

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

The first session of the Strategic Orientation Council (COS) of the MCA-Morocco Agency was held on Thursday, October 20th, 2016, at the headquarters of the Head of the Government, at the invitation of the Head of Government, President of the Council.

At the opening of this session, the COS Chair recalled the progress made by our country, which has enabled Morocco to benefit from this second cooperation program (Compact II), after having successfully completed the first Compact worth $697.5 million. The members of the COS welcomed the successful completion of the Compact II preparation process and the quality of the projects selected, while reiterating their commitment to creating the best conditions for the implementation of this Program.

This session was an opportunity to establish the organizational foundations of the MCA-Morocco Agency responsible for the management and implementation of the cooperation program signed on November 30th, 2015, under which the Government of the United States, acting through Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC), allows the Moroccan Government a grant of $450 million to which is added a minimum contribution of 15% from the Moroccan government. This Compact will be intended to finance two major projects: "Education and Training for Employability" and "Land Productivity".

During this first session, the members of the COS approved the rules of procedure of the COS of the MCA-Morocco Agency laying down the modalities of organization and operation of the COS, the organization chart of the Agency, the status of the Agency's staff, the model contracts for the recruitment of seconded staff and contractual staff and the model recruitment contract of the Director General with an authorization to the Head of Government to sign the said contract in accordance with Article 5 of Law No. 24-16 establishing the MCA-Morocco Agency.

In this regard, it was pointed out that the recruitment of the Director General was done in compliance with both the Moroccan regulations in force on appointment to senior positions and the MCC procedure in this regard. It was also stressed that the recruitment of the staff of the MCA-Morocco Agency will continue being based on transparency and competition.

The Board also approved the salary schedule for Agency staff as presented by the representative of MCC. Under the project "Education and Training for Employability", the Board approved the agreement on the implementation of the "Secondary Education" and "TVET" activities to be concluded with the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training, and authorized the Director General of the Agency to sign it. The Council also approved the Partnership Fund procedures manual for the "Secondary Education" activity.

The first session of the COS was also an opportunity to approve four commercial contracts concluded under this program, as well as the draft contract relating to the banking agreement to be concluded between MCA-Morocco Agency and a local bank.

The list of resolutions adopted at the COS meeting is as follows:

**Resolution No. 1:**

The Board takes note of the program of the Millennium Challenge Compact and the results of the preparatory work for its implementation.

**Resolution No. 2:**

After deliberation, the Board unanimously approves the rules of procedure of the COS of the MCA-Morocco Agency.

**Resolution No. 3:**

After deliberation, the Board unanimously approved the organizational chart of the MCA-Morocco Agency.

**Resolution No. 4:**

After deliberation, the Board unanimously approves the staff regulations of the MCA-Morocco Agency.

**Resolution No. 5:**

After deliberation, the Board unanimously approves the agreement on the implementation entity of the "Secondary Education" and "TVET" activities, to be concluded with the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training.

**Resolution No. 6:**

After deliberation, the Board unanimously approves the procedures manual of the Education Partnership Fund.

**Resolution No. 7:**

After deliberation, the Board unanimously approves the Procurement Plan for the period from July to December 2016.

**Resolution No. 8:**

After deliberation, the Board unanimously approves the five contracts concluded or to be concluded under the program covered by Compact II, as detailed in the technical data sheets sent to the members of the COS. These are the following contracts:

1. The contract concluded on December 18th, 2015, with the company "Cardno Emerging Markets USA, Ltd" to act as financial agent, for an amount of five million six hundred eight thousand seven hundred eighty-six dollars (US$5,608,786.00);
2. The contract concluded on January 7th, 2016, with the company "Cardno Emerging Markets USA, Ltd" to act as a purchasing agent, for an amount of six million three hundred fifty and one thousand three hundred seven dollars (US$6,351,307.00);
3. The contract concluded on July 27th, 2016, with the group formed by the consulting office "C2D Services" and the Fédération Québécoise des Directions d'établissement d'enseignement "FQDE" (Groupement C2D services - FQDE) to provide technical support for the development of a design of the integrated model for the improvement of secondary schools and to accompany its implementation, for an amount of six hundred and ninety-eight thousand eight hundred and eighty-two dollars (US$698,882.00);
4. The contract concluded on August 29th, 2016, with the FIAT group formed by the three consulting offices "FIT CONSEIL", "AGRO CONCEPT" and "Cabinet TAOUHID" to ensure the preparation of the operation of transfer of ownership of the collective land, for an amount of one million one hundred and fifty thousand dollars (US$ 1,150,000.00);
5. The banking contract to be concluded with Banque Populaire, relating to the opening of the bank accounts of the MCA-Morocco Agency.

**Resolution No. 9:**

After deliberation, the Board unanimously approves the Director General's model recruitment contract and authorizes the Head of Government to sign the said contract in accordance with article 5 of Law No. 24-16.

**Resolution No. 10:**

After deliberation, the Board unanimously approves the model contracts for the recruitment of seconded and contractual staff of the Agency.

**Resolution No. 11:**

After deliberation, the Board approves the salary scale for the staff of the MCA-Morocco Agency.