Good Governance for Development (GfD) in Arab Countries Initiative

Project "Supporting the Implementation of the UNCAC in Arab Countries"

Regional Conference on

"Preventing corruption and strengthening cooperation between anti-corruption bodies in the Arab region"

Amman, the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

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Background paper

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1. Introduction

Corruption is an international phenomenon that has serious economical, social, and political effects reflecting on the growth, stability and security of countries, especially in the shadows of the globalization and the accelerated technological development. Furthermore, corruption consumes the riches of people, deters investment, and distorts the quality of the essential public services that citizens receive such as health and education. It also undermines democratic values, obstructs the rule of law, and threatens social stability and security.

The recent years have witnessed the emergence of a wide international consensus on the necessity of combating corruption whether via preventive methods or criminalization, prosecuting or law enforcement. In the light of this international consensus, most of the countries began working seriously with a view to strengthen their capacities to fight corruption through reforming legislations and institutional regulations, training human resources, reinforcing international cooperation, and working on increasing awareness on the dangers of corruption and the necessity to combat it across society.

The United Nations Convention against Corruption[1] reflects this international consensus and efforts, and forms a unity framework that enables the development of an integrated and comprehensive international approach to confront corruption and build appropriate strategies to prevent and fight its different manifestations.

The Arab region has clearly joined this international consensus through the GfD initiative in Arab countries[2] with its two phases which formed a major transformation point towards an anti-corruption comprehensive Arab effort and establishing the principles of good governance based on transparency, integrity

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[1] The UNCAC was adopted by the General Assembly on October 31st 2003 and entered force on December 14th 2005

[2] The GfD initiative in Arab countries was launched in February 2005 in the Dead Sea (Jordan) under the patronage of H.E. King Abdullah the second and was attended by 18 Arab countries represented on a ministerial and prime ministerial level and with support of UNDP-POGAR and the OECD

and accountability. This Arab will to combat corruption was affirmed during a high-level regional conference held at the Dead Sea (Jordan) on 21-23 January 2008. The conference launched the project **"Supporting the UNCAC Implementation" in the Arab country**. It was attended by ministers of justice and governmental responsibles, high-level representatives of the judicial authorities, parties involved in fighting corruption from 19 Arab countries in addition to representatives of the civil society, the media, the private sector and international and regional experts. This conference emphasized the commitment of Arab countries to strengthen their efforts to fight corruption through building their capacities to implement the UNCAC. Participating countries adopted a coordinated mechanism to establish a regional network that provides a regional platform to support the UNCAC implementation efforts at a national and regional level. This pioneering step was discussed on the side of the second session of the Conference of the State Parties related to the convention that was held in Bali (Indonesia) from the 28th of January until the first of February 2008. It is expected that this effort will form a unique regional experience that will be presented as a good practice during the third session of the State Parties Conference that is expected to be held in Doha (Qatar) by the end of 2009.

Before and throughout launching this project, Arab countries made several important steps that expressed their serious commitment to strengthen their anti-corruption capacity such as:

- the UNCAC signature of 17 Arab countries and the ratification of 12[3]
- the formation of the Arab Governmental Experts Group (AGEG) on UNCAC self assessment in December 2007[4]
- the promulgation of special anti-corruption legislations and the establishment of special anti-corruption bodies for the implementation by several countries[5]. This project forms a regional framework that

[3]the Arab countries that ratified the convention are: Jordan, UAE, Tunisia, Algeria, Djibouti, Qatar, Kuwait, Libya and Egypt.

[4] the AGEG on UNCAC self assessment form the regional basis of knowledge exchange on anti-corruption and promoting transparency in the framework of the GfD. Until this date, there are experts from 17 Arab countries and it is likely that the group expands welcoming other countries soon. These experts will gather during the next three years, with the support of UNDP in collaboration with UNODC, in many workshops, stations and in a view to contribute in the preparation of the Convention's Conference of State Parties, and to contributing in the implementation of the UNCAC in the Arab countries which is one of the of phase two (2008 – 2010) that was launched at the Dead Sea in January 2008.

[5] Like Jordan, Yemen, Algeria, Mauritania, and recently Morocco

coordinates these efforts and supports them on both regional and national levels.

