



**Under the High Patronage of the
President of the Republic of Yemen
Mr. Ali Abdullah Saleh**

Conference of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network
**“National Anti-Corruption Strategies and the Roles of
National Stakeholders”**

Sana'a, Republic of Yemen
26-27 July 2010

Programme

I. BACKGROUND

1. The Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET)¹ is a unique regional platform that supports national stakeholders in promoting transparency and accountability, and implementing global and regional anti-corruption instruments. This is done through a focus on capacity development, knowledge networking, and policy dialogue in relation to a number of topics that are selected by the participating Arab countries. At the moment, ACINET members include Arab governmental authorities from 13 countries², comprising anti-corruption agencies, financial and administrative control bodies, ministries of justice, public prosecution offices and others. Efforts to establish ACINET's non-government group have reached its final stages; it is expected to include specialized civil society organizations and leading business, media and research institutions from across the region.

2. ACINET was established as a result of a pioneering regional process that was launched by ministers and high-level officials from 19 Arab countries at the Dead Sea (Jordan) on 21-23 January 2008, where participants issued the regional declaration on "Strengthening the Rule of Law and Supporting UNCAC Implementation".³ This declaration outlined the conceptual framework and the practical steps for establishing an Arab network that would serve as a permanent regional forum for governmental and non-governmental bodies concerned with anti-corruption and integrity. The establishment process, which spanned a period of eight months, built on the positive results of the *Good Governance for Development (GfD) in Arab Countries Initiative* which was launched in 2005⁴ as well as other regional projects.

3. ACINET was officially established in Amman (Jordan) on 30 July 2008 after a series of extensive national and regional consultations, including the Casablanca consultations, which proved to be a key milestone in formulating ACINET's Charter and Rules of Procedure. The first cycle of ACINET's work was launched under the chairmanship of Jordan during its conference which took place in Rabat (Morocco) on 2-3 April 2009. The conference was divided into two parts. The first included the ACINET General Meeting, which unanimously endorsed a resolution⁵ adopting the first annual programme of work (2009-2010)⁶ and other proposals that have been put forward by Members. The second part took the form of a thematic workshop that focused on "witnesses and whistleblower protection" and yielded a number of important "conclusions"⁷ that were later supported at the country level and the

¹ ACINET is supported by the United Nations Development Programme – Programme of Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) and its partners, particularly, the League of Arab States (LAS), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). For more information, please visit: <http://www.undp-pogar.org/resources/ac/>.

² Jordan, the occupied Palestinian territory, Bahrain, Tunisia, Djibouti, Sudan, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Egypt, Mauritania and Yemen.

³ The regional declaration on "Strengthening the Rule of Law and Supporting UNCAC Implementation" is available at <http://www.arabgov-initiative.org/publications/GfDII/corruption/deadsea/declaration-en.pdf>.

⁴ For more information about the Good Governance for Development in Arab Countries Initiative please visit <http://www.arabgov-initiative.org/english>

⁵ The network resolution n1/2009 is available at <http://www.undp-pogar.org/publications/ac/acinet/acinetstatement-1-2009-en.pdf>

⁶ ACINET summary programme of work (2009-2010) is available at <http://www.arabgov-initiative.org/publications/acinet/spow/09-10-ar-en.pdf>.

⁷ The conclusions of the regional workshop on witness and whistleblower protection are available at <http://www.arabgov-initiative.org/publications/GfDII/ACINET/Rabat09/Conclusion.eng.pdf>.

regional levels⁸. During its first cycle (2009-2010), ACINET implemented a number of activities in the framework of its programme of work, with the support of UNDP's Programme on Governance in the Arab region. It also supported the participation of its members in other activities in the context of its cooperation with other international initiatives and organizations including the OECD, the UNODC, the World Bank and the StAR Initiative.

4. As the global processes related to the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) progress, and the world strives to address the causes and repercussions of the global financial crisis, the Arab region continues to witness a growth in anti-corruption cooperation. This growth reflects an increase in the Arab countries' interest to achieve progress in this area. In this context, ACINET emerges as a special regional mechanism that would help transform this interest into a more clearly articulated political commitment that contributes to the strengthening of the existing legal and institutional systems in Arab countries with a view to contributing more effectively to the various elements of human development and human security efforts.

