



MENA-OECD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

23 November 2009

*Beyond the crisis: business and citizens
at the centre of policy responses*

DRAFT AGENDA

Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco

2009 MENA-OECD MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

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8.30 - 9.00	REGISTRATION
	Venue: Palais des Congrès de la Palmeraie, Marrakech, Kingdom of Morocco
9.00 - 9.45	Opening session and handover of the MENA-OECD Initiative chairmanship from Egypt to Morocco
	<p>The opening session will be devoted to speeches given by distinguished speakers from Morocco, Belgium, Egypt and the OECD. The handover of the Initiative's chairmanship from Egypt to Morocco will take place in a ceremony that will close the opening session.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address by H.E. Mr. Abbas El Fassi, <i>Prime Minister, Kingdom of Morocco</i> • Address by His Royal Highness Prince Philippe of Belgium • Address by Mr. Angel Gurría, <i>Secretary-General, OECD</i> • Address by H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, <i>Minister of Investment, Arab Republic of Egypt</i> <p>Handover ceremony</p>
9.45 - 10.30	PRESS CONFERENCE AND COFFEE BREAK
	The present and former chairs of the MENA-OECD Initiative, together with the OECD Secretary-General will participate in a press conference with international media from both MENA and OECD economies.
10.30 - 12.30	<p>Session 1: Policy responses beyond the crisis</p> <p><i>Moderators:</i></p> <p>Mrs. Carolyn Ervin, <i>Director, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD</i> and</p> <p>Mr. Rolf Alter, <i>Director, Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD</i></p>
	<p>The MENA region has been affected to varying degrees by the recent economic crisis. Dialogue at both local and global levels is essential to making informed policy choices. Close partnerships between MENA and OECD countries, as well as within the MENA region itself, are essential for creating strong economies that are underpinned by viable social systems. Sustained growth and sufficient employment opportunities are particularly important to MENA countries, which have young and dynamic populations. In this session, ministers from MENA and OECD countries will discuss strategic options for overcoming current challenges and reinforcing partnerships to promote better opportunities for the future.</p> <p>Ministerial panel discussion</p>
12.30 - 15.00	LUNCH OFFERED BY THE MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT

15.00 - 17.30	Session 2: Regional reform achievements and the way ahead	
	<p>Policy dialogue and peer advice at the regional and multilateral level are important tools for ensuring the sustainability of governance and business climate reforms. In this session, ministers will share reform strategies for building a stronger, cleaner and fairer economy and convene in two separate panels to decide on the future orientation of the MENA-OECD Initiative.</p>	
	<p>Ministerial panel A: Public governance</p> <p><i>Chairs:</i></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Mohamed Abbou, <i>Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in charge of the Modernisation of the Public Sector, Kingdom of Morocco, and</i></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Chris Hoornaert, <i>Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the OECD</i></p>	<p>Ministerial panel B: Investment and business climate</p> <p><i>Chairs:</i></p> <p>H.E. Mr. Nizar Baraka, <i>Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in charge of Economic and General Affairs, Kingdom of Morocco, and</i></p> <p>H.E. Mrs. Cristina Narbona Ruiz, <i>Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OECD</i></p>
	<p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministers of Public Governance and Finance, and heads of delegations from MENA and OECD countries <p>For more details, please consult the enclosed agenda for the Ministerial panel A: public governance.</p>	<p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ministers of Economy and Investment, and heads of delegations from MENA and OECD countries <p>For more details, please consult the enclosed agenda for the Ministerial panel B: Investment and business climate.</p>
17.30 - 18.00	COFFEE BREAK	
18.00 - 19.00	Session 3: The way forward: presentation and adoption of the Ministerial Declaration	
	<p>Ministers and high-level authorities from MENA and OECD countries will convene in this final session to communicate the main conclusions of the conference and call for further development of the MENA-OECD Initiative. Regional policy recommendations on public governance and investment approved by the Ministerial panels will be shared in this plenary session.</p>	
	<p>Report on Ministerial panel discussions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Mr. Chris Hoornaert, <i>Ambassador, Delegation of Belgium to the OECD and Co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme</i> H.E. Mrs. Cristina Narbona Ruiz, <i>Ambassador, Delegation of Spain to the OECD and Co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Investment Programme</i> <p>Presentation of the Ministerial Declaration:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H.E. Mr. Nizar Baraka, <i>Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in charge of Economic and General Affairs, Kingdom of Morocco, and Chair of the MENA-OECD Investment Programme</i> H.E. Mr. Mohamed Abbou, <i>Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in charge of the Modernisation of the Public Sector, Kingdom of Morocco, and Chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme</i> 	
20.00	COCKTAIL RECEPTION OFFERED BY THE OECD	

Background

The 2009 MENA-OECD Ministerial Conference, held under the High Patronage of His Majesty the King Mohammed VI, will bring together Ministers of Investment and Public Governance to provide strategic responses to the current global economic crisis and discuss ways to mitigate its negative effects on growth, employment and public services. It will also explore how the region can pave the way for a solid and sustainable recovery that ensures economic growth and better opportunities for all citizens, especially the most vulnerable.

The Conference will close with the issuing of a Ministerial Declaration, underlining the strong commitment of MENA and OECD countries to pursuing priority public governance and business climate reforms which take into account the impact of the crisis. Ministers will also discuss key findings of progress reviews on reforms initiated during the second phase of the MENA-OECD Initiative. Conclusions of these reviews will shape the resulting regional policy recommendations on public governance and business climate.

The Conference will underscore the importance of strengthening the process of regional dialogue – an objective towards which the MENA-OECD Initiative has worked since its inception in 2005. An important aspect of its uniqueness and sustainability has been its reliance on vibrant networks of policy makers, and on regional centres which have implemented regional work programmes.

For more information, contact: mena.ministerial@oecd.org or see the Conference websites at: www.oecd.org/mena/ministerial2009 and www.mena-ocde.ma

