

Deauville Partnership Action Plan for Financial Inclusion

We, the members of the Deauville Partnership, represented at the Senior Officials Meeting and the High Level Conference “Responsible Financial Inclusion for Social Inclusion and Stability”, Berlin, 27./28. April 2015,

Recognize the critical importance of responsible financial inclusion as an element that contributes to creating jobs, increasing economic opportunities for youth, women, underserved groups such as the poor and small scale farmers and underdeveloped regions as well as increasing the unbanked and under-banked population’s access to and usage of a range of quality and cost-effective financial services and promoting micro, small and medium enterprises which, in turn, fosters economic stability and sustainable inclusive growth generally and specifically in the region of Middle East and North Africa (MENA).

Reaffirm the commitment by the G7 and *welcome* commitments by other partners to support the transition countries of the Deauville Partnership, Egypt, Jordan, Libya, Morocco, Tunisia and Yemen, taking the local context into account, in their structural reform agendas that will further enhance sustainable and inclusive growth and job creation in the region, especially in the area of responsible financial inclusion.

Acknowledge the value of peer-to-peer knowledge exchange and learning among public and private financial services providers, financial regulators and policymakers for the design and implementation of innovative financial inclusion policy solutions.

Invite to hereby initiate a process leading to the adoption of a strategic approach in collaboration with the private sector to foster responsible financial inclusion in the Deauville Partnership transition countries that builds on the direction provided by Deauville Partnership Finance Ministers at their meeting in October 2014 and focuses on the use of traditional as well as innovative means such as digital/technology-based solutions to advance financial inclusion, MSME finance policy and responsible finance.

Such a strategic approach includes, where appropriate, the following priority areas to enhance financial inclusion in the Deauville Partnership transition countries:

Digital Financial Inclusion Policy

Allow for national policies that support the use of digital technologies and players within the financial services industry to increase economic opportunities while managing their related risks. This includes building policy makers' capacity to regulate, oversee and supervise digital financial services as well as introducing appropriate risk based regulation in line with acceptable international global standards.

Promote MSME Finance

Explore avenues for new MSME finance including start-up finance, expansion of financial services to MSMEs, introduction of moveable collateral registries, introduction of credit information bureaus and specialized MSME credit rating or SME assessment agencies and systems, and the revision of prudential regulations in order to minimize or eliminate any potential bias against smaller enterprises.

Responsible Finance

Enhance proper market conduct to advance consumer protection and sustainable market development through transparency and disclosure measures, effective and fair systems of help and redress, improve the capacity of national public authorities and support the implementation or related reforms to develop programs aimed at increasing financial literacy, financial education and financial inclusion. Enhance the design and quality of financial products and services.

Beyond these three priority areas, we also acknowledge that remittances can help drive financial inclusion for sustainable development and represent a major source of income for millions of families and businesses globally, including in the MENA region. We recognize efforts to reduce the global average cost of transferring remittances, and acknowledge the importance of taking steps to ensure that appropriate receiving conditions are in place, including by enhancing market transparency, increasing competition between service providers and harnessing emerging technologies.

We invite our member institutions to support this agenda and to contribute to devising concrete actions to implement it.