

The Government of Morocco, with the support of the OECD, is engaged in a process to draft an OGP Action Plan in line with the Royal commitment to join the Open Government Partnership (OGP) and implement a reform of the public sector inspired by the principles of transparency, engagement and accountability. This process was launched in 2012 with the creation of an Open Government Steering Committee, which with the OECD's help was enlarged to include civil society, private sector

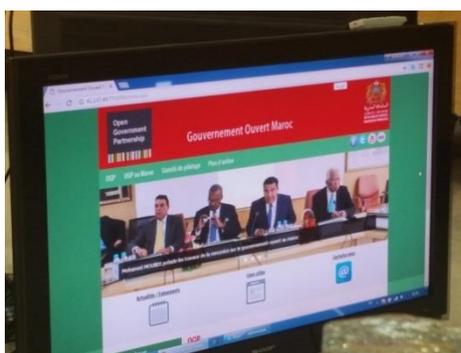
and independent institutions. Five sub-commissions on access to information and e-government, budget transparency, citizen engagement, integrity and communication headed by various public institutions with the inclusions of members of the Open Government Civil Society Network elaborated a draft plan based on the recommendations of the [OECD Open Government Review Morocco \(2015\)](#).

The OECD supported the alignment of the plan with international good practices and OGP guidelines by organising a workshop in Rabat on 3 November 2016, in collaboration with the Ministry of Civil Service and Modernisation of the Administration and the financial support of MEPI.



Engaging the public administration and civil society in the OGP Action Plan

The workshop was the occasion to present and discuss the draft Action Plan with all members of the Open Government Steering Committee, which included more than 50 representatives from ministries, independent institutions, civil society and the private sector. In particular, participants actively engaged in a lively debate on how to improve and later implement the commitments on access to information, e-government, budget transparency and citizen engagement. Concrete



recommendations were given by participants and the OECD to improve the plan. For example, among other things, it was suggested to pay particular attention to ensuring the back-office of the various websites proposed, while trying to link them to one single open government portal for the entire country, and to strengthen the participation of civil society and the private sector not only in the plan's elaboration but also in the implementation of commitments. The OECD welcomed, in particular, the work of the Committee on Communication that agreed to elaborate a plan which aims at disseminating the new open government plan to stakeholders in the public administration as well as to the general public.

Tackling challenges with the support from peers

The afternoon session was dedicated to the restricted drafting committee to transform the concrete proposals of the morning into the text of the commitments and to refine the plan and its elaboration process with the support of peers experts from OECD countries, Thom Townsend (UK Cabinet Office) and Amélie Banzet (Etalab, Prime Minister Office, France), and from the OGP Support Unit, Helen Turek. Specific advice was provided to strengthen the relevance of the plan, to make the commitments more ambitious and to improve its effectiveness and impact by defining implementation mile stones and indicators. In particular, all the experts and the OECD Secretariat highlighted the importance of a frank and open dialogue with civil society for the success of open government reforms. In line with these recommendations, Morocco acknowledged the need to publish its draft plan for public consultation, which is also an OGP requirement. Finally, the OECD pointed out the importance to move beyond open government toward the concept of open state by involving more the Judiciary and the Legislative branches, in addition to independent institutions such as the ICPC and the Ombudsman, which are already active members of Morocco's OGP Committee.



Results

The workshop concretely improved the quality of the plan by aligning its commitments to the good practices of OECD countries and to OGP standards. In addition, the workshop was essential to guarantee an inclusive process, as one of the results of the discussion was the agreement of the government to publish the plan for public consultation.

Next Steps

The OECD will continue to accompany Morocco in the process, providing support to the public consultation process, the communication plan and the broadest possible dissemination of the plan once finalised.