



Under the auspices of H. E. the Minister of Finance of Lebanon
Mr. Ali Hassan Khalil

Forum on

Public Procurement for resilience and sustainable growth

26–27 June 2018

Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan – Ministry of Finance
Beirut – Lebanon

The Forum on “Public Procurement for resilience and sustainable growth” is an interdisciplinary national dialogue platform for procurement policy-makers, practitioners and experts, to discuss what Lebanon needs to advance its public procurement agenda, as a pre-requisite to enhance financial governance and deliver efficiently on the commitments of the CEDRE conference convened in Paris on April 6, 2018.

In light of current challenges and international good practices, it shall debate the linkages between procurement modernization and domestic policy reform, institutional capacity, economic growth, entrepreneurship, innovation, governance and regulation, sustainable development, project management and capacity development.

Context

Public procurement is one of the critical structural reforms the Government of Lebanon has committed to, at the recent CEDRE conference, to improve financial governance, on the occasion of which the donor community pledged USD 11 billion to support the Lebanese Government implement its Vision for Stabilization, Growth and Employment.

In this context, the reform of public procurement systems and procedures comes as a “gold-mine” able to ensure better value for taxpayers’ money, enhance competitiveness, fight corruption and collusion, improve the business climate, enhance institutional confidence and tackle pressing issues related to the environment.

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals 12 and 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development - with “Ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns” and with “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”, is also linked to bold steps by governments around the world to reform public procurement.

In Lebanon, the modernization of procurement is faced with a number of challenges mainly related to (i) procurement being looked at as an administrative rather than strategic function of the state, (ii) arbitrary practices in the absence of standardized bidding documents, (iii) limited participation of small and medium enterprises and (iv) the absence of job descriptions and competencies frameworks for the procurement profession.

Tuesday, June 26, 2018

9:00 – 9:30 Welcoming of participants and registration

9:30 – 10:30 Welcome note by **Ms. Lamia MOUBAYED BISSAT**, *President of the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan, Lebanon*

Opening remarks by:

H.E. Dr. Mohamad Ali AL HAKIM, *Executive Secretary, UN-ESCWA*

Mr. Saroj Kumar JHA, *Regional Director of the Mashreq Department, World Bank*

Mr. Philippe LAZZARINI, *Resident Coordinator for Lebanon, United Nations*

Ms. Gretchen BIERY, *Head of Lebanon Resident Office, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development*

Concluding statement by **H. E. the Minister of Finance, Mr. Ali Hassan KHALIL**

10:30 – 12:00 **PLENARY I: Why is Public Procurement key for Lebanon’s resilience and sustainable growth?**

Dr. Nadim MUNLA, *Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister, Lebanon*

Mr. Olivier RAY, *Director for Lebanon and Syria, Agence Française de Développement*

Mr. Alain BIFANI, *Director General of Finance, Ministry of Finance, Lebanon*

Mr. Jan JACKHOLT, *Procurement Director, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development*

Dr. Jean ELLIEH, *Director General of the Central Tender Board, Lebanon*

Ms. Erika BOZZAY, *Senior Adviser on Public Procurement, EU-OECD SIGMA*

Moderator: Ms. Lamia MOUBAYED BISSAT, *President of the Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan, Lebanon*

12:00 – 12:30 Coffee Break

12:30 – 14:00 **PLENARY II: Competitiveness, innovation and job creation: how can governments enhance access to procurement markets and spur job creation?**

H.E. Mr. Nicholas NAHAS, *Member of the Parliament, Lebanon*

Mr. Daniel ABOUD, *Member of the Board, Association of Lebanese Industrialists, Lebanon*

Mr. Ziad YOUNES, *Chairman, BUTEC, Lebanon*

Ms. Nataliia SHAPOVAL, *Director of the Center of Excellence in Procurement, Kyiv School of Economics, Ukraine*

Ms. Sonia BEN SALEM, *Director of TUNEPS, Tunisia*

Moderator: Mr. Nadim ABOUD, *Managing Partner of A. Abboud & Associates Law Offices, Lebanon*

14:00 – 15:00 Lunch

15:00 – 16:30 **ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS: FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE**

The roundtable discussion sessions are intended to shed the light on specific practices and tools as well as successful countries experiences that allow raising procurement to a strategic level and help identify practical recommendations to promote competition, transparency and accountability.

