

**Rabat 23-24 March 2010**



**Draft Agenda**

# **Regional Workshop on Public Policy Evaluation**

**Organized by:**

**The MENA-OECD Governance Programme, the Regional Centre of Public  
Policy Evaluation and the Ministry of Public Sectors' Modernisation,  
Morocco**

## *Foreword*

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Public policy evaluation provides feedback on the efficiency, effectiveness and performance of public policies. It also contributes to the accountability of governments which are increasingly held responsible for public policies by citizens and parliament. The culture of public policy evaluation is progressing throughout the world. Several reasons converge in the current dynamics of strengthening evaluation efforts. Among them are the fiscal constraints which impose the need to increase the efficiency of expenditure and the demands of citizens for more accountability from governments. These are major drivers for innovations in this domain. Several countries have recently reviewed their institutional settings for public policy evaluation by creating new agencies or restructuring the functions of line ministries. At the core of these reforms are intergovernmental coordination, communications with stakeholders and improvement of information systems.

The Regional Workshop on Public Policy Evaluation will bring together public officials, decision makers, practitioners and researchers from MENA and OECD countries with responsibility for planning, commissioning, and steering the evaluation of public policies. Representatives from different perspectives will expose specific models adopted by their countries in the field of public policy evaluation. They will notably discuss the use of evaluations as a tool to improve public governance and provide citizens with better services.

This workshop is organised within the framework of the Regional Centre for Public Policy Evaluation (RCPPE) hosted by the Government of Morocco. Regional centres for training and expertise are a key priority of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme. These centres are an instrument to promote good practices and ensure the reinforcement of capacities in the MENA region.

## Tuesday, 23 March 2010

<b>08h30 – 09h00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>9h00 – 10h00</b>	<b>Opening session</b>
<p><b>Opening statements:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• H.E. Mohamed Saad Alami, Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in Charge of the Ministry of Public Sector Modernisation, Morocco</li> <li>• Ms. María Luisa Carcedo Rocés, President, Public Policy Evaluation and Quality Service Agency, Spain</li> <li>• Mr. Rolf Alter, Director, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD</li> <li>• Mr. Azzeddine Diouri, Secretary General, the Ministry of Public Sector Modernisation, Morocco</li> </ul>	
<b>10h00 – 10h30</b>	<b>Coffee break</b>
<b>10h30 – 13h00</b>	<b>Session 1: Public policy evaluation on the ground: international benchmarking perspective</b>
<p><b>Objective and structure of the session:</b></p> <p>There are various institutional models for public policy evaluation in MENA and OECD countries. Making regionally- and internationally-comparable experiences available is essential to benchmark good practices and effective solutions. This session will provide the panellists with an opportunity to describe and analyze good practices of evaluation in different countries and regions. High-level experts and practitioners will share experiences and interact with the audience on current trends and institutional models in public policy evaluation.</p>	
<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Ahmed Midaoui, First President, Court of Auditors, Morocco</li> <li>• Ms. Inés Perez-Durantez, Director of the Evaluation Division, Public Policy Evaluation and Quality Service Agency (AEVAL), Spain</li> <li>• Mr. Alban de Loisy, Delegate, Public policy evaluation's mission, State Modernisation General Directorate, Ministry of Budget, public accounts, civil service and state's reform, France</li> <li>• Mr. Al-Hajaj Muaffak, Director, Monitoring and Evaluation Organisation, Ministry of Public Sector Development, Jordan</li> </ul>	

