

A Presentation on
The Transparency and Integrity Committee (TIC)
Arab Republic of Egypt

The Political will to combat corruption was reflected in the cabinet's resolution No.24 in the 1st of February, 2007 to list the objective of Fighting Corruption high on the Government's working agenda.

Combating corruption as seen by the government is focused on four aspects;

1- Eradicating the causes of corruption through: administrative and legislation simplification, availing services, improving the standards of living of the government employees



- 2- Improving the monitoring and deterrence tools
- 3- Launching a media campaign
- 4- Establishing a mechanism for receiving and analyzing citizen's complaints (for example: a hotline)

In order to enforce the political will, The Minister of State for Administrative Development. H.E. Dr. Ahmed Darwish issued a decree No. 86 of October the 3rd, 2007 on the formation and jurisdictions of the Transparency and Integrity Committee (TIC) .



The Committee is concerned with studying ways and proposing mechanisms of enhancing transparency and integrity and fighting corruption in the units of the state's administrative apparatus. It should collaborate and coordinate fully with the concerned state bodies, while monitoring and observing administrative corruption incidents, and following up on Egypt's international commitments in this regard.

In order to carry out the above mentioned assignments, the

Committee shall have the following jurisdictions:



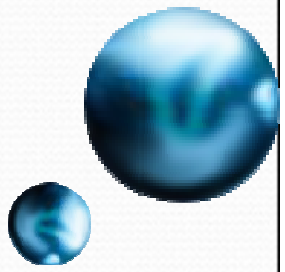
1. Propose a national strategy for fighting corruption and the mechanisms of its implementation.

TIC produced the second TIC report which focuses on certain policies and priority areas for interventions to be carried out: improving the institutional framework- coordinating the work of monitoring and regulatory bodies- establishing a mechanism to improve the quality of legislations- issuing the civil servants code of conduct- protecting whistleblowers- establishing partnerships with civil society organizations- enhancing the role of media in regard to awareness raising and monitoring corrupt incidents. The first committee report is available in Arabic language on the Ministry of State for Administrative Development's 's web page http://www.ad.gov.eg



2. Propose an institutional and legislative framework for fighting corruption, through full collaboration with concerned bodies.

The Ministry of State for Administrative Development MSAD signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Central Authority for Auditing on the 24th of April, 2008 to cooperate in areas related to Transparency and Integrity. The MOU focuses on cooperation in developing administrative structures and suggesting legislations that reflects the new role of the administrative body.





3.Propose related legislations, laws and regulations that help enhance transparency and integrity, and enhance accountability.

The Committee in its second report proposed to establish an Ombudsman system and to strengthen and formulate the legal framework for the criminalization and reformulate the legal framework for prosecution



4. Develop national indicators and criteria for corruption measuring, and interact with international institutions to ensure their accuracy.

The Cabinet Information and Decision Support Center (IDSC) which is represented in the committee has developed in 2007 a corruption perception index for Egypt. The index was based on a conducted questionnaire The corruption perceptions index in Egypt evaluates the current level of corruption perception and its prevalence in public institutions according to the citizen's perception. Also, to assess their personal experiences by being exposed to one of the corruption forms in question. (Bribery, Gifts and Gratuities, the official employee disposing public funds for his personal benefits – relations to relatives favoritism and the reliance on personal facilitate governmental procedures -stealing public funds. The findings of the report are published on the center's web page, http://www.idsc.gov.eg

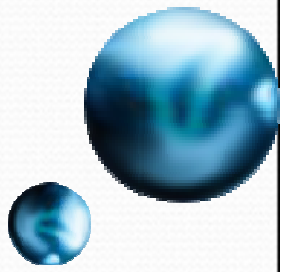


The index depended on a telephone poll for a representative sample of the 26 governorates separately, in addition to Luxor city. The sample was including more than 10800 adult respondents (18 years+) who were asked to arrange governorates according to the level of their inhabitant's perception of corruption to arrange sectors according to the level of corruption prevalence to identify the most corrupted governorates.

The report findings were issued in the newspapers, and the IDSC is currently preparing for the second Egyptian corruption perception index which will include more indicators (Public Availability of Budget Documents) relevant to those used in different international corruption perception indexes: WB-WEF- Freedom house- Global Integrity.



- The IDSC issued a second report in June, 2008 on citizen's opinion regarding how the media deals with Corruption Issues.
- The sample constituted 1231 respondents. They were contacted by phone.
- 20% of the respondents suggested that fighting corruption needs increasing religious awareness, 13%thought it needs monitoring civil servant employees, 8% said that deterrent punishment is needed, 4% linked corruption with the lack of job opportunities and 4% asked for increasing the wages of government employees as an effective tool to fight corruption.





5.Monitor instances of administrative corruption and government efforts and performance in fighting it.

The Ministry of State for Administrative Development (MSAD) is currently using the available line for services complaints 19GOV= 19468, for receiving complaints related to corruption incidents in government bodies and institutions. Since its establishment the committee received about 370 electronic complaints and 50 complaints by mail from civil servants and citizens across the country.

A work cycle was established to deal with mentioned complaints: classification- verification – sending to concerned monitoring and regulatory bodies and following- up. The Committee is studying with concerned stakeholders the possibility of adopting strong legislations and other measures to protect informants and witnesses in corruption and related offences, including protection of their identities, in addition to availing a separate hotline that ensures that citizens report instances of corruption without fear of consequent reprisals.

6.Propose mechanisms for blocking corruption loopholes in government services and procedures.

