



**GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN ARAB COUNTRIES INITIATIVE  
FOCUS GROUP ON REGULATORY REFORM  
(WORKING GROUP IV)**

**AGENDA**

**REGIONAL CAPACITY-BUILDING SEMINAR FOR REGULATORY QUALITY:  
GOOD PRACTICES IN MULTILINGUAL DRAFTING AND THE TRAINING OF JURILINGUISTS**

*27 November 2006*

*LA MAISON DE L'EXPORTATEUR*

*Tunis, Tunisia*



**MONDAY, 27 NOVEMBER 2006**

8.30 - 9.00	<i>Registration</i>
9.00 – 9.30	<p><b>Introduction: The Good Governance for Development in Arab Countries Initiative: Focus Group on Regulatory Reform (Working Group IV)</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Mr. Kheireddine Ben Soltane, Legal and Legislative Advisor to the Government, Tunisia</i></p>
	<p>The need to strengthen Arab legal drafters' capacity when they draft legislative texts in Arabic, English and/or French has been identified by Arab countries in the course of the GfD Initiative, and particularly in the Focus Group on Regulatory Reform (Working Group IV). Tunisia, as chair of the Focus Group, has taken this priority into account, noting the creation of a regional professional Masters Course at the Tunis El Manar University to train multilingual legal drafters as a key target in its Country Action Plan for Public Sector Modernisation in the field of regulatory reform.</p> <p>The overall objective is to improve legal clarity and certainty, reduce regulatory complexity and contribute to establishing a better environment for citizens and business. Legal clarity is of crucial importance for transparency and investment, both principal drivers for good governance and the national economy.</p> <p><b><i>Opening remarks</i></b></p> <p><u>Presentation of progress made in Tunisia concerning the improvement of the quality of regulation</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Zouheir Iskander, General Director, Center for Legal and Judicial Studies, Tunisia</li> </ul> <p><u>Presentation of progress made in the focus group on regulatory reform (working group IV) as well as objectives of the meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Josef Konvitz, Head of Regulatory Policy Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD</li> </ul>
9.30 – 11.15	<p><b>Session 1: Good Practices for Multilingual Legal Drafting: The Role of Jurilinguists in the Legislative Process</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Ms. Zeineb Ben Ammar Mamelouk, President, Tunis El Manar University</i></p>
	<p>Many Arab, but also a number of OECD member countries, such as Switzerland, Canada, Belgium and the EU face the challenge of drafting their laws and legislation in more than one language. The complexity of multilingual legal drafting requires a developed organisation and established best practices in the legislative process.</p> <p>This session is designed to familiarise participants with good practices used in the legislative process in OECD and Arab Countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Bensalem Belkourati, Legal Advisor, Secrétariat Général du Gouvernement, Morocco</li> <li>• Ms. Juliet Weenink-Griffiths, Head of Legal Revision Section, European Central Bank</li> <li>• Mr. William Robinson, Coordinator, Legal Revisers Group, Legal Service, European Commission</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Samer Fares, Director, Institute of Law, Birzeit University, Palestine</li> <li>• Mr. André Labelle, Chief Jurilinguist and Legislative Counsel, Legislative Services Branch, Department of Justice, Canada</li> <li>• Ms. Manuela Guggeis, Legal Linguistic Expert, Legal service "Quality of legislation" Directorate, Council of the European Union</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What are the advantages and disadvantages of the technique of “co-drafting” and of “translation”?</i> What are the lessons from OECD country experience, and how can they be useful for developments in Arab countries?</li> <li>• <i>Which tools and policies aiming at facilitating the process of multilingual legal drafting are in place? Have central registries of laws and regulations been set up? If so, how effective have they been and who can access them?</i></li> <li>• <i>How can guidelines contribute to improving the quality of regulations? How detailed and complex should they be?</i></li> </ul>
11.15 – 11.45	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11.45 – 12.45	<p><b>Session 2: Legal Clarity and Plain Language: The Role of Jurilinguists in the Standardisation and Publication of Legal Terminology</b></p> <p><b>Chair: Mr. René Prioux, Head of Translation Division, OECD</b></p>
	<p>The simplification and improvement of the legal language used in official documents facilitates communication between the administration and the public. Plain language initiatives have been developed by governments around the world and they are particularly of crucial importance when texts are drafted in more than one language and/or by non-native speakers.</p> <p>In this session selected plain language initiatives as well as techniques aimed at standardising legal terminology will be presented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Tahseen Al-Qatawneh, General Secretary, Legislation and Opinion Bureau, Prime Ministry, Jordan</li> <li>• Mr. François Blais, Director, Centre for legal translation and documentation (CTDJ), University of Ottawa, Canada</li> <li>• Mr. Bengt Baedcke, Language Expert, Division for Legal and Linguistic Draft Revision, Ministry of Justice, Sweden</li> <li>• Ms. Manuela Guggeis, Legal Linguistic Expert, Legal service "Quality of legislation" Directorate, Council of the European Union</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Are there specific “plain-language” drafting requirements for law proposals? How are these requirements communicated to civil servants and how is their implementation ensured?</i></li> <li>• <i>Are there databases for legal terminology that work to standardise the legal lexicon? If so, how effective have they been and who can access them?</i></li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How is the process and the methodology of deriving new legal terms organised?</i></li> </ul>
<b>12.45 – 14.00</b>	<i>Lunch: Buffet</i>
<b>14.00 – 15.30</b>	<p><b>Session 3: Capacity-building for Jurilinguists as a Precondition for Regulatory Quality : The Training of Jurilinguists</b></p> <p><b><i>Chair: Mr. Mohammad Jaffer Kassim, Consultant &amp; Legal Adviser, Ministry of Justice, Yemen</i></b></p>
	<p>The regional professional Masters Course at the Tunis El Manar University will serve to train multilingual legal drafters, or jurilinguists, in Arab countries. Training programmes for multilingual drafters and jurilinguists do not exist in a systemised way in Tunisia or in other Arab countries – yet, legal clarity is of paramount importance for regulatory quality, and good governance more generally.</p> <p>The aim of this session is to share lessons and good practices in terms of the development of teaching material and training for legal drafters in a governmental, as well as academic setting.</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Nadhir Ben Ammou, Professor, Faculty of Law and Political Sciences, Tunis El Manar University and Coordinator of the Masters course on Jurilinguists</li> <li>• Mr. François Blais, Director, Centre for legal translation and documentation (CTDJ), University of Ottawa, Canada</li> <li>• Mr. William Robinson, Coordinator, Legal Revisers Group of the European Commission's Legal Service</li> <li>• Mr. Jean-Christophe Geiser, Lawyer, Federal Office of Justice, Switzerland</li> <li>• Ms. Manuela Guggeis, Legal Linguistic Expert, Legal service "Quality of legislation" Directorate, Council of the European Union</li> </ul>
	<p><b><i>Questions:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Do training programmes and special recruitment strategies for jurilinguists, or multilingual legal drafters exist in the administration? If so, are they obligatory and how often do legal drafters participate?</i></li> <li>• <i>Do universities offer specific degrees/courses in legal drafting to attract and train students in the multiple professions associated with expertise in legal drafting?</i></li> <li>• <i>How can the teaching material, if existent, be improved? How can guidelines contribute to improving the quality of regulations? How detailed and complex should they be?</i></li> <li>• <i>What are the lessons to be drawn from OECD and Arab country experiences?</i></li> </ul>
<b>15.30 – 16.00</b>	<i>Coffee Break</i>

