



Final Technical Project Report

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The Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID)

“Women and Transitions to Democracy in the Arab Region”

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1. Abstract

Through this project IDRC provided AWID with a grant of \$125,022 to facilitate reflection and strategizing among women's rights activists from the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and forge stronger ties of solidarity between them and the international women's movement. This was advanced through three primary research/action activities: (i) engagement of women's rights activists of different ages, organizational experiences, sectors and countries in AWID's 12th International Forum on Women's Rights and Development; (ii) organization of a pre-Forum meeting entitled *Women's Rights in Transitions to Democracy: Achieving Rights, Resisting Backlash* for learning and experience sharing across the region and from other countries having experienced important transitions; (iii) development of a mapping or annotated bibliography of existing research, articles and other resources to inform strategizing for advancing women's rights in contexts of transition.

2. Research Problem and Justification

The 'Arab Spring' has had a dramatic ripple effect around the world, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa, which is still in upheaval to different extents in different countries. Although women were prominent actors of popular mobilizations in their countries, it was difficult to include issues of non-discrimination, equality and women's rights in the frameworks of ongoing and/or upcoming constitutional reform processes and democracy-building in the region. Moreover, in many countries retaliation against women has been brutal, ranging from rapes to virginity tests to imprisonment and torture. The international community is playing a significant role both in terms of diplomacy as well as direct support and selective media coverage; and, at the same time the Arab Spring has created new international interest in the region as well as new funding pots. Amidst this complex panorama, Arab feminists in the context of the uprisings in the MENA region are facing significant challenges to ensure that their agendas and priorities are part of the transitions and that they are able to influence key debates, whether related to constitutional reform, transitional justice, electoral processes, political parties building or others key areas for the transition to democracy processes. More generally, women's rights activists in the region are raising concerns about the role and influence of religious fundamentalist actors in this transitional moment as well as on-going threats to the security of women human rights defenders (WHRDs).

These are not new challenges for women's rights advocates. Although clearly there are regional contextual specificities, such upheavals and transitions have happened around the world—in countries of Latin America, Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States. The experiences, insights and lessons learned from these regions can be of great use for women in the MENA region to consider and build on. This project specifically aimed at ensuring that planned activities before, during and after the 2012 AWID Forum in Istanbul on the theme of *Transforming Economic Power to Advance Women's Rights and Justice* would facilitate reflection and strategizing among MENA region women's rights activists, strengthen their strategies and forge stronger ties of solidarity between them and international women's movements. This took shape through dialogue with women's rights advocates with experiences in transitions to democracy/revolution in countries from other regions, (including Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Nepal, Malaysia, Iran, South Africa). We sought to facilitate stronger alliances and solidarity by convening a 1.5 day-pre-Forum meeting entitled *Women's Rights in Transitions to Democracy: Achieving Rights, Resisting Backlash* as well as through a six-hour long Forum session dedicated to

Transition to Democracy and Women's Rights in the Arab Region. Building on the outcome of those dialogues, AWID developed an annotated bibliography (in English and Arabic) focused on issues of transitions to democracy and women's rights in different countries of the world. The bibliography is being disseminated via CD to key organizations and venues in the region and it is also available on the website: www.menaresources.awid.org.

3. Objectives

AWID is pleased to report that all project objectives were met. Details on the outcomes of these objectives are described below in the section under Project Outcomes. The 2012 AWID International Forum created a meaningful space for women's rights activists and advocates from the MENA region to gather, analyze, make linkages with the economic factors behind the upsurge of religious fundamentalist actors and ideologies across the region, and consider how best to protect and advance women's rights amidst the sweeping political changes.

Overall Objectives:

- Provide an opportunity for women from the MENA region to reach a broader global audience, strengthen their ties to the international women's movement and to learn from the experiences and knowledge from those women in relevant processes to transition to democracy.

Specific Objectives:

- Ensure the experiences, voices and visions of women from the MENA region have a strong presence at the 2012 AWID International Forum and facilitate their effective contribution to this global space.
- Build solidarity amongst women from the international women's movement with the struggles faced by women in the MENA region (both historic struggles and newer ones as a result of the 'Arab Spring'), and create spaces for common learning and joint strategizing to advance women's rights and justice;
- Ensure that women's rights activists from the MENA region have access to multilingual resources that are of use in their strategizing and work to advance women's rights in contexts of transition; and
- Ensure that women's rights activists from the MENA region acquire concrete strategy ideas and support systems for engaging in change processes in their respective countries during the processes of transition.

4. Methodology

4.1. Project Activities and Outputs

Understanding that there was a critical need to use the Pre-Forum meeting and Forum to foster solidarity with women from the region, and to build an analysis of the implications of these events for the women's rights agenda at the global level, AWID implemented this project through two primary methods, participatory exchange and mapping of resources, the details of which are discussed below in activities and outputs.

Due to the complexity of this project and the multidimensional ways that we sought to strengthen MENA presence and engagement, all of the objectives were interlinked and certain activities contributed to advancing more than one objective.

4.2. Prior Outreach and Engagement

AWID carried out a dynamic **outreach effort to Arab women's rights activists**, with the support of members of our "organizing committee" for the related Pre-Forum and Forum meetings. Members included Women's Learning Partnership, Equality without Reservation Campaign and the Global Fund for Women. Support and guidance from the Chair of our Board of Directors, Lina Abou-Habib with the Collective for Research and Training on Development-Action in Lebanon (and also a member of WLP and EWR and on the organizing committee) was instrumental to the process.

We also consulted with long-standing allies working in the MENA region (such as ICAN, Nasawiya), and provided regular information updates to women's rights organizations in MENA who are AWID's institutional members and other Forum registrants. The Forum International Planning Committee prioritized session proposals from the region and ensured strong plenary speakers to share organizing experiences from Tunisia and Egypt.

Please see attached [Appendix C](#) for a list of all organizations we collaborated with as well as their specific role in ensuring the project's success.

Outputs:

- 58 women's rights activists from the MENA region meaningfully engaged at the AWID 2012 Pre-Forum meeting
- 443 women from the MENA region (including women from Turkey) actively participated in the AWID 2012 Forum (including the 58 women cited above.)

4.3. Pre-Forum Meeting: Women's Rights in Transitions to Democracy: Achieving Rights, Resisting Backlash

The Pre- Forum meeting, attended by a total of 95 participants including 58 women from countries in the MENA region and 37 from non-MENA countries, as well as the Forum itself presented a space for activists from the region to engage in cross-regional dialogue, alliance-building and strategizing.

The pre-Forum meeting acted as a significant space for women from the MENA region to share reflections and analysis on the impact on women's rights during the political and social changes taking place in the region as part of the "Arab Spring" movements and to learn from women in other regions about priorities and experiences from past processes of transitions to democracy (See [Appendix A](#) for Agenda.) AWID worked in close collaboration with Women's Learning Partnership (WLP), the Global Fund for Women (GFW) and members of the Equality Without Reservation (EWR) Coalition to frame the objectives and program of the meeting. Given their knowledge of networks in the region, it was these partner organizations that defined the list of attendees and proposed relevant speakers, while AWID contributed suggestions for representation of women's rights activists from other regions with experience in transition processes. During this 1.5-day meeting, 26 women presented their ideas, strategies, inspirations and challenges for the MENA region and others in this critical juncture for women's rights. The presenters represented diverse sectors, with 12 coming from the MENA region and another 14 coming from Latin America, South and South East Asia, Western Europe and Sub-Saharan Africa.

The format included keynote presentations followed by a moderated question and answer period, as well as a summary from each panel. This allowed for a dynamic process to engage on themes

including implications of political Islam in government; how to transform left-wing political party agendas to include women's rights; structural prerequisites for a democratic political system, what strategies are needed to ensure that constitutional reform processes include gender equality and what models of transitional justice can support political transition.

The programming on the first day mapped the geopolitical landscape for women's rights actors in the MENA region and key trends and themes in the transitions underway, both within and outside of women's movements. The second day focused on current challenges and possible new strategies for integrating women's rights into political processes. This was followed by presentations by women from other regions sharing experiences and lessons learned in transitions that could be helpful and relevant to the feminist movements in MENA. The report from the meeting can be found in the attachments of the report.

Outputs:

- Meeting participants have increased understanding on how to engage in constitutional and legislative reforms, transitional justice, and movement building in MENA region.

4.4. Forum and MENA Sessions

As part of AWID's commitment to create as inclusive and participatory a space as possible, for the first time at an AWID Forum we provided simultaneous interpretation in seven languages at the daily plenaries and across select breakout sessions (English French, Spanish, Arabic, Turkish, Kurdish, and Russian). Although not directly supported by the IDRC project, this was a key dimension of our engagement with MENA activists. This ensured that our MENA sisters could engage as integrated participants throughout the event, thus strengthening ties of solidarity and building global connections. In total 55 sessions at the Forum were available in Arabic including 33 breakout sessions, all 5 Plenary Sessions, 4 Skills-building (Feminist Economics Toolbox) sessions, 3 streams (of 4 sessions each) of In-depth sessions, and 1 Solidarity Roundtable session. At all times when breakout sessions were held, a minimum of three and up to four different sessions were available in Arabic in a wide range of topics both relating to region specific issues as well as more general themes such as global governance, grassroots organizing, and resource mobilization. This allowed participants to attend sessions that were most relevant to their work and to learn from cross-regional perspectives. In summary, we are delighted that we could provide 85 hours of programming in Arabic to contribute to this being the most linguistically diverse Forum yet. This enabled meaningful participation of the 80 Forum participants identified as Arabic speakers, though we believe this number is greater as some who identified French as their language, speak Arabic as their first language. (see attached Appendix B for the full list of sessions translated from/to Arabic or involving a MENA topic/actor.)

