



Second Regional Meeting

Regional Alliance of Women Against Corruption

Brummana, Lebanon, 25-26 July 2022

Draft Programme



Overview

Corruption exacerbates gender inequalities and prevents women from gaining access to their civil, political, social and economic rights. This has a detrimental impact on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With over a decade of experience supporting the implementation of anti-corruption and integrity reforms in the Arab states region, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) is working to tackle a dual development challenge. On the one hand, women's voices are underrepresented in public affairs and policymaking. On the other hand, while corruption affects everyone, women tend to be more severely affected by certain forms of corruption and are disproportionately impacted in many sectors including healthcare, education and doing business.

The UNDP Regional Hub for Arab States is organizing the 2nd regional meeting of the *Regional Alliance of Women Against Corruption* that will be held on 25-26 July 2022 in Brummana, Lebanon with the possibility of online participation via Zoom. The emerging regional network is comprised of women who are in positions to lead efforts aimed at integrating a gender lens into anti-corruption and integrity reforms across the region, including in related national and sectoral strategies.

The event will bring together more than twenty women from the region who are active in leading dialogues and initiatives to strengthen transparent and accountable governance and tackle corruption, including women in government, business, civil society and academia. To frame this discussion, UNDP will present an issues paper on global as well as regional trends and research at the intersection of anti-corruption and gender. This will be followed by presentations by different international inter-governmental or civil-society organizations on the relationship between gender and corruption. A round table discussion of Arab country experiences will highlight concrete corruption-related challenges the region faces. This will prepare the working session that UNDP will facilitate for the Women's Alliance for Anti-Corruption and Integrity in Arab Countries to review and discuss the network's concept and activities plan.

This regional meeting is part of the ongoing partnership with the Government of Canada in the framework of UNDP's regional project on Anti-Corruption and Integrity in the Arab Countries (ACIAC). UNDP will draw on the conclusions of this regional meeting to support women and other stakeholders to closely examine and better tackle the gender dimensions of corruption and promote gender-sensitive approaches to anti-corruption and integrity reforms.

The languages used will be Arabic and English with simultaneous interpretation available. Documents and other materials from the regional meeting will be posted on our website: www.undp-aciac.org.

Agenda

Monday, 25 July 2022

10:00 – 11:00 Welcome Coffee & Networking

11:00 – 11:20 Opening Remarks

Statement of the Host Government

- Najla Riachi, Minister of State for Administrative Reform, Lebanon

Statement of the United Nations Development Programme

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

11:20 – 13:00 Session 1: Tackling Corruption through a Gender Lens in the Arab Region

Objective: This session will highlight why the discussion of the nexus between corruption and gender is important to consider in the Arab Region. The presentation will illustrate why this matter, which is insufficiently understood and addressed worldwide, is particularly relevant in the Arab region. In the ensuing discussion, participants will exchange views on integrity and gender non-discrimination as core pillars of political, economic and social structures in the region.

Moderator

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

Presentation of Issues Paper

- Nicola Ehlermann, Senior Anti-Corruption and Gender Advisor, UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States

Roundtable Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:45 Session 2: Perspectives of International Organizations on Governance and Gender

Objective: In this session, different international inter-governmental or civil-society organizations will speak on why and how they are involved in examining the relationship between gender and corruption. The different actors will share their views and understanding of the topic as well as the steps they have been taking or envisage to reinforce the synergies between the two policy dimensions, to strengthen policy decisions and legal frameworks.

Moderator

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

Presentations

- Mafaro Kasipo, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Associate, UNODC
- Aleksandra Dier, Policy Advisor- Women Peace and Security, UN WOMEN
- Naima Benwakrim, Executive Board Member, Transparency Morocco

Open Discussion

15:45 – 16:00 Wrap-up of Day One

Tuesday, 26 July 2022

10:00 – 11:00 Networking Coffee

11:00 – 13:00 Session 3: Testimonies and Reflections from Arab Countries on the Corruption and Gender Nexus

Objective: This session will highlight concrete testimonies of distinct actors on the interrelation between corruption and gender and how it is influenced by economic, social and political realities. It will also consider how differences in perceptions and experiences of different forms of corruption reflect differences in the roles and experiences of different social groups. The discussion will enable a better understanding gender and corruption challenges faced in the Arab region. The session will also reflect on the need to further support anti-corruption reforms from a gender perspective.

Moderator

- Hakima Ghorri, Governance and Gender Expert

Country Presentations

- Neila Chaabane, Dean, Faculty of Legal, Social and Political Sciences, University of Carthage, Tunisia
- Inaya Ezzeddine, Member of Parliament, Head of Committee on Woman and Child, Lebanon
- Manal Abdelhadi, Director General, Research and Studies, Federal Commission of Integrity, Iraq
- Rania Bader, Deputy Chairperson, Rasheed for Integrity and Transparency, Jordan

Comments and Discussion

13:00 – 14:00 Lunch

14:00 – 15:30 **Session 4: Way Forward for the Women’s Alliance for Anti-Corruption and Integrity in Arab countries**

Objective: The Women’s Alliance for Anti-Corruption and Integrity in Arab countries, a unique regional network committed to better understand the interrelation of corruption and gender, will discuss which specific insights it wishes to consider and how to develop concrete policy actions supportive of more efficient and effective strategies and mechanisms to combat corruption and achieve sustainable development for all.

Considerations for Building the Alliance and How it Connects to Other Regional Anti-Corruption Initiatives

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

Potential Areas of Work for the Alliance

- Nicola Ehlermann, Senior Governance and Gender Advisor, UNDP Regional Hub for the Arab States

Open Discussion

15:30 – 16:00 Closing
