



**De meilleures politiques  
pour la croissance  
inclusive et l'intégration  
économique de la région  
MENA**

Conférence ministérielle

3-4 octobre 2016 – Tunis, Tunisie

سياسات أفضل لنمو شامل و اندماج  
اقتصادي في منطقة الشرق الأوسط  
و شمال إفريقيا  
المؤتمر الوزاري  
3-4 أكتوبر 2016 تونس

**Better Policies for  
Inclusive growth and  
Economic Integration in  
the MENA Region**

Ministerial Conference

3-4 October 2016 – Tunis, Tunisia

[www.oecd.org/mena/ministerial](http://www.oecd.org/mena/ministerial)

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**Initiative MENA-OCDE**  
pour la Gouvernance et la Compétitivité  
à l'appui du Développement

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# Overview of the MENA-OECD Initiative 2016 Forum and Ministerial Conference

Hotel "Le Palace Gammarth"  
3-4 October 2016

## Better Policies for Inclusive growth and Economic Integration in the MENA Region

**Monday, 3 October**

**Tuesday, 4 October**

MENA-OECD Competitiveness Forum		MENA-OECD Governance Forum	MENA-OECD Initiative 2016 Ministerial Conference	
Forum registration			Ministerial Conference registration	
<b>Opening Session</b> Building competitive and inclusive economies	<b>Opening Session</b> Shaping the future together: Public governance for better lives		<b>Opening session</b> and handover ceremony of the Initiative's chairmanship from Morocco to Tunisia	
<b>Session 1:</b> Addressing fragility and improving economic resilience	<b>Session 1:</b> A voice for all parts of society in policy-making		Coffee break	
<b>Report launch:</b> SMEs in Libya's Reconstruction	<b>Session 2:</b> Real impact for citizens: Designing and delivering better policies for inclusive growth		<b>Ministerial session:</b> Better policies for inclusive growth and economic integration	
Lunch Break			Lunch Break	
<b>Key-note speeches:</b> Creating opportunities for youth				
<b>Press conference and coffee break</b>				
<b>Session 2:</b> Encouraging sound and efficient Public-Private Dialogue	<b>Session 3:</b> Shaping the future		<b>Competitiveness Programme panel:</b> Endorsement of work programme by Ministers of Economy and Investment	<b>Governance Programme panel:</b> Endorsement of work programme by Ministers of Public Administration and Governance
<b>Closing Session</b>	<b>Closing Session</b>		Coffee break	
<b>Launch</b> of the OECD and European Union Programme on Promoting Investment in the Mediterranean	<b>Joint Launch</b> of OECD Projects with AECID and G7 (Deauville Partnership) - " <i>Women in power for inclusive growth: getting it done</i> "		<b>Closing session:</b> Way forward and adoption of the Ministerial Declaration	
Gala Dinner – upon invitation			Cocktail	

# MENA-OECD COMPETITIVENESS FORUM

3 October 2016, Tunisia

## Building competitive and inclusive economies

### Objectives of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Forum

The MENA-OECD Competitiveness Forum is organised back-to-back with the MENA-OECD Ministerial Conference to be held on 4 October 2016 in Tunis. It provides an opportunity for policy-makers, experts, and representatives from civil society and media to debate how economic policies can promote more prosperous and inclusive societies in the region.

The Competitiveness Forum will focus on critical priorities of the region to inform the ministerial discussions the following day. In particular, the Competitiveness Forum will address policy areas that have been identified as priorities for the next mandate of the MENA-OECD Initiative:

- Identify specific actions to ensure that private sector development builds resilience in the region amidst the current context of conflict and fragility.
- Strengthening private sector organisations and fostering public-private dialogue to implement an ambitious competitiveness agenda in the MENA region.

### About the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme

Launched in 2005 at the request of governments of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme is a unique, well established and recognised platform for cutting-edge policy dialogue, peer learning and capacity building across 18 countries. Its decade-long experience in supporting policy reforms for inclusive growth and sustainable development, together with a longstanding network of regional and international partners, have made it a valued vehicle for advancing a reform agenda in line with international standards and best practices.

The MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme supports reforms to mobilise investment, private sector development and entrepreneurship as driving forces for growth and employment in the region. To achieve its objective, the Programme adopts a horizontal approach to high-level dialogue and consensus building, underpinned by working-level technical assistance through policy dialogue, the exchange of experience and good practices, and capacity building for the identification and implementation of reforms.

