND contributed to the report with an article focusing on the Post-2015 agenda and was based on the absence of a link between economic growth and development inherent to the MDGs; the report also highlighted a central point which is the interconnectedness between peace and development.

For the report, please follow: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/post/file/11.pdf>

For the work on the post 2015 a regional meeting organized by ESCWA on the sustainable development goal (follow up of the open working group); ANND contributed in one of panels by presenting a civil society perspective on the process

7- Participation in other events:

ANND had an active participation in two regional forums organized respectively by the regional bureau of the UNDP and the ESCWA (both in Amman) in preparation for the meeting of the High level panel in May as well as the UN summit on post 2015 held in September

ESCWA, UNEP and the League of Arab states organized in Dubai “the Arab regional high level forum” with the participation of Civil Society, the forum discussed and adopted a statement reflecting Arab interests; the statement stressed on the importance of CSO participation.

ESCWA, UNEP and LAS organized a regional Multistakeholder consultation forum in Tunisia; prior to the meeting of the Open Working Group. The forum was an occasion to discuss the main outcomes of the regional progress report on the MDGs. The report highlighted the falls in meeting the goals on poverty, employment and gender equity. It recommended a new economic productive and redistributive model.

For the meeting’s report, <http://css.escwa.org.lb/SDPD/3248/finalreport.pdf>

ON TRADE AND INVESTMENT POLICIES

Rationale and objectives:

ANND perceives that the benefits of the integration in the global economy are dependent on the terms upon which this integration takes place. More specifically, in the Arab region, trade policies and choices pursued so far have not generated much-needed developmental impacts. As a result, 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 policies that are in full compliance with human rights and in support of a longer-term economic vision that aims to increase production, industrialization, decent employment, social justice and sustainable development.

Related progress during 2013:

The WTO’s ninth ministerial in Bali: Since its

establishment in 1994, the WTO has always set rules that favored industrialized nations and corporate profit, yet weakened developing countries. WTO agreements with developing countries in general and Arab countries in particular, have inflicted chaos on workers in the manufacturing sector, farmers in the agricultural sector, and on the environment. In this sense, ANND participated in a preparatory workshop held in advance of the WTO’s reunion in Bali and organized by the Our World Is Not For Sale (OWINFS). The aim was to discuss the strategy to challenge WTO expansion in order to diminish its adverse impact on the development path of developing countries. Furthermore, ANND was part of the CSOs accredited for the Bali ministerial conference in December 2013. Also, as part of – and with – the OWINFS network, ANND met with delegates from developing countries, including India and Nepal, and voiced their concerns over particular issues under discussion in Bali. Briefing sessions and side events for CSOs

on major ongoing negotiations were also organized during the course of the Ministerial.

Statement on the ministerial: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/wto/file/23.pdf>

UN processes: On another note, trade and investment issues were very often present in all ANND publications and discourse. Indeed several statements were published, endorsed and disseminated. More specifically, the UN-NGLS report from the Arab region (that was prepared following a teleconference call) includes a whole part on the global trade and investment architecture. Furthermore, ANND’s intervention during the High Level Panel (HLP) on the post 2015 agenda in March 2013 was centered on the multilateral trading system, the proliferation of FTAs and international investment treaties and re-designing regional cooperation and integration. Developmental concerns and the respect of human rights in each one of these topics were cornerstones.

ANND also organized, in cooperation with Social Watch, an event at the World Social Forum focusing on reconsidering the development models in the Arab region in the wake of the people’s revolutions. Two main pillars of the discussion were: 1. the problems faced by Arab countries with the EU and International Financial Institutions (IFIs) in relation to the agreements that call for the deepening of liberalization and market openness. Such agreements carry direct adverse effects on the development of Arab countries as well as on the policy space for development. Therefore, we need interaction with the rest of the world, however through strategic and gradual liberalization, and not the free trade that the EU, U.S, and IFIs call for. Moreover, Arab countries should be allowed to follow suit of developed nations who have relied heavily on industrialization and gradual liberalization in

their path toward development. 2. The need to rethink negotiations with the WTO, particularly those related to trade in services and trade in non-agricultural products. Negotiations ought to reflect the needs of developing countries in their right to develop.

