

Rabat 23-24 March 2010



Agenda

Regional Workshop on Public Policy Evaluation

Organized by:

**The MENA-OECD Governance Programme, the Regional Centre of Public
Policy Evaluation and the Ministry of Public Sectors' Modernisation,
Morocco**

Foreword

Public policy evaluation provides feedback on the efficiency, effectiveness and performance of public policies. It also contributes to the accountability of governments which are increasingly held responsible for public policies by citizens and parliament. The culture of public policy evaluation is progressing throughout the world. Several reasons converge in the current dynamics of strengthening evaluation efforts. Among them are the fiscal constraints which impose the need to increase the efficiency of expenditure and the demands of citizens for more accountability from governments. These are major drivers for innovations in this domain. Several countries have recently reviewed their institutional settings for public policy evaluation by creating new agencies or by restructuring the functions of line ministries. At the core of these reforms are intergovernmental coordination, communications with stakeholders and improvement of information systems.

The Regional Workshop on Public Policy Evaluation will bring together public officials, decision makers, practitioners and researchers from MENA and OECD countries who are responsible for planning, commissioning and steering the evaluation of public policies. Representatives from different perspectives will expose specific models adopted by their countries in the field of public policy evaluation. They will notably discuss the use of evaluations as a tool to improve public governance and provide citizens with better services.

This workshop is organised within the framework of the Regional Centre for Public Policy Evaluation (RCPPE) hosted by the Government of Morocco. Regional centres for training and expertise are a key priority of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme. These centres are an instrument to promote good practices and ensure the reinforcement of capacities in the MENA region.

Tuesday, 23 March 2010

08h30 – 09h00	Registration: <i>École Nationale d'Administration (ENA), 1, Avenue de la Victoire, Rabat</i>
9h00 – 10h00	<i>Opening session</i>
<p>Opening statements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • H.E. Mr. Mohamed Saad Alami, Minister Delegate to the Prime Minister in Charge of the Ministry of Public Sector Modernisation, Morocco • H.E. Mr. Khalid Naciri, Minister of Communication, Government Spokesman, Morocco • Ms. María Luisa Carcedo Rocés, President, Public Policy Evaluation and Quality Service Agency, Spain • Mr. Mårten Blix, Director, Budget Department, Ministry of Finances, Sweden • Mr. Rolf Alter, Director, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD 	
10h00 – 10h30	<i>Coffee break</i>
10h30 – 12h30	<i>Session 1: Public policy evaluation on the ground: international benchmarking perspective</i>
<p>Objective and structure of the session:</p> <p>There are various institutional models for public policy evaluation in MENA and OECD countries. Making regionally - and internationally - comparable experiences available is essential to benchmark good practices and effective solutions. This session will provide the panellists with an opportunity to describe and analyze good practices of evaluation in different countries and regions. High-level experts and practitioners will share experiences and interact with the audience on current trends and institutional models in public policy evaluation.</p>	
<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Roger Scott-Douglas, Executive Director, Strategic Review, Treasury Board of Canada, Secretariat, Canada <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • M. Saïd Mourabit, Reporter General, Court of Auditors, Morocco • Ms. Inés Perez-Durantez, Director of the Evaluation Division, Public Policy Evaluation and Quality Service Agency (AEVAL), Spain • Mr. Alban de Loisy, Delegate, Public policy evaluation's mission, State Modernisation General Directorate, Ministry of Budget, public accounts, civil service and state's reform, France • Mr. Hans Lundgren, Head of the Evaluation Section, Development Co-operation Directorate, OECD 	
12h30 – 14h30	<i>Lunch</i>

14h30 – 17h00	Session 2: Strategic planning and evaluation, building a successful policy cycle
15h30 – 16h00	Coffee break

Objective and structure of the session:

Strategic planning involves the governance arrangements both horizontally within central government and across levels of government to communicate government-wide objectives, ensure accountability, and to allocate resources and decision-making authority in ways that reflect national values and concerns of effectiveness and efficiency of policies. A good understanding of the multiple interactions and interdependencies inside governments is crucial to improve strategic planning and the outcomes of decision-making. Evaluation is an essential part of strategic planning because evaluation findings are used to guide plans for midcourse improvements. Effective strategic planning, therefore, is a cyclical process (goal specification, design, implementation, evaluation and redesign).

In this session, participants will address the following questions:

- How can governments use strategic planning and evaluation to ensure an adequate setting of goals and appropriate allocation of resources?
- How can governments develop the internal skills and capacity to undertake long-term planning from an integrated, whole of government perspective?

