



## International Research Seminar

# “WHAT DEVELOPMENT MODEL FOR AUTONOMOUS REGIONS?”

Palais des Nations (Room XXI), Geneva, 25 March 2014, from 12.30 to 15.00

The Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of Morocco to the United Nations in Geneva is convening an international research seminar on the topic: “What Development Model for Autonomous Regions?” at the Palais des Nations in Geneva on **25 March 2014**.

### Background

On **11 April 2007**, the Kingdom of Morocco presented to the Secretary-General of the United Nations a document entitled “Moroccan Initiative for Negotiating an Autonomy Statute for the Sahara Region” in order to break the stalemate in negotiations on the status of Western Sahara.<sup>1</sup> With the aim of promoting discussion on aspects of that proposal, Morocco initiated, among others, a number of international academic seminars:

- One on **6 October 2009** in Geneva with the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) which published a summary as one of its Geneva Papers;<sup>2</sup>
- Another one on **21-22 February 2011** in Dakhla, Morocco, on “The Democracy and Human Rights Dimensions of the Moroccan Initiative”, whose results were presented to a round-table on **17 March 2011** in the margins of the Human Rights Council in Geneva and have been published by the Moroccan Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation;
- Others in Geneva: on **22 March 2012** on “Governance in the Statutes of Autonomy: Institutions and Mechanisms”; on **4 June 2012** on “Managing Natural Resources in Statutes of Autonomy”; on **21 March 2013** on “Representation and Legitimacy in Autonomy Negotiations; and on **1<sup>st</sup> July 2013** on “Autonomy Statutes and Regionalization: Solidarity and Equalization between Regions”. Morocco published the contents all seminars in separate reports.

The seminar convened on 25 March 2014 on the topic “What Development Model for Autonomous Regions” will pursue the same objective as the previous ones: promoting the importance of the Moroccan Initiative as an unprecedented model for the management of autonomy in the context of North Africa but likely to serve as reference for other countries in the Global South. This seminar will offer an opportunity to compare practices followed by some states and/or territories or regions which are already autonomous or aspire to become so with regard to the choice of a development model, in the spirit of the New Development Model of the Southern Provinces recently launched by Morocco to contribute to the success of the Autonomy Plan for the Sahara Region.<sup>3</sup> It is important to note that the international negotiations on the status of Western Sahara are being conducted within the United Nations and that this seminar does not aim at substituting these negotiations but at facilitating their success. As for the previous events, the contributions to this March 2014 seminar will be published by Morocco.

<sup>1</sup> See United Nations, Document S/2007/206 of 13 April 2007 (available at: <http://www.securitycouncilreport.org/atf/cf/%7B65BFCF9B-6D27-4E9C-8CD3-CF6E4FF96FF9%7D/MINURSO%20S2007206.pdf>)

<sup>2</sup> “Can Autonomy Fulfil the Right to Self-determination?”, *Geneva Paper* No. 12, 2010 ([www.gcsp.ch/content/download/1652/13782/download](http://www.gcsp.ch/content/download/1652/13782/download))

<sup>3</sup> See: <http://www.ces.ma/Documents/PDF/Synthese-NMDPS-VAng.pdf>.



## Programme

**25 March 2014**

- 12.30 – 13.00                      Traditional Moroccan Buffet Lunch
- 13.00 – 13.20                      Introduction by the Chair of the Seminar: **Dr Christina Schori-Liang**, Senior Programme Advisor and Senior Fellow, Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP): “The Main Aspects of the Moroccan Initiative on the Autonomy of the Sahara Region Regarding the Choice of its Development Model”
- 13.20 – 13.40                      Presentation of the “New Development Model for the Southern Provinces” by **Mr Nizar Baraka**, President of the Moroccan Economic, Social and Environmental Council
- 13.40 – 15.00                      Presentation of experiences of various cases of regional autonomy regarding the choice of a development model and comparison with the Moroccan Initiative:
- 13.40 – 14.00                      • Azores and Madeira / Portugal : **Dr Carlos Eduardo Pacheco Amaral**, Professor of Social and Political Philosophy, History Department, University of the Azores
  - 14.00 – 14.20                      • Kurdistan / Iraq: **Mr Hiwa Osman**, Journalist, CEO and Founder of *mediawan*, editorialist for *Rudaw*
  - 14.20 – 14.40                      • Muslim Mindanao/ Philippines: **Mr Benedicto R. Bacani**, Executive Director, Institute for Autonomy and Governance, Notre-Dame University, Mindanao, Philippines
  - 14.40 – 15.40                      • Wallonia / Belgium : **Mr Philippe Suinen**, Vice-President, Institut Destrée, Namur, and Lecturer, Free University of Brussels (ULB)
- 15.00 – 15.15                      Conclusions: Dr **Christina Schori-Liang**