II. THEMATIC FOCUS

5. Yemen is hosting the second ACINET conference during a period marked by a growth in development challenges across the region, and more vocal calls for consolidating good governance principles and practices in the public sector (including the executive, legislative and judicial branches) and the private or non-governmental sector (including businesses, civil society, media, and research institutions). In addition to the ACINET General Meeting, which will be limited to ACINET members, the conference will include a thematic workshop on "national anti-corruption strategies". Indeed, corruption is a destructive manifestation of poor governance mechanisms. It spreads in the absence of effective legal and institutional frameworks and becomes particularly dangerous in communities that do not act swiftly to address it. For this reason, corruption cannot be addressed without national strategies that are based on the actual needs of each country and which conform to related international standards and good practices.

6. Like other countries in the world, Arab countries are in the process of developing anti-corruption strategies, though such efforts are still considered to be in their early stages. Jordan became a pioneer in the region when it developed and started implementing its strategy in 2008 with the support of the European Commission, and has now gathered some experience in this field. Iraq announced its strategy in March 2010 and has already taken its first implementation steps, noting that it has adopted a participatory approach, which enabled it to develop a comprehensive and ambitious strategy with the assistance of the UNDP and the UNDOC. Mauritania, Morocco, and Yemen are at the advanced stages of finalizing their own national strategies, while Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Egypt have made preliminary attempts in this field, without reaching complete fruition so far. These efforts

⁸ Up till now, five Arab countries (Jordan, Iraq, Kuwait, Lebanon and Morocco) started to develop mechanisms for the protection of witnesses and whistleblowers. ACINET will issue, with the assistance of the UNDP-POGAR, a comprehensive study on this issue to support its members who desire to exert further efforts in this connection.

and other similar initiative from outside the region, in addition to the Arab countries' experiences in supporting strategies in public administration reform or justice and human rights, will undoubtedly be a useful source of knowledge for stakeholders concerned with corruption and development in the Arab region.

7. Usually, the need to address correlations between corruption and development is the main driving force behind developing national anti-corruption strategies. Experience shows that strategies developed as a result of external pressures, notwithstanding their type, are rarely as fruitful in comparison to strategies that are internally driven and nationally-owned. This brings to the forefront questions about the features of effective strategies. Such questions cannot be addressed with a one-size-fits-all answer, but in fact raises other inquiries about each country's needs and priorities, legal and institutional structures, political, economic and social circumstances, and the nature of the existing Social Contract. Despite the particularity of each case, there are key features that need to be taken into account when developing national anti-corruption strategies. Such features and indicative experiences on developing, implementing and monitoring national anti-corruption strategies in countries from the region and beyond will be the thematic focus of the second ACINET conference.

III. OBJECTIVES

8. The overall objective of this conference is to provide an interactive forum for key stakeholders to discuss entry points and approaches to reinforce national integrity and anti-corruption efforts through a strategic approach that draws on practical experiences from the Arab region and beyond.

9. More specifically the conference seeks to:

- Formulate a joint vision on the importance of national anti-corruption strategies and key features that may contribute to their success.
- Review relevant experiences on designing and implementing national anti-corruption strategies.
- Consolidate agreement on the importance of developing mechanisms to monitor the implementation of national anti-corruption strategies and on the components of such mechanisms.
- Promote a realistic approach that takes into consideration broader governance reforms and seeks to integrate sectoral challenges when designing national anti-corruption strategies.
- Promote a participatory approach that takes into consideration the role of the private sector and the civil society in designing, implementing, and monitoring national anti-corruption strategies.

10. At the end of the conference, which is also expected to witness the launch of the Yemeni national anti-corruption strategy, participants are expected to develop regional "conclusions" based on the results of the interventions and discussions made during the two-day regional conference. The conclusions are expected to help enhance regional and international cooperation to promote national anti-corruption strategies and support concerned national stakeholders at the country level.

11. On the side of the conference, the second ACINET General Meeting will take place. It will review past activities (2009-2010) and discuss and adopt the components of the second work cycle (2010-2011). The meeting will mark the transition of ACINET's chairmanship from Jordan to Yemen and the selection of the forthcoming Chair, thus, forming ACINET's chairmanship council, which includes the new Chair, Yemen, the former Chair, Jordan, and the prospective Chair, who will be selected during the General Meeting.

IV. PARTICIPANTS

12. This regional conference brings together the heads of ACINET's member institutions, or their representatives, as well other leaders from governmental and judicial institutions and representatives from major civil society organizations and companies that are active in supporting business integrity standards and practices. Furthermore, the conference will be attended by heads of anti-corruption agencies from outside the Arab region, independent experts, and representatives of international and regional organizations and donors.

