



Good Governance for Development (G/D) in Arab Countries Initiative

Steering Group Meeting at Ministerial Level

Hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt

**LIST OF PROPOSALS FOR FUTURE REGIONAL ACTIVITIES THAT EMERGED IN THE
POLICY DIALOGUE**

Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt

19th - 20th May, 2006

The regional activities listed in the table below are preliminary suggestions that emerged in the regional policy dialogue so far and are submitted to countries as a basis for discussion.

Working Group 1 on Civil Service and Integrity	
Regional capacity building seminars / Peer-to-peer learning activities / study visits	<p><i>Integrity and anti-corruption</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Codes of conduct: Formulation and implementation process (possibly in Morocco) 2. The functions of central bodies: Design, implementation and co-ordination of anti-corruption policies 3. Integrity in public procurement (jointly with GfD WG 2/ and the Investment pillar) 4. Involving citizens: public scrutiny (jointly with WG6)
	<p><i>Ensuring integrity and staff performance</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Assessing staff: recruitment and performance appraisal 6. Reforming central HRM agencies
	<p><i>Wage bill management and reforming individual pay</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Individual pay and grading reform and modeling its fiscal implications (possibly jointly with GfD WG 3); Jordan, July 2006 8. Strategies of institutional and legislative approaches for limiting public sector growth (possibly jointly with GfD WG 3);
Regional guidelines and toolkits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a regional toolkit for modelling the costs of pay, grading and pension reforms (building on the seminar to be held in Jordan);
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing and adaptation to the region of the OECD Toolkit on Managing conflict of interest in the public service;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Testing and adaptation to the region of the OECD Handbook on information, consultation and public participation in policy-making (building on the seminar Involving citizens: public scrutiny);
Support for regional capacity centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demand assessment and feasibility study for a specific regional program or a regional centre for administrative decentralization and devolution

Working Group 2 on E-government and Administrative Simplification	
Regional capacity building seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Level Seminar on Administrative Simplification (Egypt, September 2006 on “Strategies, tools and implementation capacities for administrative simplification”); together with the MENA Investment Programme
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Level Seminar on “E-government: partnerships and synergies” (Tunisia, date to be defined), joint with WG IV
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expression of interest from Jordan, Italy and France to host High Level Seminars on specific topics of e-government and administrative simplification (e.g. e-procurement, how to build a portal, etc – dates to be defined)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A meeting in Dubai in 2006 bringing together e-government administrators and regulators, joint with WG IV
Support for regional capacity centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of an Arab Fund for the development of ICTs/e-government;
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up of a Group of Expert on E-government in the Arab world and organisation of a regional forum each two years on E-government. The latter could be conceived at ministerial level.
Regional know-how resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of an Online Observatory of E-Government Projects;
Peer-to-peer learning and study visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster “twinning” among Arab countries to support inter-Arab co-operation projects; • Pilot country reviews of e-government in Arab countries
Regional guidelines and toolkits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Tape Scoreboard Pilot Project for the Arab Region (or interested Arab Countries), led by the Dubai School of Government

Working Group 3 on Governance of Public Finance	
Regional Capacity building seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> High level seminars on subjects such as Public-Private Partnerships , medium term framework budgeting and programme/performance budgeting and where OECD countries can share with Arab countries the lessons they have learned in a variety of budget topics, and which have been expressed by Arab countries as high-priority. In addition to single-issue seminars, several issues may be discussed in meetings of Senior Budget Officials (SBO) of MENA countries, which uses the very successful SBO meetings of OECD countries as a model.
Peer-to-peer learning activities and study visits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Development of a program of bilateral OECD-Arab learning activities and study visits centered on budget topics (such as performance-informed budgeting, and the treatment of off-budget entities) that have been identified as common regional challenges in the national action plans and the regional Working Group meetings.
Support for Regional capacity centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Feasibility Study for a regional center for Public Finance, Egypt;

