



KUALA LUMPUR Declaration

A vision of Kuala Lumpur Forum for successful democratic transition

Blessings and peace be upon the most noble of Messengers, the Prophet Mohammad and on his kinsman and disciples.

This Istanbul announcement issued by the Kuala Lumpur Forum for Thought and Civilization, is one of the outcomes of the fourth conference for the forum held in Istanbul from 13-15 April 2018. Themed The Democratic Transition: Basis and Mechanisms. The conference was attended by a number of national scholars and thinkers from various countries in the Islamic world in which several papers and studies were presented in addition to valuable dialogues and interventions that constitute a qualitative addition to the presented the papers and studies. This announcement contains a summary of what the participants and members of the Forum agreed on with and represents the vision adopted by the Forum in the process of democratic transition.

The announcement comes as follows:

The Kuala Lumpur forum members believe in the following:

- God has honored and chose men regardless of his religion, gender and color. The almighty says: "We have honored the Children of Adam, and carried them on land and sea, and provided them with good things, and greatly favored them over many of those We created." so every human being is honored by his humanity.
- One of the manifestation of the divine honor granted to men is freedom: freedom of belief, freedom of thought, freedom of convictions and freedom of political choice, the almighty's rule in that is: 'There shall be no compulsion in religion; the right way has become distinct from the wrong way. Whoever renounces evil and believes in God has grasped the most trustworthy handle; which does not break. God is Hearing and Knowing.'
- One of the most important freedoms recognized by the general rules in the Islamic political system: Freedom of the person to choose who governs him, his right to

monitor his performance, to hold him accountable, and to demand his dismissal if he sees him as unfit to govern.

- The power belongs to the nation. This was manifested in various forms of choosing the ruler during the period of Islamic rule, in which, the nation was always the reference.
- Forum members believe that democracy based on the right of citizens to elect those who govern them, on the basis of the majority, should be the ruling philosophy of political vision, and this embodies the essence of Ash-Shura (*consultation*) in the Islamic concept.
- The forum believes in the civil society's need for an education based on legal relationships within the society and between the society and the state. Therefore, the call for a rule of law state requires the components of civil society to respect the law in all forms of civil activity, in electing its governing bodies. Respecting the principle of fair democratic elections, transparent election and democratic decision making. Respecting the principle of rotation and circulation of power within organizations and associations, respecting the legal duration of the leading bodies within its institutions and the financial transparency.
- The Forum encourages the dissemination and development of awareness of the peacefulness of political action and renounces violence and criminalizes its use in the competition for power to the extent that it makes it a popular choice capable of thwarting all attempts to drag societies into violence or to engage them in the trap of terrorism that destroys all their liberal desires and keeps them under tyranny.
- At the same time, the forum sees the importance of the working towards excluding the military powers from the political arena and defining the role of the armies in protecting counties and guaranteeing the rights of the people in self governing and self determination.
- The forum draws attention to the transitional democratic experiences in the world, to study and benefit from it in order to enrich various environment and provide appropriate conditions for a successful democratic transition. Especially the Turkish, Tunisian and Malaysian experiences along with experiences from African, central American and south east Asian countries.
- The Forum considers that the Arab Spring experience is one of the most important manifestations of the Arab peoples' desires for freedom as the experience revealed the great need for a democratic transition built on sound foundations, an appropriate balance of power and through correct mechanisms. The only way to confront tyranny is with democracy, which remained rejected by governments clinging to power at the expense of national interests and people, along with the lack of interest of the elites who colluded in one way or another to delay and impede this entitlement.

- members of the Forum call for working towards transforming the peaceful and democratic transition of power into public awareness, a well-established community culture and convictions among the masses after long years of elitist debates.
- The Forum recommends working with all political forces to resolve past conflicts and achieve transitional justice in order to inflict damage and compensate the victims who have been subjected to periods of tyranny for political abuse and exclusion.
- The Conference stresses the need to complete a program of comprehensive national, regional and international reconciliation, to achieve a historic reconciliation between the components of political action within countries in all their intellectual orientations, and to reach consensus that leads to the promotion of democratic transition and makes it the only option for all in order to strengthen the internal situation of the countries and enable the completion of a civilizational partnership at the external level and freeing the countries will from the state of alienation and subordination.
- The Conference urges the importance of supporting civil society and empowering the organizations and associations working in this field to rehabilitate and support peoples to reach and defend the values of democracy and to contribute to monitoring the achievement of a safe democratic transition in their countries.
- The Conference emphasizes the need to involve youth and women in public affairs and enable them to participate actively in the democratic transition, transformations and political choices in different countries.
- The forum emphasizes giving priority to the developmental and economic aspects and political reforms and to soften the ideology in political competition as much as possible. And pay more attention to answer questions of the masses and achieve their demands and provide services to them during the democratic transition, and in the programs and policies of movements and parties, and to intensify the promotion of economic advancement as a condition for political stability.
- The Forum stresses the importance of scientific discussions in educational, academic and research institutions aimed at cultivating a political theory that transcends the authoritarian heritage and corrects the old concepts that answered the questions of its time and re-examines the Islamic values that support human freedom and dignity and the institution of justice and good governance.
- The Forum's organizers believe, that a successful democratic transition is what leads to the transfer of power, and peaceful circulation between the various groups of political and partisan society, without bloodshed, military coups, and no interference of the military and security forces in the government. And in the framework of pluralism, transparency, integrity and acceptance of the other.

