



# NATIONAL WORKSHOP OF STAKEHOLDERS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACCESS TO INFORMATION LAW

Agenda - 25 June 2019  
Radisson Blue Martinez Hotel  
Beirut, Lebanon



# CONTEXT

Organized jointly by the [Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform](#) (OMSAR), the Public Governance Directorate of the OECD, in the framework of the [MENA-OECD Governance Programme](#) and in cooperation with the [United Nations Development Programme](#), it will bring together representatives of the Lebanese public administration, parliamentarians, civil society organisations, the media and private sector to consult on the **draft national action plan for the implementation of the access to information law**.

Following a participatory process that was led by Parliamentarians against Corruption and OMSAR, Lebanon adopted law number 28 in 2017 to guarantee the right of access to information (ATI). The effective implementation of this law requires the establishment of related procedures, frameworks and tools, a change of culture within the various institutions, covered by the law (e.g. ministries, public institutions, municipalities, courts, private companies managing public services, etc.), as well as adequate take up by citizens and civil society. The implementation of ATI law is recognised within the draft National Anti-Corruption Strategy as a pillar for transparency and accountability and one of the key outputs of its implementation plan. The implementation of the law furthermore contributes to the achievements of UNCAC Articles 10 and 13 and SDG especially SDG 16. It will also support Lebanon in its efforts to adhere to the OECD Recommendation on Open Government and to become a member of the Open Government Partnership (OGP).

As such, the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform (OMSAR), in cooperation with UNDP and the OECD, is developing a National Action Plan for the implementation of the access to information law. The plan will be developed in an inclusive manner, providing a comprehensive framework for the implementation of the law, with coherent commitments and activities from a wide range of stakeholders including the public administration, parliamentarians, civil society, media, and the private sector. It will thereby create a common vision, ensure synergies between different actors and their commitments and provide a roadmap for the successful implementation of the law.

The process is led by an Access to Information Committee established by OMSAR as a sub-committee of the Technical Committee on Anti-Corruption that supports the Ministerial Committee. Following a first round of consultative meetings, this workshop aims to present the draft action plan to all relevant stakeholders in order to collect their input and feedback. Subsequently it will be adopted by the Ministerial Anti-Corruption Committee. The plan will pave the way for the implementation of several actions, supported by Lebanese and international actors.

# AGENDA

Tuesday 25 June 2019

<b>8:30 – 9:00</b>	<b>Registration</b>
<b>9:00 – 9:15</b>	<b>Opening remarks</b>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Natacha Sarkis</b>, Anti-corruption Officer, OMSAR/UNDP</li><li>• <b>Katharina Zuegel</b>, Policy Analyst, OECD</li><li>• <b>Gaelle Kibranian</b>, Governance Programme Officer, UNDP</li><li>• <b>Imed Hazgui</b>, President, Access to Information Commission, Tunisia</li></ul>
<b>9:15 – 10:30</b>	<b>Session 1: OVERVIEW OF THE ATI LAW AND ACTION PLAN</b>
	<p>This session aims to provide an introduction to the main features of the access to information law, how it relates to the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, how it strengthens the implementation of UNCAC and supports the fulfillment of the SDGs as well as bringing Lebanon closer to OGP membership.</p> <p>It will be followed by an introduction to the draft national action plan including the respective roles and responsibilities for implementation, monitoring and follow-up.</p> <p><b>Moderator:</b> Georges Okais, Member of Parliament, Lebanon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Ali Berro</b>, OMSAR/UNDP: Presentation of the Access to Information Law and its links with the National Anti-Corruption Strategy, UNCAC, SDGs and OGP</li><li>• <b>Ghassan Moukheiber</b>: Introduction to the draft national action plan and the Roles and responsibilities for implementation, monitoring and follow-up</li></ul> <p>Questions and debate</p>
<b>10:30 – 11:45</b>	<b>Session 2: ENGAGING ALL OBLIGATED ADMINISTRATIONS</b>
	<p>The Access to Information law requires a variety of institutions to comply with transparency and data protection standards. This session aims to discuss how it can be ensured that all institutions acknowledge that the law applies to them and put in place the necessary procedures.</p>

