Futures Studies Forum for Africa and the Middle East

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION

ONE AFRICA ROUND TABLE I REPORT



Amman, Jordan

May 16-17th, 2015

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One AFRICA Future Round Table: Concept Note

The Futures Studies Forum for Africa and the Middle East (FSF) held its first "**One Africa Future Round Table**" in Amman, Jordan on May 16th and 17th, 2015. The meeting aimed to facilitate knowledge and experience sharing between experts and futurists from MENA and Sub Saharan Africa (SSA). The two day meeting discussed the cooperation areas between the two regions and suggested future collaborations between FSF and its counterparts in the region and Africa.

This meeting is part of the activities initiated by FSF to scan trends in North Africa that are having profound impact on the developmental issues in the region. Through producing monitoring bulletins (**North Africa Horizons**) and holding round table meetings.

One Africa Future Round table also reviewed the two monitoring bulletins produced by FSF titled: **Securing Wheat Availability: What Prospects for North Africa**" and the "**Future of Millennials in North Africa**". In addition, it discussed the state and role of future studies in transforming Africa's future and how innovation can be a catalyst of change in both regions.

FSF is a non-governmental regional organization aiming at connecting North Africa with its mother continent, and developing a common shared vision for Africa's future. Focusing on re-building connections and defining areas for future development interventions and cooperation between North Africa, Sub-Saharan Africa and the MENA region. Through conducting futures studies and facilitating knowledge sharing.

Day 1

Saturday, 16th May 2015

The first day of the roundtable discussion took place on Saturday the 16th of May, and consisted of 3 main sessions, the first of which was titled "Bridging MENA and SSA to transform the future", the second of which was titled "What can Future Studies Offer to Transform Africa's Future?", and the final session of the day was titled "Innovation as a Catalyst of Change in Africa". (See Annex1: Agenda).

Before commencing with the first session of the day, an ice-breaking activity took place where attendees were required to provide a very brief introduction of themselves and their main field of activity, as well as to mention one word to describe how they see the future. Some of the main words that were used by attendees were: "IMAGINATIVE", "DREAMING", "CATALYSING", "Pedagogue", "TRANSFORMATION", "Archeology of the Future", "CREATIVE DESTRUCTION", "FUTURE (IMAGINATION)", "REVOLUTION", "TRUST", "INFORMATION", "Changes Under Focus", "FREEDOM and DEVELOPMENT", "OPEN", "IDEAS, INSIGHT, INNOVATION", and "EGYPT 2030".

Session 1: Bridging MENA and SSA to transform the future

They first session of the roundtable event aimed at introduce the two-day workshop. Welcoming notes were presented by the event hosts Dr. Nisreen EL Lahham (Head of Board-FSF) and Ms. Lamia El Raei (Executive Director-FSF). Followed by setting the context for the two days discussions; by presenting the contextual grounds for the cooperation between MENA region and SSA. This was provided by the experts from MENA and SSA; Dr. Jawad EL Hamad, Prof. Mohammed Mansour, Dr. Geci Karuri-Sebina, and Dr. Julius Gatune Kariuki.

- **Dr. Nisreen El Lahham, Head of Directors Board: Welcome note and introduction of meeting objectives**

In her welcome note, Dr. Nisreen El Lahham welcomed the One Africa Future Roundtable participants and partners to Amman, and wished them all a fruitful stay in which knowledge can be shared between future studies experts from Africa and the Middle East, as well as international experts in the field.

Dr. Lahham asserted that the first round table discussion is within the framework of the "North Africa Horizons" being prepared by the FSF for Africa and the Middle East, as part of the searchlight project funded by the Rockefeller Foundation. A project that aims at scanning trends in the Asian, Latin American and African continents.

FSF scans trends in North Africa s through quarterly newsletters published on line by the forum in both Arabic and English, focusing on emerging political, economic, social, environmental and technological trends based on surveys and expert opinions.

She also explained that the main objective of the project is to provide a picture of the future in the region based on solid of scientific data related current changes and variables as the core of a process to foresee future trends, specify long term goals, and propose measures to achieve them. Hence, FSF has undertaken the task to institutionalizing the science of future studies and to spread the culture of futures thinking, in light of the absence of specialized institutional frameworks of future studies and lack in experts and researchers specialized in future studies methodologies in the region.

Dr. Lahham, reviewed the agenda for the two-day roundtable discussions, while elaborating on the topics covered in FSF's two monitoring bulletins produced since its inception: "**Securing What Availability: What Prospects for North Africa" and "Future of Millennials in North Africa", which will be discussed in the last session of the second day.**

Finally, she re-asserted that the purpose of the two-day meeting is not only confined to discussing session topics but extends to consolidating the cooperation and ties between the FSF and the participating future studies experts and the institutions they represent, and proposing next joint potential projects that can be undertaken by FSF and its new partners, to help it position itself as a leading regional futures studies center capable of achieving a better future for Africa and the Middle East, which is a region in dire need of shaping its future before "others" impose their own visions of how its future should be.

- **Lamia Raei, FSF, Executive Director: "Why FSF can matter: Future Studies in the Region"**

In a brief welcoming note by the FSF Executive Director, Ms. Lamia Raei started her speech by recalling a personal anecdotal story as a head of a regional policy institute in Jordan in 2006, where she carried out a research project on youth political orientations in MENA as expressed in social media. The research that was funded by the Open Society Foundational (OSF) at the time, clearly indicated that social media will play a key role in the political organization of youth and as a platform for contesting the status quo. In October

2010, she attempted to update the study and to publish its finding is in a Jordanian policy journal, the editor refused to publish the study and called its views “elitist" for expecting that youth will employ social media as part of a large social movement in the coming years. Few months later, a revolution started in Tunisia, when its youth tweeted the Bou Izizi incident on social media. “For that editor the future was enchaned with ideology not evidence.”

Ms. Raei then went on to quickly touch upon the three main attempts in the region to establish on pan Arab futures research. Which have all seized to exist by the early 1990s.

She also expressed her belief that even though foresight might seem like an ambitious idea, it is important to look at what practitioners will bring in to our work, because all what we do now has an impact on the future. The importance of reaching out to the public was also an important recommendation highlighted in Ms. Raei's speech.

She added that even though the MENA region has many pioneers in future studies, and despite the existence of several centers for future studies in country level, there is still a serious foresight deficit that we hope at FSF tol play an important role to fill.

In an overview of FSF's foresight activities, Ms. Raei recommended to learn other countries who that are in similar to the region countries, and not limit ourselves to the European and American models.

In concluding, she stressed that even though foresight might seem like an ambitious activity, the world is interconnected at the moment, and this meeting can kick start for a collaborative effort to learn from neighboring regions and within MENA region itself.

- **Dr. Jawad Elhamad, Middle East Studies Center, Jordan - "Arab- African relations: Challenges and Prospects"**

  Dr. Jawad El Hamad commenced his speech with an introduction of the geopolitical and strategic dimension of relations between the Arab World and Africa and its historic evolution over time. Some of the main points he covered included:

  1. **The African continent in general and North African countries in specific have been historically connected and integration** through trade, cultural, economic and religious ties.
  2. **Egypt’s political stance following the 1952 revolution has greatly impacted the Arab- African relations.** Where Egypt played a key role in bridging the Arab region and Mashreq countries with Africa.

3. **Arabs have always looked to Africa in the context of mutual interest and geostrategic proximity** – and this represents the best base to build cultural relations with others, where solidarity with the Palestinian cause has always been the stance of the African countries in the continent.
4. The period from 1959 – 1975 has marked a great Arab interest in building relations with Africa, evident in the increase in African Studies centers in several Arab universities during the Nasserist era.
5. Sudan has always supported Egyptian efforts in strengthening relations with Africa; given its strong orientation both an Arab and African country.
6. **Nile Basin countries constitute an important coalition of Arab and African countries,** where the Nile represents a major area of shared strategic interests. With the exception of few problems that have emerged recently between Ethiopia and Egypt related to water sharing of the Nile.
7. The geostrategic dimension is key to the Arab – SSA relations, with Egypt and Sudan in its core, where the limited political independence, increasing democratization, growing development rates, abundance of resources in SSA can become a fertile ground for retaining the Arab-African spirit of cooperation and solidarity.
8. **Several milestones have marked the modern history of Arab-African relations, those include the Arab support for liberal movements in African countries,** as well as humanitarian deployments, support of education activities and development efforts, and fighting the racist regime in South Africa among others.
9. **Arab-African relations were further formalized in the 1973 Adis Ababa** conference which aimed at consolidating "Cooperation and Solidarity" between Arabs and SSA, and for the first time African and Arab countries agreed that Israel represents a clear threat to the region. As a result 27 SSA countries severed their relations with Israel post the 1973 war.
10. 1977 then represented a transformational year with African Summit taking place in Cairo.

He then went into describing some of the main challenges that Arab-African relations are expected to face in the future, these include:

1. The Western political stance and strategies in relation the growing Arab involvement and relations with Africa.
2. Seriousness of Arab efforts in helping transform Africa into an internationally strong and effective block.
3. Inter-Arab conflict/s on a number of issues namely the Arab-Israeli conflict, Arab unity, differing economic policies, changing strategic priorities.

4. Israel's success in breaching the region in both NA (Morocco, Tunisia, Egypt) and SSA countries
5. Diminishing Arab interest in the Palestinian case and African development.
6. Support of the growing historic and cultural barriers between Arabs and SSA from foreign parties, exemplified by the South Sudan war.
7. Involvement of Arab and SSA countries in trade agreements with the US and EU which doesn't give them space to build relations away from this regulating framework.

