

MENA-OECD WORKING GROUP ON INVESTMENT AND TRADE



Investment and trade policy reforms for inclusive growth in the MENA region

AGENDA

28-29 September 2017

OECD Conference Centre – Room CC13

Paris, France

Context

International trade and investment are essential contributors to growth, development and economic well-being. At the global level, trade volumes grew less than 3% in the last three years and flows of foreign direct investment (FDI) remain 40% below their pre-crisis levels. In the MENA region, FDI inflows decreased by 50% between 2008 and 2015 and regional heterogeneity is strong. Intra-regional trade and investment flows remain weak showing lack of integration and interconnectedness. Reforms in the MENA countries are taking place to foster the trade agenda and improve the investment legal and institutional frameworks. However, trade and investment, the twin and complementary engines for reviving the world economy and boosting regional integration, are still lagging behind. This is why the OECD, through the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme and its Working Group on Investment and Trade, strongly supports the MENA governments in their efforts to implement structural policy reforms and ensure policy coherence in the areas of trade and investment, aimed at achieving strong, balanced and sustainable framework for inclusive growth, jobs, and development.

The MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme

Created in 2005 at the request of MENA governments, the MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme offers a platform for co-operation on policies aimed at mobilising investment, trade, private sector development and entrepreneurship, as driving forces for growth and employment.

The MENA-OECD Working Group on Investment and Trade

During the MENA-OECD Ministerial Conference held in Tunisia on 3-4 October 2016, countries called for further exploring the links between trade and investment policies in the MENA region to foster regional and global integration. It has been decided to expand the thematic priorities covered by the Working Group on Investment Policies and Promotion and replace it with the Working Group on Investment and Trade.

The objectives are to foster the policy dialogue around the trade and investment nexus, enhance policy coherence and harmonisation, and support policy evaluation and orientations for better trade and investment cooperation in the region.

More precisely, the Working Group will aim at:

- Enhancing knowledge and capacities of policy makers to improve investment and trade policies through OECD policy approaches (e.g. the Policy Framework for Investment) and peer-learning building on the expertise of OECD Committees;
- Expanding relevant OECD tools to MENA countries, in particular integrating countries into statistical instruments (e.g. TiVA, Benchmark Definition of FDI); and
- Fostering networking of policy makers between MENA economies and with OECD members, through regular WG meetings, as well as participation of MENA representatives to OECD Global Fora and Committees (including the active participation of the four MENA countries adherent to the Declaration on International Investment, to the Investment Committee).

The activities will be triggered by collective approach to trade and investment co-operation with all relevant actors, notably policy-makers, representatives of regional organisations, civil society and the private sector, both national and international.

Objectives of the meeting

Based on the mandate adopted during the Ministerial Conference, the meeting of the Working Group will discuss:

- The interdependence between trade and investment and avenues to enhance their complementary effects;
- The latest trends and policy reforms in the areas of trade and investment at the national and regional levels: Participating MENA economies will be invited to present on-going investment- and trade-related developments in their country;
- The potentialities of regional investment and trade integration;
- How to measure and improve MENA countries' integration into Global Value Chains (GVCs);
- How to measure and promote quality investment in order to maximise inclusive and sustainable local development; and
- The way forward for the MENA-OECD Working Group on Trade and Investment: programme of work for the next years.

Participants

Policy makers and experts in investment and trade policy from MENA and OECD economies are invited to participate. Other key partners who work in these areas will also participate, including regional institutions, international organisations, academia and civil society. Private sector representatives will be invited to play a key role in this dialogue. Experts from OECD countries and from the Secretariat will contribute to the meeting.