[www.oecd.org/mena/competitiveness/](http://www.oecd.org/mena/competitiveness/)

## MENA-OECD 2016 COMPETITIVENESS FORUM

09:00 – 09:30 Registration

09:30 – 10:00 **Opening session: Building competitive and inclusive economies - Room "Serail"**

The opening session will provide strategic orientations of the discussions of the Competitiveness Forum. The common objective of building competitive economies able to compete in the global markets require strong partnerships between the public and private sector, as well as effective models of social dialogue to gain support for the reform agendas. Ongoing conflicts in Syria, Libya and Yemen among others have a negative impact across the region, and require adequate policy responses that have to be built on multilateral basis.

### Speakers:

- **H.E. Mr. Fadhel Abdelkefi**, Minister of Development, Investment and International Cooperation, Tunisia, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme
- **H.E. Ms. Annika Markovic**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OECD and UNESCO, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme
- **Mr. Andreas Schaal**, Director Global Relations and OECD G20 Sous Sherpa, OECD

10:00 – 12:00 **Session 1: Addressing fragility and improving economic resilience - Room "Serail"**

In the past years, the MENA region has suffered from increased insecurity and conflict, with many countries now affected by unrest either directly or indirectly. About 13.5 million people need humanitarian aid in Syria; in Yemen, 21.1 million; in Libya, 2.4 million; and in Iraq, 8.2. Beyond the human tragedy, the economic toll of conflict will have long-lasting consequences. It is essential for governments in the region to develop policies that can mitigate the damage and improve resilience, and for international partners to support the process. As recognised in the UN "Resilience Agenda", the private sector is essential for economic recovery, reconstruction, and stabilisation of the MENA region. By facilitating financial flows, driving job creation and capital investment, the private sector can promote economic opportunities that can in turn reduce the scope for extremism by bringing people out of poverty and giving them a stake in peace. During the session, the OECD will present two new reports focused on the economic dimension of conflict and post-conflict situations: SME development in Libya and investment in Iraq.

### Key questions:

- Which orientations can better shape the economic basis of reconstruction and post-conflict situations?
- How can multilateral and regional co-operation contribute to building resilience and mitigate the damage of conflict?
- How can governments and international partners address the needs of refugees and migrants without neglecting those of host communities?
- How can multilateral organizations help transform negative perceptions and identify opportunities for investment and private sector participation?

This session will be divided in two panels. The first panel will focus on how governments and the international community can mobilise resources and attract investment in the face of crisis, and it will count with the participation of:

### Chair:

- **H.E. Mr. Paulo Vizeu Pinheiro**, Ambassador of Portugal to the OECD and Chair of the External Relations Committee of the OECD

### Speakers:

- **H.E. Ms. Abeer Odeh**, Minister of National Economy, the Palestinian Authority
- **Dr. Ali Osman Öztürk**, Public Diplomacy Coordinator, Chief Advisor to the Prime Minister, Turkey
- **Mr. Mustapha Tlili**, Executive Secretary, Arab Trade Union Confederation (ATUC)
- **Mr. Gustavo Gonzalez**, Subregional Development Coordinator, Regional Bureau for Arab States, UNDP
- **Ms. Marie-Estelle Rey**, Senior Policy Analyst, Middle East and Africa Division, OECD

The second panel will focus on policies to support economic recovery through job creation and the development of local private sector. It will count with the participation of:

### Chair:

- **Ms. Alia Abbas**, General Director, Ministry of Economy and Trade, Lebanon

### Speakers:

- **Mr. Abdallah Aldardari**, Deputy Executive Secretary for Programmes, UNESCWA
- **Mr. Habib Zitouna**, Directeur général de l'Institut tunisien de la compétitivité et des études quantitatives, Tunisia
- **Mr. Magdy Rady**, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Egypt

- **Ms. Soukaina Bouraoui**, Executive Director, Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR)
- **Dr. Antoine Haddad**, CEO, HBC SAL Consultants in Public Policies, Lebanon

**12:15 – 13:00** **Report launch: SMEs in Libya’s Reconstruction. Preparing for a post-conflict economy - Room "Serail"**

The Competitiveness Programme will launch a new publication: *SMEs in Libya’s Reconstruction. Preparing for a post-conflict economy*. The report is intended to contribute to the implementation of policies in a post-conflict Libya to promote private sector development. It presents the structural economic and framework conditions prevalent in Libya, highlights potential drivers of development and considers the role of SMEs and entrepreneurship promotion in driving post-conflict recovery. The document is part of a wider MENA Transition Fund project to support the design and implementation of SME policies in Libya. Italy and Tunisia, as co-chairs of the MENA-OECD Working Group on SMEs, peer reviewed the report.