V. METHODOLOGY AND DOCUMENTATION

13. The regional conference is designed to deliver particular learning objectives in an interactive manner over a period of two days. It will include plenary presentations which will enable experts and stakeholders to provide presentations and engage in discussions with a view to exchanging information and clarifying key concepts. The conference will also include roundtables, which will provide an opportunity for collective in-depth interaction on particular issues and experiences. On the side of the conference, the second ACINET General Meeting will take place. The working languages of the conference will be Arabic and English. Interpretation will be provided in both languages.

14. The following documents will be made available for the participants during the conference:

- The national anti-corruption strategies in Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.
- ACINET's brochure and constitutive documents.
- The first annual report on ACINET's work (2010-2011).
- The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).
- UNDP anti-corruption knowledge products (the Practice Note, the Primer on Corruption and Development, and the Guidance Note) – English and Arabic.
- Brochure on the UNDP's anti-corruption work.
- Other materials submitted by the participating delegations.

VI. AGENDA

Day One: Monday 26 July 2010

9.00 – 10.00 Registration.

10.00 – 11.00 Opening session:

- **Welcome Statement.**

H.E. Mr. Ahmad AL ANISI, Chairman of the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption, Yemen.

- **Official Statements.**

Mr. Mohammad NACIRI, Resident Representative in Charge, UNDP Yemen.

H.E. Mr. Ali AL MARRI, Attorney General of Qatar, President of the Conference of States Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption.

H.E. Dr. Abed El SHAKHANBEH, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Jordan, and Chair of the Arab anti-Corruption and Integrity Network.

- **Launching the Yemeni National Anti-Corruption Strategy.**

H.E. Dr. Bilkis ABOU OSBA, Vice Chairwoman, the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption, Yemen.

- **Opening Statement.**

H.E. Dr. Ali Mohammed MUJAWAR, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Yemen.

11.00 – 11.45 Break.

11.45 – 14.00 [Session 1]: Introduction to national anti-corruption strategies.

Moderated by H.E. Mr. Ali KHASHAN, Minister of Justice, the Palestinian National Authority.

- **The UNCAC and its role in guiding the development and implementation of national anti-corruption strategies.**

Judge Hatem ALY, Senior Crime Prevention Expert, and Representative in the GCC Countries Office, Abu Dhabi, UNODC.

- **Concepts and key features of national anti-corruption strategies.**

Mr. Hannes HECHLER, Programme Coordinator in the U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Centre.

- **Monitoring the implementation of national strategies in concept and practice.**

Dr. Manzoor HASAN, Director of the Institute of Governance Studies, BRAC University, Bangladesh.

- **Open discussion.**

14.00 – 15.30 Lunch hosted by the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption.

15.30 – 17.00 [Session 2] Roundtable on Successful Experiences and Lessons Learned on Designing National Anti-Corruption Strategies.

Moderated by H.E. Mr. Abdesselam ABOUDRAR, President, of the Central Instance for the Prevention of Corruption, Morocco.

- **Designing a comprehensive national anti-corruption strategy in Iraq: a good practice from the Arab region.**

Dr. Khalid AL MAMOURI, Chairman of the Panel of Experts, National Anti-Corruption Strategy, Iraq.

- **The role of the UNCAC gap analysis in informing strategy design: the experience of Indonesia.**

Mr. Feri WIBISONO, Director of Prosecution in the Corruption Eradication Commission, Indonesia.

- **The importance of an inclusive approach in strategy development: the experience of the Southern Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission.**

H.E. Dr. Pauline RIAK, Chair of the Southern Sudan Anti-Corruption Commission, Sudan.

- **Learning from national and international experience: towards designing a Palestinian national anti-corruption strategy.**

H.E. Dr. Mahmoud ABU RUB, President of the State Audit and Administrative Control Bureau, the Palestinian National Authority.

- **Open discussion.**

17.00 – 17.30 Break.

17.30 – 19.00 [Session 3] Roundtable on Successful Experiences and Lessons Learned on Implementing National Anti-Corruption Strategies.

Moderated by H.E. Mr. Ghassan MOUKHEIBER, Member of Parliament, Lebanon, Chairman of Arab Parliamentarians against Corruption.

- **Implementing the national anti-corruption strategy in Jordan: a good practice from the Arab region.**

Judge Ali DMOUR, Board Member in the Anti-Corruption Commission, Jordan.

- **Investing in coalition building to support the implementation of anti-corruption strategies: experiences from European countries.**

H.E. Mr. Martin KREUTNER, President of the European Partners Against Corruption.