In response to feedback from past Forums that breakout sessions only allowed limited time for experience and information sharing, AWID designed **in-depth sessions**. These seven thematic sessions (six hours each, spread over two days) gave participants time to go in-depth on key relevant issues. The **session: *Transitions to Democracy and Women's Rights in the MENA Region*** was added in response to feedback from groups in the region who were concerned that the Forum theme of "transforming economic power" might feel too distant from activists grappling with very major political transition processes in their countries. They were interested in a dedicated space that they could frame and use to debate relevant regional issues, engaging and exchanging with other Forum participants. The session was led by WLP with support from GFW and EWR (the partners who organized the pre-meeting as well) and re-capped and built on the issues raised at the pre-Forum meeting *Women's Rights in Transitions to Democracy: Achieving Rights, Resisting*

Backlash. It provided a broader space for activists to report back to a larger and more diverse group on key analysis and recommended strategies to address some of the challenges and opportunities that women’s rights activists in the MENA region face.

The session was organized into two main thematic clusters. Each cluster spanned two sessions, with the first being more formal presentations and the second breaking out into smaller groups to brainstorm and analyze specific issues raised in the first. The **first thematic cluster** dealt with the **geopolitical context and landscape and women’s rights in a transitioning MENA region** as well as key **challenges identified and analyzed** during the pre-Forum meeting. The **second thematic cluster** took place on Day 2 of the Forum, April 20, and drew from themes from the pre-Forum meeting including **gender-inclusive Constitutional reforms** and **transitional justice** and how these can potentially be responsive to women’s rights and equality. Participants also analyzed how **movement building and social media** can contribute to inclusive and responsive democracies.

In other Forum spaces women from the MENA region spoke on issues impacting the region, including in **Plenaries of the Forum**, presenting their analysis and different experiences of resistance, organizing and movement building to frame the Forum theme. These sessions were [streamed live](#) by audio webcast, which allowed us to disseminate the Forum broadly to a diverse audience.

Plenary One: Economic Power: Why does it matter and how to understand it in the current global context?	Moderator: Lina Abou-Habib , Collective for Research and Training on Development-Action (CRTD -A), Lebanon
	Speaker: Bochra Bel Hadj Hmida , Supreme Court of Tunisia, Tunisia
Plenary Three: Experiences of Resistance and Collective Organizing to Transform Economic Power	Poet: Marwa Sharafeldin , Egypt
	Speaker: Manal Hassan , Arab Techies, Egypt

Outputs:

- Voices and experiences of women’s rights activists from MENA are articulated and listened to by 2200 other Forum attendees
- Information exchanged and relationships strengthened between women’s rights activists, organizations and networks at national, regional and global levels

4.5. Documentation of Pre-Forum Meeting & Forum strategy sessions

AWID in collaboration with WLP documented the key insights and lessons learned from the Pre-Forum Meeting and Forum Strategy Sessions in a comprehensive report disseminated to meeting participants. Elucidating the context of the struggle for women’s rights in the MENA and articulating key strategies that have been effectively used, need to be developed, or could be leveraged during diverse transitions to democracy, as they continue to unfold and in the future, this report outlined important lessons learned and key themes to raise the visibility of and support for women’s rights activism in contexts of transition in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Outputs

- Report summarizing the debates, recommendations and areas for further exploration from the Pre-Forum meeting translated into English and Arabic and disseminated to 95 participants and made broadly available to the public.

4.6. Mapping of Key Resources on ‘Women’s Rights & Transitions to Democracy’

Considering the desire for learning and engagement identified by activists in the MENA region when reflecting on the fast unfolding transitions in the region, AWID has mapped resources from diverse contexts and prepared a summary of key articles and experiences. To this end, we sought guidance and content support from an advisory committee and consultants from within the MENA region.

This resource mapping aims to fill the gap realized in various convenings and conversations of a lack of information sharing and knowledge bridging among feminists across the regions that experienced similar uprisings; particularly along south-south and east-south lines. At the same time, it responds to the insight from our advisory group that even within the MENA region there is limited circulation of relevant information and systematization of experiences. This collection, available in English and Arabic, is an opportunity for women’s rights activists in the MENA region to learn from past experiences of promoting women’s rights in contexts of transitions in other parts of the world as well as from the current experiences of their peers. It reflects an aspiration for women’s rights organizations and activists to share their experiences and insights across regional boundaries. It builds a meaningful collection of knowledge and tools in one space, easily accessible, for use by activists across the region to most pertinently engage in and influence current transition processes.

Owing to availability of consultants and the current context in MENA that presented challenges for advisory committees to be actively involved in this process, the mapping product was delayed. We are pleased to announce that the annotated bibliography is now available on-line and will be broadly disseminated in July 2013. Further reflections and insights, including learnings on the project are detailed in section 8 of this report.

Outputs:

- Compilation/mapping of over 100 relevant resources on transition to democracy and women’s rights in different regions of the world
- Women’s rights activists’ evidence and strategies documented for use for in practice transfer, and to inform policy and programming recommendations for MENA region.
- Website featuring the annotated bibliography developed and on-line at www.menaresources.awid.org
- 1000 copies of a CD version of the annotated bibliography in English and Arabic produced.

4.7. Material Dissemination and Inclusivity

As part of our strategy for this project, we drew from the over-arching approach to this Forum to conceive of it as a process, not a one-off event. In particular, leading up to the Forum, **AWID produced, commissioned and made available relevant content on issues in the MENA region** through our [website](#) and select articles from our weekly Friday Files newsletter. On our website, the Forum theme section on [Culture & Religion](#) included a variety of links related to Lebanon, Egypt and Tunisia as well as [The Muslim Brotherhood Spring in Al Arabiya News](#). Under the Forum Theme of [Militarism, Conflict and Violence](#), we posted a link to a publication

on [Gender and Gun Violence in the Middle East](#) by the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA.) We sent announcements (in Arabic, English, French, Spanish and Turkish) to Forum registrants and those interested in the Forum to inform them of the availability of these resources. This ensured MENA was included in our communications strategy and facilitated engagement with the region as a foundation for more learning. In the same vein, our Friday Files, produced in English, Spanish and French, which included articles such as [“Disquiet And Despair: The Gender Sub-texts Of The “Arab Spring”](#), [“MENA: As Arab Spring Turns To Winter, Women Fear Pushback”](#) and [“Women In Egypt Heed Warning From Iranian Women On Rights”](#). Our Young Feminist Activist Program also featured MENA region groups such as [Mideast Youth](#) to encourage and promote young women’s participation in the conversations.

Due to delays in completion of the annotated bibliography, dissemination of that resource in CD-format did not take place until July 2013. However, AWID will be continuing to look for opportunities throughout the year to distribute this resource in relevant regional convenings. We are also planning to link our support for the Women’s Learning Partnership campaign, *Because Our Cause is Just*, with dissemination via social media tools of key information from this resource in early July.

Outputs:

- Women’s rights activists from MENA are updated and informed with current information on the Pre-Forum meeting and Forum to facilitate their active participation.
- Friday Files on issues in the MENA region are disseminated to over 45,000 AWID e-subscribers
- The annotated bibliography, ‘Women’s Rights & Transitions to Democracy,’ is disseminated to over 660 MENA women’s rights activists in the region.

4.8. Evaluation

The evaluation methodology for the Pre-Forum meeting on “Transitions to Democracy” and the Forum was an ongoing process. Throughout the course of the project AWID has liaised with the MENA advisory committee and key partners on how the project has been progressing; and, we have made adjustments to activities and timelines to suit the project participants and realities of the region.

Prior to the Pre-Forum meeting AWID asked meeting participants for their expectations of the meeting, ensuring these could be addressed in the agenda and the meeting itself. We then circulated the agenda and concept note to all meeting participants.

During the meeting and strategy sessions at the Forum, rapporteurs took detailed notes. Highlights from the sessions were fed back to participants on the following days to further discussion and debate.

After the meeting we conducted an online survey evaluation of the pre- meeting. The survey questions were distributed to each of the approximately 90 participants in both English and Arabic. While budget constraints limited the availability of Spanish and French questions, responses were accepted in all four languages. After a 3-week period, 22 were completed in English and 9 in Arabic for a total of 31 responses.

Overall, most respondents felt the meeting objectives and key priority areas were somewhat or fully achieved, with only 3-12% indicating otherwise.

Six weeks after the Forum AWID disseminated an online evaluation questionnaire in five languages, to which we received a staggering number of responses – close to 600, or nearly one-third of total Forum participants responded. These responses- in addition to debrief meetings with AWID staff, Board and International Planning Committee members- were used to assess and reflect on achievements and areas for improvement. We will be conducting an in depth “year after” evaluation in the coming weeks.

The annotated bibliography which facilitates on-going regional movement-building has been launched online and will continue to be disseminated in the coming months. The results from this resource will be assessed in our annual evaluation efforts.

5. Project Outcomes

In the previous section of this report we have reported on the activities, as they are an accurate reflection of the objectives we have sought to achieve, given the relatively short timeframe of this project. We expect that deeper outcomes of this work will only be visible in the years to come. In particular, we would expect to find more detailed insights, as they related to the project results, when we conduct a more in-depth evaluation in late 2014 (a mid-term review of our new strategic plan).

AWID views the project as a success in engaging women’s rights organizations and advocates from the MENA region in the 2012 Forum process, as well as through strengthening existing relationships and supporting the engagement of these actors with each other and activists from other regions. Encompassing the objectives and outcomes below, is the comprehensive goal which has been achieved by providing an opportunity for women from the MENA region to reach a broader global audience, strengthen their ties to the international women’s movement and to learn from the experiences and knowledge from those women in relevant processes to transition to democracy. This section reports on attainment per each project objective with testimonial evidence and is an accurate reflection of results achieved to date.

Objective 1: *Ensure the experiences, voices and visions of women from the MENA region have a strong presence at the 2012 AWID International Forum and facilitate their effective contribution to this global space.*

The feedback received from participants so far has been overwhelmingly positive. Results from the Forum evaluation survey¹ tell us that 96.6% of the MENA respondents who answered the question “Reflecting on the 2012 AWID Forum and your expectations overall, how satisfied are you with the experience?” said they were either very satisfied (70.5%) or somewhat satisfied (26.1%). This total of satisfied respondents is 3% higher than overall responses (from all regions) and those very satisfied is 10% higher in the MENA region than the overall responses, a testament to the initiative taken to integrate and involve MENA participants in the Forum experience. One participant from MENA said that the Forum would benefit her by helping her to “take a role in raising issues important to women in my country” (Suzan Aref, Iraq.) In particular, another attendee commented

¹ Survey results included respondents from Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iran, Iraq, Israel, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, Western Sahara and Yemen.