**Keynote remarks:**

- **Mr. Andreas Schaal**, Director Global Relations and OECD G20 Sous Sherpa, OECD
- **Dr. Abdalnasr Abouzkeh**, General Manager of Libya Enterprise and Financial Advisor for the Minister of Economy, Libya
- **H.E. Mr. Sabri Bachtobji**, Secretary of State of Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Tunisia
- **Mr. Magdy Rady**, Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs, Egypt

**Speakers:**

- **Ms. Noura Hamladji**, UNDP Country Director in Libya
- **Mr. Abdallah Aldardari**, Deputy Executive Secretary for Programmes, UNESCWA

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

**14:00 – 15:00** **Key-note speeches: Creating opportunities for youth - Room “Serail”**

The Nobel Prize award to the Tunisia National Dialogue Quartet in 2015 underscores the importance of social dialogue as a precondition for the success of deep political and economic reforms, and it can serve as example to other countries in the region. The OECD has strongly supported the democratic transformation Tunisia since its very beginning and believes that wide reforms need to be based on broad platforms including all sectors of society.

In this session, the members of the Tunisian Quartet and the Secretary-General of the OECD will share their experiences and lessons learned regarding how social dialogue can bring about the necessary basis for economic reforms bringing to inclusive economic growth and prosperity. They will pay special attention to the role youth has to play in the Arab world, and the need of creating opportunities for them. The key note speeches will be followed by an exchange and dialogue with the audience.

**Key-note speeches by:**

- **Tunisia National Dialogue Quartet:** Mr. Houcine Abassi, Secretary General of The Tunisian General Labour Union, UGTT; Mr. Fadhel Mahfoudh, former President of the Tunisian Order of Lawyers; Mr. Abdessattar Ben Moussa, President of the Tunisian Human Rights League; and Mr. Hichem Elloumi, Vice-President of the Tunisian Confederation of Industry.
- **H.E. Mr. Angel Gurría**, OECD Secretary-General

15:00 – 15:30 Press conference (Room “Diwan”) & coffee break

**15:30 – 17:00** **Session 2: Encouraging sound and efficient Public-Private Dialogue for competitiveness - Room “Serail”**

Building competitive economies in the MENA countries, based on a strong private sector and more determined integration into the global economy requires effective partnerships between government and the businesses community, including SMEs, and trade unions. Effective and transparent “reform coalitions” contribute to building capacity, strengthening the advocacy role of private sector organisations and worker’s representatives on reform priorities and informing reforms agendas.

In the MENA region, the level of organisation of business associations and trade unions varies significantly. In some countries it is well structured and there are strong mechanisms for private sector organisations to make their voice heard. But in others, such participatory mechanisms are lacking, weak or poorly-designed. The private sector in many MENA countries remains fragmented and dispersed. The large informal sector is not represented in private sector associations. Trade unions, although presenting a more unified front, need to better incorporate the pluralism of Arab societies. Social dialogue mechanisms need to include young entrepreneurs which might be out of the traditional business representation organisations and trade unions.

In the context of the MENA region, public-private dialogue is particularly important to enhance the participation of women in the economy, especially since women’s entrepreneurship and access to employment find barriers that could be overcome with collective commitment.

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The session will inform the ministerial discussions of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme on how better providing a structured, sustainable and well-informed platform for public-private dialogue on the policy issues related to the competitiveness agenda of the MENA region.

**Key questions:**

- Which areas of the competitiveness agenda are facing more difficulties to reform?
- How can social dialogue help to design and implement ambitious reform agendas in order to build more competitive economies?
- How can the private sector organise itself to effectively make its voice heard by policymakers?
- How can multi-stakeholder policy dialogue be adequately used to build a more enabling business environment?
- What role can unions and the business sector play to promote Responsible Business Conduct?
- Are young entrepreneurs involved in social dialogue and if not how can we engage them?
- Which are the successful models from the region and abroad?

**Chair:**

- **Mr. Majdi Hassen**, Executive Director, Institut Arabe des Chefs d'Entreprise

**Moderator:**

- **Ms. Reem Badran**, CEO, Al Hurra, Jordan

**Speakers:**

- **Mr. Gregory Simpson**, Regional Director, Regional Director, Middle East and North Africa, Centre for International Private Enterprise (CIPE).
- **H.E. Mr. John Evans**, General Secretary, Trade Union Advisory Committee to the OECD (TUAC)
- **Ms. Leila Khaiat**, First Vice-President, Council of Arab Business Women (CABW), Tunisia
- **Mr. Mohamed El Biesi**, Executive Director, Bedaya Centre for Entrepreneurship & SMEs Development, GAFI, Egypt
- **Mr. Bostjan Skalar**, Executive Director, World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)
- **Ms. Lina Hundaileh**, President, Young Entrepreneurs Association, Jordan

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**17:00 – 17:30**    **Closing Session**

**Speakers:**

- **H.E. Mr. Fadhel Abdelkefi**, Minister of Development, Investment and International Cooperation, Tunisia, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme
  - **H.E. Ms. Annika Markovic**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OECD and UNESCO, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme
  - **Mr. Andreas Schaal**, Director Global Relations and OECD G20 Sous Sherpa, OECD
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**18:00 – 19:00      Launch of the European Union and OECD Programme on Promoting Investment in the Mediterranean  
- Room “Diwan”**

The joint Programme on “*Enhancing Investment Policies and Promotion in the Southern Mediterranean*” is funded by the European Union and will be implemented by the OECD. Aiming at boosting private investment and job creation opportunities in the Southern Mediterranean region, it will support investment reforms to implement sound and attractive investment policies and establish effective institutions able to attract more and better investments.

