

RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: MIDDLE EAST, NORTH AFRICA & TURKIYE

Project Information Sheet

Committed to achieving a global, regional, and local impact

Building on its ongoing collaboration and engagement in the region to promote sustainable global supply chains, the **Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)** is stepping up its support to policy makers, businesses and stakeholders in five leading economies to promote responsible business conduct (RBC). The Programme “**Responsible Business Conduct for sustainable development: Middle East, North Africa & Türkiye**” aims to promote smart, sustainable, and inclusive economic growth in line with OECD standards on RBC.

This is the **first programme of its kind** and offers a unique opportunity to bring together the five leading economies in the region to identify step-changes in government and across companies to ensure RBC becomes a reality. The Programme is carried out in partnership with **Türkiye** (an OECD Member), **Egypt, Jordan, Morocco** and **Tunisia**. All five countries have adhered to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on RBC and set up a National Contact Point for RBC.

Starting in December 2023, the programme will be implemented over the course of three years with the support of the governments of Germany (BMZ/GIZ) and Switzerland (SECO).



Responsible Business Conduct at the OECD

The [OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises on Responsible Business Conduct](#) (Guidelines) are recommendations by governments to businesses to enhance their contribution to sustainable development and address adverse impacts associated with business activities on people, planet, and society. The Guidelines were updated in June 2023 to respond to urgent social and environmental priorities facing business and society today. The related [due diligence guidance](#) helps businesses operationalise RBC across sectors and contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals in practice.



At a glance

Geographic focus: Egypt, Jordan, Morocco, Tunisia and Türkiye

Objective: Implementing OECD responsible business conduct standards for sustainable development

Duration: Three years (2023-2026)



Approaches

I. Policy: Assisting policy makers in creating an enabling policy environment for RBC

II. Business: Boosting industry capacity to operationalise RBC and carry out due diligence in key sectors and supply chains

III. NCPs: Strengthening NCPs for better access to remedy

Implemented by the OECD Centre for RBC in collaboration with the OECD Istanbul Centre. With the support of:



Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and supported by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft / Confédération Suisse / Confederazione Svizzera / Confederaziun svizra

Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research EAER

Swiss Confederation

State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

RBC for Sustainable Development in MENA & Türkiye

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The network of 51 **National Contact Points for RBC** (NCPs) are the unique implementation mechanism of the Guidelines. NCPs are government agencies with two tasks – to promote the Guidelines and to act as non-judicial grievance mechanisms hearing complaints regarding company conduct. The OECD has also developed recommendations on the **role of government in promoting RBC**.

In this Programme, the OECD will be focusing on **assisting policy makers, businesses, trade unions and civil society with implementation of RBC standards**, facilitating peer exchanges and learning and providing policy advice on key themes such as leveraging trade and investment for RBC, implementing due diligence in the garment and agriculture sectors, and strengthening access to remedy.



Operationalising responsible business conduct

Taking into account the particularities and specific needs of each country and in co-ordination with the NCPs and national authorities, as well as with local and international stakeholders, the actions under the Programme will include a series of national and regional activities along three components:

I. Policy: *Assisting policy makers to promote policy coherence for RBC in key economic policies for responsible supply chains*

- Capacity building for policymakers to promote an enabling policy environment for RBC
- Tailored technical advice to support development and/or implementation of key policies and strategies



II. Business: *Boosting industry capacity to implement and operationalise due diligence for RBC to avoid and address adverse impacts on people, planet and society in their operations and supply chains*

- Awareness raising and learning to foster the understanding of due diligence for RBC
- Building industry capacity on due diligence in the **garment & footwear and agriculture sectors**
- Facilitating the sharing of experiences and lessons learned at the regional level and across regions

III. National Contact Points: *Supporting NCPs for RBC in MENA*

- Country-specific advice and capacity building to further increase NCP promotional and case handling functions
- Regional network of MENA NCPs to promote regional peer learning, capacity building and tools development

MORE INFORMATION



<https://www.oecd.org/>

Istanbul Centre:

<https://www.oecd.org/global-relations/istanbul-center/>
Istanbul.RegionalCenter@oecd.org



OECD Centre for Responsible Business Conduct:

<http://mneguidelines.oecd.org/RBC@oecd.org>



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