



Arab Republic of Egypt
Ministry of State for
Administrative Development

**Dr. Darwish Address
GfD Ministerial Meeting
Cairo, Nov.29th 2007**

السكرتير العام لمنظمة التعاون الاقتصادي والتنمية.

السيد الأمين العام المساعد للشئون الاقتصادية بجامعة الدول العربية نائباً عن السيد عمرو موسى أمين عام جامعة الدول العربية

السيد ممثل المكتب الإقليمي للدول العربية لبرنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي

السادة الوزراء والسفراء، الضيوف الكرام، السيدات والسادة الحضور

السلام عليكم،،

بداية أود أن أرحب بكم في القاهرة التي تستضيف الاجتماع الوزاري الثالث لمجموعة تسيير مبادرة الإدارة الرشيدة من أجل التنمية في الدول العربية، والذي يعقد تحت الرعاية الكريمة للسيد رئيس مجلس الوزراء الدكتور أحمد نظيف.

كما أتوجه بخالص الشكر والتقدير لسكرتير عام منظمة التعاون الاقتصادي والتنمية، السيد "أنخيل جوريا"، وسكرتارية المبادرة ممثلة في السيدة "أديل سالار"، والمكتب الإقليمي للدول العربية لبرنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي ممثلاً في الدكتور عادل عبد اللطيف على الدعم والمساندة التي قدمها للمبادرة في المرحلة الأولى.

ولا يفوتني أن أشكر رقيقة الجهد المبذول والرئيس المشارك السيدة السفيرة أندرسن والتي في حقيقة الأمر وصغت الكثير من وقتها لإعداد مراجعة الوثائق.

وأشير في هذا الصدد إلى أهمية هذا الاجتماع باعتباره يشهد بداية الإعلان عن المرحلة الثانية من " مبادرة الإدارة الرشيدة لخدمة التنمية في الدول العربية"، ومن ثم بداية بناء شراكة تتأسس على مزيد من التعاون والتنسيق وتبادل الرؤى ووجهات النظر في أولويات التطوير والإصلاح من أجل تحقيق إدارة أفضل لشئون الدولة والمجتمع.



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Secretary General of the OECD
Assistant Secretary General for Economic Affairs, Arab League, representing H.E. Mr. Amr Moussa the Secretary General.
Ambassador Anderson,
Chief Regional Program Division, Regional UNDP Bureau for Arab States,
Excellencies Ministers, Ambassadors and High Commissioners
Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen

Overtime many changes have taken place in the region, but remains a simple fact, MENA is the center. It is the center geographically, it is the center of political attention, don't deny that at 100 \$/barrel it is not the center for investment (both producing and receiving). But more important it is now the center of attention for the wind of reform has blown. Some of us have taken bold steps some of us are moving at a faster pace, but it is all over the place.

At the heart of that emerges the attention of good governance as the most important factor. Most of the audiences are probably more knowledgeable than me in the main pillars of good governance. What we are all interested in is the road map to achieve it. Being an engineer I could probably phrase in simple formula:

Good governance= Efficient Effective Transparent Adminstrate Body + Alert Active Society.
Alert to use their rights. If we are not transparent, they will exert their right to information. They will hold us accountable and they will monitor how we follow the rule of law. Meanwhile they are active and will participate. Let's remember the basics: it's by the people for the people.

Fortunately, the modern era has availed the tools. Innovations in information and communications technology, improved means for management of human resources, simulation of work cycles and flow, new channels for service delivery, information dissemination and participation, and the like.....

Since the first ministerial meeting in 2005, we have witnessed the strengthening of our partnership through the institutionalization of our dialogue. In response, cooperation between MENA countries and OECD member countries has rapidly developed and diversified.

No one deny that we started harvesting some of the fruits. Country plans were drafted, knowledge was exchange through workshops, projects were executed, centers for training and excellence were erected, and the impact is starting to show.



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However, it is now time for the framework of the second phase. Time to craft a new and stronger partnership that builds on our fresh ideas and renewed institutions, capitalizes on the lessons and best practices learned and to be learned, and provides a solid framework for long-term, systematic sustainable process and well integrated cooperation.

In order to meet the ambitious objectives of the initiative in its second phase new approaches will be needed to jointly address a number of key challenges that are prerequisites for the new partnership, including:

- To work together towards gradually adopting relevant politics and regulatory frameworks.
- To move away from a traditional relationship to real partnership.
- To build on positive experiences and lessons learned from our past relationship where successful mechanism and instruments have been applied.
- To recognize and support our commitments to create conducive conditions for sustainable socioeconomic development.
- To make better and more systematic use of our shared cultural and social heritage.
- To integrate in our agenda common responses to global challenges.
- To bear in mind that we can only achieve our objectives if this strategic partnership is owned by all relevant actors, and if they are actively contributing to its implementation.
- To work together to give more visibility to the initiative in the media to assure better understanding to how it benefits the average citizen.

Before I conclude, would like to shift gears to quite related topic. The situation in the MENA region might be dominated by the economic reform agenda, the liberalization of markets. Yet, more investment and higher return, trickling down to the average citizen will not happen without a better corrupt- free environment.

Integrity has become fundamental for governments to provide a trustworthy and effective framework for the economic and social life of their citizens. Countries are under constant pressure to bring their integrity measures into line with citizen's demands for performance and accountability. Institutions and mechanisms for promoting integrity are more and more considered as basic components for good governance. Signing the UN agreement is a good step, that should be followed by several steps on the ground.



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To conclude;

The feedback we got shows trust in the capabilities of our partners in the OECD and UNDP. We clearly, after working together for 3 years, are now tuned to the same frequency. To me this paves the path to go forward endorse a second phase of the initiative.

We will have a full session identifying core objectives, priorities, policies and strategies for the second phase of the initiative and will have the time to listen to each other and interact to draft the conclusion. Right now let me just trigger the simple initial phrase: Arab countries, OECD and UNDP shall work closely together to ensure a successful second phase.

Once again, I wish to thank all our partner, Mr. Angel Gurría, Ambassador Andersson, Mrs. Odile Salard, Dr. Adel Abdel Latif for their sincere efforts and insights and time they have provided to enhance the dialogue among MENA and OECD member states to reach a consensus on how to turn challenges into opportunities...

Wishing you a pleasant stay in Egypt.