Initiative on
"Good Governance for Development in the Arab Countries"
Role of the Judiciary and Enforcement of Judgments Pillar

Final Statement of the Second Regional Meeting of Partners in the Pillar on the Role of Judiciary and Enforcement of Judgments

The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
Amman – Marriott Hotel
15-16 May 2006

Under the patronage of the Ministry of Justice of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the United Nations Development Programme organized the Second Regional Meeting of Partners in the Pillar on the Role of Judiciary and Enforcement of Judgments. The meeting was held in Amman on May 15-16, 2006 in Marriott Hotel.

The meeting was attended by the following Arab countries: Jordan, Iraq, Sudan, Palestine, Morocco, Yemen, Tunisia, Algeria, Lebanon, Egypt and Bahrain. Each country was presented by a delegation composed of its national coordination and its national expert.
It was also attended by the chairman of the pillar, his Excellency the Jordanian Minister of Justice as well as the Co Chairs, the representative of the United States and the representative of the French Republic; in addition to the international and regional experts and representatives of the Programme on Good Governance in the Arab Region – United Nations Development Programme (UNDP-POGAR).

During the meeting, the participating delegation presented a summary version of the activities and national workshops that has been implemented in previous phases, in addition to a brief presentation of their national reports and what it includes regarding the obstacles of reform and the proposed projects and solutions to the national needs of each country.

The participating delegations concluded by adopting an action plan for the next phase of the Initiative. This action plan might be summarized as follows:

1. Implementing six reform projects in the next phase of the Initiative in order to achieve the best results since these projects are pilot projects and they are considered as a priority between the proposed projects by the Arab participating countries. Some projects shall be implemented through bilateral support programs, with the assistance of the Good Governance Initiative in a later phase.
2. The presidency of the Pillar invited the delegations to express their interests in a limited number of these projects for the next phase, as well as to alleviate the burdens of the administrative implementation. Each delegation expressed its personal national interests and the head of the Pillar will present these interests to the Steering Committee which is comprised of the Donors in order to discuss it and adopt what is convenient for financial support to be able to implement it in the Arabic countries.

The participants applauded the efforts that have been made to secure success for the previous phase at the level of each participating Arabic country or at the regional level. The participants thanked the hosting of his Excellency the Jordanian Minister of Justice and his adoption to the activities that have been implemented successfully. They also expressed their appreciation to the support that the governments of the American and French Co Chairs provided at the level of financial assistance or expertise that have been provided to prepare the activities already implemented, to analyze their results and to draw the action plan for the next phase.

In addition the participants paid attribute to the success of the previous phase which was evident by the national and serious dialogue and the content of the national reports. This issue expresses the deep commitment of the Arab countries to the necessities of reform and development.

The head of the Pillar and the participating delegations from the Arabic countries expressed the importance of the Initiative of Good Governance for Development to establish an administrative unit for planning and coordinating development projects. Its nucleus shall be composed of the national coordinator and national expert. The objective of the establishment of this administrative unit is to activate the performance, to achieve the best results and guarantee the continuity of work. They also expressed their hope to the United Nations Development Offices to establish these administrative units and to train their human resources.

On the other hand, the participants supported by majority the statement of his Excellency the Jordanian Minister of Justice in which he addressed a letter to all Arab countries emphasizing on the support of the Arab Ministries of Justice in providing necessary funding within the general budget of each country for reform proposed projects. He also invited the regional Arabic and Islamic Development Agencies to participate in providing financial support to the activities of the Initiative on Good Governance in the Arab Region.

The participants concluded the meeting by addressing their gratitude to his Excellency the Jordanian Minister of Justice for hosting this workshop and for all who participated in its success from the Governments of the United States, the French Republic and the World bank, as well as the United Nations Development Programme for organizing the meeting and for providing support to draft the national reports.
In addition, they assured their conviction in the importance of international cooperation and their demand from donors to provide the necessary financial support to secure success to the remaining phases of the Initiative on Good Governance for Development in the Arab countries.