Dr. Jawad stressed that many opportunities are available to improve African Arab relations, through supporting the African continent's development efforts. These opportunities were summarized below:

1. The Arab world's need for a perpetual ally that has mutual economic interests and similar cultural contexts.
2. South Africa's serious efforts to strengthen its relations with Arab countries.
3. Availability of Arab resources (petrol, money, etc.) that could be invested in developing African industries, agriculture etc.
4. The membership of nine Arab countries in the African Union (representing 40% of Arab countries)

In concluding, Dr. Elhamad highlighted the way forward to develop and revive Arab-African relations in the context of a common future:

1. **Retaining the institutional framework for cooperation through the Arab League and the African Union**
2. **Common cooperation to resolve internal conflicts, especially in Somalia.**
3. **Building an Arab African trade area.**
4. **Giving investment priorities to African countries in Arab countries.**
5. **Promoting exchange in the fields of education and health in favor of African countries.**
6. **Developing the roles of Egypt and Sudan to solve disputes among Arab and African countries**
7. **Building upon the linguistic proximity of Swahili and Hausa languages with the Arabic language to strengthen ties.**
8. **Reviving research on Arab-African relations and centers in our Arab universities.**

Prof. Mohammed Ibrahim Mansour, Founder and Head of the Futures Studies Center in Assiut University: "Arabs and Africa: One Strategic Space"

Prof. Mansour started his speech with a thorough recount of the history of Arab-African relations. He stated that five decades ago -in the mid-sixties - with the rise of national liberation movements, both Arabs and Africans recognized that they exist in the same strategic space. As of the sixties, till now there have been ups and downs in these relations but the sense of a common future has always been there. In that framework, the first Arab-African Union Conference in 1977 was held, and unfortunately it was also the last joint conference between African and Arab countries.

Prof. Mansour then reviewed the historical context back to May 1963, a number of national liberation leaders in Africa announced the established African Union Organization in Addis Ababa out of Cairo, which later evolved into the African Union, thereby putting in place a strong base for African unity. He links this to the future when in celebration of fifty years of the establishment of the African Union organization, the African Institute for Future Studies in Congo published a future studies report titled "The Africa 2063 Agenda", which is a very high level document that requires great attention from decision makers. The document sets a vision for the African continent as "A united and integrated continent by 2063 built by free citizens". This ambitious vision can be summarized into the "Africa we want". Sustainable development is key to the vison, good governance, rule of law, effective international player, safe and peaceful environment.

Mansour then emphasized that Arabs should not exclude themselves from this vision, since all African regions are in the same geographical space. He added that despite political barriers, it is important to acknowledge that there no geographical ones between SSA and NA. Hence it is time that this barrier be removed. There are many historical and cultural foundations for Arab unity with the African nations, where even the Arabic language has found a home in Africa and has evolved into a new third language "Arabic Joba" in South Sudan. Moreover, trade routes "*Darb El Arbaeen* "route which starts from Assiut and ends in Central Africa) used for trade and pilgrimage, with its remains existing up today. Africa 2063 Agenda dreams of renovating and reviving such routes, and to connect Cairo with Cape Town in South Africa providing ground for a rich infrastructure of routes and telecommunications.

According to Prof. Mansour, As Africa embarks on the development of its vision for 2063, challenges and opportunities lie ahead.

NA shares some very real challenges with the rest of the African continent, those include:

1. Terrorism and its transnational networks: which has spread from NA to Mali and Niger, BukoHaram group in Nigeria and reaching to West Africa. Those terrorist groups have the intentions to expand into other

African countries, as many Islamist groups in African countries have sworn their allegiance to ISIS. This is not only a threat to NA but also extends to all African countries and should be the base that unites African countries together (coalition). The success of such groups in seizing power will pull the African continent into darkness.

2. Threats to national independence: Countries such as Somalia, Mali, Libya and Sierra Leonne are facing increasingly pressures to maintaining their political systems, due to the existence of non-state militias.
3. Border conflicts, civil wars etc.: which are eating up African resources that should have been channeled into developing those countries.
4. Illegal migration: of African citizens into European countries and which represents a challenge to relations with Europe and creates a fertile ground for racism
5. Crime organizations spreading in African countries supported- on occasions- by foreign countries
6. AIDS: A serious threat to the health of millions of African citizens.

However, Prof. Mansour added that opportunities also exist, a matter that requires African countries attention:

1. The Wide base of natural resources in the content (land, water, minerals, energy) positioning Africa at the forefront of other of continents in respect to resources richness.
2. Cultural diversity (religious) which has become a source of evolution in social status of the African continent - "United in Diversity"
3. Economic leading bodies such as: (COMESA, SADAK, NEPAD) which can unite into a single economic entity. By 2017, we dream of a single African Arab trade area, and according to Africa's Agenda 2063, it is expected that inter-African trade will increase from 12% in 2013 to 50% by 2045, and Africa's share of international trade is to increase from 2% now to 12% in the same period.
4. Political entities that are pro-African unity: by 2030 supranational organizations that support African unity should have been formed.
5. Powerful voting potential in international organizations (such as UN): so as to exert pressure on the global level to re-correct Africa's position as a weak continent. It is time for Africa to have a permanent seat in the Security Council.

In concluding, Prof Mansour stated that in the same way that Africans in May 2013 have celebrated the establishment of the African Unity Organization (which later evolved into the African Union), he can see Africans in May 2063 celebrating the 100th anniversary of African unity, where all African citizens then will have equal rights, and will co-exist

peacefully in a unified Africa that is blessed with freedom, prosperity and peace.

Dr. Geci Karuri-Sebina, FFD, South Africa: "Towards Strong, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth of Africa: What does Africa Need?"

Dr. Geci – the representative of the South Africa Node of the Millennium Project - started out her presentation by attempting to define what a good question should be. She argued that when looking at the question "What does Africa Need?, we should treat this as a pragmatic rather than an academic question, we need to concern ourselves with the concepts and reality, and so she proposed to frame the question to be "what do we need to change?".

She also proposed an approach to answer this question based on four important elements.

Firstly: Conceptual Levelling, when looking at the issues of "strong, sustainable and inclusive growth of Africa", we hence need to look into the breakdown of each of these concepts and link them to reality. For example, "strong" can be linked back to a country's balance of trade, its strong currency, its national debt ratio, its endowments, innovation levels, citizens' standard of living and the list can go on and on. Hence, the importance of "Conceptual Levelling" to make sure we are all on the same page.

Another important term we need to "conceptually level" is that of "Africa", how do we need to understand Africa?

Secondly: What is the evidence telling us? Dr. Geci then emphasized that evidence is clearly showing us that Africa is **growing in population**, but it is important to disaggregate growth in African countries. According to UN HABITAT (2014), the total African population is projected to nearly double from around one billion in 2010 to almost to two billion by 2040 and may well surpass three billion by 2070. Africa's population growth trends do not yet have a foreseeable peak after which numbers will stabilize or decline. Projections indicate that by 2030 Africa's population will exceed that of Europe, South and North America combined. But Africa is a very large and a still comparatively sparsely populated continent. However, there is no global agreement on Africa's demographic forecasts and some researchers have challenged UNDESA's data. But a vast African population growth is a certainty; only the magnitude remains debatable.

Africa is also urbanizing, the **Urbanization** of the 80s and 90s has now largely abated in Northern Africa. Growth is still mainly in Egypt (43.4%) and Sudan

(33.1%). Southern African region is the 2nd most urbanized after NA. Angola, Botswana and RSA already have urban majority (59.2, 61.7 & 62.0%. Eastern African countries face high urbanization levels with 6 countries still under 20%, and the total number of urban dwellers in 2040 is projected to reach a massive five times the 2010 figure! Western Africa is one of the world's poorest, least urbanized and least industrialized sub-regions. Central Africa is rapidly urbanizing and is expected to reach an urban majority around 2030. Currently, **five of the nine** countries have urban majorities (Angola, Cameroon, Congo, Gabon and São Tomé e Príncipe). In the East we have less than 10 countries that are urbanized, and the West is the least urbanized but rapidly doing so.

Why is urbanization important? There is a lack of preparedness in our countries to deal with urbanization, also urban equality is a very important dimension. It is also important because of the nature of growth in Africa which is a "**jobless growth**".

Dr. Geci then documented the **"jobless growth"** with clear evidence. **"[SSA] rapid rate of growth (5% p.a. over the past decade) has not benefited the largest share of the population. SSA has the highest rate of vulnerable employment in the world (77.4% in 2013).** Vulnerable employment is defined as unpaid family workers and own-account workers as a percentage of total employment. Youth unemployment in SSA remains stubbornly high. The **ILO reports that the average regional youth unemployment rate decreased from almost 13.4 % in 1991-2000 to only 12.3% during 2001-2012. Although these unemployment numbers appear rather low (good data on labour markets in SSA is not easy to get), the trend indicates that unemployment is not decreasing as fast as it should."**

Another important evidence on Africa is that **livelihoods are largely informal**, Outside of North Africa, where 43% of women workers are in informal employment, 60% or more of women workers in the developing world are in informal employment (outside agriculture). In sub-Saharan Africa, 84% of women non-agricultural workers are informally employed compared with 63% of male non-agricultural workers. And even though Dr. Geci doesn't necessarily see this as a problem, but she believes it manifests itself as such due to the way the systems resist or dis-enable people from doing this.