"I liked most the diversity of attendees; the session was one forum where women of different ages, degrees of religiosity, education, etc. could speak up and be heard." (Anonymous)

Objective 2: *Build solidarity amongst women from the international women's movement with the struggles faced by women in the MENA region (both historic struggles and newer ones as a result of the 'Arab spring'), and create spaces for common learning and joint strategizing to advance women's rights and justice;*

Through the Pre-Forum meeting on *Women's Rights in Transitions to Democracy: Achieving Rights, Resisting Backlash*, AWID facilitated opportunities for significant cross-regional sharing and exchange among activists. [Appendix A](#) includes the meeting agenda and participant list. A detailed report on the information, ideas and insights shared for this meeting can be found in [Appendix D](#). Some of the substantive highlights of knowledge exchange from the meeting are included below.

On the first day, **Jean Said Makdisi from Lebanon** provided her perspective of the overall geopolitical landscape and women's rights in the MENA region. She expressed a great decline in feminism and while the women activists deal with changing laws and specific goals (such as divorce and civil law), they are limited by a lack of foundation in feminist theory. One important step is to examine core sources of ideas on women's rights (the Quran, CEDAW, Constitutions) to understand why limitations exist. She painted a bleak picture, giving examples in which women's rights are invisible in Gaza where it is too dangerous and in Lebanon where sectarian affiliations take priority. We need to plug feminism into current political issues and make ourselves relevant in this time; she was hopeful that eventually this would happen. To open up the second day, **Zeina Zaatari from Lebanon (currently living in the United States)** shared the hopeful example of Kurdish organizations that have worked with their sisters in Istanbul to achieve legal reforms under moderate Islamic power. Feminist movements must take the challenges and turn it into something positive. This crisis allows us to redefine ourselves now and to launch deeper discussions with our sisters from all over to face problems lurking ahead.

Perspectives from other regions were discussed and well received, such as **Claudia Samayoa from Guatemala** who offered insights from transitional justice from within the Central American context. She compared the processes and relative successes and pitfalls of Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. As well, Jacqueline Pitanguy from Brazil offered insights from transitions in Latin America, where feminism emerged as a political agent in the struggle against political military dictatorships. They took advantage of the political transition to ensure their participation in developing the constitution. A recurring theme in many of the presentations and discussions was how fragmentation of women's rights movements and other social justice movements is providing space for highly organized right-wing and fundamentalist groups to take over and build on their power on an economic, social and political level.

Participants made recommendations on next steps including: unifying actors and movements, organizing clear, defined objectives and utilizing existing structures and systems. They also conferred on the need to reinterpret and define key issues from a feminist perspective. These insights provided a foundation for the content of the Forum In-depth session. The opportunity to meet in advance and find common themes ensured a more comprehensive and cohesive session at the Forum.

In addition, to the general survey done after the Forum, AWID also conducted a survey ([Appendix D](#)) on the experience of the pre-Forum meeting. Participants were asked to what extent the

meeting supported their learning *“from the experiences of other women’s rights movements around the world and how they capitalized on moments of transitions to democracy including the strategies they used to create alternatives.”* 45% of respondents felt that the meeting fully supported this objective and another 45% felt that it somewhat supported it, for a total of 90% who gained new insights to directly apply to their work.

To sum it up, **Mariem Samoud from Tunisia** stated simply that the Forum experience changed her as *“Now I know I’m not alone as a woman!”* Another participant who responded (anonymously) to our pre-Forum meeting survey shared *“I benefited from the conversations where we shared experiences on how to deal with political Islam and women’s rights and the importance of incorporating women in transformative justice.”* (translated from original in Arabic.)

Objective 3: *Ensure that women’s rights activists from the MENA region have access to multilingual resources that are of use in their strategizing and work to advance women’s rights in contexts of transition;*

With the Forum, in addition to in-person participants, AWID worked to expand our reach to a **virtual audience and provide multilingual resources**. Despite resource constraints and the high cost of technical facilities at the venue (particularly live internet broadcasting), we were able to incorporate significant changes to the Forum, taking steps to create increased virtual accessibility. The daily plenary sessions were audio-streamed live over the internet by the Feminist International Radio Endeavour (FIRE) in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Turkish. Photos, videos and audio content from the Forum in English, Spanish and French were posted to the Forum website every day providing an overview of the different discussions and debates taking place. In addition, this was also the first Forum where AWID used social media to facilitate engagement with live tweeting from the plenaries in English, Spanish and French using the Forum hashtag #awidForum and daily content posting to our Facebook page which saw an increase to 21,308 people as its weekly total reach (an increase of over 16% from the previous week).

Launched in November 2012, AWID redesigned the Forum website into a dynamic Resource and Learning Hub, building on the content generated by participants with multi-media resources on all Forum components. The aim of which is to get people to identify the site as a resource on economic power and its connections with women’s rights. We continue to expand content in English, Spanish and French to facilitate learning on the Forum theme(s). The top ten breakout sessions’ content and materials (as per the Forum evaluation survey findings) were added to the relevant website content areas and we have posted learning resources based on the [Feminist Economics Toolbox sessions](#) on the website. We will continue to add key resources from the in-depth sessions to the website content area and will continue to source and post the latest resources and analysis related to the Forum themes from women’s rights and other social justice organizations around the world. Through the use of Google Analytics, we noted that as of April 10, 2013 (and since it launched in November 2012), there were 4,259 unique visitors and 5,119 visits (84.90% New Visitors, 15.10% Returning Visitors) and 7,718 page views on the website.

In addition, Women’s Learning Partnership (WLP) produced an article of insights from the meeting, [Achieving Rights Resisting Backlash](#). Available through their library, this extends the reach of the content by making it available to those that could not attend.

Other outreach arising through Forum coverage including blogs, tweets, alternative and mainstream media coverage as well as unsolicited compliments and survey results leave us in no doubt that the Forum left the majority of its participants ‘revitalized’ in their work. A comprehensive

list is included in Annex 3 of the Forum Evaluation report, but MENA specific articles include [The Word on Women: MENA Region Tops Agenda at AWID Global Women's Rights Forum](#) and [Dispatches from AWID 2012: Arab Spring Becomes a Chill for Women, But The Organizing Continues](#).

The annotated bibliography, CD and accompanying website which was launched in July 2013 offer multilingual resources, publications and materials on transitions to democracy and women's rights in different countries of the world. It provides bibliographic information and short summaries of resources which succinctly identify the contextual changes and challenges facing women in those particular transitional moments, as well as clearly delineates the ways in which women's rights activists sought to confront those challenges and what lessons were learned. These resources will support the immediate needs of activists in the MENA region, and provide a reference and broad framework to assess reactions and responses to the particular challenges of such upheavals, as well as support learning and connection across women's movements on a global level.

Objective 4: *Ensure that women's rights activists from the MENA region acquire concrete strategy ideas and support systems for engaging in change processes in their respective countries during the processes of transition.*

As mentioned earlier, the Forum's location in Istanbul also provided AWID with an important opportunity to prioritize **engagement with women from the MENA region**, particularly at this moment in time. Clearly the dynamics in the MENA region, and building relationships with activists there were a key interest for many Forum participants, as reflected in the comments below:

The experience on MENA region transition to democracy has sensitised me and my organization to devise new plans and strong strategies on tackling issues peacefully in order to bring about change in a democratic way. Aziza Abemba, Zimbabwe

Talking with feminists from the MENA region here at the Forum has been enlightening. They are faced with the challenge of ensuring that the revolutions they fought hard for advance women's rights in a meaningful way. Where religious fundamentalism, political conservatism and militarism are the major social, political forces at play, the challenge cannot be understated. As new constitutions are developed and elections are held, the work of women's rights activists remains critical. As one of the young activists put it: "Hopefully our next Spring will be a feminist one". WUSC EUMC

Karama and Hivos hosted a delegation composed of six young women from the MENA region representing five countries, Lebanon, Egypt, Iraq, Syria, and Libya, to participate in the Forum. In a [report](#) they wrote reflecting on the Forum experience they said:

In a conference that brings together multitudes of social actors from different parts of the world, differences are to be expected. In fact, the differences of experience and backgrounds were especially enlightening, and definitely enhanced the experience for the members of the delegation. It is necessary, however, to stress that women's roles in the Arab Spring have been important, and their participation and efforts should not be dismissed nor be limited to the victim'. [At the Forum] We agreed that women's rights will become priority, not in spite of, but rather especially due to the newly-founded road to democracy paved by the honourable revolutions we have seen, and experienced.

Other participants from the MENA, whose feedback is highlighted below, is illustrative of the value a space like the Forum provided for their learning especially in relation to cross-regional connections and experience sharing:

Through listening to participants and feminists from different countries, cultures and contexts, I was exposed to unconventional ideas and values at the Forum that helped me develop a less conventional point of view and vision for my work. Sanaa Kareem Altaef, Iraq

The Forum has strengthened the sense of solidarity and resistance between feminists and emphasized the importance of discussion and sharing opinions amongst activists from various regions and context. —Fatma Alkourey Omran, Mauritania

The participation of women from the MENA region provided a space to build solidarity with women from other regions. Clearly the dynamics in the MENA region, and building relationships with activists there were a key interest for many Forum participants, as reflected here: *“The pre-meeting with women the MENA region as well as some of the activities carried out throughout the Forum shed light on the realities that women are living in this part of the world and particularly what feminists are experiencing. I think that exposing the restrictions on rights and liberties that women are facing within a context that was expected to bring about democratic changes was spot on. This allowed us (myself and some of my colleagues) to see how even between contexts that are very different and far from each other this kind of dynamics are fundamentally similar. Masculine domination and oppression are recyclable. It also showed us interesting movement dynamics with their virtues and weaknesses. It allowed us to take a pick at a reality that many of us were not aware of.”* —Morena Herrera, La Colectiva Feminista, El Salvador

The In depth strategizing session: *Transitions to Democracy and Women’s Rights in the MENA Region* provided an opportunity for participants to build on discussions from the pre-Forum meeting, from which key questions and themes emerged such as the role of economics in the political situation in MENA; issues of clear communication and use of terminology such as with words like “Political Islam”; and the importance of the Constitution as a consensus document whose creation should include women. Survey results from the Forum showed that participants from MENA (89%) acquired concrete strategies about how to transform economic power to advance women’s rights in their respective countries. Over 65% of participants from MENA reported that after attending the Forum they felt greater solidarity with the issues they are currently struggling with. Please see attached [Appendix E](#) for the agenda and speakers.

