



**MENA-OECD  
GOVERNANCE  
PROGRAMME**



## **Joint Meeting of the MENA-OECD Working Group 2 on Open and Innovative Government and the ESCWA e- Government Council**

Dubai, United Arab Emirates, 11 February 2017

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## About the OECD

The OECD is a forum in which governments compare and exchange policy experiences, identify good practices in light of emerging challenges, and promote decisions and recommendations to produce better policies for better lives. The OECD's mission is to promote policies that improve economic and social well-being of people around the world. [www.oecd.org](http://www.oecd.org)

## About 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. The Programme operates regional networks on key areas of public governance, including the Working Group II on Open and Innovative Government. [www.oecd.org/mena/governance](http://www.oecd.org/mena/governance)

## About the MENA-OECD Working Group II on Open and Innovative Government

The MENA – OECD Working Group II on Open and Innovative Government is a platform promoting regional exchange and dialogue with OECD peers since 2005. It supports MENA countries in exploiting the potential of open government, digital government and innovation policies for more accountable and participatory governance and responsive public sectors. It unites governments and civil society to exchange ideas on innovative solutions to implement open government reforms. It is chaired by the UAE and co-chaired by Korea and Italy. [www.oecd.org/mena/governance/working-group-on-open-and-innovative-government-wgii.htm](http://www.oecd.org/mena/governance/working-group-on-open-and-innovative-government-wgii.htm)

## About the UN-ESCWA

UN-ESCWA is one of the five regional commissions of United Nations, created to fulfil the economic and social goals set out in the Charter by promoting cooperation and integration between countries in each region of the world. The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) aims to support economic and social development in member countries, to promote interaction and cooperation between member countries, to encourage the exchange of experience, best practices and lessons learned, to achieve regional integration and ensure interaction between the Arab region and other regions, and to raise global awareness of the circumstances and needs of member countries. [www.unescwa.org](http://www.unescwa.org)

## About the e-Government Council

ESCWA proposed during the Government Summit (GS)-2014 in Dubai an initiative to create a council that brings together the directors or key players of e-government programs in the Arab region. The Council of e-Government Directors in the Arab Region aims chiefly at encouraging the exchange of knowledge and information on local, regional and global best practices and new trends in e-government. The Council will strive to achieve the following objectives:

- Fostering dialogue between e-government practitioners in the Arab region by establishing a forum that aims at finding solutions for issues and problems that are related to e-government implementations;
- Avoiding duplication of effort and maximizing efficiency by facilitating the exchange of information on best practices and lessons learned from previous regional and global e-government implementations;
- Promoting regional integration by putting forward proposals and practical solutions that foster the adoption of e-government cooperation programs between Arab states;
- Optimizing the benefits of e-government implementations by setting regional and national priorities.

## Agenda

08:30-9:00

Welcome Coffee

9:00-10:00

Opening Remarks

- **H. E. Hamad Obaid Al Mansoori**, Director General, General Authority for Regulating the Telecommunications Sector (TRA), UAE – Chair of the MENA-OECD Working Group II
- **Dr. Haidar Fraihat**, Director of Technology for Development Division (TDD), UN-ESCWA
- **Mr Heon-jun Kim**, Director, International Cooperation Division for Good Governance, Ministry of the Interior - Co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Working Group II
- **Mr Umberto Bernardo**, Deputy Head of Mission/Head of the Economic and Commercial Section, Embassy of Italy in Abu Dhabi - Co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Working Group II (tbc)
- **Mr. Alessandro Bellantoni**, Coordinator of the OECD Open Government Project, OECD

10:00-11:00

Innovation in the public sector

As the OECD Global Innovation Review highlights public sectors need to be agile and innovative to achieve policy objectives in a growingly complex world and in a situation of scarce resources. Based on the findings of the Review MENA countries are invited to share their approaches to install a culture of innovation in the public sector. In addition, the OECD will present the findings of the Observatory of Public Sector Innovation (OPSI).

