



Kuala Lumpur Forum

The Fourth Conference of Kuala Lumpur Forum

In the Name of Allah the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

The Democratic Transition : Bases and Mechanisms

Istanbul /Turkey : April 2018

The Problematic- the Objectives- the Program

Kuala Lumpur Forum for Thought and Civilization, in its three previous conferences, inaugurated an intellectual and scientific course on fundamental issues in the Islamic nation's present day through the study of complementary problems, starting with the civil state issue at the First Conference in 2014 in Malaysia as an important entry point for the establishment of a modern state based on the social contract, which protects the dignity and the freedom of the human being, fulfills his needs and strives to achieve justice among people.

The conference went to determine the concept of the civil state amid the discussions that accompanied the revolutions of the Arab Spring, and the

appropriateness of the Western historical model with the cultural reference of the nation and its history. The Second Conference, that took place also in Malaysia in 2015, shed the light on the topic of "The Role of Freedom and Democracy in Achieving Security and Stability", within the context of impacts and developments produced by the revolutions against the will of peoples in the Arab world. This second conference examined the successful experiences that achieved stability and development due to the availability of freedoms and democracy, such as Malaysia and Turkey. However, the rich discussions at the Second Conference in Kuala Lumpur concluded to a result that there is a necessary condition that stands between establishing democracy, ensuring of freedoms and achieving stability and development, which is good governance.

Based on the results of the second conference, the third conference in Sudan, in 2016, covered the subject of "Good governance and its impact on the rise of civilizations", starting with the conceptual definition of good governance and its criteria, then the origins and references of good governance in our Islamic heritage, and its impact on the management of economic and developmental affairs, and on the empowerment of non governmental organizations as well as the various institutions of the civil society in achieving the rise of civilization and its ability to control the means of modern technology, in addition to preserving the nature and environment.

After proving the importance of good governance, the priority and necessity of implementing it in order to achieve development, prosperity and amid freedoms and democracy, the question of the research is now about the trends and ways to establish good governance through creating smooth transition from dictatorship and tyranny to democracy and freedoms.

The experience of the Arab Spring and the major setbacks that have occurred have confirmed that the democratic transition is an important issue that necessitates a serious study. It requires in-depth analysis of the various variables and different courses witnessed by peoples in their path towards democracy and development, in addition to the study of various experiences of nations that have succeeded in achieving a real democratic transition in its path towards achieving the demands of its people.

The fourth conference of Kuala Lumpur Forum, which is going to be held this year, April 2018 in Istanbul, Turkey, will open this debate to researchers and academics through lectures and workshops on two major problematics: The first problematic is about the mechanisms and trends of change that can reach a real transformation for the benefit of peoples. Yet, there is no doubt that the community arena has become full of several and different choices related primarily to the conditional entrances to achieve the desired reform and political change, which requires activating the role of the nation. Thus, what are these entrances? And were there any lessons learnt from the mistakes and failures of the Arab spring.

The second problematic sheds the light on a grey area that has been always absent in the Arab and Islamic thought, which is the management of transitional periods. The revolutions of the Arab spring have proven that overthrowing a authoritarian regime does not necessarily lead to a successful democratic transition. Therefore, how can this transition be managed in a way that achieves its goals and does not fall into failure and retrogression? How can the transition be managed in the midst of the competition and rivalry between the different social forces? What lessons can you learn from the successful experiences of

democratic transition in that countries that already witnessed and survived that period, which could adapt and benefit in the Arab and Islamic environment.

A series of other sub-questions are broken down from those two previous major problematics as follows:

- What trends can be adopted by peoples, elites, and the civil society forces to achieve a smooth democratic transition and lead to establishing good governance's standards?
- Is the participation through the political systems controlled by non-democratic forces an appropriate way to achieve a democratic transition then promote good governance? Can change and reform be achieved from the inside of those classic structures? Or there are other ways to achieve a truly successful democratic transition?
- Is the change of courses a basic determinant for building the most appropriate options? Is it possible to change these courses? How could it be done?
- What is a real "democratic transition" and what are its determinants?-
- What are the conditions to make a suitable climate to reach the democratic transition at the level of social mobilization and the duties of elites and leaders? Is it possible to separate the construction of man from the "construction of the state and the good governance?
- Efforts have been scattered in the periods of democratic transition due to the disagreement in its phases and priorities (Constitutional debate, mechanisms for determining and resolving it, democratic rivalry, debate on identity , development and social justice, etc). So, what are the priorities of the democratic transition?

- What are the most important obstacles facing the democratic transition and how can we anticipate its dangers and threats to the trends of change inaugurated by people, after many efforts and sacrifices?
- The political, economic and security balances of power in the transitional periods, compose important and decisive facts in the change equation, whether on the local level or regionally and internationally. How can we control and deal with those facts and use it to ensure a safe and smooth democratic transition?
- Humanity has witnessed many experiences concerning the democratic transition in Europe, Latin America and Africa, as well as other experiences in the Arab and Islamic world. How can those experiences be used to mature perceptions that fit our Arab and Islamic reality?

Objectives of the Conference

- Explore ways to achieve the desired change to a stable, and lasting good governance.
- Monitor the duties of elites and leaders in crisis management, and achieve consensus to reach successful democratic transitions for the benefit of the common interest, and meet people's hopes and aspirations of a good governance that benefits everyone.
- Determine the forms and channels of managing conflicts and disagreements transitional periods.
- Explore and learn from the various experiences of successful democratic transitions in order to achieve establishing a solid, sustained and stable good governance.

- Identify the mechanisms of social mobilization to strengthen and immunize the democratic transition, and incorporate the norms of good governance.

The Conference Activities

Basic Lectures:

Researchers and experts will oversee the subject of the conference. The themes will be received and distributed before the Conference to participants.

Workshops:

Participants will be distributed to workshops that cover the themes of the conference, and it will be allowed to receive lectures written on the subject of the workshop before the conference, the admitted ones will be displayed in 5 minutes.

The workshops also aim to enrich the theme of the conference and to scrutinize its conclusions and recommendations and to draft the third announcement of the forum: "The criteria of Kuala Lumpur Forum for the successful democratic transition".