For more information on the side event: <http://www.socialwatch.org/sites/default/files/WSF2013-SW-Activities-eng.pdf>

E-U related concerns: 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). Since then, ANND has been involved in monitoring these negotiations and accordingly engaged in advocacy efforts. One of ANND’s members, “Espace Associatif” has organized a wide regional consultation to discuss the impacts of a DCFTA with the EU on Morocco. The issues, conclusions and recommendations emanating from this meeting were also raised by ANND during the advocacy visit organized in Brussels.

In addition, ANND finalized and disseminated a publication entitled: “Questioning Policies: A Guide for Strengthening Social, Economic and Cultural Rights”. An integral part of the publication tackled the effects of trade liberalization on these rights. Similarly, a publication entitled: “IMF trade and investment related advice to Arab countries: Trends and implications” (by Kinda Mohamadieh) was finalized in 2013 but will be published in 2014. This paper comes in a series of papers tackling IMF, trade and investment related issues.

DEVELOPMENT EFFECTIVENESS AGENDA

Rationale and objective:

Aid effectiveness in the region, is not only an increasingly important topic but also the cornerstone for achieving the revolutions' goals and building a democratic future. This also has to be accompanied by a participatory approach in which CSOs play a central role in policy making. The added value brought about by CSOs, i.e. the human rights approach and respect of international standards in developmental efforts, is essential.

Hence, and to follow up on the policy gains achieved in Paris, Accra and Busan and as an integral part of the CSO Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE), ANND engaged in the process of developing a new global development agenda with particular focus on:

- Advocacy for development effectiveness in development cooperation policy and practice which necessitate the mainstreaming of human rights based approach, participatory democracy; social and environmental justice and sustainability, gender equality, decent work, sustainable change, and peace and security are achieved.
- Advocacy for the realisation of an enabling environment for civil society as independent development actors.

ANND's related progress in 2013:

In line with these objectives, ANND in association with the CSOs Partnership for Development Effectiveness (CPDE) organized two sub-regional meetings respectively in Palestine/Gaza (3 and 4 June) and Tunisia (29 and 30) and a regional conference in Iraq/Erbil on June 22. These three activities were undertaken with the following local CSO partners: The Palestinian NGO's Network "PNGO" for Palestine in Gaza; "The Iraqi Al-Amal Association", in cooperation with "the Parliament of Kurdistan" and the "International Center for Non-For-Profit Law (ICNL)" for Iraq and the "Tunisian Democratic Women Association" (AFDT) for Tunisia.

Based on the outcomes of the regional and sub-regional meetings and with a view to draft a regional action plan, ANND engaged in a mapping exercise. The process included the development of a survey that aims at assessing the needs, identifying the priorities and gathering information about country engagement in development effectiveness process in the Arab region. The survey was published online to facilitate exchange and access by national organizations.). ANND appointed nine focal persons to coordinate the surveying process (countries include: Yemen, Sudan, Egypt, Lebanon, Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia, Palestine and Iraq). They were requested to disseminate the survey among national organizations, coordinate the process



and consequently develop national reports which contribute to: 1. Identifying national advocacy priorities for enhancing the enabling environment, 2. Assessing CSOs needs in the area of development effectiveness process.

Consequently, two reports were developed from Yemen and Sudan. The report emanating from Yemen identified the main capacity building needs for civil society organizations and the one from Sudan is a compilation of the conclusions of 20 surveys. For the remaining countries, the focal persons faced a number of challenges that delayed developing the reports. In Egypt, the political changes, instability and the violations of CSO rights undermined the interest of civil society organization and of

the focal person in conducting the survey. Other than in Egypt, focal points lacked enough knowledge about the process to develop their reports. To properly respond to these challenges, and after consultation and coordination with the CPDE secretariat, ANND is envisaging a shift of its work for the upcoming year(s). In lieu of the initial surveys, regional consultations would be undertaken to explore possibilities for developing regional and sub-regional action plans.

