

- Draft Agenda -

- Ministerial Preparation Steering Group
Meeting

and

Meeting of Working Group 1-

“Promoting Transparent and Open
Investment Policies”

Organised by

The MENA-OECD Investment Programme

Hosted by

The Jordan Investment Board

Venue

The Royal Hotel
Amman, Jordan

Date

4-5 September 2007
Amman, Jordan

Objective

The purpose of this combined Steering Group and 3rd Working Group 1 meeting is to finalise preparations for the Second Ministerial meeting, 27-28 November 2007 in Egypt, to discuss the introduction of a new Investment Reform Measurement Tool for the second phase of the MENA Programme and finally to decide on the next steps for output areas of Working Group 1.

Main Issues

Working Group 1 of the MENA-OECD Investment Programme helps MENA countries to develop open and transparent investment policies through multi-stakeholder dialogue, experience-sharing and capacity-building in the region, with the support of OECD countries and other partners. Based on MENA country submissions and input from the private sector and other programme partners, the following outputs will be discussed and the way ahead decided:

- Revised investment laws in the MENA region – emerging good practice;
- International investment instruments: negative lists of FDI restrictions;
- Investment and responsible business conduct;
- PPP for infrastructure financing – OECD country good practice and MENA experience.

The Steering Group meeting on the second day will focus on the draft for the 2nd Ministerial Declaration to be prepared for the upcoming Ministerial meeting, will decide on the use of an investment reform measurement tool for assessing progress of investment policy reforms and discuss other preparatory issues for the Ministerial meeting.

Participants

MENA and OECD members of the Steering Group and Working Group 1 are invited to send experts in the areas of investment policy, international investment instruments, PPP and responsible business conduct. As in the previous meeting, other key partners, who are engaged in activities in these areas, are also invited, including Islamic Development Bank, Arab League, Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, Union of Arab Banks, World Bank, UNIDO, IFC PEP MENA, UNCTAD, European Commission and the European Investment Bank, Transparency International, and other partners.

Private sector engagement is essential for the success of the Investment Programme, as they can provide insights to issues affecting investment decisions and serve as a “reality check” for policy reform plans. Representatives from the Arab Business Council, Arab Investors’ Union, Union of Arab Banks, MENA-OECD Business Network, Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC), and Business Councils in MENA countries are expected to join the meeting. Experts from OECD countries and from the Secretariat will be present at the meeting.

Documentation

The relevant meeting documents together with a more detailed agenda will be distributed to participants in advance of the meeting. For more information about the Programme please visit our website:

www.oecd.org/mena/investment

4 September 2007 – Transparent and Open Investment Policies

9:00 – 9:15	Opening Session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Maen Nsour, CEO, Jordan Investment Board • Mr. Takeshi Yagi, Minister, Permanent Delegation of Japan to the OECD • Dr. Rainer Geiger, Deputy-Director, OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs
9:15 - 11:15	Session 1: Current Trends of Investment Regulation in MENA countries
	<p><i>A new generation of Investment Laws is currently emerging in MENA countries participating in the MENA-OECD Investment Programme. Restrictions on foreign ownership of enterprises have been relaxed, as have those on foreign ownership and real estate and on foreign purchases of shares on local stock markets. The February 2006 Ministerial Declaration of the Programme equally recognises the principles of 'national treatment for established foreign investments, fair and equitable treatment of investment, protection of investors' rights and compensation for all categories of expropriation'. This session will review recent developments in this area and provide case studies of Investment Law reform projects.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Maen Nsour, CEO, Jordan Investment Board</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Alexander Böhmer, Executive Programme Manager, MENA-OECD Investment Programme • Mr. Aref Al Farra, Advisor to the Minister of Economy, UAE • Mr. Issa Gammoh, Deputy CEO, Jordan Investment Board • Mr. Marwane Mansouri, Director of Division of Research, Investment Division, Morocco • Mr. Mohamed Seif El-Dine, Investment Office, Deputy Director, Syrian Investment Promotion Agency
11:15-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-13:00	Session 2: Remaining Obstacles to Foreign Direct Investment – International Investment Instruments
	<p><i>Many MENA countries are in the process of negotiating their participation in international investment instruments. Some countries from the MENA region have adhered to or have applied to adhere to the OECD Declaration on International Investment and Multilateral Enterprises. This session will discuss the relative benefits of these international investment instruments.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Takeshi Yagi, Minister, Permanent Delegation of Japan to the OECD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. El Sayed Torky, Representative of the Co-chair, Advisor to the Minister of Investment, Egypt • Dr. Tarek Arikat, CIO, Jordan Investment Board • Mr. Marwane Mansouri, Director of Division of Research, Investment Division, Morocco • Mr. John Gardner, Global Business Group, Foreign Commonwealth Office, UK • Ms. Amira Al Bacha, Manager, Syrian Enterprise and Business Center
13:00 – 14:30	Lunch

