Dear reader,

This News Update includes information on (a) the establishment of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network – ACINET (p.1); (b) the selection of ACINET’s chair (p.3); (c) Latest news on the coordination between ACINET and the League of Arab States (p.3); news about ACINET membership (p.4) and (d) a usual stop at Arab anti-corruption highlights (p.5).

Please send your comments and inquiries to the following fax number +961 1 981645 or at the following email address info@arabacinet.org.

Declaring the Establishment of the “Arab Anti-Corruption & Integrity Network”

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The announcement of the establishment of the “Arab Anti-Corruption & Integrity Network”

High-level government officials representing anti-corruption authorities from 17 Arab countries declared the establishment of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET) during the regional conference on combating corruption and integrity in 17 Arab countries, in 30 October 2008. The network aims to improve governance and combat corruption in the Arab world.
"Preventing Corruption and Strengthening Cooperation between Anti-Corruption Bodies in the Arab Region", held under the high patronage of the Jordanian Prime Minister and in partnership with the Anti-Corruption Agency in Jordan.

The conference was organized by the UNDP’s Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (POGAR), in Amman (Jordan) on 29-30 July, 2008 in coordination with the League of Arab States, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

ACINET, which is composed of anti-corruption governmental authorities and bodies from different Arab countries, was established by Arab countries through an inclusive consultative process conducted at the regional and national levels over a period of ten months. ACINET aims to serve as a permanent forum for exchanging knowledge, expertise and experiences among its members and is expected to perform a strategic role as a coordinated regional framework that supports national efforts aimed at implementing Arab and international anti-corruption instruments and related best practices, with a special focus on the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).

This news update was prepared with the support of UNDP-POGAR.
ACINET Founding Members Select the Network’s Chair for 2009

H.E. Dr. Abed SHAKHANBEH, the President of the Jordanian Anti-Corruption Agency, was selected by the members of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET) to be the Network’s Chair for the year 2009. The head of the Yemeni Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption, Dr. Ahmad AL-ANISI was chosen as the first deputy, who will assume the chairmanship in 2010.

Coordination between the Arab Anti-Corruption & Integrity Network and the League of Arab States

The Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET) is keen on maintaining the highest level of coordination with the League of Arab States. In this context, ACINET’s Regional Support Unit is currently preparing for an official visit by the Chair and his Deputy to the League, to be conducted in early 2009, in order to present its Secretary General with the constitutive documents of the network, as a consecration of its regional and Arab representative character and its commitment to support the Arab countries will to enhance anti-corruption efforts.
### Latest News on ACINET’s Membership

As a sign of their official commitment to the fight against corruption and pursuant to the agreement in Amman regarding modalities of confirming memberships in the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET), the following governmental authorities have confirmed their membership via official letters (listed in chronological order until 30 October 2008):

1. Ministry of Justice (Yemen)
2. State Audit & Administrative Control Bureau (occupied Palestinian territories)
3. Commission of Integrity (Iraq)
4. Supreme Judicial Council (Iraq)
5. State General Inspection (Mauritania)
6. Anti-Corruption Agency (Jordan)
7. Supreme National Authority for Combating Corruption (Yemen)
8. Ministry of Justice (occupied Palestinian territories)
9. Ministry of Justice (including prosecution office and judicial inspection) (Jordan)
10. Court of Audit (Lebanon)
11. Ministry of Justice (Sudan)
12. National Committee for Integrity and

### آخر أخبار الإنضمام ل&w ل촉ية شبكة العربية لتعزيز النزاهة ومكافحة الفساد

كتعبير عن التزامها الرسمي بوجود مكافحة الفساد، وطبقاً لما تم الاتفاق عليه في عمان بشأن طرق الإنضمام ل&w ل촉ية شبكة العربية لتعزيز النزاهة ومكافحة الفساد، قامت الجهات الرسمية التالية بتوقيع إنضمامها ل&w ل촉ية شبكة من خلال رسائل رسمية بهذا الخصوص (بالتنسيق الزمني للرسائل حتى تاريخ 30 تشرين الأول/أكتوبر 2008):

1. وزارة العدل (اليمن)
2. ديوان الرقابة المالية والإدارية (الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة)
3. مفوضية النزاهة من (العراق)
4. مجلس القضاء الأعلى (العراق)
5. المفتشية العامة للدولة (موريتانيا)
6. هيئة مكافحة الفساد (الأردن)
7. الهيئة الوطنية العليا لمكافحة الفساد (اليمن)
8. وزارة العدل (الأراضي الفلسطينية المحتلة)
9. وزارة العدل والنيابة العامة والتفتيش القضائي (الأردن)
10. ديوان المحاسبة (ليبنا)ن
11. وزارة العدل (السودان)
12. اللجنة الوطنية للنزاهة والشفافية (قطر)
13. ديوان الرقابة المالية (العراق)
14. وزارة العدل (المغرب)
Arab Anti-Corruption Highlights

