

Support to Iraqi Parliament Project

Activities of UNDP-POGAR in collaboration with UNDP-Iraq

■ **Workshop to Draft a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council of Representatives and the Board of Supreme Audit in Iraq**

Beirut, Lebanon, 14/10/2009 – 16/10/2009

Organized by: UNDP-POGAR in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme in Iraq, the Iraqi Council of Representatives and the Iraqi Board of Supreme Audit.

This workshop was organized as part of the project “Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight in Iraq” and aimed at drafting a memorandum of understanding between the Iraqi Council of Representatives (CoR) and the Board of Supreme Audit (BSA). The workshop brought together members and legal advisors from the Iraqi Council of Representatives and senior officials from the Board of Supreme Audit in addition to a number of regional and international experts and representatives from the United Nations Development Programme.

The participants discussed a number of fundamental issues that included: (i) organizing the institutional relationship between the COR and the BSA; (ii) the publication, presentation and distribution of the BSA’s reports; (iii) the BSA’s physical presence in the COR; and (iv) Strengthening the COR’s substantive expertise on matters relating to budgetary oversight.

At the end of the workshop, the participants reached an agreement on the Framework for the Joint Cooperation between the Council of Representatives and the Board of Supreme Audit.

■ [Agenda, Background and Publications](#)

■ **Workshop on Parliamentary Oversight**

London, United Kingdom, 17/06/2009 - 19/06/2009.

Organized by: UNDP-POGAR in collaboration with the UNDP-Iraq, the Iraqi Council of Representatives, the Iraqi Board of Supreme Audit and the UK House of Commons.

This workshop was organized as part of the project “Strengthening Parliamentary Oversight in Iraq” and aimed at strengthening the oversight function of the Iraqi Council of Representatives (CoR) and the working relationship between the CoR and the Board of Supreme Audit (BSA) in a way that would allow the COR to benefit from the United Kingdom’s experience in this regard. The workshop included meetings with senior officials from different governmental and non-governmental institutions involved in parliamentary oversight in the United Kingdom such as the House of Commons’ Public Accounts Committee, the House of Commons’ Treasury Committee, the House of Commons’ Scrutiny Unit, the Ministry of Finance and the National Audit Office. The participants also discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the system that is currently in place in Iraq and the rules that should be developed and implemented to strengthen the working relationship between the CoR and BSA.

■ [Agenda, Background and Publications](#)

■ **Training Workshop on Legislative Drafting**

Beirut, Lebanon, 21/04/2009 - 24/04/2009.

Organized by: United Nations Development Programme - Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) in collaboration with the Iraqi Council of Representatives.

A four-day training on legislative drafting was provided to legal councilors and employees of the Iraqi Council of Representatives. The workshop included presentations and applied training sessions on organizing and preparing meetings, comparing laws and law projects, writing minutes and reports, following up on the implementation of laws etc.

■ [Agenda, Background and Publications](#)

■ **Workshop on Strengthening the Working Relationship between the Iraqi Council of Representatives and the Board of Supreme Audit**

Beirut, Lebanon, 09/03/2009 - 10/03/2009.

Organized by: United Nations Development Programme - Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) in collaboration with the Iraqi Council of Representatives, the Iraqi Board of Supreme Audit and UNDP-Iraq.

This workshop formed part of the project “Strengthening the Capacities of the Iraqi Council of Representatives” and brought together leading members of the Iraqi Council of Representatives (including the heads of the Finance and Integrity Committees) the Vice President and other senior staff from the Board of Supreme Audit, a number of leading international experts in the field of budgetary oversight, as well as officials from UNDP-POGAR and UNDP-Iraq.

The participants first discussed the general relationship that currently exists between the Council of Representatives and the Board of Supreme Audit, and their discussion was informed by a number of presentations that focused on the context in which the Council is currently operating and the consequences of its failure to coordinate with the Board of Supreme Audit. The participants then moved on to discuss what the Council’s objectives should be in terms of monitoring budget execution in Iraq, and in overseeing the implementation of specific government investment projects, while at the same time exploring how the Board of Supreme Audit could assist the Council in meeting those objectives. Finally, the discussions focused on the types of rules that should exist in order to govern the working relationship between the Council of Representatives and the Board of Supreme Audit. All of these discussions were informed by a number of interventions from international experts, including the Chairman of the Budgetary Oversight Committee at the European Parliament, a member of the French Constitutional Council (who is also a former President of the French Cour des Comptes and a former member of the French National Assembly), the former Chief Clerk of Financial Committees at the UK House of Commons, etc.