The Erbil declaration: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/folders/134.pdf>

The Gaza meeting declaration: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/folders/129.pdf>

NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PROCESSES

THE UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)



Rationale and Objectives:

Several countries in the region are at a crossroads, attention and efforts are mostly directed towards Syria, Sudan, Egypt and Tunisia. However, other countries are also at a time where political and socio-economic challenges are tremendous. One can think of Jordan, Yemen and Lebanon. Indeed, Jordan witnessed some political changes but most importantly, the country is applying the IMF's and EU's neoliberal policies to the letter. The country, considered as one of the IMF's "top students", has enacted several liberalization policies and took loans from IFIs: one can think of the 2008 subsidy removal or the more recent \$2 billion loan from the IMF in August 2012. Such policies had more than a few consequences on social and economic rights in the country that need to be thoroughly monitored and evaluated. Furthermore, considering the huge number of Syrian refugee influx to the

country, the WB sought to provide budget support by granting loans, hence deepening the indebtedness of the country. Lebanon is also facing the same looming danger of WB loans to help with Syrian refugees; and in this case, debts in Lebanon are already a heavy burden. Yemen, on the other hand, has recently witnessed some security and political turmoil and on the global integration level, the country has now accessed the WTO. For an LDC, accessing the WTO will not go without repercussions on Yemenis' enjoyment of their rights. All the above-mentioned developments give extra importance to mechanisms such as the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) that allows for the monitoring and review of Human rights. The UPR was first 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 ever since its conception. ANND perceives that the added value of this engagement extends beyond the collective preparation and development of national reports 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 related public policy making and governmental accountability.

ANND's related progress during 2013:

- Joint submissions for the human rights record revision of Jordan (March 2013) and Yemen (June 2013)
- Preparation of a mid-term evaluation report for the implementation of recommendations accepted by Lebanon.
- Advocacy in Geneva for the implementation of the UPR recommendations for Bahrain via the organization of a side event during the HRC's 24th session.
- Active participation during the Working Group session in Geneva for the UPR of Israel and on the session on Jordan.

On the national level:

Given that Lebanon will undertake its second cycle revision in 2015, 2013 marks a midterm for the UPR process. Accordingly, ANND following a consultative meeting with civil society groups developed a draft midterm report on the implementation of the recommendations accepted in 2011. The report was finalized with contributions from different groups, and it particularly focused on the National Human

Rights Action Plan, the rights of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, women's rights and rights of the peoples with disabilities. The final report has been endorsed by 27 organizations.

In Jordan and Yemen, ANND alongside the signatories of the UPR submissions, coordinated for the preparation of the Report.

A Multistakeholder session on the UPR process was organized in Yemen in cooperation with the Human Rights Information and Training Center (HRITC). The session contributed in raising awareness among different civil society organizations about the UPR process and bringing in their contributions to the initial draft prepared together by ANND and HRITC. These include, among others: the National Dialogue process and women's participation in the process, the work of the Technical committee established prior to the National Dialogue conference, transitional justice, internally displaced persons and refugees, extrajudicial killings and arbitrary detention and an investigation of the events that took place during 2011.

Coordination efforts and cooperation for the preparation of a joint submission of Jordan's UPR report contributed to the establishment of a new coalition: INSAN. The latter comprises: the Jordanian Women's Union, Phoenix Centre for Economic and Informatics Studies, Da'am Centre for Training and Consultancy, Tamkeen for Human Rights and Legal Aid, Justice Centre for Legal Aid, Human and Environment Observatory, Jordanian Federation of Independent Trade Unions, and Jordanian Labor Watch. The coalition also included several lawyers and journalists. The coalition's work extended well beyond the preparation of the report, it also undertook advocacy efforts at both national and international levels. On the national level, coalition representatives met with several ambassadors in Jordan,

participated in radio-broadcasts, organized a launching press conference of the report's recommendations to raise awareness on civil society concerns on human rights conditions in Jordan.

On the International level:

Concerning Jordan's UPR, INSAN coalition was also present in Geneva during a pre-session to carry out advocacy efforts with the Working Group. Also, on the day of the presentation, the coalition organized for Law students, media outlets and CSO activists to watch a live screening of the WG session.

Concerning Bahrain, civil society groups pursued their advocacy efforts to shed light on the human rights violations in the country. A delegation of Bahraini CSO (including ANND

representatives) was present in Geneva. They succeeded in raising their concerns and 47 countries issued a joint statement voicing concerns over the sustained violations of human rights in the country and the issue of the Bahraini parliament's recommendations with regard to fighting terrorism. The Bahraini government was called upon to uphold its Human Rights commitments and to improve cooperation with international human rights institutions.

