



**Doha Workshop: "Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts
and Democratic Transition"
Doha, Qatar-29-30 May 2010**

In preparation for the Seventh Forum for the Future co-chaired by the state of Qatar and Canada, to take place on 01-02 December 2010 in Doha, the Qatar National Human Rights Committee (NHRC) and the Arab Democracy Foundation (ADF) organized on 29-30 May 2010 the Doha workshop on "Peaceful Resolution of Conflicts and Democratic Transition".

110 participants took part in the workshop, among whom are experts, relevant Civil Society Organizations' representatives from Qatar, the Arab countries, and other countries of the Middle East and North Africa, as well as representatives of international organizations, governments, and public figures.

The workshop's three main sessions and four working groups stressed the importance of the subject of the peaceful resolution of conflicts and democratic transition in the Arab record-conflict-torn region, while it is considered as the least democratically-developed. Hence the participants' insistence –especially within the working groups – on the importance and necessity of involving Civil Society Organizations, together with governments, the Arab League of States, and the rest of the regional institutions, in resolving local conflicts. The latter necessitates the removal of all legislative and political obstacles faced by CSOs, and accepting them as an essential and effective actor, in addition to building their capacities in achieving national reconciliations.

Practical national cases and experiences were also presented, featuring Yemen, Lebanon, Morocco, Algeria, Sudan, Iraq, Palestine, Bahrain, Somalia, in addition to regional initiatives to resolve conflicts, led by the State of Qatar. These cases were either initiated by or saw the participation of NGOs. However diverse these cases were, the participants considered as important the accumulated expertise to be analyzed and assessed for lessons learnt, and for the sake of helping governments and civil society organizations to expand their capacities in this field.

At the conclusion of the workshop, the recommendations reached by the participants were presented and approved. The most important recommendation was the creation of a research lab to analyze and resolve conflicts in the region. It was noted that the peaceful resolution of conflicts is a useful mechanism not only for eradicating the hotbeds of armed tension erupting here and there, but also a civilized and preventive way to better manage difference and diversity, and protect the societies in the region from the dangers of monopolizing power and wealth, which may result in slipping towards violence and sedition and the threatening of the security of communities and nations.

Finally, participants thanked the State of Qatar for hosting and supporting the workshop, as well as for their warm reception and hospitality. They also thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Canada and both of the Qatar National Human Rights Committee and the Arab Democracy Foundation, as well as the International Development and Research Center in Canada, for their initiative to organize this workshop.

Doha, 30 May 2010