



# 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Working Group on OPEN AND INNOVATIVE GOVERNMENT AGENDA

7 February 2016 - Jumeirah Beach Hotel, Dubai, UAE

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the Working Group on Open and Innovative Government jointly organised by the United Arab Emirates and the MENA-OECD Governance Programme on 7 February 2016 in Dubai, offers the opportunity to assess progress and share good practices in the areas of open government, digital governance and innovation in the public sector.

The meeting will be the occasion to advance the open government and digital government agenda in the region to deliver better policies and services to citizens. Drawing upon OECD instruments and good practices from OECD and MENA countries, the meeting will address the following items:

- The preliminary findings of the *OECD Report Benchmarking Digital Government Strategies in the MENA Region*, which assesses MENA countries against the Digital Government Recommendations of the Council.
- The opportunities and challenges for open government at the local level in the face of the ongoing decentralisation efforts in MENA countries, with a particular focus on inclusion of youth.
- Strengthening government capability to support innovation based on the findings of the report "The Innovation Imperative in the Public Sector"

## Exploiting Synergies: A Meeting back-to-back with the World Government Summit

The 4<sup>th</sup> World Government Summit on 8-10 February brings together more than 4000 government leaders, high-level public officials and recognised experts from the private sector and civil society from over 90 countries to discuss innovative public governance approaches. In the framework of the event, the OECD will be hosting the launching of a Global Platform "Governance of the Future" - a unique forum convening political leaders and experts annually to discuss the future of governance. Participants of the Working Group meeting are kindly invited to participate in the Summit and engage in policy dialogue with their peers.

## AGENDA

9.30-10.00

### Opening Session

Introductory speeches of the chair of Working Group II and of the OECD Secretariat.

- Opening speeches:
  - Mr. Wesam Lootah, CEO Dubai Smart Government Establishment, UAE, Chair of Working Group II
  - Mr. Alessandro Bellantoni, Coordinator of the OECD Open Government Project, OECD
- Keynote speech:
  - Ms. Ana Gabriel Zúñiga Aponte, Vice Minister of the Presidency on Political Affairs and Citizen Dialogue, Costa Rica

10.00-12.00

### From E-Government to Digital Government Strategies in the MENA Region

The [OECD Recommendation on Digital Government Strategies](#), adopted by the OECD Council on 15 July 2014, calls for a more progressive and innovative approach to using technology that goes beyond the mere support of better public sector operations to the full integration of digital technologies in the shaping of overarching strategies and agendas for public sector reform and modernization. The recommendation also emphasises the crucial contribution of technology as a strategic driver to create open, innovative, participatory and trustworthy public sectors, to improve social inclusiveness and government accountability, and to bring together government and non-government actors to contribute to national development and long-term sustainable growth. The OECD Report "**Benchmarking Digital Government Strategies in the MENA Region**" assesses the current e-government and ICTs policies and initiatives of several MENA countries against the new principles. The objective of the session is to discuss the preliminary findings and define the way forward for digital government in MENA countries based on the results.

*Moderator: Ms. Barbara Ubaldi, Project Manager, Digital Government, OECD*

- Mr. Rodrigo Mejia Ricart, Policy Analyst, Digital Government
- Ms. Yolanda Martínez, Digital Government Unit, Mexico
- Mr. Khaled Sellami, Director General, E-government Unit, Presidency of the Government, Tunisia

Roundtable Discussion.

12.00– 13.00

### **Lunch Break**

13.00-15.00

Open Government at the Local Level

Cities and regions are where policy makers and citizens can meet easier and the impact of public service delivery is felt. The ongoing decentralisation efforts in MENA countries thus offer an opportunity to reform local public governance to make it more open, inclusive and accountable. In line with the current open government reforms, this session aims to explore the opportunities and challenges to promote open government policies at the local level. In addition, participants will be invited to reflect on how to better include youth and address their issues through open government practices based on the findings of the OECD Report "**Youth in the MENA Region: How to bring them in**".

*Moderator: Mr. Alessandro Bellantoni, Coordinator of the OECD Open Government Project, OECD*

- Ms. Ibone Bengoetxea Otaolea, Minister for Public Administration & Institutional Relations, Government of Bizkaia, Spain
- Mr. Nasser Al Zubi, National Coordinator of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Jordan
- Ms. Sarah Lamrani, Director of Information Systems, Ministry of Civil Service and Modernisation of the Administration, Morocco
- Mr. Younus Abdulaziz Al Nasser, Assistant Director General, Smart Dubai Office
- Ms. Katharina Zuegel, Policy Analyst, OECD Open Government Project
- Mr. Moritz Ader, Policy Analyst, MENA-OECD Governance Programme

Roundtable discussion

15.00-15.30

**Coffee Break**

15.30-17.30

Public Sector Innovation

Innovation in the public sector has become a cornerstone of government efforts if they are to address the multitude of citizen and private sector expectations, face the complexity of the policy challenges and the quest for productivity. Fostering innovation in the public sector requires changes that encourage organizations and the people that work for them to come up with new ideas, try new approaches and work in new ways.

Countries in the MENA region are facing the challenges of consolidating the capacity of their public sector organizations while creating the necessary space for innovation to happen. Drawing on the findings of the OECD report "**The Innovation Imperative in the Public Sector**", this session will discuss the main dimensions of strengthening government capability to support innovation including: supporting innovative efforts across government, empowering the workforce, generating ideas, using new methods of work and reducing regulatory complexity,

*Moderator: Mr. Marco Daglio, Project Manager, Public Sector Innovation, OECD*

- Mr. Abu Zaid, President of the General Personnel Council, Palestinian Authority
- Mr. Marwan Bin Haidar, Executive Director for Planning & Development, Dubai Smart Government Establishment
- Ms. Barbara Ubaldi, Project Manager, Digital Government, OECD
- Dr. Zakareya Al Khajah, Vice CEO, Information & eGovernment Authority, Bahrain

Roundtable discussion

17.30-18.00

Conclusions

Based on the discussions and taking into considerations the conclusions of the Steering Group Meeting of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme and the priorities for its 4<sup>th</sup> mandate 2016-2020, participants will define the priorities for the upcoming activities of the Working Group II for the year 2016.

Closing remarks:

- Mr. Wesam Lootah, CEO Dubai Smart Government Establishment, UAE, Chair of Working Group II
- Mr. Alessandro Bellantoni, Coordinator of the OECD Open Government Project, OECD