In the framework of the Deauville Partnership (DP) Governance Pillar Coordination meeting, held on 24 April 2012 in Paris, the G8 and Partner countries called for the establishment of a public procurement network to assess compliance in partner countries against the OECD Principles on Enhancing Integrity in Public Procurement. The network was launched on the 19th of September in Caserta, Italy, in the presence of Ministers and high level officials from DP and partner countries.

Launching of the MENA-OECD Network on public Procurement

From right to left: Ms. Amani Essawi, Minister’s Assistant for International Relations, Ministry of State for Administrative Development, Egypt; H.E. Mr. Khleef Alkhawaldeh - Minister of Public Sector Development, Jordan; H.E. Mr. Abderrahman Ladgham - Minister Delegate for Transparency and Fighting Corruption, Tunisia; Mr. Rolf Alter - Director - Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD; Mr. Giovanni Tria - President of SSPA; H.E. Mr. Filippo Patroni Griffi - Minister for Public Administration and Simplification, Italy; H.E. Mr. Abdeladim Guerrouj - Minister Delegate to the Head of the Government in charge of Civil Service and Modernization of the Administration, Morocco and Chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme; H.E. Mr. Isa Al Tweijri - Minister of Planning, Libya

Launch of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme Training Centre of Caserta

PROMOTING CAPACITY BUILDING AND POLICY SHARING PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES FOR DEMOCRATIC TRANSITION, EFFICIENCY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

In a joint effort to pursue the broadest dissemination of knowledge-sharing through innovative and cost efficient means, the OECD and the Italian National School of Public Administration (SSPA) have determined the establishment of a MENA-OECD Governance Programme Training Centre at the SSPA in Caserta. The venue of the Centre will be in the Royal Palace (designated a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1997), which is the historical headquarters of the SSPA.

This Centre is a part of the Action Plan on Open Governance and Anticorruption of the Deauville Partnership for Arab Countries in Transition (Governance Pillar), the framework of which is tailored to strongly support the participating countries’ programme in the areas of governance, transparency and accountability. In this context Italy has been entrusted with the task of setting up and launching e-learning projects in order to implement capacity building and policy sharing programs and initiatives aiming to facilitate ongoing democratic transitions, enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of public institutions and promote Good Governance in line with the broader objectives of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme.
The Programme supports progress with governance reform in the MENA region. The Programme is directed towards strengthening countries' capacities to govern by improving policy-making systems, the performance of public institutions, and by enhancing efficiency, transparency and accountability of public administrations, the management of public resources, and the interaction with the private sector and citizens.

The Programme combines regional policy dialogue, peer review and advice, and definition of reform priorities to respond to the needs of MENA countries for progressively meeting the OECD standards and principles in public governance areas.

The uniqueness of the Programme is due to the facts that:

- It is owned and managed by MENA countries with the support of the OECD Secretariat;
- It is demand driven and impact oriented;
- It benefits from experiences and good practices of both MENA and OECD countries, their senior policy makers and experienced practitioners.

The MENA-OECD Network on Public Procurement will be chaired by Tunisia, and co-chaired by Italy and Morocco.

The network's objectives are sharing good practices and lessons learned in building transparent and efficient public procurement building on international good practice, and identifying needs for support in this area based on an assessment of procurement systems.

The Network brings together senior public officials and practitioners on public procurement from Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and OECD countries as well as representatives from international organisations.

Assessing compliance against the OECD Principles on Enhancing Integrity in Public Procurement

The OECD Principles for Integrity in Public Procurement are a unique policy instrument to help countries prevent risks of waste, fraud and corruption throughout the entire procurement cycle, from needs assessment to contract management and payment. The Principles build on good practices from OECD and transition economies. The OECD Principles for Integrity in Public Procurement were adopted in 2008 in the form of OECD Recommendation, which represents a consensus by OECD countries.

As part of monitoring the implementation of the OECD Recommendation, several countries requested a peer review of their procurement systems to assess and benchmark their public procurement systems against international good practice. To date such reviews have been conducted both in OECD and non-OECD countries, including Brazil, Iraq, Morocco, Mexico, the United States and Yemen. Other MENA countries may consider benefiting from an independent peer review of their procurement system.

The activities of the MENA-OECD Network on Public Procurement will contribute to the implementation of the international legal standards on public procurement of the United Nations and the World Trade Organisation through international good practice. The main reference framework will be the OECD Principles on Enhancing Integrity in Public Procurement as well as other sources of international good practice, such as the OECD/World Bank methodology that supports the self-assessment of procurement systems by partner countries.

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