



**PROGRAMME ON STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW
IN THE ARAB STATES – PROJECT ON THE MODERNIZATION OF
PUBLIC PROSECUTION OFFICES**

**REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ON CYBERCRIME
ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

19-20 June 2007
Casablanca, Kingdom of Morocco

REGIONAL CONFERENCE ON CYBERCRIME

I. Summary

A regional conference on Cybercrime was held in Casablanca on 19-20 June 2007 within the context of implementing the Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law in the Arab States – Project on the Modernization of Public Prosecution Offices. The conference was organized in cooperation between the Ministry of Justice in the Kingdom of Morocco and the United Nations Development Programme – Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR).

The conference was attended by an estimated seventy participants including public prosecutors from the five pilot countries of the Project (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco and Yemen) as well as from Bahrain and Qatar. It was also attended by members of the Judicial Police in Morocco and the Police of Dubai in the United Arab Emirates. International experts from the Council of Europe and from some donor countries (the United Kingdom and Belgium) also participated.

The conference was inaugurated by the welcoming speech of HE Mr. Mohamed Ldidi, Secretary General of the Ministry of Justice in Morocco, on behalf of HE the Minister of Justice. The Chief Technical Advisor of the Project on the Modernization of Public Prosecution Offices in the Arab States, Dr. Wassim Harb also delivered a speech.

During the conference, twenty five presentations were made on different topics that were set out in the agenda, including: (i) defining and explaining the different types of cybercrime; (ii) the issue of how national legislation should be introduced in different countries in the Arab region in relation to these crimes; and (iii) stressing the need to develop a national legal framework covering all types of cybercrime. The participants underlined the need to build the capacity of the human resources in investigating these crimes, prosecuting and trying their perpetrators. They also stressed the importance of preventive measures and international cooperation in combating cybercrime.

All the sessions of the conference were distinguished by fruitful dialogue and constructive contribution from all the participants in an attempt to a) add richness to the topic of the conference and its goals; b) expose the means of strengthening the knowledge of the prosecutors in regards to cybercrime; and c) reveal the current legislative and judicial situation on the national and international levels.

The conference was a success according to all the established indicators; specifically based on the following considerations:

- The theoretical and practical importance of the pillars and topics that were discussed in it;

- The scientific and professional prominence of the international experts and lecturers who added value to the conference through their participation;
- The profound depth and analysis characterizing all open-floor discussions that followed the interventions; and
- The proper planning and organization of all the steps of the conference.

At the closing session, the participants thanked the organizers of the conference for the high quality of the activities and results. They also expressed their appreciation to the Council of Europe who contributed in organizing this conference by assisting the Project's Management Team in preparing the conference's program and by providing the Project with three experts to give presentations and benefit the participants with their wide experience in the cybercrime field.

During this session, the participants also agreed on a series of recommendations based on the previous ones issued within the context of the Project; specifically the final recommendations of the launching conference (Cairo, 17-18 May, 2005) and the second regional conference on Transnational Organized Crime (Rabat, 24-25 February, 2006).

The conference was closed in the presence of HE Mr. Mohamed Abdelnabaoui, Director of the Criminal Affairs & Amnesty Department in the Ministry of Justice, by reading out a summary of the conference proceedings and recommendations.

II. Recommendations

The Participants to the conference on cybercrime that took place in collaboration between the Ministry of Justice in the Kingdom of Morocco and the United Nations Development Programme – Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR), on the 19th and 20th of June, in Casablanca,

Acknowledging the importance of modernizing the Public Prosecution Offices in the Arab States as a means to strengthen the concepts of criminal justice, respect human rights, and ensure proper dealing with crime, specifically cybercrime in view of the threat it poses on security, stability and development,

Following the development and modernization plan that was prepared by the Project and which aims, among its many objectives, at strengthening the rule of law, respecting human rights and supporting the role of the CSOs.

And

Recognizing the importance of enhancing the judicial Arab and international cooperation in regards to the prevention of crime and the development and modernization of the criminal justice systems,

1. Hailed the great role played by the Criminal Affairs & Amnesty Department in the Kingdom of Morocco for making the conference a success and expressed their thanks for hosting the conference.
2. Stressed the importance of holding the conference on Cybercrime when viewing the wide spread of these crimes across the Arab world. Hence, it becomes crucial to disseminate knowledge among public prosecutors about the nature and features of this crime, educate them about its dangers, and improve their knowledge in this field.
3. Stressed the importance of communicating the knowledge acquired by the participants during the conference to their colleagues in their public prosecution offices. This could be done through the organization of a session to inform them about the topics that were discussed and provide them with the materials that were distributed during the conference.
4. Stressed the importance of reinforcing the capacities of the Human Resources in the Arab Public Prosecution Offices, specifically in regards to cybercrime, the means to combat it, and its investigative techniques (data collection and evidence assessment). In this context, focus was also placed on the activities that were adopted as part of the Programme on the Modernization of Public Prosecution Offices in the Arab Region in respect of cybercrime, particularly, holding training courses on the techniques of investigation into these crimes.

5. Laid focus on the issue of law reform in the Arab countries, and the role of cooperation in initiating laws, on the national and regional levels, that conform to the international standards of criminalization and prevention.
6. Shed light on the importance of laying down standards of regional and international cooperation in regards to protecting technology and combating crimes that are committed through the use of computers or the Internet. The participants also urged the establishment of a legal framework of cooperation between the Arab and foreign public prosecution offices or the assisting apparatuses in order to curb the growth and development of these crimes.
7. Stressed on the importance of "specialization" for a better performance of the role of public prosecutors to implement the criminal policy in the field of combating modern criminal phenomena including cybercrime.
8. Laid focus on the prolificacy of training the law enforcement officials in the field of cybercrime.
9. Stressed the importance of extending collaborative research in the field of cybercrime.
10. Stressed the importance of adopting preventive measures and international cooperation in the fight against cybercrime.
11. Recognized the significance of broadening the means of cooperation between the public prosecution and the international cooperation in the fight against cybercrime.
12. Urged the publication of the documents of the conference as a means of disseminating knowledge and improving awareness among the members of the public prosecution office.

Finally, the participants reiterated their thanks to the Criminal Affairs & Amnesty Department of the Ministry of Justice in the Kingdom of Morocco represented by its Director and his assistants for their generous hospitality, warm reception, and exerted efforts to make the conference a success. They also thanked the participating donors, organizations and experts, namely from the Council of Europe, who enriched the conference with their interventions, 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.