



DEAUVILLE PARTNERSHIP SENIOR OFFICIALS' MEETING

ROME, 21 NOVEMBER 2017

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

CHAIR'S SUMMARY

1. The second Deauville Partnership Senior Officials' Meeting under Italy's G7 Presidency took place in Rome on 21 November 2017 at the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Following up to the Senior Official's Conference held in Paris on 30 March, participants continued their dialogue on economic governance reforms and human capital development in the ACTs. They also discussed the status of the MENA Transition Fund, the action of the IFI Coordination Platform and the possible synergies among G7 bilateral activities. Finally, they had an active and extensive exchange of views on the prospects of the Deauville Partnership.

2. In the context of implementation of the Compact for Economic Governance and in the framework of the related peer review and peer learning process, Morocco presented an overview of its reform programs, on the basis of the stocktaking analysis conducted with the assistance of the OECD, and engaged in a fruitful discussion with the other partners. Participants acknowledged the efforts of Morocco and encouraged it to take further steps to pursue a reform agenda aimed at promoting macroeconomic stability and inclusive growth through the establishment of strong economic governance institutions. Morocco and the OECD stated their intention to integrate the comments made during the discussion in order to finalize the draft stocktaking report and the related implementation plan. Jordan and the OECD provided an update on the elaboration of the stocktaking report for Jordan to be completed in 2018. Once all stocktaking reports are presented and discussed, the participating ACTs and the OECD could work jointly on periodic progress



reporting. Participants reiterated the importance of reform implementation and discussed potential options to support ACTs in this endeavor.

In connection with the promotion of economic governance reforms, the OECD presented a draft document of appraisal on the implementation of the Deauville Partnership SMEs Action Plans adopted in 2012. Participants reaffirmed the key role played by micro, small and medium enterprises in promoting innovation, job creation and inclusive development. ACTs were encouraged to carry on and intensify their efforts in implementing the SMEs Actions Plans with the support of the other Deauville Partnership actors.

3. Participants discussed the opportunities associated with the adoption of sound human capital development policies to promote sustainable and inclusive growth in the ACTs. They also exchanged views on the prospects of implementation of the Deauville Partnership Strategic Framework for the Development of Human Capital. In this respect, the OECD outlined some options for possible future initiatives and events.

4. With regard to the financial support by the Deauville Partnership to reform implementation process in the ACTs, participants took stock of the outcomes of the Steering Committee of the MENA Transition Fund that was held in Rome on 22-23 May, including the approval of 8 new projects, for a total funding of \$15.1 million, and the extension of the timeframe of the Transition Fund until December 2018. The importance of further enhancing the effectiveness of IFI's cooperation in the ACTs and promoting synergies among G7 bilateral activities was reaffirmed. In this respect, participants welcomed the stocktaking report on the six years of activity of the IFI coordination platform, which identified the main achievements of the Platform, took stock of IFIs cooperation in the ACTs and examined ways to enhance its effectiveness. They also welcomed the initiative of the Italian Presidency to promote regular exchanges among G7 diplomatic missions in the ACTs with a view to maximizing the consistency of their bilateral cooperation projects with the main objectives of the Deauville Partnership.

5. Finally, participants held an active discussion on the prospects of the Deauville Partnership in light of the developments occurred in the MENA region over the last six years. While the importance of preserving policy dialogue and cooperation between G7, ACTs regional partners and relevant international institutions was unanimously reaffirmed, the possibility of an evolution/reconfiguration of the Partnership was extensively debated. Interventions focused on the three issues framed in the informal discussion paper previously circulated by the Presidency: thematic scope, geographic perimeter and financial dimension of the partnership. The views emerged from the discussion will contribute to the determinations of the incoming Canadian G7 Presidency for its program of work for 2018.