

Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

Economic and Social Impact of Open Government

Policy recommendations for the Arab Region

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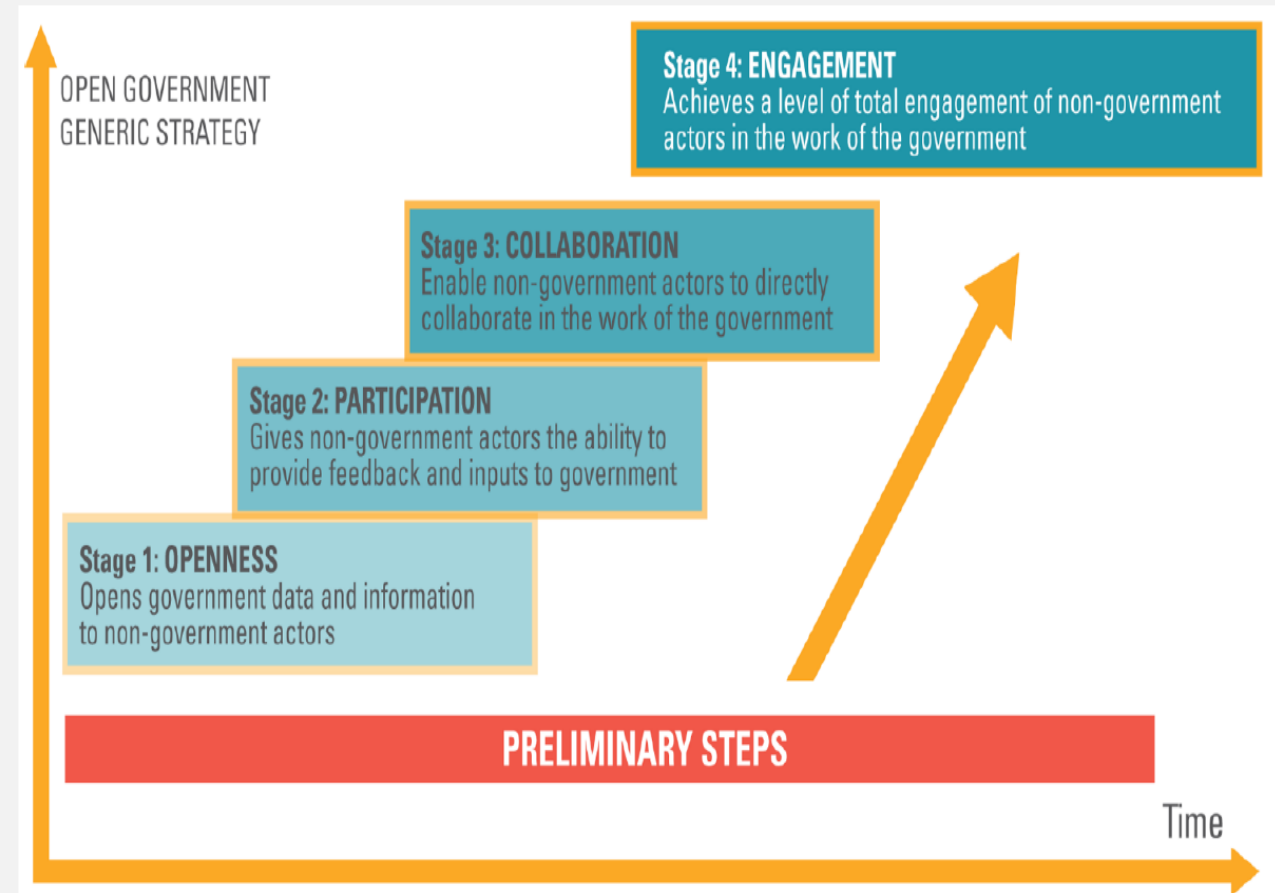
Framework for Open Government: ESCWA

- **The ESCWA 6 strategic objectives**

1. Developing policy and strategy.
2. Providing institutional frameworks
3. Setting up legal and regulatory frameworks
4. Upgrading government capacity
5. Rolling out technology features and channels
6. Improving public capacity

- **The stages**

- Stage 1: Openness
- Stage 2: Participation
- Stage 3: Collaboration
- Stage 4: Engagement



