Good Governance for Development (G*f*D) in Arab Countries Initiative

Steering Group Meeting at Ministerial Level

Hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt

EGYPT

INTEGRATED DRAFT COUNTRY ACTION PLANS

IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC SERVICE DELIVERY, PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP, THE ROLE OF THE JUDICIARY AND ENFORCEMENT O JUDGMENTS, AND THE ROLE OF CITIZENS AND CIVIL SOCIETY IN PUBLIC SECTOR REFORM

(THEMES IV-V-VI)

Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt,
19 - 20 May, 2006

Egypt: Potential Areas of Assistance for G*f*D Phase II

Based on the activities completed, the outputs produced and the discussions held in national and regional meetings, the priority areas that may call for assistance from the partners are synthesized for Themes IV, V and VI below. These areas are based on the analysis of the policies and priorities of the participating Arab countries and their needs for financial and technical assistance. The core of that assistance will be to a) further detail the action plans for which there are now simple "outlines", b) prepare feasible projects for each area and c) intensively engage in a capacity building process for institutions involved in the reform process and its' human resources. Capacity building includes institutional reviews leading to reorganization with a view to increasing efficiency; analysis of rules and procedures with a view to eliminating outdated and unnecessary regulations and formulating new ones; strengthening institutional interdependence and coordination; providing proper tools and instruments for task performance; enhancing the use of modern information systems and increasing the motivation, knowledge and skills of staff.

1. Potential Areas of Assistance under Theme IV: Under Theme IV, a sample of the possible priority needs in selected countries have been proposed and discussed for Egypt:

    1.1 A project to review the performance of public institutions engaged in the delivery of public services in at least four priority areas: elementary and secondary education, basic health, public transportation and the delivery of food supplies to the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

    1.2 A project to review and strengthen the rules and procedures for enhancing the public-private partnership especially in the area of small and medium enterprises to generate employment and combat poverty. The project would include pilot activities of both sectors in five governorates chosen on the basis of their lower economic condition with a view to creating a potential for economic development. Successful experience may then be replicated in other areas.

2. Potential Areas of Assistance under Theme V: Under Theme V, and based on the continuous dialogue held among the different actors, two reform projects were formed with draft pilot action plans in the following areas:

   2.1 Providing specialized legal training on economic issues

   2.2 Computerizing case tracking and judicial assignment functions

3. Potential Areas of Assistance under Theme VI: Under Theme VI, a number of potential areas of assistance have been suggested, most of which are common to all the participating Arab countries. The following is a general draft action plan for Egypt:

   3.1 Improved coordination between the various sides in charge of citizens complaints is needed. Egypt expressed the need to further the coordination among these sides, which range from judicial, administrative, parliamentarian to presidential ones.

   3.2 A project consolidating independent institutional procedures of complaints.

   3.3 A project improving proximity in public service delivery to citizens.

   3.4 Improved consultation and participation of citizens and civil society by Arab governments by establishing and strengthening relevant national institutions.

   3.5 Activation of existing mixed national councils.

   3.6 A project on new specialized national councils.

   3.7 Public sector performance would be improved significantly by creating the necessary incentives. Representatives from Egypt suggested supporting the creation of a Higher Council for Excellence that will be in charge of rewarding outstanding work and projects with annual prizes.