



"INTEGRITY: AN ESSENTIAL INGREDIENT IN THE ERA OF COMPLEXITY AND OPPORTUNITIES."

THE SECOND ARAB FORUM FOR ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

CONCLUDING RECOMMENDATIONS

The Arab Organization for Administrative Development (ARADO) - League of Arab States and Transparency International held the Second Arab Forum for Enhancing Transparency and Good Governance on "Integrity: An Essential Ingredient in the Era of Complexity and Opportunities." from 10th to 12th September, 2024, in Baghdad, Republic of Iraq. The forum was organized under the theme "Integrity: A Cornerstone in the Age of Complexity and Opportunity" in collaboration with the Federal Commission of Integrity in the Republic of Iraq, the United Nations Development Programme - Iraq, and with funding from the European Union. The event was held under the patronage of the Prime Minister of Iraq, His Excellency the engineer Mr. Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani.

The forum was attended by 320 participants from 29 Arab and foreign countries (Iraq, Kuwait, United Kingdom, United States of America, Kenya, France, Sudan, Somalia, Sweden, Madagascar, Yemen, Algeria, Ireland, Jordan, Libya, Egypt, Rwanda, Palestine, Russia, Finland, Turkey, Germany, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Netherlands, Tunisia, and Bahrain), in addition to academics, researchers, and specialists from Arab research centers and universities, and several international organizations.



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المنظمة العربية للتعاون الاقتصادي
جامعة الدول العربية



هيئة النزاهة الاتحادية
العراق جمهورية
Federal Commission of Integrity





RECOMMENDATIONS

1

GOOD GOVERNANCE AND TRANSPARENCY



FOR GOVERNMENTS:

- Streamline procedures and adopt e-government programs to enhance public service efficiency, reduce corruption, and increase transparency. Strengthen electronic accounting and oversight systems for financial and administrative integrity.
- Publish executive regulations and laws promptly and clearly to ensure public understanding and transparent implementation which reduces exploitation and misinterpretation.
- Private-Public sector collaboration requires establishing strategic partnerships to align interests, promote sustainable development, and prevent conflicts of interest. Cooperation mechanisms should include expertise exchange and capacity building between the two sectors.



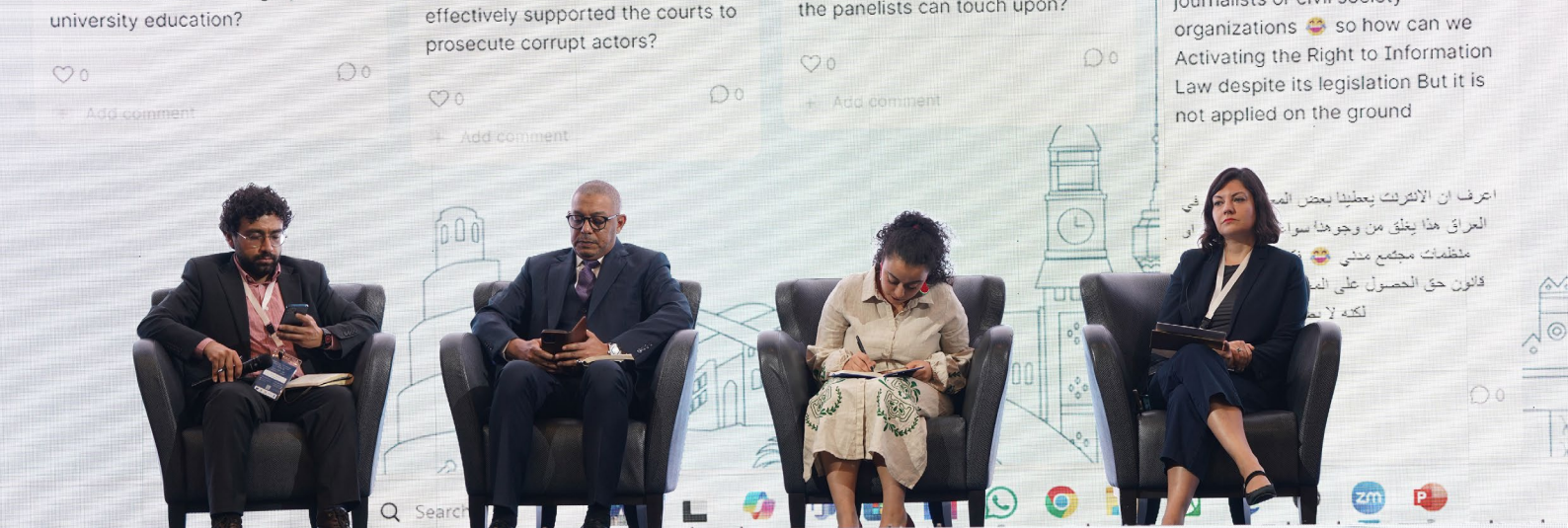
FOR CIVIL SOCIETY:

