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الهيئة الوطنية لمكافحة الفساد
National Anti-Corruption Commission



Workshop

**Activating the asset and interest declarations
system, in light of the new law and previous
experiences**

Beirut, Lebanon

26 September 2023

Programme

Overview

The deployment of an effective system for asset and interest declarations is a fundamental pillar of good governance and a cornerstone in preventing and combatting corruption. An effective system contributes to reinforcing trust in public officials working generally in the fields of politics, including in political, legislative, executive, judicial, military and security positions. It also plays a role in preventing potential conflict between those officials' private interests and the public good and provides the concerned authorities with the necessary tools to unveil illicit enrichment, thus establishing accountability. This goes in line with the fifth clause in article eight of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), international practices in that regard, and global comparative experiences.

Law number 189/2020 provides for the regulation of the asset and interests declarations processes, in line with the best practices and also addresses the gaps in previous legislation and practices. The law has radically amended the previous law provisions which had pioneered the establishment of a Lebanese asset and interest declarations system in 1954, and which had undergone amendments rendering the law obsolete in 1999. The new law assigned the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) as the only body in charge of receiving the asset and interest declarations, a role that used to be delegated to more than 24 judicial and administrative bodies.

In this framework, the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) is organizing a workshop **“Activating the asset and interest declarations system, in line with the new law and previous experiences”**. The workshop will be held on 26 September 2023, in cooperation with UNDP's Anti-Corruption for Trust in Lebanon project, that is being implemented with the support of the European Union (EU) and the Government of the Kingdom of Denmark, and UNDP's Anti-Corruption and Integrity in the Arab Countries project that is being implemented with the support of Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

The workshop aims to review the developments brought about by Law No. 189/2020 compared to the previous legal framework, in order to establish a common understanding of the asset and interest declarations system in line with international best practices and comparative experiences. In addition to showing the progress achieved in implementing the asset and interest declarations system by the institutions that were entrusted with receiving, storing and managing declarations prior to the establishment of the National Anti-Corruption Commission. The workshop will also tap into the technical requirements towards the activation of the subject system and the coordination mechanisms between all concerned parties.

Agenda

Tuesday 26 September 2023

09:00 – 11:00	<p>Session 1: Asset and Interest Declarations System: The Lebanese legal framework and comparative laws</p> <p>Objective: Establish a common understanding of the requirements of Law 189/2020 compared to the previous declarations system, particularly the functions of the NACC in receiving, storing, managing and auditing declarations, in addition to comparing the Lebanese framework to provisions and best practices in comparative laws.</p> <p>Opening statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judge Claude Karam, President of the National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) <p>The asset and interest declarations system: A comparison between the current and previous law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judge Therese Allawi, Commissioner, National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC) <p>The standards and good practices in Arab and Foreign laws</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Anouar Ben Khalifa, Senior Anti-Corruption and Integrity Specialist, UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States <p>Discussion</p>
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11:00 – 11:30 **Break**

11:30 – 13:30	<p>Session 2: Lebanese Public Administrations' enforcement of the asset and interest declarations system</p> <p>Objectives:</p> <p>First: Presenting the efforts made towards explaining the provisions of the law for public officials, particularly through the Q&A guide that was developed by the Ministry of State for Administrative Reforms (OMSAR) and the Civil Service Board (CSB). Second: Presenting the progress made by a sample of administrations which were previously tasked with the receipt and management of declarations, including on their experiences and challenges in that regard.</p> <p>Chairperson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Judge Claud Karam, President of the National Anti-Corruption Commission
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Facilitator

- Ghassan Moukheiber, Former Member of Parliament, Anti-Corruption Expert

Efforts of OMSAR during the previous period: Q&A guide on asset and interest declarations

- Ali Berro, Ministry of State for Administrative Reform

Discussion session

- Nisrine Machmouchi, President, Civil Service Board
- Judge Mireille Haddad, High Judiciary Council
- Ambassador Kanj Al Hajal, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Walid Shayya, Ministry of Defense
- Faten Abou Al Hassan, Ministry of Interior and Municipalities
- Jean Matta, Constitutional Council
- Rania Faek, Presidency of the Council of Ministers
- Basima Antonios, Ministry of Finance
- Nassima Al Tabch, Banque du Liban

13:30 – 14:30 **Break**

14:30 – 16:00 **Session 3: The requirements of activating the asset and interest declarations system**

Objective: Conclude with the recommendations to activate the NACC's role in receiving, storing, managing and auditing declarations, in addition to exploring the prerequisites for the needed cooperation mechanisms between the commission and concerned administrations, particularly within the following areas: (1) Development of nominal lists of obligated public officials across all administrations, (2) Revisit the declaration form's entries, (3) Mechanisms for referral and sanctions in the case of incompliance, (4) Development of the cooperation mechanism with Banque du Liban, particularly the storage of declarations and their retrieval, (5) The steps for the exchange of information between ministries

Facilitator

- Ghassan Moukheiber, Former Member of Parliament, Anti-Corruption Expert

Technical Conclusions & Closing Remarks

- Anouar Ben Khalifa, Senior Anti-Corruption and Integrity Specialist, UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States
- Judge Therese Allawi, Commissioner, National Anti-Corruption Commission (NACC)