



STEERING GROUP OF THE MENA-OECD INVESTMENT PROGRAMME: DRAFT CONCLUSIONS OF THE CHAIRS

11 October 2009, Cairo

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DRAFT Conclusions of the Chairs

During the opening session conducted together with the MENA-OECD Governance Programme, Ministers and Ambassadors present stressed the need to support the MENA-OECD Initiative's efforts leading up to the Ministerial meeting in Marrakech. They underlined the nature of the Initiative as a mutual learning exercise amongst peers which can help to communicate the ongoing substantive reform processes in the region to the international community.

Chaired by H.E. Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Minister of Investment, Egypt and H.E. Mrs. Narbona Ruiz, Ambassador of Spain to the OECD, the remainder of the meeting focused on achievements of the Programme, the election of a new Programme chair, the Ministerial Declaration and the preparation of the MENA-OECD Ministerial Conference in November 2009.

During the meeting, participants:

- Acknowledged the achievements of the Egyptian chair, H.E. Mahmoud Mohieldin, Minister of investment, who has been steering the Programme for more than 3 years and launched important new regional initiatives during this period;
- Welcomed the continued commitment expressed by the outgoing Egyptian Chair to provide ongoing support for the MENA-OECD Programme for the years to come;
- Welcomed the invitation by the Kingdom of Morocco to attend the 3rd Ministerial Conference of the Programme in November in Marrakech and applauded the Kingdom's willingness to assume the responsibility of chair of the Programme at this occasion;
- Confirmed the election of the Kingdom of Morocco for assuming the function of the chair during an official hand over ceremony on the occasion of the upcoming Ministerial meeting in Marrakech on 23 November 2009;
- Congratulated both Egypt and Morocco and expressed renewed support for the MENA Programme underlining the need for responsible dialogue with and support for the region;
- Noted the draft Ministerial Declaration tabled and expressed the need:
 - To reconsider carefully the commitment quality of the document;
 - To reconsider carefully the countries which are committing;
 - To support further work of the Programme taking into account the necessary procedures within MENA and OECD countries;

- To include human capital development as a core principle;
- To highlight the regional integration aspect more strongly as well as the need to increase the competitiveness of the region overall;
- To highlight the need for more initiatives on innovation, and infrastructure development;
- To express more clearly the important role to be played by independent business associations to support the ongoing reform processes and the role of the private sector in an additional point in the principles part of the Declaration;
- To broaden the support of parts of societies to include the youth;
- To specify more efficient natural resource management as part of the green growth principle;

(Note: Comments received will be integrated into a new draft which will be shared with the MENA Governance Programme and then circulated for written comments by the Steering Group until the end of October. A drafting group to which every participating country is invited will be overseeing the final revisions. The final draft will be sent to delegations in time before the Ministerial Conference.)

- Highlighted the Business Climate Development Strategy as a tool to measure reform progress and support implementation and welcomed the 2 upcoming presentations of findings from the assessment phase in Egypt and Morocco.
- Highlighted the achievements of the Programme in guiding Egypt and Morocco and other countries to adhere to OECD bodies and instruments including the OECD Investment Committee.
- Expressed support for achieving high-level participation at the upcoming Ministerial Conference, as well as for the Business and Women Business Forums.