



Regional Conference

**Launching the Alliance of Women Leaders for Anti-
Corruption and Integrity in Arab Countries
(WAIA)**

Amman, Jordan, 19-20 March 2023



Programme

Background

Over the last 12 months, leading women in the field of anti-corruption and integrity from across the Arab States region have come together with the joint support of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Government of Canada. They studied the linkages between corruption and gender issues and explored possible synergies between the ongoing efforts in their respective countries to strengthen integrity and tackle corruption on the one hand; and promote women empowerment and gender equality on the other.

Hailing from the political sphere, civil service, the judiciary, the business community, civil society, media, and academia, these women leaders agreed to establish a regional platform that will help them to sustain and deepen the momentum that they have created: the regional alliance of Women Leaders for Anti-corruption and Integrity in Arab countries (WAIA).

The overall aim of the WAIA regional alliance is to promote gender-responsive integrity and anti-corruption reforms at all levels. More specific objectives include building individual and institutional capacities; advocating related legislative and policy reforms; and supporting its members to design and implement pilot initiatives in their respective countries and at the regional level; and highlighting good practices and successful women in this field as role models.

With the support of the Government of Canada, UNDP is organizing a regional conference on 19-20 March 2023 in Amman, Jordan, to launch the WAIA regional alliance and support its members to expand their outreach and engage with additional stakeholders to develop and implement their plan for action in the next two years. In addition to the founding members of the WAIA regional alliance, nearly 100 participants are expected to attend this regional conference including representatives of national integrity and anti-corruption authorities, national entities concerned with women affairs, ministries of health, education, and social support, non-governmental organizations, the League of Arab States, UN agencies, as well as academicians, researchers, and experts in various related domains.

Building on a series of issues papers and the findings of four preparatory regional meetings and eight national consultations held in Iraq, Jordan, and Lebanon since April 2022, this regional conference will focus on three components. Together, they are expected to inform this emerging regional dialogue and support development of the WAIA regional alliance's first bi-annual plan for 2023-2024, while also encouraging the more than 100 participants to consider ways to connect with and draw on the work of this new regional platform.

The first component will be dedicated to examining the existing evidence on linkages between corruption and gender issues in the framework of Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 16 on Peace, Justice,

and Strong Institutions, while reflecting on possible implications for legislators and policymakers including through the lens of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), which has been adopted by almost all the Arab states.

The second component will be dedicated to exploring the gender dimensions in previous and current national integrity and anti-corruption strategies in the Arab States region and facilitate the exchange of expertise on how such strategies can be enhanced in the future to take into consideration gender issues and contribute to women empowerment and gender equality drawing on comparative experiences from the region and beyond.

The third component will be dedicated to promoting sector-specific discussions on how corruption impacts women differently in key sectors, such as healthcare, education, and social support, and what sectoral policies and programmes can be adopted and implemented to mitigate this impact and support the efforts to empower women and achieve gender equality.

A combination of plenary sessions and parallel working sessions for smaller groups of participants is expected to foster in-depth discussions and inclusive formulation of actionable conclusions and recommendations leading, among other things, to the development of regional guidelines to integrate gender perspectives in national integrity and anti-corruption strategies. The resulting regional guidelines are expected to be adopted by the WAIA regional alliance and advocated to other regional organizations, networks, and platforms as well as to concerned national authorities in the Arab states.

Participation in the regional conference is by invitation only with the possibility for physical and virtual attendance. The languages used are Arabic and English with on-site and on-line interpretation available.

The detailed agenda is provided here below and other documentation are made available to participants and will be published online at www.undp-aciac.org within one month of the closing of the conference proceedings. For additional information, please contact us at aciac@undp.org.

Agenda

Sunday, 19 March 2023

09:00 – 10:15 Preparatory Session [Closed]

Objective: Enable the founding members of the regional alliance of Women Leaders for Anti-corruption and Integrity in Arab countries (WAIA) to finalize discussions on internal organizational matters based on their respective reflections and recommendations, which they had formulated in preparation for the regional conference. The findings of this session are expected to feed into the various sessions that will follow during this regional conference and guide the next steps for the formulation of the WAIA regional alliance's first bi-annual plan for 2023-2024.

10:15 – 10:45 Arrival of Participants and Registration

10:45 – 11:30 Opening Plenary Session

Objective: Welcome participants and provide them with an overview of the agenda of the regional conference, followed by the official launch of the regional alliance of Women Leaders for Anti-corruption and Integrity in Arab countries (WAIA) and the official statements that will open the proceedings of the regional conference provided by UNDP and key partners in the host country and the international development community.

Welcome Remarks and Presentation of the Agenda

- Sarah Dix, Senior Anti-Corruption and Integrity Specialist, UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States

Launching the Regional Alliance of Women Leaders for Anti-corruption and Integrity in Arab Countries

- H.E. Inaya Ezzedine, Member of Parliament and Head of the Women and Child Parliamentary Committee, and former Minister of State for Administrative Reform, Lebanon

Short Video

Official Opening Statements

- Arkan El Seblani, Regional Chief Anti-Corruption and Integrity Advisor, UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States
- H.E. Muhannad Hijazi, Chairperson of the Jordanian Integrity Anti-Corruption Commission
- H.E. Tarik Ali Khan, Ambassador of Canada to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

11:30 – 11:45 Break

11:45 – 13:30 First Plenary Session: Corruption, Gender, and Global Agenda 2030

Objective: Examine the existing evidence on linkages between corruption and gender issues in the framework of Agenda 2030 and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 16 on Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions, while reflecting on possible implications for legislators and policymakers including through the lens of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), which has been adopted by almost all the Arab states. The findings of this session are expected to provide valuable insights towards evidence-based legislation and policies that build synergies between good governance and gender equality; and will also highlight priorities for additional research that would expand the body of related evidence available to legislators and policymakers in the region.