The assessment of the In depth strategizing session *Transitions to Democracy and Women’s Rights in the MENA Region* by participants provided an important indicator of the learning outcomes for 93% of the survey respondents that attended this session, they assessed it as either “very useful” or “somewhat useful”, meaning they gained some concrete knowledge, insights, and ideas for their work. The value of a space like the Forum for their learning especially in relation to cross-regional connections and experience sharing was clearly expressed in testimonials such as the following: *“Through listening to participants and feminists from different countries, cultures and contexts, I was exposed to unconventional ideas and values at the Forum that helped me develop a less conventional point of view and vision for my work.”* Sanaa Kareem Altaef, Iraq

Finally, Nadine Moawad, a young feminist activist from Lebanon and founding member of Nasawiya feminist Collective attended the Feminist Economics Toolbox session “Demystifying Economics: Macroeconomic Policy” with Radhika Balakrishnan who explained the basics of

government economic processes and bodies, and where gender issues fit in. Once back in Beirut, Nadine started reading through government budgets and plans including review of a new socio-economic reform plan by the government, which requested a call for comments from the public. Through her new understanding of macro-economic policies, she was able to submit a comment, flagging the lack of attention to gender. Only a week later, she received a reply from a woman from the socio-economic advisory team who invited her to meet to further discuss her feedback. In the meeting, they strategized on how to include gender equality, budgeting, and mainstreaming in the government plan. Only a few weeks later, Nadine was told that they had officially **succeeded in adding a commitment on gender equality (and the subsequent action plans that come with it) to the official plan for the first time ever**. This was a true illustration of impact from the Forum. Nadine commented, *“I learned so much from that session, it was really informative and caused a true shift in my thinking.”*

6. Overall Assessment and Recommendations

One of the goals for every Forum that AWID organizes is to re-energize participants, and this year was no exception. It is hard not to come away feeling revitalized just from the energy of over 2,000 women's rights advocates together in a plenary hall, or at an evening dance party. In our post-Forum survey 95.6% of respondents from the MENA region that participated strongly agreed (57.8%) or agreed (37.8%) that the Forum was inspiring and energizing.

Additionally, we hope to see stronger, more on-going communications and connections between MENA-region women's rights activists and those from other regions; as well as expanded displays of solidarity by activists from other regions with MENA sisters. We expect to see a lasting impact as well in AWID's own relationships in the region, hopefully further deepening and expanding our engagement with activists there.

Several key lessons emerge from the implementation of this specific project. The major learnings garnered from our initial assessment of the Forum process are discussed in detail in our Forum Evaluation Report, attached in the final submission to IDRC.

- Although there are often challenges for **multi-generational work** in many contexts, we saw particular difficulties in this project. Despite AWID's relationships with young feminist groups and networks in the region, they seemed alienated by the more established or 'old guard' groups (who at the same time were not very active in seeking to meaningfully engage young women—understood as being under age 30). Some of the challenges played out in diverging working styles and the vision of possibilities or challenges within the current context shared in the pre-meeting and the frustration expressed by young women present at the reliance on 'expert' panel speakers without time for group debate and discussion. This was in the context of broader sensitivities around young women's engagement at the Forum, largely driven by young women from the MENA region. Given the active roles of young women in the current context, we regretted that there was not more effective multi-generational engagement. Looking forward, we will continue to emphasize particular engagement with young women organizing on women's rights issues in the region and hope to offer some of the resources that AWID and partners have been developing on multigenerational organizing to contribute to strengthening work across generations in the MENA.
- This project was an opportunity for AWID to further strengthen relationships with women's rights groups in the MENA region and we saw clear affirmation of the interest in and relevance of strengthening cross-regional connections. Yet we continued to learn about the challenges and complexities of the regional context and the implications of those complexities for a

'linking' agenda. Compared to our collaborations in other regions such as Latin America, the links between women's rights networks within the MENA region seemed limited, in the sense of different networks not really speaking to each other, and our core partners did not tap the diversity of organizations and perspectives that we might have hoped for. At the same time, this project marks the first time that AWID attempted to organize a meeting of this scale prior to the Forum, with some partners that we had not previously collaborated with in such a close manner. This created a challenge in terms of our ability to actively accompany the process and work through areas of difference. We know that solid relationship-building is a process of construction. In keeping with our conception of the Forum as a process, we are committed to continue to **engage with women's rights actors in the MENA region** to capitalize on gains made and to continue deepening our understanding of 'who's who' and building relevant bridges with activists elsewhere. We will also continue to pursue work that is of particular relevance to this region, within a cross-regional framework, on issues discussed above like religious fundamentalisms and WHRDs.

- As mentioned above, the popular mobilizations in the MENA region inspired great hope among women's rights activists elsewhere that the political changes taking place would serve to boost women's rights struggles. In fact, we have been learning to take very seriously the threats that current events in the region potentially pose for women's rights agendas—not just regionally but in intergovernmental spaces such as the UN as well. This is especially important at this juncture where at the United Nations and other international spaces; critical negotiations are or will be taking place in the coming three years (the MDG review, the post-2015 UN development agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Cairo20 process and the Beijing +20 Review). This also reinforces the importance of continuing to forge stronger links and alliances between feminists and women's rights activists from MENA and their peers in other regions, so that the analysis from MENA based activists is informing joint global action and we are **building strength** to counter these regressive forces and foster greater solidarity with women from MENA and vice versa.

APPENDICES – PROJECT REPORT

“Women and Transitions to Democracy in the Arab Region”

From The Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID)

Grant No: 107023-001

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Appendix A – Women’s Rights in Transitions to Democracy: Achieving Rights, Resisting Backlash: Meeting Agenda and Participant List

Women’s Rights in Transitions to Democracy: Achieving Rights, Resisting Backlash

Association for Women’s Rights in Development (AWID), Women’s Learning Partnership (WLP), the Global Fund for Women (GFW), and Equality Without Reservation Coalition (EWR)

April 17-18, 2012 – Istanbul, Turkey PROGRAMME

April 17th

3:00 – 3:30 Welcome and Introductions

3:30 – 6:00 Opening Plenary Session

This session will set the scene of the geopolitical landscape in MENA and beyond and will identify key trends that are likely to shape women’s rights and position.

Introductory remarks/chair: Thoraya Obaid

An Overview of the Geopolitical Landscape and Women’s Rights in the MENA Region

Deniz Kandiyoti – UK/Turkey

Jean Said Makdisi– Lebanon

*Challenges and Opportunities for the Women’s Movement:
Feminism, Fundamentalism & Patriarchy*

Rabéa Naciri– Morocco

Women’s Rights and Transitions in a Global Context

Jacqueline Pitanguy – Brazil

April 18th

9:00 – 9:15 *Check-in, coffee*

9:15 – 11:00 *Lessons Learned from Recent Engagement with Political Transformations in the MENA Region*

This session will focus on the recent changes and transformations in the MENA region and their outcomes, current and expected, on the rights of women as well as the key processes shaping change.

Introductory Remarks/Chair: Zeina Zaatari

Amina Lemrini – Morocco (*Constitutional reforms and the Moroccan model: viability and replicability*)

Wajeeha Al Baharna - Bahrain

Amal Grami – Tunisia (*Post-revolution and the threats to women*)

Asma Khader – Jordan (*Women in post-revolution Libya*)

Sawsan Zakzak - Syria (*The feminist movement within the opposition*)

11:00 – 11:15 *Short break*

11:15 – 1:00 *Lessons Learned in Other Regions: International Mechanisms, Transitional Justice, Legal Reform, Citizen Transformation*

This session will bring in experiences and lessons learned in transitions and transformation beyond the MENA region while seeking to identify commonalities that are helpful and relevant to the feminist movement in MENA.

Introductory Remarks/Chair: Lydia Alpizar-Durán

Renu Rajbhandari – Nepal (*Constitutional reforms, the case of Nepal*)

Boriana Jonsson – Central & Eastern Europe (*Transitions after the fall of communism*)

Claudia Samayoa – Guatemala (*Highlights on transitional justice*)

Daptnhe Cuevas – Mexico (*Working with parliament and interface with political party system*)

Shamim Meer – South Africa (*Democratic transition from apartheid*)

1:00 – 2:30 *Break for lunch*

2:30 – 4:15 *Challenges Women and Feminist Movements Face: Fundamentalism & Patriarchy*

This session will explore structural challenges that feminist movements have faced and confronted around the world and

across history and how these have become more urgent during times of rapid transition.

Introductory Remarks/Chair: Mahnaz Afkhami

Haideh Moghissi - Iran/Canada

Maria Consuelo Mejia - Mexico

Yakin Ertürk – Turkey (*Reflections on Turkey and Syria*)

Ho Yock Lin – Malaysia (*Managing diversity*)

4:15 – 4:30 *Short break*

4:30 – 6:00 *Where Do We Go from Here? Rethinking the Relationship between the State and Women as Individual Citizens*

This final sessions will tease out directions for future collective feminist action and will build the bridge with the subsequent strategy sessions at the AWID Forum.