She then used evidence from the "**State of Gender Equality in Africa**" report to show that gender inequality still persists in markets and domestic work, in legal status and rights, in health status, and in participation in decision making and civic life. However, she also maintains that evidence of gender equality in politics shows that "… **today Rwandan women hold 64% of the country's legislative seats. In Senegal, Seychelles and South Africa, more than 40% of parliamentary seats are held by women, while in Mozambique, Angola, Tanzania and Uganda over 35% of seats are occupied by women. By**

contrast, women in the US hold 18% of the seats in the House and 20% in the Senate." (Washington Post 2014).

Evidence from the **ILO's Global Employment Trends for Women (2012) shows that the gender gap in unemployment worsened after the economic crisis - by 2011 to 0.7 percentage points, with women's unemployment plateauing at 6.4%, and men's unemployment also plateauing at about 5.7%. ILO projections do not show a significant reduction in this elevated gap by 2013, or even 2017.** Several factors explain this unemployment gap: a higher prevalence of temporary contracts among women, differences in educational attainment, labour market segregation, Career interruption, etc.

Dr. Geci then contended that we have contradictions in Africa, where it has some of the world's fastest growing economies but is also the second most unequal region in the world. This can be a recipe for opportunity or for disaster, and translates into high level of volatility and crime rates.

Thirdly: Identifying the Drivers: what do we need to consider? Dr. Geci described how current drivers can affect Africa's future, where some of the most important drivers include the **tough global times** with economies struggling globally and a growing focus on Africa. Other drivers include massive urbanization which could be good but has also increased poverty, contributed to joblessness, inequality, and vulnerability. Another driver involves crisis in national governments with local governments emerging and potential implications on development in Africa.

Dr. Geci attempted to answer the question "What does Africa Need?" by starting with what Africa doesn't need in light of lessons from the past about applying foresight. She warned about several critiques to foresight that we need to avoid in this exercise**: engaging in too much foresight with no action** (foresight becomes an end in itself), **elitist foresight** (foresight can be used to legitimise exclusive perspectives), **exploitative foresight** (foresight that can be used to advocate preconceived agendas), **extravagant foresight** (foresight that can inordinately consume time and resources), and finally **accountability-free foresight** (foresight that can lack any systematic assessment of value).

She emphasized that "What we need is to put people first, to know where we came from (deeper consciousness), to actively drive development, to come together in unity and cooperation, **which makes FSF a very interesting initiative in helping to view things collectively.** We also need **to develop a capacity to experiment (trial and error) because new problems need new solutions, we need transformative Action to build on what we have and fight our constant desire to start from scratch.** We need indicators and monitoring of outcomes that we seek, as well as ongoing dialogue to make sure

we are all speaking the same language. The development agenda we need for Africa has to be transformative for the majority, and should be based on 4 key dimensions: **reconfiguring power imbalances, restructuring space to increase efficiency and spatial justice, transforming institutions, and building organizational and managerial capability**.

Dr. Geci expressed her expectations of the two days Roundtable in Amman with multi-sector stakeholders, futurists and intellectuals can start a dialogue to move forward more critically, in a framework where government is treated as an important actor but not as the only player.

Dr. Geci cited the Foresight for Development (FFD) as an example that FSF can follow and learn from. Where it started a civil society process to democratize access to foresight, and increase awareness. It had taken 4 years to get the platform stable and running, and was mostly based on volunteerism. The only staff they started with were a 75% Content Coordinator and a 25% Technical support. It started off with philanthropic funding (annual Rockefeller Foundation grants) and has carried on with low overheads.

FFD's Objectives are to:

- Provide a digital repository of the most important and influential regional foresight content from futures practice, activities and sources.
- Assemble a regional community of futurists and foresight practitioners.
- Share foresight case studies, methodologies, tools, news, calendars, and experiences.
- Feature African foresight initiatives and practitioners.
- Be the gateway to relevant foresight products and resources in Africa.

Dr. Julius Gatune Kariuki, ACET, Ghana: Bridging MENA and SSA: What can MENA offer to growth of SSA? What can Africa offer?

Given that the first release of the FSF MENA newsletter in December 2014 was about securing wheat availability in NA, and given the importance of agriculture not only to NA countries but also to the whole African continent, Dr. Julius has focused in his presentation on **how we can bridge the gap between MENA and SSA in the area of wheat and agricultural production.**

He started out his presentation with providing evidence that **food insecurity is a critical challenge to both SSA and MENA**, but that both regions can benefit from transforming African agriculture. **The opportunities in SSA are vast as it has the biggest unutilized land in the world, and significant unutilized water resources, meanwhile, the MENA region has the resources needed for a large scale agricultural development, and the agricultural and irrigation know-how. Hence, there is potential for developing a win-win**

situation if they cooperate, given that they are both food importers and trying to achieve self-sufficiency is both costly and unsustainable.

He emphasized that opening up new land is only part of the story, but the real story lies in **transforming the agricultural food chains** that **ensure that agricultural production contributes to poverty reduction.** "However, it is important to note that there are challenges that face agricultural value chains in Africa, in areas of production structure, logistics, and processing and market distribution. Yet, there is potential for catalyzing innovations happening in various places to upgrade the value chains, and that right policies combined with investment can unlock the potential of agriculture to transform economies of Africa." He gave a detailed example of potential cooperation between SSA and MENA with respect to Ugandan beef, which has low productivity but has potential for export to MENA if it succeeds in creating a disease-free zone.

Dr. Julius described another area of potential cooperation which lies in MENA's potential role in catalyzing the emergence of a **healthy ecosystem of large scale farming**, where even though small farmers continue to be the bedrock of agriculture, most of the potential lies in large scale commercial farming.

He pointed out the importance of encouraging the **development of business models** that diversify livelihoods, as key to lowering farmers risk aversion, and hence technology uptake, where when processors help farmers diversify the risks, they increase their supply e.g. Numa feeds with millet farmers in Uganda. He asserted that **markets should drive value chains**, but first there is a need to identify what markets want and where they are. The Potential for collaboration lies in the area of R&D on product development on millets and sorghums.

Dr. Julius provided concrete recommendations on how we can move forward in this area, where he stressed the importance of **Millet and Sorghum** as new wheats that NA needs to consider, where millet is preferred to other grains due to perceived higher nutrition.

He concluded that the process of transforming the agricultural sector is a long journey that we still have to pass, all the way from artisanal processing into industrial agro-processing. However, he underlined that energy, infrastructure, finance, managerial skills and R&D are a prerequisite to the success in processing. **MENA partnership** can be crucial in this area. In order to achieve this, Dr. Julius proposed a **multi-pronged approach** that involves 3 main elements needed to support the emergence of a strong service sector able to catalyze the upgrading of agricultural value chains: **social entrepreneurship, financial resources and public- private partnerships (PPPs)**.

Discussion on Session 1: Moderated by Dr. Koffie M. Kouakou

- **Mr. Abdelhaq Zammouri, Abaad Center for Future Studies, Tunisia:** "The presentations of the last sessions have showed the future potential of cooperation between MENA and SSA, and shed light on the importance of spreading awareness regarding the dire need for future studies and its institutionalization in our Arab countries." He recommended that **FSF translate the Africa 2063 Agenda to enable its adoption in the MENA region.**
- **Dr. Idriss Hany, Cercle de Sagesse des Penseurs et Chercheurs, Morocco:**
  Dr. Idriss emphasized that both MENA and SSA share one crisis, both in the past and in the future, and that the interference of Arab countries in Africa's internal politics have also been part of the crisis that faces SSA and MENA relations. However, some of the things that have brought the two regions together were: national liberation movements and the stance against Israel. Hence, even crises can contribute to pushing forward cooperation between MENA and SSA.
- **Dr. Hammou Laamrani, League of Arab States:** Dr. Laamrani pointed out that instead of phrasing the question: "How can we bridge the gap between regions and people?" The question should be "what can we afford to bridge?". Projects with common goals can be the answer to this. Civil society organizations across Africa and MEMA have played a role over the past 5 years in bridging this gap.
- **Prof. Mohammed Mansour, Center for Future Studies, Egypt:** Dr. Mansour asserted that all sciences started as elitist, however it is important to main stream it to become an integral part of the public interest. This public is still engrossed in a "Salafist" arena. Hence, we need to spread awareness of the future in a scientific manner.
- **Dr. Jawad El Hamad, Middle East Studies Center, Jordan:** In reply to the issues raised, Dr. El Hamad insisted that the Egyptian efforts in the 1950's and 1960's have pulled Arab nations towards into cooperating with African countries. He recommended that the Arab League of States and its counterpart the African union spear head an initiative for bridging Africa with MENA.

Session 2: What can future studies offer to transform Africa's Future?

The main purpose of this session was to shed light on how future studies techniques and methodologies can be employed to transform Africa's future. Building on the expertise of participants, with contributions from leading futurists; Dr. Fabienne Goux-Baudiment from France, Dr. Riel Miller – France, and Dr. Malik El Mahdy –Sudan.

Dr. Fabienne Goux-Baudiment, ProGective, France: "Articulating Foresight into Concrete Decision Making".

Dr. Fabienne started out her presentation with an introduction on what it means to be a futurist from the point of view of a consulting firm. As director of **ProGective**, which supports the work of governments, firms and NGOs's in the domain of decision making. **ProGective** operates all the way from Korea to Uruguay. It aims to explore specific foresight issues (energy, food etc.), to draw the big picture, to design new solutions for complex issues, help shape better futures building on collective intelligence, and institutionalizing foresight through education and NGOs.

As an expert in the field, she affirmed that most countries today have foresight and future studies. Moreover, the MENA region began to evolve very actively in the field of future studies during the past two decades, as compared to the sixties and seventies which seemed like a very slow time for future studies in the region.