**Contact:** Mr Omar Rabi, Permanent Moroccan Mission in Geneva ([rabi@mission-maroc.ch](mailto:rabi@mission-maroc.ch))



Mission Permanente du Royaume du Maroc auprès de l'Office des Nations-Unies et des autres Organisations Internationales à Genève

## GUEST SPEAKERS' BIOGRAPHIES

### Dr Carlos Eduardo Pacheco AMARAL

[cpamaral@uac.pt](mailto:cpamaral@uac.pt)

Dr Amaral, born in 1961, is Associate Professor, with Aggregation, Department of History, Philosophy and Social Sciences, University of the Azores, Portugal, where he obtained his PhD in 1998 and his Aggregation in 2008. He also holds a Master's Degree from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy (1989) and a BA from Amherst College (1983) in the USA. Since 2010, he holds the Jean-Monnet Chair on European Studies. He teaches courses and seminars on Political Philosophy, Theory of International Relations, European Studies, Role of Force in International Relations and Political Science at the University of the Azores, as well as abroad, mainly within the context of the Master on European Studies, on the process of building Europe led by the University of Siena. He sits on editorial boards of several scientific journals in Europe and juries of European prizes as well as the Group of Independent Experts of the Congress of Local and Regional Authorities of the Council of Europe. Among his many publications are in particular: "Cross-Border Governance and the Borders Evolution" (*EuroTimes*, 2013); "Frontiers and Politics. From Polis to Empire, State and the European Union", (*EuroTimes*, 2013) ; *Autonomie régionale et relations internationales. Nouvelles dimensions de la gouvernance multilatérale* (Ed. Paris, 2011); *The External Projection of Regional Autonomy in Europe* (Ed. Paris, 2010) ; *Do Estado Soberano ao Estado das Autonomias. Regionalismo, subsidiariedade e autonomia para uma nova ideia de Estado* (Porto, 1998).

### Mr Benedicto R. BACANI

[benedictobacani@gmail.com](mailto:benedictobacani@gmail.com)

Mr Benedicto R. Bacani is the Founding Executive Director, Institute for Autonomy and Governance (IAG) based at Notre-Dame University, Cotabato City, Philippines. IAG is a research, training and policy centre that specializes in the study of autonomy and good governance as a solution to the Mindanao conflict. He directs the programme "Recognition of the Rights of the Indigenous Peoples in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao for their Empowerment and Sustainable Development" (IPDEV), an EU-supported project that works for the development of indigenous communities in the Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). With the Konrad-Adenauer Foundation, the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue (HD), the European Union and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), he provides technical assistance to the Bangsamoro Transition Commission (BTC) that is drafting the Basic Law for the Bangsamoro. He was Dean, College of Law, Notre Dame University, Cotabato City and associate professor in Political, Administrative and Human Rights Law. He has authored books and monographs on Mindanao autonomy and indigenous rights, among which is the book in 2004, *Beyond Paper Autonomy: the Challenge in Southern Philippines*, that examined the causes of the failures and successes of Muslim Mindanao autonomy. He has broad international experience in examining political solutions to conflicts and promoting the rights of minorities having been a senior Fellow of the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) in Washington DC, USA and a Hubert-Humphrey Fellow at the University of Minnesota where he specialized in federalism and conflict management. He was a short-term consultant on constitution-making in Nepal. He was a visiting lecturer at the European University Centre for Peace Studies in Austria. He was based in the Netherlands and Hong Kong for four years as Asia Director of an international funding agency that provided grants to programs on education and peace and reconciliation to 13 countries in the Asian region. He holds a degree in philosophy from Notre Dame University and an advanced degree in Law at Manuel L. Quezon University, Philippines.

