



United Nations  
Development Programme



Kingdom of Morocco  
Ministry of Justice

## **2<sup>ND</sup> REGIONAL CONFERENCE**

### **PROJECT FOR STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES: MODERNIZATION OF PUBLIC PROSECUTION OFFICES**

**KINGDOM OF MOROCCO  
RABAT, 24-25 FEBRUARY 2006**

#### **FINAL DECLARATION**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> regional conference for the project on the modernization of the Arab public prosecution offices was held on the 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> of February 2006 in the Kingdom of Morocco upon the invitation of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and under the generous auspices of the Moroccan Ministry of Justice. The conference was attended by his Excellency the Minister of Justice in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, Dr. Abad El Shakhanba, chairperson of the judicial reform pillar of the initiative of Governance for Development in the Arab countries (GfD), in addition to other delegates from the public prosecution offices in a number of Arab countries, a representative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and representatives of the donor states and institutions, as well as civil society organizations.

The conference reviewed the results of the stock-takings that were conducted in the participating Arab countries: Jordan, Morocco, Egypt, and Yemen, and included the obstacles encountered by reform as well as the needs of the public prosecution offices in order to enhance their capabilities and strengthen their methods and tools of operation.

In addition, the United Nations Development Programme – Programme of Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) presented the action plan of the activities that will be implemented during the upcoming two years.

The Arab and international experts made valuable presentations which focused on international experiences which would form a basis for the

improvement and modernization of the public prosecution offices in the Arab countries.

In addition to the conference sessions, a meeting of the chiefs of the Arab public prosecution offices and the UNDP representatives was held. It discussed in detail the action plan of the projects planned for the upcoming phase.

**The Conference concluded with the following:**

First: Appreciating the efforts that have been exerted during Phase I of the project, particularly, the formation of national working groups by the participating Arab countries, the conduction of stock-takings, and the comprehensive identification of needs, which paves the ground for the launch of the activities of Phase II of the project.

Second: Praising the serious commitment of all concerned parties in the Arab ministries of justice for their contributions to the success of the project's activities, and for providing the appropriate environment and conditions for the achievement of the objectives of improvement and modernization.

Third: Stressing the adequacy and the advantages of the activities reflected in the action plan that was presented by the project's management team for Phase II which continues over a period of two years. The action plan focuses on the following:

1. Implementing training courses for trainers at the regional level, and training courses for most public prosecution members in the participating Arab countries at the national level, as well as conducting educational seminars on the topics of modern and trans-national crimes.
2. Equipping the Arab Public Prosecution offices with the following:
  - ⇒ Modern working tools;
  - ⇒ Law references and legal databases helpful in judicial decision-making; and
  - ⇒ Modernizing the operation methods of the public prosecution offices by computerizing their activities.
3. Preparing national and international workshops that facilitate communication and interaction among the members of the public prosecution offices in the participating Arab countries and their counterparts at the regional and international levels, as well as civil society organizations.
4. Preparing to launch the criminal law reform initiative in order to modernize the penal judicial system; specifically, the functions of the public prosecution.

Fourth: Urging the participating Arab countries to provide the essential requirements for the success of the development and modernization initiative for the Arab public prosecution offices through:

- Securing the stability and continuity of the public prosecutors positions for the sake of supporting sustainable development;
- Providing appropriate workspaces at the public prosecution offices;
- Recruiting efficient human resources for the public prosecution offices in order for them to participate in the preparation, management, and implementation of the development projects and activities; and
- Emphasizing the importance of signing and ratifying UN conventions that address the issues of corruption, terrorism, human rights protection and the prevention of trans-national crime.

At the end of the conference, the participants thanked His Excellency the Minister of Justice in the Kingdom of Morocco for embracing this conference, and His Excellency the Minister of Justice in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan who, by attending this conference, contributed to the enrichment of the discussions. The Conference also paid tribute and recognition to the officials at the Moroccan Ministry of Justice and the UNDP-POGAR officers for the efforts they exerted to make the activities of this Conference a success.

Rabat,  
25 February 2006