Dr. Goux-Baudiment then briefly described her experience in both the MENA and SSA region as a futurist that is helping to embed foresight in the decision-making institutions in the different countries. Some of the most important recounts included:

- **Morrocco**: Where **ProGective** participated in the (Human Development Report) HDR since 2001 up untill now, by linking foresight to strategy through specific “strategic fields of study”.
- **Algeria**: Algeria also did the 2030 exercise and developed a ministry for future studies, which then transformed into a General Secretariat headed by only one person, which was very unfortunate.
- **Egypt**, ProGective’s mandate was raising awareness of what Egypt can do in the future, and help institutionalize some organizations to try to create an innovative networking community in Future Studies.
- **Benin**: the Benin 2025 exercise was more of a document with no follow up mechanism, and our role was to transform it into inter-sectoral public policies that can deal with the main issues that the foresight exercise emphasized. Benin has a Ministry of Foresight.
- **Cameroon**: is a traditional country with strong planning orientation, and they did the Cameroon 2030 but the ministries didn’t know how to use the results. ProGective worked on how to cope with ethnics, regionalization and how to introduce innovation to the system without breaking it.
- **Congo**: we began work there in 2006 with the mining policy to benefit local communities then foreign companies. We are training directors in several areas related to handling natural resources.
- **New Guinea**: Currently working with the ministry of foresight in Guinea to develop an ambitious foresight program.

Dr.Goux -Baudiment encouraged futurist experts attending the roundtable event to look beyond the current future studies conceptual framework, which has been defined by Europe in a way that suits it, and might not be suitable for Africa. Instead, Africa needs to define future studies within its own context; innovation in Africa is different from than Europe for example. Hence, Africa needs to be aware of this before moving on.

Dr. Riel Miller, Foresight Unit, UNESCO, France: "Future Literacy Know-Lab: An Innovative Foresight Concept".

Dr. Miller started by referring to the key words mentioned in the previous session which included: Transformation, Freedom and Development, Imagination and Dreaming, Open and Trust, Learning and Pedagogy, Innovation and insight, Revolution, and Creative Destruction.

He stated that discussions by fellow experts have also made him question: "Can efforts to reduce the colonial bias of human acts succeed if we mainly use the future to colonize tomorrow?".

Dr. Miller questioned our assumption of the permanency of 19th century institutions, such as schooling and university hierarchy, nations and nationalism, corporate form of organization and jobs, and science as certainty. He contended that the problem with the future is that it reinforces the fear of uncertainty, for there is a bias of seeking path dependency, and a fetishism of immortality (what world is there with no death? We have no transformation if everything stays forever), and there is a preoccupation with endogenous continuous improvement.

The reason behind this is that foresight methods are mostly limited to one view of how to use the future, mostly for preparation and planning, but **rarely for imagining other conceptions of agency.**

As a representative of UNESCO, he asserted that the UNESCO is continuing in its foresight tradition, where it has a laboratory of ideas co-creating understanding that would otherwise be unimagined. UNESCO conventions seek to genuinely hear what is authentic to every group or person, to use driven networks of communities of practice and to negotiate shared meaning.

He presented a UNESCO report titled "Networking to Improve Global/Local Anticipatory Capacities – A Scoping Exercise" published in Sep 2014, tackling the issue of the capacity to engage people in collective intelligence knowledge creation across the world (Futures Literacy Knowledge Laboratories). He also touched upon the "All Africa Futures Forum" which was held on the 26th – 28th of May 2014 in South Africa titled "Transforming African Futures", which was a UNESCO project that carried over 15-20 experiments in 2 years, to build futures literacy in the region.

Dr. Miller elaborated on the concept behind knowledge laboratories, which is "seeking to know when you want to know". It is based on the idea of collective intelligence: which is sense making as learning. A process that starts with revealing existing anticipatory assumptions and hence reframing questions and inventing anticipatory assumptions (models for describing the imaginary future), followed by coming up with new questions

Dr. Miller concluded his presentation by pointing out that UNESCO is planning to embark on a project on how people in the Arab world understand and Use the Future.

Dr. Malik El Mahdi, Arab Association of Future Studies (AAFS), Sudan: "Networking of Futurists and the Role of the Arab Association of Future Studies".

Dr. Mahdi provided an extensive introduction of the role of **Arab Association of Future Studies** AAFS in networking and spreading the use of foresight in Arab countries. The AAFS and its role in future studies are summarized below:

- The AAFS is one of the institutions of the League of Arab States involved with foresight activities. It aims at raising awareness on future studies, and institutionalizing it into the region's systems.
- It was established in Oct 2011, and started its operations in 2012; spreading awareness on future studies, where an event was held in Tunisia for this purpose.
- It was then decided to cooperate with Naif Arab University for Security Sciences (NAUSS) in February 2013 and an event was held in Khartoum to introduce it the number of participants increased dramatically. During that event participants recommended developing a scientific program for future studies to be implemented in Arab universities. This was accomplished successfully in coordination with Khartoum University and with the help of Dr. Mohammed Mansour, Dr. Youssef EL Sawwan and many others. An educational program was designed and was accredited at the Khartoum Academy. Consequently, University of Sudan for Technology established a center for future studies at the end of 2013.
- AAFS also worked in February 2013 and with the Iraqi Center for Strategic Studies in 2013.

Session 3: Innovation as a Catalyst of Change in Africa

Dr. Rasigan Maharajh, SA Node, South Africa: "Innovating Beyond Borders: Some Challenges and Opportunities for MENA and SSA (One Africa)"

Dr. Rasigan started out his presentation by stressing the importance of unifying efforts and goals, by showing clearly that a lot of the info we have available to

us indicates that we are all accelerating towards a collective fate in a whole series of phenomena. These include both socio-economic trends (world population, real GDP, FDI, urban population, large dams, water use etc.) and earth system trends (Carbon dioxide emissions, ocean acidification, marine fish capture, tropical forest loss, shrimp aquaculture, etc.). However, evidence also has shown that "We Blew It", this is evident when we examine the timeline of human impact on the planet, where after 1950 human impact on the environment increased sharply marking the start of the Anthropocene (geological epoch).

He added: “that if we take the normal pace at which poverty continues, we expect by 2050 to deal with 42 million children suffering nutrition in SSA, and increases to 52 million if we consider climate change. Thus, we have no option but to have a unified Agenda.

Dr. Rasigan argue that it was not Schumpeter who invented the concept of Creative Destruction, but it was Sombart in 1913 when referring to the destruction of forests, where he clearly stated that “from destruction a new spirit of creation arises”.

Therefore, when looking at our long history starting 1771, it is easy to see that we had a common era, and were impacted by large crisis that have affected us all. However, it is clear when we look at technological surges globally; that the African continent has not benefited at the same pace as others have. Large parts of the global south have not reaped the benefits of technology till our very day.

He contends that emergent futures will greatly impact our lives in the coming years, in the following manner:

- Climate change will become our next World war with engineering to deal with climate change becoming the largest new entrepreneurial market worth trillions by 2030
- Smart Machines will design, manage and service 40% of all global businesses by 2025.
- 70% of the jobs that will be available in 2025 haven't been created yet (nanotechnology, robotics, 3D printing).
- By 2020 the Mobile Internet will transform business and society, connecting all products, industries, people and markets on the planet.
- New launches from Google, IBM, Twitter, Amazon, Facebook. Like what's next for Apple: an iHealth Watch that will run DNA gene sequencing to predict medical problems rather than react to them.
- Regenerative medicine will predict and prevent illnesses, rebuild brains and bodies, and extend the human lifespan to 150 years.

- By 2030, avatars--digital teachers that live in the network on the Internet--will be in demand over human teachers in over 150 nations.

These new emergent futures will in turn have implications on the means of which people maintain their livelihoods with new vocations that will be required in the future. Dr. Rasigan emphasized that if we are to better understand emerging trends that are shaping alternative futures (there is a multiplicity of futures), we can better coordinate processes of change, analyze their implications, mediate risks and generate opportunities.

Dr. Rasigan concluded that “we have common pasts, contested presents and collective futures, and that the form of globalization that we are all involved in; is characterized by uneven development, due to incomplete national liberation agenda. (Without reparations and reconciling inequalities, how do we seek a future that is better forward?). We also have opportunities to build a future that is characterized with solidarity, cooperation and sustainability, where we can share expertise to ensure the foresights we develop have compatibility and add value to all countries that collaborate.

Dr. Koffie M. Kouakao, SA Node, South Africa: "Foresight and Innovation: Environmental Initiatives."

Dr. Koffie started his presentation with stating that in terms of innovation there is not much being done in Africa. He elaborated further on how the use of language can obstruct meaning, for example, instead of "Transforming Africa" it was "Trans-forming Africa" which captures how we are evolving from one space and leaping into another.

He started out by laying a few concepts: First, Definition governs meaning, until we define things we are not getting there. Second, Innovation not only defines who we are today but who we will be tomorrow if we choose that.

He used the term “Afropocalypse” to capture the complex changes in Africa. According to Dr. Koffie, there are 6 components of Afrocalypse, which he labeled as “the six horsemen” or “the double triple challenges”. **He summarized those challenges into: poverty, inequality (the play of power), unemployment (you don’t have to be employed to have a decent life, but you can use innovation to create more jobs (we have "jobless growth"), Intolerances of all sorts (sexism, xenophobia, etc that don’t allow people to work together), corruption, and crime.**

He then introduced the term: “Afreedomia” which is a combination of African freedom and a space of geographical environment to exercise this freedom.

