

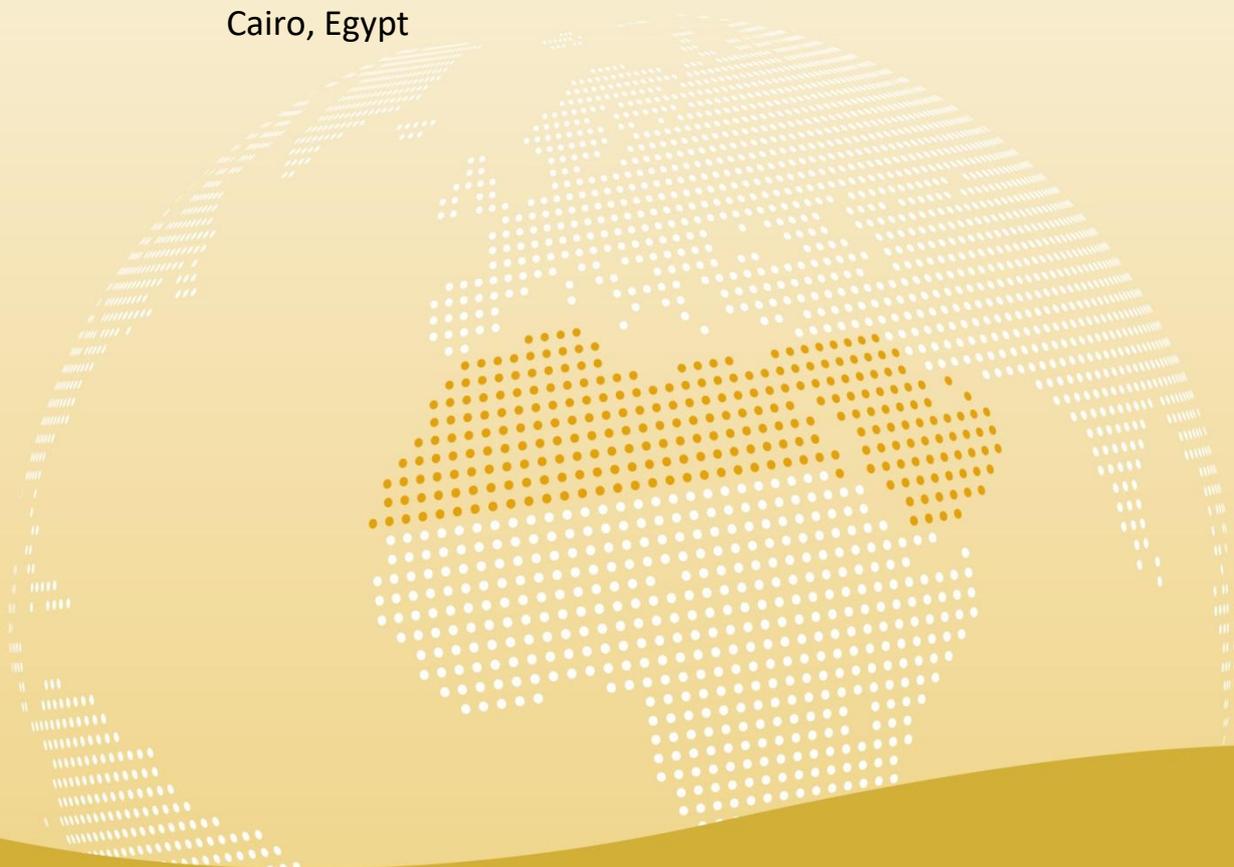


# MENA-OECD COMPETITIVENESS PROGRAMME

## Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investments in the MENA region

### DRAFT AGENDA

**19-20 March 2019**  
Cairo, Egypt



## **OBJECTIVES OF THE MEETING**

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The aim of the regional policy dialogue is to raise awareness of policy-makers in the MENA region on the importance of promoting quality infrastructure investments for sustainable and inclusive economic growth. Providing a regional platform for high-level exchange between policymakers, the private sector and other stakeholders, the conference aims to:

- **Promote a shared understanding** around the issue of quality infrastructure investments in MENA,
- **Exchange experiences of recent policy actions in MENA economies and share good practices from OECD countries** in promoting private investments in quality infrastructure,
- **Identify strategic policy actions in MENA** to further enhance the socio-economic outcomes from infrastructure investments, and
- **Facilitate dialogue between governments, private sector and multilateral development partners** to support MENA countries to promote quality infrastructure.

## **PARTICIPANTS**

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High-level policy makers and experts in infrastructure, investment and trade policies from MENA and OECD economies are invited to participate, along with regional institutions, international organisations, academia and civil society. Private sector representatives will also be invited to play a key role in this dialogue. Experts from OECD countries and the Secretariat will also contribute to the meeting.

