



United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (POGAR)

Regional Workshop on
**Strengthening the Role of Arab Parliaments in
Conflict Resolution and National Reconstruction**

Report of the Workshop

24 and 25 June 2005
Beirut, Lebanon

The Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (POGAR), launched by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), held a meeting of experts on the promotion of Arab Parliaments' role during and after conflicts at the Gefinor Rotana Hotel in Beirut on June 24 - 25, 2005. The meeting was part of a regional research project undertaken by the UNDP that includes four case studies and a comparative regional paper. Results from the meeting will be presented at an international meeting to be held in Geneva in July 2005, to review the preparatory workshops held in each of UNDP's five regions and delineate the good practices, useful experiences, and support programmes relevant to the role of Parliaments during and after conflict.

A number of parliamentarians, researchers, and experts from Algeria, Iraq, Sudan, Yemen and Lebanon attended the meeting, which took the form of an unofficial workshop. During the meeting, the participants debated the findings of their studies in order to determine which practices and steps are most conducive to the promotion of an active role for Arab Parliaments in conflict resolution and national reconciliation.

In his introduction to the workshop, Dr. Salim Nasr presented a framework in three stages for debate. The first stage of analysis centers on the role of parliament prior to the outbreak of conflict, i.e., its role in conflict prevention. The second stage in this framework moves to the role of parliament during conflict: how conflict affects its work, its role in resolving conflicts, and in the formulation of constitutional amendments and laws relevant to this end. The third stage focuses on parliament's role in the post-conflict period, namely in enacting effective legislation, offering a forum for national debate, adopting long term policies to remedy the causes of conflict (i.e the establishment of social justice, advancing the participation of women, and encouraging the broadest participation in the political process), and promoting its own role in the country's political and institutional system (through ensuring a balance of power with the executive branch and adequate representation).

The following is the executive summary of the meeting, followed by the timetable of the sessions and the list of participants.

1. The Executive Summary:

Session One (1): Arab Parliaments During the Conflict and Reintegration Periods (the case of Yemen)

In his case study, the author compares the roles played by the four parliamentary assemblies since Yemen's unification in 1990 (the members of the first parliament were appointed, while those of the latter three were elected). He maintains that the first parliament (1990-1993) enjoyed many prerogatives that the subsequent parliaments did not enjoy. Indeed, a former member of the Yemeni parliament who participated in this session agreed that the parliament of 1990-1993 was the most important one that Yemen has ever known because it promulgated many important laws, such as the laws on parties and elections.

The researcher points to the former parliament's experienced members, the distribution of the executive power among three members of the Presidential Council, and the balance of power between the Southern Yemeni Socialist Party and the Northern People's General Congress, to explain the considerable efficacy of this first parliament.

According to the author, the parliament that emerged in the aftermath of the 1993 elections, in spite of its broader representation, was not as powerful as its predecessor. This weakness was due to the success of the Northern parties in the elections and the resulting imbalance between the Northern and the Southern parties. After it failed to resolve the conflict between both parties, a National Dialogue Committee that included both members and non-members of parliament was formed in 1994 in an attempt to reach a compromise that was amenable to all. The Committee produced a statement of accord committed to establishing a parliamentary system and a second chamber of parliament, limiting the prerogatives of the presidency, and acknowledging the autonomy of the army.

This document, however, failed to prevent the outbreak of war in May 1994. The war, according to the author, weakened second the parliament, although it was the only Yemeni institution to remain active during the war. Furthermore, although the Southern members of parliament continued to perform their duties, they came under intense pressure and lacked organisation. This predicament led to the success of the two Northern parties (the People's General Congress and *al-Islah*) in passing constitutional amendments that established a single president for the Republic, effectively annulling the Presidential Council.

Although the Yemeni Socialist Party took part in the legislative elections of 2003, after having boycotted those of 1997, the author of the study argued that both the 1997 and 2003 parliaments were weak in comparison to the preceding two due to the considerable executive authority exercised over their activities. One of the participants in the debate described the Yemeni political system as a "Parliadency", illustrating the fact that it maintains the appearance of a parliamentary system while in reality, parliament falls clearly under the aegis of a centralized, presidential control like in any typical presidential system.

