

**GOOD GOVERNANCE
FOR DEVELOPMENT
IN ARAB COUNTRIES
INITIATIVE**



AGENDA

**4th Regional Working Group Meeting
on Civil Service and Integrity**

4 April 2008

Rabat, Morocco

Hosted by

H.E. Mr. Mohammed Abbou

Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister
in charge of Public Sector Modernisation



Good Governance for Development (GfD) in Arab Countries Initiative

4th Regional Working Group Meeting on Civil Service and Integrity

Chair: Morocco

Co-chairs: Spain, Turkey

Rabat, Morocco, 4 April 2008

Agenda

Friday, 4 April 2008

08:30 – 09:00	Registration
Meeting venue: École Nationale d'Administration (ENA), 1, Avenue de la Victoire, Rabat Center, Morocco	
09:00 – 09:30	Opening Session
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chair: H.E. Mr. Mohammed Abbou, Minister delegate to the Prime Minister in charge of Public Sector Modernisation, Morocco <p>Interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• H.E. Mr. Nizar Baraka, Minister delegate to the Prime Minister in charge of Economic and General Affairs, Morocco• Ms. Cristina Juarranz de la Fuente, Director of the Centre for International Cooperation, National Institute for Public Administration, Ministry for Public Administrations, Spain• Mr. Ömer Atalar, Project Director, Council of Ethics for the Public Service, Turkey• Mr. Martin Forst, Acting Head of Division, Public Sector Management and Performance Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD	
09:30 – 09:45	Coffee Break
09:45 – 11:30	Session 1: Current Developments in Arab Countries and Suggested Activities on Regional Policy Dialogue
<p>In this session the Working Group chair will briefly report on the ongoing activities of the Working Group and the expected outputs for the new phase 2008-10. Representatives from Arab countries will be invited to briefly update the working group members on current developments in the areas of civil service and integrity in their country. Participants are kindly requested to answer the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Please, update the main challenges of your country and the policy responses of your government in the areas of Human Resource Management (HRM) and Integrity in the public service;2. Please, give an example of a good practice or innovative reform that could be shared with other countries;3. Please, suggest what in your view are the main priorities for thematic seminars in the context of the GfD Initiative and which capacity building events could be hosted by your country.	

Chair: Mr. Azzeddine Diouri, General Secretary, Ministry for the Public Sector Modernisation, Morocco

Interventions by country delegates

11:30 – 12:30	Session 2 : Reinforcing Joint Learning Activities
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The Joint Learning Studies have proved to be an effective tool to help countries to analyze the policy context in order to implement successful policies benefiting from international tendencies and good practices. This session will provide the working group with the opportunity of sharing examples of joint learning studies both in Arab and OECD countries. The discussions could result in the identification of potential areas to implement Joint Learning Studies or Joint Learning Visits, as well as countries interested in making use of this tool to assure successful implementation of reforms.

Chair: Mr. Monkid Mestassi, General Secretary, Ministry of Economic and General Affairs, Morocco

Interventions:

- Key note speech, Mr. Monkid Mestassi, General Secretary, Ministry of Economic and General Affairs, Morocco: “The Joint Learning Study on the Integrity in Public Procurement in Morocco: Lessons Learned”
- Mr. Philippe Vermeulen, General Advisor, Federal Public Service – Personnel and Organisation, Belgium: “Peer Reviews, the experience of a reviewed country”
- Mr. Peter van der Gaast, Head of the International Civil Service Affairs Division, Ministry of the Interior and Kingdom Relations, the Netherlands: “Peer Reviews, the Experience of the Reviewer”

Discussion

12:30 – 14:30	Luncheon
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14:30 – 16:00	Session 3: Measuring and Reporting Progress in Reform
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Measuring and reporting progress in public sector modernization is a necessary tool to improve public policies. The GfD Initiative provides an adequate platform to share expertise between OECD and Arab countries regarding the elaboration of reliable information about public governance reform and progress. This is a long term objective that must to be built on rigorous methodologies adapted to the needs and conditions of the Arab region. The discussion would contribute to work towards a review mechanism as stipulated at the Steering Committee at Ministerial level held in Cairo, 29th November 2007. This session will include presentations on the experience of OECD and the World Bank. Participants are kindly requested to answer the following questions:

- What information and data are you already collecting related to HRM and integrity?
- What are your needs in terms of collecting data and information for better policy-making in these fields?

- How can the GfD Initiative contribute to improve these data collection efforts?

Chair: Ms. Rabha Zeidguy, Director for Administration Modernisation, Ministry of Public Sector Modernisation, Morocco.

Interventions:

- Mr. Carlos Conde, coordinator of the OECD MENA Governance Programme, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development: “Developing Tools for Measuring Performance of the Public Sector, the OECD Experience”
- Mr. Robert P. Beschel Jr., Lead Public Sector Specialist, Social and Economic Development Group (MNSD), Middle East and North Africa Vice Presidency, The World Bank: “Developing indicators on governance, the World Bank experience in the MENA Region”

Discussion

16:00 – 16:30	Coffee Break
16:30 – 17:30	Session 4: The Way Forward - Conclusions
<p>The objective of this session is to synthesise the future activities of the Working Group based on the results of the discussions. Participants are kindly invited to sum up the activities (e.g. peer reviews, joint learning activities and capacity building seminars) their country would like to organise in 2008-10. The conclusions will guide the elaboration of the Terms of Reference to be presented and eventually endorsed by the next Steering Committee.</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Azzeddine Diouri, General Secretary, Ministry for the Public Sector Modernisation, Morocco</p> <p>Moderator: Mr. Martin Forst, Acting Head of Division, Public Sector Management and Performance Division, OECD Secretariat</p> <p>Discussion</p>	
17:30	End of meeting

Objectives and Expected Outcomes

The key objective and expected outcome of the 4th Regional Working Group Meeting on Civil Service and Integrity is to narrow down the Programme of Work and to define the concrete activities and practical orientations to be implemented during the next three years. In particular, the Working Group meeting aims to:

- Update the current tendencies and challenges in Human Resource Management (HRM) and Integrity in the public sector in the Arab countries in order to set up adequate strategies for regional dialogue, capacity building and peer advice to support reforms at national level.
- Discuss the methodological and practical basis for implementing joint learning activities and identify topics and interested countries in their development.
- Discuss how to reinforce the efforts currently undertaken by Arab countries to measure and report progress with reform.
- Provide orientation and guidance for the elaboration of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the WG to be discussed and eventually endorsed at the next Steering Group Meeting at technical level.

Background information

The Good Governance for Development (GfD) in Arab Countries Initiative has entered into its second phase (2008-10). This Initiative, jointly supported by OECD and the UNDP Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (POGAR), aims at increasing regional policy dialogue on governance modernisation and to strengthen government's capacity to design, implement and evaluate public policies. The key structure for the implementation of the GfD Initiative are its regional Working Groups. Each of the six regional Working Groups is dedicated to a priority reform area. The thematic Working Groups are designed to drive an in-depth and results-oriented policy dialogue among Arab and OECD countries. They play a key role in the identification of regional challenges and the definition of peer advice mechanisms to support national reform initiatives. In this context, the **Working Group on Civil Service and Integrity**, chaired by Morocco and co-chaired by Spain and Turkey, aims at supporting Arab countries in establishing an efficient civil service inspired by strong ethical values.

Background documents

- Programme of work for GfD II 2008-2010
- Report on WG 1 activities and achievements
- Countries' thematic Priorities for 2008-2010
- Joint Learning Study on Integrity in Public Procurement in Morocco
- Draft Checklist for Enhancing Integrity in Public Procurement
- GfD Calendar of Events 2008