Overview of the 2021 MENA-OECD Ministerial Week

MENA-OECD Competitiveness Forum	MENA-OECD Governance Forum	MENA-OECD Initiative on Governance and Competitiveness for Development
Government-Business Summit *30, 31 March* *(13h-16h CET)*	**Governance Forum** "Visions for Recovery" *30, 31 March*	**Ministerial meeting** *1 April* *(13h-16h CET)*
Launch of the publication "Middle East and North Africa Investment Policy Perspectives" (MENA IPP)	**Citizens' Voice:** Effective public communication for enhancing open government and supporting the COVID-19 recovery *30 March (11h-13h CET)*	**Opening session**
Economic integration at the core of recovery and growth - Enabling a sound business climate and promoting investment - Enhancing trade, connectivity and value chains	**High-level conference for the European Neighbourhood South region on user-centric service delivery:** "Putting users, citizens and businesses, at the centre" (with SIGMA) *30 March (13h-15h CET)*	**High-level Ministerial Panel:** Designing a Roadmap to Recovery in MENA
A post-COVID economy delivering decent jobs - An eco-system for youth economic empowerment - Moving away from informality to entrepreneurship, employment and social resilience	**Visions for Recovery:** Digital Governance and Rule of Law for more open, accessible and efficient public services (with MENA-OECD Training Centre of Caserta) *31 March (10h-12h CET)*	**Closing session:** Way forward and adoption of the Ministerial Declaration
	Visions for Recovery: Delivering for the most vulnerable *31 March (14h-15h15 CET)*	

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- Avoid discussing any highly-sensitive matters.

Do NOT share your personal invitation link

AGENDA
Visions for Recovery in MENA

Digital Governance and Rule of Law for more open, accessible and efficient public services

31 March, 10:00-12:00 (CET)
Via Zoom - Kindly register **HERE**

Simultaneous interpretation in English, French and Arabic will be provided.

Moderator: **Mr. Maurizio MENSI**, Executive Director, MENA-OECD Governance Programme Training Centre of Caserta

10:00 – 10:15	Opening Remarks

- **H.E. Ms. Hasna BEN SLIMANE**, Minister to the Head of Government in charge of Civil Service, Tunisia and co-chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme
- **H.E. Mr. Renato BRUNETTA**, Minister of Public Administration, Italy
- **Mr. Jeffrey SCHLAGENHAUF**, Deputy Secretary-General, OECD

- **Highlights Video** from the Ministerial "Vision for Recovery" video series

10:15 – 11:15	Governing the design and delivery of services in the digital age

- **Ms. Barbara UBALDI,** Head of Digital Government and Data Unit, OECD

Roundtable discussion

- **Keynote video: H.E. Mr. Hae-Cheol JEON**, Minister of the Interior and Safety, co-chair of MENA-OECD Working Group on Open and Innovative Government, Republic of Korea
- **H.E Mr. Amr TALAAT**, Minister of Communications and Information Technology, Egypt
- **H.E. Amb. Christian BERGER**, Head of the European Union Delegation to Egypt

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AGENDA
Visions for Recovery in MENA

- **Ms. Fatima EL HASSANI**, President of the Tanger-Tétouan-Al Hoceïma region, Morocco (TBC)
- **Mr. George ATTYEH**, President of the Central Inspection, Lebanon
- **Ms. Jessica MCEVOY**, Deputy Director for UK & International, Government Digital Service, United Kingdom

11:15 – 11:55	Towards stronger rule of law through digital transformation of justice

- **Ms. Tatyana TEPLOVA**, Head of Division and Senior Justice Counsellor, OECD

Roundtable discussion

- **H.E. Mr. Mohamed SHALALDEH**, Minister of Justice, Palestinian Authority
- **H.E. Ms. Anabela PEDROSO**, State Secretary for Justice, Portugal and Co-Chair of the MENA-OECD Working Group on Regulatory Reform and the Rule of Law
- **H.E. Mr. Mohamed BEN ABDELKADER**, Minister of Justice, Morocco
- **H.E. Mr. Abdulla AL MAJID**, Undersecretary for Digital and Innovation, Ministry of Justice, United Arab Emirates
- **Ms. Nataliya APOSTOLOVA**, Head of Mission for EUPOL COPPS

11:55 – 12:00	Closing session

- **H.E. Amb. Antonio BERNARDINI**, Permanent Representative of Italy to the OECD and co-chair of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme

Context

The COVID-19 pandemic has challenged the competence of governments in using digital technologies and data to respond to the crisis with agility, ensuring the continuity and responsiveness of public services. Similarly, during the COVID-19 crisis, emergency rulemaking has widened, and the regular functioning of justice and protection services has been challenged, raising several questions on the compliance with the Rule of Law principles.

Governments that had invested in sound digital governance, policy levers and skills have demonstrated that they were better able to respond rapidly and effectively to the COVID-19 outbreak. Furthermore, governments that had already innovated and invested in the digital transformation of justice were better able to ensure the accessibility of justice services for all during the crisis. People-centred digital transformation of the justice system can help strengthen citizen's access to justice and the rule of law by increasing the system's availability, responsiveness and efficiency, which are crucial determinants of inclusive growth, economic performance and citizen well-being.

In this context, governments should take stock on the lessons learned and build a strong foundation of digital governance for better service design and delivery including access to justice services. Do governments have the political and administrative leadership and capability to instil a people-driven culture and co-ordinate on the design and delivery of seamless omni-channel services? Are the public sectors equipped with the necessary resources and tools to bridge the digital inclusion gap and meet users' needs? Are governments equipped with the tools and frameworks to adopt a people-centred approach within the justice sector, guaranteeing equal access to justice for all especially for the most vulnerable, and uphold the rule of law at times of crises?

This meeting will discuss how governments can better govern and leverage digital technologies and data to deliver better services, promote citizen-centred justice and rebuild public trust in the path to recovery from COVID-19.

Relevant OECD Publications

OECD publications on **DIGITAL GOVERNMENT**

- OECD (2020), <u>The OECD Digital Government Policy Framework</u>
- OECD (2020), <u>Digital Government Index - 2019 results</u>
- OECD (2019), <u>OECD Open, Useful and Re-usable data (OURdata) Index</u>
- OECD (2018), <u>Digital Government Review of Morocco</u>
- OECD (2017), <u>Benchmarking Digital Government Strategies in MENA Countries</u>
- OECD (2014), <u>OECD Recommendation on Digital Government Strategies</u>

OECD publications on **ACCESS TO JUSTICE**

- OECD (2020), **Access to justice and the COVID-19 pandemic** Brief (<u>Here</u>)
- OECD (2019), **Equal Access to Justice for Inclusive Growth: Putting People at the Centre**, OECD Publishing, Paris, <u>hiips://doi.org/10.1787/597f5b7f -en</u>.
- OECD/Open Society Foundations (2019), **Legal Needs Surveys and Access to Justice**, OECD Publishing, Paris, <u>hiips://doi.org/10.1 787/g2g9a36c-en</u>.

THE OECD

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organization in which governments work together to find solutions to common challenges, develop global standards, share experiences and identify best practices to promote better policies for better lives.

The MENA-OECD Governance Programme and its Training Centre

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 policy making and transparency.

The Training Centre of Caserta, hosted by the Italian National School of Administration (SNA), supports the Programme in developing and conducting capacity-building activities aimed at MENA public officials in order to pursue efficiency and effectiveness of the public sector and Good Governance.

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