- Morocco appoints the first president of the Central Authority for Corruption Prevention: In accordance with law number 2.05.1228, issued on March 13, 2007, establishing the Central Authority for Corruption Prevention in Morocco, Mr. Abdelsalam ABOUDRAR, a prominent anti-corruption civil society activist was appointed president of this newly established authority on 20 August 2008.

- Jordan launches its national anti-corruption strategy: The Jordanian Anti Corruption Agency launched the National Strategy to Combat Corruption during a national conference held on 27 August 2008, under the patronage of H.E. the Minister of Justice Mr. Ayman ODEH representing the Prime Minister. The strategy was developed in cooperation with international experts and with the support of the European Union.
**Arab States and the Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for 2008:** Transparency International released its Corruption Perception Index (CPI) for 2008 on 23 September 2008. The CPI is an annual index designed to measure corruption perceptions focusing on corruption in the public sector. This year it covered 180 countries including 20 Arab countries. According to the CPI, Qatar ranked first among Arab countries and 28 globally, with Somalia coming in last both at the Arab and global levels. The CPI also indicated improvements in ranking for Qatar, Oman, Bahrain, Jordan, Algeria, Mauritania, Djibouti and Libya and deterioration in the ranking of other Arab countries or remained unchanged. For more information, please visit [www.transparency.org](http://www.transparency.org).

**The participation of Arab delegations in the Third Annual Conference of the IACCA:** The International Association for Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) organized its 3rd Annual Conference in Kiev (Ukraine) from 3-6 October 2008. The conference focused on "criminalization and law enforcement", which is addressed under chapter III of the UNCAC. More than 500 participants from 105 countries participated in this conference including high level Arab delegations. For more information, please visit the conference website at [www.transparency.org](http://www.transparency.org).

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• Tunisia ratified the UN Convention against Corruption: Tunisia acceded to the membership of the list of ratifying States on the Convention against Corruption, on September 23, 2008. For the list of ratifying States, please visit this website www.unodc.org.

• Lebanon ratifies UNCAC: The Lebanese Parliament ratified the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) on 7 October 2008, making Lebanon the 14th Arab country that ratifies the convention, leaving only eight Arab countries without ratifications, including two of which who have not signed the Convention yet.

• A Draft Strategy to Combat Corruption in the Gulf Region: State Audit institutions in GCC countries met in Doha (Qatar) on 7 October 2008 to discuss a draft anti-corruption strategy for the Gulf region. The strategic objectives of this strategy may be summarized as protecting public funds, improving the status of public offices to become a national duty, supporting national integrity and transparency institutions and strengthening regional and international cooperation in the area of anti-corruption. For more information please visit this website link www.al-watan.com/Data/20081008/innercontent

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• **UNDP-POGAR visit to the Anti-Corruption Agency in Jordan:** In the context of ongoing cooperation between UNDP’s Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (POGAR) and members of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET), POGAR experts visited, on 14 October 2008, the Head of the Anti-Corruption Agency in Jordan, H.E. Dr. Abed SHAKHANBEH, who is currently serving as ACINET’s Chair. Discussions focused on the development of ACINET’s programme of work for 2008, and possibilities for cooperation and support for the Jordanian anti-corruption agency, especially in relation to supporting the implementation of newly developed national ant-corruption strategy.

• زيارة برنامج إدارة الحكم في الدول العربية لهيئة مكافحة الفساد في الأردن في إطار التعاون بين برنامج إدارة الحكم في الدول العربية التابع لبرنامج الأمم المتحدة الإنمائي وبين أعضاء الشبكة العربية لتعزيز النزاهة ومكافحة الفساد، قام خبراء من البرنامج زيارة رئيس هيئة مكافحة الفساد في الأردن، معالي الدكتور عبد الشخمانة، الذي يتولى رئاسة الشبكة العربية، في مقر الهيئة في عمان (الأردن) بتاريخ 14 تشرين الأول/أكتوبر 2008. وقد جرى البحوث حول أسس برنامج العمل للسنة المقبلة. كما حصل أيضاً حسب التعاون مع هيئة مكافحة الفساد، لا سيما فيما يتعلق بدعم التنفيذ الاستراتيجي الوطنية الجديدة لمكافحة الفساد.