



The Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET)

The constituting declaration

Proceeding from our commitment to enhance the welfare of our states' citizens, contribute to the progress of our communities, and help develop our Arab countries which seek to achieve stability, growth, and a better future for the next generations;

Firmly realizing that corruption is a major obstacle to the human development efforts, goes against the fundamentals and values on which the Arab culture is based, devours the states' wealth, handicaps investment, weakens the quality of basic public services, undermines the citizen's trust in the ruling regime, deactivates the rule of law, and threatens the communities' stability and security;

Believing that the frameworks and mechanisms developed by the Arab and international instruments and conventions related to corruption prevention, particularly the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), constitute an all-inclusive and integral legal tool that can support the states in adopting efficient and effective anti-corruption measures, and facilitate and strengthen international cooperation and technical assistance in this connection;

Believing in the importance and benefit of cooperation and communication among the Arab states, which constitute the corner stone of joint Arab action, with the purpose of supporting the application of the Arab and international instruments and conventions related to corruption prevention, particularly the UNCAC, and achieving effective and on-going exchange of knowledge, experiences, successful experimentations, and learned lessons within a participatory context that brings together all the entities interested in fighting corruption, being official bodies, parliamentarians, civil society, and private sector;

Responding to the recommendations of the regional conference held in the Red Sea area in January 2008 in the presence of ministers of justice and top-ranking officials from 19 Arab states, which called for establishing a regional network of the representatives of the Arab official anti-corruption agencies and enhancing transparency and accountability to serve as a strategic framework for supporting the efforts exerted for applying the Arab and international instruments and conventions, particularly the UNCAC, in cooperation with a parallel network bringing together the other actors operating in this field; and

Relying on the results of-

- the regional consultations which took place during the preparatory meeting held in Casablanca in April 2008 and attended by experts and representatives of anti-corruption agencies from 14 Arab states,

- the national consultations on the Network's charter and bylaws, and
- the regional consultations which took place during the preparatory meeting held in Amman on 28 July 2008,

We, the representatives of the Arab official agencies concerned with enhancing integrity and fighting corruption, meeting in Amman on 28 July 2008, announce the launch of the Arab Network for Enhancing Integrity and Fighting Corruption in accordance with its charter and by-laws attached to this declaration. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, represented in the Chairman of Anti-corruption Authority, His Excellency Dr. Abdelshakhanba, was elected as the Network's Chairman for one-year term starting from the date this declaration is published. The Chairman of the National Anti-corruption Authority in the Yemeni Republic was elected as First Deputy of the Network's Chairman. The State's General Inspector in the Islamic Republic of Mauritania was elected as Second Deputy.

We call upon all the other Arab official agencies, which could not participate in this meeting, to join this pioneering regional effort.

The participants express their great thanks and gratitude to His Majesty King Abdulla II Ibn el-Hussein and His Excellency Engineer Nader el-Zahabi, the Prime Minister, for their continued support to this initiative, and to every Arab effort in this connection.