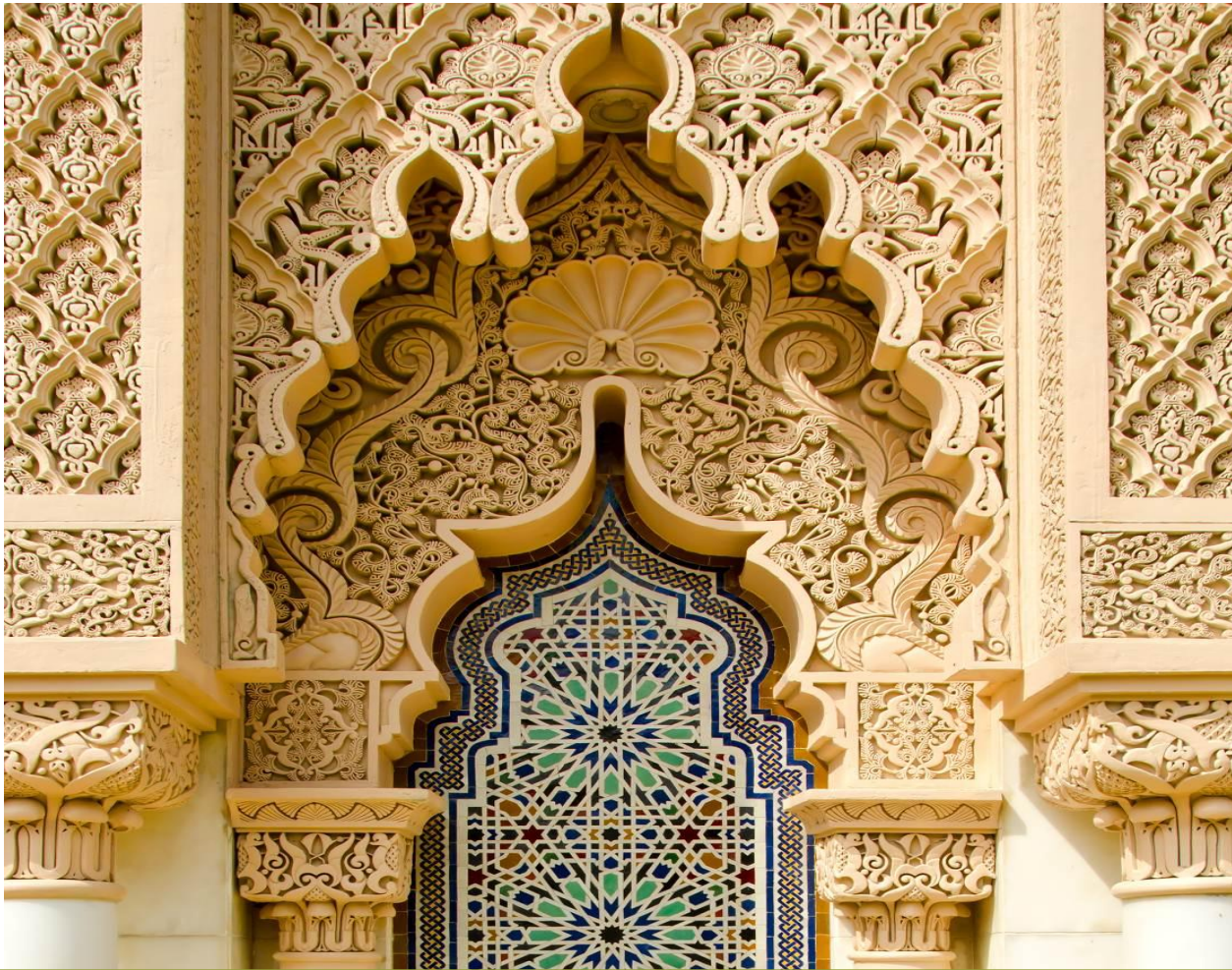




**MENA-OECD
GOVERNANCE
PROGRAMME**

Under the Patronage of

**Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah
of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**



High-Level Seminar

**Gender, Law and Public Policy:
Trends in the Middle East and North Africa**

17-18 November 2014

Amman - Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

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OBJECTIVES OF THE HIGH – LEVEL SEMINAR

Gender, Law and Public Policy: Trends in the Middle East and North Africa

Reinforcing gender policies in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) is critical for the political, social and economic empowerment of women and the promotion of good governance. Since 2009, the MENA-OECD Governance Programme and its Gender Focus Group (MENA-OECD Women in Government Platform) takes stock of MENA countries' gender initiatives.

