Final Statement of The First Regional Meeting of Partners in the Pillar of Judiciary Development and law Enforcement
Amman-The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
28-29 September 2005

The ministers and the representatives of Arab ministries of justice, members of the judiciary development and law enforcement pillar, emanated from the Good Governance Initiative for Development in the Arab Countries met in Amman on 28 – 29 September 2005 upon invitation from His Excellency chairman of the pillar the Jordanian Minister of Justice Dr. Abed Al Shakhanbeh:

1. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
2. United Arab Emirates
3. Kingdom of Bahrain
4. Republic of Tunisia
5. Republic of Algeria
6. Republic of Sudan
7. Republic of Iraq
8. State of Palestine
9. State of Qatar
10. Republic of Lebanon
11. Arab Republic of Egypt
12. Kingdom of Morocco
13. Republic of Yemen

With the attendance of representatives of United Nations Development Program (UNDP), Organization of Economic Cooperation & Development (OECD) in addition to the American & French partners, as well as observers from the international and regional organizations.

The participants discussed and deliberated the items listed on the agenda of the first regional meeting of partners in the judiciary (which includes investigative judges and prosecutors) development and judgments enforcement pillar. They also reviewed the judiciary development experiences in the participant countries and the obstacles faced, and what each country considers as development priorities.

The participants unanimously agreed on the importance of judiciary independence and integrity, and the necessity to enhance and support this principal.

The participants agreed on the following:

First:

The importance of all the pillars of development that have been tackled throughout discussions. However, and as it is necessary to focus the development efforts on certain pillars according to the priorities of every country, the participants agreed that priority in development should be given to the following pillars:

1. Securing impartiality and integrity of the judiciary through the following:
    a. Adopting objective criteria for testing the judges and determining suitable salaries for them, as well as the secondment, transfer, retirement and deciding disciplinary measures for judges.
    b. Developing rules for judiciary behavior, accountability and declaration of financial assets.
    c. Developing judiciary inspection systems through appointing and qualifying sufficient numbers of inspectors, and developing disciplined objective criteria according to specific models of inspection, preparing regular reports for judges and courts, and linking the continuous training and promotion with inspection.
    d. Developing effective systems for fighting corruption in compliance with the United Nations Convention on Corruption.
    e. Strengthening and modernizing the ability to effectively investigate and prosecute criminal cases.

f. The guarantees of fair trial especially the right to defense in coordination with human rights treaties and conventions.

2. Increasing effeciency in passing judgments in claims and enforcing judgments through the following:
    a. Developing the legislations for facilitating the litigation procedures and avoiding sluggishness in notifications and removing obstacles that hinder deciding on claims in due speed.
    b. Adopting alternative means for dispute resolution (such as mediation, arbitration in civil cases and the deal in penal cases).
    c. Qualifying and training specialized judiciary, especially in the commercial disputes, together with preparing and providing efficient administrative staff.
    d. Computerizing the courts and litigation procedures together with adopting the case management techniques.
    e. Increasing cooperation among partners in the litigation process such as the lawyers and judiciary police.
    f. Adopting mechanisms that would secure speedy enforcement of judgments and increasing the international development in this respect.

Second:

The participant countries are committed to nominate:

1. The National Coordinator.
2. The National Team.
3. Three national experts, with one of them being selected by the (UNDP), providing that the countries should provide the pillar's chairman with the names within one month from the date of holding this meeting.

Third:

The participant countries are committed to facilitate the work of the national team and experts and to activate the national dialogue for implementing the projects and preparing the national survey reports.

Fourth:

The committees shall be committed to determine their development priorities in compliance with the development priorities indicated in this statement.

Fifth:

The participant countries and national committees and experts shall be committed to prepare the necessary reports and studies in accordance with the timetable attached in accordance with the template, questionnaire and methodology prepared by the regional expert.

Sixth:

The participants agreed that the second meeting of this pillar will be held during the month of April 2006.

Seventh:

To express thanks to His Excellency the Prime Minister Dr. Adnan Badran for sponsoring the meeting, and to commend the efforts exerted by His Excellency Minister of Justice Dr. Abed Al Shakhanbeh, Chairman of the Pillar, for facilitating the preparation for holding this meeting.

Amman on 29 September 2005

Attachment # (1)

Timetable of Phase I

Date	Function to be implemented
End of October 2005	Nominating the national coordinator, the national work team, and the national experts by the participant countries and sending them to the pillar's chairman.
November 2005	Contracting with experts
December 2005- January 2006	Experts will work with the national committees and carry out the survey.
February 2006	Writing and preparing the national reports.
March 2006	Approval of the reports by the Pillar's leadership and partners.
April 2006	The second regional meeting.