For more information: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/latest/file/149.pdf>

For Yemen's UPR submission: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/latest/file/85.pdf>

For Jordan's submission: <http://www.annd.org/english/data/statement/file/31.pdf>



SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICIES

Rationale and objective:

Since the beginning of 2011, and after the peoples' uprisings in the Arab region, ANND expanded its strategy from advocacy and policy monitoring towards elaborating and providing policy alternatives on economic and social levels. A concern was noted in ANND's program committee: social protection as a right has long been overlooked by public policy makers. Additionally, social protection needs to be properly incorporated within national policies so as not to be dependent on fluctuating processes such as development cooperation. Hence, and seeing as the first Arab Watch Report (AWR) focused on the right to education and the right to work, the second edition of it would focus on Social protection policies in the region. The AWR would these serve as a tool to provide these alternative policy choices.

Related progress during 2013:

Regional paper: The first efforts for the report were the preparation for a Background paper that would help frame the national reports. After a consultation with the drafting committee and ANND members, Dr. Azzam Mahjoub a prominent researcher, social activist and expert from Tunisia, was recruited to draft the background paper at hand. Dr. Mahjoub collaborated with Mr. Mohamed Mondher Belghith, an expert in social employment and migration policies. The paper considered that

social protection has a key role in achieving social cohesion and security and in realizing economic and social rights of citizens. The paper clarified the central position that social protection occupies in the agenda of international organizations especially with the launch of the "Decent Work Agenda", the "Millennium Development Goals", and most importantly with the social protection floor. The social protection floor constitutes today's road map towards establishing comprehensive and integrated social protection policies. The papers highlighted that CSOs requests should focus on the inclusion of these principles in the post-2015 framework.

Analytical paper: In parallel, Dr. Mohammad Said Saadi, a former minister of social affairs and family, a prominent economic researcher and university Professor from Morocco was recruited to draft an analytical paper that would focus on the future of the relations with IFIs: "Austerity policies of the IMF and its impact on social protection". The paper provides background information for national authors and delivers a critical discussion on the roles of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in the Arab region, with a focus on: 1) the austerity policy proposed by the IMF and its repercussions on the economic growth and social protection, 2) the problematic issue of subsidy alleviation. The paper highlighted the shift in the IMF's role in the global economy, from a "keeper of the global financial stability

as essential to the development of global trade and support economic growth” to the gendarme who “ensures the integration of the Third World economies in the global market and restructure them in accordance with the requirements of the capitalist economy.” The papers mentioned that “despite the loyal application of IMF recipes in Arab Countries, there was a decline in the rate of economic growth in many Arab countries, the unemployment rate increased and peoples’ revolutions reflected the levels of inequality and social exclusion.

A Focus group meeting was held in Beirut on

the 30th and 31st of October 2013 to discuss the aforementioned papers. The meeting brought together the national authors from 13 countries (6 countries covered by the project and additional 7 will be covered by other funders), the drafting committee of the Arab Watch Report, in addition to ANND coordination committee (CC) members. This was an essential step towards establishing the thematic and policy framework of the report. The meeting was also an occasion to reach consensus on the methodologies of work, the timeline and the format of the report that will be published in 2014.



TAXATION POLICIES IN THE REGION

Rationale and Objective:

Some countries (such as Tunisia and Egypt) achieved certain levels of economic growth and were considered as “good models” by the IMF and other IFIs. Other indicators, however, such as inequity, poverty and unemployment were not improving. This shows that the link between economic growth and development is not systematic. The shortcoming is due to ineffective social and economic choices that failed to meet the development goals and social justice entitled to citizens. The participation of citizens at different levels, including political, economic, social and cultural, is an entry point for concretizing justice. One of the most effective tools for redistribution of wealth, including addressing inequality and poverty, lies in tax policy. 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.

Related progress during 2013:

Within the context of expanding and mainstreaming its work on tax policies over a wider area in the Arab region, ANND has prepared first drafts to two national studies on tax regimes and their role in achieving social justice in two Arab countries, namely Egypt and Tunisia; in collaboration with the Egyptian Center for Economic and Social Rights (ECESR) and the Tunisian Forum for Economic and Social Rights (FTDES) respectively. The studies come under the project “Enhancing the capacity of civil society to advocate for a fair and effective tax system” between ANND and Christian Aid. Moreover, the drafts are expected to be finalized and published in early 2014. On a different note, ANND has

participated in the 1st CRAFT stakeholders meeting to support movement building around tax justice work in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and the 2nd global training of the CRAFT project, held in June 2013 in Cairo, Egypt. The CRAFT project was developed through collaboration between Oxfam Novib and Tax Justice Network-Africa (TJN-Africa), and organized in Cairo by the ECESR. During the event, ANND participated in a MENA CSOs’ meeting where CSOs from the Arab region discussed the main tax challenges on the national and the regional levels and concluded with the installation of a committee of three representatives (ECESR Egypt, Al Marsad-Palestine and ANND) responsible for developing a draft regional vision and action plan for a potential MENA tax justice network.