The Final Recommendations that were agreed upon by all the participants provide in part that a memorandum of understanding should be entered into between the Council of Representatives and the Board of Supreme Audit in order to establish the specific rules that will govern their working relationship.

■ [Agenda, Background and Publications](#)

■ **Functional Mapping and Recommendations on Management Structure**

Beirut, Lebanon, 24/02/2009 - 27/02/2009.

Organized by: United Nations Development Programme - Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) in collaboration with the Iraqi Council of Representatives.

The meeting brought together senior officials from the Iraqi Council of Representatives (CoR) and a Specialist commissioned by UNDP-POGAR to draft an Analysis and Recommendations Study on the CoR's Management Structure. The meeting allowed the Specialist to learn about the strengths and weaknesses of the CoR's management structure, to retrieve all documentation pertaining to the internal management of the CoR and its staff in order to complete the Analysis and Recommendations Study, and to learn the advisors' views of how the management structure should be improved.

■ [Agenda, Background and Publications](#)

■ **Training Workshop for Committee Secretaries of the Iraqi Council of Representatives**

Beirut, Lebanon, 03/02/2009 - 06/02/2009.

Organized by: United Nations Development Programme - Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) in collaboration with the Lebanese Parliament and the Iraqi Council of Representatives.

A four-day training was provided to Committee Secretaries of the Iraqi Council of Representatives. The workshop included presentations and applied training sessions on organizing and preparing meetings, comparing laws and law projects, writing minutes and reports, following up on the implementation of laws etc.

■ [Agenda, Background and Publications](#)

■ **Training Workshop for Committee Secretaries of the Iraqi Council of Representatives**

Beirut, Lebanon, 03/12/2008 - 05/12/2008.

Organized by: United Nations Development Programme - Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) in collaboration with the Lebanese Parliament and the Iraqi Council of Representatives.

A three-day training was provided to Committee Secretaries of the Iraqi Council of Representatives. The workshop included presentations and applied training sessions on organizing and preparing meetings, comparing laws and law projects, writing minutes and reports, following up on the implementation of laws etc.

■ [Agenda, Background and Publications](#)

■ **Training Workshop on Legislative Drafting**

Beirut, Lebanon, 28/10/2008 - 31/10/2008.

Organized by: United Nations Development Programme - Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) in collaboration with the Lebanese Parliament and the Iraqi Council of Representatives.

A four-day training on Legislative Drafting was provided to Legal Councilors and Employees from the Iraqi Council of Representatives. The workshop included presentations and applied training sessions on organizing and preparing meetings, comparing laws and law projects, writing minutes and reports, following up on the implementation of laws etc.

■ [Agenda, Background and Publications](#)

■ **Training Workshop on Legislative Drafting**

Beirut, Lebanon, 22/08/2008 - 27/08/2008.

Organized by: United Nations Development Programme - Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) in collaboration with the Lebanese Parliament and the Iraqi Council of Representatives.

A five-day training on legislative drafting was provided to members of the Iraqi Council of Representatives and legal councilors from standing committees. The workshop included presentations and applied training sessions on organizing and preparing meetings, comparing laws and law projects, writing minutes and reports, following up on the implementation of laws etc.

■ [Agenda, Background and Publications](#)

■ **Training Workshop on Legislative Drafting**

Beirut, Lebanon, 11/06/2008 - 15/06/2008.

Organized by: United Nations Development Programme - Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) in collaboration with the Iraqi Council of Representatives.

A five-day training on legislative drafting was provided to members of the Iraqi Council of Representatives and legal councilors from standing committees and the speaker's office. The workshop included presentations and applied training sessions on organizing and preparing meetings, comparing laws and law projects, writing minutes and reports, following up on the implementation of laws etc.

■ [Agenda, Background and Publications](#)

■ **Workshop on the Preparation and the Adoption of the 2008 National Budget in Iraq**

Beirut, Lebanon, 29/04/2008 - 30/04/2008.