The project is timely as it responds to the challenges faced by the region to revive investment for growth and job creation. Foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows to the region decreased by 50% between 2008 and 2015 due to the global financial crisis and the regional instability. Despite a slight rebound in 2015, prospects remain uncertain given the political and security situation in the region. Accompanying countries to pursue their reforms and engage into an effective dialogue is essential to attract investment and promote growth and stability.

This session will mark the official launch of the Programme.

**Opening speakers:**

- **H.E. Mr. Fadhel Abdelkefi**, Minister of Development, Investment and International Cooperation, Tunisia, Co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme
- **H.E. Mr. Angel Gurría**, OECD Secretary-General
- **Mr. Michael Köhler**, Director of Southern Neighbourhood, DG NEAR-B, European Commission
- **Mr. Angelos Pangratis**, Hors Classe Adviser for Economic Diplomacy, European Union External Action (EEAS)

**Presentation of the Programme by an OECD representative:**

- **Ms. Ana Novik**, Head of the Investment Division, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs of the OECD

**Interventions of countries:**

- **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Louafa**, Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of General Affairs and Governance, Kingdom of Morocco
- **Ms. Mona Zobia**, Vice President of the General Authority for Investment and Free Zones in Egypt (GAFI)
- **H.E. Ms. Abeer Odeh**, Minister of National Economy, Palestinian Authority
- **Ms. Alia Abbas**, General Director, Ministry of Finance, Lebanon
- **H.E. Pierre Duquesne**, Permanent Representative of France to the OECD and Chair of the Governing Board of the Development Centre, France

**20:00                      Gala dinner hosted by Tunisia and upon invitation – Restaurant "Grand Bleu"**



# MENA-OECD GOVERNANCE FORUM

3 October 2016, Tunisia

## Shaping the future together: Public governance for better lives

### Objectives of the MENA-OECD Governance Forum

The Governance Forum is organized back-to-back with the MENA-OECD Ministerial Conference to be held on 4 October 2016 in Tunis. It provides an opportunity for policy-makers, experts, and representatives from civil society and media to debate how citizens' voice in policy making can be reinforced and public administrations steered to create better outcomes and respond to citizens' needs. The Governance Forum is an occasion to support national reforms through exchange of experiences and joint learning.

### Background information:

- The MENA-OECD Governance Programme builds on the impact of a decade of regional policy dialogue and advice, peer learning and implementation support in the areas of public governance.
- Steering Group of the MENA-OECD Initiative on Governance and Competitiveness for Development met on 9 November 2015 in Rabat, Morocco, to discuss the strategic orientations of the new mandate of the Initiative for the period 2016-2020. This meeting set the ground towards the Forum and the Ministerial Conference 2016.
- The Steering Group approved Tunisia as the new co-Chair of the Initiative. Tunisia is hosting this important event which will provide the occasion to outline the strategic priorities for the chairmanship jointly with all stakeholders involved.
- The conclusions of the Forum will inform the discussions of the Ministerial Conference to be held the following day and contribute to the future programme of work of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme.

### About 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.

The Programme strengthens collaboration with the most relevant multilateral initiatives currently underway in the region. The Programme supports the implementation of the G7 Deauville Partnership (Governance Pillar) and assists MENA countries in meeting the eligibility criteria to become a member of the Open Government Partnership.

The Programme provides a sustainable structure for regional policy dialogue as well as for country specific projects. The projects correspond to the commitment of MENA governments to implement public sector reforms in view of unlocking social and economic development and growing expectation among citizens to benefit from quality public services, inclusive policy making and transparency.

By drawing on its network of peer experts and policymakers, the MENA-OECD Governance Programme brings together high-level practitioners from MENA and OECD countries. Through constantly exchanging best practices, providing capacity building seminars and implementation support, the Programme helps foster a more social and economic development in the region.

## MENA-OECD 2016 GOVERNANCE FORUM

09:00 – 09:30 Registration

**09:30 – 10:00** **Opening session: Shaping the future together: Public governance for better lives - Room "Riad 2"**

The co-chairs of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme, Tunisia and Spain, and the OECD Secretariat will deliver the welcoming remarks and introduce the Forum's programme.