Facilitating and simplifying administrative procedures are among the public administration development agenda priorities. In that regard MSAD has completed phase 1 of the electronic procurement project, **which is concerned with functionalities:** Creating a standard tenders documents (RFP, contracts,…),Publishing of Tender documents, Tender notices, Q & A related to each tenders and suppliers Central Registration.

Phase 2 Functionalities (will be launched by July 2008) and will include: Submission of technical and financial proposals, Technical proposals evaluation, Financial proposals evaluation and Contracts Awarding.

The Automatization of 98 accounting units helped in facilitating analyzing data, availing financial data bases, minimizing the time needed to implement accounting and financial jobs and linking the various accounting units to the Ministry of Finance.

Availing 600 e- services through the Egyptian portal and related information to it (documents- procedures), www.egypt.gov.eg

Introducing the One Stop Shop mechanism in different parts of the Egyptian Governorates to separate between service provider and acquirer, with the aim of fighting Petit Corruption.



Issuing the building permits law, which allows for the private sector (engineering consultancy companies) instead of the local authorities and municipalities to issue building permits in urban areas through a regulatory body that organizes building services.

7.Propose principles of civil service enhancement program for the development of civil servants.

Drafting the New Civil Service law that will replace the current law : law 47 for the year 1978. The new law suggests in its chapters a performance related evaluation and promotion mechanism for civil servants and combat illicit enrichment by civil servants. The new law which was discussed with various stakeholders shall be discussed in the next parliament round.

8. Develop a framework of an effective system to receive public complaints and create a follow-up mechanism.

9.Propose steps to adopt a program designed to promote a culture where citizens learn to hold onto their rights, and that they are an effective tool in monitoring service delivery.

TIC asked the Faculty of Arts, Cairo University to prepare a field study on the values that govern Egyptians behaviors and choices. The study aims at identifying key elements of Integrity- Transparency – Corruption. It focuses on studying core values: " Weltanschauung": Perceiving the good and the evil , Integrity in the workplace, Religiosity…etc.



The study group have drafted the questionnaire and are currently implementing it. The findings of the study will be issued at the end of this year. In addition to identifying core values of respecting the law- ensuring citizenship- social responsibility in school curricula. The Committee is currently studying suggested mechanisms for promoting the education and awareness for population to respect the public good and public interest, and in fighting corruption and related offences, including school educational programs and sensitization of the media, and the promotion of an enabling environment for the respect of ethics.

10. Work as a focal point with international organizations concerned, and activate international cooperation in the field of corruption fighting in order to learn from successful world experiences, and ensure that indicators issued by international institutions reflect the Egyptian reality and efforts in fighting corruption.



Egypt through the Committee, the General Prosecutor's Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice is cooperating with concerned international organizations to fulfill its obligation in regard to the United Nations Convention Against corruption UNCAC. Egypt ratified the convention in 2005 and it became a part of its legislative bodies concerned with prevention, detection, punishment and eradication of corruption.



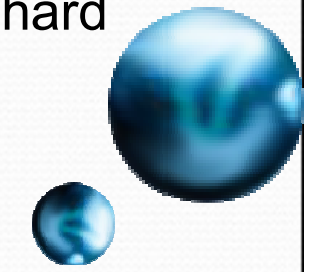
It has also submitted its papers to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in May, 2008 to adjourn to the African Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption.



MSAD received this year, 2008 two World Bank missions, The Missions met with Transparency and Integrity Committee Members and presented Egypt's position pertaining various corruption indicators and to discuss cooperating with the committee in the following activities:.

- Developing a national corruption indicator
- Identifying tools to integrate Civil Society Organizations in the exerted efforts to combat corruption.
- Presenting international best practices in combating corruption.

The World Bank Missions provided the committee members with hard copies of Egypt's position in various corruption indexes.





The Committee received in March, 2008 representatives from Transparency International to discuss a program proposal on " Measuring Anti- Corruption Efforts and Building Demand for Effective National Integrity Systems in Egypt and the Arab World". TI will update the committee on the implementation plan.



Egypt is also coordinating with the International Task Force on the Development Impact of Illicit Financial Flows on Development, and participated in the two meetings held by the Task Force. Norway is the coordinator, through its Ministry of Foreign Affairs. TIC was present in the 2nd task force meeting in 2008 with the General Prosecutor's Office. The third group meeting will be held in October this year.



- The Committee is currently studying a proposal presented form the UNODC in Egypt concerned with Combating Corruption and Money Laundering in Egypt

11. Propose action priorities to enhance Egypt's image and position on international indicators.

The priority action areas are presented in the committee’s second report as follows:



--Promote and support the institutional framework for fighting corruption
-- Strengthening and drafting the legal framework for criminalization
-- Expanding the scope of international cooperation
-- Activating and developing the role of media in fighting corruption
-- Strengthening coordination and cooperation among government institutions each other and between them and civil society organizations

12. Work as a liaison in facilitating cooperation with civil society organizations to underscore the government- civil society partnership in fighting corruption.

The Committee aims at ensuring the participation of Civil Society Organization in the monitoring process, it also works on consulting Civil Society members in the implementation of various activities.

Civil Society Organizations are represented in the Committee by the Bibliotheca Alexandrina : The Arab Reform Forum, and by the Media and by Cairo University)



The Committee participated in various events held by civil society organizations related to enhancing transparency, integrity and accountability in Egypt. Among them, the Development Institutionalization Center= DISC, the Egyptian International Economic Forum.

13. Carry out assignments as decided by its chairman depending on periodic developments.



Thank You For Your Attention

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