The process of developing effective anti-corruption frameworks in the Arab region is beginning to have a bigger momentum recently. The Arab League launched a wide consultation process, which is now in its final phases, in a view to develop an anti-corruption Arab Convention. The Arab Convention was developed to coordinate with the provisions of the UNCAC which is the legal tool that also complements with other regional conventions. The UNCAC remains the only multilateral document that is able to present a minimum of common ground to all of the countries, among which the Arab countries, to develop a comprehensive anti-corruption legal approach.

2. A view on the project "Supporting the UNCAC Implementation" in Arab countries[6]

The project **"Supporting the UNCAC Implementation" in Arab countries** is a part of the Good Governance for Development initiative (GfD) in Arab countries that was launched on February 2005 at the Dead Sea (Jordan) under the patronage of His Excellency king Abdullah the Second. It was attended by 18 Arab countries represented at ministerial and prime ministerial level and was supported by the United Nations Development Program– Program on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) and the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)[7] .

It is expected that the project will be implemented during the second phase of the Initiative (2008-2010) with the support of UNDP-POGAR and the cooperation of the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime (UNODC) and the OECD with the coordination of the Arab League.

The project aims to increase awareness and build knowledge and capacities of policy makers and practitioners in Arab countries through a group of regional activities that will be conducted through four strategic pillars leading to an effective anti-corruption support of Arab countries and in accordance with their national priorities:

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[6] For further information, please contact the legal specialist in the UNDP – POGAR, mister Arkan El Seblani (arkan.el-seblani@undp.org)

[7] For further information on the Initiative please visit the following site http://www.arabgov-initiative.org/

- **Self assessment:** building a solid knowledge on legal and institutional frameworks to fight against corruption in Arab countries in addition to current practices in this domain

- **Understanding needs:** explaining demands and elements of implementing the UNCAC and offering the best of practices in this matter

- **Offering help:** supporting the development of technical input programs of willing Arab countries at a national level

- **Reviewing the implementations:** encouraging a periodic review of the efforts of the UNCAC implementation and exchanging successful experiences and lessons learnt

A number of priorities were defined to implement the project within the year 2008 with the coordination of Arab countries and while taking into consideration discussions that were conducted along with the regional conference activities that were held at the Dead Sea on 21-23 January 2008.

These priorities are:

- Preventive anti-corruption bodies (articles 5 and 6 of the convention) and related preventive institutional mechanisms

- Ethics and Conducts of the public sector, the judicial system and the public prosecution systems (articles 8 and 11 of the convention)

- Matters of criminalization and enforcement of law (chapter three of the convention) focusing on the issue of protecting witnesses and reporting persons (articles 32 and 33 of the convention)

- International cooperation (chapter 4 of the convention[8])

[8] The "Asset Recovery" subject was replaced by the "International Cooperation" on the event that matters related to the first subject will be dealt with through processing the matters of international coordination. This was due to the remarks and the deliberations and discussions that were done during the regional conference during and after January 2008.

In the framework of these strategic pillars and defined priorities, a group of **technical activities** will be organized on both regional and national levels including: special conferences, training workshops, educational delegations, fieldtrips and other activities that endorse the involvement of Arab Countries representatives and their participation in international and regional anti-corruption seminars.

In the framework of this project, the UNDP in cooperation with other international organizations such as the OECD and the UNODC and in coordination with the Arab League will help Arab countries to establish **a Regional Arabic Network to Support the Implementation of the UNCAC** and to form a permanent sharing forum to exchange knowledge and experiences in this domain.

There will also be a close work with Arab countries to support them in the UNCAC self Assessment implementation that serves the above mentioned activities and helps Arab countries in their efforts to plan and implement effective and coordinated fight against corruption and to fulfill their commitments before the State Parties Conference and the international community[9].

2. The role of anti-corruption bodies and preventive procedures in the frame work of the UNCAC

The UNCAC represents the international anti-corruption framework that includes the minimum of obligations that should be conducted by each country to ensure that anti-corruption efforts are effective and serious whether inside or across their borders. The convention is characterized by the diversity of preventive procedures that present a wide ranged frameworks and anti-corruption mechanisms in the public sector, the judiciary, the public prosecutor office as well as in the private sector. In addition to dealing with matters of criminalization, prosecution, law enforcement and matters of international cooperation, as well as presenting a comprehensive framework on the pioneering issue of asset recovery on an international level, the convention offers a rich and coordinated framework of preventive procedures.

