

# The National Conference on Future Approaches to Educational Reform

March, 29<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> 2012

The Tunisian youth, who led the revolution, have been requesting for freedom and dignity and have made these values a popular demand that no Tunisian is ready to give up.

The revolution has uncovered the great discrepancy between the outcomes of the educational system and the Tunisian people hopes and expectations. The Tunisians expect that the public school helps them in their democratic transition by enabling their children to learn quality knowledge, skills and values and by helping them acquire citizenry principles and practices that will empower them to build a better future and thus guarantees a just and sustainable development.

The ministry of education is organizing a national conference on the approach of educational reform. This conference aims to sketch a road map which first specifies the vision, mission and direction for future reform and second ensures that any future educational reform is in synergy with all other reforms that are going to be undertaken in other sectors.

We have opted to open up a national inclusive dialogue where all actors and stakeholders discuss educational matters. Thus, we hope to set the tradition for a fruitful and sustainable partnership among all stakeholders that aims to establish a new educational system away from narrow political maneuvering and temporary individual interests and that aims to establish a consensus that encloses variations and differences.

Tunisian teachers, educational experts and academics will be invited to take part in this conference as well as political parties, trade unions, associations, parents and stakeholders specially pupils from all regions.

Part of the conference will be devoted to discussing regional and international best practice in educational reform as well as reform directions set by international organizations specially the UNESCO.

## **General aim:**

To design an educational reform approach.

## **Specific aims:**

1. To diagnose the current situation
2. To evaluate past reform attempts
3. To get acquainted with the most successful international reform approaches

## **Conference themes**

*Theme 1: Evaluation of past reform attempts*

- What have we gained (and lost) from the 1958 law that institutionalized education, the 1991 law and the 2002 law?
- What is the impact of these educational reform laws on the society movements and challenges?
- Is there any residue from these reform attempts that we can gain back?
- What has inhibited the educational act from bearing its fruit and fulfilling its aims?
- Which form(s) did these inhibitions take?

*Theme 2: Best practice in international educational reform*

- What can we learn from international education reform and what can we adopt in our future reform?
- Do we need to relativise international reform practices?
- Should we make the difference between what is global and what is local?

*Theme3: which approach for educational reform?*

- If the educational system is so complex and suffers from so many shortcomings are we going to opt for repairing or for restructuring it?
- Which reform strategies should we opt for?
- Where should we start? Should we start by reforming the administration or the curricula? Should we reform the approaches and techniques or the textbooks? What about teacher training? Evaluation? School life? School time? Learning paths? Technical teaching and learning?
- Which role should information technology play in our schools in the future?
- Which role for the civil society in the citizenry, democracy and human rights education and in the education reform?
- Where do we start and where do we end? How can we ensure the coherence and validity of all reform initiatives?

## **Papers**

- Conference participants are invited to submit abstracts that speak to the conference themes detailed above. Conference participants should send a 250 word abstract and the filled-in participation form before March 5<sup>th</sup> 2012 to the following email address [sec.cabinet2@gmail.com](mailto:sec.cabinet2@gmail.com)
- An email of confirmation will be sent by March, 10<sup>th</sup> 2012
- Papers do not exceed 20 minutes
- The languages of the conference will be Arabic, French and English.

## **Attendance**

The ministry will invite a maximum number of education actors and stakeholders as well as academics, experts and civil society. In order to maximize participation especially from the regions, teachers, students and all stakeholders are invited to post their questions on the conference web page before and during the conference. The ministry will also broadcast the conference live on the ministry's facebook page and will collect viewers' questions for the presenters who will answer them during the discussion time.

The Republic of Tunisia

Ministry of education

**The national conference on the approach of educational reform**

**Tunis, 29<sup>th</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> March 2012**

**Participation form**

Name: .....Family Name: .....

Nationality: .....

Job title: .....

Job address: .....

Telephone .....Mobile: ..... Fax: .....

Email address: .....

Title of the paper: .....

.....

Conference theme: .....

Abstract: (250 words)

This form should be sent to [sec.cabinet2@gmail.com](mailto:sec.cabinet2@gmail.com) before March, 5<sup>th</sup> 2012.