

Baghdad Declaration

Fighting corruption at the service of human and social security

From Mesopotamia, Iraq of triumph and Baghdad of peace, upon conclusion of the work of the Sixth Ministerial Conference of Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network continue on 15th to 16th of April 2018 sponsored by Prime Minister of republic of Iraq, we the ministers and heads of commissions as well as all participants in the conference of governmental and non- governmental representatives bodies in the Arab region, with conviction that the corruption is a serious threat to human security and society, flagrant violation of our people right in development, a major challenge to strategies and developed and national visions made by our countries, we commit ourselves to act together; for implementing of the global agenda for 2030 on sustainable development adopted by leaders of the world in 2015 with its 17th goals, especially the goal 16 related to peace, justice and strong institution. Remembering what have been made by our previous conferences, particularly with regard to the Tunisia Declaration on "Enhancing Accountability for Promoting Sustainable Development". Feeling of aspirations of our people to achieve more progress in confronting corruption phenomena.

Our insistence on tracking orientation towards achievements meet the aspiration of citizens, especially, the young generations that look for best future, in implementing to our duties and big responsibility on us in this field, we welcome the exerted efforts on the level of Arab area; to enhance integrity and fight against corruption. Despite the different challenges and

difficult phase that the state witness, we announce our commitment to pursue those efforts based on what have been achieved of results and obtained lessons to be raised for the best levels strengthen confidence between the state and citizen, protect public money and enable our governments to develop level of public services, attract required investments; to achieve the sustainable development. We confirm significance of continuing work on implementing the two international and Arab conventions to fight corruption, in addition to give special concern to issues related to competent commissions independency for fighting corruption, systems of financial disclosure, conflict of interests control, fighting illicit enrichment, and have the right to access to information through honesty of justice and prosecutor general independency, mechanism of encouragement on reporting for corruption and protecting whistleblowers. We call to continue work on enhancing participation and effectiveness in develop, implement and observe the national strategies for fighting corruption to be linked with standards and international indexes, best practices around the world that would be in line with needs and national priorities. We shed light to the existence for strong relationship between spread of corruption, insecurity and violent extremism growth and terrorism, achieving tangible link on the level of general policies efforts between anti-corruption efforts and efforts to protect and consolidate security should be required. We emphasize the importance of adopting a comprehensive vision for the concept of “security”, not only the role of traditional security institutions, but also taking into account the economic and social dimensions that need to focus

on; to secure human and society security from the scourge of corruption. We consider that directing of integrity and fighting corruption strategies would include sectors of priority by vision of “Comprehensive concept for Human Security” such as justice, health, education, water resources, customs, transportation and trade which would support situation of our country and the exerted efforts to achieve sustainable development. We repeat our gratitude and confirm support to the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network which continue hosting the State and society representatives in our Arab region of specialization work in this field.

We ask the Arab Network to expand its activity in the field of developing the capacity of ministries, competent commissions, and concerned monitoring judicial bodies and non-governmental organizations by training, providing advice and facilitating the exchange of experiences and experts.

We commend the innovations and initiatives related to tackling corruption through Risk Management Science and Behavioral Science, which would promote preventive action, as well as those relating to investigation and prosecution to promote the restraining action.

We would like from The Arab Network to circulate the experiences for such innovations and initiatives on various Arab States and built the relevant national capacities to reach a legal and institutional system anti-corruption integrates with the value system that urges the integrity, so that these two systems are the promotion wings of good governance in our Arab Region.

We urge the Arab Network to form a team of experts from among its members and with assistance of its “Regional Support Unit” to develop an integrated vision on a reference framework that would be coordinated with similar efforts at the regional and international levels, that aims at assisting the Arab States on their request to analyze and develop their efforts to promote the integrity and fight corruption.

At the conclusion

We congratulate Republic of Iraq, represented by CoI, for assuming the chairmanship of Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network in its Sixth meeting for (2018-2019) and express our gratitude to the Republic of Tunisia, represented by the State Oversight Commission on Public Interests to preside the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network in its Fifth meeting for (2016-2017).

Furthermore, we present our thankfulness and regards to his Excellency the Prime Minister of Republic of Iraq for being sponsored the conference's works.

We also would like to thank CoI Commissioner, the officials and the Staff for the generous hospitality and perfect arrangement.

We are so gratitude to UNDP for its pivotal role for making the conference successful and for the great efforts exerted to support the Arab Anti-Corruption and Integrity Network.

Finally we would like to express our thankful and grateful to the Republic of Iraq, people and Government, for hosting us as Arab brothers and guests from all the world countries and from the International and Regional organizations.

The End

Baghdad 16 April 2018