

Summary of the minutes of the second session of the Strategic Orientation Council of the MCA-Morocco Agency

The second session of the Strategic Orientation Council (COS) of the MCA-Morocco Agency was held on Wednesday, May 24th, 2017, under the chairmanship of the Head of Government, Mr. Saâd Dine El Otmani, President of the Board.

At the opening of the session, the COS Chair pointed out that this meeting was an opportunity to consider the progress made in terms of preparing for the entry into force of the second "Compact" cooperation program with the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). The COS Chair also wished to thank MCC and through it, the United States Government, for its support for the development efforts undertaken by the Government of Morocco.

At the same time, Mr. El Otmani praised the quality of the friendship and cooperation relations between the Kingdom of Morocco and the United States of America, and reiterated the will of the Government of Morocco to create all the necessary conditions for the success of this Program.

The COS Chair also expressed his satisfaction with the positive and reassuring results of the preparatory phase of the Compact, which had focused on the establishment of the legal and institutional foundations of the Program, the drafting of implementation agreements, the launching of preparatory studies for the projects implementation and the development of several mechanisms for financing projects within the framework of “TVET” and “Industrial Land” activities.

During this session, the members of the COS approved the minutes of the first session of the Council, held on October 20th 2016, and took note of the content of the Compact and the state of preparation for its entry into force. They also followed a presentation by MCC's legal counsel in Washington DC on MCC's policy and procedures, including the responsibilities of the COS.

In addition, the members of the COS approved the Fiscal Accountability Plan (FAP), which is the manual establishing the terms and procedures for the administration of funds and the acquisition of goods and services.

Similarly, the Board approved the manual of procedures of the "Charaka" Fund for vocational training, subject to the inclusion of any comments from the Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research. This manual defines the selection process of the projects subject to fund financing, as well as the administrative and financial management tools for these projects, and the reporting and control/audit requirements.

At the same time, the members of the COS took note of the framework document of the Compact's Environmental and Social Management System (SGES-Cadre), which sets out the main guidelines for the environmental and social performances of the Compact, as well as the modalities and processes for managing the environmental and social performances of its component activities.

The Board also approved the plan to set up the Compact Projects Implementation Support Commission, which will be composed of representatives of the departments involved in the implementation of the projects. In this connection, a draft charter will be drawn up defining the operating procedures of this commission, which will be submitted to the COS for approval at its next session.

On the other hand, the Board approved the draft amendment to the organizational chart of the MCA-Morocco Agency, the purpose of which is to strengthen the team of the Agency's Vocational Training Project Directorate in view of the scope of the missions assigned to it. In this regard, the Ministry of Economy and Finance expressed a reservation, stressing the importance of ensuring the need for resources before making new recruitments.

The second session of the Board also provided an opportunity to approve two commercial contracts and three amendments to contracts concluded within the frameword of the Compact, as well as an amendment to the Procurement Plan relating to the Compact Implementation Funding (CIF).  Similarly, the Board took note of the list of purchases made under the Shopping simplified method during the last quarter.

In sum, the Board took note of the following questions:

1. The content of the Compact and the status of preparation for its entry into force.
2. The Environmental and Social Management System framework document (ESMS-Framework).
3. The list of purchases made under the Shopping simplified method during the last quarter, as of March 29th, 2017, which consists of two service cars.

After deliberations, the Board adopted the following resolutions:

**Resolution No. 1:**

The Board unanimously approves the minutes of the first session of the Strategic Orientation Council of MCA-Morocco, held on October 20th 2016.

**Resolution No. 2:**

The Board unanimously approves the Fiscal Accountability Plan (FAP).

**Resolution No. 3:**

The Board unanimously approves the manual of procedures for the management of the "Charaka" Fund for vocational training, subject to the integration of any comments from the Ministry of National Education, Vocational Training, Higher Education and Scientific Research.

**Resolution No. 4:**

The Board approved the draft amendment to the Agency's organization chart, with the reservation of the Ministry of The Economy and Finance.

**Resolution No. 5:**

The Board unanimously approved the plan to set up the Compact Projects Implementation Support Commission.

**Resolution No. 6:**

The Board unanimously approves two contracts and three amendments to contracts concluded under Compact II. These are:

1. Contract concluded on December 23rd, 2016, with the company "Ironvine Security LLC" for the design and implementation of the IT infrastructure, as well as the acquisition of equipment, for an amount of 50,050 USD.
2. Contract concluded on March 27th, 2017, with the Mohamed Bennani & Youssef Chkairi Architects Group for the layout of the headquarters of the MCA-Morocco Agency, for an amount of 33,310 USD.
3. Amendment No. 1 to the contract concluded on May 16th, 2016 with the Consultant responsible for supporting the development of the manual of procedures for the management of the "Charaka" Fund for vocational training, for an amount of 4,662.8 USD.
4. Amendment No. 1 to the contract concluded on June 16th, 2016 with the Human Resources Consultant to support the human resources recruitment process of the MCA-Morocco Agency, for an amount of 140,000 DH.
5. Amendment No. 1 to the contract concluded in July 2016 with the C2D Services/FQDE Group to provide technical assistance for experimentation, design improvement and support for the implementation of the component "Integrated Model for the Improvement of Secondary Education Establishments", for an amount of 109,463 USD.

**Resolution No. 7:**

The Board unanimously approves an amendment to the Procurement Plan relating to the Compact Implementation Funding (CIF) to include a more accurate estimate of the layout of the headquarters of the MCA-Morocco Agency.