

Agenda

NATIONAL INVESTMENT REFORM AGENDA

WORKSHOP - LEBANON

April 19, 2007

Grand Sérail

Beirut – Lebanon

Objective

The meeting is one in a series of workshops to review the investment climate reform progress made by countries participating in the MENA-OECD Investment Programme. The programme aims to mobilize private investment as a driving force for growth and employment. Since 2005, a number of countries participating in the programme have developed **National Investment Reform Agendas (NIRAs)** with input from the private sector. These Reform Agendas comprise concrete investment policy reform measures aimed at improving the countries' investment environment. The topics of this workshop reflect the items of priority to the Government of Lebanon and its reform plan.

Meeting Focus

The workshop will cover key issues of investment policy reform, including investment promotion and capacity building. Experts from the Lebanese Government, private sector, international institutions present in Lebanon and the OECD will present on the issues and lead the discussions.

Participants

The workshop will bring together government Ministries and agencies involved in reform efforts and improving the investment climate in Lebanon, as well as representatives from international organizations, the private sector and civil society.

Documentation

The relevant meeting documents and a more detailed agenda will be distributed to participants prior to the meeting. For additional information regarding the programme, please visit the following websites:

www.oecd.org/mena/investment

or

www.finance.gov.lb

09.00 - 09.30	Registration
09.30 - 10.00	Opening Session
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H.E. Jihad Azour, Minister of Finance, Lebanon ○ H.E. Sami Haddad, Minister of Economy and Trade, Lebanon ○ Rainer Geiger, Deputy Director for Financial, Fiscal and Enterprise Affairs, OECD
10.00 - 11.00	Session I - Business perspectives and opportunities
	<p>Moderator: Gerard Zoviguian, Vice-Chair LTA and Chair of Lebanon Corporate Governance Task Force, Lebanon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Paris III perspectives <i>Mazen Hanna, Economic Advisor to the Prime Minister, the Government of Lebanon</i> ○ The Regulatory Framework for Investments in Telecom in Lebanon <i>Kamal Shehadeh, Designated Chairman, Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Lebanon</i> ○ Best international practices in privatization <i>Rainer Geiger, Deputy Director for Financial, Fiscal and Enterprise Affairs, OECD</i> ○ Discussions
11.00 - 11.30	Coffee Break
11.30 - 01.00	Session II – Enhancing the business climate through legal reforms
	<p>This session provides an opportunity to present the Lebanese Government's legal reforms that contribute to enhance the investment climate.</p> <p>Moderator: Nabil Itani. Chairman, Investment Development Authority of Lebanon,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Doing business in Lebanon: improving competition and streamlining administrative barriers <i>Marwan Mikhael - Advisor to the Minister, The Ministry of Economy and Trade, Lebanon</i> ○ Advancement in Reforming the Procurement Law – Update and Key Features <i>Youssef Saad - Head of the Procurement Team, The Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reforms, Lebanon</i> ○ The ongoing reform to regulate the financial market <i>Jean Riachi - Chairman and General Manager, Financial Funds Advisors, Lebanon</i> ○ <i>Frederic Jenny, Chair of OECD Competition Committee, OECD</i> ○ Discussions
01.00 - 02.30	Lunch

02.30- 04.00	Session III – Towards a modern tax framework
	<p>To encourage the recovery of the private sector, the new economic reform program of the Lebanese government focuses on improving the tax system through a series of specific legal regulatory and procedural tax measures. In this session the potential effectiveness of the proposed tax framework will be assessed.</p> <p>Moderator: Manal Assir - Tax Reform Programme Coordinator, UNDP project Ministry of Finance, Lebanon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Modernizing the tax administration and streamlining the tax procedures <i>Louay Hajj Chehade – Director of the Revenue Directorate, Ministry of Finance, Lebanon</i> ○ A post implementation assessment of the Egyptian income tax reform <i>Al-Ashraf Al Arabi, Senior Advisor to the Minister of Finance, Egypt</i> ○ Corporate Tax Reform: comparative tax policy perspectives from OECD countries <i>Alan Carter- Working Party 2 on Tax Policy Analysis and Tax Statistics (Committee of Fiscal Affairs), OECD</i> ○ Discussions
04.00- 04.30	Coffee Break
04.30- 06.00	Session IV – Improving the entrepreneurial finance : Venture Capital and SMEs access to credit
	<p>The issue of access to credit for enterprises has been identified as an issue of urgency to revitalize the private sector. Acknowledging the impact of scarce financing on enterprises, the session will take stock of existing support facilities and develop recommendations for improvements.</p> <p>Moderator: Roger Melki – Advisor to the Minister of Finance , Lebanon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kafalat S.A.L and financing SMEs in Lebanon <i>Khater Abou Habib - Chairman, Kafalat Corporation, Lebanon</i> ○ Access to credit – The Ministry of Finance initiatives <i>Wissam Fahed - Ministry of Finance, Lebanon</i> ○ Private equity: more than just capital <i>Paul Chucrallah, Byblos Venture s.a.l, Lebanon</i> ○ IFC's program to support access to finance for the private sector <i>Julia Brickell - Lebanon Country Manager, IFC</i> ○ Discussions
06.00- 06.30	Closing Discussion and Closing Remarks
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ H.E Jihad Azour, Minister of Finance, Lebanon ○ Rainer Geiger, Deputy Director for Financial, Fiscal and Enterprise Affairs, OECD