



**Regional Workshop to Advance the Implementation of the
Action Plan of the Non-Governmental Group of the Arab
Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network**

Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt

27-28 November 2012

Agenda

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Overview on the Non Governmental Group of ACINET

The Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET) is considered to be the leading regional mechanism specialized in supporting Arab countries to act against corruption, in line with their national priorities, and drawing on global and regional standards. The Non Governmental Group of ACINET was established on 27 July 2010 as an independent component of the network. It functions alongside ACINET's governmental component, which now includes 37 national authorities from 15 Arab countries, including Jordan, Bahrain, Tunisia, Djibouti, Saudi Arabia, the Palestinian National Authority, Sudan, Iraq, Qatar, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania, and Yemen. The Non Governmental Group seeks to establish a joint, coherent, and independent platform for specialized for non-governmental actors to enable them to participate effectively in ACINET's work and to enrich related national efforts. The Non Governmental Group develops these actors' capacity to support the implementation of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption, fosters dialogue between governmental and non-governmental actors, supports joint and collective action initiatives, and builds bridges of communication between the Arab region and other regions to promote sharing expertise and experiences in the area of anti-corruption. Membership of the Non Governmental Group is open to all actors in civil society, private sector, media and academia and research that satisfy the requirements set in the Rules and Procedures. For more information on ACINET and its Non Governmental Group, please visit www.pogar.org/acinet.

Introduction

ACINET's Non Governmental Group is holding the regional workshop to advance the implementation of its annual action plan, which was adopted at the end of its First Extraordinary General Session held in Doha (Qatar) on 28-29 March 2012. The workshop will specifically focus on the plan's second component, which aims to foster regional dialogue, among concerned non-state actors, on common anti-corruption priorities to generate the necessary knowledge and tools that will enable them to add value to related reform efforts at the national level.

The workshop is organized with the support of UNDP's regional project on Anti-Corruption and Integrity in the Arab Countries (ACIAC). It brings together representatives from civil society, academia, and the business community, and provides them with an opportunity to discuss recent anti-corruption developments in the region, including emerging opportunities and challenges, and to share updates about their respective efforts in this field

In addition, the workshop will enable participants to explore four specific thematic priorities that constitute important aspects of the ongoing efforts to prevent and combat corruption in the Arab countries. The themes are:

- Recovery of assets derived from corruption
- Right to access information
- Corruption in state lands and properties
- Stopping impunity of corruption perpetrators

Those themes have been identified based on regional consultations that were held during the first quarter of 2012. They were prioritized given their particular relevance to the ongoing and prospective work of a significant number of the Group's members, albeit in varying forms and degrees. Other themes were also raised and it was agreed that some of them can be the subject of similar workshops in the future. During the two days of the workshop, participants will engage in interactive discussions on each one of those themes and exchange ideas and experiences on how to address them in a more effective and contextualized manner.

The findings of the workshop are expected to promote the active participation of non-governmental stakeholders in anti-corruption reforms. Among other things, it will inform the development of four position papers that articulate the position of the Group on the four thematic priorities, and provide common grounds for action by a wide array of stakeholders.

The papers will clarify related concepts, identify possible risks, and propose corresponding reform options. They will draw on international standards and comparative experiences, but they will also be tailored to the specific context of the region including sub-regional and country-specific particularities whenever possible. The papers are expected to empower the members of Group, as well as other anti-corruption advocates, to advocate clear positions to decision-makers in their respective countries.

ACINET's Non-Governmental will utilize these papers and build on the results of this workshop to promote change and contribute to the reinforcing the position of non-state stakeholders as a more legitimate and a solution-oriented partner in national reform processes, particularly in countries that are experiencing transformations.

