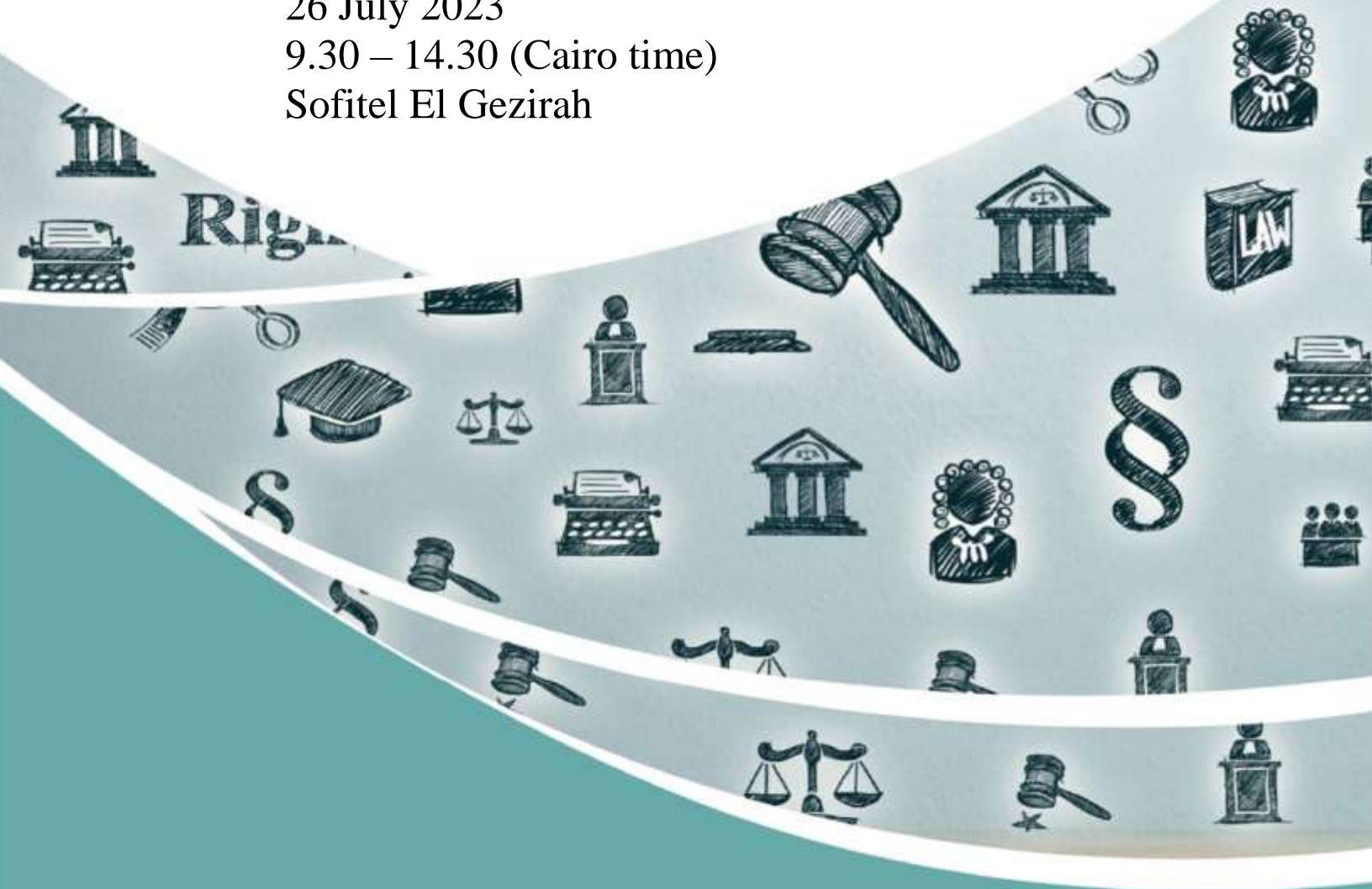




Towards Child-Friendly Justice in Egypt: Understanding justice needs and child-centred pathways

*Policy Dialogue on International Child Custody
Disputes (Roundtable)*

26 July 2023
9.30 – 14.30 (Cairo time)
Sofitel El Gezira



The Project

The objective of this project is to support the development of a child-friendly justice system in Egypt and better protect children in contact with the law. Aligned with Egypt's Vision 2030, the National Child Strategy and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the project is implemented by the OECD with the financial support of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The project facilitates high-level engagement in support of the objectives of the Strategic Framework and National Plan for Childhood and Motherhood in Egypt 2018-2030. It contributes to strengthening the Rule of Law and avails experiences from different OECD countries, particularly through peer-to-peer exchanges and capacity-building workshops with the Government of Egypt.

As part of the MENA-OECD Governance Programme, the project will provide support to the Government of Egypt in identifying key challenges and opportunities, building a Roadmap for reform and raising public awareness on the importance of child-friendly justice.

The two main outcomes of the project are as follows:

- Improved capacities of child-justice stakeholders to better protect children in contact with the justice system;
- Improved governance and coordination mechanisms among key child justice stakeholders.

The OECD aims to support the Government of Egypt to further enhance and empower the coordination and protection role of the child justice system. The support will be carried out in accordance with the objectives of the Strategic Framework & National Plan for Childhood and Motherhood.