MENA countries are looking for ways to build a strategic public sector capacity to enable full women's empowerment in society and public life in a sustainable manner. They also seek to ensure conformity with international standards related to issues of gender equality and human rights.

In this context, the objectives of this High- Level Seminar include:

- Identifying and addressing the strategic challenges faced by MENA countries in closing remaining gender gaps;
- Generating dialogue and exchanging good practices in eliminating gender-based discrimination in laws and policy-making;
- Discussing and promoting necessary conditions for women's empowerment in public life in the MENA region.

The Seminar is under the patronage of **Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan**, and will bring together leading policy makers and practitioners from MENA and OECD countries. It is jointly organised by the *Arab Administrative Development Organization (ARADO)* and the *MENA-OECD Governance Programme* with the support of the *Center of Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR)*.

The High-Level Seminar will seek to understand

- Ways in which governments and non-governmental organizations address remaining gender concerns in public life in the MENA region; and
- National approaches and good practices in closing gender gaps in national laws and enhancing compliance with international commitments.

It will feature the presentation of the report *on Women in Public Life: Gender, Law and Policy in the Middle East and North Africa*, prepared by the OECD with the Centre for Arab Women Training and Research (CAWTAR) and with the support of the Arab Administrative Development Organisation (ARADO). The report will highlight key trends in gender policies and legal reforms from across the region and selected OECD countries and provide policy recommendations based on international instruments and good practices.

AGENDA

Day 1: 17th November 2014

09:00 am – 09:30 am	Registration and Welcome Coffee	
	Pre - Opening sessions	Pre- Opening Sessions
09:30 am – 10:30 am		Launch of the OECD-CAWTAR report “Women in Public Life: Gender, Law and Policy in the Middle East and North Africa”
		<p>This session will aim to launch the OECD-CAWTAR report on Women in Public Life: Gender, Law and Policy in the Middle East and North Africa.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Rolf Alter, Director, Territorial Development and Public Governance, OECD • H.E. Mr. Mohamed Moubdi, Minister-Delegate for Public Service and Administration Modernisation, Morocco (TBD) • Ms. Soukaina Bouraoui, Chair, MENA – OECD Women in Government Platform, Executive Director, Centre for Arab Women Training and Research, Tunisia • Mr. Alberto Virella, Technical Adviser, Planning and Evaluation Office (TBD) • H.E. Ambassador Ms. Birgitta Holst-Alani, Director of the Swedish Institute in Alexandria, Egypt (<i>former</i>), Co-Chair, OECD-MENA Women’s Business Forum
10:30 am – 12:00 pm		Session 1 : Women’s participation in public life: from legal reforms to impact
		<p>While the proportion of female members of parliament and leading decision-making positions at the local level is increasing across the region, women remain significantly underrepresented in politics and legislatures. Yet there are examples of women who were able to access key decision-making positions as parliamentarians and ministers. What lessons can be learned? What are the recent legal reforms undertaken by countries to advance gender equality and eliminate discrimination in public life? What are the main remaining barriers and challenges?</p> <p>Chair: Ms. Soukaina Bouraoui, Chair, MENA – OECD Women in Government Platform, Executive Director, Centre for Arab Women Training and Research, Tunisia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ms. Agnès Arcier, Chief Executive Officer, Adetef, France • Ms. Reem Badran, Chairperson of Al hurra Company, Former Member of Parliament, Jordan • Mr. Giuseppe Belsito, Country director, UN Women, Jordan (TBD) • Ms. Rowdah Abdulrahman, Judge, Ministry of Justice, Yemen (TBD)
12:00 pm – 12:30 pm	Coffee Break	

12:30 pm – 1:30 pm	Opening Ceremony	
	Opening ceremony	Keynote Address
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Dr. Abdullah Ensour , Prime Minister – Jordan • Prof. Dr. Refat Abdelhalim Alfaouri, Director General, Arab Administrative Development Organization • Ms. Mari Kiviniemi, Deputy Secretary General, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development • H.E. Mr. Ricardo Díez-Hochleitner, Ambassador, Permanent Representative, Delegation of Spain to the OECD, Co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme • H.E. Ms. Annika Markovic, Ambassador Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OECD
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm	Lunch Break	

