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Third Training Workshop on Investigation Techniques for Financial Crimes and Corruption

Amman, Jordan, 14-15 September 2015

In cooperation with



Mr. Yakup Beris

Regional Programme Coordinator

Regional Hub-Bureau for Arab States, UNDP

Your Excellency,

Dr. Abed KHARABSHEH

Chairperson of the Jordanian Anti-Corruption Commission

Mr. Olivier COURTEAUD

First Counsellor at the Embassy of France in Jordan

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good morning to you all –

I am pleased to be here with you today representing **UNDP's Regional Hub for the Arab States**, which has recently been established here in Amman, and in particular our **regional project on Anti-Corruption and Integrity in the Arab Countries (ACIAC)**, which is part of UNDP's overall regional programme for Arab States.

As you know, ACIAC works, together with our country offices, across the region – including in Jordan and Palestine – to help partners in implementing the **United Nations Convention against Corruption**, and more broadly to develop national capacities, with a view to contributing to the enhancement of transparency and accountability across different sectors and stakeholders.

ACIAC's work reflects our deep conviction that the achievement of sustainable human development across the region, and ultimately the achievement of peace and security, requires intensifying efforts to establish effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Without such institutions, corruption is inevitable. It will grow to undermine the quality of public services, obstruct rule of law, and waste valuable

resources that are needed to uphold social justice, thus diminishing the citizens' trust in the state, possibly leading to civil strife and even violent conflict.

Responding to the complex and multifaceted problem of corruption requires innovative, comprehensive and participatory approaches. It requires bringing the government, business, civil society and development partners together to take concrete, measurable actions that promote prevention, law enforcement and awareness-raising.

It is in this spirit that UNDP is pleased to be joining efforts with the Government of France, and the Anti-Corruption Commissions in Jordan and Palestine to support the organization of this important training.

Ladies and Gentlemen –

On behalf of UNDP's Regional Bureau for Arab States, allow me to extend a warm welcome to each and every one of you present here today – judges, prosecutors and officials from different concerned ministries and agencies in Jordan and Palestine.

You are the ones who are at the forefront of the fight against corruption, working in challenging environments and helping to build the rule of law in your countries. Uncovering corruption is not only a technical challenge arising from the secretive and complex nature of the crime itself, but may as well become a life-threatening endeavor, especially in cases of grand corruption, which are often intertwined with major political and economic interests, and in many cases, with organized criminal networks.

So, I seize this opportunity to respectfully salute your bravery and dedication, and to reaffirm our commitment to support you in your honorable fight.

The focus of this two-day training – **Investigation Techniques for Financial Crimes and Corruption** – highlights the importance of strengthening accountability and the critical role that you play in this regard. Without the efficient and effective use of the criminal justice system, it would not be possible to confront corruption, but at the same time, it is very important to complement these efforts with more attention to corruption prevention measures.

In UNDP, we are working closely with national stakeholders to refine the legal tools that criminalize corruption and enable its detection, investigation and prosecution in a more effective manner; but at the same time, we are also helping to build frameworks that mitigate the risks of corruption through enhancing civil service frameworks and procurement systems, and promoting a culture of openness and disclosure in the management of public affairs and public funds.

Indeed, over the last few years, we have worked together with the **Anti-Corruption Commissions** in Jordan and Palestine, as well as with other national partners, on many joint initiatives, and we are proud to have supported them in achieving a number of important results, while also identifying new areas for improvement.

Today, we continue to stand ready to support them as they continue their efforts to implement their respective **National Anti-Corruption Strategies**.

Strategies of both Jordan and Palestine explicitly acknowledge the importance of prevention, law enforcement and awareness-raising, although earlier implementation efforts seemed to focus more on the last two more than the first.

As better tools are made available, and new experience is accumulated, more anti-corruption agencies across the world are implementing corruption risk assessments and mitigation plans, especially at the sectoral level.

The example that Jordanian Anti-Corruption Commission is providing by enhancing its engagement at the sectoral level, namely in the health sector, is to be acknowledged. The “Sharek” Initiative – which, as you know, means “Participate” in Arabic, and which UNDP had supported and is committed to continue doing so – is a good example of a preventive initiative. The Commission has worked the Ministry of Health, the High Health Council and the National Woman’s Health Care Center to develop an online e-platform, including a website, mobile applications and social media tools, which enable citizens to participate in monitoring the quality and integrity of health services at the local level by sharing their feedback on the services and reporting any problems they face. Through specialized training and targeted dissemination campaigns in three regions of Jordan (Amman, Irbid and Tafila), the platform will contribute to informing upstream policies for more transparency and accountability in the health sector, ultimately contributing to achieving inclusive and effective governance.

Ladies and Gentlemen –

The training that we are launching today is the fruit of old and new cooperation between **UNDP** and the **Government of France**. We had worked to organize various regional trainings in the period of 2004 and 2009 and are pleased to restart this collaboration in 2015 with this training, and we hope that it would open new doors for enhancing complementarities between our respective efforts to contribute to capacity development across the region.

We also value greatly the readiness of the **Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET)** to be part of this training with its **70 plus members**, including anti-corruption agencies, various ministries, audit institutions, civil society organizations, business associations and academic institutions from **17 Arab Countries**, in addition to **observer members from Brazil and Malaysia**. With this diverse and inclusive composition, ACINET stands as the regional leading participatory mechanism for capacity development, information exchange and policy dialogue against corruption. Its support to such initiatives as the training we are holding today and tomorrow is critical to maximize the added value accruing to national institutions in a sustainable and scalable manner.

Ladies and Gentlemen –

Your work here over the next two days coincides with the final preparations for the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – expected to take place in New York before the end of this month.

The SDGs, which are a set of 17 goals and 169 targets with indicators follow, and expand on, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

They cover critical development issues such as ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, and protecting oceans and forests.

Of particular interest to us here today, however, is the explicit focus on good governance, which is reflected across the different goals, and in particular in Goal 16: **“Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”**.

Once adopted, countries will use the SDGs to frame their national agendas and policies over the next 15 years, and your efforts will be an important part of the journey that will come. Thank you again for all your hard work – and I wish you a successful training and best of luck in moving forward.

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