





Achieving good governance

Conference paper by Asmahan Al-Alas

In 1997, the UNDP defined that governance is the exercise of economic, political and administrative authority to manage the country affairs at all levels. It comprises the mechanisms, processes and institutions through which citizens and groups articulate their needs, interests, exercise their legal rights, meet their obligations and mediate their differences.

This concept of good governance was clarified by the UN body on the basis of human rights needs, which are the essential goals for civil society.

The main obstacles that face integrating civil society in the decision-making bodies is the absence of democracy, lack of a legal framework, corruption, and the centralization of the state. The efforts to minimize the absence of civil society and other stakeholders in governance should focus on the following:

- Political discourses and establishment of democracy
- Discourses on the legal regime
- Enhancing capacity-building and human resources
- Formulating new versions of the election law promoting opportunities for civil society to be represen ted in local government.
- Formulating new versions of the political parties law to nominate civil society candidates on the ballot.
- Monitoring the compliance with human rights equity and equality –between all citizens and practi cing gender equality.











