



UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
U.S. MISSION to the OECD



“I would like to thank the OECD and the members of the Regional Task Forces for working to expand and deepen our knowledge of what business owners face on a daily basis: inadequate access to finance, business services and markets. Your hard work, combined with the inventories being prepared by the OECD, will aid MENA governments to propose effective solutions to these challenges.”

- U.S. Ambassador to the OECD Karen Kornbluh

Tapping into the Talent

President Obama has said that “the greatest untapped resource in the Middle East and North Africa is the talent of its people.” In collaboration with the OECD, the United States is ensuring that the most is made of this economic talent and potential.

The United States has been a major driver behind and contributor to the OECD Middle East and North Africa (MENA) program since its inception in 2006. The MENA Initiative on Governance and Investment for Development promotes broad reforms to improve the investment climate, modernize government structures and operations, strengthen regional and international partnerships, and promote sustainable economic growth in this important region.

As part of the MENA program, the United States is empowering women in the Middle East through the OECD-MENA Women’s Business Forum, which is co-chaired by U.S. Ambassador Karen Kornbluh. The Forum engages MENA governments, commercial lenders, and business leaders to develop solutions to the challenges Arab businesswomen face, such as access to finance, business services and markets.

Through public-private partnerships, the United States is raising awareness and bringing key constituents around the table to collaborate on efforts that achieve OECD MENA goals. For example, the Seminar on Women in Private Equity in the MENA Region held in May 2011 addressed the persistent problem of entrepreneurial financing for women. Future conferences will focus on promoting university curriculum reform and mentoring relationships for women in private equity. United States priorities are anti-corruption, investment and banking reform, and small- and medium-size enterprise development.

Learn more at <http://usoecd.usmission.gov>!