The Arab countries participating in the project considered the subject of prevention from corruption as a priority in the framework of implementing the

[9]In this area, the UNDP-POGAR with the cooperation of the UNODC organized two regional training workshops on self assessment. The first one was held in Amman (Jordan) during December 2007 while the other in Dar Al Baydaa (Morocco) in April 2008.

convention for its key role in promoting the capacity of governments to deal with this serous phenomenon before the damage occurs. The representatives of the participating Arab countries in the project's activities considered that promoting the integrity subject is essential to prevent corruption dangers whether in the public or private sector.

This paper will present a quick review on the most prominent of preventive procedures that was applied by the convention and which is categorized in the frame of the second chapter.

Before discussing these preventive procedures, we should note that the convention applied two forms of requirements, obligatory and optional requirements

1- The obligatory requirements: committing to take legislative or other procedures
2- The optional requirements: the committing to review certain matters

The convention offered some optional procedures that could be used as examples and best of experiences for States.

Back to the most prominent preventive procedure that was applied by the convention, we present the following procedures:

<u>One: anti-corruption policies and the preventive bodies</u>

Article five of the UNCAC forms the basis that defines the importance of applying anti-corruption policies which is the main entrance for any real effort to prevent and combat corruption for the State Parties. The article displays the main preventive goals and the procedures that should be applied in this matter, in accordance with the main principles of the internal laws of the country that supports the encouragement of the community in general to engage in anti-corruption activities and embodies the principles of sovereignty of laws, the good management of public properties and matters, integrity, transparency, and accountability. In this framework, State parties should implement a group of obligations related to anti-corruption effective and coordinated public policies[10]. Article 5 stresses the importance of prevention[11] and the need to a continuing assessment process of the anti-corruption procedures. It also stressed on the

[10] See the Legislative Guide to implement the UNCAC, done by the UNODC, treaties matters , UN publications, New York, 2006, p. 13
[11] See also sub paragraph (a) of article (1) of the convention

importance of international cooperation in anti-corruption[12]. We should note that article 5 requires preventive procedures and not necessarily a certain legislation.

Article 6 presents the general framework of finding the necessary independence, on a financial and administrative level, so that body or bodies can prevent corruption via implementing policies cited in article 5 of the convention and increasing and diffusing anti-corruption knowledge. Article 6 doesn't necessarily mean forming a certain body on a certain level. What is required is finding the capacity to conduct preventive functions enumerated by article 5. Forming an anti-corruption body may require the formulation of a legislation in this matter. It is possible that the mentioned body or bodies in this framework are the same as the bodies referred to in article 36[13].

In this framework, the obligatory requirements that each State Party of the Convention shall implement are:

- Each State Party shall make and implement effective and coordinated policies in accordance with certain standards
- All State Parties shall cooperate with each other and with regional and international organizations to achieve this goal, in a view to profit from accumulated experiences and successful practices and lessons learnt in this area
- These States shall have anti-corruption body or bodies that are responsible of general preventive policies and procedures, in the event that this body or bodies shall be granted independency, and the required means to perform its tasks

Two: preventive procedures in the public sector

Article 7 of the convention deals with preventive procedures related to the public sector, especially the regulations of the public office. It also views matters of candidature and elections to public office and matters of funding elections and, where applicable, funding political parties. In conclusion, article 7 deals with

[12] See also sub paragraph (b) of article (1) of the convention

[13] Article 36 states: Each State party shall, in accordance with the fundamental principles of its legal system, ensure the existence of a body or bodies or persons specialized in combating corruption through law enforcement. Such body or bodies or persons shall be granted the necessary independence, in accordance with the fundamental principles of the legal system of the State Party, to be able to carry out their functions effectively and without any undue influence. Such persons or staff of such body or bodies should have the appropriate training and resources to carry out their tasks

transparency and conflict of interest in the public sector as anti-corruption important preventive tools.

