

Deauville Partnership for Arab Countries in Transition
Governance Pillar
Action Plan on International Exchanges

In 2012, the Deauville Partners will help strengthen commitments to effective, accountable, and representative governance practices among our regional partners by supporting professional exchanges between G-8 countries and the region among five constituencies: members of legislative bodies, judicial officials, municipal government officials, regional or provincial government officials, and labor unions. The Deauville Partners will support and sponsor and direct exchanges between their own respective bodies and regional counterparts as well as the exchange of delegations. Regional partners are invited to engage in similar exchanges where appropriate.

Specific actions:

- Each G8 and Deauville partner country will appoint a primary point of contact to share information on the professional exchange network for each of the following targeted constituencies, serve to avoid duplication of effort, and report on completed and upcoming exchanges at key points throughout the year. Targeted constituencies are:
 - Members of legislative bodies
 - The judiciary
 - Regional or provincial governments and municipalities
 - Labor unions

Members of legislative bodies

- By the end of 2013, G8 members in coordination with the relevant institutions in Partnership Countries will plan and implement exchanges and programs to support members of legislative bodies and their staffs from Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco and Jordan. Members of Libya's Constituent Assembly will be included following Libya's 2012 elections. Examples of the exchange programs include counterpart visits by members of legislative bodies to G8 capitals or technical assistance programs for parliamentary administrative staff.
- Partner countries with parliaments are working to raise the profile of the Arab Region chapter of the Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC), in order to promote the role and functions of parliaments

in the region, including oversight capacities and accountability towards their citizens.

Judiciaries

- By the end of 2013, G8 members in coordination with the relevant institutions in Partnership Countries will plan and identify completed exchanges and programs to support judiciaries. G8 countries and regional partners will identify opportunities that could help strengthen independent judiciaries in transition countries. Specific areas for assistance could include:
 - Exchanges between judges and court officials within the judiciary among Deauville countries.
 - Exchanges with lawyers and NGOs working on judicial reform issues.
 - Assistance on the curriculum for judicial education programs and educational programs for judges and court personnel.
 - Tailored programs on court and case load management.

Regional Governments and Municipalities

- By the end of 2013, G8 members in coordination with the relevant institutions in Partnership Countries will plan and identify completed exchanges, pairings, and programs between regional/provincial governments and municipalities for each of the transition countries. Each transition country will identify at least three regional/provincial or municipal governments willing to participate in the pairing program to counterparts in transition countries to share best practices. The partnership could involve a two-way counterpart exchange program between G8 and partner governments. Participating entities may work through existing relationships, although the G8 partners are encouraged to expand their exchanges to include regional partners' newly empowered local governments.
- Existing twinning programs between G8 and partner countries will increase their focus on capacity building in transition states.

Labor Unions

- By the end of 2013, G8 members in coordination with the relevant institutions in Partnership Countries will plan and identify completed exchanges and programs to support independent domestic labor

organizations. These plans may involve the input of groups such as the AFL-CIO Solidarity Center or the Euro-Med Trade Union Forum to develop appropriate training on workers' rights, economic opportunity, vocational training, and cooperation among trade unions.

Reporting

All Partner countries will keep the Presidency and one another well informed, on their progress in implementing the specific actions agreed to above and will plan to take stock of the progress of the Deauville partnership, coordinated by the Presidency, by September 1, 2012.

Background

The Deauville Partners will help strengthen commitments to effective, accountable, and representative governance practices by strengthening institutions and officials vital to a successful democratic transition: parliamentarians, judicial officials, regional or provincial and municipal government officials, and labor unions. Using professional exchanges, the Partnership seeks to enhance the capacity of these four institutions to operate effectively, transparently, and responsively.

It is important that any program of exchanges is demand-driven and has clear objectives and purpose. The Deauville Partners will undertake efforts to avoid duplication and ensure value-added in all exchange programs. Recognizing that some programs may fall outside the authority or prerogative of the executive branch, G8 Governments are nevertheless encouraged to support independent legislatures and independent judiciaries to share the value of that independence.