Despite its weaknesses, the author contends that, by representing the various political forces in the country, including those in the opposition, the Yemeni parliament has become, especially since 1994, the main legitimate forum for debate and negotiation in the country, helping to keep conflict in check and "off the streets."

The session also focused on the tribal nature of the Yemeni social structure producing a parliament that was based on tribes, ethnicity and regions. One of the participants spoke about the dual identity of the Yemeni Member of Parliament who represents the narrow interests of his tribe or party when his charge is to represent the public good. Other participants argued that a tribe-based parliament institutionalizes the conflict between the various tribes and ethnic groups.

Various participants also spoke of the low educational level of many Yemeni parliamentarians, as well as the lack of women's participation in parliament. They explained that the lack of interest among university graduates in running for public office was a result of the tribal nature of political life in Yemen, and the lack of encouragement to take part in the political process.

In terms of recommendations, the author proposed ensuring a balance of power between the executive and legislative authorities through the strengthening of the role of parliament. This solution, according to him, should be endorsed by the main Yemeni political actors, be impartial, and not pose a threat to the Yemeni regime. He also proposed that international organisations train members of parliament and those of parliamentary committees on the best legislative practices upon their election; that parliament be supplied with advanced computer and information technology systems; and that its secretariat be strengthened.

The participants proposed that a thorough review of Yemen's constitutional framework be undertaken in order to improve the balance of power between the executive and legislative authorities. They also recommended the expansion of parliament's prerogatives; the promotion of democracy, transparency, and the role of civil society; and the endorsement of an independent judiciary and the rule of law. Some participants also suggested reducing parliament's tenure period, promoting parliamentary committees, and instituting a minimum educational level for candidacy to parliament.

Session One (2): Arab Parliaments During periods of Conflict and Reintegration (the case of Algeria)

The discussion on Algeria focused on the role of the National People's Assembly before, during, and after the conflict between the Algerian regime and the Islamic Salvation Front that began in 1991. The participant indicated that Algeria's single-chamber National Assembly played an important reformist and monitoring role in the aftermath of the 1987 elections and in 1989 during the transition period that witnessed the elaboration of a new constitution endorsing pluralism for the country's parties, media, and unions.

In December 1991, results of the first round of legislative elections were annulled because of the overwhelming success of the Islamic Salvation Front; and, as a result, parliament was dissolved. The debate among the participants in the session centred around whether the cancellation of the elections was directly responsible for the eruption of in the country or, whether this cancellation merely exacerbated the violence that had already existed, since the early 1980s when constitutional amendments were introduced.

The participant indicated that a number of representatives elected in the annulled first phase of the elections helped prepare for and participated in the St. Egidio talks in 1994 that brought together all political forces in the country. On the other hand, in order to replace the dissolved parliament, the Algerian authority established the Interim National Consultative Council, in which various political forces were represented. Several of the Council's members were to be assassinated later by armed groups.

Subsequently, no legislative elections were held in Algeria before 1997; and although the latter were held amid accusations of forgery, the author emphasized the extent of cooperation and coordination among representatives of the various movements in the 1997 parliament and the liveliness of debate sessions, aired on Algerian television. However, lively sessions and cooperation notwithstanding, members of this parliament failed to put an end to the armed conflict raging on the ground. The workshop's

participants agreed that the steps towards national reconciliation and general amnesty were initiated by the president of the republic, and not by parliament, whose role was limited to the ratification of the agreements. Likewise, various peace initiatives were endorsed by public referenda rather than through parliament.

Various speakers indicated that the 2002 parliament, which started off by holding ministers accountable, was more pluralistic (a number of parties were represented in parliament for the first time) than its predecessors. But the study also revealed that the 2002 elections were boycotted by the two Berber parties. Moreover, the committee formed to investigate political conditions in the Berber region presented its report to the president of the Council, not to parliament. A number of participants also believed that the 2002 parliament has, due to its poor legislative and oversight performance, not yet reached a stage, at which it can reject laws proposed by the government. Indeed, one participant referred to parliament as "a registration room."