This article stresses on the public office regulations. It discusses a wide area dealing with recruitment, hiring, retention, promotion and retirement in the public sector. It also includes in its provisions civil servants and other public officials and, where appropriate, non-elected public officials.

The convention considers that the principles of efficiency, transparency and objective criteria such as, merit, equity and aptitude are essential principles that should be the basis of civil service or public office regulations. The convention stresses on the importance of taking special attention of public positions especially vulnerable to corruption such as public procurement, real estates, structures, political funding and other. This article also stresses on the importance of taking adequate procedures to select civil servants and other non-elected public officials, to train them and to ensure the rotation, where appropriate, of such individuals to other positions.

In an effort to present a comprehensive preventive framework for the regulations of the public position, article 7 imposes that these regulations 1) promote adequate remuneration and equitable pay scales, taking into account the level of economic development of the State Party, 2) promote education and training programmes to enable such persons to meet the requirements for the correct, honourable and proper performance of their functions. Thus, realizing the importance of providing financial guarantees for the public official and the knowledge and capacities that prevent them from corruption.

Article 7 didn't stop at that point, it also encouraged States to adopt appropriate legislative and administrative measures, related to candidature for an election to public office and criteria concerning electing public officials. It also promoted adopting appropriate legislative and administrative measures to enhance transparency in the funding of candidatures for elected public office and the funding of political parties when the national legal system allows the formation of political parties.

In conclusion, article 7 dealt with two important preventive instruments which are transparency and preventing conflict of interests, since conflict of interests weakens the trust of citizens in the integrity and honesty of civil servants and the rest of the public officials, which reflects a negative image of the public officials and the services that the State offers to its citizens. The convention obliges States

to apply, adopt, and endorse regulations of public position, in accordance with defined practices, standards and principles.

As for the rest of the article 7 regulations, they require each State to:

- Endeavour to apply standards related to candidature to public positions
- Endeavour to apply standards related to the election of public officials
- Endeavour to adopt appropriate administrative and legislative procedures to promote transparency in the funding of candidatures
- Endeavour to adopt appropriate administrative and legislative procedures to promote transparency in funding political parties

Three: codes of conduct in the public sector, the judiciary and the public prosecuting office

Articles 8 and 11 of the convention deal with the codes of conduct as an essential preventive tool that include defined professional criteria that form, if respected, an anti-corruption tool. It deals in article 8 with codes of conduct in the public sector and in article 11 with codes of conduct in the judicial system and in the public prosecutor's office.

In article 8, the convention encourages States to implement the codes of conduct for public officials, as well as to take disciplinary or other procedures against public officials who violate these codes. The articles also states that each State shall find means that enable public officials to report acts of corruption during the performance of their functions or any possible conflict of interests. Thus, the public official could engage in an efficient anti-corruption role, whether through his conducts or by offering help in revealing corruption cases or the possibility of corruption.

In this framework. Article 8 includes the following obligatory :

1- Each Sate Party shall, inter alia, promote integrity, honesty and responsibility among its public officials
2- State Parties shall endeavor to apply codes or standards of conduct for the correct, honorable and proper performance of public functions
3- Each State Party shall, where appropriate, take note of the relevant initiatives of regional, interregional and multilateral organizations, such as the International Code of Conduct for Public Officials

In article 11, especially in paragraph 1, the convention stresses on the independence of the judiciary and its crucial role in combating corruption, thus it

imposes on State Parties to take measures to strengthen integrity and to prevent opportunities for corruption among members of the judiciary, in accordance with the fundamental principles of its legal system and without prejudice to judicial independence (obligatory). Such measures may include rules with respect to assigning members of the judiciary and their conduct and it may require legislations. Some of these States offer members of the judiciary an immunity from investigation and/or from prosecution in a view to strengthen the independence of the judicial system by protecting its members from the prosecution. Whereas paragraph 2 of article 11 encourages state Parties, if they want to, to implement measures similar to that of the judicial service (optional procedure).

