WG 2 on E-government and Administrative Simplification (1)

- Objective: Provide a key forum to drive an in-depth and result-oriented regional policy dialogue on e-government and administrative simplification issues among Arab and OECD countries
- Leadership: Chaired by Dubai, co-chaired by Italy and Korea
- Stakeholders: Senior government officials responsible for e-government and administrative simplification policies in Arab and OECD countries
- 2 Regional Meetings in 2005-2006

WG 2 on E-government and Administrative Simplification (2)

Results: 1st WG Meeting in Dubai (12-13 September 2005)

- **Identified key priorities and challenges for Arab countries on e-government and administrative simplification.**
- **Defined an agreed work plan for the next steps around 4 strategic areas:**

- Improving the legislative framework for e-government

- Implementing E-Services to Citizens, Businesses and Government Employees, and Administrative Simplification

- Enabling Technical Frameworks for Implementing E-Government

- Strengthening capacity building for e-government

- **Scheduled high-level seminars on key components of e-government and administrative simplification**
  - 1st High Level Seminar on E-procurement held in Naples on 30-31 January 2006
  - 2nd High Level Seminar on E-voting held in Bahrain on 24-25 January 2006
  - 3rd High Level Seminar on How to Build an Action Plan held in Dubai on 7 March 2006

WG 2 on E-government and Administrative Simplification (3)

Challenges to E-government at regional level:

- Digital divide
- Institutional framework for e-government (“who does what when and how”)
- Budgetary barriers / Lack of stable resources
- Weak legislative and regulatory framework for e-government
- Lack of IT skills / Lack of change management skills (government employees)
- Unclear understanding of the benefits of e-government / Resistance to use ICTs
- Lack of uniform vision / leadership across government

WG 2 on E-government and Administrative Simplification (4)

Results: 2nd WG Meeting in Dubai (6-7 March 2006)

- Discussed and identified key steps and methodologies to draft an Action Plan (back-to-back 2nd High Level Seminar on How to Make an Action Plan)
- Presented National Action Plans of 3 selected Arab countries (Egypt, Lebanon and Bahrain) including concrete action targets for e-government development
- Disseminated results and lessons learned of past successful High Level Seminars (e.g. e-procurement)
- Identified and discussed regional actions to be taken up by the group in the next months
- Identified regional challenges on administrative simplification and identified main elements of the agenda of a future expert seminar.

WG 2 on E-government and Administrative Simplification (5)

What we have achieved so far:

- Started developing a common understanding and conceptual approach to e-government issues
- Built trust and confidence in exchanging knowledge between OECD and Arab leaders on e-government
- Identified common and country-specific approaches challenges to using e-government as a tool for public sector reform
- Discussed policy issues, common challenges and strategic directions of e-government in the Arab region
- Transferred knowledge and exchanged technical know-how among practitioners (e.g. high level seminar on e-procurement)

WG 2 on E-government and Administrative Simplification (6)

Future directions / Our ambitions:

- Reinforcing and institutionalising the network of e-government experts in the Arab regions
- Increasing awareness of e-government benefit and opportunities among government leaders
- Strengthening the exchange of ideas and practices among e-government practitioners in different areas
- Showcasing examples of good practices of e-government in the Arab region
- Fostering bilateral and multilateral collaboration efforts with OECD and international donors