Participants pointed to the fact that the wide variety of political forces in this parliament did not strengthen its role, given that a powerful president dominates the country's political life. They underscored the fact that the country's executive leadership looms large over parliament. Parliament has moreover served, according to one participant, to legitimise the executive's power. On the surface, the existence of parliament lends legitimacy to the Algerian political system, especially in the eyes of the outside world; furthermore, the government sees parliament as a means to get legislation passed.

Participants alluded to the historic role of the Algerian army that has traditionally been known to put limits on the country's political life. However, some believed that the military is gradually withdrawing from political life.

Algerian researcher blamed the weakness of parliament in Algeria on the political instability within the country, on the lack of separation between the powers, on the crises within political parties, and on the large number of new members who lack experience in the 2002 parliament. Furthermore, in spite of efforts by the authorities to appoint prominent personalities at the head of the parliament, only one succeeded in completing his term.

On the other hand, a number of participants alluded to the dysfunctional role of the MP as a result of his dependency on his party and its president, as well as to the fact that the MP often considers his election as a reward to be enjoyed rather than a duty to represent the public.

Moreover, many participants spoke about parliament's composition and indicated that the majority of its members hold university degrees. The author referred to an existing collusion between the administrative, military, and elected ruling elites especially given that they all live in the same residential areas.

Among the various suggestions put forward by the participants were suggestions about finding appropriate ways to sever the ties of loyalty between the MPs and their parties (especially the party's president); improving the selection of parliamentarians by encouraging members of the educated elite to run in elections; the formation of more parliamentary committees; increased contacts with the media; and more cooperation between Arab and foreign parliaments.

Session Two: Arab Parliaments as Intermediaries in Conflict Resolution (the case of Lebanon)

The study dealt with the role of the parliament during the Lebanese Civil War (1975-1991). The author demonstrated that parliament had played an active role in bringing about national reconciliation, establishing legitimacy of parliamentary action, activating political reform, and liberating the Lebanese territory. Moreover, the author underscored the fact that the parliament, which remained unchanged between 1972 and 1992, had succeeded in maintaining its unity; and as a result that of the country. Some participants spoke about the symbolic role of the parliament, which served as an embodiment of the state's institutional unity and improved Christian-Muslim co-operation through the deep friendships that were forged among its members during its long tenure.

The author detailed the various actual roles that parliament played during the war, namely: electing presidents of the republic, giving the vote of confidence to successive governments, enacting various laws, maintaining the sovereignty of Lebanon's territory, engaging in diplomatic activities with foreign parliaments, and fulfilling an executive function when the Council of Ministers could not convene during acute political crises. The parliament also played an important role in ending the war by voting, after lengthy debates, on the Taif Agreement in 1991. Within this context, a former MP participating in the discussions spoke about the considerable sense of responsibility felt by the MPs during the debates prior to the Agreement.

The study highlighted the dynamic role played by the parliament's president during its lengthy tenure, especially given the domination of traditional forces in the parliament, and given the difficulty of reaching agreements without lengthy debates. According to the study, the president of parliament also played a decisive role in the formulation of the Taif Agreement.

The study also indicated that among the factors that contributed to the Lebanese parliament's leading role was the fact that it had stood at the centre of Lebanon's political life since its inception in the *Mutassarifiya* of Mount Lebanon in 1861. The researcher indicated, however, that this centrality does not mean that it has always fulfilled its prescribed role: In Lebanon, the government monitors parliament instead of the reverse, and several legislative proposals are put forward by the executive power rather than by parliament itself.

The study goes on to say that the 1972-1991 parliament was formed at a time of political and economic prosperity. Several participants alluded to the fact that the atmosphere of freedom that prevailed in the country in 1972, especially in the aftermath of the introduction of pluralism, benefited party politics and contributed to the development of parliamentary life in Lebanon. Participants also stressed the importance of free and fair elections in conferring legitimacy on the parliament and its role.