## **PRACTICAL INFORMATION**

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Venue: TBD

Interpretation: French, English, Arabic

## Promoting Quality Infrastructure Investments in the MENA region

Tuesday, 19 March 2019, Cairo	
8:30 – 9:00	Registration
9:00 – 9:45	Opening remarks
	<b>Remarks by: TBD</b>
9:45 – 10:45	<b>SESSION 1: Enhancing quality infrastructure investments in the MENA region</b>
	<p>Mobilising private and public investments in infrastructure is critical for supporting an inclusive and sustainable pattern of sustainable development in the MENA region. Achieving this will require not just mobilising higher levels of investment into infrastructure, but also enhancing quality standards and processes to reap higher efficiency, environmental, and social gains. At the global level, the G7 Ise-Shima Principles for Promoting Quality Infrastructure and the G20 Leaders' Declaration also provide a strong endorsement for the value of quality infrastructure. The Principles uphold sound safety and quality standards, resilience against natural disasters, and job creation, while addressing social and environmental impact.</p> <p>With the aim of promoting a shared understanding around quality infrastructure in the MENA region, this session will discuss what quality infrastructure means, why it is important, and how mainstream it into processes and institutions in MENA. The session will also feature the <b>Suez Canal</b> as a <i>Project in Focus</i> to showcase the infrastructure experience of Egypt and where the OECD is supporting the successful development of the Suez Canal Economic Zone (SCZone) in line with international standards and best practices.</p> <p><b>Speakers : TBD</b></p>
10:45 – 11:15	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:15 – 12:15	<b>SESSION 2: Identifying strategic policy actions to further enhance the socio-economic and environmental outcomes from quality infrastructure investments</b>
	<p>Quality infrastructure also leads to sustainable and inclusive growth and development, and therefore it plays an important role in the achievement of Agenda 2030, including the transformational changes required to limit climate risks in line with the Paris Agreement. Quality infrastructure also connects people to international markets and can foster the capacity of enterprises to benefit from participation into higher value added regional and global value chains. This session will discuss opportunities and challenges on how the economic, social and</p>

	<p>environmental outcomes of infrastructure investments can be further enhanced through strategic policy actions in the MENA region.</p> <p><b><u>Speakers : TBD</u></b></p>
12:15 – 13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>
13:30 – 14:30	<b>SESSION 3 : Improving governance to ensure quality infrastructure investments</b>
	<p>Improving the governance of the whole infrastructure policy cycle is key to ensure that infrastructure projects are financed, designed, and implemented in an efficient and sustainable way, and that they contribute to government socioeconomic objectives. This requires a strengthening of the entire institutional architecture of government in order to deliver the right strategic infrastructure on time, within budget, and in a manner that ensures the confidence of all stakeholders. The OECD Framework for the Governance of Infrastructure covers ten key dimensions relating to how governments prioritise, plan, budget, deliver, regulate and evaluate infrastructure investment, and which countries can use to assess the adequacy of their infrastructure management systems. This session will discuss the issue of governance of quality infrastructure and what actions governments can take to improve it.</p> <p><b><u>Speakers: TBD</u></b></p>
14:30 – 15:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
15:00 – 16:30	<b>SESSION 4: Facilitating effective approaches to financing quality infrastructure investments and mobilising resources</b>
	<p>As public investment and official development assistance will not be enough to fill national and regional infrastructure gaps, financing infrastructure projects through private sector participation is critical. Infrastructure investments that emphasise long-term value creation, cost efficiency, effective risk mitigation and allocation can create long-term investment opportunities that are attractive to the private sector. Critical success factors to attract private investments include the right framework conditions and regulatory environment for infrastructure investment, which is essential to attract investors and enhance returns to infrastructure investment. Endorsed by the G20 in September, 2016, the G20/OECD Guidance Note on Diversification of Financial Instruments for Infrastructure and SMEs provides key policy and regulatory guidance on mobilising private investment in infrastructure. This session will discuss how MENA governments and development partners can mobilise financing for quality infrastructure investments in the region. Examples of financing models, financing instruments, and risk mitigation will also be part of this session.</p> <p><b><u>Speakers: TBD</u></b></p>

16:30 – 17:00	<b>SESSION 5: Identifying future policy challenges for infrastructure investments through strategic foresight</b>
	<p>A structured, systematic approach to thinking about the type of infrastructure that will be required in the future is essential for policymakers to better understand and promote quality infrastructure investments that are inclusive and sustainable in the MENA region. Such strategic foresight requires considering a range of plausible alternative futures that could arise, bringing new opportunities and challenges in a time of rapid change and high uncertainty. This foresight session will help participants to identify new policy challenges and opportunities for infrastructure in light of the hyper-digitalised global economy and society and prepare policies and strategies for quality infrastructure investments that are more robust in face of change (“future-proofing”).</p> <p><b><u>Speaker: TBD</u></b></p>
17:00 - 17:15	<b>Closing and way forward</b>
<b>Wednesday, 20 March 2019, Ismailia</b>	
09:30 - 17:00	<b>Field Trip to the Suez Canal</b>

## Contacts

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