OECD WORKSHOP ON ADMINISTRATIVE SIMPLIFICATION

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<u>Lebanon Administrative Simplification</u> <u>Past and Present</u>

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One Year Ago (after Cairo): Lebanon ranks low on the simplification of procedures scale compared to other participants

- Most European countries are leading on the simplification of procedures
 - Amongst the European leaders in simplification are Italy, the UK, Belgium, France, Switzerland, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden
- Most Arab countries have records of fine achievements
 - Examples are Egypt, morocco, Tunisia, Bahrain, Kuwait,

Five Years Ago: Lebanon has had a good initial experience in simplification

- Lebanon's initial experience matches the best practices displayed by participants:
 - Team formation, training, networking, one-stop-shop, interdependency, guidelines manual etc..
- In comparison Lebanon scores high on performance
 - Lebanon used an average of one man/month per procedure
- Lebanon scores high on implementation
 - 90 percent of recommendations were implemented

Three Years ago: Lebanon redirected the project while in its infancy

- The project's responsibility was transferred to individual ministries
- The team was dismantled and reaffected
- No follow up system was installed
- This resulted in halting the initiative

Today: the initiative can still be recuperated and improved - initiative repossessed

- Not all the acquired skills from the previous experience are lost
- Demand is an all times high in the actual all around situation
- Several countries are prepared to share their experience with Lebanon
- Lebanon is progressing in e-government which supports the simplification initiative

Today: the initiative was repossessed

- A new Administrative simplification unit was created/built into OMSAR's organization
- The new unit is staffed with select and skilled staff well versed in public administration
- Training is being been attended for through donors funds
- An awareness campaign and an international seminar are in preparation with OECD partnership
- Several countries signified intent to participate and /or share with their experience

Today: Lebanon has a lot to learn from the experiences of European and Arab countries

- Lebanon shares similar legal and administrative systems with many countries
- Many countries have gone through the initial hurdles thus saving us the trouble
- Many countries have vested interests for Lebanon to become versed in simplification

Identified candidate partners in sharing experience with Lebanon

- Several OECD countries have some of the best experiences worldwide
- Lebanon laws and regulations share common ground and principles with several OECD countries
- Some OECD countries have created a network that helps it carry out simplification effectively
- Some models can be easily adapted to Lebanon's setting

An initial contact with the Italian delegates has been established

- The OECD is leading on matching Lebanon with a donor country
- Lebanon is to liaise with OECD to advance the cooperation
- But first Lebanon has to engage in the simplification project
- Note: Lebanon previous initiative was founded on various experiences of OECD countries