

AGENDA



PROJECT LAUNCH

Building Consensus for Economic and Social Reform in Lebanon

11:00 – 13:00, February 27, 2019

Economic and Social Council of Lebanon
Downtown, Nejme Square, Building 200
Beirut, Lebanon

Launch Event

Building Consensus for Economic and Social Reform in Lebanon

February 27, 2019 ♦ Economic and Social Council, Beirut, Lebanon

This launch event marks the beginning of the project “**Building Consensus for Economic and Social Reform in Lebanon**”, supported by the German Federal Foreign Office. This project will consist of a training programme for the members of the Economic and Social Council of Lebanon and key stakeholders. The project will be implemented by the OECD under the [MENA-OECD Initiative on Governance and Competitiveness for development](#).

There is a window of opportunity for urgently needed economic and social reforms in Lebanon. With the agreement on a new government in January 2019, it is time to implement and deliver on the commitments under the “Vision for stabilization, growth and employment” announced by Prime Minister Saad Hariri. However, the success of the reform agenda will need to rely on extensive social dialogue. Strong and transparent partnerships between the private and the public sector are needed to rebuild trust among the different actors and to gather support for reform efforts.

In this context, the Economic and Social Council (ESC) can play a crucial role in building consensus for economic and social policies in Lebanon. The OECD will support the ESC providing it with the tools to effectively lead social dialogue efforts on the country’s priorities. The programme will facilitate first-hand knowledge from other Economic and Social Councils around the world to see how they have articulated their work to become relevant in their respective contexts. It will present consultation mechanisms, participatory approaches and solid analytical tools, which are essential for the ESC to effectively build consensus around complex reform processes. The programme will also focus on key policy areas under the government’s reform agenda, including: anti-corruption, integrity and access to information; the social impact of fiscal reforms; and business climate reforms.

11:00 – 12:15

Launch programme

- Welcoming remarks • **Dr. Anis BOU DIAB**, Board Member, Economic and Social Council of Lebanon
- Keynote interventions • **Mr. Charles ARBID**, President, Economic and Social Council of Lebanon
• **Mr. Andreas SCHAAL**, Director, Global Relations Secretariat, OECD
• **H.E. Dr. Georg BIRGELEN**, Ambassador of Germany to Lebanon
• **H.E. Dr. May CHIDIAC**, Minister of State for Administrative Development
• **H.E. Dr. Mansour BTEICH**, Minister of Economy and Trade and President of the Economic Affairs Committee, Economic and Social Council of Lebanon
- Questions and answers
- Interpretation to/from Arabic, English and French will be provided*

12:15 – 13:00

Brunch

Contacts

- **Mr. Martin LESTRA**, Middle East and Africa Division, OECD (martin.lestra@oecd.org)
- **Ms. Nayla ABI KARAM**, Chargée de mission du Président, Economic and Social Council, Lebanon (nayla.abk@gmail.com)