The six freedoms include: **politics** (since the future is and will be political), **economic freedom**, **cultural freedom**, **belief systems** (they are very powerful to help us understand the tools we have), **technology**, and **education**.

He then looked into the issue of climate change in Africa, and proposed the following questions: who owns the agenda of climate change? In terms of innovation, does this issue really play? In terms of governance, strategic responses to climate change are limited to mitigation and adaptation. A new field of climate politics, climate communications and language has evolved. In terms of economics, strategic responses are focused on the economics of climate change, costs, climate finance and climate funds. In terms of foresight and the "long view", strategic responses would involve developing climate scenarios for the future.

There are 2 main events that will deal with the environmental issue: the Post 2015 Agenda, and the COP21 in Paris.

The key to going forward lies in:

- Refining the reflection for a deeper understanding of humanitarian, social, economic, political, technological implications for climate change.
- Foresight and innovation as strategic and long view policy instruments to dealing with climate change (mitigation, adaptation, prevention and anticipation) as well as regional responses to the challenges of climate change in Africa.
- Climate action leadership network for Africa.
- Meaning and resonance lessons for FSF and MENA from networking and taking regional actions.

Dr. Sheila Ochugboju, Training Center in Communication (TCC), University of Nairobi, Kenya: "Using Foresight to Promote Social Innovation and Urban Regeneration Programs".

Again, like others, Dr. Sheila started out her presentation (Annex G) by talking about the word she believes most captures what the future is about, and that is "Catalyst". She elaborated more about the future as being a catalyst of growth, change and transition, innovation, knowledge and sustainability.

She described **the foresight framework as involving: framing or scoping the project to come up with a focal issue, followed by scanning to collect information, and forecasting by describing baseline and alternative futures, then engaging in a visioning exercise to choose a preferred future, that is to be followed by planning to convert the vision into doable strategies, and acting to implement the plans.**

Hence, natural Foresight involves creating an organic system for organizational futures thinking and action, and its main activities include: Creating (designing and executing plans), exploring (scanning the environment), discovering (challenging assumptions) and mapping (developing scenarios).

In this context, Dr. Sheila defined **social innovation** as “A novel solution to a social problem that is more effective, efficient, sustainable or just, than existing solutions and for which the value created accrues primarily to society as a whole rather than private individuals”.

Dr. Sheila listed the foresight activities that she had participated, such as her contribution to The Commission for Africa Report “Our Common Interest” in 2005, and gave a brief on the Inter Action Leadership Training Program which was born out of the Commission for Africa Report, which focused on developing “leaders” across Africa. The process engaged over 930 leaders and a total of 30,000+ people to think of what needs to change in Africa. Dr. Sheila highlighted this as one of the many efforts made to bridge the Arab- African divide.

One of the projects that she conducted this year was the Global Innovations Award which dealt with the impact of social innovations on promoting transparency and accountability. Some of its main themes included: **legislative openness, subnational governance, gender Equality, building resilience and response to humanitarian crisis**.

Another important project was the Informal City Dialogues (ICD Accra), which aimed at understanding the relationship between the formal and informal in our cities and to envision a different, more inclusive and resilient future. Two workshops were conducted within the project. Some of the big questions asked during the workshops were: is there work that needs to start now that is critical to shaping a more inclusive future for your city? Is there something that is being ignored that is critical to shaping a more inclusive future for your city? Who needs to do this work? What kind of support will they need?

Dr. Sheila wrapped up her last presentation for the day by showing how the conversations that were undertaken during the roundtable session have shown that we have several futures in the making: "ONE Africa that is open to itself", "Emerging powerful new counter narratives of what African is" because there are narratives out there that are limiting our sense of being, "that development will bring freedom, the freedom of self-actualization".

Day 2 – Sunday 17th May 2015

Introduction

The first session of the second day was commenced with a quick wrap up of the main key issues discussed at the first day of the roundtable. Where the session moderator asked participants to quickly summarize in few sentences their ideas/ reflections of last three sessions. Some of the main ideas that participants have got out of day one, where:

- **Dr. Riel Miller**: the importance of understanding North-South issues in a continental manner, the potential for tangible collaboration, and the importance of agricultural issues, as well as sustainability issues, which have strategic significances.
- **Dr. Malik El Mahdy**: The importance of continuous communication, which is a challenge in itself.
- **Dr. Fabienne Goux-Baudiment**: the gender dimension in the previous sessions showed that the discourse of most male participants was focused on geostrategic issues that lead to more fracture, while the female participant's perception focused more on social issues. She highly advised women to take leadership in this area to impose unity.
- Dr. Sheila: Energy and commitment to take one African vision to move forward, insightful in terms of the complexity of questions and lens used to see ourselves now and how we look towards the future.

Session 4: Regional Perspectives on Trends in Africa and the State of Future Studies

The main purpose of session four was to open the floor for sharing experiences of SSA partners who are undertaking similar activities as FSF. Presentations were carried out by Dr. Julius Gatune and Dr. Geci Karuri-Sebina. The session also looked into trends in future studies in the MENA region, presented by Dr. Idriss Hani from Morocco, Mr. Abdelhaq Zammouri from Tunisia and Dr. Nadine Abdalla from Egypt.

Dr. Julius Gatune Kariuki, ACET, Ghana: "Searchlight Project – Trends in West Africa"

In his presentation Dr. Julius reflected on some of the most significant searchlight topics and themes covered in West Africa Trends. Themes presented included the following:

- The contribution of growth to job creation: with trends such as the increase informal sector, weakening unions, impact of globalization on job mobility, rising inequalities, youth left out. Questions raised include how to formalize the informal, and how to transform economies?
- Potential of manufacturing jobs in the near future: which depends on how several driving forces will play out in the framework of foreign investors' interest, good infrastructure and export orientation. This requires the need to identify organic clusters and support and think of agro processing and local markets.
- The changing face of enterprise and entrepreneurship.
- Corporate Social Responsibility Evolution, from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) to inclusive business.
- Urbanization.
- Extractive resources.
- Rivers as the orphans of infrastructure development.
- Prospects of West Africa's Regional Integration.
- Role of ICTS in leveraging economies.
- Rethinking subsidies and their impact on the poor.
- The Future of West African women.

Dr. Geci Karuri-Sebina, FFD, South Africa: "Millennium Project – Trends in South Africa"

In an attempt to pass on the experience encountered in the Southern Africa Searchlight project, Dr. Geci presented scope of work of the project. She asserted that South African Searchlight was one of the earliest searchlight activities (it started in Sep 2009), focused on 10 countries (Angola, Botswana, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe) and has continued up until March 2014, with the successful publication of around 55 newsletters during that period.

She then described the 3 broad goals of the SA project when they started out: **to spread a culture of futures thinking, deepen futures expertise in Southern Africa and mobilize African experts and networks.** The project was funded by the Rockefeller foundation, whose goals were a bit different than those of the SA node, where the foundation was focusing more on conducting trend monitoring and horizon scanning on issues relevant to poverty and human development, and identifying signals towards identifying impact / innovation opportunities and informing investment strategy. Meanwhile, the SA node's

objective were focused on building local capacity in horizon scanning methodology and strengthening regional foresight/scanning/information networks. Hence, the node infused their own goals into Rockefeller's objectives.

The methodology employed in the SA node's work was more of undirected viewing (scanning), some directed viewing, a lot of informal research as well as some formal research, and this developed as they went along. A thorough evaluation was conducted in 2013 to review work on the project.

Themes covered included **poverty, development and donor relations, economic, politics, environment, social development and Science, Technology and Innovation.** However, Dr. Geci emphasized that their newsletter was different in methodology from that of NA, where a set of themes were covered in every newsletter, and no primary research was conducted.

Dr.Geci also described the main lessons learned from evaluating the newsletter, she classified these into lessons learned in terms of the process or methodology used, and in terms of content. When evaluating the process, the following could be considered lessons learned:

- The approach adopted by the Southern African scan (a combination of directed and undirected scanning) fits the purpose of the client, namely to support investment decisions by tapping into regional information.
- The scanning process was reliant on a single expert. A Delphi process that involves a variety of experts would serve to enrich and interpret results.
- It was not clear from the available information if a network of informants was used to contribute to the information that was gathered.
- Quality assurance was done by the same person that did the Horizon scanning. It was not clear if quality assurance was done by an independent person that was not in any way involved with the scanning.
- A dissemination strategy to a broader audience was not in place right from the start. Measures were introduced later in the project to facilitate dissemination (workshops, FFD website and a mailing list).
- The FFD website was not designed to collect feedback from website users and encourage comments and conversations about the individual newsletters.

When evaluating the content, some of the most important lessons learned included:

- Sources utilised by the South African scan are dominated by news aggregation sites, and are low on expert opinion
- The CDD scan had a relatively high utilisation of experts.

- Grey literature (organisational reports, working papers, blogs and policy documents) were less represented in SA than other regional scans, due to a high utilisation of organisational reports.
- The South African scan reported significantly on development in the rest of Africa, which should enhance the quality of policy decisions that are based on the scanning information.
- An analysis of coverage shows that legal / regulatory aspects are generally not well represented. SA did not include basic services (water and sanitation) and housing, while ecosystems and natural resources are surprisingly well represented, as is information and communications technology.
- The good quality of the Southern African scan is reflected by the satisfaction expressed by the client, as well as the usability of results in scientific publications.
- The client expressed a need for information beyond their own focus areas.

Newsletters produced by the scans other than Southern Africa added value by including editorials, expert interview and futures information such as insights and focus areas for the client. The Southern African scan added interpretive information as the process evolved.

