



**Political Development Forum**

*Towards safe and sustainable Political Development*

# Annual Report

Activities Report

# 2009

*Political Development Forum is an independent,  
non-profit, non-governmental institution for intellectual and cultural activities*

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The Political Development Forum (PDF) has one of the most dynamic think-tanks in Yemen that enjoys a broad relationship with many domestic and international partners.

During 2009, PDF was able to implement several projects and activities, focusing on strategic issues of top priority to Yemen which is now facing its toughest challenges.

The PDF carried four projects and four symposiums in cooperation with and support of International partners including Friedrich Ebert Stiftung (FES), Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), European Union (EU), Club De Madrid, and the National Democratic Institute (NDI).

In this report, we present a brief idea about the activities we carried out in 2009 which include:

- 2009 projects
- 2009 symposiums.
- 2009 Open Political Forum Activities.

The PDF is looking forward to implementing other activities during the years to come along with its partners.

Ali Saif Hassan

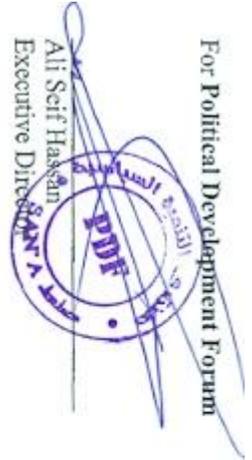
Executive Director

Sana'a, May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010

# Part One

## 2009 Projects

For Political Development Forum  
Ali Seif Hassan  
Executive Director



For the Center for International Private  
Enterprise  
John D. Sullivan  
Executive Director



  
07.01.10  
FRIEDRICH  
EBERT  
STIFTUNG  
SANA'A OFFICE

الدكتور. عبد الكريم قاسم السياغي  
اللجنة الاستشارية  
الدكتور/ محمد مكرم  
الدكتور/ عبد الحكيم الشرجبي  
الدكتور/ سنان المرهضي  
المنسق العام: الأستاذ / علي سيف حسن



  
  
07.01.10  
FRIEDRICH  
EBERT  
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SANA'A OFFICE

## **A- Yemen 2020:**

Yemen 2020 is a scenarios building project with a close partnership with FES.

The main target and activities of the project are meant to provide the Yemeni decision makers in the government, the opposition, and the international donors with envisaged scenarios that Yemen might go through or face during the coming 10 years.

The main activities which have been implemented so far include:

- 1- Broad consultation with different economic, political players in Yemen and with international experts to identify the main factors which will have strategic effects on the future of Yemen. The outcome of this consultation was identifying the following elements to build the potential scenario on including water scarcity, population growth, post-oil economy, local governance, and the relationship with the GCC countries.
- 2- Preparing background studies on each one of the five elements to be discussed by well-selected groups from the best specialists in each field.
- 3- Implementing five discussion sessions as following:
  - The first session is on "Post-oil Economy" paper, March, 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009 at the World Bank office. Mr. Benson Ateng World Bank Country Director, Mr. Naji Abu Hatem, and Dr. Ali AbdulRazak ,World Bank Senior Specialists participated in the session. The paper was prepared by Dr. Mohamed AlAfandi, Professor of Economics, Sana'a University.
  - The Second session is on "Water Challenges" paper, April, 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009 at the GTZ office in Sana'a. Some specialists from GTZ participated in the session. The paper was prepared by Dr. Mohamed Al-Hamdy Deputy Minister – Ministry of Water.
  - The Third session is on the "Population Challenges" paper, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation. Dr. Mohamed Al Hawry, member of the discussion group and Deputy Minister – Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation participated in the session. The paper was prepared by Dr. Raufah Hassan.

- The Fourth session is on the "Local Governance Challenges" paper, June, 28th, 2009 at Shahrhan hotel. Ms. Khadija Radman Deputy Minister Ministry of Local Governance participated in the event. The paper was prepared by Dr. Mohamed Al Dhahery, Sana'a University.
- The Fifth session is on " Yemen Relationship with the GCC challenges" paper, Nov. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Movenpic Hotel, Sana'a. Four specialists from GCC were invited to participate in the session. The paper was prepared by Mr. Abdunaser Al Modaa, a freelance researcher.

4- A well-selected small group among the best participants in the five discussion groups was tasked to squeeze the five studies and the outcome of the group discussions to come up with a digest formulated in a single scenarios draft document.

5- Inviting about 100 persons, representing all Yemen future stakeholders to discuss the scenarios' draft.

6- Editing and writing the final draft of the scenarios document.

7- Producing the document in a book and organizing a large symposium for the dissemination of the scenarios book.

The main output up to now is: the five studies, the discussion groups, the digest of the five studies and group discussions, and the first draft document of the scenarios.

The other activities will be implemented in the coming months.

### **B- Economic Platform Building:**

Economic Platform Building is orientation, training, and advocacy project in direct partnership with "CIPE". The main objective and activities of the project were meant to promote the engagement of Yemen political parties and other civil society organizations in developing economic platforms.

The project main activities were:

- Business Barometer Survey which focused on the private business views about the economic and social policies of each political party and government as well the relationship between the private sector and political parties.
- Economic Platform Building orientation workshops wherein top leadership at the ruling General People's Congress (GPC) and the Joint Meeting Parties (JMP), an opposition coalition of six parties, took part.
- Economic Platform Building training workshop for the economist specialists from all political parties.