- Enhance civil society participation in developing national anti-corruption strategies within a legal framework that allows freedom of expression and effective oversight. Involve civil society in all planning and implementation stages to ensure transparent, sustainable practices.
- Strengthen civil society capacities through training and funding programs focused on improving tools for social accountability. Such as; analysis capacities, investigation and reporting corruption.



FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR:

- Strengthen internal governance by setting clear standards for transparency and accountability within companies' structures. These Standards include, issuing annual reports on financial practices, complying with anti-corruption laws, and ensuring that governance enhances investor and community confidence.



2

INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL COOPERATION IN COMBATING CORRUPTION



FOR GOVERNMENTS:

- Strengthen international and regional cooperation through bilateral and multilateral agreements for exchanging information and expertise on combating corruption. Include coordination in cross-border investigations and activate memorandums of understanding between anti-corruption bodies.
- Organize regional and international forums and workshops for exchanging best practices and leading initiatives in combating corruption which contribute in building joint knowledge base and achieving actual progress on the regional level.
- Establish an Arab Observatory for Integrity and Transparency as a regional platform for collecting and analyzing data on anti-corruption efforts in the Arab states. This Observatory will be utilized as a tool for evaluating the effectiveness of standing legislations and policies and providing recommendations for enhancements.

3

DIGITALIZATION AND CYBER SECURITY



FOR GOVERNMENTS:

- Strengthen digital infrastructure through investments in modern technology such as; cloud computing systems and AI to provide robust infrastructure to enable digital governance. Governmental online service delivery platforms must be developed to facilitate performance follow up and reduce the opportunities of manipulation.
- Raise public awareness about digitalization through nationwide campaigns to enhance digital capabilities and trust in using digital tools for government services which reduce the resistance of change and increase the prompt adoption for the new technologies.
- Make cyber security part of a national anti-corruption strategy, developing laws and mechanisms to protect personal and institutional data from cyber-attacks and building national capabilities in responding to cyber threats through collaboration with international expertise.

4

CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION IN COMBATING CORRUPTION



FOR GOVERNMENTS:

- Provide adequate space for civil society to operate freely in monitoring the implementation of anti-corruption policies and participating in their development, which requires governments to ensure unrestricted access to information and allow public freedoms, thus encouraging positive government-civil society interaction
- Facilitate civil society access to transparent and impartial funding sources for anti-corruption initiatives, ensuring transparency in their financial reporting.



FOR CIVIL SOCIETY:

- Utilize media, especially social media, for awareness and reporting corruption. Build local and regional alliances for advocacy campaigns.
- Build networks with all stakeholders to ensure representation and drive anti-corruption efforts.

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THE ROLE OF MEDIA IN COMBATING CORRUPTION



FOR GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY:

- Enhance the role of media by encouraging investigative journalism, facilitating access to information related to corruption, and providing legal protection for journalists working on corruption-related investigations.
- Ensure accuracy of published information requires media outlets adhering to professional standards, verifying sources before publishing any public opinion provoking information, and cooperating with government agencies for transparency and free flow of information.