At the end of the presentation, Dr. Miller had a question on capacity building achievements. Dr. Geci reflected on their efforts in capacity building and training on methodologies and technical know-how (of the planning unit associated with the presidency) in an attempt to hand down futures work to a younger generation as opposed to the node's current consultancy used, however this has not worked as expected.

Dr. Idriss Hani, Cercle de Sagesse des Penseurs et Chercheurs, Morocco: "Trends in Morocco and the State of Future Studies"

Dr. Idriss Hani started out his speech with a very strong focus on the vast potential for future studies in the African continent, given that Africa could be considered a "virgin" continent, however, he clearly stressed the importance of considering the African future independent of any context other than its own. He stressed that Africa should not be influenced by what Europe wants it to be, because Europe's future lies in Africa, and hence it will attempt to shape the African future in a way that suits its interests.

He also touched upon several concepts that impact the way we think about the future, some of the main ideas he covered included:

- The concept of salvation and its main elements, as not only a context of development, but as representing a revolution in human thinking.
- Creative thinking and modernism are greatly connected to the concept of imagination.
- The concept of infinite justice in the future, it is possible?
- It is impossible to foresee revolutions, so we always have to work and expect a revolution at any time. And this brings us to the idea of working in the present to shape our future.
- The future is a series of events that have not materialized yet, and as Arabs we have failed to write a true history of events that have actually occurred, so how can the Arab mind be able to document events that will happen in the future.
- The ideology is the bridge that links the thoughts of the elites to the public.
- The future is a natural instinct, because it governs how humans react today in the context of how they see the future.

Linking those ideas to what is happening in in Morocco, Dr. Idriss explained that future studies in Morocco is relatively new as in the whole Arab world.

Mr. Abdel haq Zammouri, Abaad Center for Future Studies, Tunisia: "General Trends in Tunisia after 2011".

Mr. Zammouri captured the attention of participants with the title he chose for his presentation to describe regional trends of foresight in Africa: "The quiet volcano and foreseeing the next earthquake"!

Instead of describing the Tunisian revolution and how it has evolved during the past years, Mr. Zammouri chose to focus his speech on the hidden part of the revolution i.e the trends in Tunisian civil society post the 2011 revolution, and the role of foresight in scanning those trends.

He argued that the Tunisian revolution was subjected as early as its onset analytical framework that incrementally set the paths for collective intelligence, to impose the term "Arab Spring" to describe the wave of revolutions in the Arab region. Wouldn't a better description be "the Arab Volcano" given that a mix of poverty and corruption were the reason behind it? As a result, the international media has presented the political developments that followed in Tunisia as achievements; without addressing key question: If the revolution meant change, then why and what should we change? Instead, the picture provided was that of "spring" and "happiness", which has lead the old regime back into the new scene.

Four years after the revolution, Tunisia finds itself in the same position that lead to a revolution in the first place, where previous ideological and political

struggles have not changed. The World Bank has recently issued a report on the Tunisian revolution labeling it as “incomplete”; triggered by the worsening economic situation. This is the same World Bank that described Tunisian economy pre-2011 as “exemplary”!

The same social indicators that have ignited the revolution remained unchanged today, instead they have deteriorated, forcing leaders to run to international financial institutions asking for assistance. Hence, Mr. Zammouri expects that an upcoming battle is evolving slowly between the traditional elite and larger segments of people that have become poorer. This is the same educated elite that refused to recognize the signs that led to the revolution in 2011, are still persistent in refusing to see the signs underway today.

He insisted that scanning the available signs today clearly signal that the coming ten years will be full of hurricanes and volcanoes that are more vicious than what we might imagine.

He concluded, with pointed out the importance of foresight tools in foreseeing alternative futures and creative solutions that help us move into a more united Africa in the coming decades.

Dr. Nadine Abdalla, Arab Forum for Alternatives: “Trends in Egypt after 2011”

In her presentation, Dr. Nadine chose to focus on the future of political transformation in Egypt post 2011. She started out by describing the main strategic political directions of the current regime, where she identified some strategic mistakes that were made during the transitional period. Those included lack of efforts to align the ambitions of political actors with societal ones, the rise of the Muslim Brotherhood to power with no clear constitutional and legal requirements to hold them accountable, thus they were left to draw the rules of the political game. Which led to the military intervention on July 3rd, 2013. Hence, the political strategy of the current regime is based upon two main elements: institutionalizing a “legal supremacy” that aims at locking out public space, and manipulating the media to eliminate any discourse of opposition.

The second part of her speech was dedicated to the key challenges facing the current regime, where she identified 3 main challenges:

- The challenge of economic growth and development. The current economic strategy is based on economic restructuring with the aim of decreasing budget deficit and achieving high rates of economic growth and employment, however it overlooks the fact that growth doesn’t necessarily lead to development, and that it should be coupled with a clear vision to ensure that the fruits of growth are re-directed to benefit the poorer

segments of society (through social safety nets and investment in human capital).

- Challenge of institutional reform, where there is need to reform a bureaucratic system that employees 6 million people. A golden opportunity was wasted to undertake such reform after the revolution. How can we reform state institutions that support the current regime when the regime depends on these institutions as a base for popular support?
- Challenge of refusing to develop an intermediary political or social block, because the current regime is refusing to do so even though it is an important component of a healthy political system.

The third part of Dr. Nadine's presentation focused on the negative transformational trends that can be seen the Egyptian community today. These include the public **turning away from political participation** and joining opposition groups, given that the Egyptian public has not reaped any benefits from its political engagement in the past years. Another transformation includes the public's **inability to structure itself** properly, and so instead of the slogan "the revolution continues" we can say that what we have now is "the crises continues", where societal and political actors are too unstructured to fill the political space left by the Muslim Brotherhood regime. Consequently, the military was the only institution capable of rising to the job. The last negative transformation that has occurred in Egypt post 2011 is the increased awareness among different social sectors of the impact of other classes/ parties/ social and economic sectors on them. However, Dr. Nadine identified some positive transformations as well, which include the potential for civil society organizations to structure themselves in a better way.

In conclusion, Dr. Nadine presented 3 main possible scenarios that face Egypt post 2011: Firstly, an optimistic scenario in which the current regime recognizes the need to open up the political system (similar to what happened in Brazil) to pave the way for long term democratic political transformation. Secondly, a pessimistic scenario that envisions a sporadic social explosion in Egypt on the longer term, where the regime recognizes this threat and is trying to take measures to counteract it. This will result a move towards more oppression. The third and final scenario is the baseline scenario of balanced weaknesses where the Egyptian civil society and political opposition is too weak to reach society, and the current regime gains more support.

"Future Scenarios in Libya: What can future studies offer?" - Dr. Nasr El Din BoGamja, Tripoli University, Libya

Dr. **BoGamja** started out his speech by describing the current state of affairs in Libya after the revolution; where he described how Libya is struggling today to overcome its deteriorating political and security situation.

He proposed potential paths that the nee government in Libya should tackle in the future, where it needs to work on building Libya's army, and police forces. The government will also need to focus on transformational justice, on releasing the prisoners in Libyan prisons (even though there are no official statistics of detainees but it is known internally that there are numerous hidden prisons and over 2000 female detainees with militias). The government will also need to rebuild Libya's civil society.

Discussion on Session 4: Moderated by Dr. Nisreen El Lahham

- **Dr. Mohammad Mansour** recommended that participants read the history of revolutions in the world, since it has been proved that revolutions are characterized by cyclical variations but in general they are continuous. The French revolution has showed its fruits after 200 years, and so we need to wait before assessing how the current Arab revolutions will impact the future of the region. He also stated his opinion that the optimistic scenario presented by Dr. Nadine is a more possible scenario in Egypt.
- **Dr. Koffie M. Kouakao** commended the presenters on their session presenting the political status quo and future of the Arab world, and how Africa is disconnected from these changes. He posed the question: what does Africa need to pay attention to in this respect to help bridge the gaps?
- **Dr. Sheila Ochugboju** asked how future experts can help in providing more connected scenarios to Africa, given that the shock of the Arab spring reverberates not only in the continent but also in the region. What could these proposed scenarios mean for Africa? How does the current status impact civil society? We cannot predict revolutions, but there is discontent as well as energy for change.
- **Dr. Riel Miller** acknowledged the profound nature of the session, and if the question of what is revolution remains an open question as implied today, one of the key questions would be the construction of hope in this context. He then related the presentations of the day to yesterday's session where the concept of "colonizing tomorrow" was discussed. It would be difficult to construct hope in the context of the destruction we have seen. It is critical to discover in each community how they construct hope, how they use the future, and then begin working tangibly on how people can learn that using the future is critical for their hope and in understanding their situation and the situation of others. We can then explore based on their narrative how they can think of their situation to create the capacity to intrinsically re-build.

Given the great interest of participants in the topics presented, Dr. Lahham then concluded by suggesting that the last session of the day discuss **how future studies methodologies can be used to connect the Arab Spring countries**

to the rest of the African continent in light of the alternative futures presented today.

Session 5: Discussing FSF Quarterly Newsletters

The main purpose of session five was to present attendees with a background review of the two quarterly newsletters published by FSF since its inception, followed by commentaries and reviews by two experts on the topics discussed in each of the newsletters; Dr. Hammou Lammrani on the issue of wheat availability and food security, and Mr. Muin Khoury on the issue of millennials in the MENA region.

Newsletter 1: Securing Wheat Availability in North Africa - Reham Youssef, FSF

As a member of the FSF team, Ms. Youssef presented a brief on FSF's first newsletter titled "**Securing Wheat Availability in North Africa**". Participants in the workshop were provided with both FSF publications prior to the workshop.

