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**National Workshop on
The National Anti-Corruption Strategy
for Palestine (2020-2022)**

Jordan

17-20 October 2019



Introduction

Palestine was one of the first Arab countries to focus on fighting corruption despite internal and external political challenges, this was demonstrated through the establishment of the General Control Authority in 1994, which was replaced by the State Audit and Administrative Control Bureau in 2004. Additionally, the Coalition for Accountability and Integrity (AMAN) was founded in 2000, followed by the Illicit Enrichment Act passed in 2005 and amended in 2010 to become the Anti-Corruption Law No. 1 of 2005, which established an Anti-Corruption Commission before Palestine acceded to the United Nations Convention against Corruption in 2014. After its amendment in 2018 and in addition to the establishment of the Commission, the law also stipulated the establishment of a special court to deal with corruption crimes, the disclosure of financial statements, and the protection of whistle-blowers, witnesses and experts.

The Commission has assisted the concerned official bodies, especially the State Audit and Administrative Control Bureau, in strenuous efforts to enhance integrity and fight corruption through the automation of the government complaints system, the oversight of the public institutions and the transferring of files containing suspicions of corruption to the Commission to investigate and take the necessary decisions. The Commission also amended of several laws most notably the Public Procurement Law, enforced the Code of Conduct for State employees and initiated many awareness raising activities concerning the dangers of corruption. However, the ongoing Israeli occupation, political divisions, the absence of the Legislative Council for more than 10 years and other economic and social factors have hampered the effectiveness of these efforts, especially in ensuring the transparency in the management of public funds in the absence of the access to information law, which has been pending in the Legislative Council for more than ten years now.

These challenges have not impeded the committee's efforts neither in the adoption of 2 previous national anti-corruption strategies for the years of 2012-2014 and 2015-2018, nor now in the third in progress strategy for the years 2020-2022. The first strategy consisted of 6 main sections with each one having a goal and objectives and it followed by a report to evaluate its implementation. While the second strategy for the years 2015-2018 consisted of 4 sections with each one having a goal and objectives, but evaluation was issued.

Overview

Article 5 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption calls for States parties to develop “Preventive anti-corruption policies and practices”. Therefore, National anti-corruption strategies are the best approach to a comprehensive policy response to the complex problem of corruption.

Over time and drawing upon comparative experiences, it has been shown that the first generation of national strategies has failed to achieve the desired results, not necessarily because of their content, which was often comprehensive and in line with international standards, but because of the way the strategy was designed and the mechanisms for its implementation, monitoring and evaluation. The principles of the Kuala Lumpur Statement on Anti-Corruption Strategies stated that a participatory approach in identifying priorities and areas of intervention should involve all stakeholders, including civil society, the private sector, ministries, government institutions and academics, which would ensure their participation, acceptance and contribution to the implementation of the strategy. It was also found that defining a mechanism for implementation, monitoring and evaluation before the implementation of the strategy plays a key role in its success noting that measuring the success of the strategy should not be limited to the number of activities, laws and policies adopted, but should include the impact of the strategy on citizen confidence in the government and the extent of satisfaction with public services and management of public affairs and public funds.

Based on the foregoing, and in the framework of the Palestinian Anti-Corruption Commission keeping pace with the new international standards and best practices in the preparation and implementation of national strategies, a workshop to review the draft national strategy for the years 2020-2022 is organized in cooperation with UNDP and the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET) in the Dead Sea, in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, from 17 to 20 October 2019. The workshop includes representatives of the Commission and civil society organizations as well as international and regional experts and representatives of counterpart bodies in the Arab region. This workshop aims at discussing the structure, content and mechanism of implementing and following up the national anti-corruption strategy in Palestine (2020-2022) based on international standards and best practices derived from comparative experiences.

Agenda

Thursday, 17 October 2019

10:30 – 11:00 Opening Session

- **Opening Statements**
 - UNDP Statement
 - Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET) Statement
 - PACC Statement
- **Presentation of the Agenda**
 - Arkan El-Seblani, Chief Technical Advisor on Anti-Corruption and Integrity in Arab countries, UNDP

11:00 – 13:15 Session 2 - Overview of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy of Palestine

- **Presentation on the process**
 - PACC representative
- **Presentation on the content**
 - PACC representative
- **Open Discussion**

13:15 – 14:15 Lunch

14:15 – 16:30 Session 3 - Good Practices and Lessons Learned from Comparative Experiences

- **Experiences from Arab Countries**
 - Anouar Ben Khelifa, Senior Advisor at ACINET
- **Experiences from OECD Countries**
 - Nicola Ehlermann, Independent Policy Advisor - Former Head MENA-OECD Competitiveness Programme
- **Experiences from Eastern Europe**
 - Irakli Kotetishvili, Policy Specialist, Anti-Corruption and Public Administration, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub
- **Experiences from Asia-Pacific Countries**
 - Arkan El-Seblani, Chief Technical Advisor on Anti-Corruption and Integrity in Arab countries, UNDP

- **Open Discussion**

Friday, 18 October 2019

09:00 -10:30

Session 4 - Joint Reflection on the Overall Structure of the Strategy

- **Experts Opinion**
- **Open Discussion**

10:30 – 11:00

Break

11:00 – 13:00

Session 5 – Corruption Prevention Measures

- **Presentation covering “Corruption Prevention Measures” under the Strategy**
PACC Representative
- **Experts Opinion**
- **Open Discussion**

13:00 – 14:00

Lunch

14:00 – 16:00

Session 6 - Increasing Community Participation and Raising Awareness

- **Presentation covering “Increasing Community Participation and Raising Awareness” under the Strategy**
PACC Representative
- **Experts Opinion**
- **Open Discussion**

Saturday, 19 October 2019

09:00 – 11:00

Session 7 – Law Enforcement and International Cooperation

- **Presentation covering “Law Enforcement and International Cooperation” under the Strategy**
PACC Representative

- Experts Opinion
- Open Discussion

11:00 – 11:30 **Break**

11:30 – 13:00 **Session 8 – Monitoring and Evaluation of National Anti-Corruption Strategies**

- **Presentation on Monitoring and Evaluation frameworks for National Anti-Corruption Strategies**
Fadi Abilmona, Programme Manager, Crisis Prevention and Recovery, UNDP
- **Experts Opinion**
- **Open Discussion**

13:00 – 14:00 **Lunch**

14:00 – 16:00 **Session 9 - Working groups on Monitoring and Evaluation of the National Anti-Corruption Strategy of Palestine**

- **Working groups**
- **Open Discussion on the Results**

Sunday, 20 October 2019

09:00 – 11:00 **Session 10 - Innovative Mechanisms and Methodologies to Enhance Effectiveness of National Anti-Corruption Strategies**

- **Sectoral Approach**
- **Collective Action**
- **Use of Big Data**
- **Open Discussion**

11:00 – 11:15 **Break**

11:15 – 12:00 **Closing Session – Conclusions and the Way Forward**

- Concluding Remarks
 - UNDP Statement
 - Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET) Statement
 - PACC Statement

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