In December 2013, ANND participated in the GATJ ASIA Meeting: “Towards the formation of an Asian network on Tax Justice”, organized by the Jubilee South – Asia/Pacific Movement on Debt and Development (JSAPMDD) on December 6-7, in Bali, Indonesia. Christian Aid supported the meeting with resources. Participants agreed to form a Network on “Fiscal Justice” that will cover South Asia, Southeast Asia, East Asia and Australia, while recognizing the desire of Arab CSOs to pursue their own process in building a regional network on tax justice and after which it will closely work with GATJ.

Finally, in continuation of the work achieved in 2012, ANND published a paper on taxation regimes in 4 Arab countries: “Tax Regimes, issue n# 5 “Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine”. The studies incorporated in this publication were done during 2012 but were published in May 2013.

CAPACITY BUILDING FOR CSOs IN TRANSITION COUNTRIES

a. The Building bridges project:

Rationale and objective:

At the end of 2012, ANND started “the building bridges” project in cooperation with National Council for Voluntary Organizations (NCVO) and CIVICUS. The project aims to strengthen democratic participation through supporting national networking among civil society organizations in each of the project countries (Libya, Tunisia and Yemen). It will provide core training for civil society networks and act as a hub to exchange knowledge on best practices and models of engagement. This project targets mainly emerging CSOs in countries in transition to develop professional capacity, CSO management, registration structures and good governance across organizations but also involves well established CSOs to ensure experience sharing and more networking on the national level. The project consists in three steps: identifying the needs, strategic planning and finally networking. Overall, the project aims at building the capacities of CSOs in Libya, Tunisia and Egypt.

Related progress during 2013:

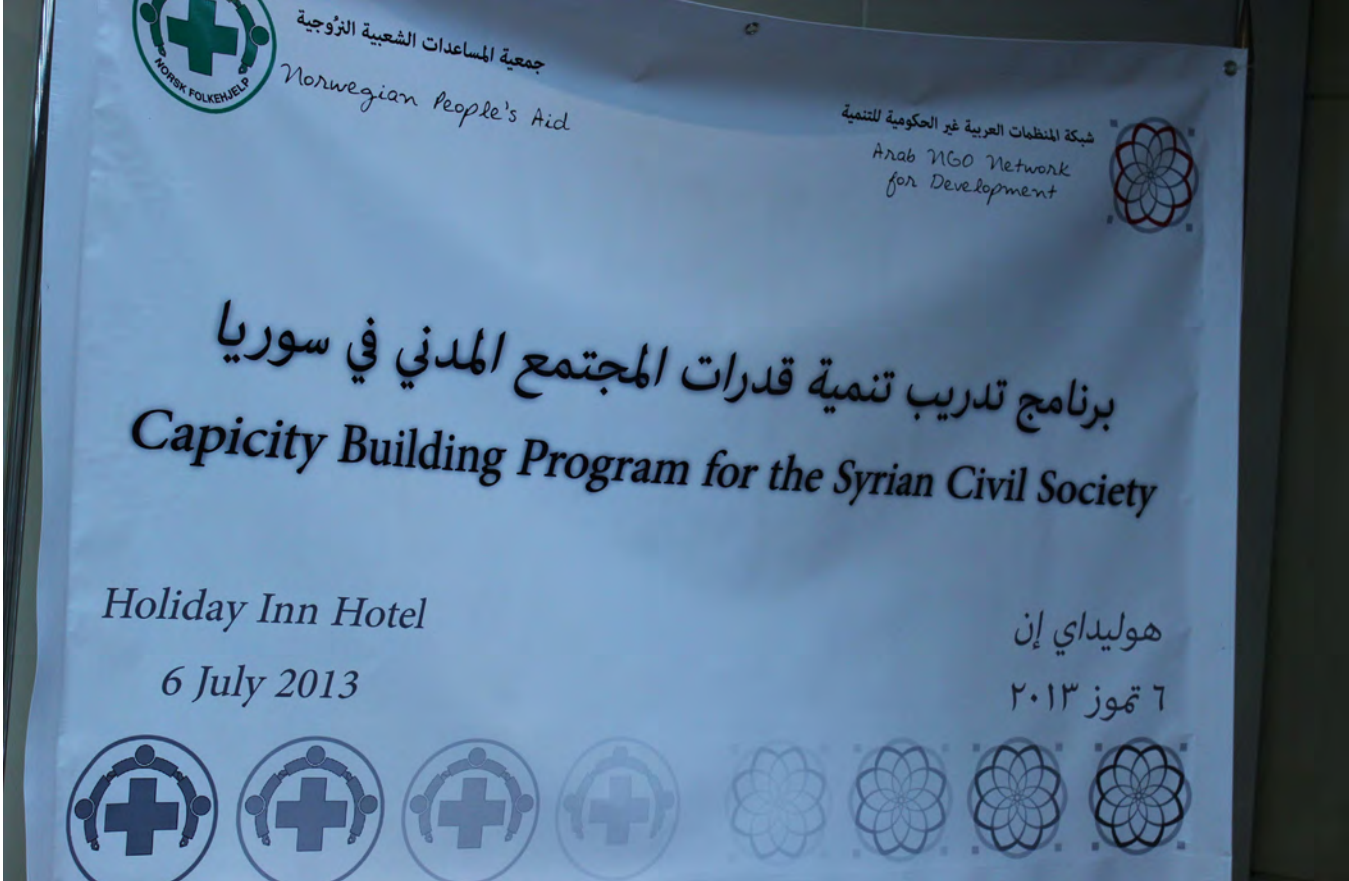
The first phase of the project started at the end of 2012 and spanned until the first quarter of 2013. It consisted of research on the situation of CSOs in the three concerned countries. The research was then distributed to 30 organizations from these countries. Also, reports detailing the needs of CSOs were then written and disseminated.

