BUILDING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GENDER RESPONSIVE POLICIES – FROM STRATEGY TO IMPACT

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Accountability is among one of the core enablers of de facto equality in the MENA region

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Enabler</th>
<th>Percentage of Country Respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A &quot;whole-of-government&quot; vision on gender equality</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political will and leadership for gender equality reform</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investments in gender related capacity building</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Availability of gender-disaggregated data, and analysis</td>
<td>38%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountability mechanisms for gender equality</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A specific gender equality strategy/ legislation</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination mechanisms across levels of government</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monitoring and evaluation of gender equality initiatives</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity of the government to undertake GE initiatives</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>External communication on gender equality initiatives</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Involvement of civil society in designing GE initiatives</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Coordination mechanisms across departments / ministries</td>
<td>13%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8 out of 9 Respondents

Source: MENA-OECD (2014), Survey on National Gender Frameworks, Gender Public Policies and Leadership
Accountability in the forthcoming OECD Recommendation on Gender Equality in Public Life

- Independent oversight & appeal mechanisms
- Greater role of parliaments
- Clarity of roles, mandates and accountabilities
- Evidence base for gender equality
- Civil society and public engagement

Source: Forthcoming Recommendation of the OECD Council on Gender Equality in Public Life
Institutional set up for oversight and complaint resolution varies across countries

*Based on 22 OECD Countries (2012): Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Chile, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Korea, Luxembourg, Mexico, New Zealand, Norway, Slovak Republic, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United States and 9 MENA Countries (2014): Yemen, Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan, Tunisia, Morocco, Bahrain, Palestinian Authority and Kuwait

Source: OECD (2011), Survey on National Gender Frameworks, Gender Public Policies and Leadership

Source: MENA-OECD (2014), Survey on National Gender Frameworks, Gender Public Policies and Leadership
There is room to strengthen the role of parliaments for greater impact

Legislative committees on gender equality in OECD countries

OECD countries that have a Parliamentary Committee on Gender Equality (13 countries)

OECD countries that do not have a Parliamentary Committee on Gender Equality (9 countries)

Source: OECD (2011), Survey on National Gender Frameworks, Gender Public Policies and Leadership

Source: MENA-OECD (2014), Survey on National Gender Frameworks, Gender Public Policies and Leadership
Need to further clarify roles and accountabilities

- National gender institutions
- Ministries
- Centre of government
  - Cabinet ministries / PMOs
  - Ministry of Finance
  - Ministry of Justice

Challenges for gender institutions

- Lack of authority, visibility and leverage
- Lack of adequate staff with competence in policy analysis, communications and monitoring
### Implementation and accountability mechanisms for gender equality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mechanism</th>
<th>Number of respondents</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Regular measurement of performance</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Audits or inspections, including by external audit institutions</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Setting clear objectives with timelines to achieve them</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reporting to a high-level steering body/commission</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular reporting requirements to parliament</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration into manager's performance accord</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regular reviews at key stages of the implementation</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Integration of GE requirements in job descriptions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaluation and monitoring requirements</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: MENA-OECD (2014), Survey on National Gender Frameworks, Gender Public Policies and Leadership
Though improving, data availability remains scarce

- Data on gender bias/gender-based discrimination
- Data on gender-based violence
- Data on opportunities to reconcile professional and personal life
- Data on women's economic empowerment
- Data on women's representation in the public service

9 out of 9 country respondents

Source: OECD Survey on National Gender Frameworks, Gender Public Policies and Leadership. 9 out of 9 participants provided responses for this question.
Citizens and civil society are at the heart of effective accountability…

but public consultation remains uneven

A requirement to conduct consultation processes

Number of respondents

- **Draft programmes**
  - Yes, in some cases: 6
  - No, not foreseen: 1
  - No, but foreseen: 2

- **Draft primary legislation**
  - Yes, in some cases: 6
  - No, not foreseen: 1
  - No, but foreseen: 2

- **Draft subordinate regulations**
  - Yes, in some cases: 4
  - No, not foreseen: 3
  - No, but foreseen: 2

- **Draft policies**
  - Yes, in some cases: 5
  - No, not foreseen: 0
  - No, but foreseen: 3

Source: MENA-OECD (2014), Survey on National Gender Frameworks, Gender Public Policies and Leadership
THANK YOU!