**Speakers:**

- **H.E. Mr. Abid Briki**, Minister of Public Service and Governance, Tunisia, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme
- **H.E. Mr. José Ignacio Wert**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the OECD, Spain, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme
- **Mr. Rolf Alter**, Director, Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD

**10:00 – 11:30** **Session 1: A voice for all parts of society in policy-making - Room "Riad 2"**

Giving a voice to all is fundamental for understanding stakeholders' needs. The challenge is to develop real opportunities for engagement and representation across the whole policy cycle – policy formulation, implementation and evaluation. In particular, women's and youth's voice must be reinforced. Youth councils and streamlining national youth policies create opportunities for young people to engage in policy-making. Enhancing women's ability to participate in the policy-making process is a prerequisite for responsive and equitable governance.

The session will launch the new Youth initiative of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme: Youth Day. The MENA-OECD Governance Programme will also discuss open government principles and explore opportunities on the role of media to support public governance. The availability of information and an independent press increases the transparency and accountability of governments. A better informed citizenship is more likely to intervene in the policy making process and hold governments accountable.

**Moderateur: Ms. Khadija Sfar**, Editor in Chief, Express FM, Tunisia

**Speakers:**

- **H.E. Ms. Annick Girardin**, Minister of the Civil Service, France
- **Ms. Mary Hanafin**, Member of Parliament, Ireland
- **Ms Faten Kallel**, Secretary of State for Youth and Sports, Tunisia
- **Mr. Satam Awad**, Secretary General, Ministry of Youth, Jordan
- **Mr. Yacine Bellarab**, Director of Cooperation, Communication and Judicial Studies, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Morocco
- **Ms. Tinkara Oblak**, Board Member, European Youth Forum
- **Ms. Anne Reeve**, Country Director, North Africa, BBC Media Action
- **Mr. Mousa Abu Zaid**, Chairman of General Personnel Council, Palestinian Authority

**11:30 – 12:30** **Session 2: Real impact for citizens: Designing and delivering better policies for inclusive growth - Room "Riad 2"**

MENA countries are currently undergoing major public administration reforms in recognition of the fact that good public governance can translate into inclusive growth with positive effects on incomes, jobs and living standards.

Pursuing the agenda 2030 and inclusive growth requires aligning vision, incentives and delivery mechanisms across the whole of government from policy design to implementation and evaluation. This session will discuss the role of policy coherence for higher productivity and how public services across levels of government and sectors can be delivered at quality. A particular focus will be on local governance, fighting fraud and corruption through integrity, risk management and internal control systems and the public financial management to deliver citizens-centred services.

**Moderator:**

- **Mr. Gijs De Vries**, Visiting Fellow at the London School of Economics, Former State Secretary of the Interior, Former Member of European Parliament, Netherlands

**Speakers:**

- **Mr. Adnen Gallas**, Director General GBO Unit, Ministry of Finance, Tunisia
- **Mr. Ahmed Laamoumri**, Secretary General, Ministry of Civil Service and Modernisation of the Administration, Morocco
- **Dr. Fadli Zon**, Chair, Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption

12:30 – 14:00 Lunch break

**14:00 – 15:00 Key-note speeches: Creating opportunities for youth – Hotel "Le Palace Gammarth", Room "Serail"**

The Nobel Prize award to the Tunisia National Dialogue Quartet in 2015 underscores the importance of social dialogue as a precondition for the success of deep political and economic reforms, and it can serve as example to other countries in the region. The OECD has strongly supported the democratic transformation Tunisia since its very beginning and believes that wide reforms need to be based on broad platforms including all sectors of society.

In this session, the members of the Tunisian Quartet and the Secretary-General of the OECD will share their experiences and lessons learned regarding how social dialogue can bring about the necessary basis for economic reforms bringing to inclusive economic growth and prosperity. They will pay special attention to the role youth has to play in the Arab world, and the need of creating opportunities for them. The key note speeches will be followed by an exchange and dialogue with the audience.

**Key-note speeches by:**

- **Tunisia National Dialogue Quartet:** Mr. Houcine Abassi, Secretary General of The Tunisian General Labour Union, UGTT; Mr. Fadhel Mahfoudh, former President of the Tunisian Order of Lawyers; Mr. Abdessattar Ben Moussa, President of the Tunisian Human Rights League; and Mr. Hichem Elloumi, Vice-President of the Tunisian Confederation of Industry.
- **H.E. Mr. Angel Gurría,** OECD Secretary-General

**15:00 – 15:30 Press Conference (Room "Diwan") & coffee break**

**15:30 – 17:00 Session 3: Shaping the future together; Room "Riad 2"**

The purpose of this session is to present and discuss the future work of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme in light of the current challenges faced by MENA countries. The session will reflect on the Tunis declaration that will be presented on 4 October 2016 and discuss how governments can shape responses together and adapt public governance frameworks for better lives. This includes a discussion on the governance of inclusive growth, delivery of effective and citizen-centred justice services, cross-border cooperation and public governance aspects of the provision of public services for refugees and the critical role of a whole-of-government approach that aligns vision, incentives and delivery mechanisms across the policy-making cycle.

