

## **Tunisia: Thirty Countries Invited to Conference "Investing in Tunisia, Start-Up Democracy"**

Tunis — "Some thirty countries, international financial institutions and multinational companies will be invited to the conference "Investing in Tunisia, Start-up Democracy," to be held next September 8 in Tunis.

The aim of this conference that will take place in the run-up-to the next October elections is to allow donors and foreign investors to learn about the strategic opportunities for the development of the Tunisian economy and the implementation of future projects, co-ordinators of this conference, Tahar Sioud (Tunisia) and Pierre Duquesne (France) said at a press briefing held Wednesday afternoon at the seat of the Foreign Ministry to shed light on this event.

A series of projects for funding will be presented at this conference, including public structural projects and public-private partnership development projects, said Mr. Sioud.

The conference will give partners and friends of Tunisia a description of what will be the Tunisian economic development model as well as a micro-economic view of promising sectors in the coming years, said Mr. Duquesne.

France will continue providing support to Tunisia in the shift from political transition to economic transition, said Mr. Duquesne, recalling that since the Revolution, Tunisia's transition process has been highly praised by the international community.

Senior officials have already confirmed their participation in this conference, including the French Prime Minister, the President of the Organisation of Islamic Co-operation (OIC), said the two co-ordinators.

The next elected government will draw on the recommendations of this conference in "the cementing Tunisia's stability, which is an important factor for the entire region," they added.

Preparatory meetings of senior executives and experts will start in early September to finalise the conference programme and the strategic guidance note on projects to be proposed to the guests.

The concept of Tunisia Start-up Democracy was initiated by Interim Prime Minister Mehdi Jomaa in his recent official visits to Washington and Paris last April.

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