Theme Groups
exercising mutual understanding of different perspectives,
while working together towards innovative approaches for concrete, complex problems.

	Theme Group	Description
1	**Social Perspectives** 1st Facilitator Nicolien Zuijdgeest (Arabist, Facilitator of Change)	**"How can cohesion be improved in a society fragmented by various rifts?"** Cohesion in Tunisia is challenged on several layers. In order to deal with these realities one needs to look at various aspects of humanity, such as class, race, sexual orientation, disability and gender, which are complexly interwoven (an intersectional approach). Topics that can be addressed are: How to create trust in a society that has evolved for decennia with the tactics of rule and divide? What does cohesion look like for youth and women in society? How to bridge the gaps between rich and poor, rural and urban areas? What transitional measures are needed to encourage and facilitate reforms? This theme group will work to identify innovative bottom-up methods to build common ground providing future perspectives for the people.
2	**Economic Perspectives** 1st Facilitator Mark Singleton (Nexus Strategy Consultancy)	**"How to stimulate economic development in order to support social development?"** Economic growth is picking up, but in particular, unemployment for specific groups such as women, young people, and graduates will remain high, with labor relations remaining tense (OECD #102, 2017). Topics to be discussed: What are the framework conditions and instruments to develop economic activities; what strategies are needed to implement these; what are the drivers of entrepreneurship and small/medium business in Tunisia; how can digitalization contribute to this?
3	**Inventive media** 1st Facilitator Dr. Asiem El Difraoui (Senior Fellow) Institut für Medien - und Kommunikationspolitik gGmbH	**"How to create sustainable public spaces for the expression of young Tunisians?"** Use of media still plays an important role in Tunisia, as a tool of formal power and as instruments of social expression and societal transition. And media can be used to close education and employment gaps. Items to be addressed are: what is the actual media environment and the media culture and Tunisian media consumption patterns? What is the role of media for the expression of young Tunisians and how to create those public spaces; and how to build bridges with Europe? To make things concrete, this theme group will work to apply media techniques in visual presentation of results.
4	**Security Sector Reform (SSR)** 1st Facilitator Dr. Chantal Joubert (European and International Affairs Division (DEIA)) Dutch Ministry of Justice & Security)	**"How can the Tunisian government enhance the effectiveness, accountability and trust in its security sectors?"** A stable and transparent security sector is one of the most critical conditions in the development of a nation and building of trust in the security institutions. Topics to be discussed: What are the current strengths and weaknesses of the Tunisian sectors? What is the impact of the past and proposed reforms and what are the main efforts of the International Community? What are the common issues in all sectors and what innovative approaches could address those issues?

5	**Strategic importance** 1st Facilitator Dr. Philipp-Christian Wachs (Executive Director); Henning Radtke (Head of department security policy & transatlantic relations) Haus Rissen	**"How can TUN become a better example of stability in the region?"** Tunisia is widely seen as an example of peaceful transition to democracy. Is this an anomaly or an example of stability in the region? Items to be discussed will be: Why is TUN more resilient than neighboring states and how can we strengthen its resilience? What is needed to prevent it from becoming a springboard to Europe? How can Tunisia develop as a bridgehead of stability in the region and how does the International Community support this. This theme group will assess the situation with subject matter experts and identify potential innovative approaches to further Tunisian and regional stability.
6	**Good Governance** 1st Facilitator Dr. Neila Akrimi (Director General) VNG International Centre for Innovative Local Governance (CILG)	**"How can the interaction between authorities and the population at local level/emerging communal level be developed?"** The development of local politics and democracy is an important factor in driving the transition process. The Tunisian population and authorities at the local level have little experience and are unknown to the ongoing decentralization. The communal elections in May 2018 are an important step in the transition process and lessons learned will be analyzed. Using a case study approach, the discussion will address issues such as, accountability, citizen participation, acceptance of the local authorities among citizens, and efficiency of services and administration.
7	**Linking security / safety threats** 1st Facilitator Ronald Sonnemans (Coordinateur Régional pour la Lutte Anti-Terroriste en Afrique du Nord) Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Tunis	**"Should addressing root causes of violent extremism become the** priority in the broader development agenda for Tunisia?" Tunisia was urged to make the prevention and countering violent extremism its highest priority in the fight against terrorism. This was aligned with strengthening the security forces through training and material support. While the motivations and pathways of Tunisian foreign terrorist fighters differ strongly case by case, the lack of socio-economic future perspective and police brutality remained major reasons for most extremists as research has shown. Issues to be discussed will be the effects of socio-economic interventions, interventions of counter narratives, effects of street-corner work projects on preventive measures, community policing interventions, and reintegration and rehabilitation programs.