

10 years since the Arab Spring - Prospects for democracy and development in the Middle East and North Africa

Event in hybrid format

Venue: Zoom

Date: December 16, 2020

Language: English/German/Arabic with translation

In December 2010, a wave of protests began with demonstrations in the Tunisian hinterland, which spread to the Middle East and North Africa. A decade later, neither the model of a new social contract has prevailed in the region, nor has a new geopolitical order been established. The Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung takes the tenth anniversary of the "Arab Spring" as an opportunity to review the multifaceted and protracted transformation processes in the Middle East and North Africa. Why has the "Arab Spring" failed in so many countries? What signs of democratic change are there nevertheless? Looking to the future, what do young people in the region want today? How can political participation and representation be improved? How can economic opportunities for the young generation be created in the region? What role can Germany and Europe play in this process?

14.30-15.30 h

Opening: Dr. Gerhard Wahlers, Deputy Secretary General of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Berlin (vtc.)

Panel I: Political Perspectives – What comes after the protests?

André Sleiman, Director Beirut office of Democracy Reporting International, Beirut (Video-teleconferencing, vtc.)

Sarra Ben Elkadhi, Programme Manager, Digital Democracy, Chnowa Barnemjek, Tunis (vtc.)

Dr. Isabelle Werenfels, Senior Fellow, German Institute for International and Security Affairs, Berlin (vtc.)

Chair: Michael Bauer, Policy Advisor, Middle East and North Africa Department, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Berlin

16.00-17.00 h

Panel II: Economic potentials – Which socioeconomic model for North Africa and the Middle East?

Adel Hamaizia, Economist, Chatham House, London/Algiers (vtc.)

Amel Saidane, Entrepreneur and President of Tunisian Start-ups, Tunis (vtc.)

Peter Stein, Member of the German Bundestag, Berlin (vtc.)

Chair: Benjamin Godel, Senior Manager Middle East and North Africa at Federation of German Industries /Bundesverband der Deutschen Industrie e.V. (BDI), Berlin

17.30-19.00 h

Democracy and Development in the Arab World

Introduction: Prof. Dr. Norbert Lammert, Chairman of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung and former President of the German Bundestag, Berlin

Keynote: Dr. Amr Hamzawy, Senior Research Scholar, Stanford University, USA (vtc.)

Panel III: Democracy and Development in the Arab World – What Role for Germany and Europe?

Input: Dr. Johann Wadephul, Member of the German Bundestag, Berlin (vtc.)

Discussants

Dr. Michael Köhler, Deputy Director-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation (DG ECHO), European Commission, Brussels (vtc.)

Dr. Amr Hamzawy, Senior Research Scholar, Stanford University, USA (vtc.)

Dina Fakoussa, Associate, Middle East and North Africa programme, German Council of Foreign Relations, Berlin (vtc.)

Mohamed Azouz Rebai, KAS Scholarship holder and policy advisor, Tunis (vtc.)

Chair: Dr. Canan Atilgan, Head of Middle East and North Africa Department, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung, Berlin