

Harnessing Public Procurement for Sustainable Prosperity in the Middle East and Africa

**Peer-learning and policy dialogue event with the
MENA-OECD Network and experts from Africa on Public**

Procurement

4-5 September 2025

Caserta, Italy

Agenda

Thursday 4 September 2025

9:00 – 9:30	Participants registration All invited guests
9:30 – 10:00	Opening Remarks Ambassador Massimo Gaiani, Executive Director, OECD Training Centre on Public Governance Ms Erika Bozzay, Deputy Head of the Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD Mr. Khaled Nofal, Deputy Minister of Finance of Egypt and co-chair of the MENA-OECD Network on Public Procurement Ms. Rim Zehri, Auditor General of Public Procurement and co-chair of the MENA-OECD Network on Public Procurement, Tunisia
10:00- 10:30	Key take-aways from the OECD Global Public Procurement Forum During this introductory session, the OECD will report back on the first OECD Global Public Procurement Forum, held in Paris on 1-2 July 2025, and highlight key take-aways from the discussions. Ms. Erika Bozzay, Deputy Head of the Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD Ms. Kenza Khachani, Policy Analyst, Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD
10:30 – 11:30	Session 1: Digital transformation and public procurement Digital transformation is revolutionising public procurement. An increasing number of countries in the Middle East and Africa as well as OECD countries are leveraging e-procurement for more transparency, accountability, integrity and efficiency of public procurement procedures. At the same time, public procurement is a pivotal tool for the implementation of the digital transformation of the public sector through the procurement of digital services and technologies, which raises multiple challenges and opportunities. The session will explore both aspects: how public procurement can act as a catalyst and a testing ground for the digital transformation of the public sector and how digital transformation can enhance the efficiency of public purchasing. Ms. Erika Bozzay, Deputy Head of the Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD Prof. Sabrina Tranquilli, Professor specialising in public contracts at the Parthenope University of Naples and the Italian National School of Administration (SNA) Mr. Khaled Nofal, Deputy Minister of Finance of Egypt Ms. Hanadi Al-Nablusi, Director General of the Government Procurement Department, Jordan Mr. Omar El Barraj, Head of the Technical Department/Information Technology, Public Procurement Authority, Lebanon Mr. Jamal Abdulaziz al Alawi, Secretary General of the Tender Board, Bahrain

Related OECD publication:

OECD (2025), [Digital transformation of public procurement: Good practice report](#).

11:30 – 11:45 Coffee Break

11:45 – 12:45 Session 1: Part II - Continuation of the discussions on digital transformation and public procurement

The second part of this session will enable participants to continue the discussion on the digitalisation of public procurement, the digital transformation, and emerging technologies.

12:45 – 14:00 Lunch break and group photo

14:00 – 15:30 Session 2: Leveraging strategic public procurement to promote sustainable prosperity: The role of public procurement in achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Public procurement represents a key leverage for government to achieve social, environmental and economic outcomes. Used strategically, public procurement can constitute a pivotal tool towards the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by supporting a more resource-efficient economy, stimulating innovation, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and promoting social values. Green public procurement (GPP) has been high on governments' agendas for more than a decade, with an increasing number of countries leveraging their purchasing power to procure goods, services and works in ways that reduce their environmental impact. Increasingly countries are leveraging public procurement to achieve social outcomes and to contribute to economic development.

This discussion will focus on efforts deployed by countries in the Middle East and Africa as well as OECD countries to reform their institutional, legal, and policy frameworks to integrate sustainability into procurement decisions and harness the potential of strategic public purchasing as a lever to address key social and economic challenges and foster sustainable prosperity.

- **Ms. Kenza Khachani**, Policy Analyst, Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD
- **Mr. Mostafa Beghdi**, Head of the Regulation Division, General Treasury of the Kingdom, Morocco
- **Mr. Aftar Touré Morou**, Director General of the Public Procurement Authority, Togo, and Technical Secretary of the African Public Procurement Network
- **Ms. Rim Zehri**, Auditor General of Public Procurement and co-chair of the MENA-OECD Network on Public Procurement, Tunisia
- **Ms. Eliza Niewiadomska**, Senior Counsel, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development

Related OECD publications:

- OECD (2024), [Harnessing Public Procurement for the Green Transition](#).
- OECD (2024), [Governing for Sustainable Prosperity in the Middle East and North Africa](#).
- OECD (2025), [Promoting Strategic and Green Public Procurement in France](#).

15:30 – 15:45 Coffee break

15:45 – 17:00	Session 2: <i>Part II – Continuation of the discussions</i>
	The second part of this session will enable participants to dive in a specific sub-topic related to sustainability through public procurement.
17h30 – 19:00	Cultural visit of the Royal Apartments organised by the SNA
19:30 – 21:00	Dinner

Agenda

Friday 5 September 2025

9:30 – 11:00	Session 3: The professionalisation of the public procurement workforce: building the skills for strategic and efficient public procurement
	In Middle Eastern and African economies and OECD countries alike, public procurement is increasingly recognised as a strategic instrument for achieving government policy goals. Building a skilled and capable procurement workforce is key to leverage public procurement as a tool to achieve strategic policy objectives, ensure value-for-money, and strengthen the efficiency of public procurement processes. Public procurement has become a more complex function than ever, requiring technical expertise in law, market research and analysis, tender evaluation, and contract management, as well as soft skills including project management and negotiation, and expertise allowing to harness the potential of public procurement to pursue and balance multifaceted policy objectives. This session will focus on recent trends and initiatives as well as challenges in the professionalisation and skill-building of the public procurement workforce in Africa, the Middle East and OECD countries. • Ms. Nawel Djaffar, Policy Analyst, Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD • Prof. Federico Caporale, Administrative law professor at the University of L'Aquila and a faculty member of the Italian National School of Administration (SNA) • Mr. Hadj Omri, Director General of the Budget, Ministry of Finance, Algeria • Ms. Rana Rizkallah, Senior Procurement Specialist, Institute of Finance Basil Fuleihan, Lebanon Related OECD publication: OECD (2023), Professionalisation of the public procurement workforce: A review of current initiatives and challenges.
11:00 – 11:15	Coffee Break
11:15 – 12:45	Session 4: The future of public procurement: emerging trends and ways forward for the Middle East and Africa
	Building upon the discussions of the previous sessions as well as the findings of the recent report <i>Implementing the OECD Recommendation on Public Procurement in OECD and Partner Countries</i>, this session will explore emerging trends, challenges and opportunities faced by Middle Eastern and African economies as well as OECD countries to strengthen their public procurement systems as a lever for more responsive and efficient service delivery, ensure value for money, and harness the potential of innovation and AI through public procurement while managing risks. • Ms. Erika Bozzay, Deputy Head of the Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD • Ms. Kenza Khachani, Policy Analyst, Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD • Mr. Aftar Touré Morou, Director General of the Public Procurement Authority, Togo, and Technical Secretary of the African Public Procurement Network Related publication:

OECD (2025), [Implementing the OECD Recommendation on Public Procurement in OECD and Partner Countries](#).

12:45 – 13:00 Closing remarks

- **Ms Erika Bozzay**, Head of the Infrastructure and Public Procurement Division, OECD
- **Ambassador Massimo Gaiani**, Executive Director, OECD Training Centre on Public Governance

13:00 – 14:00 Closing lunch at the Ristorantino da Diana & Atteone

OECD Training Centre on
Public Governance



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