### Mr Hiwa OSMAN

[hiwaosman@gmail.com](mailto:hiwaosman@gmail.com)

Mr Hiwa Osman is an Iraqi Kurdish journalist and columnist for the Kurdish newspaper *Rudaw*. This paper was founded in 2008 by a group of journalists concerned with the lack of a media outlet which would focus on balanced investigative reporting and would hold the authorities to account. Since 2012 he is the founder and CEO of *Mediawan*, the first agency of its kind in this region that provides media creative and communications services. He also runs the blog *Thoughts from Iraq*. His column is also published in Arabic in the respected Baghdad-based newspaper *Al Alam*. Mr Osman was previously



the Iraq Country Director for the London-based Institute for War and Peace Reporting (IWPR) and as such was responsible for the training of many Iraqi journalists. For three years, he was media advisor to Iraqi president Jalal Talabani and as such he founded the Iraqi presidency's press office and website. Mr Osman also worked as a writer and producer with *BBC News* before and during the 2003 war. He is the son of Kurdish Leader Dr Mahmoud Othman. On 5 May 2012, Hiwa Osman won the Outstanding Contribution to New Media Award at the International Media Awards in London. In 1994 he graduated from Cardiff University with a degree in Civil Engineering.

#### **Dr Christina SCHORI-LIANG**

[c.liang@gcsp.ch](mailto:c.liang@gcsp.ch)

Dr Christina Schori Liang has been working in the field of security policy for the past 20 years. She began her career at the American Institute for Contemporary German Studies in Washington DC, and in 1996, moved to the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP) where she became engaged in information management and research. In 2007, she started teaching for the GCSP's core training programmes on terrorism, organised crime, political extremism and homeland security issues. In 2012, she became the Co-Director of the New Issues in Security Course (NISC) and in 2013 she was appointed Director of the NISC. Dr Liang regularly lectures at universities and defence academies, including at the NATO Defence College in Rome and the European Commission, and has advised governments on urban security issues. Dr Liang was an adjunct faculty member for Boston University from 2008-2013 where she taught a course on International Security. Dr Liang is also a founding member of the Switzerland Chapter of Women in International Security (WIIS). She is currently a member of the International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) and the Partnership for Peace Consortium of Defense Academies and Security Studies Institutes, and she serves on the Advisory Board of Columbia International Affairs Online (CIAO). She obtained her BA in Political Science from Hope College, USA, and holds a DES (Masters Degree) in International History and Politics and a PhD in International Relations from the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland. Among her publications are: *Europe for the Europeans: The Foreign and Security Policy of the Populist Radical Right* (ed.) (London: Ashgate Publishing, 2007); "Shadow Networks: The Growing Nexus of Terrorism and Organised Crime", *GCSP Policy Paper* 20 nov. 2011.

#### **M. Philippe SUINEN**

[p.suinen@awex.be](mailto:p.suinen@awex.be)

Mr Philippe Suinen holds a Master's degree in Law from the University of Liège (Belgium) and a post-graduate diploma in European Law from the European Centre of the University of Nancy (France). From 1977 to 1979 he was an Advisor to the Belgian Federal Secretary for Institutional Reform. He thus took part in the making of the August 1980 draft laws on institutional reform which made Belgium a federal state. After serving for 14 years in ministers' offices, of which 9 at the federal level, in 1998 he joined the Wallonia public organisations in charge of international relations (WBI) as well as export and foreign investment promotion (AWEX). He was named "Wallon of the Year" in 1999 by the Jules-Destrée Institute, of which he became the Vice President. Philippe Suinen is also a Lecturer at the Free University of Brussels (ULB). Among his publications are in particular: "Une première mondiale" (*Le Monde diplomatique*, Oct. 2000); (ed.) *Cultural Diversity and Cultural Exchange in the Framework of Globalisation - Report of the Asia-Europe Seminar, Hanoi (Vietnam) 17-19 September 2004* (2005); *Panorama : 40 illustreurs de Wallonie-Bruxelles* (2007) ; *Minorité(s)* (2002).