Introductory Remarks/Chair: Musimbi Kanyoro

Rahmah Bourkyah - Morocco

Amal Abdel Hadi – Egypt

Gina Vargas - Peru (*Reflections around citizenship from the Latin American region*)

6:00 – 6:30 Closing Remarks

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Appendix B: Forum Sessions- Translated from/to Arabic or involving a MENA topic/actor

Languages: TR= Translated into; PR = Presented in.
EN = English, AR = Arabic, TU = Turkish,
FR = French, SP = Spanish

Type	Session#	Session Type	Session Name	Organization	Brief description	Languages
MENA topic	30010	Breakout	Bringing Gender to the Streets: Young women amidst the Arab uprisings	AWID	From holding women's marches in Tahrir to developing sexual harassment campaigns, this panel will address the role of young women organizing in advancing women's rights as part of the Arab uprisings' agenda and highlighting the importance of transforming gender power dynamics and relationships as key to achieving democracy.	TR: AR/EN/SP
MENA topic	20532	Breakout	Collaborative advocacy for women's economic rights in Muslim majority countries	CRTD.A; Women's Learning Partnership, Lebanon and the Collective for Research and Training Development - Action; Syrian Women League	Discriminatory religious family laws sustain women's economic disenfranchisement by preserving gender inequities and inhibiting women's capabilities and opportunities. This panel will unearth the links between religious family law, economic injustice and women's economic exclusion by exploring initiatives pertaining to land rights, inheritance laws, community organization and advocacy.	TR: AR/EN/TU
MENA topic	20580	Breakout	Interfaith Perspectives on Religious Fundamentalisms and Women's Rights	Women's Learning Partnership	Fundamentalist practices and interpretations of religious texts cut across various faith traditions around the globe, with women often prime targets for political, social, and economic discrimination. This session will present an interfaith dialogue addressing strategies for reform in light of fundamentalist influence on women's political and economic participation.	TR: AR/EN/FR/SP/TU
MENA topic	20958	Breakout	Men as Providers: The Unmaking of a Legal Fiction in Muslim Family Laws	Musawah, Global Movement for Equality and Justice in the Muslim Family	This panel presents findings from a Musawah research project on rethinking and challenging the concept of qiwamah (male authority) in Muslim family laws, which legitimizes and institutionalizes a patriarchal model of family. It will also explore strategies to transform power relations in marriages in ways that can empower women.	TR: AR/EN/TU PR: EN
MENA topic	20934	Breakout	RESURJ by 2015: Investing in and Rejuvenating the Feminist Voice for Sexual and	International Women's Health Coalition; The RESURJ Alliance is made up of 21 feminists individuals	Join the Realizing Sexual and Reproductive Justice Alliance to explore new ways of advancing the global sexual and reproductive rights and health agenda. Panelists will provide brief representations on the current situation of women's and young people's sexual and reproductive rights in their countries, why	TR: AR/EN/TU

			Reproductive Rights and Health	and organizations. Co-sponsoring organizations include: Egyptian Initiative for Personal Rights (Egypt)	engaging at this time to counter fundamentalisms in global policy fora is important, and how we can reenergize the feminist voice for SRRH in the lead up to Cairo +20 and the MDGs .	
MENA topic	20840	Breakout	Revolution, Reform and Repression: Impact of the Arab Spring on Women and Women's Movements in the MENA Region	Women for Women's Human Rights; ICAN for Women's Rights, Peace and Security; Association Tunisienne Des Femmes Démocrates	The Middle East and North Africa have experienced major political and social transformations in the past two years. This session aims to explore the impact of revolutions, reform efforts and repressive policies on women and women's movements in several Muslim countries, including Egypt, Tunisia, Iran Morocco and Turkey.	TR: AR/EN/F R/SP/TU PR: EN/FR/A R
MENA topic	20438	Breakout	Women workers transforming unions, transforming economic power: experiences from the Middle East and North Africa.	The Solidarity Center, Palestine; Snapap, Tunisian Railway Union,	Across the MENA region, women workers are using labor rights as a framework for analysis and action to bring about broader economic, social and political rights. In this time of great political change, participants will learn about the successes and future challenges for women in the MENA revolutions.	TR: AR/EN/T U PR: EN/AR
MENA topic	20694	Breakout	Women's Work in Communities: Using Human Rights to Connect Issues and Forge Strategies	MADRE; Zenab For Women In Development	Grassroots women leaders from MADRE's network—Rose Cunningham, Miskita Indigenous leader from Nicaragua; Fatima Ahmed, sustainable farmer and labor organizer from Sudan; Aisha Saifi, midwife from Palestine— demonstrate how an integrated understanding of racial and gender discrimination, climate change and military occupation informs their strategies for advancing local women's rights.	TR: AR/EN/F R/SP PR: EN/SP
MENA topic	30020	In-depth Strategy	Women's Rights and Transitions to Democracy in the MENA Region	Equality without Reservation Coalition , Global Fund for Women, Women's Learning Partnership , and AWID.	This session will examine in depth the challenges and opportunities that women's rights activists face in the context of revolutionary movements and democratization processes taking place in the MENA region.	TR: AR/EN/F R/TU
MENA topic	20752	Solidarity	Israel,		This roundtable session will discuss the Palestinian queer	PR: EN

		Roundtable	Pinkwashing, and Queer Contribution to the Resistance.		movement as the coalescence of a number of related struggles and examine how the movement deals with the variant and sometimes competing considerations at play in their work, going on to look at the strategies adopted, in particular the Boycott Divestment Sanctions movement.	
Available in Arabic	20250	Breakout	Challenging conventional market models by creating access to abortion and safe birth with misoprostol in countries where abortion is illegal.	women on waves	Presentations of alternative models to support access to safe abortion and safe birth with misoprostol that also create an income without excluding women without financial means. There will be examples of a telemedical service women on web and grassroots organizations in Tanzania and Kenya.	TR: AR/EN
Available in Arabic	30019	Breakout	Changing World Geopolitics and Global Governance: Making sense of the trends, actors and their implications for women's rights		Why and how is global governance relevant to women's rights and why is it so complex and difficult to talk about in the current world reality? With contributions from key leaders and thinkers in this field, participants will learn about relevant characteristics of the current global context, exploring for example the connections between how growth is defined and progress is measured, the influence of the current economic recession and interlocked crises increased militarization and other key phenomena within current global governance arrangements and shifts.	TR: AR/EN/F R/SP/TU
Available in Arabic	20735	Breakout	Connecting the dots: promoting the sustainability of women's labor rights initiatives	Sociedad Mexicana Pro Derechos de la Mujer, Semillas	A dynamic, multi-media talk show in which the audience will be tasked with creating a map to connect stakeholders with successful initiatives presented by leaders of women's labor rights organizations in Mexico and Asia.	TR: AR/EN/F R/SP/TU PR: EN/SP
Available in Arabic	20968	Breakout	Grassroots Organizing and Accountability Strategies for Valuing Women's Leadership in the Expanding Care Economy	GROOTS	Recasting public value for women's voluntary/caring roles, grassroots leaders press for State acknowledgment and validation for their contributions to the care economy from thousands of African home-based caregivers negotiating public support for their response to HIV/AIDS to Turkish and Czech networks securing government recognition and jobs in family support and education.	TR: AR/EN/F R/TU PR: EN

Available in Arabic	20645	Breakout	Leaders of Social Change or NGO for Services Feminists and Questions of Political and Economic Power in Africa	African Feminist Forum	In this session, the connections between Power, (economic and political), the State and the Women's movement will form the central basis of the discussion. It will also look at issues of democracy, women's political participation and the advancement of an agenda that seeks to transform the social environment.	TR: AR/EN/F R/TU
Available in Arabic	20543	Breakout	Moving the Social Protection Floor and Rethinking the Bachelet Report		The current paradigm shift to social protection is based on those in market work, whether formal or informal. This continues to leave women working unpaid out of the picture. Public debt, deepening poverty, increased unemployment and under-employment have increased risks and vulnerability in the unpaid work economy. Panelists address recent research and applied strategies that rethink social protection agendas.	TR: AR/EN/T U
Available in Arabic	30007	Breakout	Access to Water: Implications for gender equality and economic justice	Global Greengrants Fund and Global Fund for Women	Access to clean water is critical for life and livelihoods. Yet, millions of people lack access to clean water, often leaving women disproportionately affected. This session will explore causes of the water crisis, its impact on women, and discuss strategies to address these issues and achieve social and economic justice.	TR: AR/EN
Available in Arabic	30028	Breakout	Exploring the Contexts that Enable Violence Against Women Human Rights Defenders: Reflections from the WHRD International Coalition 2005-2011	WHRD IC	WHRDs face violence both for what they do and for who they are. Much has changed since the initial coining of the term in 200, increased recognition of WHRDs, understanding of contexts, and improving response mechanisms. This session will reflect on the evolving work to defend and protect WHRDs	TR: AR/EN/S P/TU
Available in Arabic	30025	Breakout	Ongoing Dilemmas: Religion, fundamentalisms and human rights		What complications has the use of religion presented to the normative system of human rights? How can we better ensure that the system and language of human rights is not appropriated and misused? What are some innovative measures that can be used to bring accountability to challenge and expose	TR: AR/EN/T U

					fundamentalisms?	
Available in Arabic	20745	Breakout	Sex, power, money and mobility: Exploring the links between economics, intimacy and mobilisation in women's daily lives	Fundación Puntos de Encuentro, Nicaragua and Middlesex University, UK	Women from the Nicaraguan feminist NGO Puntos de Encuentro will encourage discussion around the utility of integrated approaches to promote individual and collective action around women's economic, sexual and reproductive rights. They'll share research-based methodologies, including clips from their "social soap" Contracorriente currently airing in Central America and the Caribbean.	TR: AR/EN/F R/SP/TU PR: EN/SP
Available in Arabic	20997	Breakout	Strengthening Women's Activism in Militarized Markets	ABANTU-Regional Office for West Africa, SWACM Project; ABANTU for Development, Action Aid Liberia, MARWOPNET Sierra Leone.	A feminist perspective highlights the need to think and strategize beyond 'rape in wartime' to address the economic dynamics of gender in militarized contexts. The panel will focus on exploring the connections between militarism and women's livelihoods. What economic strategies do women pursue in militarized zones? What feminist strategies	TR:AR/E N/FR/TU
Available in Arabic	20810	Breakout	Ten years on: Gender Responsive Budgeting at a crossroad!	UN Women	How can gender responsive budgeting contribute to more efficient and effective public finance management? Feminist economists join GRB practitioners for a lively debate.	TR: AR/EN/F R/TU
MENA topic	20650	Breakout	The Arab Spring: Transforming Economic and Political Power... but towards which destination?	Equality without Reservation	Constitutional reform and full ratification and implementation of CEDAW are at the nexus of gender equity and women's economic empowerment. This session will discuss potential frameworks for inducing the integration of women's civil, social and economic rights during the negotiation of institutional reform in the post-Arab spring.	TR: AR/EN/F R/RU/TU
Available in Arabic	20534	Breakout	The Earthly Faces of Gods and Patriarchs: Culture, Religion and Economic	TARSHI - Talking About Reproductive and Sexual Health Issues	Culture and religion are presented as "pure", uncontaminated by power, and beyond challenge by ordinary mortals. But in this session, activists from different contexts expose the links between culture, religion and economic power, how they impact their lives, and how it is possible to confront them. Come, break the silence!	TR: AR/EN/T U PR: EN