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Thursday 28 September 2017 – Room CC13	
9:00 – 9:15	<i>Registration and welcome coffee</i>
9:15 – 10:00	Opening ceremony
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Andreas Schaal, Director of Global Relations, OECD <p><u>Welcoming addresses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E Mr. Fareedon Hartouqa, Secretary General, Jordan Investment Commission • Mr. Ryotaro Suzuki, Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Delegation of Japan to the OECD <p><u>Keynote addresses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ms. Sahar Nasr, Minister of Investment and International Co-operation, Egypt • H.E. Mr. Othman El Ferdaous, Secretary of State in charge of Investment, Ministry of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy, Morocco
10:00 – 10:40	Introductory session : The trade and investment nexus
	<p>In the effort to achieve a strong, balanced and sustainable framework for inclusive growth, openness to trade should be complemented by investment policies that improve connectivity, build production capacities, create jobs, develop skills, add value, and support the functioning and expansion of global value chains (GVCs). There is a need to pursue an interconnected approach to trade openness and facilitation while boosting investment, which can act as a powerful driver for economic development. This session will provide an overview of the economic, trade and investment challenges in the region, inform about the work of the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group and hear private sector perspectives on trade and investment issues.</p> <p><u>Moderator:</u> Mr. Carlos Conde, Head of Division, Middle East and Africa Division, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD</p> <p><u>Speakers :</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Piritta Sorsa, Head of Division, Countries Studies Branch, Economics Department, OECD • Mr. Roger Dubach, Advisor, Sherpa Office and Global Governance Unit, OECD

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Hanni Rosenbaum, Senior Director, Policy and Strategic Planning, Business and Industry Advisory Committee to the OECD (BIAC)
10:40 -11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 – 13:00	<p>Session 1: What are the major investment reforms at the national level and their global implications?</p> <p>Against the drop of FDI inflows in the region, governments have made significant efforts to implement measures to promote the development of the private sector and attract more investments, through improvements in the regulatory, institutional and administrative environment for investment. The session will present key features of the most recent national investment reforms, their impact and the challenges ahead. Selected MENA countries will be invited to present specific reforms or initiatives to promote investment at the national level, and discuss remaining difficulties. As several countries revisited their restrictions to FDI, discussions will also focus on their role and impact.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Marie-Estelle Rey, Senior Policy Analyst, Middle East and Africa Division, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p><i>Investment climate reforms: Trends and lessons learned</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Ana Novik, Head of the Investment Division, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD <p><i>Countries' representatives : presentation of the major investment reforms and their impact</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Khalil Laabidi, Chairman, Tunisia Investment Authority, Tunisia • Mr. Abdelkrim Mansouri, Director General, National Agency for Investment Development (ANDI), Algeria • Mr. Ahmed K. ElGazzar, Senior Policies Analyst, General Authority For Investment and Free Zones (GAFI), Egypt • Mr. Abdullah Yousef Al-Shaijie, Investment Department, Tunisian-Kuwaiti Consortium of Development Company, representing the Kuwait Investment Authority • Ms. Hind AlYouha, Director, Foreign Trade Policies, Ministry of Economy, United Arab Emirates <p><i>Open discussions</i></p>
13:00 – 14:30	<i>Buffet Lunch offered by the OECD – Venue : Chateau de la Muette – George Marshall Room</i>