On the other hand, a number of participants were of the opinion that the role played by the Lebanese parliament was not totally positive. They indicated that, like other Lebanese institutions, it failed miserably to prevent the outbreak of war. One of the speakers stated that conflict management mostly took place outside parliament: the National Dialogue Committee of 1976 was largely formed from elements outside

parliament, and the latter was poorly represented in the Lausanne and Paris dialogue conferences. In addition, parliament played a limited role in the Taif Agreement, which would not have been possible to conclude had it not been for the intervention of political forces outside the country.

Another speaker referred to Parliament's inability to cast a no-confidence vote in various Lebanese governments and said that, before Taif, the Lebanese political system was more presidential than parliamentary. He added that political parties remained weak due to the weight of the traditional Lebanese forces.

Other participants mentioned the fact that, save for a few central figures, Lebanese MPs failed to play an active role in conflict resolution during the war. They mentioned that the few who did play an active role were able to do so because they were militia or political party leaders rather than just parliamentarians. One participant enumerated the three roles that a parliamentarian traditionally plays: representing a specific geographic location, legislating, and representing the country as a whole. He wondered which of these three roles endures in times of conflict and surmised that only the first one does, thus confining the representative's interaction to his own constituency.

Another participant indicated that although the parliament initiated political reforms, it failed to introduce social ones. For example, it did not attempt to repair the relationship between various groups after the war through the introduction of new educational programmes; it was rather the Ministry of Education that did that.

The participants stressed the need to overcome political sectarianism in Lebanon in order to foster a sound parliamentary life in the country and create a balance between the executive and legislative powers. At the end of his study, the researcher emphasized the importance of formulating a new election law on which everyone agrees, of parliament playing its legislative and monitoring role, and of reviewing the role and prerogatives of the parliament's president.

Session Three: Arab Parliaments and Reconstruction after Conflict (the case of Iraq)

The study characterized the difficult role facing the Iraqi National Council after the American-British war of March 2003. The task of the Council, which emerged as a result of the January 2005 elections, is on forging both a sense of national unity as well as developing and executing a plan for Iraqi social and economic reconstruction. The researcher contented that the scope and nature of the Transitional Administrative Law fundamentally limits the efficacy of the National Council by, for example, constraining its ability to introduce amendments to it. The author described the atmosphere of discord and division which accompanied the birth (and current activities) of the Council, making its task of attending to the question of federalism, of the rights of minorities, of co-opting armed groups, of reinforcing national unity, and of writing the permanent constitution, even more difficult to achieve.

Iraqis who were questioned in the survey undertaken by the researcher fall into two general groups: the first group believes that the elected National Council represents the will of the people; and the second group doubts the Council's ability to be representative. Members of the latter group refer to the fact that the elections were held under foreign occupation and according to the Transitional Administrative Law written by the American

Governor. Furthermore, the latter group finds additional confirmation in the fact that the Sunnis and the Christian minority did not participate in the elections. Participants in the meeting spoke about the problems that faced the composition of the National Council, namely the fact that a large sector of the population, in particular the Sunnis, was not represented, in addition to the low educational level of the Council's members, and the fact that the majority of those elected to the Council were relatively unknown and had played little or no significant role in Iraqi government or society.

The author lauded the strong representation of women in the National Council (approximately 31 percent of the seats) and the high percentage of youth that participated in the electoral process. A number of participants indicated, however, that the impact of the impressive number of women in parliament is diminished as a result of excessive party control. They added that the active role of women on the street, fighting on behalf of missing persons for example, did not translate into real representation in parliament.

The researcher stressed the vital importance of including in the process of writing the permanent constitution those political factions that opposed the elections and of overcoming existing national, ethnic, and sectarian divisions. On the other hand, a Kurdish member of parliament emphasized the importance of establishing a federal system in Iraq that affords the Kurds adequate representation in government, provided such representation occurs within the context of a democratic governance system.

The rest of the debate was dedicated to the issue of the parliament's division along sectarian and religious lines. The occupation forces dealt with Iraq as a divided sectarian society rather than as one, unified nation; the result of which was a political apportioning system that is not stipulated in the country's constitution. Many speakers at the meeting agreed that the apportioning system is inappropriate and contravenes the principle of democracy. An Iraqi Member of Parliament stated that the parliament failed to deal with the issue of national reconciliation because it dealt with various political groups on a sectarian basis. This predilection to give primacy to religious affiliation also explains why it took three months to form a government in Iraq. Another Iraqi participant said that he refused to be part of the constitution committee precisely because it was formed on a sectarian basis.

