



Organize

## GLOBAL FORUM ON MODERN DIRECT DEMOCRACY Decentralization by participation

At Carthage University – National Agronomic Institute of Tunisia  
May 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> 2015

[2015globalforum.com](http://2015globalforum.com)  
[swissinfo.ch/directdemocracy](http://swissinfo.ch/directdemocracy) - [people2power.info](http://people2power.info)



## Draft Agenda (as of may4)

### Thursday, May 14

09:00 am                      Opening of Registration  
INAT Main Hall, Welcome Coffee/Tea

10:00 am                      **2015 Global Forum Opening Plenary on People Power  
Tunisian Style and the State of Participatory and Direct  
Democracy around the globe**

*Chaired by Bruno Kaufmann, Forum Co-President*

*Welcome Addresses by University president **Lassaad El  
Asmi**, Secretary-General UGTT **Houcine Abassi** and the  
Prime Minister of Tunisia , **Habib Essid***

*Keynotes by **Yadh Ben Anchour**, Former Chairman of the  
High Commission for the Preservation of the Revolution and  
**Andreas Gross**, Former Chairperson of European Election  
Observers to Tunisia and President of the Socialist Group in  
the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe*

*Briefings by **Mohamed Chafik Sarsar**, Chairman of the  
Independent Tunisian Election Commission (ISIE) and  
**Henri Malosse**, President of the European Economic and  
Social Committee (EESC)*

11.30                              Coffee/Tea

12.00 *Panel* with feedbacks and inputs to the welcome addresses, keynotes and briefings by **Nadia Chaabane** (Massar), **Mongi Rahoui** (Jabha), **Mouldi Riahi** (Takatol), **Maya Jribi** (Jomhour), **Ferida Labidi** (Ennahdha), **Saida Garrach** (Nidaa Touness) et **Jawhar Ben Mbarek** (NGO Destourouna). Moderated by **Hichem Snoussi** (HAICA).

13.00 Towards a more participative democracy in the Arab world and beyond - statements by **Habib Choubani**, government minister for relations with the parliament and the civil society, Morocco and **Kamel Jendoubi**, Tunisian Minister to the head of government in charge of Relations with the constitutional institutions and civil society

*Chaired by Joe Mathews, Forum Co-President*

Q&A

13.30 Global Forum "tour de table" with very brief inputs from participants from Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe and North America.

13.45 Sum-up and presentation of Forum Agenda and workshops and **Tunis Declaration**

14.00 Lunch

16:00 *Public Event: Prospects for Decentralization by Participation in Tunisia* with representatives of the main political parties in the Tunisian parliament Confirmation from Jabha, UPL, Afek, Ettakatol, Massar (without names yet) and **Saïd Aïdi** (Nidaa Touness), **Noura Ben Hassen** (CPR) **Imed Hammami** (Ennahdha)

Moderated by **Ons Ben Abdelkarim** (Al-Bawsala)

*Free evening/special gatherings*

# Friday, May 15

- 08:30 am            Opening of Venues at INAT
- 09:00                Working and Seminar Sessions (Part I)
- 10.45                Coffee/Tea Break
- 11.15                Working and Seminar Sessions (Part II)
- 13.00                Lunch
- 14.30                **2015 Global Forum Panel on Arab Spring and the role of young people, women and social media for democratization**
- Chaired by Anne-Marie Sigmund, Former President, European Economic and Social Committee*
- Inputs by **Amel Azzouz**, Tunisian Secretary of State for International Cooperation, **Nur Laiq**, Writer and author of Talking to Arab Youth: Revolution and Counter-revolution in Egypt and Tunisia and **Donia Ben Romdhane**, International IDEA.
- 15.45                **Participatory Session – Your Vote please?**
- An interactive panel with **Ali Anouzla** (Morocco), Editor-in-chief Lakome.com; **Wael Abbas** (Egypt), journalist and human rights activist; **Saloua Ghazouan** (Tunisia), director for ARTICLE 19; **Abdullah Abdulaziz Elmdifer** (Saudi Arabia), TV host and journalist.
- Moderated by **Anass Bendrif**, RNW Multimedia Editor
- Evening             **Film 7½** - Cultural Program with Films and other inputs around the Jasmine Revolution at Cultural Center Ibn Rachiq in central Tunis

## Saturday, May 16

- 09:30 am            Opening of Venues at INAT
- 10:00                Working and Seminar Sessions (Part II)
- 12.00                Lunch
- 13.30                **Global Forum Plenary on the Tunis Declaration for Decentralization by Participation**  
Chair: Joe Mathews, Forum Co-President
- Presentation, inputs from workshops and seminars
- 15.00                Coffee/Tea
- 15.30                **Global Forum Break Out Session**  
Democracy International Annual Meeting and network meetings
- 17.30                Transfer to dinner and cultural Event

