Tunis, 17-18 March 2016

"Better regulation for better lives"

Programme

9th annual meeting of the MENA-OECD Working Group IV

Organised by the MENA-OECD Governance Programme in cooperation with Tunisia

mena-governance@oecd.org
www.oecd.org/mena/governance

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Background information

The 9th Annual Meeting of the Working Group on Regulatory Reform, chaired by Tunisia and co-chaired by France and Italy, aims to share good practices and engage in a policy dialogue with delegates from MENA and OECD countries. The Working Group is part of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme a strategic partnership between MENA and Members to share knowledge and expertise with a view to disseminating standards and principles of good governance and providing implementation assistance on issues of public governance.

The Working Group on Regulatory Reform is aligned with the objectives of the G7 Deauville Partnership, cooperates with regional and international organisations and draws on the expertise of the OECD Regulatory Policy Committee.

Regulatory policy is a key lever to strengthen competitiveness and driving inclusive growth. The 9th Annual meeting will discuss processes, tools and actors to improve laws and regulation that are fit for purpose and in the public interest. The meeting will exchange experience on how to increase accountability and transparency through a better regulation agenda. The reference documents for the discussions will be the recommendations of the OECD Review on Regulatory Reform in the Middle East and North Africa (1) and the OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook 2015.

The main topics to be discussed during this meeting are the following:

i) Implementing regulatory policy recommendations: what are the main lessons and impact in MENA and OECD countries?
ii) Good practices in transparent law-drafting process: How can open government improve trust and results?

Thursday 17 March

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<td>08:30 to 09:00</td>
<td>Registration</td>
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<td>09:00 to 09:30</td>
<td>Opening session</td>
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**Opening addresses:**
Opening remark by **Ms. Asma Sehiri Laabidi**, President of WG IV, Legal Counsel and Advisor on Government Legislation, Tunisia

- **Mr Ahmed Zarrouk**, Minister to the Head of Government, in charge of the Government's General Secretariat, Tunisia
- **Mr Pascal Schuster**, Project manager responsible for simplification, services of the Prime Minister, General Secretariat for the modernisation of public action and Co-Chair of Working Group IV
- **Ms. Miriam Allam**, Head of MENA-OECD Governance Programme, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD

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<td>09:30 to 11:00</td>
<td>Session 1: Implementing the sustainable development goals in practice: the role of regulatory policy principles</td>
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**Chair: Mr Pascal Schuster, Co-Chair of Working Group IV, General Secretariat for the modernisation of public action, France**

Good regulation breeds trust. Bad regulation breeds mistrust. What makes a good regulation is the subject of this session. This will be discussed with reference to the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Regulatory Policy and Governance that sets out principles to develop, implement and monitor quality regulation. In addition, this session invites participants to discuss the OECD Review and the OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook with a view to create trust in public action and achieve socio-economic objectives. The session will pay particular attention to transparency and accountability tools in better regulation and how this can be leveraged to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

- **Ms. Dominique De Vos**, Deputy Director General, Agency for Administrative Simplification
  - Regulation in Belgium, between transparency, participation and effectiveness
- **Ms. Rebecca Schultz**, Regulatory Policy Division, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD
  - The OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook and Indicators of Regulatory Policy and Governance
- **Ms. Asma Séhiri**, Legal Counsel and Advisor on Government Legislation, Tunisia
  - Presentation of circular n°41 (2011) on regulatory quality

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<td>11:00 to 11:30</td>
<td>Coffee break</td>
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<td>11.30 to 13.00</td>
<td>Session 2: Open Government principles on the road to regulatory quality</td>
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**Chair: Ms Asma Séhiri Labidi, Legal Counsel and Advisor on Government Legislation, Tunisia**

Introducing Open Government mechanisms in the rule-making process is relevant in the pursuit of greater...
regulatory quality. Indeed, implementing Open Government reforms means responding to the demands of the public for more transparency, accountability and participation. By providing means of consultation, rule-makers can support a process to ensure that the regulation is in the public interest. This session will allow putting forward the relevance of open government guidelines to ensure the economic and social benefits of regulation and build trust in institutions. Participants are invited to discuss this with particular reference to the MENA-OECD Report on Youth: How to bring them in and how to engage the youth in the law drafting process.