However, another participant said that the constitution committee was not formed on a sectarian basis per se, but that since it was to be formed from the Members of Parliament, it was bound to mirror the groups within it. These groups, moreover, were originally part of electoral lists, which included individuals from various confessional backgrounds. Some compared the apportioning of power to the separation of power, which exists in democratic countries, while others indicated that the rights of groups, like those of the individual, are part and parcel of democracy.

As for suggestions on how to promote the role of the Iraqi Parliament, the author recommended that a permanent constitution for the country be written following deliberations among all national groups in the country, the establishment of a pluralistic democratic system, the encouragement of national dialogue, and the launch of a call to the international community to deal with Iraq as one nation rather than as a collection of fragmented sectarian and ethnic groups. The recommendations also included a call for increasing contacts between the people of Iraq and the National Council, ensuring a wider popular participation in the next legislative elections, reviewing the role of the

Independent Electoral Commission that oversaw the 2005 elections; and writing a new election law that ensures a well-balanced and fair representation of all sectors of society. The author also proposed that the rights of minorities be respected, that women's participation in political life be promoted, that there be parliamentary oversight of government, and that parliament assist in resolving the issue of armed groups active in the country, and in guaranteeing the rights of detainees and prisoners. Finally, the paper calls upon the international community to provide Iraq with information and technical assistance relevant to the formulation of a constitution that impartially embraces all political forces within society; and insists that Iraq cooperate and maintain regular contact and exchange expertise with the Arab Parliamentary Union, the International Parliamentary Union, and the European Parliament.

Session Four: The Role of Arab Parliaments in National Reconciliation (the case of Sudan)

The study indicated that neither the appointed Interim National Assembly (1991-1995) nor the National Assembly elected after the new constitution of 1996 played a democratic role but, rather, simply served to rubber stamp the government's decisions.

The author of the study studied the peace negotiations that took place inside the Interim Assembly, pointing to an overt bias in favour of Northern political views and the attempt to co-opt the Southerners who did not adhere to the Southern rebel movement. The author focussed on the role played by the president of the Interim Assembly during the peace negotiations--a role that greatly influenced the overall position of the Assembly vis-à-vis the negotiations. The power of the Assembly, therefore, increases with that of its president. The author asks whether the appointment of the Assembly's president as head of the negotiations was aimed at legitimising the peace process, or whether his ethnic background and political contacts were the prime reasons behind his appointment.

The author discussed the 1996 elections and the dominant role the security services played in Sudan's political environment at the time. The ban on political parties meant that the parliament that came out of the elections was comprised only of those political groups supportive of the existing regime. According to the author, the new parliament and constitution were part and parcel of the existing totalitarian regime. He nevertheless contended that the experience in parliament served to encourage the democratic leanings of the Islamist movement in Sudan.

The researcher indicated that the parliament that emerged in the aftermath of the 2000 elections ratified the peace agreement of 2005 after only two days of deliberation; moreover, it did not have the authority to either reject or amend it. The constitution currently being prepared as a result of this agreement is also not being written by the National Assembly itself but rather by the Constitutional Drafting Commission, which will send it ready-made to the Assembly.

Furthermore, the author indicated that since the beginning of the crisis between the North and the South, the Sudanese parliament had opted not to play a role in either directing the peace talks or in supplying the negotiators with information, but chose to concentrate on mobilizing popular support through the media. A Sudanese MP attending the meeting confirmed that a number of parliamentarians exacerbated the conflict by using the Assembly as a platform to issue provocative slogans such as calling for *jihad*

against the South. He was also of the opinion that the majority of the Assembly's members contributed indirectly to the escalation of the conflict by failing to hold the government accountable for the massacres that took place in the South.

