



Under the patronage of Dr. Haider Al Abadi
Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq

Sixth Ministerial Conference
of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network

Tackling Corruption to Safeguard Human and Societal **Security**

Baghdad, Republic of Iraq
15-16 April, 2018

Conference Programme

Overview of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network



The “Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network” (ACINET) is the leading regional mechanism specialized in supporting Arab countries to act against corruption in accordance with their national priorities and drawing on relevant international and regional standards. ACINET includes 47 ministries and agencies from 18 Arab countries including Jordan, Bahrain, Algeria, Comoros, Tunisia, Djibouti, Palestine, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Iraq, Qatar, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Egypt, Morocco, Mauritania and Yemen. It also includes two observer members from Brazil and Malaysia, in addition to a “Non-Governmental Group” composed of active independent organisations from civil society, the business community, and academia, thus making it the first and only participatory regional mechanism in the Arab region that is regularly bringing together key governmental and non-governmental stakeholders for consultation and cooperation in this field. ACINET works on developing the capacities of its members through training and advisory support. It facilitates the exchange of information among them and their counterparts in the region and the world. It also provides them and other stakeholders with a common platform to regularly review and enrich their anti-corruption policies and programs. ACINET works with the support of the United Nations Development Programme and other partners. It is currently chaired by the Republic of Tunisia and the Non-Governmental Group is coordinated by the President of the Jordan Transparency Center. For more, please visit our website at www.arabacinet.org or contact our “Regional Support Unit” at info@arabacinet.org.

I Introduction

Under the patronage of Dr. Haider Al Abadi, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Iraq, the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET) holds its Sixth Ministerial Conference in Baghdad on 15-16 April 2018 in partnership with the Iraqi Commission of Integrity and with the support of the United Nations Development Programme. Titled “**Tackling Corruption to Safeguard Human and Societal Security**”, the Conference brings together ministers, heads of specialized agencies, and senior officials from the Arab region, in addition to prominent representatives of civil society, the business community, academia, specialized and international organizations, as well as partner countries.

The Conference draws on the Tunis Declaration on “Accountability for Sustainable Development” that was adopted by the previous Ministerial Conference, which was held in Tunis on 05-07 September 2016, setting a strategic roadmap to uphold the principle of accountability on the ground through strengthening the role of relevant institutions and adopting specific initiatives in this regard. At this Conference, ACINET aims to deepen the regional debate by highlighting the nexus between anti-corruption and prevailing security challenges that concern policymakers and citizens alike across the different countries of the region, including those which are striving to re-establish security and others which are seeking to protect it and consolidate it, all in a new global context marked by accelerating political crises, economic pressures and social transformations.


There is growing evidence that corruption has become a direct threat to security. It is making borders more vulnerable to organized criminal networks and terrorist groups; weakening the effectiveness of security institutions from the inside and depleting their resources; and undermining people’s trust in public institutions in general, thus increasing the risk of instability, which may end up derailing sustainable development efforts, as has been the case in different places across the globe. If one is to adopt the broader



definition of security, as presented by the United Nations Development Programme in 1994 and later made the subject of the 2009 Arab Development Human Report, the linkages between anti-corruption and security are significantly increased and accentuated! Coined as “Human Security”, this broader definition encompasses various dimensions including the economy, health, food and the environment, among others. This multi-dimensional understanding of security emphasizes the critical importance of anti-corruption for national development visions and strategies across the Arab region and beyond. It also highlights the added value that it creates for the ongoing worldwide effort to achieve the 2030 Global Agenda and its seventeen Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 16 on “Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions”.

In this framework, the Conference provides a unique common space for Arab countries to exchange updates on their latest anti-corruption and integrity efforts and related good practices and lessons learned, including on the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. It also enables participants to review related global indicators, such as the Corruption Perceptions Index, and discuss with prominent experts from the region and the world, pathways to improve their performance thereon. Most importantly, however, the Conference sheds light on specific policies and initiatives that are likely to promote linkages between the anti-corruption agenda and the security agenda, drawing on relevant comparative experiences, including successes in fighting impunity when corruption is committed, and more importantly preventing it before it happens.

