



- Draft Agenda-

**High-level Meeting on Economic and
Governance Policy Reforms
in the Republic of Iraq**

**- Within the Framework of the
International Compact with Iraq -**

– With a focus on: Investment Climate,
Anti-Corruption Policies and
Aid Management -

8-10 July 2008

Venue: OECD Conference Centre
Room 6

Paris, France

Objective

Important progress has been made by the Government of Iraq (GoI) on investment climate policies, private sector development and anti-corruption policies. This progress was recognized by the international community during the First Annual Meeting of the International Compact with Iraq (ICI), held on 29 May 2008 in Stockholm. Building upon these positive developments, a third meeting on Investment Climate and Anti-Corruption Policies is organized by the MENA-OECD Initiative with the support of UNDP within the framework of the International Compact for Iraq.

The *High-level Meeting on Economic Policy Reforms in the Republic of Iraq* follows a series of events organized by the MENA-OECD Programme since October 2007, such as the Workshop in January 2008 in Amman, the high-level meeting in May in Paris, and regional as well as country specific meetings conducted with Iraqi officials.

The High-level meeting in Paris will be preceded by the first Roundtable on Economic Reforms and Capacity Enhancement for Private Sector Development in Iraq, organized by UNDP/MENA-OECD in Baghdad on 1-2 July 2008, focusing on private sector development, broader business enabling issues, public private partnerships and investment policies. The resulting document will provide input for discussion on the policy implementation during the 3 days meeting in Paris.

Meeting Focus

The meeting will address items of priority suggested by officials of the Iraqi Government during prior meetings of the MENA-OECD Initiative and mentioned in the ICI. An opening session will follow up on the outcomes of the ICI Review Meeting in Stockholm (29 May) as well as the first Roundtable on Economic Reforms and Capacity Enhancement for Private Sector Development in Iraq (1-2 July), presenting options for implementation of economic and private sector development reforms. Two Workshops will follow, addressing progress in the areas of co-operation identified in the letter of agreement recently signed between the NIC and the MENA-OECD and the outcomes of work conducted on government procurement and anti-corruption policies.

On the 3rd day of the meeting, participants will exchange views on how to proceed after Iraq's adherence to the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and with respect to priorities for future co-operation between the GoI, MENA-OECD and UNDP.

A training programme on anti-corruption will also take place on the morning of the 3rd day, organized in co-operation with the SCPC - Service Central de la Prevention de la Corruption, the French anti-corruption body. Relevant Iraqi officials are invited to attend; experts from the SCPC and from other major French anti-corruption and anti-money laundering bodies will participate and share experiences about their respective functions and activities as well as about the general intra-governmental coordination to prevent and fight corruption.

Participants

The workshop will bring together officials from the Iraqi Government institutions relevant to the topics discussed. Experts and representatives from OECD countries and partner international organizations will be present as well.

Documentation

The relevant meeting documents together with a more detailed agenda will be distributed to participants in advance of the meeting. For information about the MENA-OECD Initiative please visit: www.oecd.org/mena , for information on UNDP's work with Iraq: <http://www.iq.undp.org> .

Venue

High-level meeting, 8-10 July: OECD Conference Centre, Room 6 - Address: 2, rue André-Pascal (Paris)

Training session on anti-corruption, 10 July : SCPC premises Address : 129 rue de l' Université (Paris)

8 July - 1st Day: Overview Economic Policy Reforms/Investment Workshop

9:30 – 10:00	Opening remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heads MENA-OECD Investment Programme/Good Governance for Development in Arab Countries Initiative <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mr. Rainer Geiger, Head, MENA-OECD Investment Programme - Mrs. Odile Sallard, Head, Good Governance for Development in Arab Countries Initiative • Mr. Paolo Lembo, UNDP Iraq Country Director • Mr. Mofawak M. Abboud - Ambassador of Iraq in France • H.E. Dr. Ahmed Al Ridha, Minister – Chairman, Iraq National Investment Commission
Press Break	
10:30 – 13:00	Economic Policy Reforms and Private Sector Development in Iraq – an Overview
	<p>The opening session will follow up on the outcomes of the International Compact with Iraq Annual Review Meeting in Stockholm (29 May) as well as the first Gol Roundtable on Economic Reforms and Capacity Enhancement for Private Sector Development in Iraq (1-2 July) and present options for implementation of economic and private sector development reforms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roundtable on Economic Reforms, 1-2 July: Conclusions and Position Paper <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UNDP/OECD Representative • Government of Iraq (Gol) Representative • Investment Policy, Business Integrity and Private Sector Reforms for Growth and Employment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rainer Geiger, Head, MENA-OECD Investment Programme, OECD • Mr. Alexander Böhmer, Head of MENA Unit, Private Sector Development Division, OECD • Gol Representative • Good Economic Governance: Privatisation/ Public Private Partnerships, Corporate Governance of SOEs and Anti-corruption <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rainer Geiger, Head, MENA-OECD Investment Programme, OECD • Mr. Josef Konvitz, Head of Regulatory Reform Division, OECD • Gol Representative • Tax reforms for Economic Development <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Jeffrey Owens, Head, Center for Tax Policy and Administration, OECD • Gol Representative