- Broad consultation with main players in the economic development from the government and the private sector, NGOs, and political parties to present their views on what they consider as the most important five economic priorities for Yemen at this stage. The participants agreed that the main five economic priorities are: Unemployment, Electricity, Taxation system, Tourism, and economic investing in the strategically geopolitics of Yemen.
- Preparing policy paper on each of the five economic priorities to be presented during the Round Table Conference.
- National Round Table Conference for Yemen Economic priorities.

- The Political Parties have better understanding of the private business, their needs and their view about each party.

- The political Parties top leadership has a broad understanding of the importance of the economic platforms.

- The political parties' economic specialists have a better experience on how to build a responding economic platform.

- It was the first time that the private businesses work together with political parties representatives.

- There was a consensus among the participants on the identified five economic priorities but they had different opinions which represent each political party policy for approaching these priorities.

The PDF has signed a new grant agreement with CIPE for the second phase of this program.

### **C- Training of Women in Political Parties on Leadership Skills:**

Training of Women in Political Parties on Leadership Skills is a capacity building and empowering of women in political decision making in the political parties, in direct partnership with European Commission in Jordan and Yemen, and FES.

The main objective of the project was to boost women participation in the decision making in the political parties by empowering them with professional leadership skills.

### **The project main activities:**

- Preparing a professional training manual on women leadership in political parties and printing 1000 colour copies.
- Organizing 8 training sessions in Sana'a, Taiz, Aden and Hadramaut for 215 women from 9 political parties.

The main results are:

- Producing the first Professional Training Manual in Arabic which is accessible to all political parties.
- Professionally trained 215 women who are willing and have the required leadership skills to strengthen their role in the party decision making process.
- 15 women well-trained to be trainers in order to continue in-house training in their own parties.
- Networking women from different political parties.

### **D- Developing Yemeni indicators for corruption:**

This project was a professional work on developing a Yemeni framework to evaluate and mobilize fight against corruption in Yemen, with direct partnership with NDI Sana'a office.

The framework document was prepared by five of the most well known specialists in this field from Sana'a University. The framework was made available for all NGOs to use it in their anticorruption activities.

## Part Two

### 2009 Symposiums



## **Postponement of Election: Goals and Justifications**

The Postponement of the parliamentary election symposium was an open and serious dialogue between the Political Parties represented in the Parliament that signed the postponement agreement on Feb.28<sup>th</sup>, 2009, two months before the due date for the parliamentary election on April, 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The event was attended by politicians from other parties, media, civic activists, and international donors.

The Symposium was organized on March, 17, 2009 at Sheba Hotel in cooperation with FES.

### **1- Proportional List Election System:**

The Proportional list election system symposium was organized on August, 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at Sheba Hotel in cooperation with FES, and was an orientation and education presentations and dialogue between the ruling party and the opposition parties. Two permanent leaders; Mr. Mohamed Qahtan member of Islah politburo , and Mr. Abdula Ghanim former Minister of Justice and head of the GPC Political Department presented two papers on the topic.

In this symposium and for the first time, the two leaders agreed that the German Election System is a good model for the election system that Yemen needs.

Based on the outcome of this symposium, FES in cooperation with PDF organized a one week orientation visit to Berlin for a group of six leaders from the JMP and GPC, the Election Supreme Committee, and PDF. The group had very rich and comprehensive orientation on the German election and Federation System.

After the return of the group to Yemen, the PDF wrote a policy paper recommending to Yemeni political parties to adopt the German election system which is commensurate with the Yemeni political system. The paper was signed by the group members and was submitted by PDF to the JMP general secretariat and to GPC President, President of Yemen.

## **2- Strengthening Women Political Participation:**

Strengthening Women Political Participation was a project of Club De Madrid that included an opening symposium and a series of training workshops, The opening Symposium and the first training workshop were on Feb. 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009 and was held at Movenpic Hotel Sana'a. The PDF role in these activities was inviting and following up participation of the opposition parties' leaders and trainers.

Based on involvement in these activities, the PDF signed with Club De Madrid, a contract to prepare, edit, and publish a weekly page in Al Nidaa independent weekly newspaper for seven weeks under the title: "Women Towards Parliament".

## **3- Electoral Alternatives and their political impacts**

A symposium on the Electoral Alternatives and their Political Impacts was organized on Dec. 21, 2009 at Taj Sheba hotel, in Cooperation with FES.

The symposium was an orientation and dialogue between Mr. Abdalnaser Almodae , author of the book "Electoral Alternatives and their Political Impacts", and political parties leaders, media professionals and civil society activists. The dialogue came to conclude that the German electoral system, with some modifications to fit the Yemen political system, would be the most appropriate electoral system for the Yemen.

### Part Three

## The Open Political Forum



The Open Political Forum program is the basis of and source from which the PDF was initially established. It is a typical Yemeni weekly session (maqiyal) at the PDF Executive Director's house, attended by a number of activists and people interested in the fields of politics, media, and culture. The weekly event is usually attended by Yemenis, non-Yemenis, residents, and visitors with various orientations. All issues of public concern- domestic, regional or international- are discussed openly and freely without any prior conditions or restrictions except for moral and professional ones.

During the 2009, the PDF organized 37 sessions under the Open political Forum. All the national political agendas were discussed during the sessions attended by participants from different walks of life, including leading politicians, media professionals and civic activists as well as foreign diplomats, researchers, and international media representatives.