



INSTITUTE FOR INTEGRATED TRANSITIONS

26 November 2014

Mona Chun
Executive Director
International Human Rights Funders Group

Ms. Chun,

It is our pleasure to invite you to a one-day interactive round table taking place Friday 23 January, 2015 in Barcelona to examine the following topic: **“Effective Philanthropy for Syria: Envisioning an organised philanthropic response to a complete or partial transition out of armed conflict”**. A draft agenda and list of institutional invitees is attached.

Taking into account the current situation in Syria, and drawing on other important experiences of conflict and transition, the round table will address the role that philanthropy can play under different potential scenarios for civil society in Syria. There will be a detailed write-up of the highlights of the discussion that will be published in the winter 2015 issue of Alliance Magazine to bring attention to our conclusions. The meeting will be held at [Artchiboldi](#), an alternative workspace in the centre of Barcelona.

By way of background, last November the Institute for Integrated Transitions and the John D. Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement at the American University in Cairo published [Supporting Countries in Transition: A Framework Guide for Foundation Engagement](#), with the support of the Ford Foundation. This will be one of the reference materials for the meeting, along with a background document about the current Syrian context.

To advise of your availability, please RSVP directly to Cale Salih: csalih@ifit-transitions.org. We sincerely hope that you can join us.

Kindest regards,

Mark Freeman
Executive Director

Institute for Integrated Transitions

Benet Mateu 40
Barcelona 08034
SPAIN
info@ifit-transitions.org
www.ifit-transitions.org

Board of Directors

David Gardner
Helen Brewer
Elisabeth de Nadal
Alex Boraine (honorary)
Mark Freeman (ex officio)

Advisory Group

Maria Livanos Cattau
Gareth Evans
E. Gyimah-Boadi
Latifa Jbaldi
Carne Ross
Nasser H. Saidi
Rafael Vilasanjuan
Leslie Vinjamuri

Effective Philanthropy for Syria

Envisioning an organised philanthropic response to a complete or partial transition out of armed conflict

Barcelona, Spain / 23 January 2015

DRAFT AGENDA

In complicated conflict and transition contexts, peaceful attempts at change by civil society are sometimes overwhelmed by violent groups and loss of state legitimacy. The example of Syria provides an opportunity to discuss collectively the range of philanthropic responses that would be most constructive in that context – under both current circumstances and potential future scenarios of transition. The round table will consider such scenarios, as well as examples of good and poor practice from Tunisia, Egypt and other post-conflict and post-authoritarian contexts. Rather than making formal presentations, round table participants will be encouraged to draw upon their previous experience, current philanthropic work and varied expertise to contribute actively to an open discussion. The meeting will not seek to produce an action plan or to enjoin ‘collaboration’. It will instead provide a space for learning and reflection on issues of conflict and transition, with Syria as the main focus of discussion. The meeting will be attended by rights, development, and peace-building directors from an array of major foundations and support institutions, and by a small number of Syrian civil society leaders and guest experts who will act as resource persons.

09.00 Welcome remarks by the Institute for Integrated Transitions (IFIT) and the Gerhart Center for Philanthropy and Civic Engagement (GC)

09.15 *Tour de table*

09.25 Overview by IFIT and GC of key challenges and opportunities for philanthropy in difficult conflict and transition contexts

09.40 **The situation in Syria:** Discussion of the current situation in Syria – viewed from an internal perspective as well as regionally – and presentation of the three different scenarios described below.

10.30 Coffee break

11.00 **Discussion of scenario 1:** What are the constraints and opportunities for private philanthropy to support communities and civic life in a context in which armed combat has largely subsided but the current regime is still largely in control?

12.15 **Discussion of scenario 2:** What are the constraints and opportunities for private philanthropy to support communities and civic life in a situation in which the country is imploding into a number of smaller entities and local groups

are acting to meet important social, cultural and economic needs in lieu of the state?

13.30 Lunch

15.00 **Discussion of scenario 3:** What are the constraints and opportunities for private philanthropy to support communities and civic life in the context of a potential “negotiated/pacted” transition that ends the conflict and creates a roadmap for a unified rebuilding of state and society?

17.00 Coffee break

17.30 **Synthesis discussion**

18.00 End of meeting

20.00 Dinner

Effective Philanthropy for Syria
Envisioning an organised philanthropic response to a
complete or partial transition out of armed conflict
Barcelona, Spain / 23 January 2015

LIST OF INVITED INSTITUTIONS

The following foundations and philanthropy support organisations are among those that have been invited:

- Ford Foundation
- European Foundation Centre
- International Human Rights Funders Group
- Peace and Security Funders Group
- Ariadne Human Rights Funders Network
- Foundation for the Future
- Open Society Foundations
- MacArthur Foundation
- Henry Luce Foundation
- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
- Berghof Foundation
- Global Fund for Community Foundations
- Asfari Foundation
- SAANED
- Silatech
- La Caixa Foundation
- Arab Human Rights Fund
- Reach Out To Asia
- Bridges of Understanding
- Rockefeller Brothers Fund
- Gates Foundation
- Robert Bosch Stiftung
- Sigrid Rausing Trust
- Aga Khan Foundation
- Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Wellspring Advisors
- Humanity United
- Compton Foundation
- Skoll Global Threats Fund
- Adessium Foundation
- Oak Foundation
- European Endowment for Democracy
- Arab Council for Social Studies
- Al Mawred Al Thaqafy
- Arab Culture Fund
- Synergos
- German Marshall Fund of the United States
- Alliance Magazine

The meeting will also be attended by a small number of Syrian civil society leaders and guest experts who will act as resource persons.

Effective Philanthropy for Syria
Envisioning an organised philanthropic response to a
complete or partial transition out of armed conflict
Barcelona, Spain / 23 January 2015

HOTELS IN BARCELONA

MEETING VENUE

[Artchiboldi](#)

Carrer de Còrsega, 286
Barcelona, Spain 08008

HOTELS (within a five-minute walk of Artchiboldi)

[Gallery Hotel](#)

Carrer de Rosselló, 249
Barcelona, Spain 08008
+34 934 15 99 11

4-star hotel, around 200 USD/night

[Hotel Olivia Balmes](#)

Carrer de Balmes, 117
Barcelona, Spain 08008
+34 932 14 41 63

4-star hotel, around 167 USD/night

[Suites Avenue](#)

Passeig de Gràcia, 83
Barcelona, Spain 08008
+34 934 87 41 59

4-star apartment-style hotel, around 136 USD/night