[Abridged version of the programme]







Under the High Patronage of H.E. the President of the Republic
Fouad Mebazza

Regional Conference

Public Service Delivery in Arab Countries: Corruption Risks and Possible Responses

Gamart, Tunisian Republic

29-30 September 2011

Programme

Supported by the UNDP Regional Project on
"Anti-Corruption and Integrity in the Arab Countries" (ACIAC)

[Abridged version of the programme]

OVERVIEW

1. The conference on **"Public Service Delivery in Arab Countries: Corruption Risks and Possible Responses"** convenes at the coastal city of Gamart in the Tunisian Republic on 29-30 September 2011, with the joint support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET)[1], in cooperation with the National Fact-Finding Committee on Corruption and Malversation (CCM)[2] in the Tunisian Republic. It is organized in the framework of the UNDP regional project on "Anti-Corruption and Integrity in the Arab Countries" (ACIAC)[3] and in support of the implementation of the ACINET Programme of Work for 2010-2011.

2. The conference gains particular importance in light of ongoing regional events, which have placed anti-corruption at the heart of public demand, and highlighted the negative impact of corruption on the daily lives of people in the Arab region[4]. In response to these emerging developments and building on past activities, the conference brings attention to the theme of corruption in public service delivery, particularly health, water, and education. It provides participants with an inclusive and interactive platform to:

(a) Explore the complex and diverse corruption risks and challenges in these sectors, which are often interconnected with gaps in developmental performance, including the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs);[5] and

(b) Formulate comprehensive approaches and specific solutions that draw on international standards and comparative experiences while taking the national and local contexts into consideration.

AGENDA

Thursday, 29 September 2011	
08.30 – 09.30	**Registration**
09.30 – 10.15	**Opening Session** ***Objective:*** *Set the overall framework of the conference and provide the organizers with an opportunity to share updates about their respective anti-*

[1] For more information on ACINET and its work, please contact info@arabacinet.org.
[2] The CCM is an independent body mandated with (i) developing the country's anti-corruption vision for the future; and (ii) collecting and presenting to competent authorities facts on corruption and malversation committed since 1987. It is established by Decision N.7/2011 of the Interim President of the Tunisian Republic on 18 February 2011.
[3] For more information on ACIAC, please contact aciac@undp.org.
[4] For purposes of this document, the term "Arab region" is meant to include the 22 members of the League of Arab States, which are Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, occupied Palestinian territory, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.
[5] To learn more about the MDGs, please visit http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/.

	corruption efforts and expectations for the conference.

- **Official opening statement**

  H.E. Mr. Abdelfattah AMOR, President of the National Fact-Finding Committee on Corruption and Malversation, Tunisian Republic

- **Statement of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network**

  H.E. Mr. Ahmad AL ANISI, Chair of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network, President of the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption, Republic of Yemen

- **Statement of the United Nations Development Programme**

  H.E. Mr. Mohamed BELHOCINE, UNDP Resident Coordinator, Resident Representative, UNDP Tunisia

10.15 – 10.30	**Break**

10.30 – 13.00	**First session (plenary)** **Public Service Delivery in Arab Countries: Challenges from a Governance and Development Perspective** ***Session Objective:*** *Establish a common understanding on public service delivery issues and related standards; share updated information on the developmental performance of sectors that deliver basic public services in Arab countries; identify related governance challenges with a focus on corruption to help outline major corruption risks that may undermine the those sectors in the participating Arab countries.*

- **Moderator**

  Mr. Arkan EL SEBLANI, Programme Specialist at the Regional Bureau for Arab States, UNDP

- **Panelists**

  Mr. Mustafa KHAWAJA, Independent Consultant

  Dr. Kamal HAMDAN, Head of Economic Division at the Consultation and Research Institute in Lebanon

  Ms. Annie DEMIRJIAN, Democratic Governance Practice Leader at the Bratislava Regional Centre, UNDP

  Mr. Ziad ABDELSAMAD, Executive Director of the Arab NGO Network for Development

- **Discussion**

  Q&As and comments on presentations followed by discussion on key questions such as: What are the major governance-related challenges which affect the developmental performance of sectors that deliver basic public services in participating countries? Which services are undermined the most by corruption? What are the most common forms of corruption that affect the delivery of basic public services? Why are the gaps that allow these forms of corruption to exist?

