



**MENA-OECD
INVESTMENT
PROGRAMME**

THE PRIVATE SECTOR'S ROLE IN FIGHTING CORRUPTION

**CHALLENGES AND REMEDIES FOR THE EGYPTIAN BUSINESS
COMMUNITY**

**Organised by the MENA-OECD Investment Programme
in collaboration with the Center for International Private Enterprise**

DRAFT AGENDA

21 November 2011
Kempinski Nile Hotel, Cairo, Egypt
(Garden City Cornish El Nil, 12 Ahmed Ragheb Street)



BACKGROUND AND RATIONALE

The recent transformations taking place in Egypt and across the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region call for renewed efforts to ensure that the fight against corruption constitute a key element in the new political and social paradigm.

While the latest efforts against corruption in Egypt have focused mainly on asset recovery and public sector corruption, it is clear that companies, their associations and industry federations can make valuable contributions to the effort. Individual company actions and collective business sector actions are essential for an anti-corruption campaign of prevention and response.

Integrity is a critical element in fostering a strong and equitable business climate, as corruption raises unforeseeable costs for doing business and prevents businesses from operating on a level playing field. As companies pursue growth opportunities, their exposure to the reputational, legal, operational and financial impacts of corruption increased, and they can be held responsible for the acts of a single collaborator. In this context, business is increasingly looking to implement risk mitigation strategies that also contribute to its corporate sustainability efforts.

PARTICIPANTS

The roundtable on “The Private Sector’s Role in Fighting Corruption: Challenges and Remedies for the Egyptian Business Community” will bring together representatives from Egyptian and foreign businesses operating in Egypt that are interested in becoming actors in the fight against corruption.

OBJECTIVES

The roundtable will allow business representatives in Egypt to engage in a participatory dialogue on measures and tools for preventive and responsive efforts to combat corruption in light of the recent developments. It especially seeks to:

1. Inform businesses about the various national and international anti-corruption instruments regulating their business environment;
2. Highlight measures and tools to improve integrity and transparency in business;
3. Encourage linkages between businesses to promote collective action.

MAIN DOCUMENTATION

- MENA-OECD Business Integrity Network Concept Note
- Elements of Voluntary Corporate Compliance Measures and Tools: Guidance for Business in the fight against corruption

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- Anti-Corruption Policy Dimension of the Business Climate Development Strategy for Egypt (OECD)
- OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises¹
- OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions and related recommendations²
- United Nations Convention Against Corruption³
- United Nations Global Compact Ten Principles⁴
- CIPE Guidelines on Transparency for the Private Sector in Egypt

¹ http://www.oecd.org/document/28/0,3746,en_2649_34889_2397532_1_1_1_1.00.html

² http://www.oecd.org/document/21/0,3746,en_2649_34859_2017813_1_1_1_1.00.html

³ <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/treaties/CAC/>

⁴ <http://www.unglobalcompact.org/AboutTheGC/TheTenPrinciples/index.html>

Agenda	
9h30-10h00	WELCOME COFFEE
10h00-10h15	OPENING REMARKS Mr. Alexander Böhmer, Head, MENA-OECD Investment Programme
10h15-11h30	Session 1: Egypt's Business Climate in Light of Recent Developments and International Anti-corruption Standards <i>Chair:</i> Mr. Robert Ley, Deputy Director, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD <i>Speakers:</i> Mr. Said Hanafi, General Counsel, Orascom Development Ms. Nicola Ehlermann-Cache, Senior Policy Analyst, MENA-OECD Investment Programme Ms. Sara Hinton, Partner, Trowers and Hamblins Mr. Emmanuel Montagnié, Deputy Director for International Affairs, MEDEF
11h30-11h45	Coffee Break
11h45-13h00	Session 2: Diagnosis of the Elements to Improve the Business Climate and Fight Corruption <i>Chair:</i> Mr. Alexander Böhmer, Head, MENA-OECD Investment Programme <i>Speakers:</i> Mr. Wahid Abdul Samad, Chairman, Beni Suef SMEs Association Mr. Kilian Bälz, Partner, Amereller, Cairo, Egypt Mr. Mohamed El Sawy, CSR Committee Head, Egyptian Junior Business Association (EJB)
13h00-14h00	Lunch Break
14h00-15h30	Session 3: Business as an Active Player in Preventing Corruption <i>Chair:</i> Mr. Emmanuel Montagnié, Deputy Director for International Affairs, MEDEF <i>Speakers:</i> Mr. Fouad Thabet, Chairman, Egypt Federation for Economic Development Association Mr. Osama Mourad, CIPE Advisory Council for Transparency and Anti-Corruption Mr. Mohamed Mansour, Compliance Officer of Egypt, Siemens
15h30-16h00	Session 4: Looking Forward: Steps for Further Action <i>Chair:</i> Ms. Nicola Ehlermann-Cache, Senior Policy Analyst, MENA-OECD Investment Programme
16h00-16h15	CLOSING REMARKS

