

UNDP Anti-Corruption Community of Practice in the Arab States

June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2009

Welcome Speech, Dr. Mohammed Belhocine, RR UNDP Tunisia

Madame Faiza Kefi, President of the Court of Accounts of Tunisia

UNDP Colleagues from the Arab Region,

Anti Corruption practitioners from the region,

Dear participants

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a pleasure to warmly welcome you to Tunisia for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Anti Corruption Community of Practice meeting for the Arab States. This meeting was organized by our colleagues at UNDP POGAR (Programme on Governance in the Arab States), UNDP Democratic Governance Group in our Bureau of Development Policy. UNDP has worked closely with the Office of the Prime Minister and we would like to thank them for agreeing to host this important event in Tunisia.

Corruption impacts every aspect of society, and threatens our business investment environment, economic growth, and ultimately poverty reduction and sustainable development. Countries that have managed to stem corruption, have

managed to attract investment and have flourishing businesses. Flourishing business create jobs, and help reduce poverty and ensure sustainable development. As we contemplate how to achieve the MDGs in the Arab region, we need to realize that with out good governance and anti corruption practices, the economic growth and competitiveness of our countries is in jeopardy.

For the next two days, anti corruption practitioners will be meeting with colleagues from 17 different countries in the Arab region. This type of event which brings together experts, government partners, and UNDP practitioners and promotes cooperation and knowledge sharing. At UNDP, we place a lot of emphasis on Knowledge Management, and this workshop will permit you to share your experiences on issues such as :

- the role of the Judiciary in Fighting Corruption,
- supporting Anti Corruption Commissions, and
- Supporting of implementation of the UNCAC (UN Convention on Anti-Corruption).

You have the privilege of having several very experienced practitioners in the field of Public Administrative reform and

anti corruption in the room with you. Our colleagues and experts from UNODC (UN Office on Drugs and Crime), the World Bank, GTZ, League of Arab States, the US Department of Justice, experts from various universities and last but not least the Tunisian Court of Accounts which is our privileged partner have come to this event to share their experiences.

I wish you a fruitful two days of work, on a topic that is at the core of good governance in the Arab region.