Dear reader,

This News Update includes information on (a) the 13th International Anti-Corruption Conference in Athens and side events (p.1); (b) the 3rd Global Conference for Parliamentarians against Corruption in Kuwait (p.3); (c) Qatari preparation to host key global anti-corruption events in 2009 (p.5); and (d) a usual stop at Arab anti-corruption highlights (p.7).

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The 13th International Anti-Corruption Conference in Athens

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Development Programme (UNDP). It was attended by more than 1300 people, from 135 countries and from the private, public and non-profit sectors.

The 13th IACC was convened under the title "Global Transparency: Fighting Corruption for a Sustainable Future". Through plenary sessions and more than 40 workshops, the conference addressed the following four thematic streams (i) Peace and security; (ii) corruption in the natural resources and energy sectors; (iii) climate change and corruption; and (iv) sustainable globalization.

The conference advocated the importance of strengthening inter-disciplinary cooperation and exchange in the area of anti-corruption. It called for more support to UNCAC as the global, comprehensive framework for preventing and combating corruption; and called for encouraging its implementation and the adoption of an appropriate review mechanism.

The conference also acknowledged the need for better resource governance, and recognized that an informed and empowered citizen is the most powerful tool for combating corruption. It called for greater civil society engagement on issues ranging from asset recovery to political finance and thus called on governments to ensure the space and the freedom for civil society to operate, and on civil society to

ment. حضر المؤتمر أكثر من 1300 مشارك من 135 دولة يمثلون القطاعين العام والخاص والقطاعات غير الربحية.

عقد هذا المؤتمر تحت عنوان "الشفافية العالمية: محاربة الفساد من أجل مستقبل مستدام" متناول أربع موانع رئيسية من خلال الجلسات العامة وأكثر من 40 ورشة عمل. الموضوع هي (أ) السلام والأمن، (ب) الفساد والموارد الطبيعية وقطاعات الطاقة، و(ج) التغيير المناخي والفساد، و(د) العولمة المستدامة.

وقد ركز المؤتمر على أهمية تعزيز التعاون والتبادل بين مختلف مجالات التخصص لخدمة جهود مكافحة الفساد. كما دعا إلى دعم إتفاقية الأمم المتحدة لمكافحة الفساد كأساس شامل للوقاية من الفساد ومكافحته، مركزا على تشجيع جهود تطبيق الاتفاقية واعتماد آلية مناسبة لاستعراض تنفيذها.

وعدا وتناول المؤتمر أهمية الإدارة الرشيده للموارد، واعتبر أن المواطن الذي يتم تثقيفه وتمكينه هو أفضل وسيلة لمكافحة الفساد. كما دعا إلى تعزيز مشاركة المجتمع المدني في عدة مسائل بما فيها مسألة استرداد الموجودات والتمويل السياسي، وبالتالي طلب من الحكومات تأمين مساحة أوضع وحرية أكبر لعمل المجتمع المدني داعيا منظمات المجتمع المدني إلى تطوير حوكمتها.

لمعلومات أكثر حول أوراق المؤتمر، الرجاء زيارة

This news update was prepared with the support of UNDP-POGAR.
bolster its own governance.

For more information about the conference papers please visit:

The 13th International Anti-Corruption Conference was preceded by a number of related events, including TI’s membership meetings (26-28 October 2008) and the 3rd Global Anti-Corruption Community of Practice meeting (28-29 October 2008) which is organized by UNDP to support the formulation of a common language and vision for UNDP anti-corruption practitioners and the development of tools and mechanisms in order to better support the Member States’ efforts to fight corruption and promote development.

The 3rd Global Conference for Parliamentarians Against Corruption in Kuwait

The 3rd Global Conference for Parliamentarians against Corruption, which is organized by the Global Organizations for Parliamentarians Against Corruption (GOPAC) was held in Kuwait City on 17-19 November 2008. The conference was held under the patronage of the Amir of Kuwait and in cooperation with the GOPAC’s Arab chapter, “Arab Parliamentarians against Corruption” and in partnership with the

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National Assembly in Kuwait.

