

GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR DEVELOPMENT IN ARAB COUNTRIES INITIATIVE



Comparative Approaches in the Field of Civil Service Modernisation in OECD Countries

**Seminar organised within the framework of the national consultation process on the
modernisation of the public service in Tunisia**

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Welcome address and acknowledgements

- It is a great pleasure for me to be here with you and to join Minister M'Dhaffar (Minister delegate to the Prime Minister in charge of the Civil Service and Administrative Development, Tunisia), and Mr. Mestassi (Secretary General, Ministry of Economic and General Affairs, Morocco) in welcoming you to this meeting, organised in the framework of the Good Governance for Development (GfD) in Arab Countries Initiative.
- I am delighted participating for the first time in one of the activities of the Good Governance for Development in Arab Countries Initiative. I think this forum for policy dialogue between Arab and OECD countries on how to address the governance issues is very positive for boths sides. Communication between practitioners from different countries is always a challenging and enriching experience, as it contributes to a better understanding of public management policies and the identification of best practices .
- Since its launch in 2005, Spain has actively supported the GfD Initiative. We hosted the first GfD Steering Group Meeting in Madrid on 27-28 April 2005 and we have provided with continuos support to the Initiative participating actively at the Ministerial Launching Conference at the Dead Sea (on 6-7 February 2005), at the Second GfD Steering Group Meeting at Ministerial Level in Sharm el Sheikh (on 19-20 May 2006) and at the Third GfD Steering Group Meeting in Cairo (on 29 November 2007).
- As co-chair of the Working Group on Civil Service and Integrity, Spain has been closely involved in the policy exchange on Human Resource Management (HRM) and the activities undertaken in this Working Group. Thanks to the strong commitment of the participating Arab countries and the continued support of OECD countries and the OECD's Public Employment and Management Working Party (PEMWP), policy dialogue and joint capacity-building on Human Resources Management is today a strong dimension of the Initiative.
- Spain looks forward to the upcoming Working Group meeting and Regional Capacity Building Seminar on Integrity in Public Procurement that will take place on 3-4 April 2008 in Rabat.
- After three years of close co-operation and enlightening policy dialogue with countries from the region, Spain is pleased to actively participate in the Initiative's second phase (2008-10). Past experience has shown that country-specific peer advice and partnerships are crucial for linking the regional exchange to reform implementation at the national level. Spain is eager to participate – as today - in country-specific activities bringing together policy experts from both OECD and Arab countries.
- As it has been already mentioned , the meeting today is certainly an important milestone for carrying forward Tunisia's ambitious civil service reform - and the Initiative's broader objectif to support Arab countries in designing and implementing their national HRM modernisation strategies.