- **Learning from developing countries: the experience of Malaysia in fighting corruption.**

Mr. Haji Mustaffar BIN HAJI ALI, Director of the Division of Investigations in the Anti-Corruption Commission, Malaysia.

- **Open discussion.**

Day Two: Tuesday, 27 July 2010

09.00 – 11.30

The Second ACINET General Meeting (Closed).

- **Welcome Statement and Annual Report for 2009-2010.**

H.E. Dr. Abed SHAKHANBEH, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Jordan, and Chair of the Arab anti-Corruption and Integrity Network.

- **The Proposed Components of the ACINET Programme of Work for 2010-2011.**

Mr. Arkan EL-SEBLANI, Representative of the Regional support Unit, ACINET and Legal Specialist in the Programme on Governance in the Arab Region, UNDP.

- **Guest presentations.**

The Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative.

The Malaysia Anti-Corruption Academy.

- **Discussions and resolutions.**
- **Closing remarks.**

11.30 – 12.00 **Break.**

12.00 – 14.00 **[Session 4] Parallel Working Sessions: National Anti-Corruption Strategies and Linkages to Broader Governance Reforms.**

- **12.00 – 13.00 (main conference room): Strengthening parliamentary oversight functions.**

Moderated by H.E. Mr. Ghassan MOUKHEIBER, Member of Parliament, Lebanon, Chairman of Arab Parliamentarians against Corruption.

Mr. Jonathan MURPHY, Democracy and Governance Consultant, Parliamentary Development Initiative in the Arab Region, UNDP.

- **12.00 – 13.00 (Zumurud): Increasing transparency and integrity in public procurement.**

Moderated by H.E. Mr. Abdul Malik AL-ARASHI, Chairman of the High Authority for Tender Control, Yemen.

Mr. Luca CASTELLANI, Legal Officer, Corruption and Economic Crime Branch, UNODC.

- **13.00 – 14.00 (main conference room): Supporting a holistic anti-corruption approach in the justice system.**

Moderated by Mr. Hatem ALY, Senior Crime Prevention Expert, Representative in the GCC Countries Office, Abu Dhabi, UNODC.

Ms. Valerie SILENSKI, Senior Advisor, INL, Department of State, USA.

- **13.00 – 14.00 (Zumurud): Addressing fiscal fraud and corruption vulnerabilities in tax systems.**

Moderated by General Tolson KHAIRY, Director of the Anti-Money Laundering Directorate at the General Directorate of Public Funds Intelligence at the Ministry of Interior, Egypt.

Dr. Mohammad WEHBE, CPA, Professor at the Lebanese University, Lebanon.

14.00 – 15.30 Lunch hosted by the UNDP.

15.30 – 17.30 [Session 5] Strengthening Integrity in Public Service Delivery: Mainstreaming Sectoral Challenges in National Anti-Corruption Strategies.

Moderated by Mr. Ridha ABDELHAFIZ, Head of the Committee of the General Control of the Public Service, Tunisia.

- **Sectoral approaches and the state of national anti-corruption strategies in the Arab region.**

Dr. Ahmad ASHOUR, Governance and Anti-Corruption Expert, Professor, Alexandria University, Egypt.

- **Towards the contextualized use of sectoral assessment tools.**

Ms. Marijana Trivunovic, Governance and Anti-Corruption Expert.

- **Good practices and lessons learned from country experiences.**

Ms. Stefanie TEGGEMANN, Head, the UN Convention against Corruption Project, GTZ.

Mr. Hussein HASSAN, Senior Governance and Anti-Corruption Specialist at the Social Contract Centre, Egypt.

- **Open discussion.**

17.30 – 18.00 [Closing session] Conclusions

Moderated by H.E. Mr. Ahmad AL ANISI, Chairman of the Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption, Yemen.

- **Declaring the establishment of the non-governmental group of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network.**

Dr. Azmi SHUAIBI, Anti-Corruption Commissioner, Coalition of

Accountability and Integrity (AMAN), the occupied Palestinian territory.

- **Conference conclusions.**

H.E. Dr. Abed El SHAKHANBEH, Chairman of the Anti-Corruption Commission, Jordan, and Chair of the Arab anti-Corruption and Integrity Network.

- **Closing remarks.**

H.E. Mr. Stephen SECHE, Ambassador to Yemen, USA.

H.E. Dr. Ghazi AL AGHBARI, Minister of Justice, Yemen.

19.00 – 20.00 Press conference.