## Sunday, May 17

- 09:30 am            Opening of INAT HALL
- 10:00                2015 Global Forum Concluding Plenary **on Decentralization by Participation in Tunisia and the Prospects of Modern Direct Democracy worldwide**
- Chaired by Bruno Kaufmann and Joe Mathews, Forum-Co-Presidents*
- Inputs and Outlooks
- Tunis Declaration voting and approval and farewell speeches Including **Mehdi Mabrouk** (Arab Center) and **Mourad Ben Mouelli** (ISIE)

Tunis Declaration (final vote)  
2016 Outlook

13.00

*End of Global Forum*

## WORKSHOPS

### **WS1. Social Media and Democracy**

→ Saturday, 10-12, B2 [INAT THEATRES]

→ Convener: Assya Kavrakova, [assya.kavrakova@ecas.org](mailto:assya.kavrakova@ecas.org) (ECAS)

Social media is taking the world by storm. From new, interactive websites to portable apps, there is an increasingly diverse array of options for “plugging in.” While much of this new technology focuses on casual communication for social purposes, it is also being used for political communication and civic information/education. In this workshop, we discuss the rise of social media and its impact on political participation – and present toolkits for direct and participatory democracy.

### **WS2. Women and Democratization**

→ Friday, 9-11, B2 [INAT THEATRES]

→ Convener: Zohra Chabaane, [zohra.lili.chabaane@gmail.com](mailto:zohra.lili.chabaane@gmail.com) (University of Carthage)

The growing role of women in the democratization processes in Tunisia and other countries is a key issue to be assessed. A more accessible and equal society, where women and men are on similar footing, is an important factor for success and progress. In this workshop we will share stories, experiences, research and promoting projects from Tunisia, other Arab countries and around the world.

## WS3. New Citizens Movements/Parties

→ Saturday, 10-12, C2 [INAT Admin]

→ Convener: Riccardo Freccaro, [alex.marini1977@gmail.com](mailto:alex.marini1977@gmail.com) (M5S)

A growing number of new political parties across Europe and the world underlines the need of more direct and participative democracy. Their political approaches and successes are different from country to country – this workshop offers an overview and better understanding for how indirect and direct democracy can interact .

## WS4. Citizens Media & Journalism

→ Saturday, 10-12, C1 [INAT Admin]

→ Convener: Joe Mathews, [joe@zocalopublicsquare.org](mailto:joe@zocalopublicsquare.org) (Zocalo)

Linking active citizens and new ideas for better democracy with media and journalism is an emerging and most interesting development across the world. Citizens media and journalism can become important sources of democratic conversations. In this workshop we will address current examples, past experiences and forthcoming challenges.

## WS5. Democracy and Islam

→ Friday, 9-13, A1 [INAT Auditorium]

→ Convener: Amr Huber, [Amr.Huber@swissinfo.ch](mailto:Amr.Huber@swissinfo.ch) (Swissinfo)

How to reconcile religion and democracy; this is not only a challenge for the Arab world but also an important question across globe. Beliefs and religious doctrines offer important values and foundations for the community but can also become instrumentalized by autocratic powers. This workshop addresses a key issue for the further prospects of democracy in many countries.

## WS6. Free Trade and Direct Democracy

→ Friday, 9-11, C2 [INAT Admin]

→ Convener: Roman Huber, [roman.huber@mehr-demokratie.de](mailto:roman.huber@mehr-demokratie.de) (More Democracy)

International agreements on free trade have become powerful instruments of opening up economies and countries; many times they contribute to developments of wealth and welfare. However, there are also many downsides including direct challenges to modern democracy as currently discussed in the framework of the new Transatlantic Trade Agreement (TTIP). This workshop address these issues and what can be done to safeguard and develop people power

## WS7. Infrastructure for Participative Democracy

→ Friday, 9-11, D1 [Maison de l'Eau]

→ Convener: Anne-Marie Sigmund, [sigmund@freie-berufe.at](mailto:sigmund@freie-berufe.at) (EESC)

The growing use of participative and direct democratic instruments for active citizenship creates new challenges for public infrastructure around voting, participation, information and consultation. Many governments have started to meet these new requirements by developing participative infrastructures – including efforts at the transnational level in Europe. It is foreseen to hold the 2016 Global Forum on this issue in San Sebastian, Spain and to establish a network of pro-active cities and regions across the world (with a paper by → Paper by Kai Masser and Franziska Fischer (German Research Institute for Public Administration)

## WS8. Why Tunisia? And what to learn for the World?

→ Friday, 9-13, C1 [Maison INAT], Saturday, 10-12, A1 [Auditorium]

→ Convener: Andi Gross, [hpandigross@hotmail.com](mailto:hpandigross@hotmail.com) [parts I&II] (IRI) and Mehdi Ben Mimoun [III], [mehdibenmimoun@yahoo.com](mailto:mehdibenmimoun@yahoo.com) (University of Carthage)