- **Mr. Chahreddine Ghazala**, Assistant Director, Presidency of Government
  - Illustration of the participation process in the law making process in Tunisia : the National portal for legal information

- **Mr. Mohammed AlHawri**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning & International Cooperation, Yemen
  - Access to information as a tool for open government in Yemen

- **Mr. Holger Sperlich**, Government Director, Division on international cooperation in administrative matters, Federal Ministry of the Interior, Germany
  - Public participation in the law drafting process in Germany

- **Dr Amer Bani Amer**, Director, Al Hayat Center for Civil Society Development (HCCSD)
  - Citizen participation to reinforce the legitimacy of public policies

**13:00 to 14:30**  
**Lunch break**

**14:30 to 16:00**  
**Session 3: Coordination within the administration: a key stage not to be missed**

*Chaired by: Mrs Charlotte Denise-Adam, Policy Analyst, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD*

As recommended in the OECD review on regulatory reform in the MENA region, co-ordination mechanisms should be build and strengthen inside and outside the administration to foster coherence across policy objectives. This will discuss different approaches to regulatory management systems and appropriate settings for effective co-ordination mechanisms.

- **Mr. Ahmed Jaafar**, Sous-Directeur, Presidency of the Government, Tunisia
  - The role of the Legal Counsel and Advisor on Government Legislation in the regulatory process in Tunisia

- **Mr. Pascal Schuster**, Project manager responsible for simplification, services of the Prime Minister, General Secretariat for the modernisation of public action:
  - Coordination in France: role and evolution of the Secretariat General of the Government

- **Judge Abdallah El Ahmad**, Counsellor, Legislation and Consultation Department at the Ministry of Justice (to be confirmed)

**16:00**  
**Cocktail reception**
Friday 18 March

09:00 to 10:30  | Session 4: What tools to develop and implement effective regulations?

*Chaired by: Mr Mohamed Faouzi Ben Hammed, First President of the Administrative Court.*

This session will discuss the most common tools that have been successfully employed to assess the impact of regulations and promote coherent and consistent legislative drafting techniques. Discussions should lead to reiterate the advantage of introducing relevant tools in accordance with the OECD Review's recommendations on Regulatory Reform in the MENA region, to improve the quality of the development of new regulations. A particular emphasis will be put on the use of legislative drafting manuals to ensure clarity, coherence and the rule of law.

- **Mr. Mohamed Mehdi Ben Romdhane**, Director, Presidency of the Government, Tunisia
  - The fundamental principles for regulatory quality in Tunisia

- **Mr. Mustapha Dachi**, Project manager, Chief of Government Office, Morocco
  - Mechanisms in place to ensure the quality of legislation in Morocco (tbc)

- **Ms María Monje San Román**, Assistant Deputy Director General of Administrative Organization and Administrative Procedures, Ministry of Finance and Public Administration, Spain
  - Legislative drafting tools in Spain

10:30 to 10:45  | Coffee break

10:45 to 12:15  | Session 5: Case Study: the Organic Law of Budget, a significant move towards greater transparency and accountability

*Chaired by: Mr. Adnane Gallas, Head of unit management by objectives, Ministry of Finance, Tunisia*

Morocco and Tunisia have embarked on an ambitious reform process to modernise public financial management for more than a decade. In 2015, these efforts have led to the formulation of the Organic Budget law in Tunisia and the Finance Law in Morocco. This session will allow discussions on the important move made by Morocco and Tunisia towards greater transparency and accountability through the significant efforts they have made to develop these new laws that are crucial to improve the management of public finances.

- **Ms. Wafa Slama**, Assistant Director, Ministry of Finance, Tunisia
  - Transparency mechanisms for the drafting of organic budget law and the management of public finances in Tunisia

- **Mr. Youssef ROCHDI**, Officer in charge of the accompaniment of ministerial departments for the implementation of the Finance Law Reform, Ministry of Finance, Morocco
  - The preparation of the new finance law and its impact on public financial management in Morocco
The session will give participants the opportunity to discuss the progress made by the Working Group and its future work programme in line with the new mandate of the MENA-OECD Initiative for 2016-2020. Participants are invited to discuss priority activities of Working Group IV in light of the upcoming MENA-OECD Steering Group meeting at ministerial level on 3-4 October 2016 in Tunis.

Closing address:

- **Ms. Miriam Allam**, Head of MENA-OECD Governance Programme, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD
- **Mr Pascal Schuster**, Co-Chair of Working Group IV, General Secretariat for the modernisation of public action, France
- **Ms. Asma Séhiri Labidi**, Legal Counsel and Advisor on Government Legislation.