14:30 – 16:30	Session 2: How to foster trade co-operation and facilitation at the intra-regional level?
	<p>While progress is underway to foster regional integration, the MENA region remains less globally and regionally integrated in terms of trade, investment and capital flows, compared to other regions. The cost of limited integration is large in terms of jobs creation, growth and productivity. The session will assess the opportunities for deeper regional economic cooperation and integration within the MENA region and discuss tools and policies to orient meaningful reforms. It will also look at trade co-operation frameworks at the sub-regional, intra/interregional and global levels – in particular the regional economic integration instruments (GAFTA, LAS, Agadir, GCC, UMA), and discuss how to improve implementation and create tangible impact to support growth and productivity.</p> <p>Moderator : Ms. Monika Hencsey, Head of Unit, DG Trade, European Commission</p> <p>Speakers :</p> <p><i>Presentation of the OECD Services Trade Restrictiveness Index (STRI) and trade facilitation indicators</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Frédéric Gonzales, Statistical Expert, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD <p><i>Countries' representatives</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sheikh Ali Alwaleed Al Thani, Head, Office of Qatar delegation to the World Trade Organization, Qatar • H.E. Salman Elherfi, Ambassador, Head of Mission of the Palestinian Authority in France • Mr. Fares Al Momani, Director of Jordan Compact, Ministry of International Cooperation, Jordan <p><i>Regional organisations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Fawzi Dib, Senior Counsellor for Economic Development and SMEs, Union for the Mediterranean <p><i>Open discussions</i></p>
Friday 29 September 2017 – Room CC13	
9:00 -10:45	Session 3: How to enhance the integration of MENA economies in global value chains?
	<p>International production, trade and investments are increasingly organised within Global Value Chains (GVCs) where the different stages of the production process are located across different countries. But not all countries, nor all firms within countries, participate in and benefit equally from GVCs. This session will explore how to evaluate the participation of countries and their firms into GVCs, what benefits integration into GVCs can bring, which policies are needed to expand participation in GVCs, and what are the implications for Special Economic Zones (SEZs) and broader economic policies. It will provide an opportunity to introduce the joint OECD-WTO</p>

	<p>Trade in Value-Added (TiVA) initiative, designed to better inform policy makers by providing new insights into the commercial relations between nations.</p> <p>Moderator: Ms. Fabienne Fortanier, Head of Section, Trade and Competitiveness Statistics Division, Statistics Directorate, OECD</p> <p>Speakers:</p> <p><i>Integrating into Global Value Chains – Challenges and Benefits</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Annalisa Primi, Head, Structural Policies and Innovation Unit, Development Centre, OECD • H.E. Mr. Othmane El Ferdaous, Secretary of State in charge of Investment, Ministry of Industry, Investment, Trade and Digital Economy, Morocco • Mr. Kamel Ouerfelli, Central Director in charge of innovation and technological development, Industry and Innovation Promotion Agency (APII), Tunisia • Ms Amani Essawi, International Relations Advisor, Suez Canal Economic Zone Authority, Egypt <p><i>Presentation of the Trade in Value-Added (TiVA) initiative</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Fabienne Fortanier, Head of Section, Trade and Competitiveness Statistics Division, Statistics Directorate, OECD <p><i>Open discussions</i></p>
10:45 -11:00	<i>Coffee break</i>
11:00 -12:30	Session 4: How to measure and promote quality and responsible investment?
	<p>Investment can trigger important technology transfers and productivity spillovers, promote human capital formation, and foster exports with positive effects on growth and employment. Achieving these impacts, however, depends on the quantity of investment as much as the quality. MENA countries are increasingly concerned about attracting not just more, but also better and responsible investment for sustainable development. This session will discuss how to define and measure the inclusiveness of FDI, and how investment policies can help firms promote a culture of Responsible Business Conduct (RBC), including enhanced integrity in business operations. The session will also initiate reflection on the roles and responsibilities of the different stakeholders and the Working Group to considering policy measures to achieving the internationally-agreed “Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development” which holds great promises for achieving more equitable economies. Private sector, which has a role to play in achieving the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), will share its perspective, notably via the MENA-OECD Business Advisory Board (BAB).</p>

	<p>Moderator : Mr. Alexander Böhmer, Head of Division, Southeast Asia, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD</p> <p>Speakers :</p> <p><i>In which ways can FDI support inclusive growth in the MENA region? How can we measure it?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Ana Novik, Head, Investment Division, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD <p><i>Promoting responsible investment and integrity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Nicola Ehlermann, Head, MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD • Mr. Mohammed Fikrat, President of the Investment Commission, General Confederation of Moroccan Firms (CGEM), Morocco • Mr. Matt Simonds, Liaison and policy officer, Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) <p><i>Open discussions</i></p>
12:30 - 13:00	The way forward
	<p>Participants will discuss and validate future thematic priorities for the Working Group.</p> <p>Conclusions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-chairs of the Working Group • Mr. Andreas Schaal, Director of Global Relations, OECD

Contacts

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