

Anti-Corruption Strategy Session **Amman - Jordan 15 - 17 July 2007**

Preamble

Monitoring, accountability and transparency are considered as important pillars of modern democracies. These concepts are also considered as important elements on which the rule of law and a democratic system are based on. The Iraq Foundation (IF), in partnership with the Iraqi Commission for Public Integrity (CPI) and the Lebanese Transparency Association (LTA), held a Strategy Session on combating corruption in Amman, Jordan, from 15 to 17, July 2007. The Strategy session discussed challenges and difficulties faced by agencies combating corruption in Iraq. Following a series of discussions and lectures about legal, administrative and financial regulations and anti-corruption strategies, the partners recommended the following:

1. General recommendations

- 1) Reforming the Iraqi legal regulations to become in line with the provisions of the new Iraqi constitution.
- 2) Creating a special court for examining corruption cases in the public and private sectors.
- 3) Promulgating a special law to deal with money laundering.
- 4) Promulgating a special law regarding the funding of political parties and other civil society organisations.
- 5) Recommending adherence to treaties relating to anti-corruption issues, in particular the United Nations Convention against Corruption.
- 6) Developing relations with international organizations working on corruption, transparency, and money laundering, particularly with the Transparency International; as well as participating in the World Bank's efforts on combating corruption.
- 7) Building the practical, administrative, and technical skills and capabilities of civil servants
- 8) Creating service centers for citizens through setting up a specialized center to follow up on official petitions made by citizens, relating to a particular ministry or a number of ministries, in order to prevent direct contact between the employee concerned and the citizen.
- 9) Implementing the E-Government plan.
- 10) Spreading the education of integrity, transparency and accountability in society through various channels of public information and the education curriculum.
- 11) Reforming the salary system so as to ensure public employees have a good and dignified life and taking into consideration annual inflation.

2. Special recommendations

- 1) Ensuring the impartiality of the CPI and its independence, particularly from partisanship and political struggles and.
- 2) Passing the new CPI bill to replace Decree no. 55 of 2004 issued by the Interim Governing Council.
- 3) Promulgating a freedom of access to information law.
- 4) Revisiting Decree no. 57 of 2004 that relates to the offices of the public inspectors at Iraqi ministries to strengthen a holistic relationship between the different monitoring apparatuses.
- 5) Providing the appropriate legal protection for associates of the CPI and the offices of the public inspectors in order to ensure their capacity to fulfil their duties without fear of retaliation from persons in positions of power and those accused of corruption; as well as without fear of vindictive litigations.
- 6) Training associates of the CPI inside and outside Iraq on the latest methods and procedures for combating corruption; and creating networks for them with their counterpart agencies in other countries.
- 7) Strengthening the role of prevention and reform in the work of the Commission for Public Integrity, in line with investigatory procedures.
- 8) Encouraging citizens morally and financially to report cases of corruption.
- 9) Encouraging the role of public advocacy and monitoring through civil society and public information.
- 10) Providing the CPI with modern technical equipment for the investigation and enquiry work.
- 11) Making the hot-line service free and introducing modern equipment to receive complaints and information.
- 12) Speeding up the creation of the Academy for Integrity and Transparency, which is linked to the CPI.

Adopting these recommendations would help, and no doubt strengthen, the rule of law and the independence of the CPI in Iraq. These discussions and recommendations will also assist in the preparation of the upcoming meetings that are to be held by the IF on the issue of combating corruption in Iraq.