Moderator:

- Mr. Azzeddine Diouri, Secretary General, the Ministry of Public Sector Modernisation, Morocco

Speakers:

- Mr. Abdellatif Bennani, Director, Budget Department, General Inspector of Finances, Ministry of Finances, Morocco
- Mr. Mårten Blix, Director, Budget Department, Ministry of Finances, Sweden
- Mr. Roger Scott-Douglas, Executive Director, Strategic Review, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat, Canada
- Mr. Bader Abu Zahra, Director General, Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate, Ministry of Planning and Administrative Development, Palestinian National Authority

Wednesday, 24 March 2010

9h00 – 10h30	Session 3: Measuring government activities for better decision-making
<p>Objective and structure of the session:</p> <p>Drawing on different comparisons of internationally comparable public management data helps governments and analysts to do strong benchmarking between countries, to common units of analysis and to facilitate a structured practitioner dialogue. As governments provide a large and evolving array of goods and services, quantifying and measuring government actions can assist managers and leaders to make better decisions, and can help to hold governments accountable to their citizens.</p> <p>In this session, participants will highlight the importance of indicators and collecting data in regional and international benchmarking and joint learning. They will address the following questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can governments develop valid indicators that truly measure the outputs and outcomes of public administration? • What criteria should be used for transparent and high quality data? • What is the role of indicators and data in encouraging a meaningful dialogue within and among countries and in academic and policy spheres? 	
<p>Moderator:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Mårten Blix, Director, Budget Department, Ministry of Finances, Sweden <p>Speakers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Abderrahmane Haouach, Director of Cabinet, High Commission for Planning, Morocco • Ms. Fatima Rashid Y M Al Khather, Director of Analysis and Evaluation of Government Programme Department, Council of Ministers, General Secretariat, Qatar • Ms. Zsuzsanna Lonti, Head of Unit, Statistics and indicators, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD • Mr. Gary J. Reid, Lead Public Sector Management Specialist and Coordinator, Administrative and Civil Service Reform (ACSR) Thematic Group, World Bank 	
10h30 – 11h00	Coffee break
11h00 – 12h30	Session 4: Engaging citizens in policy-making and evaluation
<p>Objective and structure of the session:</p> <p>Strengthening relations with citizens is a sound investment in better policy-making and a core element of good governance. It allows governments to tap new sources of policy-relevant ideas, information and resources in policy making. Government-citizen relations cover a broad spectrum of interactions at each stage of the policy-making cycle: from policy design, through to implementation to evaluation. Three elements are crucial in engaging citizens in policy making: sharing information with citizens, consultation and giving citizens the opportunity to provide feedback on policy proposals, and reinforce citizens' active</p>	

participation.

In this session, participants will address the following questions:

- How to integrate public input into the policy-making process, in order to respond to citizens' expectations that their views will be considered?
- How can evaluation help governments respond to calls for greater transparency and accountability?

Moderator:

- Mr. Abdelahad Fassi-Fehri, Director of Study and Co-operation, Higher Institute of Administration, Morocco

Speakers:

- Mr. Mohamed Bijaad, Secretary General, National Observatory for Human Development, Morocco
- Ms. Amani Essawi, Minister's Assistant for International Relations, Ministry of State for Administrative Development, Egypt
- Ms. Jennifer Bremer, Associate Professor of Public Policy and Director Program in Public Policy and Administration, American University in Cairo
- Mr. Giovanni Moro, President, Fondaca (Active Citizen Foundation), Italy

12h30 – 14h30

Lunch

14h30 – 16h30

Preparatory meeting for the first step of activities of the Regional Centre on Public Policy Evaluation

Objective and structure of the session:

This preparatory meeting is the first step in the centre's activities. It will provide an excellent opportunity for an exchange on regional future activities and the center development.

Chair:

- Mr. Azzeddine Diouri, Secretary General, the Ministry of Public Sector Modernisation, Morocco

Speakers:

- Mr. Carlos Conde, Programme Coordinator MENA-OECD Governance Programme, Public Governance and Territorial Development Directorate, OECD
- Mr. Abdelahad Fassi-Fehri, Director of Study and Co-operation, Higher Institute of Administration, Morocco

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

- MENA-OECD progress report on the public governance reform in North Africa and Middle East countries, OECD, 2010
- Government at a glance, OECD, 2009
- Focus on Citizens : public engagement for better policy and services, 2009
- Measuring Government Activity, OECD, 2009
- Regulatory Impact Analysis, a tool for policy coherence, OECD, 2009
- Building an Institutional Framework for Regulatory Impact Analysis (RIA), Guidance for policy makers, OECD, 2008
- Performance Budgeting in OECD Countries, OECD, 2007
- Evaluating public participation in policy making, OECD, 2005