

Conceptual Framework

Table of Contents

04	Local Government
08	Good Governance
11	Democracy
14	Civil Society
17	Sustainability
20	Citizenship
24	Voluntary Work
28	Human Rights
32	Gender Equality
37	Development and Empowerment
40	Political Terminology and Definitions
49	Youth - Related Terminology and Concepts

Local Government

Definition of Local Government

Local government is a management model of democratic governance. The concept of local governance has emerged due to the expansion of state functions and duties, and in order to consolidate citizens' rights to and participation in the management of their affairs. This means that citizens conduct their affairs by themselves within a particular local authority, thus achieving the purpose of creating local authorities which is in the division of responsibilities and powers between the central government and local areas.

Characteristics of Local Government

- **Autonomy**; which means governing a community of specific geographical area in all matters pertaining to the affairs of its population.
- Local governance requires members of local councils to be **elected by the population** of that community who themselves are in the best place to know their needs in contrast to other forms of public administration characterized by subordination to the central authority.

Administrative Centralization

Centralization means the reservation of all powers in the hands of one governing body in all parts of the state. This means that only one authority in the state undertakes the same functions by itself or by staff that do not enjoy any authority themselves. In other words, centralization confines state administrative functions to the representatives of the central government in the capital (i.e. ministers) without the participation of any other bodies. Centralization is also based on the consolidation of management in one single source based in the capital.

Administrative centralization is based on two important pillars:

1. Restrict decision-making power to the central authority.

2. Subordination of administrative staff to the central authority according to a certain hierarchy.

Administrative Decentralization

Administrative decentralization entails the distribution of administrative functions between the central government in the capital and between regional bodies or independent competent facilities assuming their responsibilities under the supervision and control of the central government.

Our interest is in regional decentralization which means the administrative bodies that exercise its powers independently from the central authority, but under its supervision and control, such as local authorities (i.e. municipal and village councils) in the Palestinian system.

Local Authority and Public Participation

- Local authorities/local government bodies are considered a fundamental pillar of political processes in the society at the local level.
- Local government is a system based on the involvement of the largest number of citizens in solving the problems faced by citizens, thus applying democracy at the local level.
- The local citizens are most understanding of their needs and priorities. This obligates the local councils to constantly feel their priorities, problems, needs and desires through, for example, public polls, town hall meetings, and citizens' complaints boxes that allows citizens to voice their concerns in secrecy and without revealing their identities. All those methods are ways to instill and practice the principle of public accountability.
- It is imperative that local councils apply the principle of impartiality and equality between citizens in all public services provided by the local authority, start from the citizens' application for receipt of this service and ending by its delivery in real life.
- The presence of local councils provides an opportunity for educating the community members on the adoption of modern management methods and good governance.

- Local authority's projects, programs and activities are integral part of other official and popular efforts aiming at the improvement of the society's economic, social and cultural status.

Status of Local Governments (Local Councils)

- The local council enjoys a legal personality and financial independence whose functions and powers are defined by the Palestinian Local Authorities Law of 1997. Local councils' forms and structures are governed by the rules and regulations in force that regulate and coordinate their activities with the purpose of achieving their desired objectives.
- Each local body is governed by a local council directly elected by the citizens of the local community. The number of council members is determined by the regulation in force that is issued by the Minister of Local Government and approved by the Council of Ministers.
- Local councils increasingly perform a large number of functions covering service provision and economic, political and cultural fields, among others.
- The local council can issue bylaws and decisions as it deems appropriate and can cooperate with other local councils in order to identify the optimal ways to best serve its citizens.

Roles of Local Government

- Encourage citizens for participation in local development and the building of the Palestinian local government system and monitoring of performance in accordance with the principles of democracy, transparency and accountability.
- Motivate citizens to adopt a positive attitude towards the development processes and the protection of public property.
- Coordinate with the central government and other local authorities in order to implement joint efforts, increase the efficiency of administrative functions and, and improve the provision of public services to the citizens in terms of quality and quantity.
- Build the skills of local administrators and leaders capable of assuming responsibility for public functions.

- Reduce dependence on the state and increase the contribution of local community in development.
- Develop a sense of belonging and loyalty to the community among the citizens.
- Organize and develop the relationship between other local councils at the national level.

Responsibilities of Local Governments

- Provide citizens with necessary services and manage, organize, develop their quality and sustainability.
- Develop programs, projects and policies and ensure the availability of material and technical resources to ensure their success. It is important that such programs, projects and policies are derived from the citizens' needs rather than the personal preferences of officials.
- Construct infrastructure and public facilities, including streets, bridges, markets, slaughterhouses, hospitals, public parks, cemeteries, cultural institutions, stadiums, and clubs among others.
- Urban planning which includes the preparation and execution of physical plans, land use and zoning, in light of citizens' needs and desires of citizens. In addition, local authorities are responsible for the issuance of permits for buildings and other construction, as well as the oversight of buildings and facilities.
- Fulfill all administrative and financial function in all sectors and activities undertaken by the local council such as: collection of fees, management of funds, application of the approved financial system, and preparation of the annual budget and taxes, etc.).
- Undertake monitoring and oversight responsibly including revision of all transactions of the local council (in terms of financial, administrative, legal aspects) in addition to inspection of its accounts and inventory of its assets.

Good Governance

Definition of Good Governance

Good governance denotes the best way to govern and manage the affairs of the state or institutions, at all levels, within a complementary view of political, social, economic and administrative sectors. Good governance envisages a just leadership based on rationality, recourse to law, respect for public liberties, consolidation of democracy, participation, equality, serving public interests and social development.

Importance of Good Governance

- Good Governance contributes to the realization and reinforcement of human well-being and the expansion of human capabilities and their economic, social and political choices, opportunities and freedoms of, especially for the poorest and most marginalized.
- Good governance has implications on the community such as: loyalty, creativity, self- monitoring, and flexibility. Good Governance is a pre-requisite for the process of sustainable growth and combating poverty because bad governance is an essential factor in hindering efforts for the realization of national development goals. Bad governance also deepens the deprivation and divergence between groups in society, thus creating social and economic instability.
- Good governance allows for public debate on the impact of public policies - and help in the reduction of the divergent and improper policies through public accountability of politicians and civil servants.

Levels of Application of Good Governance

Good governance is applicable to all three sectors: the state, the private sector and civil society. The relationship between the three sectors is very important to ensure the sustainability of human development. On one hand the state creates an acceptable enabling environment, political and legal, conducive to development while the private sector creates jobs and employment. On the other hand, civil society facilitates crossing of

political and social action through mobilization of groups to participate in political and social activities.

Characteristics of Good Governance

1. Effective public participation that ensures that all men and women are entitled to have their voices heard and influence decision - making.
2. Rule of law and state institutions, by applying the frameworks and legal provisions in a fair and just manner without any exclusion of members of the society.
3. Transparency in order to ensure free flow and exchange of information so that institutions and their transactions and accounts are directly open for the relevant entities.
4. Preparedness and responsiveness so that service institutions and their staff are in the service of country and its citizens.
5. Orientation towards the public good where all conflicting interests are mediated in order to reach a broad consensus about what public benefit means to the country and local communities.
6. Social justice so that all citizens - men and women – have the opportunity to improve their life.
7. Effectiveness and efficiency of public institutions and process that produce outcomes and results capable of meeting the needs of the masses with a firm and strict commitment to the utilization of national resources.
8. Accountability to the public of all decision makers within the State, the private sector or civil society institutions.
9. Strategic vision where the development vision is determined by the state and civil society institutions through a long-term perspective to the process of community development, good governance and human development.
10. Legitimacy to ensure the legitimacy of power through clear and legal institutional frameworks.
11. Care in dealing with resources so as to ensure their exploitation, operation and use occur in a way that helps in raising the standards of living and welfare.
12. The right environment necessary to ensure environmental protection, revival and restoration through the achievement of sustainable self-dependence.

