Good Governance
For Development in the Arab Countries

Under the Patronage of
**H.E. Mr. Fouad Saniora, Prime Minister of Lebanon**

OMSAR

OECD OCDE

UNDP

First Regional Meeting of the Working Group of the
Arab Initiative on Governance for Development (G*f*D) on

# "Citizens, Civil Society, and Public Sector Reform in the Arab Region"

## Meeting Agenda

29 and 30 September 2005
Gefinor Rotana Hotel, Beirut – Lebanon

## **Day One: Thursday 29 September 2005**

8.30 – 9.30 *Registration*

9.30 – 11.00 **Opening Session**

Opening Statements by:

- Ms. Mona Hammam
  Resident Representative of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and UN Resident Coordinator – Lebanon
- H.E. Mr. Patrick Renauld, Head of the European Delegation
- H.E. Mr. Jean Oghassabian
  Minister of State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR), Lebanon
- H.E. Mr. Fouad Saniora, Prime Minister of Lebanon

11.00 – 11.30 *Coffee Break*

11.30 – 12.30 First Session
**Review of the G*f*D Initiative, Meeting Objectives and Expected Outcomes**

*This session provides an overview of the major achievements of the GfD Initiative and introduces participants to workshop objectives and expected results.*

Chair**:** H.E. Minister Jean Oghassabian, OMSAR

Speakers**:**

- Mr. Raga'a Makharita
  Senior Advisor, UNDP POGAR and Team Leader, G*f*D Initiative
- Mr. Rolf Alter, Deputy Director
  Division for Public Administration and Territorial Development
  Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
- Mr. Salim Nasr, Senior Advisor
  United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
  Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (POGAR)

12.30 – 14.30 *Lunch*

14.30 – 16.30 Second Session

**- Citizens as Partners: European Experiences on Citizens' Information, Consultation and Public Participation in Policy Making**

**- Open Government: European Experiences in Fostering Dialogue with the Civil Society**

*This session gives an outline of opportunities and constraints in involving citizens in the process of policy making on the basis of selected European experiences. It also provides an overview of ways and means of developing and consolidating dialogue with civil society organizations in Europe. It would involve examples from the Central and East European experience.*

Chair**:** ----------

Speakers**:** Mr. Michael Dugget
Director General
International Institute of Administrative Sciences (IIAS)

Mr. Marc Gramberger
Managing Director, Prospex

Mr. Robert Bonwitt
Director, SIGMA Project,
Joint initiative of the OECD and the European Delegation (EU)

15.30 – 16.30 *Continuous Coffee Break*

20.30 ***Dinner hosted by the Ministry of State for Administrative Reform, Lebanon***
*(At Al-Halabi Restaurant, Downtown Beirut*
*Departure by bus from the Lobby of the Gefinor Rotan Hotel at 20:00)*

## Day Two: Friday 30 September 2005

9.00 – 11.00 Fourth Session

**The Lebanese Experience in Access of Citizens to the Public Sector and Civil Society Consultation**

*The fourth session introduces participants to the Lebanese experience in developing mechanisms that allow citizens to access the public sector. It will also outline cases of consultation between government and civil society.*

Chair**:** Judge Georges Awwad, President of the Central Inspection Bureau Office of the Prime Minister, Lebanon

Speakers**:**

- The Initiatives of OMSAR:
  - Mr. Atef Merhi, Director General, OMSAR
- AFKAR Project (OMSAR and EU):
  - Ms. Youmna Ghoraieb, Project Coordinator
- The Lebanese Parliamentary Committees:
  - Mr. Riad Ghannam, Director Committees Department, Lebanese Parliament

11.00 – 11.30 *Coffee Break*

11.30 – 13.00 Fifth Session

**Arab Experiences in Citizens' Access to the Public Sector and Participation in Policy Making**

*This session provides an overview of promoting citizens' access to the public sector, on the basis of selected examples from the Arab world. It will also include examples of mechanisms that promote citizen participation in policy making*

Chair**:** ----------

- Introductory Remarks:
  - Mr. Musa Shteiwi General Director, Jordan Center for Social Research
  - Mr. Nader El-Moumni, Researcher and Professor, Morocco
  - Ms. Fethia Bent Ali Saiidi, Assistant Professor, Higher Institute for Human Sciences, Tunisia

13.00 – 14.30 *Lunch*

14.30 – 16.00 Sixth Session

**Arab Experiences in Civil Society's Consultation and Partnership with the Public Sector**

*The sixth session provides an opportunity to discuss cases of developing and consolidating consultation between governments and civil society in the Arab world as well as the establishment of partnerships between the two.*

Chair**:** ----------

- Introductory Remarks:
  - Ms. Amani Kandil, Executive Director, Arab Networks for NGO's
  - Mr. Nader Said, Director of the Development Studies Programme, Birzeit University, Palestine
  - Mr. Abel Nasser Djabi, Professor of Sociology, University of Algeria

16.00 – 16.30 *Coffee Break*

16.30 – 18.00 Closing Session

**Citizens, Civil Society, and Public Sector's Reform – Stock-taking and Next Phase of the Working Group**

*This last session will discuss the analytical framework for the national stock-taking studies on citizens, civil society and the public sector in the Arab states and will outline the future steps to be undertaken by the working group.*

Chair**:** Mr. Salim Nasr, Senior Advisor – UNDP POGAR

General Discussion and Follow-up Steps

20.30 ***Dinner hosted by UNDP – POGAR***
*(At Al-Sultan Ibrahim Restaurant, Downtown Beirut*
*Departure by bus from the Lobby of the Gefinor Rotan Hotel at 20:00)*