



**MENA-OECD
INVESTMENT
PROGRAMME**

DRAFT AGENDA

REVIVING INVESTMENT IN THE MENA REGION: POLICY OPTIONS FOR PROTECTION, PROMOTION AND RISK MITIGATION

**Special Afternoon Event of the MENA-OECD Investment Programme
in parallel with the Global Forum on International Investment**

Venue

**OECD Headquarters, Paris, France
Château, Room C**

**6 December 2011
14:30 – 18:00**

Background

The MENA region is experiencing a period of unprecedented political and social change. The wave of protests that spread throughout several MENA countries in early 2011 – and the resulting political instability – has prompted a drop in regional FDI in most countries, and intraregional trade has been affected at a time when the global economy is facing the threat of a new recession.

In Egypt, FDI inflows for fiscal year 2010-11 (July to June) were down 40% year on year, and FDI contracted in the first quarter of 2011 as investors withdrew. In Tunisia, FDI inflows declined by almost 30% in the first quarter of 2011, compared to the same period in 2010. Other MENA countries have also experienced more limited FDI inflows caused by a weakening of investor confidence throughout the region. The renewed insecurity regarding the investment climate in the MENA region comes at a time when many MENA economies are facing growing pressure to create economic prosperity and jobs for their populations.

Objectives

The objective of this meeting is to assess the impact of the recent upheavals in the MENA region on investment and trade-flow trends, and to provide policy solutions for reviving investment while taking into account the increased risk perception. This event will bring together investment policy and promotion experts from MENA and OECD countries along with private investors and representatives from international financial and investment guarantee institutions to analyse existing problems, discuss policy measures and develop recommendations on how to effectively use investment policy instruments in this challenging transition period. The meeting will particularly focus on:

- Reviewing trends in international, regional and domestic private investment in light of the recent events;
- Assessing the immediate government responses to retaining existing investors and attracting new ones in a difficult environment;
- Discussing policy options to further strengthen investment protection, promotion and risk mitigation.

Restoring investor confidence, retaining existing private investors and promoting new investment opportunities are important challenges that must be met in order to generate long-term and sustainable growth and employment in the region.

The MENA-OECD Investment Programme is pleased to organise this special event. The role of the OECD in supporting the economic development of the MENA region has been recognised by the G8 Deauville Partnership, which has welcomed the OECD engagement in the region to support the improvement of policy frameworks for investment.

Meeting Documentation

Relevant documentation will be made available in the meeting room and can be found on our website:

www.oecd.org/mena/investment

Participants

Policy makers and experts in the areas of investment policy, investment promotion and legal investment frameworks from MENA and OECD countries are invited to participate. Other key partners, who are engaged in activities in these areas, have been invited, including representatives from international and regional financial institutions, and investment guarantee institutions. Members from the MENA-OECD Energy Task Force, the MENA-OECD Business Council and the ISMED initiative are also participating.

NOTE: the Special MENA Event takes place **in the afternoon from 14:30-18:00 in the Chateau Room C**. Participants in the MENA-OECD event are also invited to attend the Global Forum on International Investment GFII in the morning. Details of the Global Forum on International Investment can be found [here](#).

There will be simultaneous translation in English, French and Arabic.