As part of the conference, ACINET is also holding the Sixth General Meeting for its members on Sunday 15 April 2018 and the Fourth General Meeting of its Non-Governmental Group on the day after, to review the progress made in 2016-2017 and identify priorities for 2018-2019. Furthermore, the Conference will witness the transfer of ACINET’s chairmanship to Iraqi Commission of Integrity and the announcement of the next chairperson of ACINET and the Coordinator of its Non-Governmental Group.



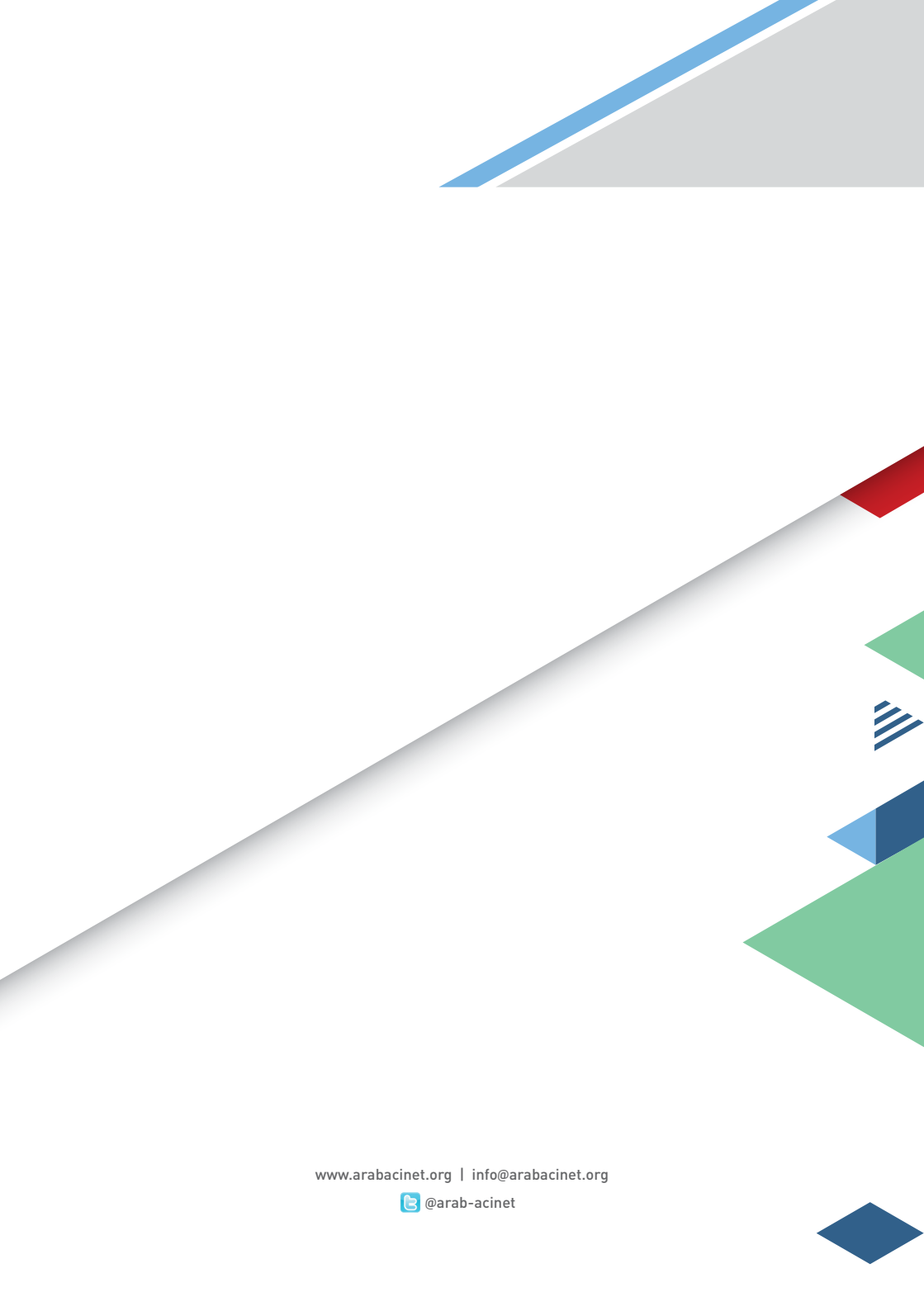
Agenda

| Day One: Sunday, 15 April 2018 | | | |
|---|--|---|--|
| 10.00 – 10.45 | <p>[Opening Session]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Statement Dr. Hasan Al Yasiri, President of the Commission of Integrity, Republic of Iraq • Official Opening Statement Dr. Haider Al Abadi, Prime Minister, Republic of Iraq • Statement of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network Mr. Slim Hentati, President of the General Audit of Public Services, Republic of Tunisia • Statement of the Non-Governmental Group of the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network Ms. Hilda Ajeilat, President of the Jordan Transparency Center | | |
| 10.45 – 11.00 | Break | | |
| 11.00 – 14.00 | <p>[First Session] A Review of Anti-Corruption and Integrity Efforts in Arab Countries</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair • Statements of delegations | | |
| 14.00 – 15.00 | Lunch | | |
| 15.00 – 17.00 | <p>[Second Session – Part 1] Parallel Meetings and Workshops</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td> <p>Workshop (A): Towards Ending Impunity in Corruption Cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator • Expert Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing legislative and procedural obstacles • Reinforcing confidence in the judiciary and law enforcement authorities • Support cooperation across borders • Open discussion </td> <td> <p>Sixth General Meeting of the Members of ACINET (by invitation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair • Reporting on progress of work • Priorities for the 2018-2019 programme of work • Discussions and decisions </td> </tr> </table> | <p>Workshop (A): Towards Ending Impunity in Corruption Cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator • Expert Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressing legislative and procedural obstacles • Reinforcing confidence in the judiciary and law enforcement authorities • Support cooperation across borders • Open discussion | <p>Sixth General Meeting of the Members of ACINET (by invitation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair • Reporting on progress of work • Priorities for the 2018-2019 programme of work • Discussions and decisions |