Working Group 4 on Public Services Delivery, Public-Private Partnerships and Regulatory Reform (SUB-THEME REGULATORY REFORM)	
Regional capacity building seminars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional workshops on consultation procedures for law-drafting, administrative simplification and on regulatory frameworks for special regional development zones, jointly with Investment Programme
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Meeting in the framework of the Joint Task Force between the OECD Governance and Investment Directorate in Istanbul, following the Global Forum on Investment. This meeting will focus on PPPs for Infrastructure Financing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional workshop to share the experience and lessons on pilot projects to introduce impact assessment on economic legislation.
Support for Regional capacity centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Centre for Regulatory Excellence, in cooperation with a local Beirut university as an observatory on good practice and as a training centre Lebanon
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Centre for the Evaluation of Public Policies, Morocco, to be housed at the national school of administration. This Centre could contribute to the training of civil servants in charge of the public/private interface.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme to train multi-lingual legal drafters, or <i>juri-linguistes</i>, comprising (1) sending professionals abroad for 1-2 months to be trained in countries with bi-lingual law drafting; and(2) the creation of a DESS to train professionals at the University of Tunis El Manar, Tunisia
Regional guidelines and toolkits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A Regional Charter on Law-Making, drafting seminar in Tunisia at the University of Carthage in autumn 2006
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Benchmarking and Indicators on public services based on a focused questionnaire (Dubai)

**Working Group 4 on Public Services Delivery, Public-Private Partnerships and Regulatory Reform
(SUB-THEME PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY AND PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP)**

<p>Improve delivery of public services</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish efficient statistical base for each public to provide support policies and decision making as well as improve targeting users and beneficiaries • Review rules and regulations governing the delivery of public services with a view to facilitating delivery. • Develop and institutionalize a code of behavior to guide the behavior of public officials dealing mostly with the provision of public services. • Assist countries in developing and instituting Charter of Public Service Delivery to inform users about their rights and increase accessibility to service • Help Institute a system of measuring users satisfaction to periodically review the efficiency and effectiveness of the system. This could first be tested in one or two sectors. • Assist in organizing institutional and human capacity building activities both at national and regional levels.
<p>Enhance public private partnership for development</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist requesting countries to finalize the national assessment exercise in the area of public-private partnership and design the appropriate national action plans. • Assist those countries that have already developed their plans to translate them into feasible projects and assist in mobilizing financial and technical support resources to implement them. • Review laws, rules and regulations governing the relationship between public and private sectors with a view to further liberalize the system and allow the private sector a major role in economic development and become the real engine of growth. • Assist private sector institutions to actively enhance their role in the policy and decision processes. • Organize institutional and human capacity building activities especially in public agencies to facilitate their effective cooperation with the private sector.

Working Group 5 on the Role of the Judiciary and Enforcement of Judgements	
Strengthening legal and institutional frameworks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption Enforcement of judgments • Enhancing the independence and integrity within the judicial profession • Enforcement of judgments
Capacity Building for a more effective and efficient judiciary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing specialized legal training on economic cases • Strengthening the Public Prosecutors' ability to effectively investigate and prosecute criminal cases, and ensure a fair trial. • Computerizing case tracking and judicial assignment functions

Working Group 6 on Citizens, Civil Society and Public Sector Reform	
Strengthening the legal and institutional framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support the promulgation of a law to guarantee access to information by citizens • Support the promulgation of a law on managing personal and private data • Support the promulgation of a law to improve interaction between citizens and the public sector • Creation of a special parliamentary committee for public sector reform • The consolidation of independent institutional procedures of complaints • The improvement of coordination between the various sides in charge of citizens complaints • Activities aimed at improving proximity in public service delivery to citizens
Institutional strengthening to improve consultation and participation of citizens and civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The activation of existing mixed national councils • The creation of new mixed national councils
Improving communication between the public sector and citizens and civil society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved monitoring of public sector performance • The development of improved means of communication between citizens and the public sector
Encouraging public officials in the performance of their tasks and adherence to good conduct in their relations with citizens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The application of the code of conduct for officials • Capacity building for public sector officials and employees towards participatory management • Support a project to improve the performance of the public sector on the basis of incentives