



Regional Event on “The Future of Anti-Corruption and Integrity Reforms in Arab Countries in Light of Agenda 2030”

Date: Monday, 9 December 2019 – from 15.00 to 17.45

Venue: UNDP RBAS, Amman Regional Hub

Address: 11 Abu-Baker Seraj Al-Din, Abdoun Al Shamali, Amman, Jordan

Overview

On the occasion of the International Anti-corruption Day, that is commemorated worldwide every year on 9 December since 2003, the UNDP Amman Regional Hub will host a regional event on “The Future of Anti-Corruption and Integrity Reforms in Arab Countries in Light of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”

Panellists will include senior public officials and leading civil society activists from various Arab countries, with representatives of stakeholder groups, prominent researchers and specialized journalists in attendance. The panel shall provide an open interactive space to share updates on emerging trends and current challenges, focusing on legislative priorities, good practices and lessons learned in preventing and combating corruption, including through cooperation between governments and local and regional civil society, women and youth groups.

The event will also witness the launch of the “*KOICA-UNDP Regional Project on Anti-Corruption and Integrity in Arab Countries*” that will be implemented over the next four years. Responding to external and internal pressures, an increasing number of Arab countries are adopting national anti-corruption strategies and establishing specialized anti-corruption agencies and/or related multi-agency mechanisms. In this framework, UNDP designed a new regional initiative that aims to enable institutions and systems in the Arab region to address awareness, prevention and enforcement of anti-corruption measures to maximize availability of resources for poverty eradication and contribute to inclusive and effective governance that brings women, youth, and civil society groups into play, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16 on “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”.

This regional project is funded by the Korean International Agency of Cooperation (KOICA), prioritizing support to Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia.

Draft Agenda

December 9, 2019

15.00 - 15.15 Opening session - Welcome & Opening remarks

- Susanne Dam-Hansen, OIC UNDP Amman Regional Hub Manager

15.15 – 16.00 Announcement of KOICA-UNDP Regional Project on Anti-Corruption and Integrity in Arab Countries

This session will be opened with a statement on the importance of establishing the partnership, followed by an overview on the strategic value of the project, including its global and regional relevance.

- Agreements exchange between Ms. Hyojin Kim, Country Director of KOICA Jordan office, and Susanne Dam-Hansen, OIC UNDP Amman Regional Hub Manager
- Remarks by Ms. Hyojin Kim, Country Director of KOICA Jordan office
- Short Video on Regional Project Overview
- Questions and Answers

16.00 – 17.30 Regional Expert Panel

Until recently, corruption, especially in the Arab region, had been treated as a taboo, nearly banned from public debate and undermined by an over emphasis on sporadic technical solutions to governance deficits. The panel discussion will touch upon the implications of anti-corruption to achieve the 2030 Agenda, and common challenges and opportunities in the Arab states region to advance the anti-corruption agenda and achieve SDG 16.

- Moderator:
 - Arkan El Seblani, Chief Technical Advisor, Anti-Corruption and Integrity in Arab Countries, UNDP
- Panelists:
 - Judge Mohamed Benalilou, Ombudsman, Morocco
 - Dr. Azmi Shuaibi, Board member of "Arab Parliamentarians Against Corruption Organization" and founding member of the Non-Governmental Group of the "Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network" (ACINET)
 - Natacha Sarkis, Head, Anti-Corruption, Ministry of State for Administrative Reform, Lebanon
 - Dr. Mohamed Mefteh, Director General of the Central Unit for Governance and Anti-Corruption, Ministry of Health, Tunisia
 - Ghalia Hatamleh, Representative of the Regional Youth Group "Integrity Guardians"
- Open discussion

17.30

Closing and Reception