13h00 – 14h30	Lunch
14h30 – 17h00	<b>Session 2: Strategic planning and evaluation, building a successful policy cycle</b>
<p><b><i>Objective and structure of the session:</i></b></p> <p>Strategic planning involves the governance arrangements both horizontally within central government and across levels of government to communicate government-wide objectives, ensure accountability, and to allocate resources and decision-making authority in ways that reflect national values and concerns of effectiveness and efficiency of policies. A good understanding of the multiple interactions and interdependencies inside governments is crucial to improve strategic planning and the outcomes of decision-making. Evaluation is an essential part of strategic planning because evaluation findings are used to guide plans for midcourse improvements. Effective strategic planning, therefore, is a cyclical process (goal specification, design, implementation, evaluation and redesign).</p> <p>In this session, participants will address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How can governments use strategic planning and evaluation to ensure an adequate setting of goals and appropriate allocation of resources?</li> <li>• How can governments develop the internal skills and capacity to undertake long-term planning from an integrated, whole of government perspective?</li> </ul>	
<p><b><i>Speakers:</i></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mr. Marten Blix, Director, Budget Department, Ministry of Finances, Sweden</li> <li>• Mr. Ahmed Lahlimi Alami, High Commissioner for Planning, Morocco</li> <li>• Mr. Roger Scott-Douglas, Executive Director, Strategic Review, Treasury Board of Canada, Secretariat, Canada</li> <li>• Mr. Bader Abu Zahra, Director General, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate, Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development, Palestinian National Authority</li> </ul>	

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## Wednesday, 24 March 2010

9h00 – 10h30	<b>Session 3: Measuring government activities for better decision-making</b>
<p><b>Objective and structure of the session:</b></p> <p>Drawing on different comparisons of internationally comparable public management data helps governments and analysts doing strong benchmarking between countries, using common units of analysis and facilitating a structured practitioner dialogue. As governments provide a large and evolving array of goods and services, quantifying and measuring government actions can assist managers and leaders make better decisions, and can help to hold governments accountable to their citizens.</p> <p>In this session, participants will highlight the importance of indicators and collecting data in regional and international benchmarking and joint learning. They will address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• How can governments develop valid indicators that truly measure the outputs and outcomes of public administration?</li><li>• What criteria for transparent and quality data?</li><li>• What is the role of indicators and data in encouraging a meaningful dialogue within and among countries and in academic and policy spheres?</li></ul>	
<p><b>Speakers:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mr. Rachid Benmokhtar, President, National Initiative for Human Development, Morocco</li><li>• Ms. Zsuzsanna Lonti, Head of Unit, Statistics and indicators, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD</li><li>• Mr. Gary J. Reid, Lead Public Sector Management Specialist and Coordinator, Administrative and Civil Service Reform (ACSR) Thematic Group, the World Bank</li></ul>	
10h30 – 11h00	<b>Coffee break</b>

11h00 – 13h00	Session 4: Engaging citizens in policy-making and evaluation
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***Objective and structure of the session:***

Strengthening relations with citizens is a sound investment in better policy-making and a core element of good governance. It allows government to tap new sources of policy-relevant ideas, information and resources in policy making. Government-citizen relations cover a broad spectrum of interactions at each stage of the policy-making cycle: from policy design, through to implementation to evaluation. Three elements are crucial in engaging citizens in policy making: sharing information with citizens, consultation and giving citizens the opportunity to provide feedback on policy proposals, and reinforce citizen’s active participation.

In this session, participants will address the following questions:

- How to integrate public input into the policy-making process, in order to respond to citizens’ expectations of considering their views?
- How can evaluation help governments respond to calls for greater transparency and accountability?

***Speakers:***

- Ms. Amani Essawi, Minister’s Assistant for International Relations, Ministry of State for Administrative Development
- Ms. Jennifer Bremer, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Director Program in Public Policy and Administration, American University in Cairo
- Mr. Giovanni Moro, President, Fondaca (Active Citizen Foundation), Italy
- Representative of civil society, Morocco

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- MENA-OECD progress report on the public governance reform in North Africa and Middle East countries, OECD, 2010
- Government at a glance, OECD, 2009
- Focus on Citizens : public engagement for better policy and services, OECD, 2009
- Measuring Government Activity, OECD, 2009
- Evaluating public participation in policy making, OECD, 2005