After that, consultative meetings were held in these countries, they brought together volunteers, local communities, charitable organizations, NGOs, social activists and trade union representatives. The meetings assessed the needs, challenges and opportunities of civil society. Early conclusions highlighted the several non-negligible differences between CSOs from each country, especially when it comes to the history and longevity of their work. Nevertheless, some similarities remain: Institutional building, strategic planning, and responsiveness to economic and political changes in the region, limited experience when it comes to monitoring and advocacy policies, difficulties in networking. Building on that, the second phase aimed at contributing to addressing these challenges.

A training on strategic planning was organized in Cairo between the 28th and 30th of September 2013, another one between the 20th and 23rd of November in Tunis and on the 24th and 26th in Libya. In continuation of these efforts, ANND is planning on organizing, on the first months of 2014, training sessions on advocacy in policy making. Finally, a regional meeting will be organized to discuss opportunities for joint action and national and/or regional ventures for networking between the trainees.

For more information about the project, please visit: <http://www.ncvo.org.uk/policy-and-research/international/building-bridges>

<http://www.civicus.org/become-a-civicus-member/meet-our-members/1687-chiara-butti-of-ncvo-speaks-with-civicus-about-the-building-bridges-project-in-north-africa>



b. Capacity building for Syrian CSOs:

Rationale and objective:

ANND believes that Syrian civil society can be the main actor in dealing with relief operations. It also can – if provided the necessary support, means and tools – 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. Therefore, in continuation of the 2012 capacity building with Syrian CSOs, ANND has undertaken the following activities in 2013.

Related progress in 2013:

After the two workshops organized in 2012, ANND pursued its capacity building for Syrian CSOs by organizing three more workshops in 2013. The first one was organized between

the 29th of January and the 2nd of February. It aimed at preparing Syrian NGOs to effectively engage with ANND in different processes for monitoring social and economic policies, namely the stakeholder reports on Human Rights situation that is submitted to the Human Rights Council in the framework of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanism and the process of monitoring and reporting on social and economic policies in the Arab region within the Arab Watch report on Social and Economic Rights. It is worth mentioning, that in the past, both processes lacked the real participation of Syrian Organizations; the previous 2012 UPR report was submitted solely by ANND, and the Arab Watch report 2012 did not include a report from Syria. The tangible results will come later, since the second UPR submission, and the second Arab watch report are scheduled for 2014. However ANND had already identified among the group potential partners, which were given the necessary tools to engage in those processes.