13. Empowerment and competence: all segments of society are enabled to act and achieve their legitimate objectives and with an appropriate environment to maximize the success of these initiatives and achieve the best status for society.
14. Partnership: good governance does not mean in any way the government's monopoly of the management of society's affairs, since it is the responsibility of all active major social segments.
15. Decentralization: good governance takes into account the spatial distributions of local groups and emphasizes the fact that human system has inherently multiple levels and is associated with the principle of self-regulation in accordance with the right to self-determination at each level.

Pre-requisites for Good Governance

1. Independence of the judiciary and non-interference in its affairs by the legislative or the executive authorities.
2. Periodic elections for the government and holding its agencies accountable to oversight institutions and the people.
3. Formation of community institutions, and the correct relations between them, at the local level to effectively participate actively in governance, especially in large countries with a vast area.

Democracy

Definition of Democracy:

Democracy is a political and social system by which the people are the source of sovereignty and power, because the people govern themselves through their representatives.

Characteristics of Democracy:

- The people elect their representatives through general elections.
- The elected majority rules, which by definition represents a political majority rather than a representing political, racial, ethnic or religious majority.
- Safeguarding the rights of the opposition and minorities.
- Protection of public freedoms and rights, including freedom of expression and press and the right to assembly and practice of religion and religious believes.
- The existence of legislations and rule of law that respects and guarantees the rights of all citizens and equality between them before the law.
- Reduction of the ruler's arbitrary power through the formation of lasting institutions and mechanisms for citizens' defense.
- Separation of the three powers: legislative, executive and judiciary.
- Consolidation of the principle of Constitutionalism which means that the authorities and citizens respect the constitution and refer to the judiciary to resolve conflicts and disputes.

Advantages of Democracy:

- Democracy has a great power for the mobilization human societies since it offers fertile ground for people to become aware of their status, rights and duties and self-determination.
- Makes freedom a common factor for all citizens.
- Removes fear from citizens' hearts because of awareness of their rights and monitoring of the actions of those in power.

- Protection of people's dignity and development on their independence, maturity thinking and social behavior.
- Existence of mechanisms to achieve balance between government and opposition.
- Allows ample space for debate, free discussion and logical reasoning for convincing others.
- Opens up new avenues for creativity and identification of more appropriate solutions in many fields.
- Peaceful management of political and social conflicts.
- Offers people greater opportunities to influence the course of events and contribute to public life through political and civic action and modern means of available communication technology and information dissemination in the society.
- Provides a clear mechanism for the application of the concept and practice of power at all levels of human relations.

Culture of Democracy

Democracy is a concept that societies have formed and arrived at as a result of various human experiences and debate over source of political power and its legitimacy.

In political philosophy, democracy denotes peaceful coexistence in society and can be summarized in individual's autonomy, freedom, rationality, and civilized behaviors with the rest of individuals in an organized society. The culture of democracy grows gradually in any society as a result of its experience, actual application in comparison with other peoples' experiences in highly developed democratic countries.

Since it is human experience marked with great success and achievements and reflected the human needs in this modern age, democracy can be adopted as a way to live in freer societies in and gradually outgrow authoritarian regimes. Of course, the process of democratization demands lots of efforts, perseverance and sacrifices because it is laden with struggle with such regimes that tend increase their suppression of individual and collective freedoms during such transformation.

Therefore, democracy should be understood not only as some form of governance, but also as socio-political culture that pervasively influences the political, economic judicial and religious institutions. Moreover, democracy is a collective behavior that needs a wide basis of conscientious citizens who are aware of their affairs and long to live freely and openly without fear of authority threatening them arbitrarily. It is therefore necessary that everyone accepts democracy as the basis for peaceful conflict resolution through open and rational dialogue devoid of fanaticism and authoritarianism.

Manifestations of democratic behavior appear in all human relations, most importantly in **the family**. Dialogue on how to run the household is the first experience of democracy, provided that there is full equality between the man and the woman in the family. Without this equality, democracy seems a hypocritical claim because patriarchal authority in the household alone would most often turn into total domination and unbelievable arrogance. Open dialogue and discussion between the spouses give the children a lesson and a sound practice of democracy. Even engaging them in dialogue, while respecting them, increase the freedom of each individual develops and their creative abilities.

Similarly **at schools**, student learns democratic behavior from democratic teachers who teach them how to internalize the values of democracy and how to apply them in real life. This is how children learn, for example, to open up to others, and reject other's domination and develop their minds and independence as well as how to work creatively with other children in their common activities.

In the **social surroundings** generally, the individuals' acceptance of each other as they are is vital to the development of self-esteem as well as a sense of importance and distinctiveness within the group.

In short, democracy appear in every aspect and arenas of **public life**, manifested in the form of respecting political, religious, cultural, artistic opinions of others. Democracy is also central to the acceptance of the rule of law in terms of creating a civic behavior based on citizenship, human rights, individual and collective freedoms and social, economic and political participation as well as on the basis of equal opportunities between citizens who are equal before the law.

Civil Society

Definition of Civil Society:

- Civil society denotes the social and political activities – i.e. the relationships, institutions and culture – that enable citizens to monitor state action and to intervene when these actions oppose the rights and interests of citizens.
- Civil society is social organizations that represent the prevalent interests, demands and culture which may be reconciliatory with or opposing to those of the political power.
- Civil society is all institutions and organized actions that allow individuals to enjoy public resources, services and goods without direct intervention of the government.

Roles and Functions of Civil Society:

The essence of the role of civil society is the organization and activation of people's participation in taking decisions that determine their destiny and confronting public policies that negatively impact their livelihoods or deepen their impoverishment.

Moreover, civil society performs a vital role in spreading the cultures of initiative – taking and institution-building. It emphasizes citizens' effective contribution to major transformations in the society and their collective will by undertaking historical actions, or attracting them to undertake historical action, so that decision making is not monopolized by the ruling elites.

In relation to the above roles, civil society organizations perform five functions:

- Building consensus on public interests among various groups or within the group members,
- Conflict solving and resolution.
- Increasing of wealth and improve the economic situation of the constituency groups,

- Formation of new leaderships.
- Promotion and dissemination of democratic culture.

Composition of Civil Society

Civil society includes any entity organized by the community that is based on regular membership in organizations or groups working in the public, professional or social sectors. Civil Society does not include groups which membership is based on blood, kinship or primal loyalties such as the family, clan, sect or tribe. Therefore, the most important components of civil society are:

- Professional associations and unions.
- Labor unions.
- Social movements.
- Agricultural, professional, consumer and housing cooperatives.
- Civic organizations.
- University faculty clubs.
- Social and sports clubs.
- Youth councils and centers.
- Student unions and councils.
- Chambers of commerce and industry.
- Businessmen association and groups.
- Not-for profit firms and non-governmental organizations such as human rights centers, and organizations advocating the protection of rights and the empowerment of certain groups such as women, children, detainees and persons with disabilities.
- Organizations working on environmental sustainability and protection.
- Independent press and non-governmental publishing and media outlets.
- Studies and research centers and cultural associations.

In light of the above diversity, the **following basic model can be envisioned for a progressive, highly organized and effective civil society:**

- Civil society is composed of a group of institutions (not only organizations) that can play an active role in the process of social, political and cultural change.

- A highly developed civil society is based on voluntary action, initiative and voluntarism – within a framework of organized participation - which is the cornerstone in the culture for institution-building.
- A progressive civil society entails that the existence of a common vision and awareness, and a clear collective vision for social change between its institutions. Civil Society institutions shall adopt positions of advocacy and support for their constituency groups, social categories or sectors, to obtain their civic, cultural, social, political and economic rights.
- Civil society institutions seek the attain balance within the society and to contribute to the process of social transformation.
- Civil society organizations adopt a holistic perspective, which means that they view local and national problems are interconnected with regional and international institutions problems. Therefore, civil society as a whole does have a mandate and a role to play at each of these levels.

