



# NATIONAL WORKSHOP OF STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAW



Agenda - 25 June 2019  
Beirut, Radisson Blu  
Martinez Hotel



# CONTEXT

Organised jointly by the **Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform** (OMSAR), the Public Governance Directorate of the OECD, in the framework of the **MENA-OECD Governance Programme** and the United Nations Development Programme Lebanon and the UNDP Regional Programme, it will bring together representatives of the Lebanese public administration, parliamentarians, civil society organisations, the media and private sector to consult on the **draft national action plan for the implementation of the access to information law**.

Following a participatory process that was led by Parliamentarians against Corruption, Lebanon adopted law number 28 in 2017 to guarantee the right of access to information (ATI). The effective implementation of this law requires the establishment of related procedures, frameworks and tools, a change of culture within the various institutions, covered by the law (e.g. ministries, public institutions, municipalities, courts, private companies managing public services, etc.), as well as adequate take up by citizens and civil society. The implementation of ATI law is recognised within the draft National Anti-Corruption Strategy as a pillar for transparency and one of the key outputs of its implementation plan.

As such, the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR), in cooperation with UNDP and the OECD, is developing a National Action Plan for the implementation of the access to information law. The plan will be developed in an inclusive manner, providing a comprehensive framework for the implementation of the law, with coherent commitments and activities from a wide range of stakeholders including the public administration, parliamentarians, civil society, media, and the private sector. It will thereby create a common vision, ensure synergies between different actors and their commitments and provide a roadmap for the successful implementation of the law.

Following a first round of consultative meetings, this workshop aims to present the draft action plan to all relevant stakeholders in order to collect their input and feedback. Subsequently it will be adopted by the Ministerial Anti-Corruption Committee.

