

List of activities

Spring 2024



Swedish Dialogue Institute
for the Middle East and North Africa

Activities in January 2024

- **Meeting on Intergenerational Dialogue**

In mid-January the Institute hosted a roundtable discussion with officials from the UNDP's regional hub for the Arab States region and from the Swedish regional development cooperation team, to discuss how to make intergenerational dialogue part of regional and global work on peace and development.



- **Meeting on Gender**

In connection to a visit to Amman by the Union for the Mediterranean's (UfM) Programme Manager on Gender Equality Anna Dorangricchia the Dialogue Institute hosted a roundtable discussion on gender equality, with representatives also from academia, donors, and UN agencies. The focus was on integrating gender equality and generational inclusiveness in work on the climate agenda, as well as in economic development and entrepreneurship.



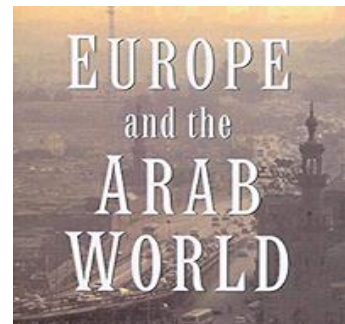
- **Meeting with International IDEA**

In the end of January the Institute met with Zaid Al-Ali and Yasmine Elmaghraby from International IDEA, working on peacebuilding in Yemen. The discussion covered developments in Yemen and elsewhere in the region and how organisations such as IDEA and the Dialogue Institute can support work on peacebuilding and inclusive participation.



- **Meeting on Europe and the Arab World**

On January 28th and 29th, the Institute hosted a meeting with analysts and practitioners from the region and Europe to discuss the relationship between the Arab world and Europe. The aim was to pool analysis, to take stock of how the relations have been effected by the regional developments, and to reflect on how this can help determine where efforts are best vested in the future and to develop ideas for meaningful dialogues.



- **Panel discussion on EU-MENA relations**

On January 30th the Institute hosted an interactive panel discussion on EU-MENA relations. Prominent analysts from the region and Europe participated in the panel, which was held in connection to the annual Swedish rapporteurs' meeting, that gathered diplomats from Swedish diplomatic missions in the MENA region and beyond.



Activities in February 2024

- **Roundtable meeting with researchers and students in Sweden**

Early February Director Charlotta Sparre was keynote speaker in a roundtable meeting with researchers and students at Lund University, Sweden. She presented the Dialogue Institute and shared information about its work on EU-MENA relations, intercultural dialogue, climate change and other issues. She also presented the work on intergenerational dialogue.



- **Meeting with OECD**

In connection to an OECD - OCDE visit to Amman, the Institute met with Tonaina Ngororano and Moritz Ader from OECD, working on youth empowerment, integrity, accountability, sustainability, human rights, and good governance. This was a good occasion to introduce the Institute and its work, including on intergenerational dialogue.



- **Meeting on EU's Southern Neighborhood Policy**

In mid-February the Dialogue Institute hosted an informal roundtable meeting on the future of the EU's Southern Neighborhood Policy. It gathered analysts and practitioners from the EU and from Southern partner countries for exchanges, reflections, experiences, and recommendations. The meeting aimed at contributing to ongoing thinking on the future Euro-Mediterranean dialogue and cooperation, considering the changing geopolitical environment.



- **Engaging with local communities**

As a part of the Institute's constant effort to expand its networks, the staff visited 'Darat Space', a youth-led organisation committed to training and empowering young individuals to create digital content that drives positive societal change. The meeting provided both organisations an opportunity to showcase their work. Similar meetings have been held with others, e.g. Afikra, an organisation devoted to highlighting Arab culture and history through presentations, among other methods.



Activities in March 2024

- **UfM conference on gender, in Cairo**

In marking the International Women's Day, the Union for the Mediterranean organized a regional conference on "Closing Gender Gaps in the MENA Financial Sector: Towards Women-Led Business Development", in Cairo March 6-7. The Institute participated in the conference and Director, Charlotta Sparre was among the speakers in the opening session and moderated a panel on addressing gender disparities in finance, with panelists from the EU, OECD and the private sector.



- **Meetings in Cairo**

During the visit to Cairo, the director Charlotta Sparre and programme officers Aseel Shaban and Omran Khasawneh held meetings with a broad spectrum of actors, including Union for the Mediterranean (UfM), Anna Lindh Foundation (ALF), UN Women, League of Arab States (LAS), Cairo Center for Conflict Resolution, Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding (CCCPA) the Embassy of Sweden in Cairo, as well as representatives of the private sector, academia, civil society and faith-based organizations.



- **Meeting with entrepreneurs in Cairo and Amman**

During the first half of May the Institute gathered various actors from the entrepreneurship ecosystem, in Jordan and Egypt respectively, in two separate roundtable discussions. The meetings aimed at broadening contacts and networks with relevant actors in the region and at developing ideas and recommendations for the Institute's future work in this field.



- **Participation in the annual regional ambassadors' meeting in Riyadh**

In mid-March Director Charlotta Sparre, participated in the annual regional conference for Swedish heads of missions, held in Riyadh. The gathering was an opportunity to discuss regional developments, Swedish interests and how to further strengthen dialogues and collaborations with the region.



- **WPS online meeting**

Building on previous meetings on the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) agenda, the Institute hosted an online meeting focused on how the shrinking civic space is affecting women in peacebuilding and in society at large.



- **Public Speaking Training**

Skills development is an important part of the Institute's internal life. In March the staff had three inspiring training sessions on effective communication and presentation skills, with the public speaking coach Zein Ghanma.