			Power			
Available in Arabic	30021	Breakout	Unmasking Religious Fundamentalisms : Women's rights, freedoms and resistance	AWID	What impact is the rise of religious fundamentalisms having on women's rights and freedoms? How are women's rights activists fighting back? This session will share insights gathered from hundreds of women's rights activists on the impacts and workings of religious fundamentalisms along with strategies and stories of challenge and resistance.	TR: AR/EN/S P/TU
Available in Arabic	20535	Breakout	Who Deserves a Good Security Strategy?	Baghdad Women Association	Women Human Rights Defenders rarely take time to discuss their own security, the focus is all too often on other's. It is even rarer that they discuss their own well-being. Come and listen and discuss a tool for integrated security. It is time we put ourselves in focus!	TR: AR/EN PR: EN
Available in Arabic	20906	Breakout	Women Human Rights Defenders: Stability, security and wellbeing	JASS, Consorcio Para El Dialogo Parlamentario, La Equidad Oaxaca A. C.	Politicizing self-care is important. Women activists on the frontline are fighting for a spectrum of social justice issues while negotiating safety and security for women and their communities. This panel explores strategies activists in Mexico, Central America, and Southern Africa use to sustain themselves and their organizing in violent contexts.	TR: AR/EN/S P PR: EN
Available in Arabic	20804	Breakout	Home Based Work: Experience sharing	Ev Eksenli Çalışan Kadınlar Kooperatifi	Home-based work is widespread and growing, primarily done by women. Because women workers don't recognize themselves as workers, they don't get organized to pressure for necessary changes in this sphere. This session will share research and advocacy experiences on the visibility, organization, and public policies linked to home-based work.	TR: AR/EN/T U
Available in Arabic	20373	Economic education	Challenging Economic Power: Women's Economic and Social Rights	ESCR-Net, Center for reproductive Rights, Center for Economic and Social Rights, Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation, Global Initiative on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	Women's socio-economic rights are critical for advancing women's economic empowerment and understanding how to engage and change economic power structures. Participants in this session will better understand how to use the human rights framework in this struggle.	TR: AR/EN/F R/SP/TU
Available in	20846	Economic	Creating a Culture	Siglo XXIII, Museo Aja,	Want to mobilize your resources and learn new skills? Join us for a	TR:

Arabic		education	of Peace for Economic Transformation: Skills to Empower, Knowledge to Transcend	and Feminist Task Force	skills-building workshop on creating a paradigm shift based on the principles behind the Siglo XXIII movement, a process of social transformation through culture, cooperation, sustainability, equality-- within a Culture of Peace.	AR/EN/S P/TU PR: EN
Available in Arabic	30044	Economic education	Call to the Importance of Capacity Building on Economics and Women's Rights: Challenges, gaps and opportunities		Economic Policy is a critical area of feminist activists to push for transformation. This session will present a mapping of capacity-building opportunities on economics and women's rights. Groups engaged in skills-building comment on the results of the mapping, providing a springboard for strategic discussions on present gaps and ways forward to foster existing learning programmes.	TR: AR/EN/S P
Available in Arabic	30035	Economic Toolbox	Demystifying Economics: Macroeconomic policy	Center for Women's Global Leadership	Macroeconomic policy	TR: AR/EN/F R/SP/RU/ TU
Available in Arabic	20733	Economic Toolbox	Global economy education and women's empowerment exercises: Broadening the analysis, broadening the base.	The Solidarity Center	In this round robin workshop, participants will experience and learn how to conduct strategic education that blends women's empowerment, labor organizing techniques, and global economy education and analysis that enables labor unions to connect with women workers, inspire them to become members, and helps build their agency and power.	TR: AR/EN/F R/SP/TU PR: EN/AR
Available in Arabic	30043	Economic Toolbox	Gross Domestic Product (GDP)/Growth	University of Technology	What counts, what doesn't count, who's doing the counting, and what are the data used for? After an introduction to the basics using chapters from the Who's Counting? video, we will explore the current status of national income accounting, the best questions feminists can be asking, and the best strategies to adopt.	TR: AR/EN/T U
Available in Arabic	30050	Economic Toolbox	Rethinking Ideas of Work from a Feminist	School of Oriental and African Studies, London University	This session will explore how feminists have sought to re-conceptualize the idea of work. It will highlight the artificial nature	TR: AR/EN/F R/SP/TU

			Perspective		of the distinction between paid and unpaid work. And it will discuss how the rise of global care chains has made visible some of the hidden dimensions of women's work.	
Available in Arabic	30015	In-depth Strategy	Militarism, Violence and Conflict	Organized by: AWID, Center for Women's Global Leadership, DAWN, the Forum International Planning Committee, Global Network of Women Peacebuilders , International Network of Women Against Militarism , Strengthening Women Against Conflict and Militarism , Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice.	The focus of the session will be on the economics of militarism and its gendered dimensions. This session builds on ongoing concerns and understandings of militarism, violence, and armed conflict, how these issues impact women's lives, and ways women have been organizing for a peaceful world. It will examine the processes and gender-specific impacts of militarism, militarization, armed conflict and violence. It will address concerns and analyses from the local to the global, create space to learn about and discuss women's resilience and resistance, brainstorm creative ways to confront these challenges, and promote an end to conflict and gender-based violence.	TR: AR/EN/F R/SP/TU
Available in Arabic	30014	In-depth Strategy	Women's Labor Rights, Gender Equality, and Economic Justice: A discussion of issues and actions	Organized by: AWID, Clean Clothes Campaign , the Forum International Planning Committee, International Trade Union Federation , Maquila Solidarity Network , Solidarity Center, Women in Informal Employment Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) and Women Working	This session will examine the challenges to women's labor rights in the context of the global economic crisis, their link to economic justice and gender equality over the long term; and what strategies women, labor unions, and worker's rights organizations are implementing to advance a women's rights agenda.	TR: AR/EN/F R/SP/TU

				Worldwide .		
Available in Arabic	30055	Resource mobilization	Funding Landscape: Setting the tone	AWID	To set the tone and information foundation for the Resource Mobilization Hub, this first session will offer an overview of funding landscape drawing on the results of the Where is The Money for Women's Rights? As well as offer broad analysis and political framing on funding trends.	TR: AR/EN/F R/SP/TU
Available in Arabic	30056	Resource mobilization	Round Table Discussion: The Task Ahead. Mutual learnings of past four days and next steps to ensure sustainably funded women's rights movements	AWID	Round Table Discussion: The Task Ahead. Mutual learnings of past four days and next steps to ensure sustainably funded women's rights movements	TR: AR/EN/F R/SP/TU
Available in Arabic	20216	Resource mobilization	The Present and Future of Women's Funds: Activists Have the Floor	International Network of Women's Funds and Mama Cash	A discussion between activists and women's funds representatives on the achievements, challenges and the way ahead for the women's funds as the "fundraising arm" of the feminist movement.	TR: AR/EN/F R/SP PR: EN/SP
Available in Arabic	20634	Wellness	Building transformative and alternative visions and practices to sustain the lives and work of women human labour rights activists	Institute for Women's Empowerment	A crucial "smouldering" issue for women workers, human labour rights activists is the 'sustainability' of their work, lives and resources for women's rights. The focus of this workshop is to share initiatives and practices of groups already experimenting with creative means to 'sustain' themselves towards building new strategies.	TR: AR/EN/S P PR: EN
Available in Arabic			Evening Plenary Tapping Current Opportunities and Assessing Challenges to		Evening Plenary: Tapping Current Opportunities and Assessing Challenges to Mobilize Resources for Women's Rights and Feminist Organizing Around the World Seven years ago, we asked the question "Where is the Money for Women's Rights?" in a context where many funders and activists agreed that donor interest in	

			Mobilize Resources for Women's Rights and Feminist Organizing Around the World		women and women's rights had peaked and then faded. Now nearly everywhere you look—from corporate foundations to mainstream media, international financial institutions to large international development organizations—we increasingly hear talk of investing in women and gender equality not just as smart economics, but also as “the right thing to do”. This renewed interest is important progress and it also comes with some challenges; how to ensure the results of these investments are making a real impact to advance women's rights in the longer term? Our panel will share some current funding trends analysis, explore how various donors are putting their commitments into practice, latest data on the funding situation of women's organizations and how diverse actors can work together to ensure that the resources becoming available for women really contribute to longer-term structural change and we tap current opportunities to mobilize more resources to support women's rights and feminist organizing around the world.	
MENA topic	20353	Breakout	Updating the Socio-economic Roles of Muslim Women	Baskent Kadin Platformu Dernegi	Islam is often seen as a factor which hinders the empowerment of women; however, it isn't actually Islam itself that deprives women, but the masculine - patriarchal interpretations of Islam. A new modern 21st century interpretation is needed from the women's perspective. What do we need/want to change?	TR: AR/EN/T U PR: EN/TU
MENA Presenters	20514	Resource mobilization	Women's relationship to money : how does it affect our activist work?	Mediterranean Women's Fund	Women activists are caught in a paradox! Money is an essential resource for their work and it is often perverting the women's organizations. Do we need more money in order to reach our goals? Can we keep our activist work alive if we dare ask for big amounts of money?	PR: EN/FR/S P/TU
MENA topic	20565	Solidarity Roundtable	Portrayal of Sexual Liberation and Economics*	Nazra for Feminist Studies	Discussing class dichotomy as justification for sexual oppression; between March8th and December20th, how social mobilization managed to earn women an integral part in the national liberation movement rather than enforcing women's conservative feminist agenda. Virginity testing and stripping blue bra girl within class and sexual condemnation.	PR: EN
MENA topic	30010	Breakout	Bringing Gender to the Streets: Young women	AWID	From holding women's marches in Tahrir to developing sexual harassment campaigns, this panel will address the role of young women organizing in advancing women's rights as part of the Arab	TR: AR/EN/S P

			amidst the Arab uprisings		uprisings' agenda and highlighting the importance of transforming gender power dynamics and relationships as key to achieving democracy.	
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Appendix C – List of Organizations AWID worked with in Collaboration

