



Regional Workshop
**Towards more effective systems of asset and
interest declarations**

Beirut, Lebanon, 29-30 June 2022



Programme

Overview

In cooperation with the Lebanese National Anti-Corruption Commission, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is organizing a regional workshop entitled *Towards more effective systems of asset and interests declarations* which will be held in Beirut, Lebanon on 29 and 30 June 2022. This workshop is part of UNDP's regional project on Anti-Corruption and Integrity in the Arab Countries (ACIAC), which is implemented in partnership with the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA).

The existence of an effective system for asset and interest declaration is an essential pillar of good governance and corruption prevention, as it helps in building trust in public officials, including those in political, legislative, executive, judicial, military and security positions, and enables the monitoring of their assets and interests and managing them in a way that prevents conflicts between private and public interests. These systems also facilitate the role of concerned authorities in detecting illicit enrichment cases, and thus improve the accountability process. Indeed, the United Nations Convention against Corruption mentions in article 8 that "Each state party shall endeavor, where appropriate and in accordance with the fundamental principles of its domestic law, to establish measures and systems requiring public officials to make declarations to appropriate authorities regarding, inter alia, their outside activities, employment, investments, assets and substantial gifts or benefits from which a conflict of interest may result with respect to their functions as public officials." This is also emphasized by various international recommendations and experiences around the world.

The use of technology in designing and implementing declaration systems plays an essential role in facilitating the process of verifying and auditing the public officials' assets electronically and allows for enhanced accountability and trust. However, because these systems are often met with skepticism about personal security and privacy, there are emerging challenges on the best ways to deal with and verify those large amounts of information and link them to other state records and related databases.

To delve deeper into this important topic and to shed light on good practices and experiences in the Arab region and other countries, the legal frameworks and the practical experiences of relevant reforms that have been adopted in the past few years, including in Jordan, Lebanon, Kuwait, and Tunisia, will be presented during this regional workshop. In addition to highlighting the experience of other countries, such as Greece, in establishing and implementing their own electronic declaration systems. The event is expected to conclude with a series of reflections on good practices and strategies that will guide governmental actors responsible for designing and implementing asset declaration systems in their respective countries, in line with international standards and the specificities of country contexts.

The regional workshop will be attended by representatives of anti-corruption agencies, regulatory bodies and ministries working in this field in the Arab region, in addition to specialized regional and international experts. The workshop will be held in hybrid format with part of the participants attending in person and another part online via the Zoom platform. The languages used will be Arabic and English with simultaneous interpretation available. Documents and photographs will be made available at the event's page on the website www.undp-aciad.org.

Agenda

Wednesday, 29 June 2022

10:30 – 11:00 Opening session

Opening remarks

- Judge Claud Karam, Head of the Lebanese National Anti-Corruption Commission
- Melanie Hauenstein, Resident Representative, UNDP Lebanon

11:00 – 13:00 Session 1: Standards and applications of asset and interest declaration systems

The importance of declaration systems from a governance and sustainable development perspective

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

International standards and best practices from around the world

- Tim Steele, Senior Advisor, UN Office on Drugs and Crime
- Ivana M. Rossi, Senior Financial Sector Expert, International Monetary Fund

Open Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 Session 2: Comparative experiences in establishing and implementing asset and interest declaration systems

Declaration systems for enhancing trust and protecting integrity

- Marie Lintzer, Head of International Partnerships, High Authority for Transparency in Public Life, France

Using technology to activate the regulatory role of declaration systems

- Angelos Binis, Governor of the Hellenic National Transparency Authority, Greece
- Georgios Zvakos, Head of Source of Funds Investigation Unit at the Hellenic Anti-Money Laundering Authority, Greece

Declaration systems as an effective mean to the prosecution of corruption crimes

- David Bernstein, Lead Public Sector Expert, World Bank

Open discussion

Thursday, 30 June 2022

10:30 – 11:30

Session 3: Asset and interest declaration systems in the Arab region

A comparative analytical study of asset and interest declaration systems in the Arab countries

- Anouar Ben Khelifa, Senior Specialist, Anti-Corruption and Integrity, UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States

Civil society's perspective on the development and prospects of declaration systems in the Arab region

- Majid Al-Mutairi, Representative of Non-Governmental Group of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network, Executive Director of Kuwait Transparency Society
- Sharaf Al-Mousawi, Coordinator of the Non-Governmental Group of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network

Open discussion

11:30 – 11:45

Coffee break

11:45 – 13:45

Session 4: Successes and challenges in selected country experiences in the Arab region

Case study: Lebanon

- Ghassan Moukheiber, Former Member of Lebanese Parliament, Chair of Parliamentarians against Corruption Group in Lebanon
- Rima Kheillah and Alissar Hmeidan, Civil Service Board, Lebanon

Case study: Jordan

- Faysal Maatouk, Head of the Financial Disclosure department at Ministry of Justice, Jordan

Case study: Palestine

- Issa Jadallah, Head of Financial disclosure department, Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission, Palestine

Case study: Kuwait

- Roudhan Almokhaizeem, Contoller of Inspection Committees at the Anti-Corruption Authority (Nazaha), Kuwait

Case study: Tunisia

- Sinda Labidi, Public Services Advisor, General Directorate of Governance and Prevention of Corruption, Tunisia

13:45 – 14:30 **Closing session**

Closing Remarks

- Dr. Kleib Kleib, Representative of the Lebanese National Anti-Corruption Commission

Conclusions and Roadmap for Follow up

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

14:30 **Lunch**
