

Research Plan Proposal: Assembly of Iran in Diaspora - A Coalition

osIran community

Open Source Iran

Open Science Iran

I. ABSTRACT

In this work we explore the feasibility and design of a representative coalition for the people of Iran living inside of the country by Iranian diaspora. We investigate and propose solutions and further scientific research of the several key factors in the formation of such a coalition, including the ideal size, objectives, core principles, membership, selection process, decision-making methods, and operational strategies. We dissect the problem of creating a coalition into the following research questions.

II. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

A. *How many members should the coalition have?*

This coalition should represent the people of Iran; therefore small numbers such as 7 would only represent some of the people of Iran. It is essential that the representatives of Kurds, Balouch, Azari, and all the ethnicities of Iran are present in this coalition. This coalition must be an assembly/council of hundreds to represent all the people of Iran.

B. *What are the objectives of the assembly?*

This assembly should represent the people of Iran to the world, and plan ahead for the future of Iran. It is crucial that we have a plan for all governmental aspects such as Education, Sports, Arts & Culture, Water Management, etc before the Islamic Republic is overthrown. All of the plans for the future in this council must be open science peer-reviewed research. A ready plan for the future would clear the uncertainties about what will happen in the future and help the people of Iran in their efforts for governmental change and a better path toward the future.

C. *What are the core principles of the assembly?*

In this section, we propose three principles:

1) *Openness and Transparency*: Openness and Transparency would provide validity and trustability to the assembly. All the operations of this assembly, therefore, shall be digitally transparent. The members communicate through the internet and the data is publicly available and any form of communication in person or online is live-streamed. All the finance in this assembly is digitally transparent and all the software is open source.

2) *Deliberative Democracy*: Deliberative democracy means that political decisions should be the product of fair and reasonable discussion and debate among citizens. In deliberative democracy, citizens exchange arguments and consider different claims that are designed to secure the public good. The decision-making process of this assembly must be democratic and deliberative to find the best solution. Deliberate democracy does not need a leader and the assembly is a heterarchy.

3) *Only open scientific plans can be selected for the future of Iran*: Only open scientific peer-reviewed plans that result from research can be implemented in the future. Open science means that the process of research and all its intermediary and final artifacts are presented to the public. Open science results in open collaboration with any researcher in the world, as it makes it possible to find errors and submit changes to the plan. This makes open science peer review not a one-way street, but a two-way communication between the researchers and peers with discourse and a chance for anyone to become a contributor. Open science also indicates that the plans are presented in a way that is understandable to the public, meaning a Layman's description in simple Persian should also be presented. With open science, people inside Iran can raise their questions and concerns about the plans and the researchers can answer them. With open science, people inside and outside of Iran can contribute to the plans for the future of Iran. Iranian people inside the country can contribute anonymously as the identity of the contributors does not matter, and what matters is the quality of the research.

D. *Who are the members of the assembly?*

This assembly should have representatives of all ethnicities and minorities in Iran and include the best candidates for creating the plans. Therefore the main body of this assembly is formed by activities, scientists, engineers, and artists. Groups of experts must be formed by these members for each governmental aspect such as Education, Water management, Sports, Arts, etc. There can be a team of at least 5 to 10 experts and researchers in specific fields to research proposing the plans.

E. What is the selection process for the members of the assembly?

This selection process first and foremost must be transparent. Anyone that accepts the core principles can apply to be on the council by submitting a resume and proposal of why they should be present in the council; this data is available to the public. Representatives of the organization can only be considered if the organization complies with the transparency and openness protocol of the assembly. The selection process and interviews of the candidates are live-streamed. The members are selected from the candidates based on merit and meritocracy for each role in the assembly. The data is analyzed by multiple NGOs to find the members and reach rough consensus on the best candidates for this assembly.

F. What is the selection process for plans?

Any open science peer-reviewed research proposal can be submitted by anyone to be considered for the future of Iran. In the case of multiple plans for a specific subject, deliberations are used to find the best possible plan for Iran and the process continues until a rough consensus is formed.

G. What is the decision-making process?

H. What are the operational strategies?

I. Can we make an assembly of thousand with participatory deliberate digital democracy platforms?

III. FUTURE WORK

Future work includes answering the open research questions, and writing a scientific peer-reviewed blueprint.