



Public Sector Integrity in a time of crisis

MENA-OECD Working Group I
on civil service and integrity

Thursday, 23 July 2020 | 10.45 – 12.15 (Paris Time)
Virtual conference (Zoom)



Overview and objectives of the MENA-OECD Working Group I on “Public sector integrity in a time of crisis”

The Covid-19 crisis has massive impact on all countries in areas such as public health, employment, economic growth and social protection. The crisis requires urgent actions by governments, and it can sometimes be difficult to balance timely interventions carefully with accountability, transparency and integrity.

Past crises have shown that emergencies and subsequent rapid responses create opportunities for integrity violations, with basic control systems being suspended or bypassed, which can cause increased levels of waste, mismanagement and corruption at a time when government resources are already under pressure. Early evidence from the current crisis already shows that there are, for example, instances of contracts for personal protective equipment being awarded to dubious companies; price gouging of key medication and healthcare equipment; doctors stockpiling treatments for friends and family; or various types of online fraud, amongst others.

In addition, as governments transition from addressing the immediate crisis to focusing on economic recovery, integrity violations may continue to rise and undermine recovery efforts. It is therefore imperative that fundamental safeguards of public integrity are not weakened or disregarded in both the immediate response as well as the longer-term recovery from COVID-19. Both short-and long-term measures are needed to address these risks, focusing on procurement strategies, the resources of internal audit functions, digital tools, access to information and risk management, among others.

With the participation of representatives from government, independent institutions and civil society from MENA and OECD countries, this session will explore measures, programmes and tools to counter the rise of integrity violations in the crisis response.

The session will discuss the OECD policy brief on public integrity and COVID-19 in the MENA region and draw on the dialogue of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme and the OECD Public Governance Committee and builds on the recommendation of the OECD Council on Public Integrity and Public Procurement.

10:45 – 11:00 Technical instructions

11:00 - 11:15 Opening Remarks

- **H.E. Ambassador Antonio Bernardini**, Permanent Representative of Italy to the OECD and co-chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme
- **Mr. Ahmed Laamoumri**, Secretary General of the Ministry of civil service and administrative modernisation, Morocco, Co-chair of the working group on civil service and integrity
- **Ms. María Pía Junquera Temprano**, General Director for Public Governance, Spain, Co-chair of the working group on civil service and integrity

11:15 – 11:30 Key note interventions

- **Mr. Jeroen Michels**, Policy Analyst, Division for Public Sector Integrity, OECD
- **Ms. Erika Bozzay**, Senior Policy Adviser, Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD

11:30 –12:15 Discussion

Moderator: **Ms. Amira Tlili**, Policy Analyst, MENA-OECD Governance Programme, OECD

Lead commentators from MENA and OECD countries:

- **H.E. Mr. Kamel Ayadi**, President, High Committee for Administrative and Financial Control, Tunisia
- **H.E. Mr. Osama Al Mhaisen**, Vice-Chairman, Jordanian Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission, Jordan

- **Ms. Lana Assi**, Head of Public and International Relation Unit, State Audit and Administrative Control Bureau, Palestinian Authority
- **Dr. Sherifa Fouad Sherif**, Executive Director of the National Management Institute, Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, Egypt
- **Dr. Christoph Stueckelberger**, President, Globethics.net Foundation, Switzerland
- **Dr. Mohamed Al-Hawri**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, Yemen
- **Ms. Izadora Zubek**, Deputy Policy Officer for International Action, French Anti-Corruption Agency, France
- **Mr. Yassir Chokairi**, Partnership and Development Director, National Authority for Probity, Prevention and fight against corruption, Morocco
- **Ms. Ilhem Ghribi**, General controller of public procurement, High Authority for Public Procurement, Tunisia
- **Dr. Valentina Donini**, Researcher, National School of Administration, Italy

Open Discussion

The MENA-OECD Working Group on civil service and integrity (WG I)

The Working Group on Civil Service and Integrity of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme brings together policy practitioners from MENA and OECD countries to engage in promoting integrity and preventing corruption. It is the leading network to promote a regional dialogue to exchange best practices in the area of civil service reform for integrity, innovative anti-corruption policies and institutions. The Working Group cooperates with ACINET (Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network). Building on more than ten years of experience and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, the MENA-OECD Governance Programme received a new mandate for 2016-2020 to leverage the power of the regional networks and provide implementation assistance in crucial areas of integrity and fighting corruption.

<http://www.oecd.org/mena/governance/mena-oecd-working-group-on-civil-service-and-integrity.htm>

The MENA-OECD Governance Programme

The MENA-OECD Governance Programme is a strategic partnership between MENA and OECD countries to share knowledge and expertise, with a view of disseminating standards and principles of good governance that support the ongoing process of reform in the MENA region. The Programme strengthens collaboration with the most relevant multilateral initiatives currently underway in the region. In particular, the Programme supports the implementation of the G7 Deauville Partnership and assists governments in meeting the eligibility criteria to become a member of the Open Government Partnership. Through these initiatives, the Programme acts as a leading advocate of managing ongoing public governance reforms in the MENA region. The Programme provides a sustainable structure for regional policy dialogue as well as for country specific projects. These projects correspond to the commitment of MENA governments to implement public sector reforms in view of unlocking social and economic development and of meeting citizens' growing expectations in terms of quality services, inclusive policymaking and transparency.

<http://www.oecd.org/mena/governance/>



The MENA OECD Governance Programme Training Centre – Caserta (Italy)

The MENA-OECD Governance Programme Training Centre was established in 2012 by the OECD and the Italian National School of Administration (SNA), to support the public administrations of Middle East and North African countries and promote initiatives for capacity building in order to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the public sector and foster Good Governance. The Centre is hosted by the SNA in the prestigious setting of its training centre in the Royal Palace in Caserta. It is part of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme which fosters public sector reforms and strengthens international cooperation, supporting dialogue among public administrations to promote sustainable economic growth in the MENA Region. The Training Centre is also part of the Action Plan on Open Governance and Anticorruption of the Deauville Partnership for Arab Countries in Transition (Governance Pillar).

The OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international body that promotes policies to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. It is made up of 37 member countries, a secretariat in Paris, and a committee, drawn from experts from government and other fields, for each work area covered by the Organisation. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. We collaborate with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change. We measure productivity and global flows of trade and investment.

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