Sustainability

Definition of Sustainability

Sustainability means ensuring people's access to development opportunities without ignoring the future generations which entails the necessity for adopting the principle of generational solidarity when formulating development policies. Therefore, it is imperative to (institutionalize) development in its widest and most comprehensive notions through governmental and non-governmental organizations so that they contribute to the sustainability of development.

The aim of sustainability is to pursue development options that take into account the welfare of future generations and expand their possibilities that will enable them enjoy environmental resources and values that we exploit at present.

Elements of Sustainability

Sustainability is achieved by taking into account three elements in an integrated and balanced manner. These elements intersect with one another and constitute the basis for considering the available resources as well as present and future capabilities.

These elements are:

- **The Economic Element:** Stability is one of the most important economic issues in related to economic growth and sustainable development. Ensuring the economic stability of a society impacts the overall process of social and political development in that society, and establishes the transition to a stage of economic growth, abundance and prosperity, and hence the ability for long term investment. Furthermore, available economic opportunities are estimated at both the medium and long terms, in addition to employment opportunities, and the balanced development of various economic sectors while maintaining the reduction of natural resources depletion.

- **The Social Element:** Achievement of peace, security and social justice are some of the important factors of sustainability which lies in the interaction with the economic (and political) dimension. Peace and public security play important roles in the possibility of planning for the future and in the reduction in wasting resources in conflicts, wars or internal strife. In turn, availability of resources and public security enable investment in long-term projects.

Social justice also provides a framework for collective social responsibility, and participation in bringing about sustainable development. In addition, there are important issues in the social dimension of sustainability which are related to the community's relations with natural resources, the environment, and other issues pertaining to population centers, distribution of social classes, the various roles of community groups, and compositions of the population. Hence, good planning balances between the various developmental needs and uncontrolled social and economic transformations.

- **The Environmental Element** that includes the following: climate change, water availability, especially for drinking and flat waters, land use and green areas (especially in large populated areas), the availability of energy and its alternatives (renewable alternatives and alternative that are clean or less polluting to the environment).

Sustainability Measurement and Prediction

When policies, programs or projects are planned, the long term effects and impacts of such policies are taken into account. This is usually done through measuring a number of sustainability indicators, the most important of which are the following:

- **Demography Index:** This means the number of present population, demographic distribution, and age pyramid of population, the percentage of population within or outside the labor force, the fertility rate and expected rate of population growth. These estimates improve the capacity for long-term policy planning, and prediction of future needs of the population, and different effects on the demographic composition of the community.

- **Available Resources and Environmental Index:** Resources available for the public are divided into renewable resources (such as solar energy), and exhaustible resources (such as petroleum). It is therefore important to estimate the type of resources used and the amount of use, and the possible alternatives to reduce dependence on exhaustible resources, along with the impact of people's consumption, production and daily life needs on the ecological balance.

Citizenship

Definition of citizenship:

- The term means “the status of being a citizen”. The word is derived from Old French “citeain” which is also derived from the word “cite” which mean a city. A city denoted the place of residence. In Arabic, the term “muwatana” is derived from “watan” which means “homeland”.
- From a **social science perspective**, citizenship denotes a specific status or a social relationship between a natural person and the political society (i.e. the state). In this relationship, the first part (the citizen) provides allegiance to the second party (the state) while the later provides protection. This relationship between the individual and the State is defined by the existing political and governance system.
- As a **political construction**, citizenship is (the status of citizen who enjoys the rights and fulfills the duties imposed on him/her as a result of belonging to country). Alternatively, it is “the relationship between the individual and the state as defined by the law of that state and incorporates all reciprocal rights and duties which entails that status citizenship entails the enjoyment of a certain level of freedom accompanied by certain responsibilities and obligations.
- From a **psychological / emotional perspective**, citizenship is understood as the feeling of belonging and loyalty to one’s country and its political leadership that is the source of gratification of basic needs and protection from the hazards threatening their destiny. Thus, citizenship refers to the relationship between the individual and its homeland or country.

Citizenship Values:

The enjoyment of citizenship status entails a series of rights and duties based on the following **four central values**:

- Equality
- Freedom
- Participation
- Social Responsibility

Manifestations of Citizenship:

- Automatic, voluntary and optional participation in various beneficial social activities.
- Adherence to values acceptable to all citizens.
- Adaptation of behavior in accordance with the national and global standards that govern the individual, social and cultural lives.
- Guidance of ethical conduct, a sense of identity, search for truth, voicing the truth, civilized conduct, appreciation and respect for women, justice, dialogue, compromise, moderation, acceptance of others, coexistence, brotherhood, solidarity and tolerance.
- Protection of public and private property.
- Respect for laws in force.
- Respect for others' religions, beliefs, cultures and point of views.
- Respect for others' rights and freedoms, especially respect for women and children.
- Faithful services to and defense of the country.
- Combating corruption and reporting of all adverse actions.
- Fulfillment of financial and tax obligations and duties.
- Taking initiatives for participation in solidarity duties.
- Participation in elections.

There are many rights and duties embedded in the aforementioned manifestations of citizenship. The following sections elaborate on some of the major reciprocal obligations on the citizens and the state ensuing from citizenship.

Rights Granted by Citizenship:

The concept of citizenship indicates the organic nature of the relationship between the individual and the county granting this individual its nationality and citizenship both of which entail certain rights and impose their duties as stipulated by legislations and norms. Both concepts also

indicate the existence of common resources, objectives and purposes shared by all citizens. Therefore, citizenship is associated an existing state which has executive powers, constitution, legislations and functional systems. Citizenship is no longer limited to affiliations to certain tribes, religious sects, ethnicities or social classes. Rather, citizenship transcends such narrow boundaries to be associated to a larger one homeland for all.

In modern societies, Citizenship is a social relationship between individuals and the state upon which the state provides individuals with economic, political and social protection through the legislations and the constitution that equates all individuals as natural human entities. In return, the individuals offer the state their loyalty and resort its legislations law for the obtainment of their rights.

It is clear from the above definition that citizenship implies a contractual mechanism (i.e. a social contract) according to which the government running the state is responsible for deepening the sense of citizenship. In case the state breaches the terms of this contract through its failure to secure social, economic and political protection for the individual citizen, or failure to establish equity between all citizens before the law, it is natural to see how the sense of citizenship, loyalty and adherence to law fades in the society at large. In this case, individuals search for other reference to pride them with protection, or create the illusion of such protection. Instead of loyalty to the state, individuals often re-enact their relationship with their religious, familial, tribal, ethnical and regional roots.

Responsibilities and Duties Embedded in Citizenship:

Some argue that citizenship should be understood as entailing the active participation of the individual in a group or a number of groups, and also includes a sense of belonging and loyalty to the concept of state or the civic system rather than loyalty to its leaser, such as the king or the president. Loyalty shall be based on the concept of belonging to collective issues and identity which means that citizenship is the active membership in a political society within a framework of rights and responsibilities determined by the law and Constitution.

The concept of the citizenship necessitates the creation of citizenship – based institutions (such as political parties, civil society organizations, and other organized groups) within which citizens seek to create and shape their allegiances and train on how to express their concerns and obtain their rights.

Consequently, citizenship- relationships break the hierarchical ones based on blood and kinship. Citizenship now expresses equality of individuals before the law and condemns any violations to such equal status. Thus, citizens represent the civic public sphere and the focal point of any quality exchange between human beings. A citizen is a value denoting a person who loves others through loving one-self loves, and who seeks the common good for others which seeking the attainment of his individual interests.

Voluntary Work

The Concept of Volunteerism

Voluntarism refers to the exercise of humanitarian efforts by members of the community, whether individually or collectively, that are primarily based on desire and self-motivation, especially the feeling of belonging to and conviction of an idea, group or society as a whole.

