

Meeting of the Directors of Civil Service Schools and Institutes in MENA

Building capacities for Sustainable Development: Understanding the 2030 Agenda and Integrating the SDGs in Learning Approaches

Beirut, Lebanon, 26-27 November 2018

The GIFT-MENA network¹ is organizing, in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), the Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs of France (MEAE), the French Directorate General of Civil Service (DGAFP) and Expertise France, a regional workshop on **Building capacities for Sustainable Development: Understanding the 2030 Agenda and Integrating the SDGs in Learning Approaches**.

The workshop will take place in Beirut, Lebanon, at the GIFT-MENA Secretariat premises located at the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan, on November 26 and 27, 2018.

I- Context

1. The GIFT-MENA Network works to improve the Capacity to Govern at all levels of the State by investing in sustainable capacity and promoting bilateral and multilateral cooperation. Its objective is to enhance the strategic role, institutional and operational capacities of civil service training institutions to become active contributors to the agenda of governance reforms, to policy-making and State transformation in MENA.
2. The work of the Network stands at the core of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) that shape the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda². More particularly, it addresses Goals 16 and 17, which are dedicated respectively to “*the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, the provision of access to justice for all, and to building effective, accountable institutions at all levels*” and to “*revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development*”.
3. These SDGs represent a comprehensive framework for the achievement of sustainable peace in the region, the efficient functioning of public institutions and the promotion of multi-stakeholders approaches to modernization.
4. The implementation of these goals is based on a holistic and integrated approach, bringing together Governments, the private sector, civil society and the international community.
5. In the MENA region, experiences on the ground point out to governments not turning yet the 2030 Agenda into real policies. While indicators of governance are still deteriorating across the region, the realization of the SDGs calls for a whole-of-government approach towards sustainability, a transformation of public administration into efficient, transparent, accountable,

¹ The Governance Institutes Forum for Training in the Middle East and North Africa

² Adopted in September 2015 by 193 Member States of the United Nations

In partnership with:



innovative and citizen-oriented institutions that are able to provide quality services. It also calls for the development of public sector human resource and leadership capacities.

6. Against this backdrop, training schools, acting as platforms of dialogue and exchange, are expected to stand at the forefront the SDGs' implementation and to integrate the SDG's and related targets into their learning strategies, activities and training curricula.
7. This step forward was discussed on the occasion of the 2018 UN Public Service Day hosted by the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Modernization of Morocco - member of the GIFT-MENA steering committee – in June 2018. On this occasion, GIFT-MENA members voiced their need to better understand the importance and challenges related to the integration of the SDGs in the region, and in particular in contexts of political, economic and security fragility.

II- About the event

The GIFT-MENA network has partnered with ESCWA, the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs, the French Directorate General of Civil Service and Expertise France to provide the utmost knowledge and expertise on the SDGs to the Civil Service Schools and Institutes in the Arab Region. The event will bring together presidents and directors of civil service training schools in MENA as well as senior management and representatives of the donor community around the issue of **“Building capacities for Sustainable Development: Understanding the 2030 Agenda and Integrating the SDGs in Learning Approaches”**, with the aim to:

1. Present the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and discuss challenges related to their integration and localization to the region, with particular focus on capacity development strategies and institutional collaboration mechanisms. Special attention will be given to SDGs 16 and 17, and to the governance related and public policy targets in all SDGs and across the 2030 agenda.
2. Elaborate a roadmap for the integration of the SDGs in learning activities and in training curricula and for setting up of a regional task force within GIFT-MENA composed of a pool of experts and practitioners able to facilitate and follow-up on this work.
3. Assess prospective training needs of schools of government across the region to feed in the development of new learning programs.

Discussions will address the SDGs and their localization to fragile environments and post-conflict contexts, the need to develop a shared culture, values and knowledge around the SDGs in the Arabic language; as well as the need of schools of government in the region to build their institutional capacity and integrate the SDGs in their learning approaches.

The event will include the presentation and discussion of learning initiatives currently being developed by the network's partners.

It will also be an occasion to launch the project: **“Support to the GIFT-MENA network for cooperation, institutional capacity development, regional integration and peace”**, financed by the French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs.

III- Outcomes

The event is designed as a working meeting facilitated by subject-matter experts. It is expected to lead to:

- Enhanced knowledge on the 2030 Agenda, the SDG's, and the opportunities that this agenda presents for the MENA region as well as on the central role played by schools of government in implementing the Agenda in challenging environments.
- Country action plans detailing how training schools will mainstream SDGs in their approaches and learning strategies.
- A set of training needs identified to steer the design of learning programs and tools aimed at supporting the achievements of the SDGs in the MENA region.

