



Strengthening governance and survivor/victim-centric approaches to violence against women in MENA countries

Agenda of the meeting of the MENA-OECD Platform on Gender Mainstreaming, Governance and Leadership

28 September 2022

MENA-OECD Governance Programme Training Centre in Caserta, Italy
(hybrid)



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CONTEXT

Violence against women (VAW) and girls represents a global crisis, which was exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Worldwide, more than one in three women have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. The picture in the MENA region is not different. Official figures indicate that 35% of married women in the region have experienced intimate partner violence at some point in their lives. No country has yet managed to eliminate VAW, and OECD Member countries have highlighted action to eradicate it as a top priority both before and during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Many governments, including in the MENA region, have enacted policies and programmes to tackle VAW. However, lack of strategic planning, long-term investment in services, and coordinated responses among public institutions and actors involved in the implementation of VAW strategies has made it difficult to break the VAW cycle.

The meeting of the MENA-OECD Platform on Gender Mainstreaming, Governance and Leadership, organised by the OECD in cooperation with the MENA-OECD Governance Programme Training Centre of Caserta (Italy), will bring together high-level government officials, policy makers, and experts from MENA and OECD governments to engage in a dialogue on how to strengthen institutions, regulatory frameworks and coordination capacities to prevent, address and eliminate VAW in MENA countries effectively.

The event will present and discuss the preliminary findings of the OECD paper on “Governance and survivor/victim-centric approaches to violence against women in MENA countries”, including examples of MENA governments’ responses to VAW during the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper is delivered in the framework of the project “COVID-19 Response and Recovery in the MENA region” supported by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of Italy.

By promoting the exchange of relevant experiences, promising good practices and lessons learnt, the event will aim at enhancing expertise and capacity of participants in preventing, addressing and eradicating VAW effectively by strengthening public governance systems, fostering cross-sector collaboration, centering action on the needs and experiences of victims/survivors, and improving justice and accountability.

The meeting will feature three sessions. A first panel discussion will encourage exchanges on how to build momentum to prevent, address, and end VAW in OECD and MENA countries. A session will follow to illustrate the preliminary findings of the OECD paper “Governance and survivor/victim-centric approaches to violence against women in MENA countries”, while promoting roundtable discussions on governments’ responses to VAW during the COVID-19 pandemic and how to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of the policy and institutional frameworks in place in MENA countries to address VAW. The discussions will then be closed by an afternoon session that will give participants the opportunity to share their priorities for the advancement of gender equality in the MENA region and to discuss how the OECD can support MENA governments in promoting women’s empowerment, including their representation in leadership positions in public life.

DRAFT AGENDA – Wednesday, 28 September 2022

Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Arabic will be available. Participants joining virtually via Zoom are kindly asked to [register in advance here](#).

Master of Ceremony: Prof. Maurizio Mensi, Executive Director, MENA-OECD Governance Programme Training Centre

Welcome remarks

10:00 – 10:10

- **Prof. Paola Severino**, President, Italian National School of Administration (*virtual*)

Panel discussion on “The urgency to end violence against women in OECD and MENA countries”

10:10 – 12:15

- **Dr. Inaya Ezzeddine**, Chairperson, Women and Children Parliamentary Committee, SDG2030 AGENDA Parliamentary Commission, Lebanese Parliament, Lebanon (*virtual*)
- **Ms. Amal Abdel Moneim**, Director, Women Complaint Office, National Council for Women, Egypt
- **Ms. Hayet Kadri**, President, Ladies First, Tunisia
- **Ms. Elisa Nieto Maestro**, Senior Advisor, Government Delegation Against Gender Violence, Ministry of Equality, Spain (*virtual*)
- **Ms. Cristiana Carletti**, Expert, Department for Equal Opportunities, Prime Minister’s Office, Italy

Session opened and moderated by: **Tatyana Teplova**, Head of Division and Senior Counsellor for Gender Equality, Justice and Inclusiveness, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

12:15 – 13:45

Lunch break

Presentation of preliminary findings of the OECD expert paper on “Governance and survivor/victim-centric approaches to violence against women in MENA countries”

- OECD Secretariat

13:45 – 15:30

Roundtable discussion on “Governments’ responses to violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic and ways to enhance efficiency and effectiveness of policy and institutional frameworks to address VAW”

- All participants

Session moderated by: Pinar Guven, Policy Analyst, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

Keynote speech on “Promoting gender equality and women’s participation in public life: a key driver for sustainable recovery and strong democracies”

- Prof. Linda Laura Sabbadini, Central Director, Italian National Institute of Statistics (ISTAT), Italy

15:30 – 16:45

Roundtable discussion on “Governments’ priorities for the advancement of gender equality in public life in the MENA region: The way forward”

- All participants

Session moderated by: Tatyana Teplova, Head of Division and Senior Counsellor for Gender Equality, Justice and Inclusiveness, Public Governance Directorate, OECD

Closing remarks

16:45 – 17:00

- Ambassador Massimo Gaiani, Coordinator of the Department for European and International Affairs, SNA, Italy

The OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international body 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. We collaborate with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change. We measure productivity and global flows of trade and investment.

The MENA-OECD Governance Programme and its Training Centre

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.

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.

The [Training Centre of Caserta](#), hosted by the Italian National School of Administration (SNA), supports the Programme in developing and conducting capacity-building activities aimed at MENA public officials in order to pursue efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector and good governance.

Key background documents

- [OECD Recommendation of the Council on Gender Equality in Public Life](#), OECD/LEGAL/0418
- OECD (2021), [Eliminating Gender-based Violence: Governance and Survivor/Victim-centred Approaches](#)
- OECD (2022), OECD Compendium of good practices on women's access to leadership positions in public life

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