

# Implementing SDGs for children in Egypt: Towards a child-friendly justice system

*Advisory Seminar  
Enhancing child participation in legal proceedings:  
criminal, civil and administrative pathways*




28 September 2022  
Cairo, Egypt

## Agenda

The Project



 Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra

Embassy of Switzerland in Egypt



The objective of this project is to support the development of a child-friendly justice system in Egypt and better protect children in contact with the law. Aligned with Egypt's Vision 2030, the National Child Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the project is implemented by the OECD with the financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The project facilitates high-level engagement in support of the objectives of the Strategic Framework and National Plan for Childhood and Motherhood in Egypt 2018-2030. It contributes to strengthening the Rule of Law and avails experiences from different OECD countries, particularly through peer-to-peer exchanges and policy dialogues with the Government of Egypt.

As part of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme, the project will provide support to the Government of Egypt in identifying key challenges and opportunities, building a Roadmap for reform and raising public awareness on the importance of child-friendly justice.

The two main outcomes of the project are as follows:

- Improved capacities of child-justice stakeholders to better protect children in contact with the justice system;
- Improved governance and coordination mechanisms among key child justice stakeholders.

The OECD aims to support the Government of Egypt to further enhance and empower the coordination and protection role of the child justice system. The support will be carried out in accordance with the objectives of the Strategic Framework & National Plan for Childhood and Motherhood.

## Objective of the Peer-to-Peer Advisory Seminar

The Seminar will foster a hands-on approach for a technical discussion at operational level focusing on the possibilities to enhance child participation across all procedural branches in criminal, administrative and civil procedures. It will discuss the options provided by the Egyptian legal framework, available tools used internationally to ensure child-friendly participation, and foster a discussion on required reforms. It will provide an opportunity for Egyptian stakeholders to engage proactively with international peers, experts and practitioners and enable an exchange of knowledge and practices with OECD countries.

### Target participants:

The Seminar will gather representatives of the Ministry of Justice, Judges from different branches, including newly appointed women judges, the Public Prosecution Office, and representatives from the NCCM, along OECD peers and experts and the OECD Secretariat (30-40 participants).

# Draft Agenda

Thursday 28 September 2022

Simultaneous interpretation between English and Arabic will be available.

09:30 – 10:00	Welcoming of participants
10:00 – 10:15	Opening remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Dr. Tarek Tawfik</b>, Deputy Minister of Health and Population and Supervisor of the National council for Motherhood and Childhood</li><li>▪ <b>Justice Amal Ammar</b>, Vice Minister for Human Rights and Child and Women Affairs</li><li>▪ <b>Counsellor Hesham Gafaar</b>, Chief Attorney General, Public Prosecution Office</li><li>▪ <b>Mr. Amr Soliman</b>, Project Manager and Policy Analyst, OECD</li></ul>
10:15 – 11:30	<b>Child participation in criminal proceedings: legal framework and child-friendly tools</b> <p>This session would explore the possibilities for child participation in Egypt throughout criminal proceedings as offenders, victims and witnesses. Following a small presentation of the applicable legal framework, participants and peers would discuss the tools to ensure participation is meaningful, child-friendly and protects the well-being of children, such as the use of video and audiotapes for statements, the use of separate entryways, etc.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Justice Amal Ammar, Vice Minister for Human Rights and Child and Women Affairs</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Representatives</b> of the Ministry of Justice</li><li>▪ <b>Counsellor Mohamed El Hosseiny</b>, Chief Attorney General, Public Prosecution Office</li><li>▪ <b>Representative</b> of the NCCM</li><li>▪ <b>Ms. Marwa Salah</b>, OECD Consultant</li><li>▪ <b>Ms. Claire Farid</b>, Expert on child justice, Canada</li></ul>
11:30 – 12:00	Open Discussion
12:00 - 12:15	Coffee Break
12:15 – 13:30	<b>Child participation in civil and administrative proceedings: strengthening the right to be heard and using child-friendly tools</b> <p>This session would explore the possibilities for child participation in Egypt as interested parties in civil and administrative procedures. Following a small presentation of the applicable legal framework, participants and peers would discuss the tools to ensure participation is meaningful and child-friendly, and how to foster a child participation culture that ensures the child is heard in the matters that concern him or her, when appropriate.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> <i>Ms. Marwa Salah, OECD Consultant</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ <b>Representative</b> of the NCCM</li><li>▪ <b>Counsellor Mohamed El Hosseiny</b>, Chief Attorney General, Public Prosecution Office</li><li>▪ <b>Representatives</b> of the Ministry of Justice</li><li>▪ <b>Ms. Claire Farid</b>, Expert on child justice, Canada</li></ul>
13:30 – 14:00	Open discussion
14:00 – 14:15	Closing Remarks
14:15	Lunch

## The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is the agency for international cooperation of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). The SDC is responsible for the overall coordination with other federal authorities of development and cooperation with Eastern Europe as well as for humanitarian aid delivered by the Swiss Confederation.

The Swiss international cooperation, which is an integral part of the Federal Council's foreign policy, aims to alleviate need and poverty around the world, to foster respect for human rights, to promote democracy and to conserve the environment. It fosters economic self-reliance and state autonomy, contributes to the improvement of production conditions, helps address environmental problems, and ensures better access to education and basic healthcare services.

## The OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that promotes policies to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. It is made up of 38 Member countries, a Secretariat in Paris, and a committee, drawn from experts from government and other fields, for each work area covered by the Organisation. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. It collaborates with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change, and measures productivity and global flows of trade and investment.

## The OECD and Access to Justice for Children

The OECD supports its Member and partner countries in achieving more responsive and people-centered justice services and access to justice as core components of inclusive growth, sound democracies and a thriving investment climate. Vulnerable groups, including children and youth, face particular barriers to access justice, such as complex procedures, high costs and lack of legal empowerment. In particular, children have specific needs and rights but tend to face heightened difficulties in getting their legal needs addressed, which exacerbates the likelihood of trauma and impedes child well-being. The OECD supports countries in moving towards child-friendly justice that puts children at the centre of design and delivery of justice services and ensures their needs are met.

## 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 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.



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## CONTACTS

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