



C A R N E G I E E N D O W M E N T
for International Peace



PROGRAMME

Managing Reform in Arab Countries

Friday 6 October – Sunday 8 October 2006

WPS06/4 Wilton Park Conference with

The Middle East Program, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Economic, social, administrative and political reform is on the agenda of all governments in the Middle East and North Africa. Governments envisage a managed process of reform that will allow each country to move in its own way and in its own time. The meeting will discuss the goals, methods, and time-frames of managed reform by bringing prominent and respected reform advocates from seven key countries together with experts from Britain, the EU and the United States for two days of focussed confidential dialogue. The aim of the conference is to get a clearer understanding of what is meant by managed reform. The purpose of the meeting is not to advocate a particular reform agenda, but to listen to the reform advocates as part of an attempt to improve understanding.

The conference will consider reform advocates' visions for their economic and political systems over the next decade. What are the goals of managed reform over the next five years? What emphasis will be given to economic and administrative modernization, social reforms, political reform, or democracy? How does attention and involvement by outside actors affect the efforts of reform advocates?

Each session of the conference will be organized as a roundtable discussion. There will be no formal presentations of papers, although participants will be asked to provide brief remarks to start the discussion. It is a non-official dialogue. The conference is being convened by Wilton Park for the Middle East Program of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, which is a politically independent policy research institute. The conference is held under the Chatham House rule of confidentiality; no-one may be quoted in any media.

FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER 2006

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| 1830 | WELCOME RECEPTION |
| 1900 | DINNER |

SATURDAY 7 OCTOBER 2006

- 0915 – 0930 1 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION: CONFERENCE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**
Chris LANGDON
Associate Director, Wilton Park
Marina OTTAWAY
Director, Middle East Program and Senior Associate, Democracy and Rule of Law Project,
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
- 0930 – 1000 1 **HOW COUNTRIES REFORM:
MANAGED REFORM AND UNCONTROLLED CHANGE
OPENING COMMENTS FOR DISCUSSION**
- 1000 - 1100 **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSION**
- 1130 - 1300 2 **THE REFORM EXPERIENCE IN THE ARAB MONARCHIES:
PAST AND FUTURE**
How do reform advocates evaluate the reform processes in their own countries? Have the reforms focussed on political, economic, administrative or social issues? How do they see the process unfolding in the future?
- 1430 - 1600 3 **THE REFORM EXPERIENCE IN THE REPUBLICS: PAST AND FUTURE**
How do reform advocates evaluate the reform processes in their own countries? What are the reforms that have been carried out to date? Is the emphasis on political, economic, administrative or social reform? How do they see the process unfolding in the future?
- 1630 - 1800 4 **ANALYSTS' REMARKS: THE CHALLENGES OF MANAGED REFORM**
In order to open a broader discussion about reform experiences and future plans presented in the previous two panels, two analysts in the group will offer brief comments.
- 1830 **RECEPTION and DINNER**

SUNDAY 8 OCTOBER 2006

- 0915 - 1045 5 **OPPOSITION FORCES: HELP OR HINDRANCE TO THE MANAGED REFORM PROCESS?**
How does pressure from opposition affect the reform agenda? Can opposition forces be allies in reform? To what extent are reform advocates in touch with Islamist, liberal, and leftist groups?
- 1115 – 1245 6 **BUILDING SUPPORT FOR MANAGED REFORM**
What are reform advocates doing to build constituencies inside the governing elite and among citizens? Are they working with government institutions or civil society organizations to do so?
- 1430 - 1600 7 **MANAGED REFORM AND EXTERNAL ACTORS**
How does the attention and involvement by external actors affect the efforts of advocates of managed reform? In what ways can outsiders assist the process of reform?
- 1630 – 1800 **CLOSING SESSION**
How will the discussions be taken forward?
- 1845 **CONCLUDING DINNER**

MONDAY 9 OCTOBER 2006

- 0915 Participants depart