Preventing corruption: What role for citizens?

MENA-OECD Working Group
on civil service and integrity

📅 *Thursday, 25 November 2021*

🕐 *11.00 – 13.00 (Paris Time)*

🖥 *Virtual conference (Zoom)*

MENA-OECD
Governance Programme
Training Centre

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Overview and objectives of the MENA-OECD Working Group meeting

The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated challenges faced by governments and public authorities in the effective delivery of public services and in fighting corruption.

In this context, governments act to promote dialogue and cooperation with citizens to ensure that citizens' actual needs are addressed. Citizens' engagement in policymaking and in coordinating with governments have a positive impact on the quality of public services, as governments can more easily target the actual needs of citizens, and in particular of vulnerable groups, for whom public services are especially crucial in a crisis context. These efforts can take the form of direct incentives for citizens to have their say in the process of policymaking, as well as of establishing formal mechanisms to continuously integrate their feedback into the design and adaptation of public action.

Involving citizens in all stages of policymaking, from the initial design to their implementation and evaluation, also empowers them to effectively monitor service providers, and contributes to strengthening values of integrity and accountability in public action. These values are at the core of governments' effort to improve public trust, and contribute to promoting citizens' awareness of their role in preventing corruption.

Civil society actors play a key role in preventing and fighting corruption. They may act as spokespersons for citizens, relaying their demands and reports of alledged corruption and directly engaging with public officials. As watchdogs of public action, civil society actors enhance transparency and can evaluate the implementation and quality of policies and laws, while advocating for changes that improve their effectiveness and bring them in line with best practices. Ensuring that citizens are consulted and informed in policymaking is a key element in building trust and encouraging civil society to participate in future policy decisions, which in turn contributes to increase integrity of public action.

With the participation of senior public officials, representatives of independent institutions and civil society from MENA and OECD countries, this session will explore measures, programmes and tools to improve citizens' participation in the delivery of public services and in the fight against corruption.

This session is co-organised by the MENA-OECD Governance Programme Training Center in Caserta.

It will draw on the dialogue of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme and the OECD Public Governance Committee and builds on the Recommendation of the OECD Council on Public Integrity as well as the Recommendation of the OECD Council on Open Government.

11:00 - 11:20   Opening Remarks

- **H.E. Ambassador Antonio Bernardini**, Permanent Representative of Italy to the OECD and Co-chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme
- **Mr. Ahmed Laamoumri**, Secretary General of the Ministry of Digital Transition and Administrative Reform, Morocco, Co-chair of the working group on civil service and integrity
- Spain, Co-chair of the working group on civil service and integrity (tbc)
- **Ms Amira Tlili,** Policy analyst and projects manager**,** MENA-OECD Governance Programme

Moderator: **Mr. Phil Mason,** Expert on public service integrity and anti-corruption

11:20 - 11:30   Keynote intervention

Pr. Paola Severino, President of the National School of Administration of Italy

11:30 – 12:45   Citizen participation to improve public services' efficiency and accountability

This session aims to share experiences from MENA and OECD countries in establishing mechanisms by which citizens can hold their governments accountable, thereby reducing the risk of corruption and improving the quality of public services.

Lead discussants from MENA and OECD countries

Open Discussion

12:45   Closing remarks

The MENA-OECD Working Group on civil service and integrity

The Working Group on Civil Service and Integrity of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme brings together policy practitioners from MENA and OECD countries to engage in promoting integrity and preventing corruption. It is the leading network to promote a regional dialogue to exchange best practices in the area of civil service reform for integrity, innovative anti-corruption policies and institutions. The Working Group cooperates with ACINET (Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network). Building on more than fifteen years of experience and aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals, the MENA-OECD Governance Programme received in 2021 a new mandate to leverage the power of the regional networks and provide implementation assistance to support the establishment of solid integrity frameworks and contribute to fighting corruption.

http://www.oecd.org/mena/governance/mena-oecd-working-group-on-civil-service-and-integrity.htm

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/

The MENA-OECD Governance Programme Training Centre – Caserta (Italy)

The MENA-OECD Governance Programme Training Centre was established in 2012 by the OECD and the Italian National School of Administration (SNA), to support the public administrations of Middle East and North African countries and promote initiatives for capacity building in order to enhance efficiency and effectiveness in the public sector and foster Good Governance. The Centre is hosted by the SNA in the prestigious setting of its training centre in the Royal Palace in Caserta. It is part of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme which fosters public sector reforms and strengthens international cooperation, supporting dialogue among public administrations to promote sustainable economic growth in the MENA Region. The Training Centre is also part of the Action Plan on Open Governance and Anticorruption of the Deauville Partnership for Arab Countries in Transition (Governance Pillar).

www.menaoecd-trainingcentre-sna.org/

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.

www.oecd.org

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