Role	Organizations	
Collaborated on outlining agenda and attendees at Pre-Mena Meeting and In-depth Strategy Meeting (All three organizations were also involved in all of the activities mentioned below.)	Women's Learning Partnership (WLP)	Equality Without Reservation (EWR) Coalition
	Global Fund for Women (GFW)	
Assisted in Outreach including Call for Proposals, Suggesting Speakers at Plenaries and Registration	Zolah - Arab Network of Young Feminists	
	WLUML - Women Living Under Muslim Laws	
	AWRME - Association for Women's Rights in the Middle East	
	CSBR - Coalition for Sexual and Bodily Rights in Muslim Societies	
	ADFM - Association Démocratique des Femmes du Maroc	
	New Woman Foundation, Egypt	
	Association Mayalena pour l'Insertion et l'Entraide AMIE	
	ICAN - International Civil Society Action Network for Women's Rights, Peace and Security	
Supported programming of Forum by presenting at other sessions (ie. Breakout sessions)	School Of Oriental And African Studies, University of London	
	Lebanese Association of Women Researchers - Bahithat	
	Association Démocratique Des Femmes Du	

	Maroc	
	University Of Manouba Tunisia	
	Syrian Women League	
	National Alliance Of Women Human Rights Defenders (Nepal)	
	European Feminist Initiative (France)	
	Unidad De Protección A Defensoras Y Defensores De Derechos Humanos - Guatemala (udefegua)	
	Red De Salud De Las Mujeres Latinoamericanas Y Del Caribe	
	Catolicas Por El Derecho A Decidir, A.C.	
	WDC - Women Development Collective	
Supported programming of Forum by presenting at the In-depth Session	New Woman Foundation, Egypt	
	Ipas (USA)	
	Association Démocratique Des Femmes Du Maroc	
	AWAM - All Women's Action Society (Malaysia)	
	ICAN - International Civil Society Action Network for Women's Rights, Peace and Security	
Supported programming of Forum by presenting at other sessions (ie. Breakout sessions)	Alqaws For Sexual & Gender Diversity In Palestinian Society	Kamer Vakfi
	Arab Techies	Kaos GI
	Association Démocratique Des Femmes Du Maroc	Kav Laoved
	Association des Femmes Tunisiennes pour la Recherche et le Développement	Kefa

Supported programming of Forum by presenting at other sessions (ie. Breakout sessions)	Association Femmes En Communication	Kozadan İpeğe Ev-Eksenli Çalışan Kadınlar Kooperatifi
	Association Tunisienne Des Femmes Démocrates	Middle East Technical University
	Baghdad Women Association	Midwives For Peace
	Bureau Regional de l'Organisation Internationale du Travail (OIT) pour les Etats Arabes	Nasawiya
	Coalition Of Women For Peace; Disobedient Women	Nazra For Feminist Studies
	Collective for Research and Training-Action	New Woman Foundation
	Equality Without Reservation	Organization Of Women's Freedom In Iraq
	Ev Eksenli Çalışan Kadınlar Çalışma Grubu	Sawt Al Niswa
	General Federation Of Iraqi Workers	Sisterhood is Global Institute (Jordan)
	Harassmap	Sığınaklar Ve Danışma/dayanışma Merkezleri Kurultayı
	Isha Lisha - Haifa Feminist Center	Syndicat Autonome National Des Personnels De L'administration Publique
	Istanbul Bilgi Üniversitesi And Kadın Emeği Ve İstihdami Girişimi (keig)	Syrian Women League
	Izmir Kadın Dayanışma Derneği	The Solidarity Center
	Kadın Kooperatifleri İletişim Ağı	Tunisian Railway Union
	Kadın Sığınakları Ve Da(ya)nışma Merkezleri Kurultayı Ana Bileşenleri	Women for Women's Human Rights-New Ways
	Kadının İnsan Hakları - Yeni Çözümler Derneği (wwhr - New Ways)	World March Of Women - Turkey

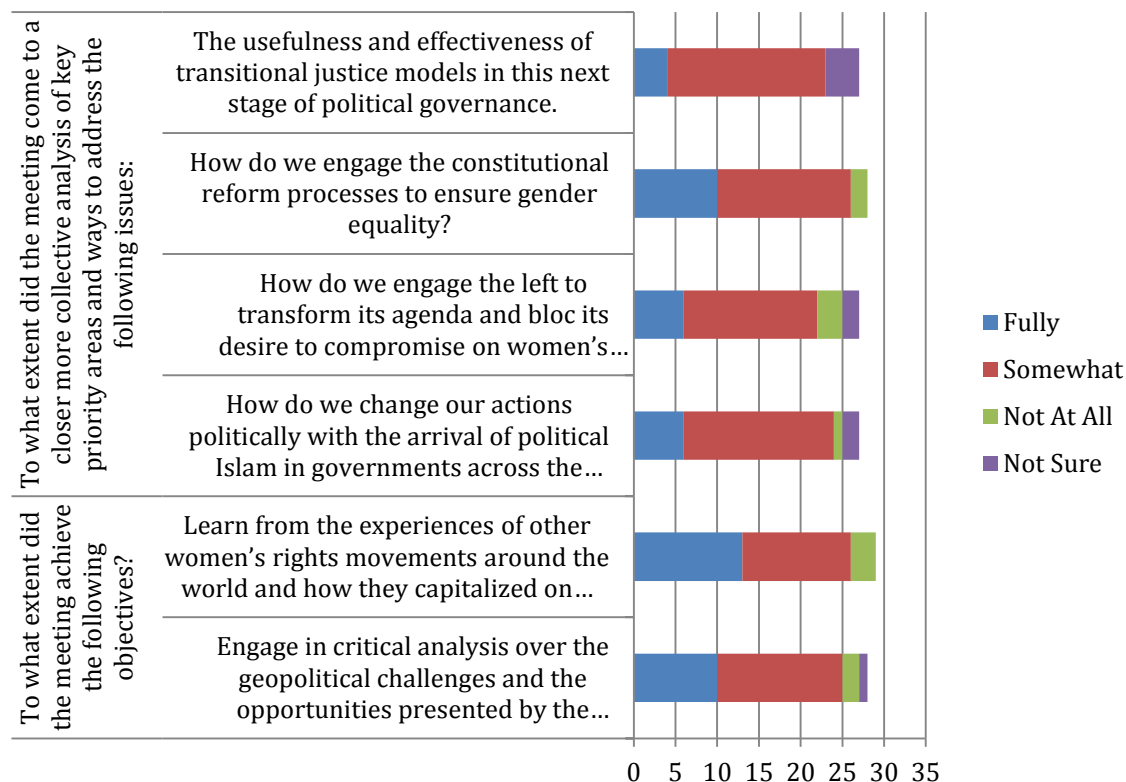
Appendix D – Women’s Rights in Transitions to Democracy: Achieving Rights, Resisting Backlash: Evaluation and Survey Responses

Evaluation Survey Responses

The survey questions were distributed to each of the approximately 90 participants in both English and Arabic. While budget constraints limited the availability of Spanish and French questions, responses were accepted in all four languages. After a 3-week period, 22 were completed in English and 9 in Arabic for a total of 31 responses.

Overall, most respondents felt the meeting objectives and key priority areas were somewhat or fully achieved, with only 3-12% indicating otherwise. See graph 1. The meeting was considered a well-organized space (2)¹ for deep discussion, important questions, learnings, shared experiences and strategies (7), which prepared participants for further dialogue (3). Nevertheless, some noted that there was a lack of diversity, including young voices (4) and were disappointed with the meeting’s negative tone (2).

¹ Brackets refer to the number of related respondents.

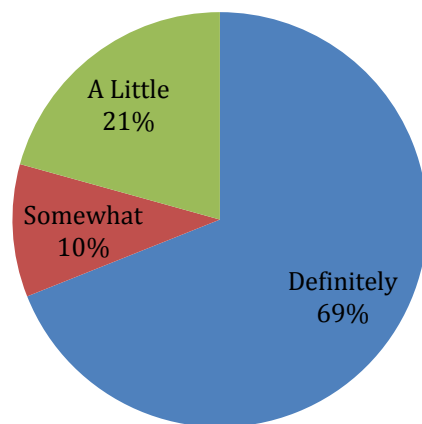


Graph 1: Meeting Objectives

While respondents identified several important takeaways, as revealed in the open-ended question, 14 benefited most from the strategies, best practices and experiences shared by others. Other gains included understandings of the role of the women's movement in asserting itself, building skills and being creative (4), of the theoretical framework (2), and of the need to build the women's movement within and outside of the MENA region (2). All respondents reported benefiting to at least some degree from the shared experiences of other regions. See chart 1. The panel "lessons learned in other regions: international mechanisms, transitional justice, legal reform, citizen transformation" also ranked highest among the combined "very useful" and "useful" responses to their work and thinking. See graph 2.