Volunteering contributes to meeting the urgent social needs or serving a certain issue. Therefore, volunteering is considered a sort of free testing for work through the voluntary participation of individuals in doing a certain act motivated by their sense of responsibility towards their community and their homeland.

Volunteering is also considered a pillar for comprehensive development at the economic, political, social and cultural levels. It reflects the vitality of the community, and the willingness of its members for sacrifice.

Basic Principles of Volunteering

1. **Media and Advocacy:** Media should be used to advocate for volunteerism, particularly when linked to the issue of comprehensive development (economic, political, social and cultural). Advocacy for volunteering gains special attention in order to promote confidence at the political, family and community levels.
2. **Determine the need for volunteers:** This matter is of great importance, because it is closely related to the proper utilization of volunteers' capacities and potentials. If it is important to find volunteers, it is important to use their energies properly.
3. **Volunteers are essentially recruited to meet the basic needs of the institution or community.**
4. **Volunteers must be involved in activities and functions consistent with their abilities and desires so that their voluntary work does not conflict with their social or cultural ideals, or the prevailing social culture.**

5. The organization must develop an appropriate regulatory framework for the management of volunteer work (which means the institutionalization of volunteering).

Volunteers Selection and Mobilization

Selection of volunteers is of utmost importance because the proper selection of volunteers can lead to the following results:

- Helps in developing a common understanding of both parties (volunteers and the organization) of the nature of the work that the volunteers will perform, the framework under which will function, the short-and long-term benefits on the volunteer and the organization, and the obligations and responsibilities of each of the concerned parties.
- Enables putting the volunteers' capacities and potentials to the best uses possible
- Reduces the cost of preparation.
- Facilitates and accelerates the achievement of goals.
- Prevents conflict and prevents frustration.
- Avoids burdening volunteers with tasks beyond their capacities.
- Helps volunteers understand the goals and aspirations of the organization they volunteer at.

Volunteers Preparation and Training

Most often, volunteers need some training and preparation prior to undertaking any activity. To better benefit from their potentials, some volunteers need more preparation and longer periods of training; others may require less effort before they become ready for mobilization

Training and preparation play prominent roles in:

- Developing stronger ties between the volunteer to the organization and/or group.
- Maintaining volunteers for the longest period of time possible.
- Maximizing the use of volunteers' capacities and energies at all levels.

Motivation and Activation:

Motivation and activation are central factors in recruiting and maintaining volunteers as well as in benefiting from their inherent abilities or and newly acquired skills, both at the group or at the organizational levels.

There are many ways for volunteers' motivation including:

- Actual participation: this means putting volunteers to work in tasks related to the organization's core functions rather than assigning them marginal or mundane tasks.
- Transparency: this means that the group or organization's work must be known or visible to the volunteer and that the objectives must not be hidden.
- Recognition: organizations or groups must always recognize volunteers' achievements, efforts, and sacrifices.
- Integration: organizations must provide volunteers with ample opportunities for their integration into the organization and/or group, if they so desire.
- Consultation: organizations should provide volunteers with opportunities for dialogue and consultation and take their views into account.
- Removal of obstacles and hindrances: "Routine" discourages volunteers and leads to the loss of their interest and motivation. Therefore, care should be taken to ensure that various obstacles are removed in order to encourage volunteers to continue with their involvement in the organization or group.
- Acknowledgement and appreciation: It is similar to recognition but is different from appreciation. Recognition is done publically, such as in public events, while appreciation and acknowledgments can be done through, for example, a thank you letter that is sent to the volunteers after the completion of the volunteering period.

Monitoring and Evaluation

It is understood that "volunteering" is circumstantial, meaning that it is done for a specified period or for a specific issue. For example, volunteers in summer camps are involved for a short period of time because the camps are often limited in their timeframes.

However, some volunteering can be characterized by continuity and permanence. Perhaps this type of volunteering is the hardest because it is extremely difficult to identify and recruit the best volunteers that can continue to be engaged for a long time. A volunteer's return to the organization is subject to the satisfaction s/he felt at the time of first experience volunteering. However, the organization and/or group must have a clear idea on how to make best use of its volunteers, particularly if it has invested in their preparation and training or in case volunteers' have gained important experience in specific aspects of the work.

On the other hand, it is useful to scientifically evaluate the efforts of volunteers. It is equally important for the organization or group to involve the volunteers in this process in order to ensure its significance and transparency, and identify the achieved results. In this manner, volunteers do self-evaluation and identify their actual contribution and assistance they have provided to the organization and/or group. Finally, evaluation helps the organization identify the gaps and benefit from the lessons learnt in the preparation of better plans in the future.

What do volunteers want from the organization and/or group?	What do the organization and/or group want from volunteers?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feelings of respect and trust by the organization and/or group. • Transparent and democratic treatment and involvement. • Assistance in developing and showing their talents and capacities. • Be properly and clearly informed of the environment of the organization and/or group and its structures. • Be integrated into its framework and allowed to use their energies and potentials in useful and effective ways. • That the institution is serious in its interaction with and treatment of volunteers. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adherence to commitments (i.e. identify patterns of participation and volunteers' adherence to them). • A clear understanding of organizational goals and aspirations. • Not to involve the organization and/or groups in personal situations / issues. • Not to attempt using volunteering for other purposes • Effective integration in the organization and/or group. • Participation in events and activities aiming at volunteers' preparation and training. • Seriousness and credibility in performing their voluntary work

Human Rights

Definition of Human Rights

Human rights are the entitlement of all people to live in dignity, and in peace, and to develop their potentials as human beings to the maximum extent possible. Human rights are “the basic rights and freedoms that all people are entitled to regardless of nationality, sex, national or ethnic origin, race, religion, language, or other status”.

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights defines human rights as: universal legal guarantees, pertains to all humans, and protect individuals and groups from the acts, or the omissions of acts, which affects their human dignity.

Fundamental Principles of Human Rights

We are all equally entitled to our human rights without discrimination of any kind. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible.

- Human rights are **universal**, and cannot be disposed of or deny these rights. All persons in the world have the same rights, and no person who owns these inalienable rights can waive them voluntarily, and others cannot deprive him/ her of these rights.
- Human rights are **indivisible**: Whether they relate to civil, cultural, economic, political or social issues, human rights are inherent to the dignity of every human person.
- **Equality and non-discrimination**: all individuals are equal as human beings and by virtue of the inherent dignity of each human person. All people have the right to enjoy their human rights without distinction of any kind, such as discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, gender, age, language, sexual orientation, religion, political or other opinion, national, social or geographical origin, disability, property, birth or other status.

- **Participation:** Every person and all people have the right to participate in, contribute to, and enjoy civic, economic, social, cultural and political development, freely, effectively and efficiently, under which human rights and fundamental freedoms can be recognized.
- **Accountability, responsibility and Rule of Law:** States and other duty-bearers are answerable for the observance of human rights. In this regard, they have to comply with the legal norms and standards enshrined in international human rights instruments. Where they fail to do so, aggrieved rights-holders are entitled to institute proceedings for appropriate redress before a competent court or other adjudicator in accordance with the rules and procedures provided by law.

International Human Rights Instruments

The basic reference is the International Bill of Human Rights, which consists of the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) and the two subsequent International Covenants, namely the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). The International Bill of Human Rights defines the basic minimum requirements, and provides for the entitlement of all people to enjoy these rights.

Human rights conventions interpret and explain the International Bill of Human Rights, and they also provides for special protection to vulnerable groups from violations of their rights, such as refugees, women, children, and indigenous peoples. Those conventions are also considered sources or references in working with those groups.

Moreover, the International Humanitarian Law is concerned with defining the rights, particularly civil rights, in areas of armed conflict, (also known as the Law of War because it is applied in cases of wars and armed conflicts). The international Humanitarian Law is also an important reference in the international instruments of human rights.