Organized by: United Nations Development Programme - Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) in collaboration with the Iraqi Council of Representatives.

The workshop formed part of the project "Strengthening the Capacities of the Iraqi Parliament", and brought together members of the Iraqi Council of Representatives including the Chairs of the Finance and Economy Committees and the Head of the Board of Supreme Audit and representatives from the Ministry of Finance, in addition to a number of international and regional experts. The workshop aimed at reviewing and assessing the 2008 budgetary process in Iraq and identifying measures and procedures necessary to improve future budgetary processes. The workshop also discussed the working relationship between different Iraqi institutions in relation to the budgetary process including the Council of Representatives, Ministry of Finance and the Board of Supreme Audit.

■ [Agenda, Background and Publications](#)

■ **Towards Drafting a Code of Conduct for Members of the Iraqi Parliament**

Cairo, Egypt, 10/03/2008 - 13/03/2008.

Organized by: United Nations Development Programme - Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) in collaboration with the Iraqi Council of Representatives.

The meeting was organized to draft a code of conduct for members of the Iraqi Council of Representatives. The drafting committee consisted of five representatives from the Iraqi Parliament, experts from UNDP-POGAR and one regional expert. This draft will serve as a basis for discussions in the Council of Representatives.

■ [Agenda, Background and Publications](#)

■ **Discussing and Adopting the National Budget in the Parliament of Iraq**

Cairo, Egypt, 08/12/2007 - 09/12/2007.

Organized by: United Nations Development Programme - Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) in collaboration with Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPSS).

The seminar formed part of the project “Strengthening the Capacities of the Iraqi Parliament”, and brought together members of the Iraqi parliament, in addition to a number of international and regional experts. The seminar aimed at reviewing and assessing the budgetary process of 2007, and identifying measures, procedures and legislation necessary to improve future budgetary processes, and in particular that of 2008.

■ [Agenda, Background and Publications](#)

■ **Drafting a Code of Conduct for Members of Parliament in Iraq**

Cairo, Egypt, 07/12/2007 - 08/12/2007.

Organized by: United Nations Development Programme - Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) in collaboration with Al-Ahram Center for Political and Strategic Studies (ACPSS).

The seminar formed part of the project “Strengthening the Capacities of the Iraqi Parliament”, and brought together members of the Iraqi parliament, in addition to a number of international and regional experts. The objective of the seminar was to support the process of developing, adopting and implementing a code conduct for members of the Iraqi parliament with the aim to increasing accountability and transparency and improving the performance of MPs.

■ [Agenda, Background and Publications](#)

■ **Training of Iraqi Parliamentary Staff on the Functioning of Parliamentary Commissions in the Lebanese Parliament (second round)**

Beirut, Lebanon, 04/09/2007 - 08/09/2007.

Organized by: United Nations Development Programme - Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) in collaboration with the Lebanese Parliament.

The training was organized for 14 Iraqi parliamentary staff on the functioning of parliamentary commissions. The training sessions focused on the functioning of the general secretariat of the Lebanese Parliament and the role of parliamentary commissions in legislation and oversight and the participation of public and private sector representatives. It also focused on the role of the secretariat of the commissions and the role of the documentation and research.

The workshop included applied training sessions on organizing and preparing meetings, comparing laws and law projects, writing minutes and reports, and following up on the implementation of laws.

■ [Agenda, Background and Publications](#)

■ **Training of Iraqi Parliamentary Staff on the Functioning of Parliamentary Commissions in the Lebanese Parliament (first round)**

Beirut, Lebanon, 26/06/2007 - 30/06/2007.

Organized by: United Nations Development Programme - Programme on Governance in the Arab Region (UNDP-POGAR) in collaboration with the Lebanese Parliament.

The training was organized for 12 Iraqi parliamentary staff on the functioning of parliamentary commissions. The training sessions focused on the functioning of the general secretariat of the Lebanese Parliament and the role of parliamentary commissions in legislation and oversight and the participation of public and private sector representatives. It also focused on the role of the secretariat of the commissions and the role of the documentation and research.

The workshop included applied training sessions on organizing and preparing meetings, comparing laws and law projects, writing minutes and reports, and following up on the implementation of laws.

■ [Agenda, Background and Publications](#)