Session 1: Egypt's Business Climate in Light of Recent Developments and International Anti-corruption Standards

Part I: The Need for a New Look into Egypt's Integrity Framework

The first part of the session will examine the implications for business of the recent developments that have taken place in Egypt. As demands for transparency and integrity have been voiced, attitudes towards corruption have drastically changed. In particular, concerns on recent investigations of business community members have contributed to a change in attitude towards business. In this context, participants will reflect on the repercussions of these developments for the business community.

Part II: Key International Anti-Corruption Conventions and Standards

The second part of the session will seek to familiarise participants with key international anti-corruption conventions and standards, which have consequences on businesses operating beyond national boundaries. Special focus will be placed on conventions and standards under which companies in Egypt operate, including the United Nations Convention Against Corruption and the OECD Convention on Combating Bribery of Foreign Public Officials in International Business Transactions.

Session 2: A Diagnosis of Key Elements to Improve the Business Climate and Fight Corruption

This session will examine some key elements to favour a clean business environment in Egypt. Participants will discuss the obstacles that have held back Egypt in its fight against corruption as well as the means to overcome them.

Special focus will be placed on priority areas for improvement in the private sector, but also in the public sector and in the public-private interface. Participants will notably discuss the effectiveness of government action, including in terms of legislation and institutions, in relation to the implementation and enforcement of provisions deterring and preventing corruption.

Session 3: Business as an Active Player in Preventing Corruption

This session will highlight the available tools that assist businesses in successfully establishing and implementing integrity initiatives. It will notably explore the means for businesses, their associations and industry federations to make valuable contributions to the fight against corruption, through efforts to reduce fraudulent activity by identifying and developing adequate responses to potential risk areas. These measures and tools, which notably include the establishment of corporate codes of conduct, compliance programmes and integrity pacts, will be individually examined throughout the session.

Participants will further seek to identify good practices for businesses and their employees to adopt a professional behaviour consistent with prevailing anti-corruption rules and regulations. During the discussion, participants will be invited to share their account of their business's experience in fighting corruption in view of promoting peer-learning among them.

Session 4: Looking Forward: Steps for Further Action

This session will consider concrete ways to improve the integrity of the business climate based on the discussions of the day. In particular, participants will explore collective action through such means that promote knowledge-sharing, peer-learning and partnerships with other stakeholders. It will set the ground for future roundtables that bring into the discussion representatives from the public sector in order to offer a comprehensive approach to the issue.

It will further support the launch of a MENA-OECD Business Integrity Network for Egypt as a platform for such an initiative, in view of facilitating the adoption of anti-corruption prevention and response measures and tools by businesses operating in Egypt.

THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT (OECD)

The OECD is a unique forum where 34 member governments work together to address the economic, social and environmental challenges of globalisation. The OECD is also at the forefront of efforts to understand and help governments address emerging policy issues such as finding new sources of growth, building skills, and restoring public trust in government and business. The OECD provides a setting where governments can compare policy experiences, seek answers to common problems, identify good practice and work to co-ordinate domestic and international policies. It increasingly engages with a number of non-members who have become important actors in today's global economy.

THE MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

The MENA-OECD Investment Programme was established in 2005 at the request of participating MENA governments to assist them in implementing business climate reform for investment, growth and employment in the region. It is one of two pillars of the MENA-OECD Initiative on Governance and Investment for Development, which helps MENA governments design and implement reforms to modernise public governance structures, strengthen the business climate and foster transparency – issues which have taken on increasing importance in light of recent events in the region.

Contacts:

Alexander Böhmer

Head
MENA-OECD Investment Programme
Private Sector Development Division
Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs
E-Mail: alexander.bohmer@oecd.org
Tel: +33 1 45 24 19 12

Nicola Ehlermann-Cache

Senior Policy Analyst
MENA-OECD Investment Programme
Private Sector Development Division
Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs
E-Mail: nicola.ehlermann-cache@oecd.org
Tel: +33 1 45 24 17 48

For more information, please visit:

www.oecd.org/mena/investment