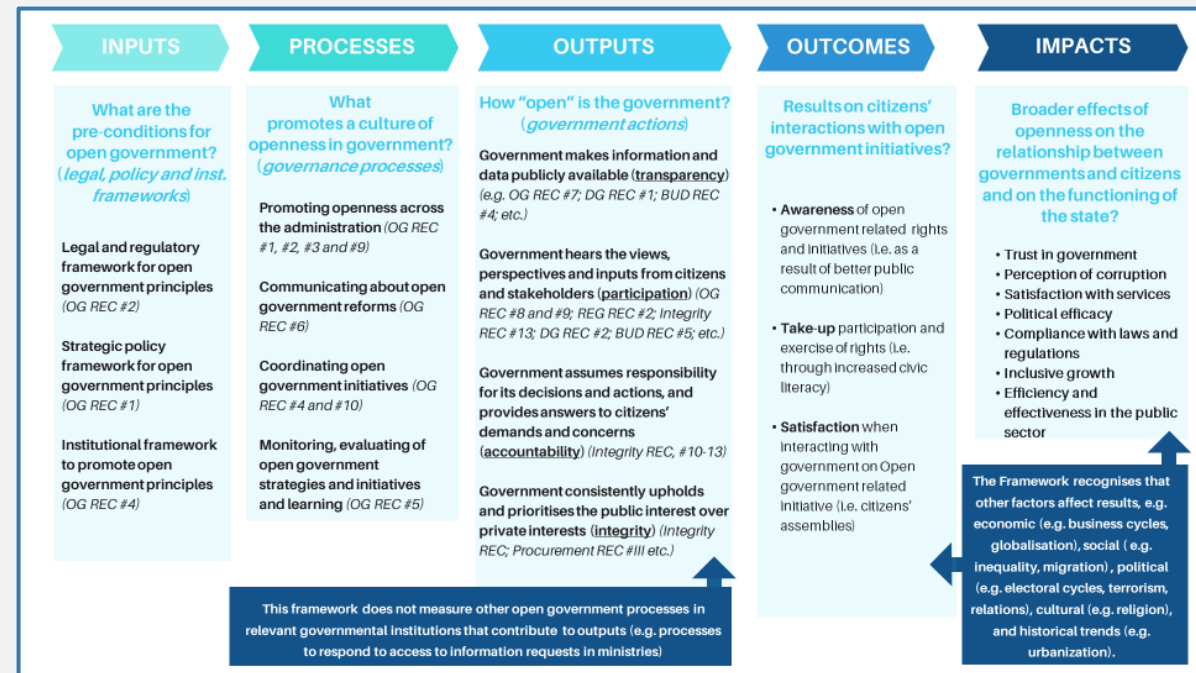
Open Government in OECD countries

The OECD 10 provisions

1. Implement open government strategies and initiatives
2. Open government legal and regulatory framework
3. Operationalization and take-up of open government strategies and initiatives
4.
5.

5. Many Case Studies from the OECD Countries showing success stories

OECD Framework for OG



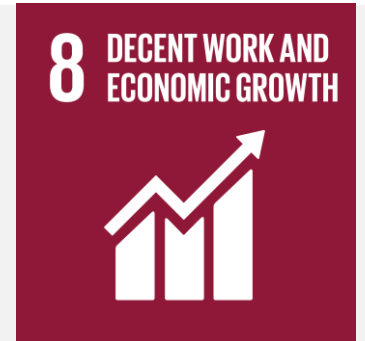
Impact of Open Government / Government

- **Improve accountability** through increased transparency, thus supporting anti-corruption efforts
- **Increase efficiency** by enhancing public services and resource allocation.
- New **public value** creation because government-owned data:
 - Generating Revenues from Open Data
 - Increased Tax Income from Commercial Usage of Open Data



Impact of Open Government / Private Sector

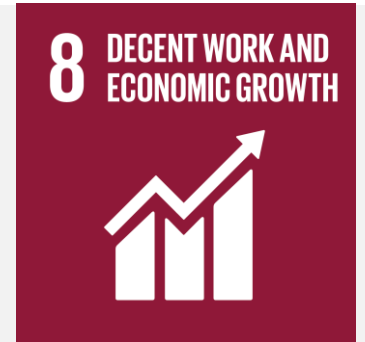
- Open government has positive impact on **economic growth**. Opening-up data will enable:
 - **new firm creation**: through reusing government data freely in novel ways,
 - **new products and services**: SMEs with products and services based on open data
 - **supplementing existing products**: A path to innovative solutions such as data as-a-service



In European Union countries, the open data market size was estimated at €184 billion in 2019, and was expected to reach more than €250 billion in 2025, employing 1.09 million employees in 2019 with an up to 80 per cent forecast increase in jobs in the upcoming six years under the optimistic scenario.