**Moderator:**

- **Mr. Rolf Alter,** Director, Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD

**Speakers:**

- **H.E. Ms. Anabela Pedroso,** Secretary of State for Justice, Ministry of Justice, Portugal
- **Mr. Joel Martinez,** Director of Engagement, World Justice Project
- **Dr. Fathy El Masry,** Vice President of the Court of Cassation, Egypt

**17:00 – 17:30 Closing Session - Room "Riad 2"**

**Speakers:**

- **H.E. Mr. Abid Briki,** Minister of Public Service and Governance, Tunisia, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme
- **H.E. Mr. José Ignacio Wert,** Ambassador, Permanent Representative to the OECD, Spain, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme
- **Mr. Rolf Alter,** Director, Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD

**17:15 – 18:00**

**Launch of the OECD-AECID project: "Strengthening women's access to decision-making in the public administration at all levels and local elected councils in Tunisia", and of the OECD- G7 Deauville Partnership project, "Towards inclusive and open governments: promoting women's participation in parliaments, local councils and policy-making in Tunisia" - Room "Riad 2**

Tunisia is one of the pioneer countries in the MENA region in terms of gender equality and women's empowerment, and since 2011, Tunisian women have made significant progress in parliamentary and local elections subsequent to the implementation of a parity law in the new constitution. Women are also well represented in public administration. Yet, there is still room for improvement to ensure women's effective leadership and contribution in public life.

Based on the guidelines and standards defined within the 2015 OECD Council's Recommendation on Gender Equality in Public Life, the OECD will support Tunisia in implementing gender equality across the board while working with the executive, public administration and the local elected councils within the framework of the AECID-funded project, and with parliament and local councils within the framework of the MENA Transition Fund of the G7 Deauville Partnership.

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**Speakers:**

- **H.E. Mr. Angel Gurría**, Secretary-General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
- **H.E. Ms Annick Girardin**, Minister of the Civil Service, France
- **H.E. Ms. Neziha Labidi**, Minister of Women, family and children, Tunisia
- **H.E. Mr. Jesús Gracia Aldaz**, Secretary of State for International Cooperation and Head of Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, Spain

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**18:00 – 19:00 High-Level Panel: “Women in power for inclusive growth: getting it done” - Room "Riad 2"**

The purpose of this panel is to have a high level policy discussion that allows the Tunisian Parliament and the new appointed government representatives to present the current efforts of Tunisia in strengthening women’s access to decision making in the public administration, in the parliament and in the local elected councils; Tunisians representatives will set the scene of their challenges and strategic priorities on the medium and long terms, in order to improve their reforms concerning gender equality in public life.

In this panel, and in the framework of the 2015 OECD Recommendation of the Council on Gender Equality in Public Life, and in the two projects being launched, the OECD Secretariat will discuss the support that the Organisation and its member countries will provide to Tunisia in order to design suitable guidelines for an effective implementation of gender equality and gender mainstreaming initiatives and for improving equal access to public leadership

**Moderator:**

- **Mr. Rolf Alter**, Director, Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD

**Speakers:**

- **H.E. Mr. Abid Briki**, Minister of Public Service and Governance, Tunisia, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme
- **Mme Mehrzia Laabidi**, President of the Women’s Affairs Commission, Member of the Assembly of the Representatives of the People
- **Mme Annette Kaiser** -Head of the German Cooperation- Embassy of Germany -Tunisia
- **Ms. Aimee Breslow**, Sr. Advisor for Democracy & Governance Middle East Partnership Initiative U.S. Department of State
- **Dr. Soukaina Bouraoui**, Chair of the OECD Gender Focus Group - Directeur Executif, Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR)

**Closing Remarks**

**H.E. Mr. Susumu Hasegawa**, Ambassador of Japan in Tunisia, Presidency of the G7 countries

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**20:00 Gala dinner hosted by Tunisia and upon invitation – Restaurant “Grand Bleu”**

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# THE MENA-OECD 2016 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

4 October 2016, Tunisia

## Better policies for inclusive growth and economic integration

The MENA region registered relatively dynamic economic growth and investment rates during the first decade of the century, including during the global economic and financial crisis. However, the recent impact of political instability and security threats has considerably slowed down the economic prospects for the region. Despite efforts by many governments to increase economic openness, diversification and private sector development, reforms have not succeeded in tackling deeper structural challenges such as high unemployment, uneven development and unequal opportunities, especially for disadvantaged regions, women and youth. This challenging situation calls for a concerted and urgent response by the MENA countries, in collaboration with the international community, to regain stability and lay the foundations for a more open economy and inclusive development model.

