

# Open Science Assembly of Iran in Diaspora

*Open Source Open Science Iran (osIran)*

## I. ABSTRACT

This study focuses on the creation of a representative coalition for Iranians living in Iran, established by the Iranian diaspora. We explore the feasibility and design of such a coalition, examining critical factors including size, objectives, core principles, membership criteria, selection process, decision-making methods, and operational strategies. To achieve our goals, we break down the problem into several research questions. This is an open source open science (os) research that welcomes expert contributors. The project can be accessed through the Github repository <https://github.com/oalee/os-plan-coalition>. It is essential to involve experts and stakeholders in the region to ensure the feasibility and efficacy of the proposed solutions. Our research provides insights into the formation of a representative coalition and can guide future efforts to establish a more just and democratic society in Iran.

## II. PROBLEM STATEMENT

In this study, we will focus on the two main sub-problems identified in the Problem Statement section, namely the uncertainty about the future and the lack of knowledge and education among the people of Iran. The aim of this study is to provide insights into these challenges and propose potential solutions that could empower Iranians to create a more democratic society and secure a better future. Through an in-depth analysis of these issues, we hope to contribute to the Women.Life.Freedom movement's efforts and assist in overcoming these obstacles in their quest for a brighter future for Iran.

### A. Uncertainty about the future

The uncertainty about the future is a significant challenge faced by the Women.Life.Freedom movement in Iran. People's fear of what will happen can make it challenging to mobilize and motivate them to continue their struggle. The prospect of another totalitarian regime in Iran, similar to what happened in other failed revolutions, adds to this fear.

To overcome this challenge, a well-researched and scientifically sound plan for the future can help mitigate the uncertainties faced by the Iranian people. Such a plan should be grounded in empirical evidence and scientific research, addressing the challenges facing the country and offering practical solutions for a more democratic and equitable society. By offering a clear and actionable roadmap for the future, the movement can inspire Iranians to work together towards a shared vision and overcome their fears of uncertainty.

#### 1) Lack of knowledge and education:

### B. Lack of Knowledge and Education

Access to knowledge and education is crucial for the Women.Life.Freedom movement in Iran to establish a democratic society and create a better future. However, the current regime controls education in Iran, limiting access to information and knowledge and hindering the ability of Iranians to defend themselves against oppressive forces.

To address this challenge, the Women.Life.Freedom movement could prioritize the development of an alternative open science online platform for education of all Iranians, starting with schoolgirls who are often most in need of access to education. The movement could also advocate for policies that prioritize secular education and provide resources to schools to ensure a well-rounded education.

By empowering Iranians with the knowledge and skills to defend themselves and advocating for a more democratic society, the Women.Life.Freedom movement can pave the way for a brighter future.

## III. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

### A. Open Source

Open source is source code that is made freely available for possible modification and redistribution. Products include permission to use the source code, design documents, or content of the product. The open-source model is a decentralized software development model that encourages open collaboration. A main principle of open-source software development is peer production, with products such as source code, blueprints, and documentation freely available to the public.

### B. Open Science

Open science is the movement to make scientific research and its dissemination accessible to all levels of society, amateur or professional. Open science is transparent and accessible knowledge that is shared and developed through collaborative networks.

### C. Open Source Open Science

Open source open science is a combination of the two movements to create a global open collaborative effort in science by sharing the raw data, documents and the progress of the research with open source tools such as git. When the raw document formats such as odt, tex, txt are shared, true collaboration and update of science is possible. This introduces a paradigm shift in science with introducing updates to scientific works, and decoupling of ideas from authors. With this methodology your work could potentially have contributors that are not born yet.

#### D. Transparency

Transparency is fundamental to democracy. Information is power and secrecy leads to the monopolization of this power. In the modern era, technology can transparify governmental affairs. Opening governmental affairs to the public has major benefits such as building trust and efficiency. Transparency has different levels of implementation and co-evolves with technology. Today we can live stream and automatically transcribe governmental meetings with AI.

#### E. 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.

Deliberative democracy is a preferred form of democracy to representational democracy as it involves the citizens directly by deliberation. Ideology makes people blind to others' feelings and points of view. When we listen deeply to each other, we can understand and see we have more in common than we previously thought. This form of democracy was used in polis where people gathered in thousands and used deliberation to reach consensus and make laws. This form of democracy could not scale to millions of people thus representational democracy was created as a solution. Deliberative democracy fits with the nature of the modern leaderless movement of "Women Life Freedom".

#### F. Civic Technology of Democracy

Democracy is a social civic technology. The Taiwanese have shown us that we can use modern technology to make deliberative and participatory democracy possible for the masses, and open governmental affairs to the public with the internet. A tool that they are using is called pol.is. Pol.is is a social media platform equivalent to a town hall. In contrast, other social media platforms could be viewed as nightclubs and bars where people shout, fight, scream and the extreme ends of society are highlighted. Pol.is is a platform where people can participate in deliberation and rational discussions, synthesize solutions and reach consensus. With social innovation and deliberative digital democracy platforms, even with controversial and polarized subjects people can reach consensus.