Impact of Open Government / Citizens

- Facilitates the **creation of new job opportunities** through the creation of new start-up and SMEs (based on the re-use of data)
- Enables **free access to data** and thus citizens are **INFORMED.....**
- Allows **time and costs saving** (in traffic or using public transport)
- Facilitate the achievement of **other SDGs**



Analysis of Open Government in the Arab Region



Based on international data & Collected cases from the Arab countries

- 3 Arab countries are members of the Open Government Partnership:
 - Jordan, Morocco & Tunisia
- Many Arab countries have made important steps towards open government:
 - e-government advancement and progress in many Arab countries
 - Access to information,
 - Openness through open data
 - Participation,engagement

The Right to Information

Table 3.1 Access to information laws in the Arab countries and RTI rating

Country	Inacted in Constitution	Inacted by law	Year of Law	Rating by RTI
Jordan	Yes	yes	2007	56
Lebanon	No	yes	2017	70
Morocco	yes	yes	2018	73
Sudan	No	yes	2015	64
Tunisia	Yes	yes	2011	120
Yemen	No	yes	2012	103
Sudan	No	yes	2015	64

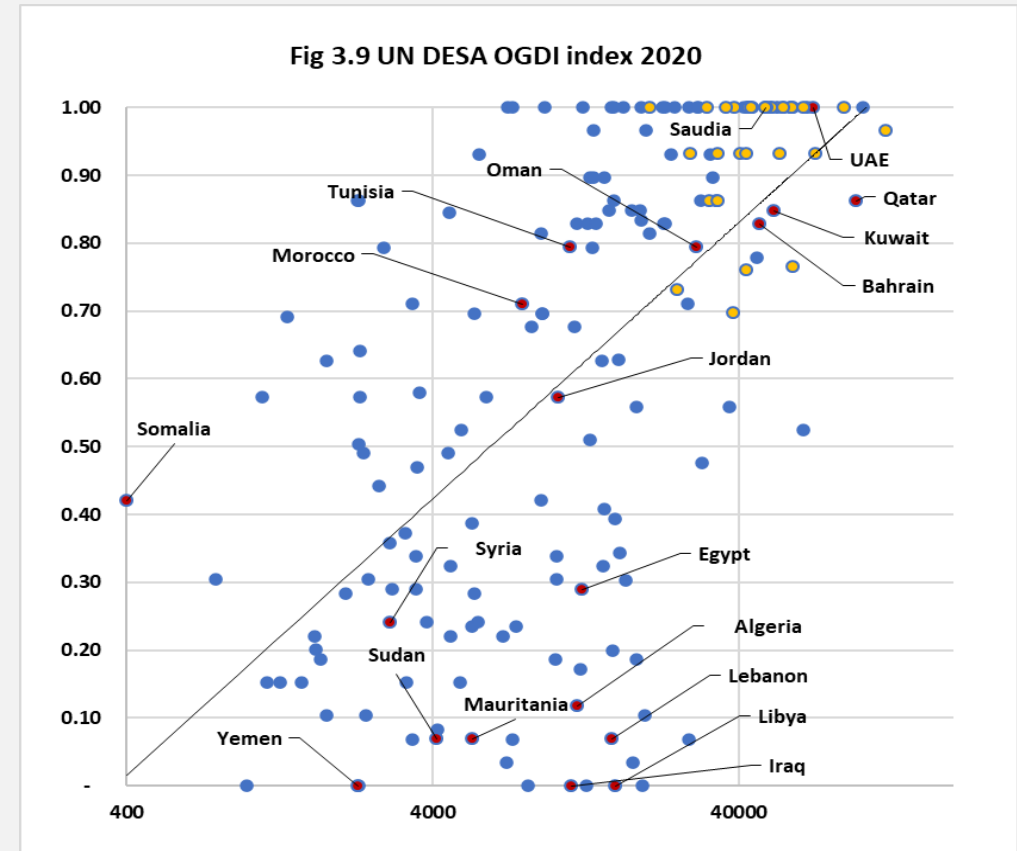
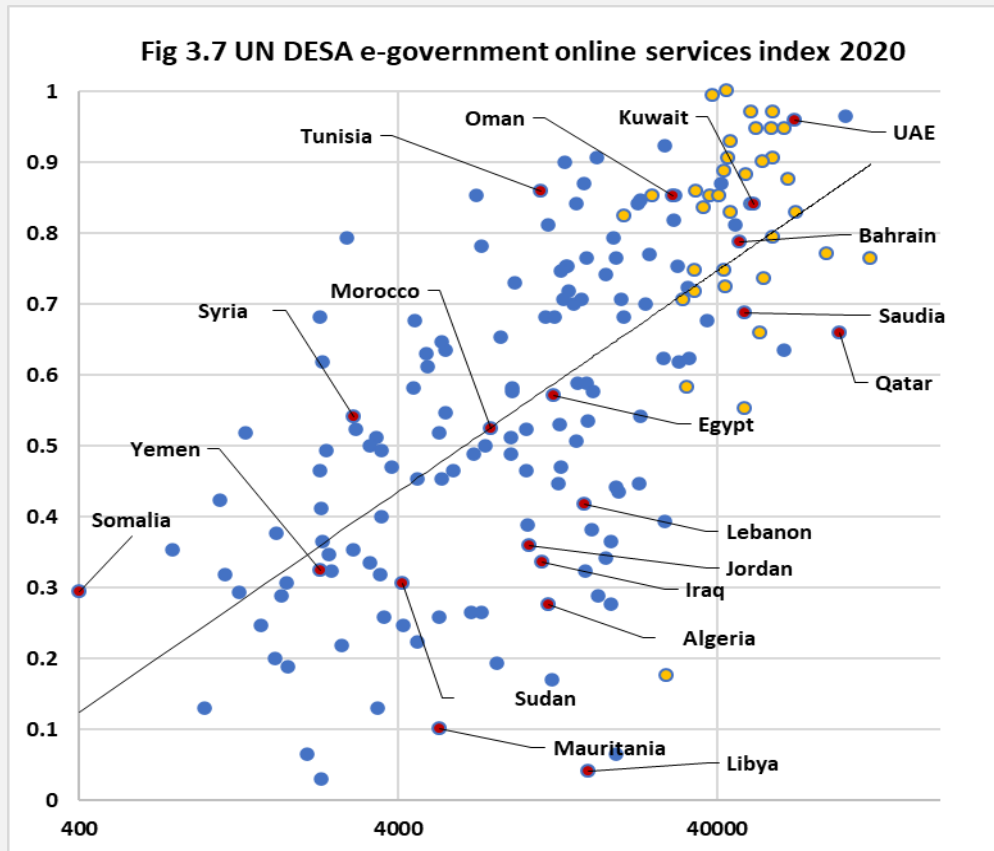
Source: ESCWA Compilation based on data from: <https://www.rti-rating.org/>

Note: Horizontal axis shows the value of the index,

Vertical axis shows the GDP per Capita based on PPP (2015), PPP = Purchasing Power Parity