Parliamentarians from more than 60 nations from around the world participated in the conference in addition to experts and representatives of international and regional organizations and other Arab actors including the Arab Anti-corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET), which was represented by its Chair, H.E. Dr. Abed SHAKHANBEH (Head of Anti-Corruption Agency in Jordan).

The conference focused on the role of parliamentarians in supporting and monitoring the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which was addressed in plenary sessions and specialized workshops focusing on a number of issues including money laundering, parliamentary immunity, parliamentary ethics, civil society participation, transparency in revenues, in addition to strengthening cooperation between the different stakeholders concerned with UNCAC implementation in the Arab region.

The conference developed a series of recommendations and resolutions including supporting the efforts of all branches of GOPAC and members to take action in line with the organization's position and efforts in the fight against corruption, and analyzing useful practices and fundamental constraints with regard to the involvement of parliamentarians in supporting and monitoring the implementation of UNCAC in the Arab region.

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of citizens. It also called for supporting the development of the GOPAC’s website, in cooperation with expert agencies and concerned civil society organizations, with a view to highlight the ideas and important practices. It also called for developing a handbook for parliamentarians on the involvement of citizens and civil society in anti corruption efforts. The conference also encouraged branches to work with the specialized agencies and other partners on the pilot projects concerned with combating corruption. It also recommended the launching of a global GOPAC working group to promote transparency in revenues.

At the end of the conference, Kuwaiti MP Dr. Nasser Al Sana’a was selected as GOPAC’s new president. For further information about the conference, please visit GOPAC’s website www.gopacnetwork.org or the website of its Arab Chapter www.arpacnetwork.org.

Doha Prepares to Host Key International Anti-Corruption Events in 2009

Doha is preparing to host the third session for the Conference of State Parties (CoSP) to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which is expected to be held during November 2009, noting that the first session was held in the Dead Sea (Jordan) in December 2006 and the second
session in Bali (Indonesia) in January 2008.

The 3rd CoSP is expected to witness a record number of participants from State Parties and observers, in light of the growing global interest in supporting UNCAC implementation and the increase in ratifications from 103 during the last CoSP to the current number of 129.

The 3rd CoSP will be focusing on corruption prevention in addition to the different issues being addressed in the context of the different working groups established by previous CoSP sessions, including asset recovery, technical assistance, immunities and reviewing UNCAC implementation, which may be considered to be the most important issue in light of the division among State Parties to what the review mechanism should look like.

Furthermore, the Sixth Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity is expected to take place back-to-back with the 3rd CoSP. This forum is an informal forum that seeks to bring different governments together to discuss key issues and developments in the area of anti-corruption and integrity and also seeks to forge global positions and encourage dialogue aimed at finding more effective approaches in this area.

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discuss a number of topics that would contribute to discussions that will take place at the 3rd CoSP, with a focus on Arab regional issues given that the global forum is being held in the Arab region for the first time.

An International Organization Committee was set up to support the organization of the global forum. It is chaired by the Public Prosecutor in Qatar, H.E. Ali AL MARRI and comprises representatives from South Africa, the USA, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UNDP’s Programme on Governance in the Arab region (UNDP-POGAR), Transparency International (TI) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Prominent Arab News on Anti-Corruption

- Iraq issues a law to reward informants including whistleblowers: The Iraqi Presidential Council issued on 26 August, 2008 a law that rewards informants including whistleblowers (law number 33/2008). This law encourages those who present information that can lead to the recovery of money or assets owned by the state or public sector, or to uncover theft, fraud, forgery or administrative corruption and ill behavior by rewarding the correspondent the damages that would be taken.

The 7th Arab CoSP in November 2008 was held under the theme “Promote the role of media and citizens in the fight against corruption.”

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- The Jordanian Anti-Corruption Agency Participates in a rigorous training programme in Hong Kong: With the support of UNDP’s Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR), the Jordanian Anti Corruption Agency has participated in a higher studies program on anti-corruption, held by the International Association for Anti-Corruption Authorities. This intensive educational program took place in Hong Kong, between 4th of November - 24th of November 2008. An expert from the Jordanian agency participated in the program, being the first practitioner from the Arab region to ever do so. For more information on the educational program in the course of studying Anti-Corruption please visit the following link: hkuspace.hku.hk/web_course/show_course.php?code=905.