Ministry of Justice
Lebanese Republic

Good Governance for Development (GfD) in Arab Countries Initiative

First Ministerial Meeting on Developing the Arab Principles for a Good Judiciary

Beirut, Lebanese Republic

20 August 2008

Agenda

Wednesday 20 August 2008	
15.00 – 16.00	**First Session: Definition of the judicial reform pillar in the context of the second phase of the GfD initiative and the project on Developing Arab Principles for a Good Judiciary:** • **Welcome Statement, H.E. Mr. Ibrahim NAJJAR, Minister of Justice, Lebanon.** • **Dr. Wassim HARB, Senior Rule of Law Adviser, UNDP-POGAR.** - Overview on the GfD initiative and directions for the second phase. - General presentation on the Judicial Reform Pillar in the context of the second phase of the GfD initiative, which supported by UNDP-POGAR: general structure, projects, and activities. - Presentation of the concept of the project on Developing Arab Principles for a Good Judiciary and its importance. - UNDP experiences in developing principles for monitoring the state of the judiciary in Arab countries, and how to benefit from this experience. - Expected benefits from developing principles for a good judiciary (guide for reform, modernisation and development + benchmarking tool). • **Mr. Arkan EL SEBLANI, Legal Specialist, UNDP-POGAR.** - Overview on regional and international principles and standards related to the judiciary (UN Basic Principles on the Independence of the Judiciary (1985), the Bangalore Principles of Judicial conduct (2002), Sharjah Document on the Ethics of Judges (2006), and the Riyadh Principles for the Arab Judge and others …) • **Discussion**
16.00 – 16.15	**Break**

16.15 – 18.00	**Second Session: Discussing the implementation plan of the Project on Developing Arab Principles for a Good Judiciary:** **Moderator: Dr. Wassim HARB, Senior Rule of Law Adviser, UNDP-POGAR.** • **Discussion points:** - Feasibility of the Project on Developing Arab principles for a Good Judiciary - Mechanism of developing the Arab principles for a Good Judiciary - Mechanism for steering the activities under the Judicial reform pillar: 1. Small ministerial steering group for the judicial reform pillar: feasibility, composition, role, tasks. 2. Technical steering group for the judicial reform pillar: feasibility, composition, role, tasks. - Implementation steps and timeline (collecting and analysing information, preparing the draft of the principles, submitting it to the steering group meeting at technical level to be refined, presenting the principles to the steering group meeting at ministerial level for endorsement, the principles to the council of Arab ministers of justice, adoption by the league of Arab states. - Arab and international means and mechanisms for funding. - Declaring the Principles at the Ministerial Arab conference on judicial independence, Paris 2009, which supported by Qatar and France in cooperation with UNDP-POGAR. - Submitting to the Arab Councils of Ministers of Justice for endorsement.