



In the framework of the 10th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC)

Meeting at Ministerial Level: Pathways to Reinforcing Trust (Chicago room – A305)

Atlanta, USA, 12 December 2023, 08:15 – 09:50 AM

On the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), it is imperative to jointly reflect on the accomplishments and challenges encountered at the international, regional, and national levels in implementing the convention's provisions with a view to accelerating and intensifying efforts in the next stage. Clearly, various regions worldwide, including the Arab region, have made strides in several related areas, particularly in the legislative sphere and the establishment and operationalization of specialized bodies. At the same time, these advancements have given rise to questions concerning the effectiveness of these legislation and institutions in bringing about substantial changes in ways that foster greater public trust. This is generally reflected in international indicators and opinion polls, despite some successes in several Arab countries in recent years. While the reliability of the indicators varies, the evident lack of trust underscores an urgent need to exert additional efforts to gain and reinforce trust on various fronts, including the trust of investors and those engaging with state institutions.

The ministerial-level meeting of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET), convened on the side of the 10th session of the Conference of States Parties to UNCAC, brings together ministers, heads of specialized bodies from Arab countries, and representatives of ACINET members and key partners. This high-level meeting presents an opportunity to explore possible courses of action towards strengthening anti-corruption and integrity efforts and, consequently, elevating public trust. To achieve this objective, the meeting's theme centers on two interconnected sub-topics directly impacting trust levels: (1) the effectiveness of asset recovery efforts and (2) the effectiveness of civil society engagement efforts. Additionally, the meeting allows the proposition of other topics that may be explored in line with the meeting's overarching theme.

The meeting starts at 8:15 am on Tuesday, 12 December 2023 with an opening statement by His Excellency, Judge Haider Hanoun, the chairperson of ACINET and the president of the Iraqi Federal Commission of Integrity, followed by the statement of Ms. Maggie Nardi, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, United States of America, representing the host country. Subsequently, ministers, heads of agencies, their representatives, and delegates from partner organizations and countries, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), will be invited to intervene in relation to this overarching theme with a focus on relevant achievements, challenges, and recommendations. This will be followed by an open discussion among participants to further enrich the dialogue and formulate preliminary recommendations that can serve as a foundation for developing ACINET's programme of work for 2024 and 2025.

For more information about the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET), please visit our portal at www.arabacinet.org