



## Chair's Summary

### **Second Deauville Partnership Senior Officials Meeting under Japan's Presidency**

The second Deauville Partnership (DP) senior officials meeting under Japan's presidency was held on 22nd of November 2016 in Barcelona, hosted by the Secretariat of the Union for the Mediterranean (UfMS). During the meeting, the participants had constructive discussions and exchanged views on some key issues of the DP as follows;

1. Japan reviewed its efforts under its presidency of the DP in 2016, and reaffirmed the importance of continuous consultations and cooperation among G7, regional partners and relevant international organizations for necessary support to the Arab Countries in Transition (ACTs) through policy dialogue using the platform of the DP.
2. The participants reached consensus on the necessity of assessing needs of ACTs on the ground in order to make best use of the DP's support mechanisms. In this context, the participants reiterated the importance of the continuous implementation of the Compact on Economic Governance, which was adopted under the German presidency in 2015. Based on a presentation from the OECD, the participants discussed and agreed upon the overall approach, principles and methodology guiding the preparation of country-tailored implementation plans as well as the framework for the progress reporting. The participants confirmed that the two first stocktaking reports on Tunisia and Egypt will be presented for discussion during the Italian presidency in 2017 for discussion.
3. The participants discussed the promotion of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the ACTs as an important pillar of the DP. The OECD briefed participants on the proposed update of the SMEs Near Term Action Plans originally issued during the US presidency in 2012. The participants confirmed their continuous efforts to boost SMEs development in ACTs.
4. The UfM Secretariat, as host institution of the meeting and observer regional organization to the Deauville Partnership, presented its priority activities in terms of project promotion and regional platform for dialogue in the euro-mediterranean region, and participants exchanged on possible increased articulation and synergies between the Deauville Partnership and the UfM.



5. The participants discussed future work of the DP and Japan announced that it will host an international symposium on the promotion of Women's public and socio-economic role in the MENA region on 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2016 in Tokyo. In the symposium, experts from ACTs, G7 and international organizations will review the current situation and challenges of women's role in the MENA region, and discuss how to support and contribute to MENA countries' efforts to improve the socio-economic roles of women.

6. The participants discussed continuing efforts to support the ACTs, including the future of the DP. The IFIs presented views, discussed their contribution platform, and highlighted the ongoing challenges in the ACTs.

7. Italy, as chair of the DP next year, explained expected efforts under its presidency, and the participants exchanged their views on that. In this context, the participants reiterated that MENA Transition Fund (the Fund), since its inception, has served as a key tool in supporting ACTs' efforts in their structural reform, which is of help to stability in the region. The participants welcomed Italy's pledge and commitment to the Fund under its presidency, and appreciated the additional contributions by France, Germany, Japan, and the US, which, together with donors' collective efforts to date, completes the G7 member states' goal of funding the Fund to \$250 million. Building on the achievements of reaching the Fund's capitalization and having prolonged the Fund until December 2017, the participants discussed the effectiveness of the Fund and the persisting need to support countries still in transition, while acknowledging the importance to maintain its focus on portfolio quality and steady implementation of the individual projects.

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