Four: the legal regulations of public procurement and management of public finances

Article 9 of the convention forms a procedural framework to what should be applied concerning public procurement and the management of public finances. This article is based on transparent and appropriate procedural processes related to public procurement and management of public finances. In this framework, article 9 related to public procurement and management of public finances, imposes the following obligatory requirements on the State parties:

- Each State Party shall establish appropriate systems of procurement, based on transparency, competition and objective criteria in decision-making that are effective, inter alia, in preventing corruption
- Each State Party shall take appropriate procedures to promote transparency and accountability in the management of public finances
- Each State Party shall take the appropriate civil and administrative measures to preserve the integrity of accounting books, records, financial statements or other documents related to public expenditure and revenue and to prevent the falsification of such documents

Four: efforts to establish the Arab Network to support the UNCAC implementation

The idea of establishing the Arab network to support the UNCAC implementation emerged in the mid 2007 in the framework of the GfD activities in Arab countries. During the steering group meeting at the technical level in Cairo (Egypt) on

September 10th 2007, the idea of establishing an Arab anti-corruption Network and calling international organizations to cooperate in a view to offer support for this effort emerged.

The steering group meeting at ministerial level was held in Cairo (Egypt) on November 29th 2007 under the patronage of Prime Minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, H.E. Dr. Ahmad Nazif. Participants reviewed the achievements of GfD's first phase (2005 – 2007) and adopted the strategic directions and work plans for the second phase (2008 – 2010). At the end of the meeting, they recommended the support of "the process that was launched to establish the anti-corruption Arab Network as a regional instrument to support the participation and coordination to combat corruption and promote transparency in a view to support the UNCAC implementation".

Following these recommendations, the coordination process was launched by parties involved in establishing such network. The regional conference on supporting the UNCAC in the Arab region was held at the Dead Sea on 21 – 23 January 2008 with the participation of 19 Arab countries. The conference was attended by ministers of justice and high level representatives of the Judicial authority, anti-corruption public bodies, parliamentarians and parties from civil society and the private sector in addition to representatives of the Arab League, the international and regional organizations and international and regional experts.

Participants dedicated the commitment of their countries to work, cooperate and coordinate to implement the UNCAC project in the Arab countries. They expressed this commitment in the final declaration document inviting Arab countries to sign and ratify it and to work on adopting the institutional and legal frameworks mentioned in the convention. The participants recommended starting working on establishing an Arab Network that gathers different governmental parties willing to join and work on supporting the UNCAC implementation. They also recommended the importance of establishing a parallel Arab network that includes different non-governmental parties willing to join, such as civil society bodies, the private sector, parliamentarians, and activists involved in combating corruption and promoting transparency and accountability. Participants also recommended "the formation of a group of Arab governmental experts (AGEG) representing their countries to start formulating the Arab network charter for the governmental parties and its internal system through a coordinated mechanism". They asked the anti-corruption body in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan to host the group's activities.

As for the legal aspects of the network and its tasks, the network aims to promote the capacity of Arab countries to combat corruption by providing a regional framework to support national efforts in a view to implement the convention, in complementarity with the convention's State Parties Conference and its Secretariat and in order to endorse it. Joining the network is voluntarily and does not require any financial obligation from the members and membership is open to anti-corruption Arab governmental parties.

The mechanisms of work of this network include a mechanism to coordinate efforts with other developmental efforts and to promote cooperation and communication with parliamentarians, civil society and the private sector, since they are considered essential in achieving effective growth. The network works on achieving the following goals: (a) deepening regional policy dialogue and building knowledge and capacities in Arab countries in different areas of the convention, (b) contributing in developing technical assistance programs on a national level to implement the convention in accordance with the priorities of each country, (c) supporting the mechanism of peer learning and consultation and building partnerships to endorse the UNCAC implementation on an international, regional and national level, (d) promoting a process to develop Arab indicators, to benchmark development related to anti-corruption and to promote transparency and accountability in the framework of the UNCAC.

This network will join a parallel consultant non-governmental network that is intended to be established during an annual regional forum to promote dialogue on anti-corruption methods in a view to review the UNCAC implementation efforts, and to develop the annual work plans in this matter. The UNDP was invited to support the establishment and the activation of these two networks in cooperation with the UNOCD and the OECD and in coordination with the Arab League.