Parallel session 1: E-services for competition, transparency and savings

Dr. Ali ABDALLAH, *Office of the Minister for Administrative Reform, Lebanon*

Mr. Elie NAIM, *Consultant, Lebanon*

Mr. Knut J. LEIPOLD, *Lead Procurement Specialist, World Bank*

Prof. Adnan KHAN, *Director of Research and Policy, International Growth Centre, UK*

Ms. Viviana MORA, *Observatory Chief, Chile Compra*

Ms. Ana VIEIRA, *Public Contracting Authorities Manager, National Public Procurement System, Portugal*

Moderator: Mr. Ramzi EL HAFEZ, *General Manager of INFOPRO, Lebanon*

Parallel session 2: Using procurement data for combatting fraud and corruption

Mr. Elie MAALOUF, *Judge at the Court of Audit, Lebanon*

Mr. Viktor NESTULIA, *Director of Innovation and Projects, Transparency International, Ukraine*

Mr. Niels BRALEY, *Project Manager in charge of International Affairs and Open Government, ETALAB, France*

Mr. Badri MEOUCHI, *President of the Board of Directors, Lebanese Transparency Association, Lebanon*

Moderator: Ms. Sahar EL ATTAR, *Editor in Chief of the Commerce du Levant, Lebanon*

9:00 – 10:30

PLENARY III: Public Procurement for better infrastructure

Judge Georges ATTIEH, *President of the Central Inspection Board, Lebanon*

Mr. Ziad HAYEK, *Secretary General of the High Council for Privatization and PPP, Lebanon*

Dr. Ibrahim CHAHROUR, *Head of the Department of Planning and Programming, Council for Development and Reconstruction, Lebanon*

Mr. Sepehr FOTOVAT, *Senior Procurement Specialist, World Bank*

Ms. Racheeda BOUZEKIA, *Chief of the PIMA mission to Lebanon, Fiscal Affairs Department, IMF*

Mr. Jan JACKHOLT, *Procurement Director, European Bank for Reconstruction and Development*

Moderator: Ms. Hala BEJJANI, *Managing Director, Kulluna Irada, Lebanon*

10:30 – 11:00

Coffee break

11:00 – 12:30

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS: FROM POLICY TO PRACTICE

Parallel session 3 : Capacity for Public Procurement

Ms. Jinane DOUEIHY, *Director of Training, Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan, Lebanon*

Ms. Erika BOZZAY, *Senior Adviser on Public Procurement, EU-OECD SIGMA*

Prof. Adnan KHAN, *Director of Research and Policy, International Growth Centre, UK*

Mr. Côme DECHERY, *Financial Governance Specialist, Agence Française de Développement*

Moderator: Ms. Nisrine MACHMOUCHEH, *First Controller, Civil Service Board, Lebanon*

Parallel session 4: Public Procurement for sustainability and the achievement of SDG 12

Ms. Rana RIZKALLAH, *Procurement Specialist, Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan, Lebanon*

Mr. Ibrahim MALLAH, *Head of the Energy and Sustainable Development Committee, Association of Lebanese Industrialists, Lebanon*

Ms. Lara GEADAH, *Sustainable Development Specialist, Sustainable Development Policies Division, UN-ESCWA*

Mr. Jawad WAKIM, *Procurement Officer, Administration Services Division, UN-ESCWA*

Moderator: Ms. Jihane SAOUD, *Energy and Environment Program Analyst, United Nations Development Program*

12:30 – 13:30

The Way Forward

Commentary by experts on the barriers, vision forward and areas of investigation, research and technical assistance

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