



## ***Palestinian Refugees: Is there the need for a new approach to solutions: beyond the 70 year old impasse?***

***Workshop organized by***

**Arab Renaissance for Democracy and Development (ARDD),**

*Grand Hyatt Amman, 20-22 October 2019*

### **Agenda (draft 7 October)**

#### **Sunday, 20 October**

18:00 Dinner at the Grand Hyatt, to break the ice, get to know each other, introduce the theme and goals of the workshop, and set expectations.

#### **Monday, 21 October**

08:30-09:00 Welcome

09:00 – 10:30 **Session #1 – Palestinian refugee exile @ 71 [plenary]**

[Moderator: Camille Mansour]

#### **Tour de table kicked off by refugees and grassroots organizations in UNRWA's area of operations: current challenges and vision for the future**

Short updates (7') to take stock of the current situation in UNRWA's area of operations, one year after the first workshop (possibly highlighting what is needed/realistically achievable to improve the situation in each field)

- oPt (Lubna Shomali/Nidal Azza),
- Jordan (Oroub El Abed),
- Syria (Jaber Suleiman),
- Lebanon (Manal Kortam),
- ARDD (Rania Tarazi),

#### **From the floor: International and regional perspective**

- International/Regional geopolitical developments (Mouin Rabbani) (4')
- An update re Palestinian refugees in other MENA countries, Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas (Francesca Albanese) (4')

#### **[Discussion]**

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 **Session #2 – The need for a new approach beyond the 70 year old impasse [plenary]**

[Moderator: Karen AbuZayd]

#### **The core of the matter: is the political impasse insurmountable?**

Lessons learnt from negotiating (or not) the Palestinian refugee question from 1948 to present (under the UN's aegis 1948-1952; direct negotiations 1991-2000; current stalemate) (10', Mick Dumper)



**Aligning solutions for Palestinian refugees to international law: what it means and what it does not mean**

The right of return, restitution and compensation, seventy years on - (10', Francesca Albanese)

**[30' Discussion]**

**The opportunity offered by the New York Declaration (NYD) including its Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF)**

Context, content, meaning and implications for Palestinian refugees - (10' Nicholas Morris)

**[30' Discussion]**

12:30-13:30 Lunch Break

**13:30-15:00 Session #3 – Exploring the idea of a CRRF for Palestinian Refugees [working groups & plenary]**

What could a CRRF for Palestinian refugees look like and what it would have to include in order to (1) address the specificities of the Palestinian refugee case, and (2) maximize the conceptual and operational advantages of the NYD and CRRF

[Moderator: Mick Dumper]

**[working groups- 50']** Each WG will examine (all or some of) the following issues: 1. The question of past (and current) injustice; 2. Resolving the refugee status; 3. Material aspects of the refugee question (compensation, restitution).

**[plenary -40']** 5' debriefing from each group and plenary discussion

15:00-15:30 Coffee Break

**15:30-17:00 Session #4 – How to create (political) momentum in favor of Palestinian refugees [working groups & plenary]**

Lack of political will to abide with and or enforce existing normative framework is part and parcel of the enduring Palestinian refugees' question. How can this be addressed and reverted?

[Moderator: TBC]

**[working groups- 50']** Each WG will examine existing hindrance factors locally, regionally and internationally and explore ways to address or circumvent obstacles.

**[plenary -40']** 5' debriefing from each group and plenary discussion

17:00-19:00 Free Time

19:00 Gathering in the hotel lobby for transport to Samar Muhareb's residence and dinner

**Tuesday, 22 October**

**09:00-10:30 Session #5 – The role of multiple stakeholders in support of Palestinian refugees [working groups & plenary]**



[Moderator: **TBC**]

**[working groups- 50']** Each WG will examine: (1) the role of, and if appropriate how to effectively engage with: refugees and grassroots organizations; political actors, primarily the PLO, host countries and other Arab states (including LAS); the UN; civil society; international community.

**[plenary -40']** 5' debriefing from each group and plenary discussion

10:30-11:00 Coffee Break

11:00-12:30 **Session #6 – Readiness for a paradigm shift? Possible ways forward [working groups & plenary]**

[Moderator: **TBC**]

**[Working groups- 50']** Each WG will discuss structure, governance and timeline of a possible CRRF for Palestinian refugees, including immediate, medium and long terms needs and desirable actions, as well as possible 'sponsors' and support mechanisms.

**[plenary -40']** 5' debriefing from each group and plenary discussion

12.30-13.00 **Closing of the Workshop: final remarks**

19:30 Assemble at Lobby for dinner (Venue TBA)



### ANNEX I – Proposed Working Groups

| WG 'Zafran'          | WG 'Zeitun'     | WG 3 'Zatar'       |
|----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Asem Khalil          | Ala Jaradat     | Anne Irfan         |
| Diana Buttu          | Camille Mansour | Anis el Kasem      |
| Jaber Suleiman       | Ingrid Jaradat  | Francesca Albanese |
| Jamal Atamneh        | Kjersti Berg    | Ismail Siyam       |
| Karen AbuZyed        | Lubnah Shomali  | Jalal Husseini     |
| Lex Takkenberg (TBC) | Mick Dumper     | Jinan Albastaki    |
| Nidal Azza           | Nicholas Morris | Manal Kortam       |
| Oroub Al Abed        | Ricardo Bocco   | Mahdi Abdul Hadi   |
| Samar Muhareb        | Manal Omar      | Mouin Rabbani      |
| Terry Rempel         | Sari Hanafi     | Nell Gabiam        |