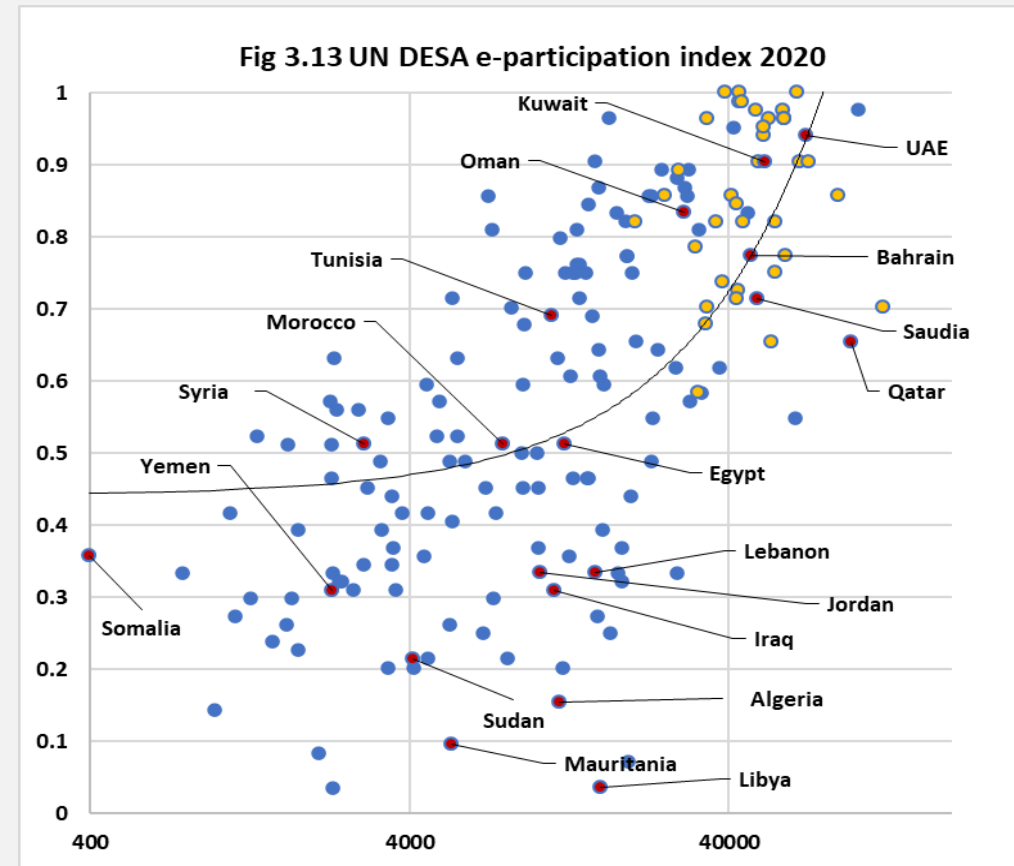
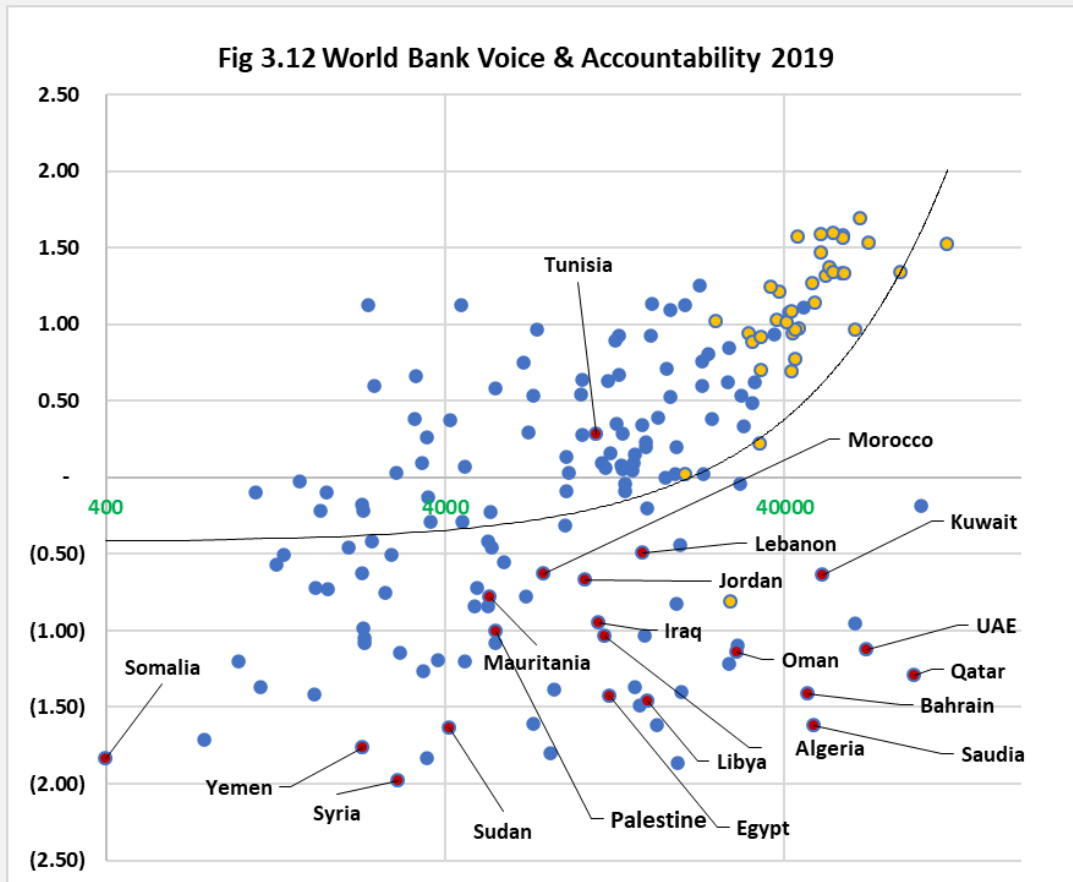
Open Government in the Arab States

