

AGENDA

**MENA-OECD WORKING GROUP ON
INVESTMENT AND TRADE**



**Promoting Sustainable
Economic Development
through Investment and
Trade**

3 November 2022 (09:00-17:00 Istanbul time)
Istanbul, Türkiye



Context

Over the past two years, since the outbreak of COVID-19 and the economic crisis it induced, the OECD has promoted the notion of “building back better”. Recovery plans building on this notion provide an opportunity to design and implement much needed reforms for sustainable economic growth and fairer societies. In the course of 2022, the difficult global economic context stressed the importance of further enhancing international collaboration to build more resilient economies in times of uncertainty.

Under the constant threat of climate change, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the fragility of trade linkages in the MENA region, and stressed structural issues such as the vulnerability of small businesses facing limited access to finance their internationalisation, and fiscal affordability of infrastructures needed for the green transition, such as renewable energies. The war in Ukraine and the rising inflation, in particular basic goods and energy prices, have contributed to strengthening the rationale for resilience-based cooperative solutions in the MENA region.

Furthermore, the disruption of global supply chains during the COVID-19 crisis reignited debate on the most effective strategies of supply chain configurations, including the development of regional value chains – a debate that is highly relevant also for the MENA region

The MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme

The MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme was launched in 2005.

The Programme supports governments undertaking reforms to spur sector development as a driving force for growth and job creation in the region.

The main tools applied are policy dialogue, peer learning, and capacity building. Priority topics addressed are trade and investment, entrepreneurship, women’s economic empowerment, business integrity, corporate governance, and economic resilience.

<http://www.oecd.org/mena>

Objectives of the meeting

- Discuss common challenges and regional cooperation in the area of trade and investment.
- Discuss initiatives and factors facilitating green economic development from the trade and investment perspective.
- Raise awareness on specific country initiatives by the public or private sectors on trade and investment promotion and resilience of supply chains.
- Develop a consensual approach to policy solutions and commit towards shared objectives on enhanced collaboration on investment and trade, in particular, in the area of services, as a critical source of value added and jobs.

About the MENA-OECD Working Group on Investment and Trade

The Working Group aims at fostering policy dialogue and analysis on trade and investment interconnections. Its programme of work falls under the aegis of the MENA-OECD Programme on Competitiveness. The current mandate of the Working Group (2021-2025) highlights the importance of acting as a community of practice, involving more regular interactions between countries both from the region and the OECD.

Participants

High-level policy makers and experts in investment and trade policies from MENA and OECD economies are invited to participate, along with regional institutions, international organisations, academia and civil society. Private sector representatives will also be invited to play a key role in this dialogue. Experts from OECD countries and the Secretariat will also contribute to the meeting.

Practical information

Interpretation: English - French – Arabic

Promoting sustainable economic development through investment and trade

Thursday, 3 November 2022
Istanbul Chamber of Commerce, Istanbul

09:00– 09:45 Introduction and setting the scene

Welcoming remarks and host

- Achraf Bouali, Head of the Istanbul Centre, OECD

Speakers

- Zaher Al-Qataneh, Secretary General at the Ministry of Investment of Jordan and Co-chair of the Working Group on Investment and Trade
- Kenichiro Mukai, Deputy Permanent Delegate, Delegation of Japan to the OECD and Co-chair of the Working Group on Investment and Trade
- Karim Dahou, Deputy Director and Head of China Unit, Global Relations and Cooperation Directorate, OECD

Keynote speech:

- Ahmed Kamaly, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Planning, and Economic Development, Arab Republic of Egypt
- Mustafa Tuzcu, Deputy Trade Minister, Ministry of Trade, Turkey

9:45 – 11:00 Session 1: Promoting sustainable development through investment and trade

MENA countries experienced less severe drops of trade and FDI flows during the COVID-19 pandemic than other regions of the world, including many OECD countries. However, the contraction of trade stressed the importance of addressing structural problems, to boost trade competitiveness and investment attractiveness and at the same time strengthen economic resilience against crises. This first session of the Working Group will discuss recent trends on trade and investment and will present the experience of partner countries and the private sector on their efforts to attract the investment and trade that contributes to sustainable development.

