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Civil Center for National Initiative  
المركز المدني للمبادرة الوطنية

FRIEDRICH  
EBERT   
STIFTUNG

**Conference**  
**The Taif Agreement**  
**25 Years Later**

22 - 24 October, 2014

Beirut, Phoenicia Hotel

**On October 22nd, 1989, the Document of National Accord (popularly dubbed as the “Taif Agreement”) was declared. A few days later, on November 5th, the agreement was ratified by the Lebanese Parliament.**

- What has become of this agreement, the provisions of which were grouped under four headings:**
- General Principles and Reforms**
- Spreading the Sovereignty of the Lebanese State over all the Lebanese Territories**
- Liberating Lebanon from the Israeli Occupation**
- Lebanese-Syrian Relations**
- What has been the outcome of the agreement? What role does it play, a quarter of a century since its declaration?**

For more accuracy, the question might better be reformulated as:

- What are the Lebanese, regional and international positions, avowed or actual, on this agreement:
- On its text and its implementation, on its legal and moral value;
- On continuing to observe its implemented provisions or working to implement what has not been implemented yet;
- On correcting its application, amending its provisions or supplementing them;
- On moving past this agreement to an alternative that would herald a possible fresh start;

For a clearer illumination of the practical purpose of the conference, the question might be put as follows:

- What is the Lebanese national position on the agreement – in terms of the aspirations for Lebanon, from the angle of the Lebanese state and of its people?
- Moreover, what are the positions of the international community, first and foremost, and the positions of countries having a stake in the affairs of Lebanon, whether as a matter of concern or influence: What is their situation in reality, and what should their position be, in the interest of Lebanon and the law?

For this purpose, the **Civil Center for National Initiative** and the **Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (FES) Foundation**, are organizing this conference, with the following guiding principles:

- To ensure the participation of Lebanese and non-Lebanese stakeholders in the conference, given the national and international importance of its theme, regardless of their support or their opposition, in part or in full, to the agreement;
- The sole rationale for participation, indeed for organizing the conference, is to strive for a rational dialogue, from the lens of the Lebanese national interest or lawful particular interests, and from the perspective of the principles of international law; Lebanon's socio-political structure and international cultural, economic and political relations, as well as our targeted purpose, were taken into account in inviting the speakers to the conference. Over the course of two days, Lebanese stakeholders from the political, religious and civil spheres will be meeting with representatives from international organizations, as well as figures who participated in the preparation process, in the negotiations and the formulation the agreement, and researchers who have studied the agreement, its implementation and possible corrections

# Conference Programme

**Wednesday, 22 October 2014**

16.00 - 17.00

**Registration**

17.00 - 17.30

**Welcome addresses / Opening remarks by:**

- Talal el Hussein, Civil Center for National Initiative
- Achim Vogt, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung

17.30 - 18.30

**On the Occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the Declaration of the Taif Agreement**

**Key Note Speeches:**

- Sayyed Hussein el Hussein, Former Speaker of the Lebanese Parliament
- Sir Derek Plumbly, United Nations Special Coordinator for Lebanon (UNSCOL)

18.30 - 20.00

**Reception**

## Thursday, 23 October 2014

08.30 - 09.00

**Registration**

09.00 - 13.00

**Panel I:**

**Overviews and Perspectives of Political Actors**

Representative of the Future Movement

Representative of the Free Patriotic Movement

Representative of the Amal Movement

Representative of Hizbullah

Representative of the Progressive Socialist Party

11.00 - 11.30

**Coffee Break**

**Panel I (Part 2)**

Representative of the Tashnaq Party

Representative of the Kataeb Party

Representative of the National Bloc

Representative of the Lebanese Forces

Representative of Jama'a Islamiya

Representative of the Salvation Convention

**Chair: Talal el Hussein, Author**

13.00 - 14.00

**Lunch Break**

14.00 - 15.30

**Panel II:**

**Overviews and Perspectives of Arab and International Institutions**

N.N., Representative of the Arab League (tbc.)

N.N., Representative of the United Nations (tbc.)

**Christian Clages**, Ambassador of Germany to Lebanon

**Chair: Farid al Khazen**, Member of Lebanese Parliament,

Prof. of Political Science, American University of Beirut

15.30 - 16.00

**Coffee Break**

16.00 - 17.30

**Panel III:**

**Overviews and Perspectives of Religious Denominations**

**Priest Georges Massouh**, Priest of the Greek-Orthodox Community

**Sheikh Sami Abi El Mouna**, Sheikhdом Akl of the Druze Unitarian Community

**Mohammed As Samak**, Dar al Fatwa al Islamiya

**Sheikh Ahmad Kabalan**, Higher Shiite Council

**Bishop Samir Mazloun**, Maronite Patriarchate

**Chair: Ghassan Moukhaiber**, Member of Lebanese Parliament



17.30 - 19.00

**Panel IV:**

**Overviews and Perspectives of Civil Society Organizations**

**Abdallah Rizk**, Cultural Council for South Lebanon"

**Issam Khalife**, Cultural Movement, Antelias

**Bechara Merhej**, Dar an-Nadwa

**Adnan Melki**, Lebanese Association for Democratic Elections (LADE)

**Bassel Abdallah**, Civil Society Movement (CSM)

**Lamya Osseiran**, Representing the Women Movement

**Hassan Zeytoun**, Youth Democratic League

**Chair: Arda Ekmekji**, Professor of Intercultural Studies,  
Dean of Arts and Sciences, Haigazian University

## Friday, 24 October 2014

09.00 - 11.00

### **Panel V:**

**Lessons Learnt: Which Relevance of the Taif Agreement for Other Complex Conflicts  
and Which Lessons to be Taken From Other Examples**

**Stephan Rosiny**, German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA), Hamburg – presenting the case of Syria

**Abduljabbar Ahmed Abdullah**, Dean, Faculty of Political Sciences, University of Baghdad – Presenting the Case of Iraq

**Farea al Muslimi**, Youth Activist, Resonate, Yemen

**Karim el Mufti**, Professor of Political Science, Presenting a Comparison between Lebanon and Bosnia

**François Barras**, Ambassador of Switzerland to Lebanon

**Chair: Achim Vogt**, Friedrich Ebert Foundation, Beirut

11.00 - 11.30

**Coffee Break**

11.30 - 13.30

**Panel VI:**

**Taif 1989 - 2014: A Political, Legal, Social and Historical Assessment**

**Theodor Hanf**, Visiting Professor of Political Science, American University of Beirut

**Raghid el Solh**, Historian and Political Analyst

**Ghassan Moukhaiber**, Member of Parliament

**Farid al Khazen**, Member of Parliament, Professor of Political Science, American University of Beirut

**Chair: Najla Hamadeh**, Researcher, University Professor

13.30 - 14.30

**Lunch Break**

14.30 - 16.00

**Panel VII:**

**The Story of Taif: How the Agreement was Prepared, Negotiated and Formulated**

**Edmond Rizk**, Former Member of Parliament

**Samir Frangieh**, Former Member of Parliament

**Khaled Kabbani**, Former Minister of Education

**Talal Hussein**, Author

**Chair: Fares Sassine**, Author, University Professor

16.00 - 16.30

**Coffee Break**

16.30 - 18.00

**Recommendations and Conclusion**

**To call and confirm:**

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**للاتصال والتأكيد:**

مؤسسة فريدريش ايبرت: ٠٣/٤٨٠٣٩٠ - ٠١/٣٢٠٠٨٠

المركز المدني للمبادرة الوطنية: ٠٣/٩٥٥٦٦١