- **Mr. Marco Daglio**, Project Manager, Public Sector Innovation, OECD
- **Mr. Jamie Berryhill**, Policy Analyst, Public Sector Innovation, OECD

Roundtable with Participants

11:00-12:00

Open Government at the national and global level

This session serves to discuss the ongoing open government initiatives in the MENA region as well as trends in the global open government agenda. Based on the findings of the OECD Report “Open Government: The global context and the way forward” participants are invited to reflect on how to strengthen impact of open government for broader policy objectives and improve implementation mechanisms, both at the national and local level. ESCWA will also present its “Open Government Initiative in the Arab Region”, and discuss its progress with participants.

- **Dr. Nibal Idlebi**, Chief of Innovation Section, TDD, UN-ESCWA
- **Mr. Alessandro Bellantoni**, Coordinator, OECD Open Government Project

12:00-13:00	<b>Lunch Break</b>
13:00-14:00	<b>Open Government at the national and global level (<i>continued</i>)</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms Katju Holkeri</b>, Financial Counsellor, Ministry of Finance, Finland</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Sungyeol Shin</b>, Director, Public Participation Policy Division, Ministry of the Interior, Korea</li> </ul> <p><b>Roundtable with Participants</b></p>
14:00-16:30	<b>From e-Government to Digital Government Strategies in the MENA region</b>
	<p>This session will serve to present and discuss the results of the report of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme on Benchmarking Digital Government Strategies in MENA Countries, assessed on the basis of the OECD Recommendation on Digital Government. It will also present the preliminary version of the Digital Government Review of Morocco, which analyses the policy framework as well as recent efforts made by Morocco to support a more strategic use of digital technologies. The report includes an assessment of the risks and challenges that should be managed, and what should be the policy implications of these challenges. The OECD will also provide a quick update on the Open Data work, focusing on the enabling conditions for the sustainable implementation of relevant policies and initiatives. In addition, ESCWA Initiatives, entitled Government Electronic and Mobile Services (GEMS) Index and Information Society and Digital Economy Hub for the Arab region (ISDEHAR) will be presented and discussed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ms. Barbara Ubaldi</b>, Project Manager, Digital Government, OECD</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Nawar Al-Awa</b>, Regional Advisor, TDD, UN-ESCWA</li> <li>• <b>Mr. Magnus Enzell</b>, Senior Advisor, Division of E-Government, Ministry of Finance, Sweden</li> </ul> <p><b>Roundtable with Participants</b></p>
15:00-15:30	<b>Coffee Break</b>
15:30– 16:30	<b>From e-Government to Digital Government Strategies in the MENA region (<i>continued</i>)</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Ayman El-Sherbiny</b>, Chief of ICT Policies Section, TDD, UN-ESCWA</li> <li>• <b>Ms HyunSook Eom</b>, Deputy Director, Global e-Government Division, Ministry of the Interior, Korea</li> </ul> <p><b>Roundtable with Participants</b></p>

<b>16:30-17:00</b>	<b>Concluding Remarks</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mr. Rolf Alter</b>, Director, Public Governance and Territorial Development, OECD</li> <li>• <b>H. E. Hamad Obaid Al Mansoori</b>, Director General, General Authority for Regulating the Telecommunications Sector (TRA), UAE – Chair of the MENA-OECD Working Group II</li> <li>• <b>Mr Heon-jun Kim</b>, Director, International Cooperation Division for Good Governance, Ministry of the Interior - Co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Working Group II</li> <li>• <b>Mr Umberto Bernardo</b>, Deputy Head of Mission/Head of the Economic and Commercial Section, Embassy of Italy in Abu Dhabi - Co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Working Group II (tbc)</li> <li>• <b>Dr. Haidar Fraihat</b>, Director of Technology for Development Division (TDD), UN-ESCWA</li> </ul>
<b>17:00-18:00</b>	<b>UN ESCWA E-Government Council (<i>closed session</i>)</b>
	Roundtable discussion with the members of the E-Government Council on the future cooperation.