Activities in April 2024

- **Deputy Director Martina Berglund took part in a regional promotion meeting in Cairo**

In mid-April the Deputy Director took part in a meeting organized by the Swedish Foreign Ministry and the Embassy of Sweden in Cairo, addressing issues such as effective communication, and promoting Team Sweden collaboration. It gathered representatives of governmental agencies and Swedish diplomats in the region, and it included workshops and learning sessions.



- **WPS online meeting on Coalition Building**

On April 18th, the Institute hosted an online meeting, where some 20 participants delved into the topic of Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) with a focus on networks and coalition building. Participants included stakeholders from civil society, academia, international organizations, and both public and private sectors from the MENA region and Europe.



- **Dialogue meeting on Youth, Peace and Security in Amman**

On April 24th and 25th the Institute participated in a dialogue meeting on Youth, Peace and Security in Amman, hosted by the UN. The event gathered officials, representatives from the UN and regional organizations, as well as youth civil society, for a sharing of experiences, best practices, and recommendations, fostering intergenerational learning, exchange and collaboration between policymakers, development partners, and youth representatives.



- **Workshop on Intergenerational Dialogue**

On April 25th, in connection to the UN meeting (mentioned above), the Institute, together with the FBA (Folke Bernadotte Academy) and the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation hosted an informal workshop on intergenerational dialogue. It was attended by government representatives from different parts of the world, as well as by representatives from the UN and from the League of Arab States.



Activities in May 2024

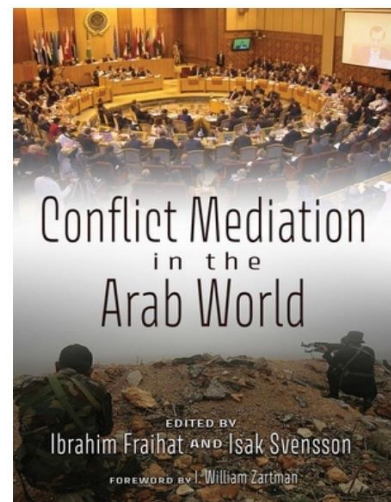
- **Storytelling at Stockholm Forum**

At the Stockholm Forum on Peace and Development 2024 (May 4th-6th) the Institute, in partnership with Arab Reform Initiative, hosted a session on “Storytelling” to foster empathy and understanding. In the margin of the Forum the Institute also hosted a couple of roundtable discussions on how the developments in the MENA region effects the EU – MENA relationship.



- **Book presentation**

On May 13th the Institute hosted an online presentation of the recently published book ‘Conflict Mediation in the Arab World’. It started with a presentation by and conversation with the two editors of the book, Dr Ibrahim Fraihat (Doha Institute) and Dr. Isak Svensson (Uppsala University) and comments by mediation advisors Karma Ekmekji (Issam Fares Institute, AUB) and Barbro Svedberg (FBA). This was followed by an open discussion with participants. Some 50 people attended the meeting, with a majority being students, researchers and practitioners from universities, think tanks and organisations in the Arab region.



- **“Pop-up” of the Dialogue Institute in Morocco**

May 20th-24th the Programme team of the Institute travelled to Morocco, for a regional workshop on entrepreneurship and innovation, as well as for meetings on EU-MENA relations and intercultural dialogue, and on youth participation in climate action. The visit was a chance to increase the Institute’s contacts and visibility in North Africa. The workshop, co-hosted with the Swedish Institute (SI) and the Embassy of Sweden in Rabat, gathered entrepreneurs from North Africa and from Sweden for interactive learning and networking, inspiring future collaborations.



- **Informal WPS online meeting on policy making and peacebuilding**

Continuing the conversation in the informal network on WPS, the Institute hosted an online session with a focus on how policy makers can best support local peace builders in advancing the WPS agenda, on May 30th.



Activities in June 2024

- **WPS Policy Working Group meeting**

On June 5th and 6th, the Institute hosted the first meeting of the regional policy working group on Women, Peace and Security. The group is led by the Issam Fares Institute (IFI) and UN Women and has several other partner organisations. This was the first of a series of meetings aimed at producing a “white paper” to be shared with the International Community, as a way of including voices from the region in the preparations for the 25th anniversary of resolution 1325 at the UN Security Council in October.



- **Informal WPS online meeting on the role of media in relation to women, peace & security**

Within the informal network on WPS, the Institute held an online session on the role of media in raising awareness on women, peace, and security. The meeting started with a panel of esteemed media experts and then opened for a discussion.



Activities in July 2024

- **Meetings on Youth, Peace and Security and intergenerational dialogue**

In early July, the Institute held meetings with UNDP regional hub for the Arab states and H.E. the Jordanian minister of Youth, in preparation for the launching event of the Arab regional strategy for YPS in August, when the Institute is expected to hold side sessions on intergenerational dialogues.



- **Planning day**

In early July the Institute held a planning day focused on a range of issues from work methods and work environment to planning of activities for the autumn. The day started with a team building exercise with a guided graffiti tour of Amman.



Communication

During 2024 the Institute has further intensified its communication work. The website has become more user friendly, with subsections on different thematic areas of work. Detailed reports from many of the activities mentioned in this list are available at the [Swedish Dialogue institute website - Sweden Abroad](#). The main social media communication platform is [LinkedIn](#), now with close to 6000 followers, and the numbers continue to grow steadily. The Institute is using [YouTube](#), for interviews and other visual material. An account on Instagram will be activated after the summer.

The social media communication has reflected the different activities carried out. Four thematic areas have been more prominent; the EU-MENA dialogues; intergenerational dialogues; women, peace, and security; and entrepreneurship.