In her presentation of the first Newsletter content, Ms. Youssef discussed the political significance of wheat and bread availability in the North Africa region, especially in light of the 2007-2008 global food crisis. In addition to the main challenges to secure wheat availability in the North Africa, especially in the context of growing demand for wheat (with the MENA region having higher than average wheat consumption per capita), as well as high dependence of NA countries on wheat imports.

Challenges to achieving self-sufficiency in NA were stated as being those of water scarcity and loss of arable land, as well as urbanization and climate change. This opens the door to two main options for the future: rethinking the agricultural policy in light of potential impact of water pricing in the future as well as the tradeoff between low and high value crops, and the other option which is to finance self-sufficiency at the expense of other urgent social service needs. This situation imposes looking beyond NA and into "out of the box" options, such as developing new wheats (pearl millet, sorghum and quinoa).

North Africa's increasing dependence on wheat imports makes Egypt, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco at risk of becoming some of the world's biggest importers of wheat by 2022, leaving them with a limited array of risk mitigation options but to develop strategic grain reserves or to improve the logistical capacities. The newsletter hence suggested moving forward in a more integrated approach of storage and stockpiling, as well as moving towards regional grain hubs and Private Public Partnerships (PPPs).

The newsletter also investigated offshore agricultural investment trends in the North African region, where Egypt has followed a two way approach of investing abroad and allowing investments locally, while Libya is moving towards total dependence on offshoring.

The newsletter concluded its analysis with proposing potentials of a "win-win" situation in this area between NA and SSA; utilizing Egyptian expertise in agriculture to be employed in SSA, Morocco's leading position in fertilizer production, and MENA's resource potential investment in mechanization models.

Water, Energy and Food Security Nexus – Dr. Hammou Lammrani, League of Arab States

Dr. Lammrani in his presentation discussed the Water, Energy and Food (WEF) Nexus, which is a tool to deal with growing uncertainties. The "raison d'etre" of the nexus being the fact that we have finite resources and risks of future supply, unsustainable costs of subsidies, and in response to dealing with the triple inefficiencies in water, energy and food.

He recounted the different pressures that come into play, which can be summarized into: **population growth, decreasing renewable water resources per capita, increasing losses in water supply distribution systems, growing threats of food insecurity, increasing carbon intensities, increasing percentage of natural resources depletion of GNI.**

Also, the impact of climate change on the WEF nexus, where new set of scenarios (Representative Concentration Pathways) were used for new climate model simulations to show projected temperature rises over the coming decades. Several aspects of climate change are expected to impact the WEF Nexus, these include temperature and precipitation changes.

In drawing how relevant the nexus approach is to FSF's work in working towards One Africa, Dr. Lammrani stated that "Water" had already been dealt with as a cross regional development issue (Nile and Senegal River), while "Energy" presents an opportunity to position Africa and MENA as a technology provider for renewable energy. And finally, in the issue of food security we need to find ways to move from "land grabbing" to "Agricultural FDIs". These should be undertaken in the framework of existing regional structures such as the Afircan Development Bank (AFDB), Islamic Development Bank (ISDB), and the Arab African Summit.

He then demonstrated the use of the Nexus 2.0 tool in an Arab country (Qatar) to show how we can simulate scenarios. He argued that a nexus approach has a great potential for the region, but requires governance, capacities, institutions

and policies. It also needs to be promoted on two parallel tracks: the regional and national policies.

In concluding, Dr. Lammrani presented a number of suggestions for the way forward:

1. Future of Natural resources Management: What is desired and what is affordable?
2. How Africa-MENA could build strategic alliances to move from resource based economies to knowledge based economies?
3. Are we having the critical mass of competences to shape tomorrow's vision from One Africa standpoint? Who will set the vision?
4. Could Nexus Water Food Energy be a lab case to start with?

Newsletter 2: The Future of Millenials in North Africa – Reham Youssef, FSF

The second newsletter published by the FSF was titled "The Future of Millennials in North Africa". It looked into social and political trends that could impact the way millennials in North Africa will evolve in the future.

The presentation started with defining: Who are the Millennials? It then identified two emerging trends that have taken the world on a new trajectory, those of globalization and the phenomenal growth in internet. Resulting in three main trends lead by millennials: Undermining the old order (increasing informal political participation), radicalization and intolerance, and the evolution social activism among millennials.

When looking into the trends of employment for this specific generational cohort in NA countries, it is clear the youth unemployment in NA is the highest in the world, about twice as high as the world average. There is also a gender dimension to millennial unemployment with women carrying a double burden. This reality has led to two key trends, that of immigration (with most millennials willing to relocate to other countries) and that of volunteerism and entrepreneurship which has increasingly become a very attractive option for them. Numerous existing and emerging entrepreneurship initiatives in the MENA region indicate that this trend is likely to continue in the future. Innovation hubs are one of the important developments in this area.

Hence, the newsletter suggests that future strategies need to focus on:

- **Using and generating knowledge-** Millennials are the most qualified to play that role in the future.
- **Enabling the private sector to partner with civil society and innovation hubs.**

- Utilizing the **knowledge and skilled MENA expatriates** either in the destination countries or their original countries to support the initiatives and innovations of the Millennials

- **Regional economic cooperation** among MENA countries

The last part of the newsletter concluded with a the future of arts and culture in the MENA region as an expression of millennials sentiments, where research shows how they have impacted the arts, and how they have managed to employ music to spread social and political ideas.

Millennials Empowerment in MENA – Muin Khoury, Pollster/Analyst, Jordan

Mr. Khoury labels the public opinion in Jordan and the Arab world in general, as being "confused and troubled" and often "self-contradictory" as findings of various surveys show, including the most recent survey about "The Political, Social and Economic Transformations after The Arab Spring". According to Mr. Khoury, findings of this survey have shown that the 'Arab Spring' has not only become synonymous with 'devastation and destruction' in the minds of people but also branded as a 'foreign conspiracy'.

By looking at millennials in Jordan, it is clear that they make up almost one third of Jordan's population, and 55 percent of the adult population…and the question is where do they fit in the state and society? Is it a story of estrangement and alienation?

Insights gained from public and private content on the topic of youth are indicative and telling about where the deficits have been massive starting with the family which is "the basic unit of social and economic organization, but also, in a sense, the basic unit of Government; the family becomes the primary mechanism for social control. This is followed by study, career, marriage, employment opportunity, mobility which are all 'family businesses. Millennials are constantly being told what to do. They haven't discovered who they are, to discover that they have already lost their identity as a human being.

After 12 years of schooling, youth are left more confused than ever, not only school failed them in their civic education to become good citizens but also about what choices they have to make for their future study, career and social advancement.

Interestingly, while religion constitutes the most important factor in the life of youth in MENA, next to family, clergy and religious figures, are hardly role models or even a source of guidance or inspiration. (Same youth survey).

In his opinion, Mr. Khouri listed the most important five factors that have led to this state of affairs: mistreating women, no separation between religion and state, too Much Conspiracy, narcissism and leadership.

He suggested three big trends will shape the Arab World in the future: **First,** political violence is remaking Arab societies. Ideological, religious, sectarian, ethnic, and tribal fractures are emerging, resulting in societal scars that may never truly heal. **Second**, the legitimacy and authority of Arab states is disintegrating. Countries where state control and territory have not been lost are witnessing either an increased fragmentation in political spheres or a regression to more authoritarian rule. **Third**, there is a strong sense of individual empowerment sweeping through Arab countries. **One clear outcome is the greater personal belief of Arab citizens in their own ability to affect change and make a difference in their lives.**

He stressed that mounting brutality inflicted by governments and the closure of all spaces for dissent across different Arab countries is leaving Arab citizens, particularly the youth, with dwindling options to affect change. Perhaps the most virulent manifestation of this sense of empowerment is the emergence of Islamic State. Despite an abhorrent agenda and violent tactics, for a large number of the region's youth, it is the only entity offering an alternative future that they can be a part of building.

In his conclusion, Mr. Khoury **encouraged governments to work with civil actors to map out new, inclusive political systems that revamp institutions and decentralize power structures, reinstate citizenship rights, uphold and cherish societal diversity, harness societal creativity, and address long held grievances**. This is paramount for a region seeking a brighter future and for winning over a youthful population that feels like it only has two choices: perish under authoritarian regimes or join a new violent entity.

Session 6: Future Cooperation Areas between MENA and SSA

The last session was based on group work to explore ideas and themes for future cooperation between MENA and SSA. It was facilitated by Dr. Riel Miller, UNESCO, Paris.

Dr. Miller asked participants to breakup into two groups, with a moderator identified for each group, and ensured that both groups had a balanced number of representatives from NA and SSA to ensure productive results. Each group was asked to come up with 3 potential areas of cooperation between MENA and SSA in the near future.

After around 45 minutes of deliberations among each group, Dr. Miller called them back to the roundtable to present their results. Group recommendations for cooperation are summarized below:

Group 1: Moderated by Ms. Lamia El Raei, Executive Director -FSF

This group presented 3 main areas that could present an opportunity of cooperation between NA and SSA:

1. Comparative studies on the perception of youth/millennials of the future on both sides North Africa and the rest of the region. FSF is to take the lead in initiating such a project. The following funders can be approached for support: USAID, ILO, AFDB, EU, AU (African Union)
2. Cultural symposium: a number of events, testimonies and a platform in partnership with UNESCO, Goethe Institute and other donors for cultural and knowledge exchange.
3. Climate and agriculture: to initiate a policy platform, and dedicate upcoming FSF newsletter to that topic.