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TRANSPARENCY IN PUBLIC AND FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS



FOR GOVERNMENTS:

- Enhance transparency in public fund management by publishing periodic detailed reports on expenditures and revenues, making information easily and directly accessible for everyone to ensure public oversight.
- Develop modern financial systems based on transparency and accountability, such as transparent budgeting; allowing citizens to monitor fund usage and project implementation follow up.



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PROTECTING CORRUPTION WHISTLEBLOWERS



FOR GOVERNMENTS:

- Enact laws to protect whistleblowers, providing safe reporting mechanisms, protecting their identity to ensure physical and psychological wellbeing, punishing those harming or threatening them.
- Organize national awareness campaigns highlighting the importance of reporting corruption as a civic duty. This reinforces confidence in the mechanisms available for this purpose.

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EMPOWERING WOMEN IN COMBATING CORRUPTION



FOR GOVERNMENTS:

- Amend legislation on women's rights to ensure justice and protection from corruption and sexual extortion, enabling them to actively participate in uncovering corruption.
- Ensure women's access to leadership positions based on merit and equality, with policies preventing discrimination and corruption in women leaders' selection.



FOR CIVIL SOCIETY:

- Organize legal awareness campaigns about corruption targeting women, encouraging reporting violations and participation in national anti-corruption efforts.

9

THE ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN COMBATING CORRUPTION



FOR GOVERNMENTS:

- Enact legislation incentivizing private sector transparency commitment and anti-corruption efforts, including internal governance focused on transparency and accountability.
- Encourage public-private partnerships to combat corruption through collaborative programs promoting integrity in financial and commercial transactions.



FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR:

- Adopt clear anti-corruption policies internally, including commitment to transparency standards in all aspects of operation and periodic reporting on financial and administrative practices.

10

YOUTH PARTICIPATION IN COMBATING CORRUPTION



FOR GOVERNMENTS:

- Enhance youth participation in national decision-making on anti-corruption by including them in relevant national anti-corruption committees and institutions.
- Integrate anti-corruption concepts into educational curricula from primary to university levels. This creates early awareness within youth on the significance of integrity and transparency.



FOR CIVIL SOCIETY:

- Support youth-led anti-corruption initiatives through grants and funding needed for youth-led projects.
- Create interactive platforms for youth to exchange ideas and experiences on combating corruption in their local communities.



FOR THE PRIVATE SECTOR:

- Develop training programs for youth focusing on transparency and integrity skills, connecting them with social impactful projects.



FOR YOUTH:

- Participate actively in public discourse on anti-corruption and volunteer in community initiatives promoting integrity.



11

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING FOR COMBATING CORRUPTION



FOR GOVERNMENTS AND INSTITUTIONS:

- Establish specialized training centers on anti-corruption and transparency to build capacities of government employees and civil society enabling them to use legal and technological tools for anti-corruption.
- Organize workshops and training programs on investigating corruption and reporting mechanisms.

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SUPPORTING TRANSPARENCY IN THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC DOMAIN



FOR FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS:

- Strengthen oversight on financial institutions using modern technologies like graphical analysis and electronic verification to reduce financial corruption.
- Encourage transparency in banking transactions by linking financial decisions to digital transactions to secure transaction visibility and manipulation prevention.



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CONSIDERING VULNERABLE GROUPS IN COMBATING CORRUPTION



FOR GOVERNMENTS AND CIVIL SOCIETY:

- Provide transparent mechanisms to protect vulnerable groups like women and children from corruption exploitation, including legal and social protection measures guaranteeing that they are neither being discriminated nor exploited.
- Involve these groups in developing anti-corruption policies to ensure their needs are met and they are protected from manipulation.

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NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AND GOOD GOVERNANCE



FOR GOVERNMENTS:

- Enhance transparency in natural resource management through advanced governance systems focused on transparency in allocation and use of resources.
- Develop government-private sector collaboration to ensure fair and sustainable resource utilization, considering environmental and climate challenges.