



Talents are spread over the world, opportunities are not

Fostering inclusion of vulnerable and marginalised groups

MENA-OECD Days

19 June 2019

Movenpick Hotel, Berges du Lac, Tunis



MENA - OECD
Governance Programme



OECD

BETTER POLICIES FOR BETTER LIVES

THE ORGANISATION FOR ECONOMIC CO-OPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

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 36 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. The organisation also analyses and compares data to predict future trends. www.oecd.org

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 policymaking and transparency. www.oecd.org/mena/governance/

Objective

As an event of the MENA-OECD Days, this session aims to explore the public governance responses for more inclusive societies that create conditions for the political and economic participation of vulnerable and marginalised groups. It builds upon the OECD's work on open government, youth and women participation. The outcomes of this session will shape the work of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme and feed into the renewal of the fifth mandate for 2021-25 of the MENA-OECD Initiative.

Participants

Invitees to the MENA-OECD Days include representatives from governments, private sector and civil society organisations from OECD and MENA economies.

Practical information

Arabic/English/French interpretation will be provided during the meeting.

AGENDA

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In the form of a TED talk, several speakers will share their vision and personal experience with regards to building inclusive societies. Marginalised and vulnerable groups, such as from rural areas, disadvantaged socio-economic groups, disabled, marginalised youth or women and minorities face challenges in accessing public services and having their voices heard in public policy-making, thereby inhibiting their opportunities to become agents in public, social and economic life. The TED talks will provide insights into public governance approaches to build inclusive societies from the citizens' perspective

10:00-12:30

Mr Assaad Thebian, Gherbal Initiative, Lebanon



Assaad Thebian is a social and political activist as well as a communications strategist. He is a co-founder of the YouStink movement in 2015 objecting the lack of governance after trash compiled in Lebanese streets. He is a winner of the ArabNet 2013 Creative Combat Awards and named as top 20 influential figures in Lebanon in the digital sphere several times.

He is a founder of Gherbal Initiative: a civil company that aims to push for transparency and accountability believing that the democratization of data can act as an antidote to corruption. Gherbal Initiative collects and converts complex data sets into accessible and engaging visualizations that frame public discourse and propel political action.

Ms Chaimae Bourjij, young advocate, Morocco



Chaimae Bourjij is a program manager at the Friedrich Naumann Foundation for Freedom in Morocco. She co-founded the Youth SDG Action Project in 2017; and, as a result, won the 2018 Global Mobilizer of the Year Award, which was awarded by the UN SDG Action Campaign. Chaimae found and chairs the International Youth Council's Morocco Chapter and has been named the MENA Regional Director of the International Youth Federation.



**Ms Amal Abusrour, Director of Programmes,
Palestinian Women's Centre for Legal Aid and Counselling**

Amal is the Director of Programs for the Palestinian Women Centre for Legal Aid and Counseling. She is also accredited gender audit facilitator by the International Labor Organization, an expert on women, peace and security issues and an expert in strategic planning and evaluation.

She published some key papers; namely *Palestinian Civil Society: A Time for Action*, published by: *International Centre for the Study of Reconciliation and Political Violence: King's College London*, and *The Effect of Conflict and Militarization on Palestinian Women* published by *Greenwood Publishing Group*.



Mr Omar Fassatoui, UNHR, Tunisia

Omar Fassatoui is a Tunisian lawyer who is presently working as a Human rights office at the office of the high commissioner for human rights in Tunisia. Covering various discrimination related issues in Tunisia, he worked closely with the Tunisian ministry in charge of human rights and the parliament on the law on the elimination of racial discrimination adopted in October 2018.

Holder of a Phd in political science obtained at Sciences Po Aix en Provence (France), he worked on minorities and women's rights in the MENA and published some articles on related topics.



Ms Chaime Bouhlel, civil society activist, Tunisia

Currently an independent consultant to civil society organizations in the fields of decentralization and governance, Chaima Bouhlel had previously taken part of Barr Al Aman's team, in September 2017, as director of programs, and co-host of a weekly show on the National Radio, that focuses on evaluating public policy since 2016.

Chaima was previously a member of Albawsala's team since 2014, when she joined to launch and lead Marsad Baladia, an observatory that monitors municipalities across the country. She was elected as president of Al Bawsala in October 2016, and continued to lead the organization until August 2017. Prior to joining the Albawsala team, Chaima worked in the micro finance sector, and in building the capacity of journalists in post-revolutionary Tunisia.

CONTACT

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