The participants touched on the issue of sidelining the National Assembly from the peace efforts between the government and the Sudanese opposition. They agreed that the Assembly is deemed very weak when measured against the strength of the executive power, and one participant was of the opinion that the Assembly plays a secondary role and is more of a passive receiver rather than an active initiator. The Sudanese governance system was described as presidential, relying on public referenda rather than the National Assembly to ratify peace agreements.

The participants agreed that the internationalisation of the Sudanese conflict was also not conducive to the National Assembly playing an active role in the peace process. They also agreed that there was a disparity in Sudan between political practice and the provisions of the constitution. For example, the National Assembly very rarely calls for a vote of no confidence for one of the ministers, although the constitution gives it the full right to do so.

Two Sudanese representatives alluded to the poor popular representation in the National Assembly, pointing out that the ruling party and regime decide who can or cannot be a candidate for parliament. They added that although representatives from the South make-up thirty percent of the Assembly's members, Muslim Southern candidates are usually selected in order to sow discord between them and their Christian milieu. One of the speakers posited that the weakness of the Assembly was not due to the low educational level of its members but rather to their inexperience and lack of political acumen.

A number of participants recommended the adoption of a federal system in Sudan, the institution of a quota for women in the National Assembly, and the encouragement of educated and informed citizens to run for parliament. As for the researcher himself, he recommended the introduction of party reforms in order to improve the quality of parties that are currently subject to tribal and sectarian partisanship, and urged the formation of new and independent parties that are democratically organised. He also recommended that civil society institutions work at promoting political awareness in the country.

Session Five: Strengthening the role of Arab Parliaments in conflict resolution and national reconstruction

The comparative report on the five Arab case studies focused on the weakness of parliaments to resolve endemic conflict and facilitate national reconstruction. The author referred to the lack of appropriate representation in a number of parliaments and believed that the hegemony of the executive power over the legislature significantly hampers the role of parliaments. Moreover, the author blamed the weakness of legislatures partly on internal weaknesses (lack of information and expertise). In addition, the author underscored the positive impact of incorporating a diversity of parties in parliament, and lauded the constitutional amendments undertaken in a number of Arab countries that allow the expansion of parliamentary prerogatives.

The author recommended the review of electoral laws (such as those governing electoral districts, quotas, majority vote, and proportional representation) in order to ensure adequate representation. She suggested the formation of independent electoral commissions to organise and take charge of elections, starting at the campaign level and ending with the casting of votes. She also recommended increasing women's representation and participation in the electoral process, as well as promoting contacts between the electorate and parliament. In addition, the author called for tightening the relationship between Arab parliaments and civil society, establishing libraries and research units inside parliament, undertaking a review of the organisation of parliamentary committees, promoting the oversight role of Arab parliaments, and maintaining permanent avenues of co-operation between the executive and legislative branches. Finally, she underscored the importance of learning from the experiences of other countries with similar conditions.

Participants called for parliamentarians to actively engage in the oversight of their respective government's performance, keeping active and effective individuals in parliament rather than in government, abandoning presidential systems in favour of parliamentary ones that seek an equilibrium between legislative and executive powers, ensuring the development of political parties through the adoption of proportional electoral systems, imposing time limits on writing and publishing new election laws well in advance of elections, establishing new ministries charged with fostering relations with parliament, forming parliamentary blocs, and promoting the independence of the judiciary.

They also recommended the improvement of parliamentary procedures (i.e. respecting the opinion of others and resolving issues through voting), training parliamentarians and imposing conditions on their candidacy, providing the essential financial support for parliament and its members, developing training programs for parliamentary assistants, training journalists who cover parliament, and developing special media programmes to analyse the activities of parliament. In addition, the participants recommended investing in raising civic awareness, especially at Arab universities, providing access to web-based information on legislation, devoting summer courses at universities to parliamentary activities and the role of women in parliament, and the production of an annual report on the performance of Arab members of parliament (number of absences, suggestions, etc.).

The participants suggested that POGAR distribute UNDP's books and pamphlets to Arab libraries and parliaments, support post graduate students from Arab countries and encourage them to study the issue of parliaments in times of conflict, establish a unit within the Programme entitled "Towards a Parliamentary Culture," increase the number of seminars and workshops that focus on parliamentary life, endorse the holding of workshops focussing on the electoral process to which representatives from the Arab executive branch would be invited to participate, and establish and support an organisation that brings together all Arab groups interested in election monitoring.