<b>16.00 - 17.00</b>	<p><b>Session 4: The Jurilinguists' Professional Career: Practical Applications of the Skills of Jurilinguists</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Mr. Samer Fares, Director, Institute of Law, Birzeit University, Palestine</i></p>
	<p>The complexity of multilingual legal drafting is not only an issue of concern in the public sector during the law-making process. Businesses and firms, as well, face the challenge of often having to draft their legal and contractual texts in more than one language. The private sector thus can benefit from employing jurilinguists and making use of their skills, too.</p> <p>This session looks at the different career options a trained jurilinguist can choose in the public and private sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Choukri Sader, Head of Legal Department, Legislation and Opinion Department, Ministry of Justice, Lebanon</li> <li>• Mr. André Labelle, Chief Jurilinguist and Legislative Counsel, Legislative Services Branch, Department of Justice, Canada</li> <li>• Mr. Nabil Ajroud, Director, Legal and Legislative Advisor to the Government, Tunisia</li> </ul> <p><b>Questions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What are the different career options a trained jurilinguist can choose?</i></li> <li>• <i>How can the private sector benefit from employing jurilinguists?</i></li> </ul>
<b>17.00 – 18.00</b>	<p><b>Closing Session and Wrap-Up: The Training of Jurilinguists: A Regional Tool to Improve Regulatory Quality</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Mr. Josef Konvitz, Head of Regulatory Policy Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD</i></p>
	<p>This final session is designed to give a summary of the discussion in preceding sessions and it will particularly focus on the establishment of a regional professional Masters Course, a project proposed by the Tunisian authorities in the course of the GfD Initiative. This Masters Course will be offered by the Tunis El Manar University and will be open to individuals from other countries.</p>
	<p><u>Presentation of progress made with the creation of the professional Masters Course for jurilinguists at Tunis El Manar University</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ms. Zeineb Ben Ammar Mamelouk, President, Tunis El Manar University</li> </ul> <p><u>Conclusions and final debate: The training of jurilinguists at regional level</u></p>