

Lebanese Anti-Corruption Committee reconvenes under new Government

On 1 April 2014, the Lebanese Anti-Corruption Technical Committee reconvened for the first time after the new Government was formed and following the vote of confidence by Parliament. Minister of State for Administrative Reform H.E. Nabil DE FREIGE chaired the meeting, which was attended by the Head of Central Inspection Judge George AOUD, the Head of the Higher Disciplinary Council Judge Marwan ABOUD, the Acting Head of the Civil Service Council Mr. Antoine GEBRAN, the Manager of UNDP's Regional Project on Anti-Corruption and Integrity in the Arab Countries Mr. Arkan EL SEBLANI, in addition to representatives of control authorities and the Council of Ministers as well as the Ministries of Justice, Finance and Interior and Municipalities.

Participants discussed steps to continue evaluating the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC). Minister De Freige underlined the importance of going beyond existing legislation to evaluate the extent of their implementation on the ground. Participants also agreed on the importance of working on two parallel tracks: one related to the development of a comprehensive national anti-corruption strategy based on [initial recommendations](#) developed by the Committee last year. The other track relates to achieving quick wins, wherever possible, to address and fight corruption. Participants noted the increasing role played by the public prosecution in this field in the past months. The meeting concluded with a call to convene on a regular basis with a view to strengthening the ability of the Committee to address the important challenges Lebanon is facing with regards to anti-corruption.



The Technical Anti-Corruption Committee was established by [Prime Minister Decision No. 157/2011](#) of 27 December 2011 to support the Ministerial Anti-Corruption Committee comprised of the Ministries of Finance, Justice, Interior and Municipalities and the Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Development. The tasks of the Committees include developing the national anti-corruption strategy and furthering the implementation of Lebanon's commitments at the international level – namely with regards to the UNCAC, and at the regional level – namely with regards to the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network (ACINET).

It is also to be noted that Lebanon currently heads ACINET in the person of the Minister of Justice. The Network comprises of 44 ministries and authorities from 17 Arab countries including five Lebanese members, in addition to a Non-Governmental Group composed of 20 key organizations representing civil society and the private sector and including the Lebanese Transparency Association.

Source: UNDP's Regional Project on Anti-Corruption and Integrity in the Arab Countries

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