IV- About the Partners

- **The UN Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia:** ESCWA supports inclusive development in its 18 Arab Member States, advances regional integration, and provides advocacy for the region's needs and concerns on the global stage. Through research and analysis, ESCWA links knowledge on economic and social issues to policy. It also assists its member states to implement global policy frameworks, notably the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and provides them targeted technical cooperation and advisory services upon their request. It also provides an annual forum for its member states to promote regional cooperation and collective action in pursuit of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.
- **The French Ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE)** is in charge of France's foreign policy. Its priorities are to take action in the world for peace, security and human rights, to promote France's attractiveness and French businesses abroad, to ensure balanced and sustainable development in the world and to advocate for cultural diversity while promoting the French language and culture. Its Directorate for Sustainable Development is in charge of the negotiations and implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Its Mission for Democratic Governance is dedicated to providing support to State institutions in achieving the SDG16 concerned with peace, justice and strong institutions.
- **The French Directorate General of Administration and Civil Service** is the State's Human Resources Directorate, playing a steering and executive role across the French Civil Service. Recognized as a hub of excellence in legal expertise, it leads the design and implementation of public administration's HR and capacity-building policies. It also drive the inter-ministerial dialogue on social issues, in France and at European level, particularly in what relates to wage negotiations and public employment.
- **Expertise France** is the French public international cooperation agency. It designs and implements projects which aim to contribute to the balanced development of partner countries, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda and the priorities of France's external action. It operates under the supervision of both the Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs and Ministry of the Economy and Finance.

V-Tentative Agenda

MONDAY, November 26, 2018	
9:00 - 9:30	Registration
9 :30 - 10:15	<p>Opening remarks by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ms. Sabine HATEM, Secretary of the GIFT-MENA Network - Ms. Karima El KORRI, Head of the Unit on the 2030 Agenda, UN-ESCWA - Ms. Jehane BENSEDIRA, Deputy Chief of Prospective and European and International Expertise, Directorate General of Administration and Civil Service, France <p>Keynote speech by Lamia Moubayed Bissat, President of the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan of Lebanon and Member of the UN Committee of Experts in Public Administration</p>
10 :15 - 11 :15	<p>Ice-breaking: Who is who? and expectations</p> <p>Facilitator: Ms. Jinane DOUEIHY, Training Director, Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan</p>
11:15 – 11 :30	Coffee-break
11 :30 – 13 :00	<p>Session 1 : The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Introduction to the overall framework of the 2030 Agenda and the new approach to development</i> • <i>Discussion</i> <p>Facilitator: Mr. Adib NEHMEH, Development Expert and Adviser</p>
13 :00 – 14 :00	Lunch
14 :00 – 16 :30	<p>Session 2 : The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p> <p><i>This session is a continuation of session 1. It will focus on the role of training organizations in the implementation and follow-up of the Agenda and the importance of their engagement.</i></p> <p><i>Using a participatory and hands-on approach based on the World Café technique, training schools will be asked to think of innovative methods to adapt to the inclusive nature of the Agenda 2030.</i></p> <p><i>Participants will reflect on four pillars of action: People, Planet, Prosperity, and Peace and Partnerships.</i></p> <p><i>Discussions will be facilitated by subject-matters experts from the UN-ESCWA and the GIFT-MENA Secretariat.</i></p>
18 :00 <i>Upon invitation</i>	Official reception at the Residence des Pins on the occasion Meeting of the Directors of Civil Service Schools and Institutes in MENA

TUESDAY, November 27, 2018

9 :00 – 10:30	Session 3 : Schools of Government at the forefront on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development <i>This session will provide a platform for participating institutions to present their priority areas of work for 2019 and how it related to the 2030 Agenda.</i> <i>It will also discuss the competencies needed across the public sector to successfully meet the requirements of the 2030 Agenda and feature a presentation of the Online Executive Program on Public Policy currently being developed by the UN-ESCWA.</i>
10 :30 – 11 :00	Coffee-break
11 :00 – 13 :00	Session 4: Action Plan <i>This session will focus on how to embrace the 2030 Agenda and mainstream the SDGs in capacity development programs. Each organization/country will be asked to work and present an action plan on how it seeks to advance the Agenda 2030 at a national level.</i> <i>The session will also aim at assessing the needs of training schools to successfully implement their action plans. The needs assessment will rely on a survey questionnaire.</i> Experts: Mr. Adib NEHMEH, Development Expert and Adviser and Ms. Jinane DOUEIHY, Training Director, Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan
13 :00 – 14 :15	Lunch
14 :15 – 16 :00	Session 5: The Way Forward : Towards a Roadmap to enhance the capacities of civil service training schools and institutes in MENA to integrate the SDGs <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Presentation of the project: "<i>Support to the GIFT-MENA network for cooperation, institutional capacity development, regional integration and peace</i>"• Presentation of the Online Course on Training Engineering for Civil Service Schools prepared by the French National Center for Territorial Civil Service (CNFPT) and the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan of Lebanon• Concrete recommendations and suggestion of projects or activities to adapt modalities of work and engagement at regional and national levels (based on the two days discussion)• The Task Force (expert and practitioners), milestones and follow-up mechanisms• Signature of Memorandum of Understanding• Evaluation and closing