



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

**REGIONAL SEMINAR ON
CORRUPTION AND MONEY LAUNDERING CRIMES**

ACTIVITIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

21-22 October 2007
Sharm el-Sheikh - Egypt

REGIONAL SEMINAR ON CORRUPTION AND MONEY LAUNDERING CRIMES

1. Summary

A regional seminar on "Corruption and Money Laundering Crimes" was held in Sharm el-Sheikh on 21-22 October 2007 within the context of implementing the Programme on Strengthening the Rule of Law in the Arab Countries – Project for Modernization of Public Prosecution Offices. The seminar was organized in cooperation between Egypt's Public Prosecution Institution and the United Nations Development Programme- Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR).

The seminar was attended by an estimated eighty participants including prosecutors from the pilot countries (Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Yemen and Bahrain), judges, law professors, a number of regional and international experts from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the European Council, and Transparency International. Representatives of donor countries like Britain, Norway and Denmark also participated in the seminar.

The seminar was inaugurated in the presence of H.E. Counselor Abdelmajeed Mahmoud, the Prosecutor General of Egypt and Dr. Wassim Harb, the chief technical consultant of the UNDP-POGAR's Project on Modernization of Public Prosecution Offices in the Arab Countries.

During the seminar, twenty-two presentations were made in which the topics of the agenda were discussed. The presented papers defined corruption and money laundering crimes, explained the legal framework of fighting these crimes at the national and international levels, and demonstrated how anti-corruption mechanisms can be activated. They also underlined the need to enhance the public prosecutors' investigation capabilities in order to improve the basic role of the public prosecution offices in combating these crimes with the assistance of supporting agencies. Finally, light was shed on the prevailing situation in the world in this connection, and on the importance of international cooperation in combating these crimes.

Academic dialogue and constructive participation both in theory and in practice marked the discussions in the seminar's sessions.

At the closing session, the participants thanked the seminar's organizers and hailed the great role the Public Prosecution Institution in Egypt and the UNDP have played to ensure the seminar's high quality activities and results. Building on the project's previous recommendations, the participants came up with several recommendations that will be listed below. The seminar was closed with a summary of its proceedings and recommendations read out in the presence of H.E. Counselor Abdelmajeed Mahmoud, the Prosecutor General in Egypt.

2. Recommendations

The workshop came up with the following recommendations:

1. Emphasis on the importance of the conference which has aimed at shedding light on organized transnational crimes, particularly on corruption and money laundering, and the reasons behind the increase and results of these crimes.
2. There is a need to strengthen the anti-corruption mechanisms. This includes disseminating awareness among the participating members of public institution offices on the nature, characteristics, and gravity of these crimes.
3. Due attention should be attached to the important role that can be assumed by the public institution offices in drawing up the criminal policy for combating the organized transnational crime in general, and the corruption and money laundering crimes in particular. Public institution offices can also contribute to the implementation of this policy within the limits of their jurisdiction.
4. There is a need to follow up the issues related to corruption and money laundering crimes through the UNDP. Due attention should be attached to the activities adopted in the context of the project on "The Modernization of Public Prosecution Offices in the Arab Countries" with respect to the organized transnational crimes, in general, and corruption and money laundering crimes, in particular. Training courses on techniques of investigation in these crimes should also be organized.
5. Due attention should be attached to the issues of investigation techniques, protection of witnesses, and justice support personnel given that they are effective in combating all forms of transnational crimes.
6. Attention must be drawn to the issue of international cooperation in combating corruption and money laundering crimes. In this context, legal frameworks among Arab and foreign public prosecution offices or supporting agencies should be created to curb the development of these crimes.
7. There is a need to transfer the knowledge acquired by the participants in the seminar to the other members of public prosecution offices targeted by the project in the pilot Arab countries. This can be achieved by briefing fellow members of the participating public prosecutors on the issues discussed in the seminar and providing them with the handouts distributed during it.
8. The concerned Arab countries are urged to organize national seminars and workshops with the support of the UNDP to discuss the issues of corruption and money laundering crimes. The seminars should be limited to presenting practical case studies on these crimes without revealing the official information indicating the identity of the prosecuted persons and their nationalities.

The seminars should also focus on analyzing the shortcomings of the activities of collecting evidence, investigations, trials, and the difficulties that

prevent the proper application of the anti-corruption convention. Experts from the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime should also participate in these seminars to provide the international experience in this field.

Finally, the participants once again expressed their thanks to the Public Prosecution Institution of Egypt represented by the Prosecutor General and his assistants, for the generous hospitality and efforts they exerted to make this meeting 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.

They expressed the need to activate the implementation of the proposed development projects for the next year in all fields. They also expressed their willingness to facilitate and ensure the success of all the project's activities.