2. Schedule of Sessions:

Day 1 – 24 June 2005

Time		Program	Moderators / Speakers / Discussants
9.30	10.00	Introduction to the Workshop	- Dr. Salim Nasr, Senior Advisor, UNDP-POGAR
10.00	11.30	Session 1 (Part I) Arab Parliaments during Conflict and Integration	Moderator: - Dr. Riyadh Aziz Hadi, Dean of the Political Sciences Faculty, Baghdad University Speaker: - Dr. Ahmed Saif, Gulf Research Center Discussants: - Dr. Mohamed Moghram, Political Science Professor, Sana'a University, Yemen - Ms. Oras Sultan Naji, Member of Parliament, Yemen - Mr. Abdulkodus Al-Midwahi, Member of Parliament, Yemen
11.30	12.00	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
12.00	13.30	Session 1 (Part II) Arab Parliaments during Conflict and Integration	Moderator: - Dr. Hayder Ibrahim Ali, Director, Sudanese Studies Center Speaker: - Dr. Naser Djabi, Professor of Sociology, University of Algiers Discussants: - Dr. Mohamed Hennad, Professor of Political Science, Algiers Institute - Mr. Abderrezzak Mokri, Member of Parliament, Algeria - Mr. Abdel-Rahman Belayat, Member of Parliament, Algeria
13.30	15.30	<i>Lunch</i>	
15.30	17.00	Session 2 Arab Parliaments as Conflict Resolution Brokers	Moderator: - Dr. Naser Djabi, Professor of Sociology, University of Algiers Speaker: - Dr. Farès Sassine, Professor of Sociology, Lebanese University Discussants: - Dr. Melhem Cheoul, Professor of Sociology, Lebanese University - Mr. Jean Oghassabian, Member of Parliament, Lebanon - Dr. Ghassan Moukhaiber, Member of Parliament, Lebanon - HE Mr. Mohamad Youssef Beydoun, former Member of Parliament, Lebanon
20.00		<i>Welcome Dinner</i>	Dinner Hosted by UNDP-POGAR

Day 2 – 25 June 2005

Time		Program	Moderators / Speakers / Discussants
9.30	11.00	Session 3 Arab Parliaments and Post-Conflict Reconstruction	<p>Moderator: - Dr. Farès Sassine, Professor of Sociology, Lebanon University</p> <p>Speaker: - Dr. Riyadh Aziz Hadi, Dean of the Political Sciences Faculty, Baghdad University</p> <p>Discussants: - Dr. Raad Naji Al-Jidda, Professor of Constitutional Law, Baghdad, Iraq - Dr. Faleh Abdul Jabar, Fellow at Birkbeck College, United Kingdom - Mr. Nadeem Essa Khalaf, Member of Parliament, Iraq - Mr. Saadi Al-Barazanji, Member of Parliament, Iraq</p>
11.00	11.30	<i>Coffee Break</i>	
11.30	13.00	Session 4 Arab Parliaments and National Reconciliation	<p>Moderator: - Dr. Faleh Abdul Jabar, Fellow at Birkbeck College, United Kingdom</p> <p>Speaker: - Dr. Hayder Ibrahim Ali, Director, Sudanese Studies Center, Sudan</p> <p>Discussants: - Dr. Mohamed Ahmed Salem, Parliamentary Expert, Sudan - Mr. Abdullah Babikr, Member of Parliament, Sudan - Mr. Peter Abderrahman Sule, Former Member of Parliament, Sudan</p>
13.00	14.30	<i>Lunch Break</i>	
14.30	16.00	Session 5: Conclusion Strengthening Arab Parliaments in Conflict Resolution and National Reconstruction Summary General Discussion Recommendations	<p>Moderator: - Dr. Salim Nasr, Senior Advisor, UNDP-POGAR</p> <p>Speaker - Dr. Rima Habasch, Projects Associate, UNDP-POGAR</p>