Agenda

Tuesday 27 November 2012

09.00 - 09.30 Registration

09.30 - 10.00 Opening Session

- **Opening Remarks**

Dr. Azmi SHUAIBI, Coordinator of ACINET's Non-Governmental Group

- **Presentation of the participants and announcement of the new members of ACINET's Non Governmental Group**

10.00 - 10.30 Break

10.30 - 13.00 First Session

The State of Anti-Corruption in the Arab Region and Updates on the Efforts of Non-Governmental Actors in 2012

***Objective:** enable participants to discuss recent anti-corruption developments in the Arab region, including emerging opportunities and challenges, and to exchange updates about their respective activities in 2012, and related proposals and lessons learned that can benefit future action.*

- **Moderator**

Dr. Azmi SHUAIBI, Coordinator of ACINET's Non-Governmental Group

- **Reports from the Field**

Interventions by participants on the anti-corruption situation in their countries and their respective efforts

- **Report of the ACINET Regional Support Unit**

Ms. Natacha SARKIS Analyst, Regional Project of Anti Corruption and Integrity in Arab Countries

- **Q&As and open discussion**

13.00 - 14.00

Lunch

14.00 - 15.30

Second Session

Recovery of Assets Derived from Corruption

***Objective:** clarify the concept of asset recovery; deepen knowledge on related international standards and comparative experiences; and facilitate an interactive discussion among participants on how they can contribute to advance related reform efforts in their respective countries, while also informing the development of a position paper on this priority theme.*

- **Moderator**

Dr. Amer KHAYYAT, Secretary General, Arab Anti Corruption Organization

- **Panelists**

Dr. Hafiza EL HADDAD, Dean, Faculty of Law & Political Science- Beirut Arab University

Mr. Tareq HADDAD, Partner, PriceWaterhouseCoopers

- **Open discussion**

15.30 - 16.00

Break

16.00 - 17.30

Third Session

Corruption in Public Lands and Properties

***Objective:** discuss concepts and manifestations of corruption in public lands and properties; enable the identification of related risks and possible remedies; and facilitate an interactive discussion among participants on how they can contribute to advance related reform efforts in their respective countries, while also informing the development of a position paper on this priority theme.*

- **Moderator**

Dr. Ahmad ASHOUR, Professor, Alexandria University

- **Panelists**

Dr. Neila CHAABAN, Board Member, Tunisian Anti-Corruption Agency

Mr. Arkan EL SEBLANI, Manager, Regional Project on Anti Corruption and Integrity in Arab Countries, UNDP

- **Open discussion**

Wednesday 28 November 2012

09.00 - 10.30

Fourth Session

Right to Access Information

***Objective:** clarify the concept of access to information; deepen knowledge on related international standards and comparative experiences; and facilitate an interactive discussion among participants on how they can contribute to advance related reform efforts in their respective countries, while also informing the development of a position paper on this priority theme.*

- **Moderator**

Dr. Salah AL GHAZALI, Chairman, Kuwait Transparency Society

- **Panelists**

Mr. Mustafa NASR, President, Studies and Economic Media Center

Mr. Rabih El CHAER, Managing Director, Lebanese Transparency Association

- **Open discussion**

10.30 - 11.00

Break

11.00 - 12.30

Fifth Session

Stopping Impunity of Corruption Perpetrators

***Objective:** clarify the concept of impunity and its nexus with immunities and the political, legal, and institutional environments; deepen knowledge on international standards and comparative experiences that can contribute to stopping it; and facilitate an interactive discussion among participants on how they can contribute to advance related reform efforts in their respective countries, while also informing the development of a position paper on this priority theme.*

- **Moderator**

Dr. Salah AL JORSHI, Coordinator of the Research and Studies Advisory Board, Arab NGO Network for Development

- **Panelist**

Dr. Adullah ABDULLAH, Assistant Professor, Faculty of Law& Political Science- Beirut Arab University

Mr. Elias RAMMOUZ, Lawyer, Institute for Development Research and Consultancies

- **Open discussion**

12.30 - 13.00

Break

13.00 - 14.00

Closing Session

***Objective:** draw final conclusions and map the way forward, including the process for developing the four position papers on the identified thematic priorities.*

- **Conclusions**

To be presented by a selected member of the Non-Governmental Group

- **Discussion of Conclusions**

- **Closing Remarks**

Dr. Azmi SHUAIBI, Coordinator of ACINET's Non-Governmental Group