Chart One: Did you find the opportunity to hear from experiences

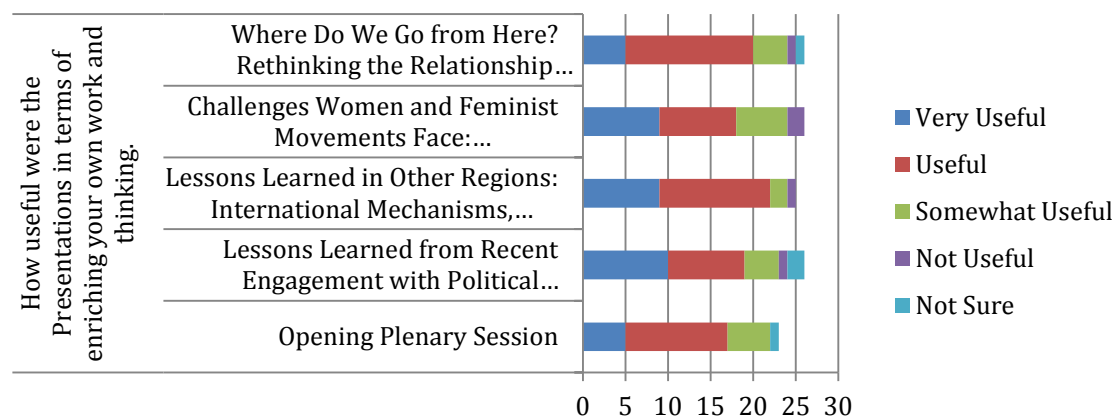
from other regions of the world useful to your work and thinking?²



The remaining five panels were also well received. While the number of survey respondents varies, no more than 1 or 2 identified any of the panels as “not useful” to their work and most considered each panel “very useful” (5-10) or “useful” (9-15). See graph 2. 7 respondents noted that they were including ideas presented at the meeting into their own work and self-reflection; 6 indicated sharing the new information within their organizations and networks (including workshops, projects, and publications); 3 are already mobilizing and working across movements and regions; and 1 has since been collaborating with other meeting participants.

Graph 2: Benefits to your work and thinking

² Note that the question was ranked on the following: definitely, somewhat, a little, no, and not sure.

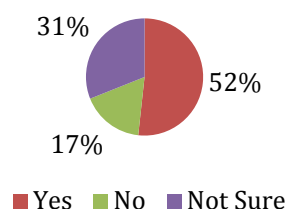


AWID Forum strategy session:

Women's Rights and Transitions to Democracy in the MENA Region

A majority of respondents also participated in the MENA strategy session held during the AWID Forum. See chart 2. The feedback around the strategy session tended to be more critical. As with the pre-meeting, many felt that not enough time was allocated (3), while others suggested that available time had been mismanaged (1) during the session. Additionally, 3 respondents indicated that it was not comprehensive or lacked concrete strategies, and 2 suggested that the information was repetitive. While 2 of the survey participants enjoyed the diversity of participants, as was the case for the pre-meeting, 1 noted that additional country contexts should have been highlighted. Although the session was considered to have prepared participants for further discussion (1) and was much needed (2), 3 respondents suggested that it would be useful to create a joint plan of action or organize follow-up.

Chart 2: Strategy session attendance



Suggested Follow-up Actions to the Session from open-ended responses

- Support and help emerging initiatives
- Collect participant reports on the implementation of recommendations
- Continue networking, coordinating and alliance building
- Engage in work on religion, secularism and human rights
- Engage in work related to women's rights as human rights and social justice through the civil state

Next Steps: Transitions to Democracy

Participants suggested several actions to be taken on the part of meeting co-organizers. See table 1. Most significantly, respondents supported the creation of a meeting space or online platform to facilitate continued discussion and a commitment to concrete strategies, 3 of which added that others (such as youth and politicians) should be included in this space. Several respondents also identified the importance of information sharing as follow-up.

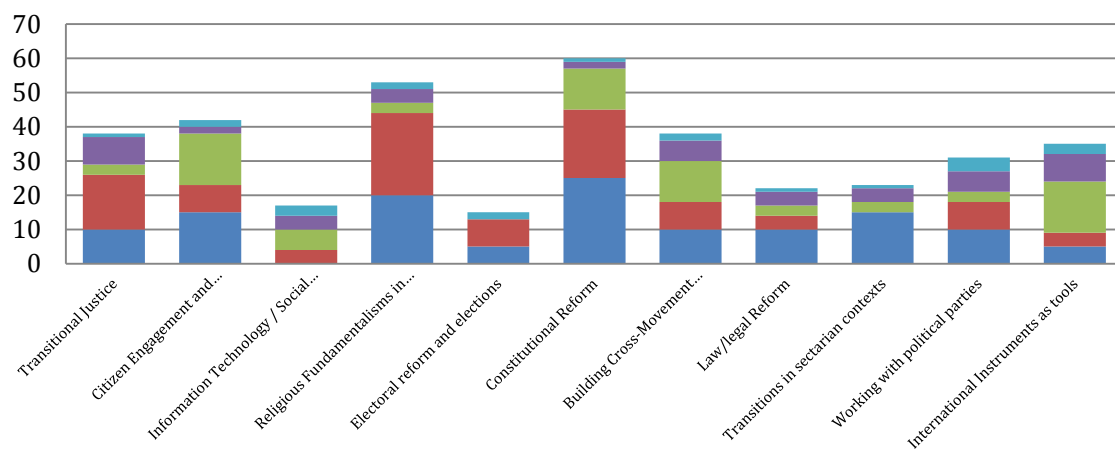
Table 1: Suggested Next Steps for Meeting Co-organizers (6-12 months)

Ongoing Discussions	Create a space or online platform to critically examine the women's movement and continue dialogue around transitions to democracy in the region (4) Engage others in the discussion (youth, politicians) (3) Hold smaller in-depth meetings to deepen discussion and agree on concrete actions (2) Continue conversations around fundamentalisms and economic politics (1)
Information Sharing	Document and make available key discussion points to a broader audience (1) Collate and distribute an AWID Forum Participant action plan (1) Share experiences from countries not included in the meeting (1) Incorporate case studies into work (1)
Other	Follow the ongoing struggles and gains of women in the MENA region (2) Set a new vision for women's empowerment (1) Support the realization of lessons in difference areas (1) Hold training courses or seminars around Constitutional reform and international conventions (1)

Respondents were also asked to rank their top 5 priorities for ongoing work on transitions to democracy in the MENA region. See chart 3. Most notable were the themes of constitutional reform and religious fundamentalisms in transition.

Graph 3: priority themes for follow-up³

³ Note that values reflect the weight of the rank, not the number of respondents. Numbers are weighted on a 1-5 ranking system for which the number one priority is a multiplied by 5, the third ranked by 3 and the lowest ranked by 1.



Appendix E

Women's Rights in Transitions to Democracy: Achieving Rights, Resisting Backlash Follow-up Strategy Sessions at the AWID Forum

Association for Women's Rights in Development (AWID), Women's Learning Partnership (WLP), the Global Fund for Women (GFW), and Equality Without Reservation Coalition (EWR)

April 19 – 20, 2012 – Istanbul, Turkey
PROGRAMME

April 19th – Session One – Setting the Scene and Challenges (reporting back)

The purpose of this session is to introduce participants to the process leading to the MENA pre-Forum meeting, share and validate its outcome and begin thinking about collaborative strategies as well as review the key challenges discussed during the pre-Forum meeting (e.g. patriarchy, religious fundamentalism, conservatism, etc.) and discuss possible strategies for interventions.

(Rapporteurs: Alexandra Pittman, Haleh Vaziri)

- | | |
|------------|--|
| 15 minutes | Welcome
History and landmarks of the process
How did we get here and why we are here
Methodology of the strategy sessions
<i>(Organizers)</i> |
| 20 minutes | Overview of the geopolitical context and landscape and women's rights in a transitioning MENA region
Reporting back from the Pre-Forum: Highlights and key issues
<i>(Thoraya Obaid)</i> |
| 20 minutes | Summary and highlights of key challenges identified and analyzed during pre-Forum meeting.
<i>(Leila Hessini)</i> |
| 35 minutes | Q & A with the floor |

April 19th – Session Two– Setting the Scene and Challenges (break-out)

45 minutes Parallel breakout sessions to address the following:

Breakout sessions (1) addressing the following:

- Are there gaps in the global geopolitical analysis and linkages with women's rights and equality?
- Gaps in key trends identified?
- What are the MENA linkages both regionally and globally?

(Facilitators: Yakin Ertürk, Soraida Hussein, and Rabéa Naciri)

Breakout sessions (2) to address the following:

- Are there gaps in challenges identified?
- What are the obvious and less obvious MENA-global linkages in terms of challenges?
- What are the possible strategies for intervention and/or action?

(Facilitators: Betty Yeoh, Wajeeha Al Baharna /Enas El Shafie, Jaqueline Pitanguy)

20 minutes Report back from breakout session

25 minutes Q & A with the floor

April 20th – Session Three – Constitutional Reforms, Transitional Justice , Movement Building & Social Media (Reporting back)

The purpose of this session is to share the analysis of Constitutional Reforms and Transitional Justice discussed during the pre-Forum and discuss how these can potentially be responsive to women's rights and equality as well as share the analysis of Movement Building and Social Media discussed during the pre-Forum and discuss how these can contribute to inclusive and responsive democracies.

15 minutes Highlights of a gender-inclusive constitutional reform process:

(Rabéa Naciri)

15 minutes Transitional justice
(Asma Khader)

15 minutes Overview of key issues and questions on movement building and social media
(Lina Abou Habib)

45 minutes Q & A with the floor

April 20th – Session Four – Constitutional Reforms, Transnational Justice, Movement Building & Social Media (The way forward: Break out sessions)

Parallel breakout sessions (45 minutes) to address the following:

Break out session (a) Constitutional Reform:

- Preparation and engagement, inside-outside interface, influencing policy makers
- Primacy of CEDAW and international Human Rights framework

(Facilitators: Sindi Medar-Gould, Masuma Hasan)

Break out session (b) Transitional Justice:

- Definition and useful models
- Who are the key stakeholders, how can they be influenced, examples of best practices

(Facilitators: Hafsat Abiola-Costello, Sussan Tahmasebi)

Breakout sessions (C) to address the following questions:

- How do we reach out to other social justice movements?
- How do we ensure that the false self-identification of religious actors does not influence activists, their constituencies and the public?
- How do we make use of traditional media and social media to ensure accountability, transparency and responsiveness of new states toward women's human rights?

(Facilitators: Zeina Zaatari, Nadine Moawad, Catherine Harrington)

30 minutes Report back

15 minutes Q & A with the floor and closure