13.00 – 14.00	**Lunch**

14.00 – 15.45	**Second Session (plenary)** **Anti-Corruption in Sectors that Deliver Basic Public Services in Arab Countries: Role of Stakeholders and Perspectives on Collective Action** ***Session Objective:*** *Enable an interactive experience-based dialogue on how key stakeholders (anti-corruption agencies, parliaments, other oversight institutions, sector-related ministries, businesses, civil society, and others) can support sectoral anti-corruption effort in a more effective manner taking current context of the Arab countries into consideration; and explore the prospects for collective action against corruption in sectors that deliver basic public services, namely health, water, and education.*

- **Moderator**

  H.E. Mr. Ghassan MOUKHEIBER, President of Arab Parliamentarians against Corruption, and Member of Parliament, Republic of Lebanon

- **Panelists**

  Mr. Jason RECHELT, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, UNODC

  Ms. Sareen MALIK, Programme Officer, Transparency International

  Mr. Slim KCHOUK, Chief Executive Officer, Siemens Tunisia

  H.E. Mr. Abdessalam ABOUDRAR, President of the Central Authority for Preventing Corruption, Kingdom of Morocco

- **Discussion**

  Q&As and comments on presentations followed by discussion on key questions including: What is the role of key stakeholders in sectoral anti-corruption efforts? How does the current context of Arab countries affect these roles? How can various stakeholders work together? Have you been involved in multi-stakeholder initiatives? What were the results and

how were they achieved? What were the challenges and lessons learned for collective action in the future?

15.45 – 16.00	**Break**

16.00 – 18.00	**Third Session (plenary)** **Corruption-related Sectoral Assessments: Methodologies and Applications** ***Session Objective:*** *Survey major methodologies that can help in assessing corruption risks and challenges at the sectoral level; and discus related experiences, with a focus on applications in health, water, and education to identify good practices and share lessons learned.*

- **Moderator**

  Dr. Juanita OLAYA, Independent Consultant

- **Panelists**

  Ms. Catherine LAURENT, Senior Public Sector Management Specialist in the Middle East and North Africa Region, World Bank

  Mr. Jairo ACUÑA-ALFARO, Policy Advisor on Public Administration Reform and Anti-Corruption, UNDP Viet Nam

  Mr. Mohammad HASHEM, Public Services Monitoring Programme Manager, Integrity Watch Afghanistan

  Ms. Maha EL MASRI, Consultant, MENA-OECD Investment Programme

- **Discussion**

  Q&As and comments on presentations followed by discussion on relevant experiences from the Arab countries.

20.00	**Social Dinner** For more information and registration, please contact the organizers.

Friday, 30 September 2011

09.00 – 11.00	**Fourth Session (parallel roundtables)** **Anti-Corruption in Sectors that Deliver Basic Public Services: Health / Water / Education** ***Session Objective:*** *Discuss strategies for addressing corruption in the three*

	sectors while drawing attention to cross-sectoral issues and deepening the participants' understanding of sector-specific corruption risks, possible responses, and related implementation challenges.

- **Roundtable on Corruption and Health**

  Ms. Karen HUSSMANN, Independent Consultant

- **Roundtable on Corruption and Water**

  Mr. Jeroen VOS, Independent Consultant

- **Roundtable on Corruption and Education**

  Ms. Laetitia ANTONOWICZ, Independent Consultant

11.00 – 11.30	**Break**

11.30 – 13.30	**Fifth Session (parallel roundtables)** **Towards Action Against Corruption in Health, Water, and Education in Arab Countries: Djibouti, Morocco, and Tunisia / Egypt and Jordan / Iraq, the occupied Palestinian territory, and Yemen** ***Session Objective:*** *Identify possible actions in the three sectors in each of the participating countries, as appropriate; discuss possible avenues for multi-stakeholder cooperation thereon; and formulate preliminary country-specific proposals to support the implementation of the identified actions in 2012.*

- **Roundtable on Djibouti, Morocco, and Tunisia (60 minutes)**

  Dr. Zouheir ALLAGUI, Independent Consultant

- **Roundtable on Egypt and Jordan (60 minutes)**

  Mr. Mustafa KHAWAJA, Independent Consultant

- **Roundtable on Iraq, the occupied Palestinian territory, and Yemen (60 minutes)**

  Mr. Arkan EL SEBLANI, Programme Specialist at the Regional Bureau for Arab States, UNDP

- **Country brainstorming groups (60 minutes)**

  Based on the roundtables' findings, participants from each country come together in a separate group. They select a chair and a rapporteur and brainstorm to formulate the elements of country specific proposal for action in 2012, using a template specifically developed for this purpose.

13.30 – 14.30	**Lunch**

14.30 – 16.00	**Closing Session (plenary)** ***Session Objective:*** *Discuss and adopt the regional conclusions formulated based on preparatory research and consultations and the results of the previous sessions; and share key findings made by the country delegations on possible follow-up actions.*

- **Moderator**

  Dr. Azmi SHUAIBI, Anti-Corruption Commissioner at Transparency Palestine, and Coordinator of the Non-Governmental Group of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network

- **Country groups reports**

  Presented by each group's rapporteur (5 minutes each)

- **Conclusions**

  Mr. Arkan EL SEBLANI, Programme Specialist at the Regional Bureau for Arab States, UNDP

16.30	**Press Conference**

***