



Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law –
Project for Modernization of Public Prosecution Offices



**REGIONAL SEMINAR ON
TRANS-NATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME
PROCEEDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt
28-29 March 2007

REGIONAL SEMINAR ON TRANS-NATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME

I. Summary

A Regional Seminar on Trans-National Organized Crime was held in Cairo on 28-29 March 2007 as part of the Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law in the Arab Countries – Project on the Modernization of Public Prosecution Offices. The Seminar was organized in cooperation between the Egyptian Public Prosecution Institution and the United Nations Development Programme – Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR).

An estimated seventy participants attended the Seminar, including members of the pilot Arab public prosecution offices, judges, law professors, and experts.

The Seminar was also attended by international experts from the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the European Council, the International Commissions on Jurists, and Euro-Med Justice Program in addition to representatives of some donors; namely Britain and Belgium.

The Seminar was inaugurated in the presence of the Egyptian Minister of Justice, Counselor Mamduh Mar'ei, the Egyptian Prosecutor General, Counselor Abdelmegid Mahmoud, UNDP representative in Cairo, Dr. Moneir Thabit, and Chief Technical Advisor of UNDP-POGAR's Project on the Modernization of Public Prosecution Offices in the Arab Countries, Dr. Wassim Harb.

During the Seminar, eighteen presentations were made on the topics outlined in the Seminar's agenda. These included defining and explaining the characteristics of trans-national organized crime, particularly crimes of trafficking in persons and drugs, and terrorism. The participants underlined the role of the public prosecution institution in combating these crimes with the assistance of supporting agencies, the need to depict an image of the present situation in this regard at the international level, and the importance of international cooperation in preventing and combating these crimes.

During the Seminar's sessions, fruitful dialogue was conducted and constructive comments were expressed in both the Seminar's discussions and activities.

At the final session, the participants thanked the organizers of the Seminar for the quality of the Seminar's activities and results. They also came up with several recommendations that build on previous ones issued within the framework of the Project. The Seminar was concluded in the presence of the Egyptian Prosecutor General and a summary of the Seminar's proceedings and recommendations was read.

II. Recommendations

The Seminar came up with the following recommendations:

1. The participants hailed the great role played by the public prosecution institution in the Arab Republic of Egypt in hosting the seminar and making it a success.
2. The participants stressed the importance of holding the seminar that sheds light on the importance of keeping tabs on the development of trans-national organized crime, identifies its reasons and effects, and explores methods for its prevention. In addition, the Seminar sought to disseminate knowledge about the nature and features of this crime among the participating public prosecutors, educate them about its dangers, and improve their knowledge in this field.
3. The knowledge acquired during the seminar should be conveyed by the participants to the public prosecution offices involved in the Project by informing them about the issues that were discussed and providing them with the materials that were distributed during the seminar.
4. There is a need to follow up on the issues related to trans-national organized crime through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Stress was also placed on the activities that were adopted as part of the Programme on the Modernization of Public Prosecution offices in the Arab Countries in respect of trans-national organized crime, particularly, the importance of holding training courses on the techniques of investigation into these crimes.
5. There is a need to increase awareness about the gravity of violation of human rights and the rights of the accused during all phases of the investigation and prosecution of trans-national organized crime.
6. Due attention should be attached to the investigative techniques and protection of witnesses and justice support personnel for their impact on trans-national crime prevention.
7. Due attention should also be given to international cooperation in the field of trans-national organized crime prevention and to the creation of a legal framework between the Arab and foreign public prosecution offices or among the supporting agencies to curb the growth and development of these crimes.
8. Efforts should be exerted to improve the case management systems and direct the reform and automation projects which are being implemented in the Arab countries to serve criminal research so that the benefit of these systems and projects go beyond the mere classification of offences.
9. Cooperation should be enhanced with the Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law in the Arab Countries – Project for Modernization of Public Prosecution Offices to facilitate securing the necessary materials and

information for criminal research projects which will be conducted as part of the project.

10. The participants stressed the important role that can be played by the public prosecution offices in drawing up the criminal policy for trans-national organized crime prevention.

Finally, the participants expressed once more their thanks to the public prosecution institution in the Arab Republic of Egypt represented by the Prosecutor General and his assistants for their generous hospitality, warm reception, and exerted efforts to make the seminar a success. They also thanked the participating donors, organizations and experts who enriched the seminar with their comments and remarks. Special tribute was paid to the United Nations Development Programme – Programme on Governance in Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) which organizes and runs this project.