3:00 pm- 5:00 pm	Session 2 : Women in Public Sector Leadership	
<p>Women are increasingly well represented in many public sectors across the region, yet their numbers remain very low in the top echelons of the civil service. What policies can help women reach the top? What are the barriers and opportunities? Why does it matter?</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Philippe Vermeulen, Councillor General, Belgian Federal Public Service Personnel and Organisation, Belgium</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Dr. Nawal Al Faouri, Member of the Jordanian Senate, Jordan • Ms. Amani Essawi, Minister’s Assistant for International Relations, Ministry of State for Administrative Development, Egypt • Dr. Salma Nimis, Secretary General of the Jordanian National Commission for Women, Jordan (TBD) • Ms. Maya Morsy, Gender Practice Leader for the Arab States, United Nations Development Programme • Prof. Louise Morley, Professor of Education and Director of the Centre for Higher Education and Equity Research (CHEER), University of Sussex, UK 		
5:00 pm - Press conference		

9:00 am- 9:30 am	Arrival of Participants, Morning coffee
9:30 am- 11:00 am	Session 3: Strengthening institutions for advancing gender equality
<p>Many MENA countries have established institutions for promoting and implementing gender equality reforms. These include gender equality ministries and agencies, independent oversight agencies and other players. What reforms have been successful? What are the key factors to ensure effectiveness of institutional frameworks for gender equality? What accountability mechanisms are needed to ensure implementation of gender equality reforms? What is the role of transparency and citizen participation?</p> <p>Chair: Dr. Dunya Ahmed, Acting General Director of Policy and Development, Director of the National Strategy for the Advancement of Bahraini Women, Bahrain</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dr. Sawsan Majali, Secretary General of the Higher Population Council, Jordan • Mr. Fadi Karam, Secretary General of NCLW National Commission for Lebanese Women, Lebanon • Ms. Carmen Plaza, General Director For Equal Opportunities and Director of Women’s Institute, Spain (TBD) • Ms. Tatyana Teplova, Senior Policy Analyst, Government Reviews and Partnerships, OECD • Ms. Elena Ferreras Carreras, Senior Gender Adviser, Gender Team, Environmental and Sustainability Department, EBRD (TBD) 	
11:00 am –11:30 am	Coffee Break
11:30 am –1:30 pm	Session 4: Reviewing approaches to mainstreaming gender in laws, policies and budgets
<p>The state has an important role in addressing gender gaps and advancing gender equality. What tools does it have to do this? What role does open government and public consultation play in developing inclusive gender policies and laws? To what extent is gender mainstreaming practiced in the region? How can open government policies support gender mainstreaming? Has gender budgeting been successful in improving women’s access to resources in these areas? What are the challenges in designing and implementing gender mainstreaming strategy and gender sensitive budgets? What role does the budget transparency play? What are the barriers and opportunities in these areas?</p> <p>Chair: Mr. Carlos Conde, Head of Division, Middle East and North Africa, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Ms. Reem Abu-Hassan, Minister of Social Development, Jordan • Mr. Basam Al-Khatib, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Women’s Affairs, Palestinian Authority • Ms. Mari-Liis Sepper, Gender Equality and Equal Treatment Commissioner, Ministry of Social Affairs, Estonia • Ms. Mervet Eltallawy, Chairwoman of National Council of Women, Egypt 	

- **Mr. Mohamed Chafiki**, Director of Studies and Financial Forecasting, Ministry of Economy and Finance, Morocco (TBD)

1:30 pm –2:30 pm

Lunch

2:30 pm –4:00 pm

Session 5: Advancing legal reforms for gender equality in private life

This session will explore country examples and case studies on legal reforms in private life in OECD and MENA countries. What are the recent legal reforms undertaken by countries to advance gender equality and eliminate discrimination in the areas considered the private domain, such as family law, physical integrity and access to justice? What are the main remaining barriers and challenges? What are the lessons learned?

Chair: Ms. Violeta Neubauer, Vice-Chair of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)

- **Ms. Fayza Ben Hadid**, International Expert on Gender Equality, Centre for Arab Women Training and Research, Tunisia
- **Ms. Asma Khader**, Commissioner/Vice President, Independent Election Commission, Jordan
- **Ms. Cherika Kheddar**, President of the Association “Djazairouna” and Legal Researcher, Algeria
- **Ms. Serena Romano**, Gender Expert, Senior Consultant to the MENA-OECD Investment Programme (TBD)

4:00 pm-4:30 pm

The way forward : Advancing gender equality in laws and public policies

This closing session will highlight the way forward in advancing on the agenda of gender equality across the MENA region.

- **Ms. Soukaina Bouraoui**, Chair, MENA – OECD Women in Government Platform, Executive Director, Centre for Arab Women Training and Research, Tunisia
- **Prof. Dr. Refat Abdelhalim Alfaouri**, Director General, Arab Administrative Development Organization
- **OECD**

For more information about this event and our other activities please visit

<http://www.oecd.org/gov/women-in-government.htm>

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