



## Regional MENA webinar on Data and Information-Sharing

May 19 2022

### I. SHORT SUMMARY

Open data has been described as the ‘new raw material of the twenty-first century’. Its propensity to unleash social and economic benefits for citizens and economic actors has piqued the interest of public institutions around the world who are increasingly alert to the potential of releasing public information and data.

While governments and parliaments do have access to large stores of information, they struggle with prioritization of dissemination, or the quality of data. At the same time, there are challenges on the demand side, with the civic sector underutilizing the data and information available.

The conference on data and information-sharing, hosted by Lebanon, will gather stakeholders from four MENA countries: Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco. The event will allow civic actors, governmental and parliamentary institutions from all four countries to share their experiences and the challenges related to data and information-sharing.

### II. OBJECTIVES

In the context of participating countries’ efforts to advance the Open Government values, NDI proposes a 90-minute online discussion with the following objectives:

- To review and discuss current **data release priorities** of the state institutions
- To analyze the current **information-sharing challenges** of the regional institutions
- To discuss **the role of civil society in creating a demand** for data and information

The proposed event intends to engage all stakeholders in a discussion about the current achievement and to reflect on expectations for the future.

### III. AGENDA

MAY 19, 2022

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|-------------|---|
| 11:00-11:10 | Introduction of NDI’s regional OGP project<br>Introductions of panelists  |
| 11:10-11:30 | Introduction discussion - state of the Open Government in the MENA region |
| 11:30-12:15 | Breakout room panel discussions   |

### Room 1 - Data release priorities

Panelists: A representative NGO from each country and:

**Jordan:** Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship

**Lebanon:** Council of Ministers

**Tunisia:** Presidency of the Government

**Morocco:** Ministry of Digital Transformation

### Room 2 - Challenges in information-sharing

Panelists: Representatives of the civic sector from each participating country and:

**Jordan:** Parliament of Jordan

**Lebanon:** Central Inspection

**Tunisia:** Commission for Access to Information

**Morocco:** Commission for Access to Information

12:15-12:20 Rapporteurs report back from the sessions

12:20-12:30 Final discussion, conclusions

## IV. ORGANIZATIONAL BACKGROUND

The National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI or the Institute) is a nonprofit organization established in 1983 that conducts nonpartisan international programs to help promote, maintain and strengthen democracy worldwide. Utilizing its global network of experts, the Institute provides practical assistance to democrats in every region of the world to advance democratic values, build political and civic organizations, safeguard elections, and promote citizen participation, openness and accountability in government. The Institute works in more than 60 countries.

The Institute currently works with civil society organizations and/or parliaments in five countries in the MENA region—Algeria, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, and Tunisia—to strengthen participatory governance and increase the transparency and accountability of governments.



OPEN DATA ● INFORMATION  
OPEN GOVERNANCE PARTNERSHIP

Panelists from Tunisia, Jordan, Lebanon and Morocco sharing current achievements and expectations for the future.

hosted by:



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