

REGIONAL FORUM FOR THE ARAB STATES
August 16 (GMT +2)

August 16, 2022

TIME	SESSIONS
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10:00 -10:15

Welcome and opening remarks

- Luis Martinez Betanzos, Regional Electoral Advisor for the Arab States, UNDP
- Lorenzo Cordova, President Councilor, National Electoral Institute (INE) of Mexico
- Aref Jaffal, Coordination Committee of the Arab NGO Network for Democratic Elections/Al Marsad, Palestine

10:15 – 10:45

Keynote lecture

“Advances, risks and dilemmas of electoral democracy in the Arab States”

- Adib Nehme, Arab Network for Democratic Elections (ANDE)

Session 1:

10:45 – 12:30

“Electoral apathy and its risks to democratic values, institutions and practices”

- Hisham Kuhail, Executive Board Chair, Organization of Arab Electoral Management Bodies (ArabEMBs)
- Amina Bouayach
- Ammar Dwaik, General Director, Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights Commission
- Hafiza Shkair

Moderator: Hafsa Halawa, Independent Expert

12:30 – 14:00

Session 2

Democracy, digital platforms and freedom of expression – the Arab experience

- LADE
- Nouri Lajmi, President of the High Independent Authority of Audiovisual Commission, Tunisia
- Arab Women Organization (TBC)

Moderator: Osama Al Jaber, UNDP Arab States

14:00 – 14:45

Session 3

Messages from institutional representatives on the way forward for the nascent democracies of the Arab region

- ArabEMBs – President
- ANDE – Director
- UN-EAD

Moderator: Rashid Hamtou, ANDE

14:30 – 14:45

Closing remarks

- UNDP Director