



Better Regulation for the Green Transition

Special session of MENA-OECD Working Group on Regulatory Reform and the Rule of Law



30 November 2023
Room E, OECD and Online

Summary note

Context and Objectives of the meeting

Regulations are one of the most important tools governments have to achieve their environmental goals. The quality of regulatory design and delivery is therefore of utmost importance, as highlighted by the OECD Regulatory Policy Outlook 2021. Ensuring policy alignment, and the integration of environmental consideration in different policy areas is crucial to promote greener policies and regulations.



In this context, the special session of the MENA-OECD Working Group on Regulatory Reform and the Rule of Law discussed the ways in which regulatory policy can help promote the quality of regulations for the green transition.

In this regard, the session explored the efforts undertaken in MENA and OECD countries to address environmental concerns and the challenges encountered in implementing regulations and policies aimed at fostering environmental sustainability. The session also discussed measures to ensure that regulations deliver on climate and environmental goals while allowing for technological innovation and economic growth.

The special session brought together over 40 participants from 11 MENA and OECD countries. It was opened by Ms. Palma D'Ambrosio, Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the OECD on behalf of the Co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme, and chaired by Ms. Suzanne Van Melis, Strategic Legal Advisor Regulatory Policy at the Ministry of Justice and Security and co-chair of the MENA-OECD Working Group on Regulatory Reform and the Rule of Law.

During the first part of the discussion, country interventions were made by Egypt, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Korea.

Key takeaways of the meeting

Participants highlighted:

Governments can make use of better regulation tools, mechanisms and practices to **promote high-quality regulations for the green transition**. When well-designed and implemented, government regulation can play an important role in addressing climate change and other environmental threats.

There is a need for a **shift towards more agile and risk-based approaches** to regulating, as underlined by the [OECD Recommendation on Agile Regulatory Governance to Harness Innovation](#) to facilitate the green transition.

Regulatory impact assessment (RIA) serves as a tool for policy design, that enables the integration of environmental considerations alongside economic and social factors across various policy areas.

To ensure compliance in environmental regulations, countries are making consistent efforts to improve regulatory enforcement and inspections, through the **enactment of new legislation** with a view to promote a culture of compliance.

Promoting a **whole-of-government approach** through horizontal coordination and inter-ministerial cooperation is key to ensure **policy coherence** and **effectively assess environmental impacts** across the administration. Good practices in this regard include centralised coordination approaches in the form of inter-ministerial committees or dedicated units at the centre of government.

Citizen participation in regulatory policy is crucial for a **green and just** transition. Consultations, including with marginalized groups and young people, is essential in managing the green transition and **fostering public trust, as future generations will bear the brunt of climate change**.

International regulatory co-operation helps addressing cross-border environmental challenges such as climate change and transboundary air- and

water pollution. It enables countries to exchange experiences, **lessons learned**, ensure **coherent approaches** and, when feasible, adopt **joint regulatory approaches**.

Next Steps

This special session provided the opportunity to reflect on the future programme of work of the Working Group, including its activities, thematic areas of work, and outputs for the coming years.

Participants highlighted the importance of the Working Group as a strategic platform to exchange on good practices in regulatory reform and discuss how to ensure effective access to justice services and strengthen the rule of law. In particular, participants welcomed the opportunity to create further synergies with the Regulatory Policy Committee and the possibility to organize additional meetings at the margins of future sessions of RPC. The outcomes of these discussions could inform the development of a manual on good practices in regulatory reform and the rule of law.



For more Information

- OECD (2023), [Policy Paper: Better regulation for the green transition](#)
- OECD (Forthcoming), Policy Paper on Access to Justice for SMEs
- OECD (2021), [Recommendation for Agile Regulatory Governance to Harness Innovation](#)
- OECD (2021) [Framework and Good Practice Principles for People-centred Justice](#)
- OECD (2021), [Regulatory Policy Outlook](#)
- OECD (2020) [Access to justice and the COVID-19 pandemic: Compendium of Country Practices](#)
- OECD (2020), [Regulatory Impact Assessment](#)
- OECD (2020), [Regulatory Quality and COVID-19 Note: Managing the Risks and Supporting the Recovery](#)
- OECD (2019), [Equal Access to Justice for Inclusive Growth: Putting People at the Centre](#)
- OECD (2019), [Legal Needs Surveys and Access to Justice](#)
- OECD (2018), [Regulatory Reform in the Middle East and North Africa: Implementing Regulatory Policy Principles to Foster Inclusive Growth \(Arabic version\)](#)
- OECD (2018), [Legislation and Good Governance: The Role of Legislative Drafting Manuals](#)
- OECD (2016) [Regional Charter for Regulatory Quality, MENA-OECD](#)
- OECD (2013) [Regulatory Reform in the Middle East and North Africa: Implementing Regulatory Policy Principles to Foster Inclusive Growth](#)
- OECD (2012) [Policy Recommendations of the Council on Regulatory Policy and Governance](#)