The MENA-OECD 2016 Ministerial Conference will bring together ministers of international co-operation, investment, trade and public governance to provide strategic responses to address the current challenges and discuss ways to boost inclusive growth, employment and better integration both at the regional and international levels. It will also explore how the region can pave the way for a solid and sustainable economic recovery that ensures better opportunities for all citizens – especially the most vulnerable.

The Conference will close with the issuing of a Ministerial Declaration, underlining the strong commitment of MENA and OECD countries to pursuing priority public governance and competitiveness reforms. The Declaration will provide support and vision for the future activities of the Initiative for its new mandate 2016-2020, and guide its work programme.

For further information:

contact: [mena@oecd.org](mailto:mena@oecd.org) or see the Conference website at: [www.oecd.org/mena/ministerial](http://www.oecd.org/mena/ministerial)

## MENA-OECD 2016 MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE

8:30 – 9:00 Registration

### 9:00 – 10:00 Opening session - Room "Serail"

The Ministerial Conference is organised under the Patronage and in presence of H.E. Mr. Youssef Chahed, Head of Government, Tunisia. The opening session will be devoted to keynote speeches. The handover of the Initiative's chairmanship from Morocco to Tunisia will close the opening session.

#### Keynote speeches:

- **H.E. Mr. Youssef Chahed**, Head of Government, Tunisia
- **H.E. Mr. Angel Gurría**, Secretary-General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, OECD

#### Handover of the MENA-OECD Initiative chairmanship from Morocco to Tunisia:

- Remarks by **H.E. Mr. Mohammed Louafa**, Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in Charge of General Affairs and Governance, Kingdom of Morocco, former co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Investment Programme
- Intervention of the Tunisian co-chairmanship

#### In presence of:

- **H.E. Mr. Fadhel Abdelkefi**, Minister of Development, Investment and International Cooperation, Tunisia, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme
- **H.E. Mr. Abid Briki**, Minister of Public Service and Governance, Tunisia, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme
- **H.E. Ms. Annika Markovic**, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OECD, co-chair of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme
- **H.E. Mr. José Ignacio Wert**, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OECD, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme

Group Photo opportunity

### 10:00 – 10:45 Coffee break

The Tunisian co-chairs of the MENA-OECD Initiative, together with the OECD Secretary-General will participate in a press conference with international media from both MENA and OECD economies.

### 10:45 – 12:30 Ministerial session: Better policies for inclusive growth and economic integration

MENA countries need to build strong economic and governance frameworks to achieve more resilient, inclusive and sustainable economies, providing more and better jobs, fostering economic diversification, promoting integration at the regional and global levels and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

**Moderator: Mr. Wassim Larbi**, Journalist

#### Panel 1: Strengthening economic integration at all levels

#### Opening remarks:

- **H.E. Mr. Fadhel Abdelkefi**, Minister of Development, Investment and International Cooperation, Tunisia, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme

#### Key note speech:

- **Mehmet Şimşek**, Deputy Prime Minister, Turkey

#### Panellists / Ministers from OECD and MENA:

- **H.E. Ms. Annick Girardin**, Minister of the Civil Service, France
- **Mr. Rolf Alter**, Director, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD
- **H.E. Mr. Mohamed Louafa**, Minister Delegate to the Head of Government in charge of General Affairs and Governance, Morocco
- **H.E. Mr. El Moctar Ould Jay**, Minister of Economy and Finance, Mauritania
- **Mr. John Desrocher**, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Egypt and Maghreb Affairs, State Department, United States

## Panel 2: Inclusion in the MENA region

### Opening remarks:

- **H.E. Mr. Abid Briki**, Minister of Public Service and Governance, Tunisia, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme

### Panellists / Ministers from OECD and MENA:

- **H.E. Ms. Abeer Odeh**, Minister of National Economy, the Palestinian Authority
- **H.E. Mr. Jesús Gracia Aldaz**, Secretary of State for International Cooperation, Spain
- **Mr. Andreas Schaal**, Director Global Relations and OECD G20 Sous Sherpa, OECD
- **H.E. Ms. Anabela Pedroso**, Secretary of State of Justice, Portugal
- **Ambassador Dr. Joachim Ruecker**, Special Representative of the Federal Government for the Middle East Stability Partnership, Germany

12:30 – 14:30 Lunch

## 14:30 – 17:00 Parallel ministerial panels: Improving governance and competitiveness

Policy dialogue and peer advice at the regional and multilateral level are important tools for ensuring the sustainability and quality of governance and competitiveness reforms efforts. In these sessions, participants will discuss the vital role of efficient and effective reform strategies to build stronger and more inclusive economies and societies, with a view to provide political guidance to the new mandate of the Initiative.

