



- Draft Agenda-

**High-level Meeting of the Task Force
for Economic Reforms and Private Sector
Capacity - Republic of Iraq**

**- Within the Framework of the
UNDP/MENA-OECD Iraq Co-operation -**

20-21 January 2009

Venue: OECD Conference Centre

*2, rue Andre-Pascal,
Paris, France*

Objective

Since 2007, important progress has been achieved by the Government of Iraq (GoI) on investment climate enhancement policies and private sector development in the broader frame of the International Compact with Iraq (ICI). In this regard, International stakeholders such as the UNDP, the MENA-OECD Investment Programme along with other partners have been building on these positive developments.

On 1-2 July 2008, a first Roundtable on Economic Reforms and Capacity Enhancement for Private Sector Development in Iraq was organized by UNDP/MENA-OECD in Baghdad and focused on private sector development, business enabling issues, public private partnerships (PPPs), anti-corruption and integrity, as well as investment policies. Following this important step, a High-Level Meeting on Economic Policy Reforms was held on 8-10 July 2008 in Paris which ended with a concluding statement mandating:

“The formation of the Project Management Task Force for Economic Reforms and Private Sector Capacity which will conduct a comprehensive assessment of legislative, institutional and sectoral needs with the aim to assist the GoI to design policies for a comprehensive business climate development strategy.” (<http://www.oecd.org/dataoecd/47/15/41056056.pdf>)

In response to this, the Iraqi government, with the support of the UN designated agencies, has established the Task Force for Economic Reforms and Private Sector Capacity (TFER), invited to meet at the OECD headquarters in Paris.

Meetings Focus

Jointly organised by the MENA-OECD Iraq Project and UNDP, the main objective of the **High-Level Meeting of the Task Force for Economic Reforms and Private Sector Capacity (TFER)** is threefold: 1) Finalise the Terms of Reference of the TFER; 2) Discuss a preliminary work programme; 3) Decide on immediate priorities for action in the Working Groups to be constituted by the TFER.

The High-Level Meeting shall serve to gather the members of the TFER, as well as international organisations part of the Private Sector Development Programme (PSDP) to address the further steps for implementing an effective, coherent, and comprehensive framework for private sector development in Iraq.

The 1st day will decide on the organisational structure of the TFER as laid out in detail in the Terms of References for the Task Force and introduce the important areas of relevance for private sector development.

On the 2nd day, participants will discuss key private sector reform challenges that the Working Groups of the TFER will be addressing, such as state-owned enterprises (SOEs) corporatisation as well as public-private partnerships (PPPs); revision of the legislative business environment, investment climate and tax policy reforms, and SME development. OECD and UNDP experts will introduce these issues and participants will be invited to exchange further views and propose possible implementation actions for the TFER. The day is expected to end with an agreed work programme for the Working Groups of the Task Force.

Participants

The High-Level Meeting will bring together officials from the Government of Iraq (GoI) constituting the TFER, UNDP, ILO, UNIDO, OECD experts and the donor community present in Iraq.

Documentation

The relevant documents together with a more detailed agenda will be distributed to participants in advance of the meeting. For information about the MENA-OECD Initiative please visit: www.oecd.org/mena/investment, for information on UNDP's work with Iraq: <http://www.iq.undp.org>.

20 January - 1st Day

Organisation of the Task Force for Economic Reforms and Private Sector Capacity

- Moderation: Mrs. Simona MARINESCU, Senior Economist, UNDP
Mr. Alexander BÖHMER, Head of Unit, MENA-OECD Investment Programme

9:30 – 10:00	Opening Session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Eric BURGEAT, Director, Centre for Co-operation with Non-Members, OECD • Mrs. Simona MARINESCU, Senior Economist, UNDP • H.E. Dr. Ali ISMAIL, Secretary General of the Council of Ministers, Government of Iraq
Coffee Break	
10:30 – 13:00	Session I: Structure and Issues for the Task Force
	<p>This session will focus on discussing and finalising the organisational structure of the Task Force for Economic Reforms and Private Sector Capacity, including its Terms of Reference, and will introduce the key issues. Iraqi representatives are invited to give their presentations.</p> <p><i>Statements by Members of the Task Force</i></p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
13:00-14:30	Lunch
14:30-16:00	Session II: Private Sector Development – Interventions from Donors/Agencies
	<p>This session will allow donors and agencies to introduce key private sector development issues in areas of business climate development strategy, economic law reform, investment policy, PPP and SOE governance. Members of the Task Force and partner organisations have a first opportunity to present and discuss priorities of work for the Task Force.</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>

21 January - 2nd Day

Key Elements of the Work Programme for the Task Force

9:30-11:00	<p>Session I: Capacity-building for Private Sector Development</p>
	<p>This session will discuss best practice tools to enhance private sector development in Iraq by addressing key reform areas on which the Working Groups of the TFER will be concentrating. Experts will discuss with participants the questions of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) corporatisation as well as public-private partnerships (PPPs); revision of the legislative business environment, investment climate and tax policy reforms, and SME development policy.</p> <p>All participants will be invited to share their approaches with a view to formulate a work programme for the Working Groups to be established by the Task Force. The following topics will be dealt with in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Business Climate Development Strategy – <i>WG for Legislative Revision, Mr. Alexander BÖHMER, MENA-OECD Investment Programme, OECD</i> • Tax Policy and Revenue Management <i>Mr. Steven CLARK, Mr. David PARTINGTON, M. Hansjoerg BLOECHLIGER Centre for Tax Policy and Administration, OECD</i> • Corporatisation of SOEs and PPPs – <i>WG for Restructuring of SOEs Mr. Hans CHRISTIANSEN, Corporate Affairs Division, OECD</i> • Investment Policy – <i>WG for Private Sector Development and Social Dialogue Mr. Alexander BÖHMER, MENA-OECD Investment Programme, OECD</i> • SME Development <i>Mr. Antonio FANELLI, Private Sector Development Division, OECD</i> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
11.00-11.30	<p>Coffee Break</p>
11:30-13.00	<p>Session II: Establishing a Work Programme for the Task Force for Economic Reforms and Private Sector Capacity</p>
	<p>This session will provide an opportunity for the presentation and finalisation of a Work Programme for the Working Groups of the Task Force.</p> <p><i>Discussion</i></p>
12:30-14:30	<p>Lunch</p>
14:30-16:00	<p>Session II Continued and Finalisation of the Work Programme for the Task Force</p>