This document represents ACINET’s programme of work in its fourth cycle (2013-2014) which was developed based on research and consultations undertaken during the third cycle (2012-2013) under the chairmanship of the Central Authority for Corruption Prevention in the Kingdom of Morocco. It was adopted by the esteemed members in at the conclusion of their fourth General Meeting that was held in the city of Beirut in the Republic of Lebanon 16 April 2013. The programme will be implemented under the chairmanship of the Minister of Justice in the Republic of Lebanon, with the support of the United Nations Development Programme and in cooperation with a group of regional and international partners.

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Overall aim: Supporting Arab countries in drafting, implementing and monitoring coordinated, effective and participatory national strategies to prevent and fight corruption.

الغاية العامة: دعم البلدان العربية في وضع وتنفيذ ورصد إستراتيجيات وطنية منسقة وفعالة وشاملة ل الوقاية من الفساد ومكافحته.
Overall aim: Supporting Arab countries in drafting, implementing and monitoring coordinated, effective and participatory national strategies to prevent and fight corruption.

The growing interest in fighting corruption continues across the Arab region, with a clear discrepancy in the quantity and quality of efforts in each of the countries in the region. Parallel to this is the solid conviction of stakeholders in that the achievement of any significant progress in this field requires their vigorous efforts, both internally and externally. Good initiatives and encouraging elements in a number of Arab countries cannot go unnoticed. This is the result of several factors including increasing awareness of anti-corruption concepts and mechanisms, expansion of space given for freedom of expression and communication and growth of related national capacities. However, the degree of satisfaction with what has been achieved so far remains relatively low, due to the lack of a clear vision to fight corruption.

Hence, ACINET aims to focus its financial and technical resources during its fourth cycle on “Supporting Arab countries in drafting, implementing and monitoring of coordinated, effective and participatory anti-corruption national strategies”. This comes as a continuation of the Network’s achievements during its third cycle, through its work on “Enhancing mutual trust between Anti-Corruption Authorities and society”, as evidenced in the main components of this programme of work. Below is a brief description of these components, which include (1) Enhancing cooperation between various national stakeholders to evaluate and activate the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), (2) Providing technical support to develop and implement innovative initiatives to enhance integrity and prevent
corruption, (3) Establishing and activating sustainable regional frameworks to develop national anti-corruption capacities and (4) miscellaneous activities.

First component: Enhancing cooperation between various national stakeholders to evaluate and activate the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption.

As the first 10 year anniversary of the adoption of the UNCAC approaches by the end of this year, the need emerges to draw a clearer picture of the reality of the actual implementation in the Arab countries of the Convention’s mandatory and optional provisions; with a view to supporting these countries in making further progress in this field. At a time where there is a greater focus on achievement of immediate sanctions, prosecution of perpetrators of corruption and asset recovery, serious efforts in the field of corruption prevention is diminishing, or at least not growing at a sufficient pace. This calls for a stronger focus on preventive measures, particularly with regard to senior officials and to the relationship between the private and public sectors. Efforts under this component aim to support the work on drafting, implementing and monitoring national anti-corruption strategies as provided for in the UNCAC.

Accordingly, ACINET has identified the following two goals in the framework of this component:

- Conduct participatory assessments for UNCAC implementation.
- Conduct participatory assessments for UNCAC implementation.
Support the drafting of legislative and administrative measures to activate the requirements of the implementation of the Conventions’ articles related to access to information, asset declarations, public procurement, protection of witnesses and whistle-blowers, conflict of interests and illicit enrichment.

Related activities vary and include (a) organizing training sessions on participatory assessments and strengthening related skills, (b) providing technical and administrative support for participatory assessments, (c) supporting national activities that facilitate exchange of experiences and expertise, and supporting dialogue on policy options for the implementation of adopted priorities and (d) providing technical assistance for legislative drafting related to the specified priorities.

Second Component: Providing technical support to develop and implement innovative initiatives to enhance integrity and prevent corruption.

Despite the efforts being made to fight corruption in the Arab region over the last decade, results achieved are still considered to be relatively limited and the degree of satisfaction low compared to expectations. In addition to the need to continue existing efforts, it is also essential to formulate and implement new ideas as well as encouraging and innovative initiatives in this field that would contribute to accelerate the pace of desired reforms and strengthen trust between citizens and the state. Related efforts within this component support the work to enhance participation in drafting, implementing and monitoring national anti-corruption strategies, as well as to contribute in deepening the sectoral dimension in anti-

- دعم وضع تدابير تشريعية وإدارية لتفعيل مطالبات تنفيذ مواد الاتفاقية المتعلقة بالوصول إلى المعلومات، والإفصاح عن الذمة المالية، المشتريات العomonية، وحماية الشهود والمبلغين، وقضايا الفساد والصراع غير المشروع.

- تتنوع النشاطات ذات الصلة وتشمل (أ) تنظيم دورات تدريبية لتعريف بالتقنيات التشريعيه والدارية ذات الصلة، و (ب) توفير موارد من الناحية التشريعيه لإنجاز تقييمات تشاركيه، و (ج) دعم نشاطات متعله لتسهيل تبادل الخبرات والتجارب ودعم الحوار بشأن خيارات السياسات التي يمكن أن تدعم تنفيذ الأولويات المعتمدة، و (د) تقديم مساعدة تقنيه في الصياغة التشريعيه ضمن الأولويات المحدده.

المحور الثاني: تقديم المساعدة التقنيه لبلورة وتنفيذ مبادرات مبتكرة لتعزيز النزاهة والوقاية من الفساد.

