MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Draft

AGENDA

- Meeting of Working Group 1 and 2 -

"Investment Policy and Promotion"

Organised by
The MENA-OECD Investment Programme

Venue
OECD Headquarters
2, rue André-Pascal
Room CC12

Date
28-29 October 2008
Paris, France

OECD

MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Objective

Following the mandate from the 2nd Ministerial meeting of the Programme in November 2007, two new rounds of meetings of the Working Groups will take place until the 3rd Ministerial meeting in late 2009. The purpose of this 4th meeting of the Working Group 1/2 on "Investment Policy and Promotion" is to:

i) Discuss in an introductory session the evolution on investment policy regimes in MENA;

ii) Discuss the latest evolutions of Free Economic Zones in the MENA region and how they could evolve going forward;

iii) Discuss the latest evolutions in Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) in the MENA region and how they could evolve going forward

iv) Present and discuss a new investment policy and promotion assessment toolkit that would allow MENA countries to assess their strengths and areas for improvement relative to good practices in the MENA region and OECD;

v) Agree on the work programme leading up to the MENA ministerial meeting end 2009 including a proposal to merge the former Working Groups 1 and 2 into a new Working Group 1 on "Investment Policy and Promotion".

Background

Working Group 1/2 of the MENA-OECD Investment Programme helps MENA countries to develop open and transparent investment policies and effective investment promotion strategies and activities through multi-stakeholder dialogue, experience-sharing and capacity-building in the region, with the support of OECD countries and other partners. This 4th meeting of the Working Group 1/2 will also decide on work programme leading up to the 3rd Ministerial meeting to be held end 2009.

Participants

MENA and OECD members of Working Group 1/2 are invited to send experts in the areas of investment policy, investment promotion, international investment instruments, PPP and Free Economic Zones. As in the previous meeting, other key partners, who are engaged in activities in these areas, are also invited, including Islamic Development Bank, Arab League, Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation, Union of Arab Banks, World Bank, UNIDO, UNDP, IFC PEP MENA, UNCTAD, European Commission and the European Investment Bank, Transparency International, and other partners. Private sector engagement is essential for the success of the Investment Programme, as they can provide insights to issues affecting investment decisions and serve as a "reality check" for policy reform plans. Representatives from the Arab Business Council, Arab Investors' Union, Union of Arab Banks, MENA-OECD Business Network, Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC), and Business Councils in MENA countries are expected to join the meeting. Experts from OECD countries and from the Secretariat will be present at the meeting.

Documentation

The relevant meeting documents together with a more detailed agenda will be distributed to participants in advance of the meeting. For more information about the Programme please visit our website:

www.oecd.org/mena/investment

28 October 2008 – Working Group 1/2

9:30 – 10:00	**Opening Session**
	• **Chair of the Working Group** • **Co-Chair of the Working Group** • **OECD Secretariat**
10:00 - 11:15	**Session 1: Recent Developments in Investment Policy and Regulation in MENA and OECD Countries**

	This session will provide MENA and OECD countries the opportunity to present recent developments in their investment policy and promotion strategies, investment laws and regulations, as well as use of international investment instruments. All participants are encouraged to make interventions and inform the group of new investment policy developments in their jurisdictions.
	• **Reports of Countries**
	• **Presentations by**
	  ○ OECD Secretariat
	  ○ M. Abdou El Azizi,Ministère des Finances, Maroc
	• **Open discussion**

11:15 – 11:30	**Coffee Break**
11:30 - 12:30	**Session 2: Free Economic Zones in the MENA Region – Towards Regional Good Practice Guidelines**

	This session provides an opportunity for participating countries to exchange good practice on the management of Free Zones and the effect of incentives provided for investment attraction. A draft report summarising key data on FEZs in the region will be prepared for discussion. It is proposed to work on regional guidelines for FEZs as an output result for the next Ministerial meeting of the Programme.
	• **Presentations by**
	  ○ OECD Secretariat
	  ○ Dr. Nermine G. El Shimy, The Higher Corporation for Specialized Economic Zones – ZonesCorp, U.A.E.
	  ○ Mr. Elias Farraj, Jordanian Investment Board, Jordan
	  ○ M. Marwane Mansouri, Direction des Investissements, Ministère de l'Industrie, Maroc
	  ○ Speaker to be confirmed – General Authority for Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), Egypt
	• **Open discussion**

12:30 – 15:00	**Lunch**
15:00 – 16:30	**Session 2: continued**
	• **Country presentations continued**

29 October 2008 – Working Group 1/2

9:30 - 10:30	**Session 3: Frameworks for Public Private Partnerships in the MENA region**

	This session provides an opportunity for participating countries to exchange good practice on the structuring of frameworks for effective public private partnerships, namely as a tool for infrastructure financing. A draft report summarising key developments in PPP frameworks in the MENA region will be distributed for discussion. It is proposed to work on regional guidelines for PPPs as an output result for the next Ministerial meeting of the Programme.
	• **Presentations by**
	  ○ OECD Secretariat
	  ○ M. Said TAZI, Ministère des Affaires Économiques et Générales, Maroc
	  ○ TBD
	• **Open discussion**

10:30-11:00	**Coffee Break**
11:00-12:00	**Session 4: Evaluating Investment Policy and Promotion in the MENA region**
	The session will provide the opportunity to review a proposed tool that allows each country to evaluate where it stands relative to good practices in MENA and OECD. It is proposed to use this tool in preparation for the next Ministerial meeting of the Programme. • **Overview of the proposed tool and how it can be implemented** • **Feedback from individual countries on the proposed tool (on scope, process, and expected results)** • **Open discussion**
12:00 – 14:30	**Lunch**
14:30 – 16:00	**Session 5: Discussion of a Work Programme for Working Group 1/2**
	A proposal for a work programme leading up to the 3rd Ministerial meeting will be introduced by the Chairs and discussed.

MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME

Key Contacts

OECD Secretariat

Mr. Alexander Böhmer
Head of Unit
MENA-OECD Investment Programme
Private Sector Development Division
Tel.: (33) 1 45 24 1912
Fax: (33) 1 44 30 61 35
E-mail: alexander.boehmer@oecd.org

Mr. Milan Konopek
Policy Analyst
Private Sector Development Division
Tel.: (33) 1 45 24 79 18
Fax.: (33) 1 45 24 93 35
Email: milan.konopek@oecd.org

Mr. Joshua Yeremiyew
Event co-ordinator
MENA-OECD Investment Programme
Private Sector Development Division
2, rue André-Pascal
75775 Paris Cedex 16, France
Tel.: (33) 1 45 24 98 91
Fax: (33) 1 44 30 61 35
E-mail: joshua.yeremiyew@oecd.org