Objective of the policy dialogue

The policy dialogue aims at bringing together members of the Goodwill Committee on Child-Custody Dispute Resolution and other relevant institutions present in Egypt to discuss the role of each institution within the committee and the coordination mechanisms between the stakeholders. The discussions will also focus on the alignment of the Committee's mandate and functioning in line with OECD and international standards to provide better support to the disputes parties based on a comprehensive and child-centred approach. The outcomes of the capacity-building workshop will feed into the strategic review of the mandate, composition and efficiency of the Goodwill Committee on Child-Custody Dispute Resolution and will help formulate key policy messages and recommendations to be adopted by the Goodwill Committee and ministries.

Target participants

The policy dialogue will gather the members of the Goodwill Committee on Child-Custody Dispute Resolution, which include the Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Interior, Public Prosecution Office and Ministry of Endowments, along with family judges, the National Council for Childhood and Motherhood, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, international actors, OECD peers and experts and the OECD Secretariat.

Agenda

Wednesday, 26 July 2023

Simultaneous interpretation between English and Arabic will be available.

09:30 - 10:00 Registration and welcoming of participants

10:00 - 10:30 Opening remarks

- **Justice Hossam Sadek**, Assistant Minister of Justice for International Cooperation, Ministry of Justice
- **Ambassador Ismaiel Khairat**, Assistant Minister for Counsellor Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- **Dr. Tatyana Teplova**, Head of Division, Senior Justice Counsellor, OECD

10:30 - 11:15

Session 1: Egypt's Current System in International Custody Cases: Examining the role of the Goodwill Committee and its coordination with key Egyptian actors

The aim of this session is to shed light on the pivotal role of the Goodwill Committee on Child-Custody Dispute Resolution and examine the current coordination mechanisms and practices employed by the key players in Egypt's child justice system in the context of international custody disputes. The discussion will help analyse the extent to which the current system meets the needs of the child. The session will also emphasise the significance of cooperation across different sectors., The dialogue will foster an exchange of ideas and practices between Egyptian institutions and OECD peers on the challenges and opportunities related to improving institutional coordination in cross-border custody cases.

Moderator:

- **Mr. Amr Soliman**, Project Lead and Policy Analyst, OECD
- **Ms. Claire Farid**, Director and General Counsel of the Family and Children's Law Team, Justice Canada

Speakers:

- **Justice Hossam Sadek**, Assistant Minister of Justice for International Cooperation, Ministry of Justice
- **Judge Magued Antably**, Member of the Goodwill Committee, Ministry of Justice

11:15 – 12:00

Roundtable Discussion with the members of the Goodwill Committee on Child-Custody Dispute Resolution

12:00 – 12:30

Coffee break

12:30 – 13:00

Session 2: International standards and good practices on Child-Custody Dispute Resolution and inter-institutional coordination

The session will provide a comprehensive understanding of international standards and facilitate the exchange of good practices in resolving child custody cases with foreign elements, based on a child-centred approach. Through practical examples and case studies, this session will demonstrate effective mechanisms that promote proper coordination between relevant institutions and liaison with children involved in the dispute. This session aims to provide insights into successful approaches and emphasise the importance of prioritising the best interest of the child throughout the dispute resolution process.

Moderator: Ms. Marwa Salah, Consultant in the OECD Project

Speakers:

- **Ms. Claire Farid**, *Director General and Senior General Counsel, Family Law and Youth Justice Section, Justice Canada, and OECD peer*
- **Ms. Nicole Drew**, *Barrister & Solicitor, former Director of the Taskforce Response Unit (Women's Safety and Youth Justice), Department of Justice and Attorney-General, Queensland, Australia and OECD peer*

13:00 – 14:15

Roundtable discussion with the members of the Goodwill Committee on Child-Custody Dispute Resolution

14:15 – 14:30

Closing remarks

- **Judge Magued Antably**, *Member of the Goodwill Committee, Ministry of Justice*
- **Mr. Amr Soliman**, *Project Lead and Policy Analyst, OECD*
- **Dr. Valérie Liechti**, *Head of Office for International Cooperation, Embassy of Switzerland in Egypt*

14:30

Lunch

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) is the agency for international cooperation of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA). The SDC is responsible for the overall coordination with other federal authorities of development and cooperation with Eastern Europe as well as for humanitarian aid delivered by the Swiss Confederation.

The Swiss international cooperation, which is an integral part of the Federal Council's foreign policy, aims to alleviate need and poverty around the world, to foster respect for human rights, to promote democracy and to conserve the environment. It fosters economic self-reliance and state autonomy, contributes to the improvement of production conditions, helps address environmental problems, and ensures better access to education and basic healthcare services.

The OECD

The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) is an international organisation that promotes policies to improve the economic and social well-being of people around the world. It is made up of 38 Member countries, a Secretariat in Paris, and a committee, drawn from experts from government and other fields, for each work area covered by the Organisation. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share experiences and seek solutions to common problems. It collaborates with governments to understand what drives economic, social and environmental change, and measures productivity and global flows of trade and investment.

The OECD and Access to Justice for Children

The OECD supports its Member and partner countries in achieving more responsive and people-centered justice services and access to justice as core components of inclusive growth, sound democracies and a thriving investment climate. Vulnerable groups, including children and youth, face particular barriers to access justice, such as complex procedures, high costs and lack of legal empowerment. In particular, children have specific needs and rights but tend to face heightened difficulties in getting their legal needs addressed, which exacerbates the likelihood of trauma and impedes child well-being. The OECD supports countries in moving towards child-friendly justice that puts children at the centre of design and delivery of justice services and ensures their needs are met.

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 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.

CONTACTS

Amr Soliman, Policy Analyst, MENA-OECD Governance Programme

amr.soliman@oecd.org

<http://www.oecd.org/mena/governance/>

[@OECD.gov](https://twitter.com/OECDgov)

[#MENAOECD](https://twitter.com/MENAOECD)