E-government and Open Government data



Open Government in the Arab States: Participation, Collaboration & Engagement

Voice & Accountability ... Participation





Policy recommendations for the Arab countries

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Legal Framework

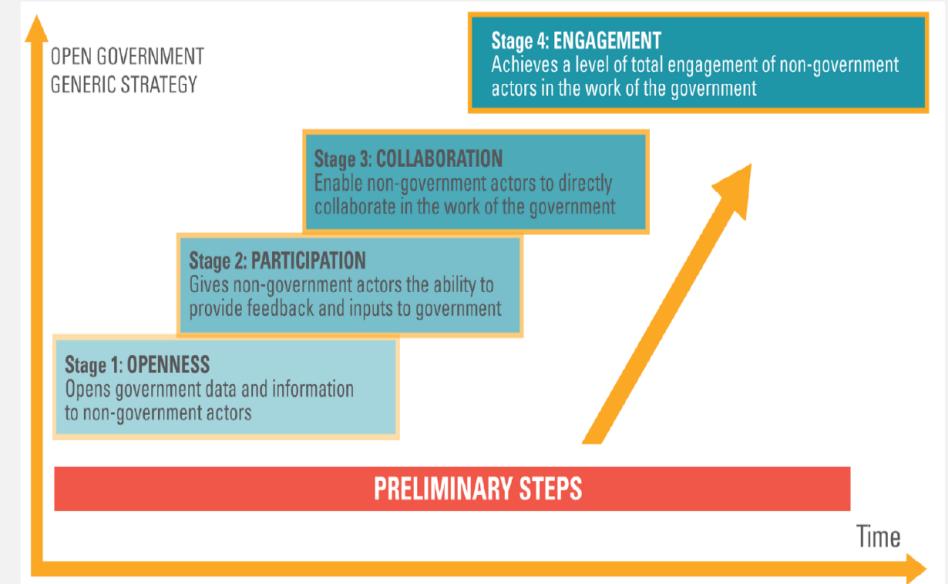


- More Arab countries should develop and enact modern Access to Information legislation, in line with the highest international standards.
- Arab countries should also enforce and implement adopted laws to guarantee the achievement of their objectives.

Policy and strategy for OG

Arab Governments should:

- develop specific policies or strategies for open government to promote open data and transparency, and to foster citizen participation and engagement.
- strengthen institutions to implement open government,



Cultural changes and awareness raising

- Governments should encourage and support public officials to embrace open government principles.
- Conducting awareness-raising campaigns to public.
- Public communication and sensitization initiatives targeting citizens, civil society organization, and the private sector are also crucial.



Open data and transparency



- Arab countries should :
 - pursue their efforts in open data and add relevant data to their portals
 - develop and implement open data strategy.
 - align the open government initiatives with international standards and Open Data Charter adopted in 2015.
- Technical Capacity-building programmes on open government data are needed for government officials.

Participation, collaboration and engagement

- Arab governments need to :
 - hold public consultations and economic and social dialogues on public policies and their challenges
 - encourage citizens to contribute their views, and ideas to the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies and services.



Open government for local development

- The local level should be strengthened as it is where citizens interact the most with authorities.
- Municipalities and local authorities in Arab countries should consider designing and implementing open government initiatives at the subnational level, in line with the UN-Habitat New Urban Agenda.



Regional partnership on Open Government

- In parallel with the commitments of few Arab countries in the OGP, a specific regional partnership should be initiated to develop regular action plans, under a United Nations mandate, on specific open government-oriented issues.



- This regional partnership would support the achievement of SDG 16 in Arab countries.
- **Launch of the Portal on Open Government for the Arab region, 1/1/2022.**



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Thank you

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