Therefore, the Forum calls for the following:

First: Official Political Institutions:

- To review governance systems, to abandon authoritarian and authoritarian rule, and to turn to democratic, electoral rule.
- Adopting the idea of a democratic and peaceful transition to power, and respecting the majority opinion.
- To promote confidence in peoples, social, intellectual, cultural and political elites, and civil society institutions, and to build bridges of trust with communities.
- Involvement of social, political and intellectual elites in the dialogue on peaceful democratic transition.
- Introducing democratic thought and democratic culture in school and university curricula.

Secondly: Scholars and preachers:

- The need to end the dispute over democracy and adopt a system of government that is compatible with the Shura in terms of goals and the essence of the idea.
- Calling on political regimes to abandon injustice and dictatorship, refrain from oppressing peoples and confronting the Arab Spring.
- Review the intellectual and advocacy discourse emphasizing the importance of democracy, the peaceful democratic transition of power, the victory of peoples in the face of the repression of power, and the deep state.
- Holding political legitimacy studies related to the democratic process and the peaceful democratic transition and the legitimate establishment thereof.

Third: intellectual and political elites, parties and civil society organizations.

- To rehabilitate civil society so that it can contribute to its role in the process of democratic transition, for it is not possible for a faction or an organization to achieve this transition unless it is supported by an effective and useful civil society. It also emphasizes the need to bridge the relationship with the elites and bridge the gap between them and the political entities active in the heart of society.
- The Forum directs political parties and movements to the need to respect the rules of political action in their internal practice and in their participation in public affairs, it also emphasizes the need to reflect democratic practice in the internal frameworks of political entities, and achieve rotation in their leadership positions, and break the monopoly of decision-making within them, leading to the involvement of all those involved in the manufacture of political orientations.
- To promote and disseminate the culture of democratic transition in political party structures, movements and culture.
- Ensure cooperation with the authorities in the positions of power to restore democratic governance, return to the results of the Arab Spring, and strengthen, and stand in the face of injustice and tyranny.
- To consider what is going on from the coup against the Arab Spring, an event is not final, and is subject to change in the light of the reality of the nation, and according to our understanding of the historical and temporal circulation.

Fourth: Islamic Movements:

- The need to review the Islamic movements of their political, intellectual and organizational project a comprehensive review of all aspects and areas.
- Declaration of the adoption of democracy as a method of governance embodying Shura in spirit and text, and the Declaration of acceptance of the other, and the commitment to democratic transition to rule, and the peaceful transfer of power. And the emphasis on not investing democracy, democratic transition, peace to access to power, and then abandon it.
- Adopting the democratic transition of leadership within Islamic movements and working to determine the number of leadership courses in the basic systems of movements.
- Assess the governance experiences of Islamic movements, including the extent of commitment to democracy and the democratic transition of power, and to modify the negative and ambiguities, and work to avoid them in the future.
- Review the positions of Islamic movements from living with others, and non-Muslims in particular, and adopt the thinking based on it, being one of the most important introductions, to accept the democratic transition of power.

Fifth: Arab and Islamic peoples:

- The need to uphold democracy, democratic governance and democratic transition as a choice for peoples, to achieve it no matter how high prices, and to adopt the response of the Turkish people to the coup d'état as a model to follow in this section.
- The certainty that the people will have the last word no matter how overwhelmed and oppressed, and that they are not driven by what is happening to abandon the democratic dream, but to uphold their rights and not to despair of achieving the results of the Arab Spring.
- Adherence to intellectual freedom and political freedom, including the emphasis on the right to choose the governor and monitor and hold him accountable.
- The need to benefit from the experiences of Turkey and Malaysia, in line with the circumstances of each country and society, towards strengthening the role of civil society, and the consolidation of democratic and electoral action, and the right of choice, as it happened during the recent Turkish and Malaysian elections.