6 December - Events Schedule

<p>Morning sessions:</p>	<p align="center">Global Forum on International Investment OECD Conference Centre, Room CC1</p>
<p>9:00-12:30</p>	<p>Session 1 (9:00-10.30): Opening High-level plenary: New frontiers of international investment policy Session 2 (11:00-12:30): Debate on reviving private investment in the Middle East and North Africa</p>
<p>12:30-14:30</p>	<p>Lunch</p>
<p>Afternoon sessions:</p>	<p align="center">Special High-Level MENA Event “Reviving Investment in the MENA Region: Policy Options for Protection, Promotion and Risk Mitigation” OECD Headquarters, Château Room C</p>
<p>14:30-16:00</p>	<p>OPENING HIGH-LEVEL PLENARY: REMARKS AND WELCOME Mr. Tsutomu Himeno, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Delegation of Japan to the OECD Mr. Bashar Al-Zu'bi, Senior Advisor to the Chief Executive Officer, Jordan Investment Board, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan Mr. Robert Ley, Deputy Director, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD</p> <p>SESSION 1: INVESTMENT POLICY RESPONSES: ADAPTING TO CHANGE AND RETAINING INVESTMENT <i>The dual impact of recent political upheavals and a slowdown in the global economy is causing FDI inflows and intraregional trade flows to diminish across the MENA region. This session will review trends in international and regional investment in light of recent events. The focus will be on assessing the immediate government responses to the situation in the countries most directly affected, including measures to retain existing investors and attracting new ones in a difficult environment. The session will also look at broader investment policy responses across the MENA region.</i></p> <p>Chair of the session: Mr. Bashar Al-Zu'bi, Senior Advisor to the Chief Executive Officer, Jordan Investment Board</p> <p>The economic impact of the Arab Spring and regional FDI trends: <i>Presenters:</i> Ms. Ania Thiemann, Senior Economist, MENA-OECD Investment Programme, OECD Mr. Emmanuel Noutary, ANIMA Investment Network</p> <p>SESSION CONTINUES</p>

<p>14:30-16:00</p>	<p>SESSION 1, continued: HIGH-LEVEL ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION: REGIONAL FDI TRENDS AND NATIONAL POLICY RESPONSES</p> <p><i>Presenters include:</i></p> <p>Ms. Mona Zobaa, Undersecretary, Ministry of Investment/ General Authority for Investment, Egypt</p> <p>Mr. Nouredine Zekri, Director, Foreign Investment Promotion Agency, Tunisia</p> <p>Mr. Ahmed Fassi-Fihri, Director of Investment Promotion, Moroccan Investment Development Agency</p> <p>Dr. Zakaria Hejres, Deputy Chief Executive, MENA Centre for Investment, Bahrain</p> <p>Mr. Salem Hassan, Public Authority for Investment Promotion and Export Development, Oman</p>
<p>16:00 – 16:30</p>	<p>Coffee break</p>
<p>16:30 – 17:45</p>	<p>SESSION 2: POLICY OPTIONS TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN INVESTMENT PROTECTION, PROMOTION, AND RISK MITIGATION—THE WAY FORWARD</p> <p><i>Improving the quantity and quality of FDI through investment policy frameworks and investment promotion strategies can involve a number of policy responses. These can include targeting specific sectors with export potential, or specific countries (emerging and/or neighbouring), and harmonising national investment legislation and regional investment frameworks. Other measures to boost investment include improving investment security and protection in order to restore investor trust, improving guarantee and insurance schemes in co-operation with investment partners and encouraging cross-border infrastructure investment projects.</i></p> <p><i>The session will highlight some of the policy options available to strengthen investment protection and security, to reinforce promotion strategies, and to mitigate risk to long-term investors. International organisations and international finance institutions can be instrumental in assisting MENA countries in defining and implementing these options.</i></p> <p>Chair of the session: Mr. Tsutomu Himeno, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Delegation of Japan to the OECD</p> <p>Roundtable discussion</p> <p><i>Presenters:</i></p> <p>Mr. Alexander Böhmer, Head, MENA-OECD Investment Programme, OECD</p> <p>Dr. Abdel-Rahman Eltayeb Taha, Chairman, ITAP Supervisory Committee, Islamic Development Bank</p> <p>Mr. Olivier de Saint-Lager, Special Advisor, DEVCO, European Commission</p> <p>Mr. Carlos Braga, Special Representative and Director, External Affairs, The World Bank</p> <p>Mr. Lino Cardarelli, Senior Deputy Secretary General, Union for the Mediterranean</p> <p>Mr. Bertrand Marchais, Business Development Advisor, Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency (MIGA)</p> <p>Mr. Fernando de la Fuente, Associate Director, Head of Division, Corporates and Banks, European Investment Bank</p>
<p>17:45-18:00</p>	<p>Conclusions and closing remarks: The next steps</p>

About the OECD and the MENA-OECD Investment Programme

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 was established in 2005 at the request of participating MENA governments¹ 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.

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For more information, please visit:

MENA-OECD Investment Programme: www.oecd.org/mena/investment

¹ Economies participating in the MENA-OECD Investment Programme are Algeria, Bahrain, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestinian Authority, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.