



Geneva Centre for Democratic Control of Armed Forces



United Nations Development Programme

Parliamentary Development Initiative in the Arab Region

**Regional Workshop on
Security Sector Governance and Parliamentary Oversight
in the Arab Region**

Annotated Agenda

First Working Group Meeting

12-14 May 2006

Beirut

Context

In the past years, major events on the international, regional and domestic scenes brought new security challenges for the Arab region. As elsewhere, Arab societies obviously seek more security and better security. Yet, there exist competing views as to what security means, how it is achieved, and what are acceptable risks and costs for the society and the citizens.

The security sector refers not only to the armed forces, the police and the intelligence services, but also to the constitutional and political institutions that should guide, control and oversee them. Because security decisions often involve important trade-offs, citizens, civil society and the media are progressively becoming more involved in debating choices and security policies for their countries. This wide range of actors contribute, in some way or another, and depending on the political, economic and societal environment, to the security sector policy and decision-making processes or *security sector governance*.

A democratic system of government, where practices of transparency, accountability, and responsibility are guiding principles, is most likely to ensure good governance of the security sector as it usually guarantees that civilians are involved in the policy and decision-making processes and monitor the behavior of the security sector. This makes of parliaments and parliamentarians a key pillar in security sector governance.

As in many emerging democracies, parliaments and parliamentary committees in the Arab countries often lack expertise on security and defense issues, undermining their oversight and decision-making functions. In several Arab parliaments, parliamentarians often struggle to play an effective oversight role as they have limited access to information or to the concerned officials, and lack the capacity to grasp the intricacies of security and defense budgets.

UNDP's Parliamentary Development Initiative in the Arab Region, a joint initiative of the Global Programme for Parliamentary Strengthening (GPPS), and the Programme on Governance in the Arab Region, and in partnership with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces, is organizing a workshop on "Security Sector Governance and Parliamentary Oversight in the Arab Region". It aims at providing a platform for reviewing and discussing the current international and regional practices, and the role of parliamentarians and parliaments in security sector governance.

The workshop focuses on the parliamentary role in security sector governance. The participants include international and regional security practitioners and experts, and parliamentarians from Algeria, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco and Palestine. The workshop serves also as launching meeting for a task force of parliamentarians on security sector reform in the Arab region.

Agenda

Day One: May 12th, 2006

9.00 9:30 **Registration**

9:30 10:00 **Opening Session**

Welcoming Note and Introduction to the Workshop

Mr. Salim Nasr

Senior Advisor, Programme on Governance in the Arab Region
UNDP

Mr. Arnold Luethold

Head of Middle East and North Africa Programme
DCAF

10:00 11:30 **Session 1**

Security Sector Governance: the Legal and Institutional Framework

Mr. Walid Eido

Chair Member of Parliament. President of the Defense Committee
Lebanon

Speakers

Mr. Philipp Fluri

Executive Director
DCAF

Mr. Ioan Mircea Pascu

Member of the European Parliament. Member of DCAF
International Advisory Board, Bucharest

DCAF

General Discussion

11:30 12:00 **Coffee Break**

12:00 13:30 **Session 2**

Security Sector Governance and Parliamentary Oversight: Committees, Budget
and Procurement

Mr. Abdul-Wahab Al-Haroon

Chair Member of Parliament
Kuwait

Speakers

Mr. Razvan Ionescu

Member of DCAF Working Group
on Parliamentary Control of Armed Forces

Ms. Teodora Fuior

Visiting expert, Research Division
DCAF

General Discussion

13.30 15:00 **Lunch**

15:00 16:30 **Session 3**
Security Sector Governance in the Arab Region: Challenges and Change

Chair **Mr. Abdallah Saaf**
Director, Center for Studies and Research in Social Sciences
Morocco

Speaker **Gen (Ret.) Elias Hanna**
Security Sector Expert
Lebanon

Discussants **Mr. Yezid Sayigh**
Visiting Professor, American University of Beirut

Mr. Mohamed Abd Elsalam
Senior Researcher
Al Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies

General Discussion

16:30 17:00 **Coffee Break**

17:00 18:30 **Session 4**
Security Sector Reform and Parliamentary Oversight: The Case of Jordan

Chair **Mr. Nizar Abdel Kader**
Former Commander of the Lebanese Military Academy
Lebanon

Speaker **Mr. Nawaf Tell**
Researcher, Center for Strategic Studies,
University of Jordan

Discussants **Mr. Sufian Obeidat**
Lawyer
Jordan

Mr. Mahmoud Al Kharabsheh
Member of Parliament
Jordan

Mr. Ra'ed QaQish
Member of Parliament
Jordan

General Discussion

20:30 **Dinner hosted by UNDP at the "Café L'Orient"**

Day Two: May 13th, 2006

09:00 10:30 **Session 5**
Security Sector Reform and Parliamentary Oversight: The Case of Kuwait

Chair

Gen. (Ret.) Edgar Maalouf
Member of Parliament
Lebanon

Speakers

Mr. Ghanim Alnajjar
Professor, Department of Political Science
University of Kuwait, Kuwait

Discussants

Mr. Saber Al-Suwaidan
Member of the Higher Council for Planning and Development
Kuwait

Mr. Ali Al-Rashed
Member of Parliament, Chair of Human Rights Committee
Kuwait

Mr. Adel Al-Sarawi
Member of Parliament
Kuwait

General Discussion

10:30 11:00 **Coffee Break**

11:00 12:30 **Session 6**
Security Sector Reform and Parliamentary Oversight: The Case of Lebanon