Some Provisions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights:

- **All people are born free and equal in dignity and rights.** They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.
- **Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms without distinction of any kind** such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status, and without any discrimination between men and women.
- **Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.**
- **No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.**
- **All are equal before the law** and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law.
- **Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence** within the borders of each state. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country.
- **All men and women of full age, have the right to marry and to found a family** without any limitation due to race, nationality or religion. They are entitled to equal rights as to marriage, during marriage and at its dissolution.
- **Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion;** this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance
- **Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression;** this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to

seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

- **Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his /her country**, directly or through freely chosen representatives.
- **Everyone has the right to work**, to free choice of employment, to just and favorable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment. Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.
- **Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his / her family**, including food, clothing, housing, medical care , necessary social services, the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his / her control.
- **Everyone has the right to education**. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

Gender Equality

Definition of Gender

Gender is defined as “the qualities, roles, activities and responsibilities associated with men (males) and women (females) at a particular time”. Because of the fact that human beings are part of a community, the social upbringing plays the key role in conditioning and defining the behaviors of individuals according to their sex. The concept of gender is based on the assumption that change in social characteristics is possible by changing the social roles in society with the passage of time and change in the social and economic conditions so that both sexes undertake new roles.

Differences Between Sex and Gender	
Gender	Sex
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the social roles performed by men and women • Influenced by many factors • Varies in according with race, color, social class, religion, culture, age and marital status. • Changes over time 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on the biological differences between both sexes • Male or female • Difference in chromosomes, genes, genitals, and reproductive function. • Does not change over time

Gender Relations

Gender relations refer to the power relations between men and women that are held in society because of which women are assigned an inferior status. Gender relations can consist of relations of cooperation, communication and mutual support and can be consists of relations of discrimination, aggregation, competition, and conflict because of the inequality and difference between the sexes.

Gender Based Division of Labor

Women and men in the community are assigned different functions, responsibilities and roles based on sex. This is called gender-based division

of labor which differs from one society to another and from one culture to another and changes over time and with change in external conditions.

Gender Roles and Responsibilities:

- **A productive role:** this means the production of goods or services in exchange for income or subsistence. Productive work is the work recognized as work by individuals and communities. Both men and women perform productive work but the productive work performed by women is not assigned the same value as the productive work done by men. Men productive action is assigned a higher value and higher financial rewards.
- **A reproductive role:** this includes child bearing, child care and household functions such as cooking, washing, cleaning, feeding, carrying and caring for children. This work also entails the re-production of the work which means that without this the worker will not be able to perform the productive work. This work is necessary but is not given the same value given to the productive work and is financially rewarded or compensated in monetary terms. The reproductive work is not calculated in the traditional national economy and is usually performed by women.
- **A cultural role:** This role includes the activities that take place in the public domain such as cultural and social activities. They lead to more standing in the community. Usually men have more time to play this role than women because they usually don't have a reproductive role. Therefore men have greater representation than in decision-making in their communities.

Change in Gender Roles:

Historically, in most societies, many changes in production processes have led to changes in the division of labor and gender relations. This means that men and women around the world are now playing roles different from the roles that they have traditionally performed.

Access to and Control over Resources

- **Access to resources** means that a person can use a particular source. For example: women can plant or farm in a particular field or in a piece of land.
- **Control over resources** means the ability to make decisions concerning these resources (such as land) in terms of deciding on who and how to use or sell these resources.

Gender Needs

Gender needs of men and women: Since men and women have different roles and responsibilities, they have different interests and needs. These needs include practical and strategic needs and interests.

1. Practical Gender Needs

These are the immediate or short term gender needs that men and women can determine because they are linked to their daily lives. Women's needs differ along with the differences in the roles they undertake. Women consider safe housing, clean water, health care, and income immediate needs that should be met and are necessary for the betterment of their living conditions. But meeting these needs alone will not lead to changing the inferior status of women. Sometime however, meeting the practical needs of women can reinforce the gender division of labor.

2. Strategic Gender Needs and Interests

These are the needs women consider strategic because they are related to their inferior status in society which in turn is linked to issues of gender-based power, control and division of labor. The strategic needs may include:

- Changes to the gender-based division of labor. For example, the traditional division of labor put the burdens of domestic work and child care on women. In contrast, men's participation in the reproductive roles can change this traditional role.
- Promulgation of legislations that supports women's rights,
- Elimination of all forms of domestic violence and violence against women,

- Equal pay between women and men for the same type of work,
- Empowerment of women's control over their bodies.

Women cannot usually identify the strategic needs as easily as the practical needs are identified. But certain circumstances can lead to women considering some practical needs as strategic needs and interests.

Gender and Women's Empowerment Pyramid



The term “women empowerment” can be defined according to this pyramid as: *“Enabling women to obtain an equal status as men and equally participate in the development process in order to control access to agents of production equally with men”.*

Women's empowerment and gender equality occur at various levels:

- **Physical well-being:** this means women's enjoyment of basic needs and well-being relative to men (in for example income, food supplies, health care).
- **Access to resources:** this means the equality of women and men in accessing agents of production such as land, credit, employment, training, marketing facilities and all services and public benefits. The equality of access to resources is lined to the equality of opportunities a matter that requires amendments to laws and legislations in order to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women.

- **Awareness:** This concept is related to the awareness of men and women of the difference between sex and gender, the realization that gender roles result from social culture which therefore can be changed, and that the division of labor must be fair between men and women. They also should realize that neither men nor women should control of the opposite sex economically or politically.
- **Participation:** This is known as the equal participation between men and women at all levels of decision-making, policy development, development planning and management especially of development program where effective participation is of utmost importance.
- **Control over resources and privileges:** Raising the awareness of women and their mobilization can lead to achieving control and influence over decision-making process in order to achieve equality and balance between men and women in control of resources and benefits.

Gender Equality

Equality on the basis of gender does not only mean involving an equal numbers of women and men or girls and boys in all activities. It does not also mean treating men and women or girls and boys in the same way.

Gender equality represents the aspirations towards a society where men or women do not suffer from all types of poverty; where men and women can live the life that satisfies and fulfils each one of them.

Gender equality also means the recognition that men and women have different needs and priorities; that they face various obstacles; that they have different aspirations; and that they contribute to the development process in different ways.

Gender equality is closely linked to women's empowerment. Women will be able to achieve equality only when they can act on behalf of themselves.

Development and Empowerment

Definition of Development:

Development is currently defined as “all positive changes occurring in society encompassing of all economic, social and cultural fields”.

Today, there are many definition of the concept of development one can find in the literature, as the term underwent through many developments itself. The concept of development has over the past decades moved away from a narrow focus on economic aspects to a more focus on and assigning great significance to social and human aspects of development.

Consequently, the concept of development evolved from “economic development” to “human development” which means a transition to the political, cultural and social fields. Human beings have become both the “instrument and the purpose of development”.

Thus, development is a general concept used to refer to radical change or transformation occurring in a particular country at the economic, socio-political and cultural levels and at the level of ensuring environmental sustainability that enables human beings to enjoy long, healthy and creative lives for themselves and for future generations. This is known as “sustainable human development”.

Regardless of the multiplicity of definitions of development, there are a number of elements common to all of them, namely:

- The process of expanding people’s choices (for women and men)
- Basic options: human beings to live a healthy life; acquire knowledge; and obtain the resources necessary for a decent standard of living.
- Additional options: political, economic and social freedoms and the enjoyment of opportunities for creativity, production, self-respect, and guaranteed human rights.
- Human development at both levels: the first level of building human capacities (though the improvement of their health, knowledge and skills) and the second level of actually using the acquired capacity for productive purposes, leisure, or for cultural, political and social activities.

