



PROGRESSIVE ALLIANCE

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21 May 2025, 14h00

Provisional Program

Social Democratic Alliance in the Arab World Conference

27-30 August 2025, Sulaymaniyah, Kurdistan Region, Iraq

Background

The Arab region continues to navigate a complex landscape marked by persistent authoritarianism, unresolved conflicts, and democratic erosion. The ongoing war in Gaza has further deteriorated prospects for peace, worsening humanitarian conditions and pushing international mechanisms for accountability and response to the breaking point. More than a decade since the Arab Spring, the region has yet to realize the ethos of that moment. In many cases, the same repressive structures that the uprisings sought to dismantle have not only endured—but reasserted themselves, often in more sophisticated and entrenched forms.

At the same time, shifting geopolitical dynamics—including new regional alignments and the growing influence of external powers—are reshaping strategic priorities and governance models in a region long characterized by volatility and political upheaval. In this context, progressive forces must confront these challenges head-on: examining root causes, building democratic alternatives, and advancing coordinated, principled engagement to address the shared crises they face.

Organized by the Social Democratic Alliance in the Arab World (SDA-AW) and the Progressive Alliance (PA), and hosted by the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), this conference brings together progressive party officials along with women's and youth organizations from across the region. The meeting aims to deepen solidarity between Arab and Kurdish progressive movements, reinforce cooperation across party structures, exchange experiences in programmatic responses and democratic governance, and lay the groundwork for a renewed political vision and strategic programme for social democracy in the Arab world.



Tuesday, 26 August

Early Arrivals

Arrivals of Women Delegates for the Arab Conference of Women

Wednesday, 27 August

Formal Launch of the SDAAW Women Union

08:00 - 17:00 Arrival and Registration of General Delegates

09:00 - 16:00 Arab Women Conference & Formal Launch of the SDAAW Women Union

17:00 - **Official Welcome Dinner**
Venue: TBD
Hosted by: Shanaz Ibrahim Ahmed
First Lady of the Republic of Iraq

Thursday, 28 August

Kurdish-Arab Political Dialogue

10:00 - 11:00 **Opening Ceremonies**

Abdul Latif Rashid
President
The Republic of Iraq

Bafel Talabani
Leader, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan
Presidium Member, Progressive Alliance

Farid Zahram
President, Social Democratic Alliance in the Arab World
President, Egyptian Social Democratic Party

Machris Cabrerios
Global Coordinator
Progressive Alliance



11:00 - 11:30 Family Photo and Coffee/Tea Break

11:30 - 12:30 **Session I: Political Situation in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq**

12:30 - 13:30 LUNCH

13:30 - 14:30 **Session II: The Kurdish Question in Turkey**

14:30 - 15:00 Coffee/ Tea Break

15:00 - 16:00 **Session III: Kurdish Political Struggles in Syria**

16:00 - 17:00 **Session IV: Kurdish Struggles in Iran**

17:00 - End of Day

19:00 - Travel to Dinner from Hotel

19:30 - **Official Dinner**

Venue: TBD

Hosted by: Bafel Talabani

Leader, Patriotic Union of Kurdistan

Presidium Member, Progressive Alliance



Friday, 29 August 2025

Arab Regional Dialogue and Coordination Meeting

09:00 - 10:30 **Session I: Challenges on Palestine Peace and Security Framework**

10:30 - 11:00 Coffee/ Tea Break

11:00 - 12:30 **Session II: Syria, Yemen, and Libya -- Analyzing National Upheavals and Transitions**

12:30 - 13:30 LUNCH

13:30 - 15:00 **Session III: Leaders Panel -- Renewing Social Democracy in the Arab World**

15:00 - 16:00 **Leaders Caucus for SDAAW Presidency and 2026 Conference**

Sulaymaniyah Declaration and Other Resolutions (drafts sent prior)

16:00 - 17:30 **Parallel Sessions: Organizational Strengthening**

Room 1: Movement Building with Women and Youth Organizations

Room 2: Partners Coordination Meeting on the Formation of Arab Regional Hub

Note: Coffee and tea will be served during the sessions; participants are welcome to enjoy their refreshments while engaging in the discussion.

17:30 - End of Day

19:00 - Travel to dinner from hotel

19:30 - **Dinner Reception**

Venue: TBD

Hosted by: Darbaz Kosrat Rasul

Head, PUK Relations Bureau



Saturday, 30 August 2025

09:00 - 09:45 **Reports of SDAAW Regional Coordinator and PA Global Coordinator**

09:45 - 11:15 **World Cafe: Building the SDAAW-PA Joint Political Action Plan**

This interactive session will follow the World Café method to collectively shape SDAAW-PA joint political action plan. Three themed tables will be set up, each focusing on a key pillar:

- 1. Political Priorities, Issues and Themes**
- 2. Organizational Strengthening**
- 3. Arab Peace Framework**

Participants are invited to move freely between tables and engage in focused conversations to exchange ideas, insights, and practical proposals. Each table will have a designated host responsible for guiding the discussion and capturing key outcomes. Table hosts will synthesize the top four takeaways or action points from their group's discussions and present them in the plenary.

11:15 - 11:30 Coffee/ Tea Break

11:30 - 12:00 **Plenary Presentations and Adoption**

12:00 - 13:00 **Closing Session and Press Event**

Speech of the President of PUK
Speech of the new President of SDAAW
Speech of the President of the Arab Social Democratic Women Union
Speech of the Next Host of the SDAAW Conference
Sulaymaniyah Declaration Launch

13:00 - 14:00 LUNCH

15:00 - 18:00 **Optional Field Visit in Sulaymaniyah**

19:00 - **Farewell Dinner**

Venue: TBD

Hosted by: Qubab Talabani

Deputy Prime Minister of the Kurdistan Region Government

Departures