Chair

Mr. Mamdouh Abbadi
Member of Parliament and Vice Speaker, House of Representatives
Jordan

Speaker

Mr. Mustapha Adib
General Director, Center for Middle-Eastern Strategic Studies
Lebanon

Discussants

Gen. (Ret.) Nizar Abdel Kader
Former Commander of the Lebanese Military Academy
Lebanon

Mr. Yassine Jaber
Member of Parliament
Lebanon

Mr. Antoine Ghanem
Member of Parliament
Lebanon

General Discussion

12:30 14:30 **Lunch**

14:30 16:00 **Session 7**
Security Sector Reform and Parliamentary Oversight: The Case of Morocco

Chair **Mr. Jamal Al Khatib**
Head of Legal Department
Palestinian Legislative Council

Speakers **Mr. Abdallah Saaf**
Director, Center for Studies and Research in Social Sciences
Morocco

Discussants **Mr. Mohamed Ghomari**
Professor of law and expert in military studies
Morocco

Mr. Ahmed Zarouf
Member of Parliament
Morocco

Mr. Mohamed Baniyahya
Member of Parliament
Morocco

General Discussion

16:00 16:30 **Coffee Break**

16:30 18:30 **Session 8**
Security Sector Reform and Parliamentary Oversight: The Case of Palestine

Chair **Mr. Lahcene Abdelkhalek**
Member of Parliament
Morocco

Speaker **Col. Jihad Jayousi**
Head of the Planning Department, National Security Forces
Palestine

Discussants **Col. Ahmed Muhareb**
Director of International Affairs Department
Palestine

Mr. Faisal Abu Shahla
Member of Parliament and Chair of the Oversight Committee
Palestinian Legislative Council

Mr. Hassan Khreishi
Member of Parliament
Palestinian Legislative Council

Mr. Ismail Al-Ashqar
Member of Parliament
Palestinian Legislative Council

General Discussion

Day Three: Sunday May 14th, 2006

9:30 11:30 **Closing and Recommendations**
Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight and Security Sector in the Arab Region

Mr. Arnold Luethold
Head of Middle East and North Africa Programme
DCAF

Mr. Salim Nasr
Senior Advisor, Programme on Governance in the Arab Region
UNDP

Round Table and General Discussion

12:30 14:30 **Closing Lunch**

Workshop Structure

Opening Session

- The opening session serves as an introduction to the workshop, with a review of the general structure and the main issues to be addressed in each session.

Session 1 **Security Sector Governance: the Legal and Institutional Framework**

- What is meant by the ‘security sector’?
- What is the current international debate on security? (new concept of security, how is efficient and sustainable security achieved)
- How is the security sector governed? (the constitutional and legal framework)
- What institutions and organizations are usually mandated to tackle security issues? (the institutional framework)

Session 2 **Security Sector Governance and Parliamentary Oversight: Committees, Budget and Procurement**

- How to measure a Parliament’s capabilities and performance in security sector governance?
- What mandate and powers should Committees have in order to exert meaningful oversight over the security sector?
- How to strengthen Parliamentary Defence or Security Committees in countries involved in democratic transition?
- How can parliamentarians enhance transparency and accountability in arms procurement?

Session 3 **Security Sector Governance in the Arab Region: Challenges and Change**

- Which challenges of security sector governance does the Arab region have in common with other regions?
- What are the specific challenges of security sector governance in the Arab Region?
- Does the democracy debate in the Arab Region include the security sector?
- Have Arab countries recently taken measures that aim at reforming the governance of the security sector?
- Is transparent, accountable and inclusive governance of the security sector a popular aspiration in the Arab Region?

Sessions 4-8 **Security Sector Governance and Parliamentary Oversight: the Case of Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, and Palestine**

- Are basic principles of oversight and guidance of armed forces, police and intelligence enshrined in constitutional documents?
- Are such basic constitutional provisions implemented in form of a law on oversight, or provisions on oversight in the laws that regulate the security sector?
- What institutions exist in the Arab Region to govern defence and security forces? Are there internal control mechanisms? Is the executive fully in charge and accountable? Are Ministries in place and functioning properly?

- How does the parliamentary role in the Arab Region differ from that of other regions? How to explain and assess these differences?
- What mandate and powers should parliamentary committees have in order to exert meaningful oversight over the security sector?
- How do the Committees organize themselves? What role do parliamentary staffers play?
- What role do parliamentarians have in ensuring transparency and accountability in security and defence budgeting?
- What cooperation exists in the Arab Region between Parliaments and other institutions tasked with financial auditing?
- What involvement do parliaments in the Arab Region have in the arms procurement process? Which stages can Parliament control and which stages escape to their control?
- Is arms procurement in the Arab Region aligned with clear objectives in a National Security Policy?
- How can parliamentarians enhance transparency and accountability in arms procurement?
- What mechanisms or systems exist in the Arab Region to exert intelligence oversight in the Arab Region?

Closing Session

- By what action can parliamentary oversight of the security sector in the Arab region be strengthened? What can parliaments and parliamentarians do? How feasible is such action in the short-, mid- and longer term?
- Do Parliaments in the Arab Region have specific training needs? Which of these needs should be addressed in priority? Should training modules respond to the needs of individual parliaments or a group of parliaments in the Arab Region? How desirable is international cooperation in matters of training?
- What concrete action can and should workshop participants take? How should they organize themselves a) for exchanging information and experiences and b) for strengthening parliamentary oversight in the Arab Region?