



Ministry of State for
Administrative Development



Chair's Conclusions

Steering Group Meeting at Technical Level

Good Governance for Development (GfD) in Arab Countries Initiative

Chair

H.E. Dr. Ahmed Darwish, Minister of State for Administrative Development, Arab Republic of Egypt

Co-chair

H.E. Mr. Chris Hoornaert, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Belgium to the OECD

OECD Conference Centre
Paris

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It has been a great pleasure for us to chair this Steering Group meeting at technical level of the Good Governance for Development (GfD) in Arab countries Initiative and we would like to thank all participants for contributing to its success. As agreed at the Ministerial Steering Group Meeting on 29 November 2007 in Cairo, the Steering Group met today to discuss the Terms of Reference and the detailed Programme of Work for the regional Working Groups and networks. The Chair summarises the results as follows:

- The Steering Group approves the Terms of Reference and the detailed Programme of Work which adequately reflects the thematic priorities, implementation tools and activities to be carried out until 2010. Participants will have the opportunity to provide written proposals for amendments to the detailed programme of work before 31 July 2008.
- The Steering Group welcomes that the priorities, tools and activities have been identified in a participative manner on the basis of surveys and intense consultations at the regional working group meetings and thematic seminars in the first semester of 2008.
- The Steering Group noticed the positive perspectives for the Working Group on Media and Civil Society to restart its activities and took note of suggestions made by the UNDP and OECD secretariat in this regard.
- The Steering Group recognizes that the meeting today helped ensure a co-ordinated approach of the regional activities and to explore how the regional activities can best support reform progress on the national level.
- Participants noted that the impact of the regional policy dialogue on public policies relies on the shared ownership and political commitment of Arab and OECD countries. OECD and Arab countries expressed their continued interest in the regional policy dialogue on public management and judiciary reform. They committed to ensure the participation of their officials and policy makers and to thus ensure the mobilization of expertise, human and financial resources.
- Participants recognized that the regional Working Groups and networks provide a unique mechanism for increasingly focused and interactive policy dialogue and capacity building. They welcomed that the regional activities have been continuously adapted to the reform needs and targeted to the priority challenges identified by Arab governments.
- Participants called to diversify the scope of regional activities and enlarge the number of countries hosting events. They would also appreciate the active involvement of a larger number of OECD and Arab countries.
- Participants consider the inclusion of cross-cutting issues such as gender, environment, civil society participation and decentralisation in the programme of work as crucial to ensure a comprehensive approach to governance.
- The Steering Group notes with satisfaction that the regional centres of expertise now offer first capacity building activities.
- Participants expressed their interest to further explore the launch of the Arab UNCAC Implementation Network.
- Several participating Arab countries expressed their strong interest in conducting Joint Learning Studies. Participants recognize Joint Learning studies as helpful tool to review public policies and improve the outcome of reform projects.
- Participants strongly support the project to collect and disseminate background information on Arab countries governance reform progress with the focus on encouraging the development of benchmarks on governance and judiciary.
- The Steering Group calls on Arab and OECD countries to support the GfD Initiative financially. Arab and OECD countries have to mobilize financial resources to ensure the Initiative's sustainability.
- The Steering Group plans to meet again in one year at technical level to review progress achieved. This meeting would set the basis for the organisation of the next Steering Group at ministerial level expected for late 2009