

**9th Public-Private Dialogue
Global Workshop in Tunis
9 May, 2017**

**Keynote Address by H.E. Youssef Chahed,
Head of Government of Tunisia**

The Prime Minister officially inaugurated the 9th PPD Conference held in Tunisia, for the first time. Speaking in Arabic he expressed gratitude to the organizers of the event and welcomed the distinguished participants to his country.

H.E. Chahed affirmed that current socio-economic developments and existing challenges increase the responsibility of the public administration to enhance its performance strengthening PPD mechanisms by enshrining the principles of transparency, integrity and equality in the participatory approach between the public and private sectors. Therefore, he called for the establishment of PPD mechanisms and the effective involvement of economic institutions in identifying administrative issues in the business environment and transforming dialogue into a powerful legal, institutional and evaluation tool.

Addressing the international and national participants of the Conference, the Prime Minister highlighted the policies adopted by Tunisia in recent years, which are based mainly on the principle of dialogue and partnership. This has developed into a culture of all sides and, as a result, the national dialogue led to Tunisia receiving the Nobel Peace Prize.

The private sector plays a pivotal role in the process of economic reforms, he added. He expressed his government's belief that for any reform to succeed it ought to adopt the principles of partnership and recognize the potential of the private sector and its effectiveness in the process. This was why the government took a decision to establish a regulatory framework for institutionalizing PPD by establishing a mechanism to determine the course and methodology of its organization and follow-up. This eventually provides for a participatory approach where working together to open up the public sector to the private sector will push the reform process forward.

H.E. Chahed stated that after the revolution, Tunisia became internationally known for its culture of dialogue, in which it managed to overcome many obstacles. This promoted the government to open up to its social partners and launch PPD, as well as more importantly integrate that dialogue within the national culture.

Moreover, he pointed out that the government also took the initiative to institutionalize the dialogue and integrate this participatory process in a systematic

way because it believes the private sector's contribution can create an added value, or, a more powerful and innovative way to effectively undertake major economic reforms and empowerment.