Human Development Index:

The Human Development Index, which is developed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), consists of the following four key indicators:

- Life expectancy at birth.
- Literacy rate among the adult population.
- Gross rate of enrollment in education (primary, secondary and tertiary levels)
- Per capita share of Gross Domestic Product (GDP per Capita)

Definition of Empowerment:

Empowerment can be defined as “the strengthening and activation of the role of human beings in development in relation to his/her relationship with oneself, with the groups around him/her, and with the community as a whole”.

Based on the definition, there are three levels of empowerment:

- **Relationship with one-self:** this means self-empowerment of the individual (at the physical, spiritual and emotional levels), independence, autonomy and self-reliance, expansion of options, and a sense of person’s capacity for participation.
- **Relationships with groups:** this entails the strengthening of relationship with representative institutions, and the capacity to organize and demand rights.
- **Relationship with the community:** this means the type of the surrounding environment (such as the nature of the political system, state institutions, economic and social plans and policies, and the nature of prevailing culture) that enable self-empowerment and the capacity of the individual to freely establish relationships with others.

Aspects of Empowerment:

- The individual's ability to secure basic needs (food, drink, shelter, clothing, health, nutrition, etc.).
- The individual's ability to access development opportunities (such as education, training, employment and income generation).
- The individual's capacity for participation and decision making resolution (at the levels of the family, labor market, state and civil society).
- Self-Awareness and the ability of the individual to recognize his/her individual rights and those of others (Culture Change).
- The Individual's ability to access resource and exercise control over his/her own resources.

Political Terminology and Definitions

Politics

The word "*politics*" is derived from the Greek word "polis" which means the "civic state" or the "Castle in the heart of the city," which is a symbol of the dwellers of the suburbs who participate in the cities and their businesses. Politics is part of the individual's attempt to understand him/herself, his/her surroundings and their relations with other individuals who they interact with. Politics is also the study of the state, its institutions, organs and the functions undertaken by these institutions and agencies and the goals they were created to achieve. Politics is the search for justice, and represents a concept of power, authority and influence.

State

The state is a self-governing capital entity or an organized political and legal entity represented in a group of individuals residing in a territory and who are subject to a political, legal and social organization imposed by a power or authority which has the right to exercise violence or use force.

Government

Government is the authority that exercises sovereignty in the state in order to maintain order and undertake the organization of internal and external affairs. Structurally, the government is comprised of institutions and agencies of governance in the state which develop and implement the legal rules, litigates in disputes and conflicts among individuals, including legislation, law enforcement and the judiciary.

Interest Groups

An organized, or unorganized group, of individuals who share a common interest or unified linkage, but are also interested in furthering and protecting their interests through attempting to influence public opinion and pressure governmental decision-makers to influence their action without trying to control state power.

Pressure Groups

Pressure groups earned their name because they use pressure as a way to force politicians to make decisions in their favor as an important and

influential in both of the state's domestic and foreign policies. Pressure groups may include several types such as religious interest groups, economic interest groups, and ethic and national interest groups.

Political Parties

Political parties are considered an effective way of organizing individuals' political participation in governance by acceding to these parties. Parties play an important role in the representation of minorities and their protection from tyranny. Political parties also work to increase the coherence and cohesion of communities that lack homogeneity. Therefore political parties work to nurture the national feelings and identity among the public, disseminate political awareness to them, and lead liberation movements against all sorts of external and internal domination.

Legislative Authority / Branch

This authority can promulgate, amend and repeal laws and legislations governing the affairs of the state and the life of the individual. The Legislative Authority fulfills the functions of legislation, representation, deliberation, supervision, oversight, investigation and amendment of the constitution.

Executive Authority / Branch

The executive body assumes the responsibility for the implementation of laws issued by the legislature. The executive authority derives its power from the individual's confidence in it. The head of the executive authority is the ruler and governor of its public policies and its representatives abroad. It exercises power and control over the military, security, diplomatic and financial agencies of the state which functions are to enforce the law and achieve public security and order, in addition to the management of military affairs.

Judicial Authority / Branch

Its roles are manifested in the litigation and resolution of individual conflicts and disputes in addition to the enforcement of the law, protection of individual's freedom and rights from the tyranny of the government, performance of judicial review and adjudication in the constitutionality of laws and regulations.

Nationalism

Nationalism conveys the sense of belonging to a natural community of people, interrelated with and linked to the unity in land, origin, customs, and language that unify them as a result of participation in common social life, identity, geography, destiny, culture and economic interests.

Patriotism

Denotes the love of one's homeland and the feeling of mystical internal attachment towards homeland which constitutes of a specific territory to which the individual feels s/he belongs and to which s/he attaches his/her feelings and emotions.

Nation

Group of people in which the elements of nationalism are present including: History - Language - Customs - Culture - Religion – and Geography. The nation symbolizes the cultural and civilizational aspects of the human group.

Elections

It is a practical means for the selection of the persons who will be entrusted with decision making and design of public policy in the state, through modern democratic methods that govern the process of people's selection of their rulers.

Constitution

It is the state's basic law which includes the major basic rules that delineates the basic system of governance and the organization of public authorities: their interconnectedness to one another, the mandate of each authority, and the specification of the individual's public rights and freedoms by the state.

Sovereignty

Sovereignty represents the "authority of the state to govern itself", and "the quality of having supreme, independent authority over a geographic area or territory". This means that a sovereign state has absolute power inside the territory and independence from other states. The state has the supreme authority and dominance over its territory and people in addition to being independent from any external control. Sovereignty is supreme (i.e. highest) form of power.

Democracy

Democracy has its origins in Ancient Greek term. It combines the elements (Demos), which means the people, and (Kratos), which means rule or leading others. The combined term means the rule of the people. Democracy is a social and political system in which the power is for all citizens. Democracy provides for the free participation in the making of legislations that govern public life. As a political system, democracy entails people's governance directly or through representatives elected by the people in full freedom.

Democracy is also applicable at the social level, in the sense that democracy represents a lifestyle based on equality and freedom of thought and opinion. At the economic level, democracy can govern economic production, safeguards workers' rights, and achieve social justice. However, it is practically impossible to provide an accurate definition considering the various types of democratic systems due to many reasons including: the complexity of the overall meaning of "democracy" and the multiplicity of theories pertinent to the term; the multiplicity and peculiarity of its systems and types, the disagreement on the objective of democracy; and the attempts to apply it in various societies with different values, social and historical configurations. Nevertheless, democratic systems have three major pillars: rule by the people, equality and intellectual freedom.

Aristocracy

In Greek, "aristokratia" is derived from "aristos" which means "the best or excellent" and "kratos" which means power or rule. In a literal sense; the word means "rule by the best". In political terms, aristocracy refers to a form of government in which power is held by the nobility, or a privileged social class which is the highest class in certain societies, especially those holding hereditary titles or offices.

The concept evolved in Ancient Greece, whereby a council of famous citizens was commonly used and contrasted with "direct monarchy" in which an individual king held the power. Over the centuries, the concept developed to include the nobility who were opponents to monarchy especially in the middle ages. When monarchy was consolidated by the emergence of modern states, the government authorities of the aristocratic class have diminished but have retained certain utilitarian privileges. In

essence, aristocracy contradicts with democracy as it does not represent the majority nor allows for the exchange of power.

Ideology

The outcome of an intellectual system formation process and a manner of thinking that explains nature, society and the individual. Ideology is therefore a body of doctrines (ideas and ideals, usually normative) that provides a specific intellectual stance or approach to various political, ethical and philosophical fields.

Autocracy

The term given to the government headed by one person, group or party, that does not adhere to constitution or law. An **autocracy** is therefore a form of government in which one person or one party possesses unlimited power. Autocracy is found in Fascist parties or similar regimes. In Latin, the word means “divine rule” which indicates that the religious person had arrived to power due to divine will or intervention.