Afterwards, preparatory works were launched during the first preparatory meeting to establish the Official Arab Network to support the UNCAC that was held following the regional training workshop in Casablanca (Morocco) on 22 – 23 April 2008 hosted by the Ministry of Justice in the Kingdom of Morocco. Experts representing Arab countries gathered by the Chair of the anti-corruption's Head in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in a view to launch the process of developing the Official Arab Network's charter and internal system to support the UNCAC implementation in accordance with what was stated in the final declaration of the regional conference at the Dead Sea at the beginning of the year. Experts discussed the work plan to establish the network and they presented similar

experiences from other countries in a view to enrich the pioneering Arab experience. They also discussed the Arab Network charter's project and presented several subjects that are expected to serve the development of the network's work[14]. In addition, the suggested formulation of the charter's draft and its system of work was developed while respecting the principles of transparency, efficiency, participation, and neutrality.

This meeting was the first step towards establishing the network, on the event that it will be followed by another meeting before the comprehensive regional conference that is intended to be held late July 2008. It is expected that the establishment and the launching of the network will be declared before the first regional forum during late 2008. It is also expected that the Arab Network to support the UNCAC implementation will form the stone corner of the efforts of Arab institutional cooperation, which will enable this network to play a pioneering role in leading the UNCAC implementation in the Arab region.

The UNDP-POGAR held a focus group meeting in Beirut on 13 – 14 June 2008 entitled "Towards Launching the Network for the Civil Society Organizations to Support the UNCAC implementation in the Arab Countries" as an effort to establish the non governmental network to implement the UNCAC. This meeting came within the framework of continuing the recommendations of the regional conference on supporting the UNCAC implementation that was held at the Dead Sea in January 2008 within the framework of the GfD initiative in Arab countries, especially the recommendations related to the preparation to launch the Arab non-governmental network to support the UNCAC implementation. The network gathers different non-governmental parties willing to join, including parliamentarians, the civil society, the private sector, and activists involved in combating corruption and promoting transparency and accountability. The first meeting was held on the side of the Dead Sea conference in January 2008. In the framework of preparing the launch of the non-governmental network, the second meeting will enable the preparation of the network's internal system's draft that is brief and includes membership, funding, structure and other organizational matters. There was an agreement to hold a meeting aiming to discuss the internal system's draft and to name the network "the Arab Non-Governmental Network to Support the UNCAC Implementation".

Five: Goals of the Regional Conference and Expected Results

[14] See the attached draft agenda of the network's charter and its system of work

Joining international and regional efforts to combat corruption is very beneficiary for the States willing to develop their legal and institutional frameworks and to promote their capacities to plan and implement anti-corruption policies effectively which will enable them to limit its negative effects on the development and growth.

The regional conference that will be held on 29 – 30 July 2008 in Amman (Jordan) forms the essential drive to launch a comprehensive regional forum that gathers public anti-corruption bodies in Arab countries and promotes possibilities of their cooperation via **launching the Official Arab Network to support the UNCAC implementation.**

The conference deals especially with matters related to the role of anti-corruption bodies and the most prominent preventive procedures of the UNCAC, since these subjects are a priority for the project. The goal is to serve the project's second strategy – **understanding needs** – that explains requirements and elements of the UNCAC implementation for the policy makers and pactioners in Arab countries and presents the best of practices in this matter in order to develop the needed knowledge to support the UNCAC implementation's efforts. This conference also forms an important opportunity to exchange successful experiences and lessons learnt between Arab countries in one hand, and between them and other countries in another hand.

The first session will be dedicated to present a general view on the UNCAC and the available technical support tools in addition to the most important rules included in the convention. Furthermore, there will be a presentation and a discussion of the available technical support tools whether via formulating sample legislations, assisting in training the formulation of the legislation, offering a legal consultation to the State, a field trip conducted by an anti-corruption UN expert, or helping in applying an implementation plan in the framework of the anti-corruption efforts of the State.

The second and the third sessions are intended to study preventive tools and frameworks of the UNCAC. There will be a discussion of preventive anti-corruption practices and policies in addition to a presentation and discussion of the anti-corruption body's role in preventing and combating corruption. Furthermore, there will be a discussion of the financial and administrative independence of the anti-corruption body in addition to a discussion of the immunity of the anti-corruption body and the need for human resources in number and training (articles 5 and 6). There will also be a discussion of the regulations of recruiting public

officials, (article 7), in addition to the codes of conduct for the public officials, judges and public prosecution members (articles 8 and 11). Afterwards the needs related to legal regulations of the public procurement and management of public finances will be discussed (article 9).

