

Working Group IV on Private Public Partnerships, Public Service Delivery and Regulatory Reform

19 May, Tunis, Tunisia

Contribution to the Ministerial Conference in November 2009

The Good Governance for Development (GfD) in Arab Countries Initiative's Working Group IV on Private Public Partnerships, Public Service Delivery and Regulatory Reform met on 19 May 2009 in Tunis, Tunisia. During this regional meeting, delegates agreed to submit this text to the consideration of ministers who will approve the Declaration of the forthcoming GfD Ministerial Conference entitled: "Beyond the crisis, putting citizens and business at the centre of policy responses", to be held in Morocco in November 2009:

Improved regulatory quality is one of the main pillars of countries' strategies to overcome the challenges of the global economic slowdown. Sound legal frameworks for markets are compromised by regulatory inflation and complexity, uncertainty, burdensome compliance costs, poor risk management, and under-resourced institutions. Delegates to the Working Group IV agreed that clarity, accessibility, coherence and applicability are supported through the promotion of regulatory policy tools and approaches such as: the use of clear objectives to justify regulatory action to which regulation should be accountable to; a life-cycle approach should balance the creation and the management of existing legislation; consultation processes which involve stakeholders in the regulatory process; evidence-based analysis policy tools that strengthen regulatory management; and administrative simplification to make the life of citizens and business easier. The sequencing of the reforms is important to ensure success. Sustained political commitment is required to promote quality overtime.

Delegates reaffirmed that multilateral co-operation plays a key role in the promotion of the principles of good regulation. It enhances knowledge, generalises good practice and generally promotes better policies. In particular, the Good Governance for Development (GfD) in Arab Countries Initiative has been an effective mechanism to reinforce the capacities of policy makers, share practices and experiences, and strengthen national reform agendas.

In order to reinforce the impact of the WG activities and enrich the programme of work for the coming years, participants agreed the following:

- The approval of a Regional Charter for Regulatory Quality should help promote common principles and facilitate the implementation of regulatory reform policies. The text submitted to the working group will be consulted in capitals and submitted for approval in the upcoming MENA special session of the Working party on regulatory reform to be held in Paris next September.
- There is a need to institutionalise training in order to create capacities in the use of these tools. The regulatory policy agenda can be enhanced through the work of the Regional Centre of Expertise on Regulatory Quality (RCERQ) hosted by the Government of Tunisia. Delegates supported the launching of the Centre to promote good practice and common understanding of regulatory quality.
- Delegates look forward to future cooperation to review progress towards these goals and draw the lessons of experience to improve their regulatory frameworks.
- Delegates agreed to step up networking efforts and encourage a broader participation in order to accelerate the development and application of principles of better regulation.