14:30 – 16:00	Session 3: Investment and Responsible Business Conduct in the MENA region
	<p><i>This session will take stock of the evolving discussions on responsible business conduct in the region including the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises. A proposal for a regional stakeholder dialogue will be presented.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Graham Minter, UK Co-chair of the MENA-OECD Investment Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. El Sayed Torky, Representative of the Co-chair, Advisor to the Minister of Investment, Egypt • Ms. Mariam Al-Foudery, Senior Manager, Corporate Social Responsibility, Agility • Dr. Tareq Hammouri, Managing Partner, Hammouri and Partners Law Firm, Jordan • Ms. Lana Baddar, Local Committee President, Official Extension of AIESEC to Jordan • Ms. Maali Qasem, Head, Schema - Tactical Thinking
16:00-17:30	Session 4: PPP for Infrastructure Financing – Evolving Good Practice
	<p><i>The session will report on the results of the PPP project of the MENA Programme and present the recently adopted OECD Guidelines for Private Sector Participation in Infrastructure. The module is supposed to develop advice on how to structure successful PPPs for financing of infrastructure projects.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Alexander Böhmer, Executive Programme Manager, MENA-OECD Investment Programme</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. John Speakman, Lead Private Sector Development Specialist, World Bank • Mr. Alan Straus, Director and General Counsel, Acap Partners Ltd, BIAC representative • Mr. Peter Stein, CEO, Stein Brothers AB, Sweden • Mr. Imtiaz Hizkil, Country Operations Department, Islamic Development Bank

Note: Participants are cordially invited to a dinner provided by the Jordan Investment Board which will take place at 20.30pm at the following address:

Centro, Jabal Amman, 4th Circle (next to Amman West hotel), telephone 4641020

5 September 2007 – Steering Group Meeting

9:00 – 9:15	Opening Session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Maen Nsour, CEO, Jordan Investment Board • Mr. Graham Minter, UK Co-chair of the MENA-OECD Investment Programme • Dr. El Sayed Torky, Representative of the Co-chair, Advisor to the Minister of Investment, Egypt
9:15 - 11:15	Session 1: Ministerial Meeting – Overview and Drafting of Declaration
	<p><i>The aim of this session is to prepare the Declaration to be agreed upon at the MENA-OECD Ministerial Meeting in November and to provide an overview of ongoing preparations for the 2007 Ministerial Meeting and attending delegations.</i></p> <p>Moderator: Dr. El Sayed Torky, Representative of the Co-chair, Advisor to the Minister of Investment, Egypt</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Alexander Böhmer, Executive Programme Manager, MENA-OECD Investment Programme • Mr. Graham Minter, UK Co-chair of the MENA-OECD Investment Programme • Ms. Eva Seddik, Under Secretary of State, GAFI
11:15-11:30	Coffee Break
11:30-12:45	Session 2: Measuring Progress in Investment Policy Reforms – Business Climate Development Strategy
	<p><i>This session will present a common MENA-OECD Investment Policy Assessment Tool which was developed in co-operation with the World Bank. The methodology will be discussed and the substantive chapters defined. Work procedures for the implementation will be proposed and the timing established.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rainer Geiger, Deputy-Director, OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs • Mr. John Speakman, Lead Private Sector Development Specialist, World Bank • Mr. Anthony O’Sullivan, Division Head, OECD
12:45 – 13:30	Session 3: Other Issues and Closing Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Rainer Geiger, Deputy-Director, OECD Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs
13:30 – 15:00	Lunch

Jordan Investment Board

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