

## **UNDP Anti-Corruption Regional Programmes**

The anti-corruption work of POGAR, which is part of the Regional Programme in RBAS, is developed in the context of the GfD Initiative, which is implemented in partnership with OECD and which addresses several areas of democratic governance.

Anti-corruption became a key priority for the second phase of the GfD Initiative (2008-2010) with the identification of eight anti-corruption themes as priority areas of work: (1) national anti-corruption strategies, (2) independent anti-corruption bodies, (3) ethics codes for public sector officials, judges and prosecutors, (4) criminalization with a focus on 'obstruction of justice', (5) witness and whistleblower protection, (6) investigating and prosecuting corruption crimes, (7) international cooperation including asset recovery, and (8) the role of the private sector and civil society. For the 2008-2009 period, the focus is on independent anti corruption bodies, witness and whistleblower protection and national anti-corruption strategies', with the role of the private sector and civil society addressed as a cross-cutting issue.

POGAR's 2008 work contributed to (1) improving the capacity of governmental actors on UNCAC assessment using the UNCAC Self-Assessment Checklist, (2) strengthening knowledge of policymakers on 'prevention measures' under UNCAC, and (3) enhancing knowledge networking among governmental and non-governmental actors in the area of anti-corruption in the Arab region (including establishing the Arab Anti-Corruption & Integrity Network and consolidating the Anti-Corruption Community of Practice in the Arab Region).

### **The Arab Governmental Expert Group (AGEG) on UNCAC Assessment**

In cooperation with UNODC, POGAR created a group of 20 government practitioners from 17 Arab States. The members were nominated by their governments in accordance with pre-set criteria and have committed to being part of the Group. The objective of this group was to contribute to improving the capacity of Arab governments on UNCAC assessments through training government officials on UNCAC assessment tools and methodologies, and anti-corruption measurement in general, with a view to supporting national efforts to develop assessment reports that would identify compliance gaps, technical assistance needs and related priorities. In addition to undertaking assessment efforts in their countries, AGEG members may also act as trainers at the national level. The AGEG members underwent two training seminars. The first was on UNODC's 'UNCAC Self Assessment Checklist'. The second was on a pilot in-depth assessment tool developed by POGAR. Related efforts will continue and expand in 2009 to address new assessment tools in cooperation with the Oslo Governance Center (OGC) and to involve non-governmental actors as well.

### **The Anti-Corruption Community of Practice in the Arab States**

In cooperation with DGG/BDP, POGAR convened UNDP practitioners from 13 Cos in the Arab Region, in addition to national counterparts from the government, judiciary, parliament, civil society and media for the first time in a regional 'Anti-Corruption Community of Practice' (AC COP) meeting organized in Beirut from 27 to 30 June 2008. Regional Advisors from UNDP as well as representatives from partner organizations such as UNODC, TI and OECD participated in this event as well. This meeting provided a regional platform for knowledge-networking among UNDP practitioners and for partnership building among UNDP COs, national counterparts and other organizations.

The meeting helped establish a sense of community among participants; opened avenues for cooperation and synergies at the national, regional and global levels; helped provide a common language among participants; and sensitized them to key issues in anti-corruption programming. Following the CoP meeting, a regional conference was organized in Amman on 29 and 30 July 2008 to strengthen the knowledge of policymakers on UNCAC prevention measures. The conference was attended by 120 participants including high-level

representatives from around 35 governmental bodies. Moreover, as a result of the anti-corruption CoP meeting held in June 2008, POGAR started to establish and reinforce linkages with national activities. Efforts with Iraq, Lebanon, Tunisia and Yemen were underway at the end of 2008.

### **The Arab Anti-Corruption & Integrity Network (ACINET)**

In 2008, POGAR worked closely with Arab States to mobilize and crystallize political will and commitment to anti-corruption reform, and UNCAC implementation in particular. In doing so, POGAR supported regional and national consultations over a period of seven months to develop the concept, the charter and the rules of procedure of ACINET, which is considered to be a landmark achievement in the Arab region, because it is the first common platform for governments and non-governmental actors seeking to improve their capacities in this area. ACINET's establishment was officially declared on 30 July 2008 (at the end of the regional conference mentioned above), with the support of delegations from 17 Arab States. After its establishment, POGAR continued to consolidate the network and develop its programme of work for 2009 as well as a number of information products for network members. concerned with anti-corruption including specialized agencies and commissions, audit bodies, inspection bodies, ministries of justice, and ministries of administrative development from 17 Arab countries, in addition to the representatives of the Secretary General of the League of Arab States, and representatives from UNODC, OECD, TI, IACCA, ARPAC and other regional and international actors and bilateral and multilateral donors. The objective was to launch and support a region-wide policy dialogue on prevention measures under UNCAC, with a view to preparing Arab States to the Third Session of the Conference of State Parties (CoSP) in Doha [Qatar] in November 2009, which will address this issue as one of its priority themes.

### **Latin America and the Caribbean**

In 2008, UNDP Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean (RBLAC) began work on capacity development of COs and national counterparts in the region. The Bureau provided advisory services and technical support to the anti-corruption project related to political financing, media and strengthening civil society, the implementation of UNCAC and the facilitation of knowledge sharing. The bureau also supported anti-corruption programmes and projects related to financing political parties in Mexico and Panama and on transparency and integrity in Peru, Chile and Mexico and on UNCAC implementation in Colombia. The RBLAC also supported the regional consultative meeting on UNCAC implementation for the countries in the Caribbean and anti-corruption programmes and activities in Barbados, Suriname, Belize, Trinidad and Tobago. The Bureau, together with DGG/BDP, conducted a training workshop for 18 UNDP CO staff from the Latin America and the Caribbean to develop their anti-corruption capacities.

### **Africa**

Most of the anti-corruption activities in the Africa region have been supported by UNDP COs. 2008, UNDP Regional Bureau for Africa (RBA) initiated a process to develop its regional governance programme. At the regional level, DGG/BDP, in collaboration with UNECA, organized a training workshop for civil society members from various African countries on monitoring and reporting corruption. DGG/BDP also contributed to a conference organized by UNECA entitled 'Institutions, Culture and Corruption in Africa'.