Group 2: Moderated by Dr. Hammou Laamarani, League of Arab States, Egypt

1. Use Intergovernmental organizations to instigate foresight between the African Union and League of Arab States countries. By Initiating PhD and master programs with joint supervision by experts from both regions). Potential for funding: scholarships are already running between Sudan and Ethiopia. Decide on 3-4 topics related to Future Studies in universities.
2. Bridging the gap between different generations in the context of acquiring information and future studies techniques. Insert programs that integrate Future Studies in the technological infrastructure in the League of Arab States, using an already existing funding mechanism or initiative.
3. Youth training in the context Arab-African) context. Abaad already has the capacity to conduct this sort of idea (innovators and entrepreneurs). So we are building the capacity of our institutions and also the capacities of the young cohort of learners.
4. Developing a proposal on how to advance awareness and ground it in the cultural attitudes and behaviors of organizations, and we suggest starting with political parties in alignment with 2063 initiative. Partners will be universities, African Union, and donors.

It was suggested that details of these initiatives should be developed bilaterally in the coming period. Initiatives also need to be classified according to a time line on short, medium and long term.

Dr. Miller mentioned that there is a need to consider quick wins, for example UNESCO can within the coming year develop a North-South Africa like it has already done in several other regions.

Recommendations for to developing the Role of FSF:

- **Dr. Fabienne Goux-Baudiment**: most of the West African countries are not present in this meeting, and they have a long tradition of Future Studies (Senegal, Ivory Coast). Therefore, it is important to include them in future meetings. Also, there are existing associations working on Future Studies in various North African countries. It is highly recommended to link all these NGOs and organizations together.
- **Dr. Koffie M. Kouakou** agreed with Dr. Goux-Baudiment, that there is a network of foresight specialists in the Francophonie countries that can be contacted.
- **Dr. Hammou Laamrani**: stated that there is a need to develop a drop box folder to share all documents presented in this meeting. Dr. Goux-Baudiment responded by stating that a more collaborative platform is needed which bigger than dropbox and (BASECAMP) is a good alternative.

Dr. Koffie M. Kouakou said that: “even though this group is not fully representative of Africa, let us start from where we are now, and bridging the gap between NA and SSA is a very important starting point.We may not have the same cultural understanding of the future, and cultures are very resistant, but Arab and African futurists are revolutionaries, and this is only the first step, building the bridge is a means to an end, but it could be if we decide to stay on that bridge. “

Dr. Rasigan Maharajh concluded that “unless we start making the efforts, the difficulties that come from not listening are far less. We need to underscore how important people to people are and not institution to institution, because it is critical to recognize the failure of institutions to fulfill what they were built for.”

In the closing round of the 2-day workshop, the moderator requested every participant to name one word that captures their emotions over the past two days, and some of the words outlined were: "HOPE", Energy, Satisfaction, Communication, Work, LEARN, Dialogue, Synergy, Humanity, Ignition, Courage, Thinking, Dream and Victory.

Annex A

Agenda

Futures Studies Forum for Africa and the Middle East (FSF)

ONE AFRICA FUTURE ROUND TABLE

16-17 May, 2015

Landmark Hotel

Amman, Jordan

Day 1- 16th May, 2015	
9:30- 10:00	**Registration**
10:00- 12:00	**Session 1** **Bridging MENA & SSA to transform the future** Welcome note and introduction of meeting objectives ***Dr. Nisreen Lahham, Head of Board -FSF*** Why FSF can matter: Future studies in the region ***Lamia Raei, FSF, Executive Director*** Opening presentation: Arab- African relations: Challenges and Prospects ***Dr. Jawad Elhamad, Middle East Studies Center, Jordan*** Arabs and Africa: One Strategic space ***Prof. Mohammad Ibrahim Mansour, Center of Futures Studies, Egypt*** Towards Strong, Sustainable and Inclusive Growth of Africa: What do Africa need? ***Dr. Geci Karuri-Sebina, FFD, South Africa*** Bridging MENA and SSA: what can MENA offer to the growth of SSA? What can Africa offer? ***Dr. Julius Gatune Kariuki, ACET, Ghana*** Discussion ***Moderated by: Koffie M. Kouakou***
12:12:30	**Coffee Break**
12:30- 13:50	**Session 2** **What can Futures studies offer to transform Africa future?** Articulating Foresight into concrete decision making ***Dr. Fabienne Goux- Baudiment, ProGective, France*** Future Literacy Know-Lab: an innovative foresight concept ***Dr. Riel Miller, Foresight Unit, UNESCO, France***

	Networking of Futurists and the role of the Arab Association for futures Studies ***Dr. Malik El-Mahdi, Arab Association of Futures Studies, Sudan*** Discussion ***Moderated by: Dr.Sheila Ochugboju***
13:50- 14:30	**Lunch**
14:30- 16:00	**Session 3** **Innovation as a catalyst of change in Africa** Innovating beyond Borders: Some Challenges and Opportunities for MENA and SSA ***Dr. Rasigan Maharajh, SANode, South Africa*** Foresight and Innovation: environmental initiatives ***Koffie M. Kouakou, SANode, South Africa*** Using Foresight to Promote Social Innovation and Urban Regeneration Programmes ***Dr. Sheila Ochugboju*****, The Training Centre in Communication (TCC), University of Nairobi ,** ***Kenya*** Discussion ***Moderated by: Lamia Raei***
19:00- 21:00	**Reception**

Day 2- 17th May, 2015	
10:00- 12:00	**Session 4** **Regional perspectives on Trends in Africa and the state of Futures Studies** Searchlight project- Trends in West Africa ***Dr. Julius Gatune Kariuki, ACET, Ghana*** Millennium Project- Trends in Southern Africa ***Dr. Geci Karuri-Sebina, FFD, South Africa*** Trends in Morocco and the state of Futures studies ***Dr. Idriss Hani, Cercle de Sagesse des Penseurs et Chercheurs, Morocco*** General trends in Tunisia after 2011 ***Abdelhaq Zammouri, Abaad Center for Futures studies, Tunisia*** Trends in Egypt after 2011 ***Dr. Nadine Abdallah, Arab Forum for Alternatives, Egypt***

	Future scenarios in Lybia: What can Futures Studies offer? ***Dr. Nasr El-Din BoGamja, Tripoli University, Lybia*** Discussion ***Moderated by: Dr. Nisreen Lahham***
12:00-12:30	**Coffee Break**
12:30- 13:50	**Session 5** **Discussing FFS Newsletters** Newsletter 1: Securing Wheat Availability in North Africa ***Reham Yousef, FSF*** Water, energy, and food security nexus ***Dr. Hammou Lammrani, League of Arab States*** Newsletter 2: The Future of Millennials in North Africa ***Reham Yousef, FSF*** Millennials empowerment in MENA ***Muin Khoury, Pollster/Analyst*** Discussion ***Moderated by: Koffie M. Kouakou***
13:50- 14:30	**Lunch**
14:30- 15:45	**Session 6** **Future cooperation areas between MENA and SSA** A group work session on future cooperation areas between MENA and SSA ***Facilitated by: Dr. Riel Miller, UNESCO, Paris***
15:45- 16:00	Meeting wrap up and way forward ***Dr. Nisreen Lahham, Head of Board, FSF***

Annex B

Tentative list of Participants

	Name	Title	Organization	Country
1.	**Dr. Sheila Ochugboju**	**Former Chief Communications Officer Currently: works at AfricaKnows**	**African Centre of Economic Transformation (ACET)**	**Kenya**
2.	**Julius Gatune Kariuki**	**Research and Policy Advisor**	**African Centre of Economic Transformation (ACET)**	**Ghana**
3.	**GECI KARURI-SEBINA**	**Executive Manager**	**South African Cities Network**	**South Africa**
4.	**Rasigan Maharajh,**	**Chairperson South Africa**	**Southern African Node of the Millennium Project**	**South Africa**
5.	**Koffi M. Kouakou**	**Senior lecturer on scenario planning**	**Graduate School of Public and Development Management (P&DM) at Wits University**	**South Africa**
6.	**Nasser el din Bou Ghamja**	**Professor**	**University of Tripoli**	**Libya**
7.	**Malik El-Mahdi**	**Head**	**Arab Association for Futures studies**	**Sudan**
8.	**Riel Miller**	**Head of Foresight**	**UNESCO Paris**	**Canada/Paris**
9.	**Fabienne Goux - Baubiment**	**Head**	**proGective Consulting firm**	**France**
10.	**Hammou Laamrani**	**Water & Climate Change expert**	**League of the Arab States**	**Egypt**
11.	**Hani Idris**	**Cercle de Sagesse des Penseurs et Chercheurs,**		**Morocco**
12.	**Abed al *Abdelhaq Zammouri***	**Director**	***Abaad Center for Futures studies***	***Tunisia***
13.	**Mohammad Mansour**	**Head**	**Center of Futures Studies- Assuit University**	**Egypt**
14.	**Nisreen Lahham**	**Head of Board**	**FSF**	**Egypt**

15.	**Reham Youssef**	**Senior Researcher**	**FSF**	**Egypt**
16.	**Lamia Raei**	**Executive Director**	**FSF**	**Jordan**
17.	**Nadine Abdullah**	**Senior Researcher**	**Arab Forum for Alternatives Egypt**	**Egypt**
18.	**Jawad al Hamad**	**Head**	**Middle East Studies Center**	**Jordan**
19.	**Muin Khoury**	**Pollster/Analyst**		**Jordan**