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

Steering Group Meeting at Ministerial Level

Hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt

FINAL STATEMENT

(DRAFT)

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

The Steering Group of the Initiative on Good Governance for Development in Arab countries (GfD) at ministerial level met in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, on 19-20 May 2006. The meeting was chaired by Egypt, represented by the Minister of State for Administrative Development and co-chaired by Japan, represented by the Ambassador in charge of the OECD in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It was attended by around eighty participants including ministers and high-level official delegations from nine Arab countries and thirteen OECD member countries in addition to representatives the European Commission, the International Monetary Fund, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and the World Bank.

The participants agreed to the following:

1. Arab countries reconfirmed their political commitment to the GfD Initiative and welcomed the results achieved in phase I. Arab and OECD countries reaffirmed their commitment to pursue the activities of the six thematic Working Groups.

2. They called upon OECD and Arab countries, Arab funds and multilateral institutions to provide support and continued funding to the GfD Initiative, which has engaged the different actors in a successful policy dialogue. This dialogue has resulted in the identification of potential areas of reform and modernisation, including activities and projects that need both technical and financial support.

3. They requested the creation of a mechanism to facilitate the submission of proposals developed in the framework of the six thematic Working Groups to donor countries and institutions to be considered for funding.

The participating countries welcomed the participation of Kuwait in the six thematic working groups, thanked Ambassador Noboru, Japan, for co-chairing the Steering Group and welcomed Ambassador Andersson, Sweden, as the next co-chair. They concluded by thanking the host country, Egypt, for all its efforts to successfully hold this meeting and the OECD and the UNDP for all the efforts made and technical support extended during the first phase of the GfD Initiative.