

## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the MENA-OECD Working Group on Open and Innovative Government

*Dubai (UAE), 13 February 2018*

The MENA-OECD Working Group II on Open and Innovative Government met for its 13<sup>th</sup> time in the framework of the World Government Summit hosted by the UAE. The meeting was opened by the Deputy Director of the UAE's Telecommunications Regulatory Authority Mr. Majed Sultan Al Mesmar, and the co-chair Mr. HeonJun Kim from Korea highlighting that without trust no government can survive. Mr. Mohamed Ben Abdelkader, Minister of Reform of the Administration and Civil Service from Morocco provided a key note speech underlining Morocco's willingness to adhere to the OECD Recommendation of the Council on Open Government and announcing that Morocco having passed its access to information law will join the Open Government Partnership.



The discussions of the day focused on the impact of the [OECD Recommendation on Open Government](#) for the open government practices and initiatives of MENA countries. The newly adopted Recommendation lays out the principles for the governance of open government in its 10 provisions. MENA countries are encouraged to adhere to the Recommendation. In this sense, Korea presented how it practically implements public participation explaining the

example of the Gwanghwamoon Street while the USA shared their approach to institutional communication. The forthcoming tool kit and indicators will further guide countries in designing and implementing open government initiatives.

Participants equally engaged in a discussion about the digital transformation of the public sector, exploring case studies from Portugal and Morocco. In addition, the OECD presented the key findings of the Report: [Embracing Innovation in Government: Global Trends 2018](#) which highlights digital identities, system approaches and enablers and inclusiveness and vulnerable people as current innovation trends. The case studies included in the report were explored hands-on through a visit to the Edge of Government set-up through a partnership between the [OECD Observatory of Public Sector Innovation \(OPSI\)](#) and the UAE's Mohammed Bin Rashid Centre for Government Innovation.

The meeting was preceded by a study visit to Centre of Digital innovation of the UAE enabling participants to explore its innovative approach to building capacity in the field of digital government. The Centre provides consultation services as a support to government entities and entrepreneurs needing assistance and guidance in their digital innovation journey.