The fourth session is intended to discuss the role of anti-corruption bodies and their relation with other bodies in the country. There will be a discussion of the relation that joins anti-corruption bodies with anti-corruption policy making bodies in the country in addition to the relation between anti-corruption bodies and bodies involved in investigation, prosecution and law enforcement. In this framework, there will be a discussion of experiences of some anti-corruption bodies in some Arab countries that are involved in policy making and coordinating with other monitoring bodies. There will also be a presentation of other non Arab experiences that will form the best of practices in this matter.

The fifth session is intended to present global experiences of anti-corruption networks and mechanisms of anti-corruption conventions. International experts will present the best of experiences on mechanisms of anti-corruption conventions and networks. In the beginning, there will be a presentation and a discussion of the best of experiences of regional and international anti-corruption networks such as the experience of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Bodies as well as a presentation and a discussion of "the mutual work plan (between the Asian Developmental Bank (ADB) and the OECD) to combat corruption in Asia and the Pacific Ocean". There will also be a presentation and a discussion of the Eastern Europe Network's experience in fighting corruption.

Moreover, there will be a discussion and a study of the mechanisms of presentation of the Anti-Corruption Organization in American Countries' convention and its review mechanism. There will also be a presentation of the mechanisms of implementation of the Anti-Corruption African Union's charter and its reviewing mechanism in addition to a discussion of the presentation mechanism to implement and execute the OECD's Convention on "Combating Bribery of the Foreign Public Officials in Business Transactions" and its presentation mechanism, the criminal law against corruption's charter issued in 1997 by the European Council, and the Civil Law against corruption pact issued by the European Council and its reviewing mechanism.

The sixth session is intended to launch the Arab Network to support the UNCAC implementation, where a report on the procedures that were applied in the process of preparing the launch of the network will be presented. The benefits

of establishing and the practical procedures that should be adopted to adopt it will be reviewed in addition to the cooperation mechanisms with non-governmental Arab parties and international organizations and donating parties. The final form of the network's pact and its work system will be presented following the amendments of the two regional preparatory meetings that were held for this purpose[15] and in the light of the many consultations that were offered on a national and regional level.

In conclusion, works and recommendations of the conference are important to promote knowledge for anti-corruption Arab Official Bodies in their efforts to prevent and stop corruption and in preparing them to participate in the efforts of the UNCAC implementation in their countries. Furthermore, the network, that will launch its activities based on the recommendations of the participants in the convention, will form a regional forum to a continuing exchange of experiences between Arab countries and between them and sources of international experience that will positively contribute in deepening the regional policy dialogue, and the process of building knowledge and capacities of the Arab countries in different domains of the UNCAC in addition to supporting the peer learning and consultation process and building partnerships to support the convention's implementation on a national, regional, and international level. This will also lead to contributing in developing technical assistance programs to implement the UNCAC on a national level, and according to the priorities of each country, and to facilitate applying and implementing strong and correct mechanisms in fighting corruption and promoting integrity, transparency, and accountability.

Moreover, it is expected that the Arab Network will form **along with the AGEG on self assessment** two important instruments to serve Arab countries in implementing the UNCAC, since they form together a special framework for Arab mutual cooperation, professional communication, exchanging knowledge and experiences, and developing capacities according to the real needs and priorities of Arab countries. All of this will be done within the framework of the prominent regional effort conducted by Arab countries in the frame of the GfD initiative in

[15] The first preparatory meeting was held to establish the Arab Network to support the UNCAC implementation in Al Dar Al Baydaa (Morocco) on 22 – 23 April 2008 in cooperation with the OECD and the UNOCD and in coordination with the Arab League. The participants were high level delegations from 14 Arab country including AGEG on UNCAC's self assessment, presidents and representatives of official bodies involved in combating corruption, representatives of the Arab League and supporting international organizations. The second preparatory meeting will be held in Amman (Jordan) on July 30th 2008.

Arab countries and with the support of the UNDP-OECD and the UNOCD and in coordination with the Arab League.