	<p>Moderator: <b>Charles Arbid</b>, President, Economic and Social Council of Lebanon</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Assaad Thebian</b>, Gherbal Initiative: Mapping of ATI institutions and officers</li> <li>• <b>Ali Berro</b>, OMSAR: Roles and functions of an ATI officer – experience of OMSAR</li> </ul> <p>Questions and debate</p>			
<b>11:45 – 12:15</b>	<b>Coffee Break</b>			
<b>12:15 – 1:15</b>	<p><b>Group A: INFORM AND TRAIN</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Habib Moujaes, Mayor of Shweir</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Celine Merhej, Gherbal Initiative</p> <p><b>Assaad Thebian, Gherbal Initiative:</b> presenting the guide on making access to information requests</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide Information about ATI Rights and Procedures</li> <li>• Provide Training and Support for the public administration and citizens</li> </ul>	<p><b>Group B: PROVIDE TOOLS</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Mosbah Majzoub, LTA board member</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Tala Khanji, OECD</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop Electronic platforms and portals</li> <li>• Develop forms and templates</li> <li>• Develop effective filing and archiving systems</li> </ul>	<p><b>Group C: DEVELOP THE REGULATORY AND INSTITUTIONAL SETUP</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Judge Mireille Daoud, Ministry of Justice</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Diana Vartanian, UNDP</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vote and implement the Law establishing the National Anti-Corruption Institution</li> <li>• Issue implementation decrees in areas of necessity</li> </ul>	<p><b>Group D: MONITORING AND ENFORCEMENT</b></p> <p><b>Chair:</b> Houry Dersarkissian, Central Inspection board</p> <p><b>Rapporteur:</b> Reem Kaedbey, UNDP</p> <p><b>Discussion:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How to strengthen monitoring of the law's application</li> </ul>
<b>1:15 – 2:30</b>	<b>Session 4: CONCLUSIONS</b>			

**Group reports to the plenary:**

- Inform and train
- Provide tools
- Develop the regulatory and institutional set-up
- Monitoring and enforcement

**Conclusions:**

- **Natacha Sarkis**, Anti-corruption Officer, OMSAR/UNDP

**2:30 – 3:30**

**Lunch**

## THE MENA OECD GOVERNANCE PROGRAMME

The MENA-OECD Governance Programme is a strategic partnership between MENA and OECD countries to share knowledge and expertise, with a view of disseminating standards and principles of good governance that support the ongoing process of reform in the MENA region. The Programme strengthens collaboration with the most relevant multilateral initiatives currently underway in the region. In particular, the Programme supports the implementation of the G7 Deauville Partnership and assists governments in meeting the eligibility criteria to become a member of the Open Government Partnership. Through these initiatives, the Programme acts as a leading advocate of managing ongoing public governance reforms in the MENA region. The Programme provides a sustainable structure for regional policy dialogue as well as for country specific projects. These projects correspond to the commitment of MENA governments to implement public sector reforms in view of unlocking social and economic development and of meeting citizens' growing expectations in terms of quality services, inclusive policy making and transparency. [www.oecd.org/mena/governance/](http://www.oecd.org/mena/governance/)

## THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

UNDP is the UN's global development network, advocating for change and connecting countries to knowledge, experience and resources to help people build a better life. We are on the ground in nearly 170 countries and territories, working with them on their own solutions to global and national development challenges. As they develop local capacity, they draw on the people of UNDP and our wide range of partners.

## OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM

OMSAR is a government organization that develops the institutional and technical capacities of the Lebanese ministries, central bodies, and public agencies. It operates within a comprehensive vision of public governance and modernization to enhance Lebanon's standing in the region and abroad in the pursuit of peace, social development, and economic prosperity. [www.omsar.gov.lb](http://www.omsar.gov.lb)

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