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| 20.30 | Official Dinner | | |

Day Two: Monday, 16 April 2018

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| 09.00 – 11.00 | <p>[Second Session – Part 2] Parallel meetings and workshops</p> | |
| | <p>Workshop (B): Latest Innovations in Corruption Prevention</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator • Expert Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Corruption risk management • New technologies and open data • Behavioral change and social incentives • Open discussion | <p>Fourth General Meeting of the Non-Governmental Group of ACINET (by invitation)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair • Reporting on progress of work • Role of ACINTE's Non-Governmental Group in conflict affected situations • Priorities for future work plan • Discussions and decisions |
| 11.00 – 11.30 | <p>Break</p> | |
| 11.30 – 13.00 | <p>[Third Session] Status of Arab Countries on International Indicators and Pathways to Better Performance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair • Expert Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Critical review of key international indicators and a comparative overview of the status of Arab countries • Good practices that are likely to enhance opportunities for progress on international indicators • Insights on the importance of specialized national indicators and how to build them • Open discussion | |
| 13.00 – 14.00 | <p>Lunch</p> | |

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| 14.00 – 16.00 | <p>[Fourth Session] Policies and Initiatives to Foster Synergies between Anti-Corruption and Human and Societal Security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair • Expert Panel <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The nexus between corruption and security and its implications for sustainable development • Promoting integrity in traditional security institutions • The impact of corruption on economic security and possible responses • Strengthening transparency and accountability to improve the quality and effectiveness of public services • Open discussion |
| 16.00 – 16.15 | Break |
| 16.15 – 17.00 | <p>[Closing Session]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chair • Baghdad Declaration on “Tackling Corruption to Safeguard Human and Societal Security” • Open discussion • Closing Statement |



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