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United Nations Development Programme



ARAB DEVELOPMENT CHALLENGES REPORT 2011

TOWARDS THE DEVELOPMENTAL STATE IN THE ARAB REGION

"When I teach development, I often conclude my lectures with these words: 'The main obstacle to achieving development is that those who have power are not really interested in development, and those who are interested do not have power.' The combination of power and interest is a basic prerequisite for achieving real development.

Development is not merely a technical, economic issue. Rather, it belongs to the discipline of political economy. The neglect of the issue of distribution of power in society eliminates any possibility of reaching a meaningful diagnosis of real developmental problems.

The vast majority of writing on development—including what is issued by international agencies, and not only financial institutions— commits the error of addressing development in a technical, economistic manner. This is sometimes done in good faith, at others out of a desire to play it safe. However, in some cases, there is a deliberate intention to mislead and deceive, in order to avoid identification of the real culprits responsible for the lack of development.

This report completely avoids this error. I found it fascinating, like a breeze of long-missed fresh air. The 2011 Arab Development Challenges Report views Arab development from the political economy perspective. It does not attempt to hide anything, nor take positions aligned with the interests of a particular group or those in power, and therefore truly advocates for the developmental state."

**Galal Amin, Professor of Economics,
American University in Cairo
Launch of the ADCR in Cairo, 17 February 2012.**

"If I were asked about this report (ADCR) and its description of the Arab condition in the past two decades, I would say that its descriptions are clear and accurate and its diagnoses are valid, and its proposed remedies are appropriate, if were to be applied. My answer to the question of why such a report could not be released before the Arab revolution is that the changes proposed in this report are not attainable without a revolution."

**Abou Yaareb Marzouki, Member of the Tunisian Constituent Assembly,
And Advisor to the Prime Minister, Tunisia
Launch of the ADCR in Barcelona, 27 February 2012**



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Regional Centre for Arab States, Cairo
2 El Hegaz street, Cedare Building
Cairo 11737 Heliopolis Bahary, Egypt
Tel: +202 24 53 56 03
Fax: +202 24 53 56 02

For more information: <http://arabstates.undp.org/>

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