# PRELIMINARY AGENDA

Tuesday 25 2019

<b>8:30 – 9:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>9:00 – 9:15</b>	<b>Opening remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• OMSAR</li><li>• Katharina Zuegel, Policy Analyst, OECD</li><li>• UNDP</li></ul>
<b>9:15 – 10:30</b>	<b>Session 1: OVERVIEW OF THE ATI LAW AND ACTION PLAN</b> <p>This session aims to provide an introduction to the main features of the access to information law and how it relates to the National Anti-Corruption Strategy.</p> <p>It will be followed by an introduction to the draft national action plan including its consultation and drafting process as well as the respective roles and responsibilities for implementation, monitoring and follow-up.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Presentation of the Access to Information Law</li><li>• The ATI Law and its role in the National Anti-Corruption Strategy</li><li>• Overview of the consultation and resulting draft Action Plan</li><li>• Roles and responsibilities for implementation, monitoring and follow-up</li></ul> <p>Questions and debate</p>
<b>10:30 – 11:45</b>	<b>Session 2: ENGAGING ALL OBLIGATED ADMINISTRATIONS</b> <p>The access to information law requires a variety of institutions to comply with transparency and data protection standards. This session aims to discuss how it can be ensured that all institutions do so.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Develop a comprehensive list of the Obligated Administrations</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appoint ATI Officers (ATIO) within all Obligated Administrations – How to follow-up</li> </ul> <p>Questions and debate</p>			
<b>11:45 – 12:15</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>			
<b>12:15 – 1:15</b>	<table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p><b>Session A : INFORM AND TRAIN</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Katharina Zuegel, OECD</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b></p> <p><b>Assaad Thebian:</b> presenting the guide on making access to information requests</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide Information about ATI Rights and Procedures</li> <li>Provide Training and Support for the public administration and citizens</li> </ul> </td> <td> <p><b>Session B: PROVIDE TOOLS</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b></p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Tala Khanji, OECD</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Electronic platforms and portals</li> <li>Develop forms and templates</li> <li>Develop effective filing and archiving systems</li> </ul> </td> <td> <p><b>Session C: DEVELOP THE REGULATORY AND INSTITUTIONAL SETUP</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b></p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b></p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vote and implement the Law establishing the National Anti-Corruption Institution</li> <li>Issue implementation decrees in areas of necessity</li> </ul> </td> </tr> </table>	<p><b>Session A : INFORM AND TRAIN</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Katharina Zuegel, OECD</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b></p> <p><b>Assaad Thebian:</b> presenting the guide on making access to information requests</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide Information about ATI Rights and Procedures</li> <li>Provide Training and Support for the public administration and citizens</li> </ul>	<p><b>Session B: PROVIDE TOOLS</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b></p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Tala Khanji, OECD</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Electronic platforms and portals</li> <li>Develop forms and templates</li> <li>Develop effective filing and archiving systems</li> </ul>	<p><b>Session C: DEVELOP THE REGULATORY AND INSTITUTIONAL SETUP</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b></p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b></p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vote and implement the Law establishing the National Anti-Corruption Institution</li> <li>Issue implementation decrees in areas of necessity</li> </ul>
<p><b>Session A : INFORM AND TRAIN</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Katharina Zuegel, OECD</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b></p> <p><b>Assaad Thebian:</b> presenting the guide on making access to information requests</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide Information about ATI Rights and Procedures</li> <li>Provide Training and Support for the public administration and citizens</li> </ul>	<p><b>Session B: PROVIDE TOOLS</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b></p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Tala Khanji, OECD</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop Electronic platforms and portals</li> <li>Develop forms and templates</li> <li>Develop effective filing and archiving systems</li> </ul>	<p><b>Session C: DEVELOP THE REGULATORY AND INSTITUTIONAL SETUP</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b></p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b></p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Vote and implement the Law establishing the National Anti-Corruption Institution</li> <li>Issue implementation decrees in areas of necessity</li> </ul>		
<b>1:15 – 2:30</b>	<p><b>Session 4: CONCLUSIONS</b></p> <p><b>Group reports to the plenary:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inform and train: Katharina Zuegel, OECD</li> <li>Provide tools:</li> <li>Develop the regulatory and institutional set-up:</li> </ul> <p><b>Conclusions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>OMSAR and Ghassan Moukheiber</li> </ul>			
<b>2:30 – 3:30</b>	<b>Lunch</b>			

## 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 that support the ongoing process of reform in the MENA region. The Programme strengthens collaboration with the most relevant multilateral initiatives currently underway in the region. In particular, the Programme supports the implementation of the G7 Deauville Partnership and assists governments in meeting the eligibility criteria to become a member of the Open Government Partnership. Through these initiatives, the Programme acts as a leading advocate of managing ongoing public governance reforms in the MENA region. The Programme provides a sustainable structure for regional policy dialogue as well as for country specific projects. These projects correspond to the commitment of MENA governments to implement public sector reforms in view of unlocking social and economic development and of meeting citizens' growing expectations in terms of quality services, inclusive policy making and transparency. [www.oecd.org/mena/governance/](http://www.oecd.org/mena/governance/)

## THE OECD'S PROJECT ON OPEN GOVERNMENT AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Within the framework of a regional project supported by the Middle East Partnership Initiative (US), the OECD supports Lebanon, Morocco and Tunisia in the implementation of their access to information laws and in strengthening a culture of transparency in the public sector. The project supports the elaboration of a national action plan for the implementation of the access to information law. This plan will be complemented with guidance to access to information officials, the public administration as well as civil society and media through capacity building activities, guides and policy analysis and recommendations. The project also includes regional activities.



# CONTACTS

Natacha Sarkis | [nsarkis@omsar.gov.lb](mailto:nsarkis@omsar.gov.lb)

Katharina Zuegel | [katharina.zuegel@oecd.org](mailto:katharina.zuegel@oecd.org)

UNDP

Follow us on Twitter

[@OECDgov](#) [#MENAOCED](#) [#OpenGov](#)