The fourth workshop organized between the 3rd and 7th of May, was the start of a series of sessions on peace building and conflict resolution. An important session of this workshop encompassed a discussion of other opinions, opinions identified as “pro-regime”: leftists, nationalists etc...” What needs to be highlighted here is the importance of such a discussion. Considering the fact that the majority of these activists are extremely anti-regime and that some of them have suffered personally under its yoke , this discussion in itself is an achievement.

The fifth workshop organized between the 2nd and 6th of July also included lectures on peace-building, conflict resolution and negotiation, as well as on transitional justice mechanisms. Different parallel Sessions were organized during the workshop for political dialogue in regard to the situation in Syria and in the Arab region and in the world. The workshops were a medium for the exchange of experiences between activists from Tunisia, Yemen, Egypt and Lebanon.

All the aforementioned capacity building endeavors resulted in an improvement of the institutional foundations of the concerned organizations. In other words, their ways of work, knowledge of rights, and awareness

about tools and channels for monitoring policies that impact their lives were better improved. This institutionalization was also materialized by the fact that many of them are now officially registered in several countries (Lebanon, Turkey, Netherlands etc....).

The series of capacity development workshops were concluded by a closing ceremony with the presence of the Norwegian Ambassador and representatives from Lebanese and Syrian CSOs.

It is worth noting that the beneficiary organizations that took part in the workshops are among ANND’s partners in Syria. They will thus continue to be ANND’s partners for the implementation of programs in the future. Some of them are now engaging in the process of becoming members of the Network whereas others will stay partners for joint projects and activities. This series of projects enacted networking opportunities that will be employed gainfully by ANND to further develop its network and its reach in Syria. As a result of these meeting, ANND is now planning to organize two “Strategic planning workshops”. Their output will be the elaboration of a strategic plan for cooperation between the concerned organizations and ANND. The plan will span over a period of two to three years.

LIST OF ANND PUBLICATIONS

Title		content
FREEDOM of Association in Arab Countries: A Toolkit	Language: Available in Arabic Copy: Hard and Electronic Copies Available	The aim of this publication is to contribute to the important debates and adoption of strategies on freedom of association, including its connection with other rights like freedom of peaceful assembly, opinion, and expression. This document is meant to be a Toolkit for advocacy. It is not a comprehensive review of the current situation in the MENA region
Tax Regimes, issue n# 5 “Morocco, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine	Language: Available in Arabic Copy: Hard and Electronic Copies Available	This paper comes in a series of publications which goes along with ANND’s strategy on monitoring social and economic rights and policies in the region
Arab Watch on Economic and Social Rights	Language: Available in English and Arabic Copy: Hard and Electronic Copies Available	This report was done in collaboration with members in 10 Arab Countries. It is a reflection of the new approach adopted following the revolutions and uprisings erupting in the region its focuses on the right to work and the right to education
Questioning policies: A Reference Guide on Policies for the Promotion of Economic, Social and Cultural	Language: Available in Arabic Copy: Hard and Electronic Copies	This guide seeks to shed light on the role of civil society organizations and to strengthen the role they could play in the promotion, protection and monitoring of economic, social and cultural rights

FINANCIAL REPORT

PROJECT: All Projects

CURRENCY: US Dollar

DATE: December 31, 2013

A- Income

Description	Received USD
a- Brought forward 1.1.2012	87182.79
b- From Contract with Funders:	
Diakonia	139,919.00
The Norwegian People's Aid - Lebanon	109,247.00
The Norwegian People's Aid - Oslo	13,987.00
OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATIONS (OSF)	200,000.00
Ford foundation	59,980.00
The Institute for the Mediterranean (IMED)	49,417.00
IBON International	94,641.00
Bank Watch	51,291.00
National Council for Voluntary Organizations (NCVO)	13,268.00
Christian Aid	57,920.00
CNCD-11.11.11 (Centre National de Coopération au Développement)	19,180.00
CIVICUS	10,790.00
Arab Council for the Social Sciences (ACSS)	8,815.00
Total incomes from Funders	828,455.00
c- Membership fees	500.00
d- Others	16,350.00
Total income for the year 2013	932,487.79

B- Expenses

Description	Paid USD
Administrative cost	117,483.79
Networking	44,089.00
Information & Communication	48,780.00
ANND projects and activities for 2013	692,605.00
Solidarity	2,550.00
Total expenses for the year 2013	905,507.00
Balance at 31/12/2013	26,980.00