The autocrat is the absolute ruler who takes political decisions without any input from the community. Autocracy is different from dictatorship in that the power in the autocratic regimes is subject to the loyalty of the people, while in a dictatorship the people are subject to that authority only out of fear.

Bourgeoisie

An expression of French origin that was used in the Middle Ages in reference to a social class of merchants and business owners in big cities who occupy an intermediate position between the nobility on the one hand and between workers on the other. However, with the collapse of the feudal society, the bourgeoisie took reins of economic and political affairs in the state. This class also benefited from the emergence of the industrial age and amassed agricultural, industrial and real estate wealth. Such rise to power and wealth had led to popular revolts against the bourgeoisie and in order to assume power, such revolts ended in the confiscation of the economic wealth and political power of this class.

Bureaucracy

The word literally means “rule of offices”. Bureaucracy means the system of governance in a country that is run, directed and managed by a class

of senior staff who has vested interests in the continued survival of the regime because of its ties to their personal interests to the point where they become part of the system and the system part of them.

Bureaucracy is associated with a set of conduct rules and a pattern of measures often characterized by literal and superficial adherence to the law and legislation. The outcome of this phenomenon is often the routine and the “red tape” in official institutions.

For these reasons, bureaucracy is considered the antithesis of revolution because it kills the spirit of initiative, creativity and effective reasoning and thinking. In a bureaucracy, everything moves according to fixed ways that lack vitality together they form a slow moving machine. It is also considered the nemesis of all revolution since most of them end in bureaucracy.

Pluralism

A liberal doctrine that believes that society is composed of various political and non-political linkages that have different legitimate interests. According to this point of view, pluralism or diversity prevents the concentration of power in certain groups or individuals thus contributing to the achievement of public participation and distribution of benefits.

Theocracy:

A system based on religious ideas stemming from the Judeo-Christian traditions, which means ruling by a divine right. Theocracy is a form of government in which a state is understood as governed by immediate divine guidance especially a state ruled by clergy, or by officials who are regarded as divinely guide. It first appeared in the middle Ages in Europe in the form of religious states characterized by religious intolerance and repression of political and social freedoms. As a result, many backward and tyrants societies emerged which were known as the “Dark Ages”.

Dictatorship

A word of Greek origin accompanied human societies since the earliest times. In its present political denotations, the term is used to refer to a policy that restricts all authorities in one person only who takes decisions and exercise power upon his/her own will and whims, yet without requiring that such decisions are approved by the people.

Demagoguery:

A Greek word derived from the word (demos), and mean people, and (dagogo) and means work. The term is used in politics to refer to a set of methods used by politicians to deceive and seemingly lure the people in order to come to power and serve their own interests.

Radicalism

The word is derived from Latin "radicalis" which means "relating to a root" but as a term, it refers to the approach followed by political parties and movements that seek the actualization of comprehensive and deep reforms in social structure. Radicalism intersects with the approach of reformed liberalism which only seeks the achievement of some reforms in society. Radicalism adopts a progressive and a comprehensive view of society's problems, challenges and dilemmas in all political, constitutional, economic, intellectual and social arenas so as to bring about a radical change in the social structure capable of its transformation from underdevelopment and stagnation to progress and development.

Capitalism

Capitalism is a socio-economic system that unleashes the freedom of the individual in the political community to seek his/her economic and financial interests with the goal of achieving the greatest personal profit possible.

In other words: the individual under the capitalist system has a great deal of freedom in the selection of economic investment activities and in the manner s/he determines appropriate for the maximization of profits and material greed. Capitalism has been associated economic freedom, or what is known as the free market, which sometime renders the economic sector completely devoid of competition because individuals direct their amassing wealth even through abuse of freedoms and liberties permitted under the capitalist system.

Federalism

A political system based on building cooperative relationships that substitute for dependency relations between a number of countries linked together by a central union, provided that such union is based on the recognition of the existence of a central government for all federal

state and self-governments of each member state or province in the State. Powers are divided between regional governments and the central (or federal) government.

Confederalism

Confederalism is also known as the “Treaty of Union or Independence” whereby a number of sovereign states conclude agreements among themselves in order to organize their common goals (such as defense and the coordination of economic and cultural affairs) and form a joint body that is responsible for the coordination of these goals. All member states retain their legal personalities, external and internal sovereignties, and own presidents.

Liberalism

A capitalist school of thought that appeared at the time of the industrial revolution and the emergence of the bourgeoisie class in Central European societies. Liberalism represented the struggle of the emerging industrial and commercial class during the Industrial Revolution against the traditional feudal powers that combined authoritarian monarchy and the clergy. In the political sense, liberalism denotes a political orientation that favors social progress by reform and by changing laws rather than by revolution. In the economic theory, liberalism advocates for free competition and a self-regulating market.

Liberalism calls for the creation of parliamentary governments that embody the right of all citizens to political representation and freedom of speech and worship. Liberalism also calls for the abolition of class distinctions, ensuring the freedom of foreign trade, and state non-intervention in economy, unless such intervention provides for the minimum of economic freedom for all citizens.

Imperialism:

A description of an international relationship between strong and weak states which the strong state exercise power over the weak one. Imperialism also refers to the phenomenon of hegemony by a strong or major state over a dependent small nation as well as a complex economic, political and military relationship between developed states and economically underdeveloped countries.

Pragmatism

Pragmatism is derived from the word Greek "bragma" which means "act". Pragmatism is a philosophical and political doctrine which indicates that practical consequences are the criteria of knowledge and meaning and value. This means that the success and the consequences of activities are the sole criterion of truth. In political theory, the concept denotes a belief that problems should be met with/by practical solutions rather than ideological ones

A pragmatic politician for instance would claim that his/her actions and behaviors are determined through the consideration of practical results that may ensue from the decision and the expected outcomes of the action rather than being inspired by a preconceived idea or specific political ideology. Pragmatists do not recognize the existence of ideal democratic systems but they in fact advocate for an embedded ideal ideology or anti-theory based on absolute freedom and rejection of all totalitarian theories, particularly of Marxism.

Technocracy

Technocracy is a political term that originated at the time of the expansion of the industrial revolution and technological progress. The term technocracy derives from the Greek words "tekhne" which means skill and "kratos" which means power or rule. Thus the term technocracy denotes a form of government in which engineers, scientists, health professionals, and other technical experts are in control of decision making in their respective fields. In a technocracy, decision makers would be selected based upon how highly knowledgeable they are, rather than how much political capital they hold.

The term was introduced in 1919 by William Henry Smith who called for scientists and specialists to assume power in order to arrive at an ideal society. In 1932, engineers and scientists in the United States had begun the Technocrat Movement as a result of massive the technological progress. Today, the power of the technocrats has substantially increased given the importance of science to all fields, especially the economic and military sciences. In technocratic states, technocrats also have power in decision making on the allocation of resources as well as in strategic and economic planning.

Youth – Related Terminology and Concepts

The Young / The Youth

The words “Young” and “youth” are part of a widespread family of words that go back to Indo-European root “juwngkós” which means early (or Welsh “ieuanc”, Irish “ōg”, and Sanskrit “juvaçás”). Young is an adjective that refers to “youthfulness”, “the state of being young”. As a time concept, the word youth refers to “the part of life that succeeds childhood”; “the period of existence preceding maturity or age”; or to “the whole early part of life from infancy to adulthood”.

As collective nouns, both “youth” and “young people” are used to refer to young men and women between the ages of 15 to 24 years (in accordance to United Nations definition of youth as: the stage of age usually begins after the end of childhood and adolescence and ends at the end of the twenty-fourth year) However, the operational definition and nuances of the term ‘youth’ often vary from country to country, depending on the specific socio-cultural, institutional, economic and political factors. For example, some countries extend youth to the age of 30. Many countries also draw a line on youth at the age at which a person is given equal treatment under the law – often referred to as the “age of majority”. This age is often 18 in many countries, and once a person passes this age, they are considered to be an adult.