Moderator

- Seda Sevgi, Senior Policy Analyst, OECD Istanbul Centre

Speakers

- Ana Novik, Head of the Investment Division, Directorate for Financial and Enterprise Affairs, OECD
- Mais Khlaifat, Director of legal affairs at the Ministry of Investment, Jordan
- Zied Lahbib, Director, Foreign Investment Promotion Agency, Tunisia

- Ingrid Schwaiger, Deputy Head of Unit, Head of economic section, DG Near, European Commission

Feedback from participants

11:00-11:15 *Coffee Break*

11:15 – 12:45 **Session 2: Investment and trade in services**

Tradable and non-tradable services generate around half of the GDP of MENA countries, employing large shares of the labour force including in the public sector. Trade in services, however, lag behind trade in goods in most MENA countries. This is partially due to the high degree of regulatory restrictiveness in different countries, and the absence of treaties liberalising services among MENA countries. Evidence suggests that with servicification, service sectors with high productivity stimulate the productivity of other sectors, notably agriculture and manufacturing. Low-value-added services were strongly disrupted during the lock-down periods in 2020-21, but high-productivity services sectors such as ICT, professional and financial services, were found to be resilient worldwide. This session will address the role of FDI in boosting trade in services, and the role services play in regional economic integration.

Moderator

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

Speakers

- Cemre Balaban, Trade Policy Analyst, Trade and Agriculture Directorate, OECD
- Nele Eichhorn, Head of Unit at DG Trade, European Commission
- Shaima Alaydarous, Director, Trade Negotiations Department, Ministry of Economy, United Arab Emirates
- Merve Yaşın Yavuz, Trade Expert, Trade in Services, Investment and E-commerce, Ministry of Trade, Turkey

Feedback from participants

12:45 – 14:00 *Lunch break*

14:00 – 15:30

Session 3: The new geography of value chains

Jointly organised with the Center for Mediterranean Integration (CMI)

OECD estimates indicate that the extent of disruption to supply chains around the world was very heterogeneous - on average 7% in value terms over the course of 2020. The pandemic crisis prompted reflections on ways to strengthen resilience of supply chains, with new tools being developed to guide both governments and businesses to better prepare to face different risks and develop resilient and inclusive investment and trade initiatives. This session will discuss whether, and how, possible developments in the geography of global value chains can present opportunities of industrial diversification and growth for the MENA countries. It will also reflect on how developments in responsible business conduct standards can impact MENA countries' participation in GVCs.

Moderator

- Mariarosa Lunati, Senior Advisor, Global Relations and Cooperation Directorate, OECD

Keynote address: Blanca Moreno Dodson, Director, Center for Mediterranean Integration

Speakers

- Zakaria Farahat, Advisor at the Ministry of Investment, Morocco
- Deborah Elms, Director, Asian Trade Centre
- Frederic Wehrle, Head, MENA and Responsible Business Conduct, Responsible Business Conduct Centre, OECD
- Samet Akyüz, Strategy and Corporate Planning Unit Manager, Investment Office Turkey

Feedback from participants

15:30 – 16:00 **Wrap-up and next steps**

- Kenichiro Mukai, Deputy Permanent Delegate, Delegation of Japan to the OECD and Co-chair of the Working Group on Investment and Trade
- Zaher Al-Qatarnah, Secretary General at the Ministry of Investment of Jordan and Co-chair of the Working Group on Investment and Trade
- Carlos Conde, Head of the Middle East and Africa Division and Executive Advisor to the Istanbul Centre, Global Relations and Cooperation Directorate, OECD



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17:00

Networking reception offered by the OECD Istanbul Centre

The OECD Istanbul Center has the honour to invite all participants of the MENA-OECD Working Group on Trade and Investment to a reception at the [SOFITEL TAKSIM](#).

Transportation to the reception venue will be provided by the OECD Istanbul Centre. A bus will be waiting for the participants at the entrance of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce after 16:00.

Address: *Gümüşsuyu, Siraselviler Cd. No:13, 34437 Beyoğlu/İstanbul, Türkiye*

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