

Meeting of the GIFT-MENA Network of Civil Service Training Schools and Institutes in the Middle East and North Africa region on the occasion of the UN Public Service Day

Marrakech, June 22, 2018¹

1. In 2006, Morocco contributed, as a founding member, to the creation of the GIFT-MENA Network of Civil Service Training Schools and Institutes (Governance Institutes Forum for Training). Today, the network gathers 64 institutional members from 20 Arab countries as well as 20 partners among regional and international organisations. The Secretariat of the Network is based in Beirut, and housed at the Institute of Finance Basil Fuleihan – the training and communication agency of the Ministry of Finance.
2. 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.
3. The work of the Network stands at the core of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, which is dedicated 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*”, by:
 - a. Transforming public administration into effective, efficient, transparent, accountable, innovative and citizen-oriented institutions to deliver quality services and achieve the other sustainable development goals;
 - b. Promoting the development of public sector human resource and leadership capacities.
4. If the achievement of the SDGs requires from public administration to adopt new approaches and working methods at all levels, training schools that are looked at platforms of dialogue and exchange, are called upon to stand at the forefront the SDGs’ implementation.

¹ This event will be held as part of the Sharing of knowledge and parallel side events taking place on June 22, 2018.

5. On the occasion of the UN Public Service Day hosted by Morocco, and in particular by the Ministry of Civil Service and Administrative Modernization - member of the GIFT-MENA steering committee - the GIFT-MENA Network proposes to convene its members and partners to discuss 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. The meeting will start with a roundtable of short presentations on the initiatives currently conducted by institutional members and will be followed by an exchange on the capacity development approaches and learning strategies that could be the most relevant to the MENA region, in order to successfully integrate the SDGs in their programs.
6. Discussions will address:
 - a. SDG 4 on lifelong learning opportunities and the challenges of designing modern human resources management policies in the public sector;
 - b. The localization of the SDGs to fragile environments and post-conflict contexts;
 - c. The development of shared culture, values and knowledge around the SDGs in the Arabic language;
 - d. The promotion of institutional cooperation between members and openness to international experiences through SDG 17.
7. The event will be moderated by a regional expert with thorough knowledge of the SDGs and their implications. Participating institutions will be invited to share with their peers know-how, challenges and lessons learned from their experiences.

Outputs

This side event is expected to result in 3 main outputs:

1. A statement by the attendees confirming their interest to advance their work by mainstreaming SDGs in their work approaches and learning strategies.
2. A commitment to produce a generic learning module on Agenda 21, and in particular SDG 16, in the Arabic language, that could be customized to countries' priorities and needs.
3. A road map to coach and support the willing institutions in the region in the good implementation of this generic module.