Youth Organizations

Youth organizations comprise clubs, projects and organized groups that are directly involved with the young people and have established offices and administrative structures. Of course, institutions are not-for profit but provide services to the young people, whether cultural, educational, arts, sports or any other activities and programs.

Youth organizations include a variety of institutions such as:

- **Youth organizations:** organizations that service the youth exclusively and/or have an exclusive youth membership.

- **Youth Clubs:** membership-based youth clubs that do not have any partisan or sectarian goals but provide their services equally to all members.
- **Youth Projects:** youth units or departments created by or affiliated to civil society organizations specifically concerned with youth.
- **Organized Youth Groups:** public youth extensions or political factions created to attract the largest possible number of youth supporters of these factions who also adhere to the factions' philosophy and general political program.

Civic Engagement

Civic Engagement is the process by which the individual citizen plays a role in the political and social life of their society, and has the opportunity to be involved in the development of general objectives and the best means to accomplish these goals. Civic Engagement is regarded as a way of empowerment and as vital part of democratic governance. Generally, civic engagement seeks and facilitates the involvement of those potentially affected by or interested in a decision. The principle of citizen engagement holds that those who are affected by a decision have a right to be involved in the decision-making process. Citizen Engagement implies that the public's contribution will influence the decision.

Political Participation

All voluntary activities undertaken by citizens in order to select their rulers and their representatives and contribute to policy and decision making, directly or indirectly. Therefore political participation is not limited to voting in certain elections but it rather entails the representation of the interests of citizens in political decisions and their consequences. Political participation simply refers to activity that has the intent or effect of influencing government action – either directly by affecting the making or implementation of public policy or indirectly by influencing the selection of representatives who make those policies.

Quota

A reserved share or percentage that represents the minimum of elections seats in an elected representative body reserved for a certain social group

(such as women, minorities, etc.) which are determined as a percentage of total seats of that body. Quotas are subject to conditions and restrictions established by the law.

Civil Society

Civil society is defined as “the arena of open collective action, outside of the family, the state, and the market where people associate to advance common interests”. Civil society commonly embraces a diversity of spaces, actors and institutional forms, varying in their degree of formality, autonomy and power. Civil societies are often populated by non-governmental, community-based and grassroots organizations, charitable societies, associations, faith-based societies, women organizations, coalitions and advocacy groups, social movements, professional associations and trade unions, etc. The civil society sector contributes to democratization, the reduction of State’s authority, influence and interference in society, and to holding the state accountable to public opinion and entire society.

Civil society is said to be composed of the totality of voluntary social relationships, civic and social organizations and institutions that form the basis of a functioning society, as distinct from the force-backed structures of a state (regardless of that state’s political system) and the commercial institutions of the market. Together, state, market and civil society constitute the entirety of a society, and the relations between these three components determine the character of a society and its structure.

Affirmative Action

The principle that seeks to establish the right to equality and the right to be different in cases where the right to equality is difficult to maintain. This principle is interested in the spirit rather than the form of equality by promoting and protecting the rights of disadvantaged groups, such as women, children and the disabled. In public policy arenas, governments, or private institutions, can take active effort to improve the status of a group that has been discriminated against by the society on the basis of difference in their gender, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, educational status, occupation, or political participation. Most affirmative actions are geared towards ensuring the provision of employment or educational opportunities of members of minority groups and women.

Empowerment

A set of processes that systematically aim at increasing the capacities, skills, information, resources, rights and choices of all individuals in society in general and the target groups in particular, groups who have been excluded from decision-making processes. Empowerment also entails that the gained empowerment must be sustainable in its emotional and physical forms. Empowerment is also the process which enables individuals/groups to fully access personal/collective power, authority and influence, and to employ that strength when engaging with other people, institutions or society.

Networking

A process between many institutions, groups and individuals having a common interest which agreed on a certain supportive process or framework for the sharing and exchange of information, experiences, opinions, ideas, services, and communication among them in a manner that does not eliminate the autonomy of the parties participating in the network.

Development

Development is the process of economic and social transformation that is based on complex cultural and environmental factors and their interactions in a certain society. At the local level, community development refers to the processes aimed at achieving a better life for the local population through their active participation or through the initiative of the community itself. If such sense of initiative is not present, development movement utilizes methods that awaken such spirit to ensure effective collective mobilization in response to the movement.

Volunteering

It is the practice of people working on behalf of others or a particular cause without payment for their time and services. Volunteering is generally considered an altruistic activity, intended to promote good or improve human quality of life and the wellbeing of the community. Volunteering is motivated by the individual's desire to contribute to the activities of social and democratic institutions since they provide citizens with the opportunities for participation in their activities. Volunteering is therefore an advantage enjoyed by all individuals to whom participation is considered as a form of "commitment".

Community Development

People's right to determine their needs and bring about positive social, economic, cultural and environmental changes as well as their right to determine development programs and participate in their implementation in order to re-organize the environment and the community, starting from the family.

Persons with Disabilities (or Special Needs)

Persons with disabilities are people who have a stable impairment to any of their senses, or to their mental, psychological or physical health and capacities, whether partial or total, congenital or non-congenital, to the extent that this impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his or her ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities in the circumstances of people without disabilities.

Unemployment

The unemployed are all people above a certain age who are not effectively employed by others for a specific wage, or self-employed in any business type, and who have taken specific steps in search of paid work on their own.

Accountability

An important political mechanism in good governance used to hold public officials responsible for their actions, oversee and monitor their decisions, and provide them with an opportunity to clarify any ambiguities or charges brought against them, whether they were elected or appointed. The same principle also applies to public institutions.

Transparency

The opposite of ambiguity, mystery or secrecy in political action. Transparency entails the availability of full information on public activities to the press, the public generally, and to citizens who wish to monitor or access information of the governmental performance and actions, whether positive or negative effects, without concealment or cover-up.

Freedom of Expression

Refers to the right to freedom of speech which is used as synonymous to the right to freedom of expression, especially in relation to political and

public issues. It also refers to the freedom to speak without censorship and/or limitation and is sometimes used to indicate not only freedom of verbal speech but any act of seeking, receiving and imparting information or ideas, regardless of the medium used. The right to freedom of speech is not absolute in any country and the right is commonly subject to limitations, such as on libel and slander.

Corruption

Political and bureaucratic corruption refer to the abuse or misuse of authority, public office and resources for personal gains through extortion, offering or soliciting bribery, profiteering, or misconduct designed to obtain material and other benefits, gain career advancement, or maintain themselves in public office through purchasing votes.

Political Parties

A political party is a voluntary political organization that connects the citizens to their governments. Political parties compete amongst themselves to assume power and typically seek to influence government policy, usually by nominating their own candidates and trying to seat them in political office at the local and national levels. Parties often espouse an expressed ideology or vision bolstered by a written platform with specific goals, forming a coalition among disparate interests. They also encourage citizens to exercise their right to political participation and casting their votes in democratic elections designed to select the representatives of citizens to public institutions.

Democracy

Democracy is a political term of Greek origins that literally means “rule of the people” or a “form of government in which all citizens have an equal say in the decisions that affect their lives”. The concept of democracy evolved over time and has come to refer to various forms of majority-rule while ensuring the rights of minorities, acceptance of pluralism, and separation between the three powers. The term “democracy” is often used as shorthand for liberal democracy, which may include elements such as political pluralism; equality before the law; the right to petition elected officials for redress of grievances; due process; civil liberties; human rights; and elements of civil society outside the government.

Shura

It is the Arabic word for consultation and a political term used by some Islamic thinkers to refer to the process of decision-making by consultation and deliberation with the people especially centers of powers in the community (i.e. signatories or leaders). It does not entail the rule of people. It is not obligatory for the ruler to practice the principle of Shura itself or adopt the results or outcomes of the process of consultation by the decision makers or ruler unless they so desire.

