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Deutsches Institut für
Entwicklungspolitik



German Development
Institute

Towards New Social Contracts in MENA Countries? Prospects for Economic and Social Policy Reform, better Governance and National Dialogues

Panel in the framework of the 26th International DAVO Congress
Hamburg, Germany, 9.00h-18.30h, 04 October 2019

Organised by:

Markus Loewe (German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik, (DIE)
Bonn)

Many scholars interpret the 2011 upheavals in the MENA as a sign of failure of the social contracts that MENA countries had developed after independence. All of these were based on the provision of generous social benefits by governments to citizens as compensation for the lack of political participation. But with growing populations and declining state revenues, governments became less able to fulfil their contractual obligations and had to focus spending increasingly on strategically important social groups. The Arab uprisings in 2011 were thus an expression of discontent of citizens with a situation where governments provided neither political participation nor social benefits. The question is what types of social contracts have emerged after the uprisings and what do these imply for the coming years.

The first part of the panel will deal with MENA countries that sustained their statehood (Tunisia, Morocco, Egypt, Algeria, Jordan, Saudi Arabia). It discusses if governments of these countries have been able to refurbish the old social contracts or establish new ones. What is the content of the new social contracts? What are the deliverables of governments and citizens? Are the new contracts acceptable by citizens or are citizens likely to revolt again? Can we think of reforms that establish 'better' social contracts that is better for citizens yet acceptable for governments?

The second part of the panel will deal with MENA countries that have descended into civil wars (Yemen, Libya, Syria). It discusses the prospects of these countries establishing new social contracts that are acceptable for all major conflicting parties, at least for the short term. Is the formation of social covenants between the conflicting parties conceivable? Can a new social contract be set up building on these social covenants? Which internal and external actors have to be on board in such a process?

Session C.1

Friday, 4 October 2019, 09.00h-11.00h, venue tbc

Chair: Bernhard Trautner (University of Tübingen and German Development Institute / Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik DIE), Bonn)

Markus Loewe (DIE): Introduction to the panel

Melani Cammett (Harvard University), **Ishac Diwan (Harvard University)**, and Irina Vartanova (Institute for Future Studies, Stockholm): The Effects of Insecurity on Political Values in the Arab World

Erin McCandless (The New School in New York): Forging Resilient and Inclusive Social Contracts to Achieve and Sustain Peace: Drawing Lessons from Tunisia for the MENA Region

Laryssa Chomiak (Centre d'Etudes Maghrébines à Tunis): State/Society/Protest in Contemporary Tunisia

Zafiris Tzannatos (Lebanese Center for Policy Studies): The Youth Bulge than was not The Mismeasured, Misunderstood and Mistreated Arab Youth

Session D.1

Friday, 4 October 2019, 11.30h-13.30h, venue tbc

Chair: Amirah El-Haddad (Cairo University and German Development Institute/ Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik, Bonn)

Wael Khatib (independent researcher, Jordan), and Sean Yom (Temple University): The Social Contract in Jordan at 100 Years: Revisiting Identity

Tina Zintl (DIE): Divide and Rule in the Taxi Business? How the car-hailing services Uber and Careem illustrate Jordan's shifting social contract

Martin Hvidt (University of Southern Denmark): The Dubai Model of Development - Changing the social contract

Ingrid El Masry (University of Marburg): No lighthouse in sight? Post-2011 Tunisia and the need for sustainable development

Session E.1

Friday, 4 October 2019, 14.30h-16.30h, venue tbc

Chair: Tina Zintl (German Development Institute/ Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik, Bonn)

Georgeta Vidican Auktor (University of Applied Science Nürnberg), and **Markus Loewe (DIE)**: Rationalising public transfer spending in the Middle East and North Africa: Strategic options to deal with challenges

Amirah El-Haddad (Cairo University and DIE): Redefining the social contract in the wake of the Arab Spring: the experiences of Egypt, Morocco and Tunisia.

Hania Sobhy (Max Planck Institute for the Study of Religious and Ethnic Diversity): Education and the Lived Social Contract in Egypt before and after the Uprisings

Annabelle Houdret (DIE), and Hichem Amichi (Ecole d'Ingénieurs de Purpan, Toulouse): The rural social contract in Morocco and Algeria: reshaping through economic liberalization and new rules and practices

Session F.1

Friday, 4 October 2019, 16.30h-18.30h, venue tbc

Chair: Annabelle Houdret (German Development Institute/ Deutsches Institut für Entwicklungspolitik, Bonn)

Fabio Coriolano (Warsaw University): Healthcare Systems in Selected Islamic Countries

Bernhard Trautner (DIE and University of Tübingen): Supporting new social contracts for dysfunctional Middle Eastern states - instead of fictitious nation building

Mark Furness (DIE): The German guidelines on crisis prevention and peacebuilding, and Germany's responses to conflicts in the Middle East and North Africa

Gubara Said Hassan (Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat): Sudan's Uprisings: For Hurriyyah (Freedom), Salam (Peace) and Adalah (Justice)

The organisers:

Stability and Development in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA)

Research and Policy Advice Project
at the **German Development Institute / Deutsches
Institut**

für Entwicklungspolitik (DIE), Bonn

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