Tunisia has been applauded as the first democracy in the Arab world and the only one to fulfill at least some parts of the revolutionary hopes and goals in the beginning of the 2010s. What makes Tunisia different from other Arab countries – and other societies that are transitioning to greater democracy? And what can be learned from Tunisia's example worldwide? What are the next

steps and requirements to make decentralization by participation possible?  
This workshop address these important issues

## **WS9. Towards participative democracy worldwide**

→ Friday, 11-13, D1 [Maison de l'Eau]

→ Convener: Daniel Schugurensky, [dschugur@asu.edu](mailto:dschugur@asu.edu) (ASU)

Beyond initiative and referendums, many other forms of participatory democracy has been developed recently, including participatory budgets and deliberative polls. Based on concrete practices from Tunisia and worldwide, this workshop looks into the options of such participatory tools to make democracy more democratic.

## **WS10. The State of Local Democracy – a Global Assessment**

→ Friday, 11-13, B2 [INAT Theatres]

→ Convener: Brechtje Kemp, [b.kemp@idea.int](mailto:b.kemp@idea.int) (IDEA)

Inter-active session will aim to:

→ Introduce the main building blocks of local democracy as described in International IDEA's new State of (Local) Democracy assessment frameworks (see figure below).

→ Discuss assessment questions that relate to participation in decentralization and to ways in which direct democracy mechanisms can help in strengthening (local) democracy.

→ Explore how citizen-led assessments could be used in assessing and monitoring decentralization processes and (new) laws that will influence the quality of local democracy, focusing on the current process in Tunisia.

## **WS 11. La démocratie participative: entre le souhaitable et le faisable**

→ Saturday, Attention! 9-12 at Arab Center for Research and Policy Studies

→ Convener: Mehdi Mabrouk, [henda.carep@gmail.com](mailto:henda.carep@gmail.com) (CARP)

La question de la démocratie participative est d'une grande actualité surtout pour les pays où la culture et le régime démocratiques ne sont pas bien ancrés. La participation a été l'une des fortes demandes sociales et requêtes lors du printemps arabe et ailleurs dans une bonne partie du monde.



## WS12. Storytelling on Modern DD activities

→ Friday, 9-13, Saturday 10-12 [Inat Theatres]

→ Convener: Daniel Schily, [d.c.schily@gmail.com](mailto:d.c.schily@gmail.com) (Democracy International)

Encouraging, depressing, empowering, hard, funny, interesting and informative stories about active citizenship and participative democracy across the world.

## WS13. Towards participatory democracy in Morocco

→ Friday, 11-13 C2 [Inat Admin]

→ Convener: (tbc)

Morocco is one of the few Arab countries to include provisions of participatory and direct democracy in its national constitution -- a petition and a popular agenda initiative right. Around these provisions a debate about the role and possibilities of civil society organizations has developed – and many stakeholders have engaged in public conversation and development work. This workshop will introduce and share this interesting process and discuss the options and limits of active citizenship and participatory democracy in Morocco and beyond.

## Global Forum Workshop Guide

Room #	Rooms	Capacity	Friday, May 15		Saturday, May 16
			9-10.45	11.15-13	10-12
<b>A</b>	<b>INAT Auditorium</b>	With translations from to English/Arab/French			
A1	Auditorium	250 persons	WS5 Democracy and Islam (2) @Amr Huber (Swissinfo)	WS8 Why Tunisia (3/3)? And what to learn for the World? @mehdibenmimo un (University of Carthage)	
A2	Room 1	VIP (Thursday)/Press room (All Days)			
<b>B</b>	<b>INAT theaters</b>				
B1	Theater 1	60 persons	WS12 Storytelling on Modern Direct Democracy (3)		

			@Daniel Schily (Democracy International)		
B2	Theater 2	80 persons	WS2 Women and Democratization @Zohra Chabaane (UOC)	WS10 The State of Local Democracy – A Global Assessment @Brechtje Kemp (IDEA)	WS1 Social Media and Democracy @Assya Kavrakova (ECAS)
<b>C</b>	<b>INAT Admin</b>				
C1	Room 1	40 persons	WS8 Why Tunisia? And what to learn for the World? (2) @Andi Gross (IRI)		WS4 Citizens Media and Journalism @Joe Mathews (Zocalo)
C2	Room 2	20 persons	WS6 Free Trade and Direct Democracy @Roman Huber (More Democracy)	WS13. Towards participatory democracy in Marocco	WS3 New Citizens Movements and Parties @Riccardo Fraccaro (M5S)
C3	Room 3	20 persons	Host Committee Back Office		
<b>D</b>	<b>Maison de l'Eau</b>				
D1	Room	30 persons	WS7 Infrastructure for Participative Democracy @Anne-Marie Sigmund (EESC)	WS9 Towards participative democracy worldwide @Daniel Schugurensky (ASU)	Open Space
<b>E</b>	<b>Extern</b>				<b>Arab Center for Research</b>
E1					WS11 La démocratie participative: entre le souhaitable et le faisable (9-12)