Chair

- H.E. Lina Shbeeb, former Minister of Transport, Jordan

Panellists

- Anna Petherick, Associate Professor of Public Policy, University of Oxford, United Kingdom
- Hassan Latef Kadhim, Professor of Economic Development, University of Kufa, Iraq
- Jennifer Sarvary Bradford, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, UNODC

Discussion

13:30 – 14:30 Lunch

14:30 – 16:00 Second Plenary Session: Towards Integrating Gender Perspectives in National Integrity and Anti-Corruption Strategies

Objective: Explore the gender dimensions in previous and current national integrity and anti-corruption strategies in the Arab States region and facilitate the exchange of expertise on how such strategies can be enhanced in the future to take into consideration gender issues and contribute to women empowerment and gender equality drawing on comparative experiences from the region and beyond. The findings of this session are expected to generate lessons learned on different approaches and options to better integrate gender perspectives in the national integrity and anti-corruption strategies that are being developed and implemented across the region.

Chair

- Manal Abdul Hadi, Director General of Research and Studies, Federal Commission of Integrity, Iraq

Panellists

- Rana Khashashneh, Independent Expert, and former Director of the Innovation and Training Center at the Jordanian Integrity and Anti-Corruption Commission
- Rasha Amarnah, Senior Advisor to the Chairperson of the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission
- Ana Linda Solano, Independent Expert, and former Director of the Financial Economic Police, and of Specialized Judicial Police, Office of Attorney General, Colombia

Discussion

16:00 – 16:15 Break

16:15 – 17:30 Parallel Working Sessions (A)

Objective: Provide participants with interactive spaces in three small groups to build on the findings of the second plenary session with a view to identifying principles, entry points and approaches for integrating gender perspectives in national integrity and anti-corruption strategies, including their content (priorities, objectives, targeted results, activities, resource allocations,

indicators, etc.) and their processes (development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, reporting, communication, etc.). The findings of these parallel working sessions, which will be moderated and reported on by selected participants, are expected to inform the formulation of regional guidelines on integrating gender perspectives in the mentioned strategies, to be adopted by the regional alliance of Women Leaders for Anti-corruption and Integrity in Arab Countries (WAIA) and advocated to regional organizations, networks, and platforms and to concerned national authorities in the Arab states.

Facilitator

- Hakima Ghorri, Project Specialist, Governance and Gender, UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States

Presentation in Plenary

- Outrun Merkle, Researcher, Maastricht University, Netherlands

Discussion in small groups in parallel rooms (A1, A2, and A3)

Monday, 20 March 2023

09:00 – 10:30 Third Plenary Session: Towards Strengthening Integrity and Tackling Corruption in Key Sectors with a Gender Lens

Objective: Promote sector-specific discussions on how corruption impacts women differently in key sectors, such as healthcare, education, and social support, and what sectoral policies and programmes can be adopted and implemented to mitigate this impact and support the efforts to empower women and achieve gender equality. The findings of this session are expected to generate insights and recommendations that can reinforce the regional dialogue on strengthening integrity and tackling corruption at the sectoral level and make related sectoral policies and programmes more gender responsive.

Chair

- Abrar Al Hammad, Deputy Secretary General for the Prevention Sector at the Kuwait Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha)

Panellists

- Mostafa Hunter, Founder and President, Health Governance International, LLC, United States of America

- Monica Kirya, Senior Programme Advisor, U4 Anti-Corruption Resource Center, Norway
- Muriel Poisson, Team Leader on Knowledge Management and Mobilization (KMM) and Task Manager for Ethics and Corruption in Education Programme, International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), UNESCO
- Mahassen Moursel, Economic Journalist and Research, Lebanon

Discussion

10:30 – 11:00 Break

11:00 – 12:30 Parallel Working Sessions (B)

Objectives: Provide participants with interactive spaces in three small groups to build on the findings of the third plenary session with a view to discussing the specificities of the gender and corruption nexus in healthcare, education, and social and identifying principles, entry points and approaches to design sectoral policies and programmes that serve the dual purpose of strengthening integrity and tackling corruption on the one hand, and empowering women and enhancing gender equality on the other. The findings of these parallel working sessions, which will be moderated and reported on by selected participants, are expected to inform upcoming regional and country dialogues and initiatives in these three sectors.

Facilitator

- Sarah Dix, Senior Anti-Corruption and Integrity Specialist, UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States

Discussion in small groups in parallel rooms (B1, B2, and A3)

12:30 – 13:00 Break

13:00 – 14:00 Closing Session

Objective: Present and discuss the key findings of the different plenary sessions and parallel working sessions and foster joint reflection on the conclusions and recommendations generated throughout the regional conference, with a view

to informing the WAIA regional alliance's first bi-annual plan for 2023-2024 and inspiring participants to explore ways through which they may build on this regional conference to deepen the work on the nexus between gender and corruption in their respective countries and at the joint regional level.

Moderator

- Arkan El Seblani, Regional Chief Anti-Corruption and Integrity Advisor, UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States

Conclusions and Recommendations

- Ali Berro, Senior Advisor to the Minister of State for Administrative Reform in Lebanon, and Member of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET)
- Simon Snoxell, Head of Cooperation, Embassy of Canada to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
- Nicola Ehlermann, Senior Project Advisor, Anti-Corruption and Gender, UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States

Comments by Participants

Closing

14:00 – 15:30 Farewell Ceremony and Lunch