### Ministerial panel A: Governance pillar

- In commemoration of the Ambassador of Italy, **Vincenzo Schioppa Narrante**, for his valuable contributions to the launch and development of the MENA-OECD Initiative  
– Room "Riadh 2"

### Introduction by the Co-chairs of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme:

- **H.E. Mr. Abid Briki**, Minister of Public Service and Governance, Tunisia
- **H.E. Mr. José Ignacio Wert**, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OECD

### Remarks by H.E. Mr. Raimondo De Cardona, Ambassador of Italy to Tunisia

### Presentation of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme

- **Mr. Rolf Alter**, Director, Directorate for Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD

**Chair: H.E. Mr. Abid Briki**, Minister of Public Service and Governance, Tunisia, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme

- WG I Civil Service and Integrity  
Presentation of the OECD regional report on internal control
- WG II Open and Innovative Government:  
Presentation of the new OECD (2016) report *Benchmarking digital government strategies in MENA countries*
- MENA Senior Budget Officials

### Ministerial panel B: Competitiveness pillar

**Chair: H.E. Mr. Fadhel Abdelkefi**, Minister of Development, Investment and International Cooperation, Tunisia, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme – Room "Serail"

### Introduction by the Co-chairs of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme

- **H.E. Mr. Fadhel Abdelkefi**, Minister of Development, Investment and International Cooperation, Tunisia
- **H.E. Ms. Annika Markovic**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OECD and UNESCO, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme

### Presentation of the Programme of work of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme and the Ministerial Declaration

- **Mr. Carlos Conde**, Head, Middle East and North Africa Division, Global Relations, OECD Secretariat

### Presentation of the thematic areas of work:

#### 1. Investment and trade

- **H.E. Awwad Al Serhan**, Ambassador of Jordan in Tunisia

#### 2. SMEs and entrepreneurship

- **Mr. Sadok Bejja**, General Director of SME promotion, Ministry of Energy, Industry and Mines, Tunisia, and co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Working Group on SMEs and Entrepreneurship

#### 3. Corporate governance and business integrity

- **Dr Ashraf Gamaleldin**, CEO HAWKAMAH, The Institute for Corporate Governance, UAE
- **Mr. Majdi Hassen**, Executive Director, Institut Arabe

- WG IV Regulatory Reform:  
Presentation of the 2016 MENA Charter on Regulatory Quality
- Gender Focus Group

**Presentation of the new thematic focus areas:**

**Chair: H.E. Mr. José Ignacio Wert**, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OECD, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme

- Youth engagement in public life  
Presentation of the Deauville Transition Fund Project
- Local Governance
- Rule of Law

**Presentation of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme  
Training Centre of Caserta**

**Open Discussion on the priorities of the Governance Programme**

des Chefs d'Entreprise

4. Women's economic empowerment

- **Representative** of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)
- **Representative** of the Women Entrepreneurs in the MENA region

**Presentation on Migration to the OECD: Implications for the MENA region**

- **Mr. Thomas Liebig**, Principal Administrator, International Migration Division, Directorate for Employment, Labour and Social Affairs, OECD

**Tour de table with Heads of delegations followed by partner organisations**

**Closing remarks:**

- **Mr. Andreas Schaal**, Director Global Relations and G20 Sous Sherpa, OECD

17:00 – 17:30 Coffee break

**17:30 – 18:00** **Plenary session: Way forward and adoption of the Ministerial Declaration (Tunis Declaration) – Room "Serail"**

The co-chairs of the MENA-OECD Initiative will convene in this final session to communicate the main conclusions of the conference and call on the Initiative to further its work. The Ministerial Declaration (Tunis Declaration), which will contain regional policy recommendations on public governance and competitiveness approved by the ministerial panels, will be presented in this session.

Report on Ministerial panel discussions:

- **H.E. Ms. Annika Markovic**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OECD and UNESCO, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme
- **H.E. Mr. Jose Ignacio Wert**, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of Spain to the OECD, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme

Presentation of the Ministerial Declaration:

- **H.E. Mr. Paulo Vizeu Pinheiro**, Ambassador of Portugal to the OECD and Chair of the External Relations Committee of the OECD
- **H.E. Mr. Fadhel Abdelkefi**, Minister of Development, Investment and International Cooperation, Tunisia, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme
- **H.E. Mr. Abid Briki**, Minister of Public Service and Governance, Tunisia, co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme

18:00 Cocktail