	<i>Discussion and Way Ahead</i>
13:00-14:30	Lunch
	Workshop 1: Investment Climate Policy in Iraq
14:30-16:00	Session I: Implementing the Iraqi Investment Law : Key Issues
	<p>The first session will discuss key issues from the point of view of international as well as domestic investor in relation to the implementation of the Investment Law 13/2006. A draft proposal for Implementation Regulations will be tabled and discussed. An overview of current major investment projects attracting private participation will be provided.</p> <p><u>a): Draft Implementation Regulation: Key Issues</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Which entity is responsible for the Investor? – Jurisdiction questions • What is the procedure for getting an investment license? - Screening and Approval • What guarantees for the investor? – expropriation, national treatment, dispute settlement <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD Representative • Gol Representatives <p><u>b): Key Projects: Current Investment Opportunities</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gol representative <p><u>c) The Way Ahead: Developing a Targeted Strategy To Attract Investment in Iraq</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD Representative <p><i>Roundtable discussion</i></p>
16:00 – 16:15	Coffee Break
16:15-17:00	Session II: International Investment Agreements Negotiations –Defining a Strategy for Iraq
	<p>This session will present a proposal for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - developing a strategy for Iraq for bilateral investment agreements; - a checklist of issues to be addressed in state of the art investment agreements. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD • Gol representative

9 July: 2nd Day – Anti-corruption and Transparency in Public Procurement

9:15 – 10:00	Investment Policies (continued)
	<p>Workshop 2: Procurement, Anti-Corruption and Integrity Policies</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Rainer Geiger, Head MENA-OECD Investment Programme, OECD</p>
10:15 – 12:30	Session I: Enhancing transparency in Public Procurement
	<p>This session will review critical measures of the Iraqi regulations to promote transparency and prevent corruption in public procurement. Participants will be invited to discuss the main findings of the survey on “Public Procurement Regulations in Iraq”, its analysis and possible policy recommendations to enhance transparency and resistance to corruption in line with international good practices. The results of discussion will be included in the benchmarking report prepared by OECD experts. OECD experts will also present a proposal for a practical tool to support implementation of the procurement regulations in daily practice. Participants will be invited to discuss possible applications of this proposed tool to enable procurement officials to map-out risks to corruption in the public procurement process.</p> <p><u>Presentation of results of the procurement survey and tools for implementation: risk-mapping in public procurement</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD Representatives • Gol Representative <p><i>Roundtable discussion</i></p>
11:00 - 11.30	Coffee Break
12:30-14:30	Lunch
14:30-17:00	Session II: Fighting corruption in Iraq and instruments to enhance integrity
	<p>Discussions with Gol officials highlighted the necessity of engaging in a stocktaking exercise to determine the main causes of corruption in Iraq and review existing anti-corruption procedures and practices. In order to accomplish this stocktaking exercise, a questionnaire on “Stocktaking: Fighting Corruption in Iraq” was distributed to different stakeholders. Representatives of the Gol will be invited to report on concrete steps taken or envisaged following adoption by the National Assembly of the “national campaign for fighting administrative corruption” (January 2008) and the subsequent “Baghdad Declaration on Combating Corruption” (March 2008).</p> <p>In the second part of the session, OECD experts will outline possible practical instruments to enhance public and private sector integrity in daily practice.</p> <p><u>Presentation of the “Stocktaking” and of tools to enhance integrity in public and private sector</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gol Representative • OECD Representatives • UNDP/UNODC Representative <p><i>Roundtable discussion</i></p>

10 July: 3rd Day – Aid Effectiveness and GOI/MENA-OECD/UNDP Co-operation

9:30 - 12:30	Session I: Aid Effectiveness/Budget Planning
	<p>The GOI will present its current and future policies of aid management as well as report on the follow up after adhering to the Paris Declaration. A presentation on budget planning will underline the link between aid accountability and state of the art budget planning.</p> <p><u>a) Presentation on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Implementation Status and discussion</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD Representative • GOI Representative <p><u>b) Budget planning and public expenditure</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OECD Representative
12:30	Official Closing
14:30 – 16 :00	Session II: Organisational issues of GoI/MENA-OECD/UNDP Co-operation

9:00 - 13:00: Training Session on anti-corruption at the French SCPC (Service Central de la Prevention de la Corruption) for Iraqi representatives responsible for anti-corruption policies.

The session will take place in parallel, at the premises of the SCPC in Paris.