برغم الجهود المبذولة لمكافحة الفساد في المنطقة العربية خلال العقد الآخير، فإن النتائج المحضة لا تزال تكمل تحدياً وتحديداً منشأ من منحنى الاختلافات بالمقارنة مع التوقعات، فالإضافة إلى ضرورة الاستمرار في تمهيد الجهود القائمة، لا بد أيضاً من بناء وتنفيذ أفكار جديدة ومبادرات جنرية وشاملة وملائمة في هذا المجال تساهم في تسريع وتيرة الإصلاحات المنشودة وبناء الثقة بين المواطنين والدولة. وتضيف الجهود التي ستبلسم ضمن هذا المحور في خدمة العمل على تعزيز التشاركية في وضع وتنفيذ ورصد استراتيجيات وطنية لمقاومة الفساد، كما تسهم
corruption strategies; which is generally missing in existing efforts in the Arab region.

Accordingly, ACINET has identified the three following goals within the framework of this component:

- Improve cooperation and communication between anti-corruption authorities and the public through all kinds of media outlets.

- Work on supporting innovative efforts on specific sectors that deliver services with a view to enhance integrity and prevent corruption.

- Find common ground for the exchange of ideas and comparative experiences among Network members and with stakeholders in the region and the world in the field of innovation in the prevention and fight against corruption.

Related activities vary and include (a) training stakeholders in anti-corruption authorities on communicating with the media and the public, (b) training journalists on anti-corruption concepts and mechanisms, including investigative journalism skills, (c) organizing national activities to facilitate the exchange of experiences and expertise and supporting dialogue on enhancing integrity and anti-corruption in specific sectors, (d) organizing national and regional training sessions on the mechanism for evaluation of the implementation of the UNCAC, (e) providing technical advice to support stakeholders in the formulation and implementation of sectoral initiatives, (f) holding e-dialogues on innovation in anti-corruption and (g) engage specialists in innovative initiatives of mutual interest.

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Programme of Work (2013-2014)

برنامج عمل الشبكة العربية لتعزيز النزاهة ومكافحة الفساد (2013-2014)
Third component: Establishing and activating sustainable regional frameworks to develop national anti-corruption capacities.

Efforts under this component support the work on strengthening the efficiency of efforts to formulate, implement and monitor national anti-corruption strategies. They also aim to contribute to building and strengthening needed national capacities to ensure the sustainability and growth of anti-corruption efforts in the Arab region on both the medium and long terms.

Accordingly, ACINET has identified the two following goals within the context of this component:

- Establish, train and support a regional team specialized in investigating serious corruption cases to support relevant national capacities and provide assistance to counterparts upon request (Investigation team).
- Establish, train and support a regional team specialized in legislative drafting on anti-corruption with a view to support relevant national capacities and provide assistance for counterparts upon request (Legislation team).

Related activities vary and include (a) drafting and distributing training materials to the two teams, (b) organizing specialized training sessions for both teams and (c) providing technical and administrative support to the members of the two teams to enable them to deepen their expertise and transfer it to their peers at the regional level.

المحور الثالث: إنشاء وتفعيل أطر إقليمية مستدامة لتنمية القدرات الوطنية في مجال مكافحة الفساد.

وتصب الجهود التي ستُبذل ضمن هذا المحور في خدمة العمل على تعزيز الفعالية في وضع وتنفيذ إستراتيجيات وطنية لمكافحة الفساد، كما تساهم في بناء وتعزيز القدرات الوطنية التي لا بد منها لضمان إستدامة وتنامي جهود مكافحة الفساد في المنطقة العربية على المدى المتوسط والبعيد.

بناء عليه، قامت الشبكة العربية بتحديد الهدفين التاليين في إطار هذا المحور:

- إنشاء وتدريب ودعم فريق إقليمي مختص بالتحقيق في قضايا الفساد الخطيرة لتعزيز القدرات الوطنية ذات الصلة وتقديم المساعدة للنظراء عند الطلب (فريق التحقيق).
- إنشاء وتدريب ودعم فريق إقليمي مختص بالصياغة التشريعية في مجال مكافحة الفساد لتعزيز القدرات الوطنية ذات الصلة وتقديم المساعدة للنظراء عند الطلب (فريق التشريع).

تتنوع النشاطات ذات الصلة وتشمل (أ) صياغة ونشر مواد تدريبية للفريقين، (ب) تنظيم دورات تدريبية متخصصة للفريقين و (ج) توفير مراكز قروية وادارية لأعضاء الفريقين لتمكينهم من تعميق خبراتهم ونقلها لأقرانهم على المستوى الإقليمي.
Fourth component: Miscellaneous activities.

The work of ACINET in its fourth cycle shall not be limited to the three above-mentioned components but will include a number of complementary activities; some of which related to the continuation and development of the Network’s institutional work and some to the continuation of previous activities.

Related activities vary and include (a) continuing the work on creating a database for ACINET members including information and documentation on anti-corruption issues and a list of Arab experts in related areas, (b) developing a report surveying ACINET members' efforts in 2012 and 2013 for promoting the participation of society, and launching an appreciation award for the three most successful members in this field within the context of the 16th International Anti-corruption Conference, (c) drafting a research paper on fighting corruption in international financial assistance, (d) supporting regional research and consultations to identify the areas of focus of the Network’s fifth cycle, (e) further developing ACINET’s institutional performance and its working tools, including expanding the Network’s membership and preparing and disseminating media materials in this regard, (f) organizing a side activity during the Fifth Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC and (g) organizing a campaign to celebrate the International Anti-Corruption day on December 9.

For info on work progress, please contact info@arabacinet.org.