#### G. vTaiwan

Digital democracy in Taiwan was started in 2014. This initiative is called vTaiwan and the "v" stands for "vision", "voice", "vote" and "virtual". The participatory and deliberative democracy process in Taiwan has four stages and it is based on the focus conversation method. In the first stage, issues are identified, and then people's facts, objectives, and experiences about the issues are collected. In the second stage, people's feelings about objectives and statements are collected. In the third stage, after people converge on sets of feelings that resonate with everyone, ideas on how to address them are collected. In the fourth state, the idea that is consensus

is translated into legalese and signed into law. At each stage transition to the next one is done when a rough consensus is formed.

#### H. Safe Technology in Modern World

Technology is evolving at an exponential pace, and we must consider how to integrate it with our lives and not let it dictate our lives. In Taiwan, to integrate technology into their lives, they have a system of trial and error. The consequences of new ideas and innovations such as robots are yet to be discovered. Taiwan opens up regulations for innovations in a sandbox system called Smart City. They try a new regulation and test it for a year and learn how to integrate with the law of the country and their lives. This not only helps our species to understand technology, and how we should integrate it into our lives but also opens up a venue for innovation, technological advancement, and a safe path toward the future for our species.

#### I. Open Governace

The open government was proposed by an international organization called the OGP (Open Government Partnership). Open governance is adhering to open value and engaging with citizens to improve services, manage public resources, drive innovation and build safer communities. With the principle of transparency and open government, we will achieve prosperity, well-being and a society in line with human dignity in our own country and in an increasingly connected world. The four elements of an open government are:

- 1) *Transparency*: Politics is everyone's business, and the policy process should allow the public to have a clear understanding of "what's going on." Friends in the public sector may be worried whether there will be any problems if we let the outside world see the communications before it's finished. In fact, the earlier the information is provided, the easier it is for the public to understand what the public sector is preparing for, so that the public sector can save the effort and time of repeated communication and further reduce the communication burden.

- 2) *Participation*: In the process of policy formation, the public is given the opportunity to participate in discussions, express opinions, and even further influence the content of policy on topics of interest. As a result, while the public sector needs to spend more time building consensus, when the policy takes shape, it is less likely to be opposed by the public or totally objected.

- 3) *Accountability*: When the public has doubts about the process of policy formation, we can look back to see who does and what are the reasons

- 4) *Inclusion*: Public issues are broadly oriented. In the course of discussion of an issue, if the public sector is able to allow the various stakeholders who are directly affected by policy to fully voice their views and able to listen to their dialogues, it can collect as many views as possible so as to reduce the likelihood of policy errors.

#### IV. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

##### A. How could we minimize the uncertainties about the future?

With the help of open source open science, we can create plan for the future of Iran. Open science case studies of the world in all aspects of governance can be conducted to create solid plans for the future of Iran before the Islamic Republic is overthrown. This blueprint itself is an example of open source open science, where the people of Iran can contribute to the plan. With the help of solid plans for the future, we can minimize the uncertainties about the future.

##### B. Could we create a leaderless opposition?

Educating the public and solid plans for the future, open governance, transparency and digital democracy can reduce uncertainties, open up people's imagination, and give birth to a leaderless opposition.

##### C. How could we facilitate giving birth to a coalition?

We break down the problem of creating a coalition into the following research questions.

#### V. BLUEPRINT FOR A COALITION

##### 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 can become an assembly/council of hundreds to represent majority of 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. Open science case studies of the world in all aspects of governance can be conducted to create solid plans for the future of Iran before the Islamic Republic is overthrown. 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*: Deliberate democracy does not need a leader and the assembly can be a heterarchy.

3) *Only open scientific plans can be selected for the future of Iran*: Only open source open science peer-reviewed plans that are result of research can be implemented in the future. Open source science means that the progress of the work, and all its digital artifacts are presented to the public. This opens up collaboration with anyone in the world. Including the people of Iran inside the country. With open source science, people inside Iran can submit their plans, raise their questions and concerns about any plans and the researchers can answer them.

##### 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 can be formed by activities, scientists, engineers, and artists. Groups of experts can be formed by these members for each governmental aspect and research into banking/financial infrastructure, utilities infrastructure (water, electricity, gas), communications infrastructure (television, internet, radio), policing, national military, public health, rule of law, environmental sustainability, transitional government, transitional justice, democratic elections, education, economy & commerce. 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, proposal, livestream interviews with Iranians and open QA; 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 representativeness and meritocracy for conducting case studies of the world. The data is analyzed by multiple NGOs and reports are submitted online. Moreover, we can officially ask Iranian diaspora to vote, and use forward voting to forward the votes of their relatives and friends inside Iran with a secure protocol. Furthermore, we can analyse social media to gain insights how people in Iran think. With statistical analysis of all the above data, and a valid hypothesis with a good confidence interval, the members can get legitimacy in representativeness.

##### 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. How do involve the people inside Iran to participate in the assembly?*

Digital tools can be implemented for remote secure participation. Analyzing the data of how people think in social media can also be used to find what the people of Iran want. Scientific analysis can be done by a third parties to ensure transparency and openness.

*H. What do Iranian people want?*

To answer this question, we must look at the past and research into what they are asking. With a possible secure internet channel and social democracy platform, data can be gathered to be analyzed and answer this question.

*I. What is the decision-making process?*

*J. What are the operational strategies?*

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

## VI. FUTURE WORK

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