Amman, 17 November 2015

- As part of recent changes in the leadership of principal oversight bodies in Jordan, Mohammed Allaf was appointed as the new Chairperson of the Jordanian Anti-Corruption Commission (JACC) by virtue of a Royal Decree issued on 15 November 2015. This was preceded with the appointment of Mustafa Barari, as the new head of the Ombudsman Bureau on the 18th of October after having served for more than eight years as the President of the Audit Bureau, whose leadership is now assigned to Abed Kharabsheh, who had been appointed earlier as the Chairperson of JACC on the first of February this year, after having served as a Member on its Board since 2010. Prior to his new appointment, Allaf occupied a number of official positions in Jordan, including Assistant Chief Staff, Ambassador at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Advisor at the Royal Hashemite Court, Advisor to the Council of Ministers, and Permanent Representative of Jordan to the United Nations. In addition, Iyad Qudah, the Director General of the Income and Sales Tax Department, was appointed as a Member of the Board of JACC, which now consists of Mohammad Allaf as the Chairperson, Abdulhadi Alalawin, Borhan Akroush, Sabr Al Rawashdeh, Talal Al Sharafat, Fayrouz Amr and Iyad Qudah.

In this regard, it is noteworthy that the Council of Ministers had recently endorsed the "2015 Integrity and Anti-Corruption Bill", amidst critiques to some of its texts by civil society organizations. The new Bill aims to establish a national center in lieu of both JACC and the Ombudsman Bureau, and grants it powers to monitor public administration compliance with the national integrity standards and relevant legislation. The Bill is currently under revision by the House of Representatives, and its Legal Committee is engaging in a dialogue with the relevant parties, including civil society organizations, to enhance the text in line with international standards and
national needs.