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المملكة المغربية



GOUVERNEMENT DU  
ROYAUME DU MAROC

**NATIONAL REPORT  
ON THE PROMOTION OF  
TRANSPARENCY AND THE FIGHT  
AGAINST CORRUPTION**

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## INTRODUCTION

The Kingdom of Morocco has exerted an endless effort into establishing the legislative, institutional and practical grounds to combat all aspects of corruption and to consolidate transparency and integrity in the public affairs prompted by the negative reflections of aspects of corruption permeating all levels of society, economic, social and cultural. In its efforts the Kingdom has such fulfilled its obligations to the international community.

This matter has been given greater attention since 1999. Morocco has expressed its readiness to establish the foundations for a national system of integrity and transparency in an effort to combat corruption. Several reforms were put in place to establish the institutional framework for the system of transparency and integrity and the cancelation of the Special Court of Justice and the creation of a new framework for investment. Also Board of complaints, a higher council, regional councils , regional financial tribunals have been established for this purpose. These achievements were the cornerstone in modernizing the legislative and judicial framework in the Kingdom particularly when the parties law, the law amending the administrative decisions, the law of public procurement the new election code, defining the responsibility in the public expenditure in addition to the serious effort in revising the criminal code pertinent to the preventive measures against corruption as the punishment level was risen and a provision was added to forfeit all funds gained through corruption, encouraging the briber to denounce the act before committing it.

The royal directives to support codes of ethics in the public affairs formed the pillar for all the reforms pertaining to the system of integrity and transparency and in combating corruption. His Majesty stated : We have always given an exceptional attention to the public affairs and that code of ethics should be a guiding principle, particularly in the administration. In light of his Majesty's directives, the Government adapted in 1999 the "Charter of Good Governance" which aimed at providing a common reference for the interests of the public in the area of governance and disseminating the education of the public through establishing a modern approach, installing moral values and encouraging individual and collective initiatives toward better performance and the improvement of administrative services and in doing so a new relationship between the administration and the community will be created based on transparency and integrity.

His Majesty, King Mohammed VI, in his Throne Speech 2001 further emphasized good governance. He stated that in order to categorize a culture of maintaining a public service and its morality by an administrative elite , saturated with the values of competence and integrity and maturity and dedication in the service of public affairs and free from all forms of pressure or the network of patronage and clientelism or, corruption in the form of embezzlement, misappropriation or other diversion by a public official for his or her benefit or for the benefit of another person or entity, of any property, public or private funds or securities or any other thing of value entrusted to the public official by virtue of his or her position. We expect from the competent authorities to ensure the widest measure of legal assistance in investigations, prosecutions, judicial proceedings and asset confiscation and recovery in relation to corruption offences in the public domain.

As a point of departure, being fully convinced in the effectiveness of those vital choices, came the assurance of the consecutive governments, through their declarations before the Parliament, to fully commit themselves to taking the necessary measures in combating corruption and working relentlessly towards implementing a new and effective administrative education serving the citizen rights.

In this context, the government programme of November 21, 2002, has made Public service reformation as key objective of the project reform. In accordance with the fundamental principles of its legal system, the programme set out to develop and implement or maintain effective, coordinated anti-corruption policies that promote the participation of society and reflect the principles of the rule of law, proper management of public affairs and public property, integrity, transparency and accountability.

In the same spirit of reformation, the government programme of 24 October, 2007, took the same course in calling for

- 1- to consolidate the institutional framework as a safeguard against corruption and further advance the national system of integrity and transparency and implement the legal mechanism pertinent to the new legislative of full declaration of assets.
- 2- To activate the Central Authority for the Prevention of Corruption, which is a national body made up of representatives of various ministerial departments and organisations. It is to be responsible for oversight and information-gathering regarding corruption and to co-ordinate anti-corruption policy, monitoring through accountability mechanisms in order to put an end to impunity and tackle corrupt behaviour and fraud.
- 3- To rectify the legal instruments in order to achieve the transparency, integrity and honest competitive spirit in all contractual deals and public procurement, aiming at eradicating all illegal activities of unaccounted wealth and money cleansing and the resulting dangers thereof.

Despite all efforts and strenuous actions taken in this regard, the general attitude towards remedying corruption remains vitiated with negative and often pessimistic response. Yet this attitude will in no way dissuade the government from pursuing and implementing the choices made with resolve, convinced that it will eventually put an end to the corruption and firmly prevent it from permeating public services and state institutions.

In 2005, the government took tangible steps to translate its commitment in combating corruption and as such made it one of its priorities to set up a comprehensive programme partaken by several ministerial departments and in consultation with community stakeholders. A working plan was reached to attain the goals set for it on the short and medium ranges comprising of horizontal and sector-wise levels and maintaining elements of prevention, sensitization and restraining. It stands firm in its adaption of the preventive and punitive measures in accordance with the legal, institutional and operational principles.

This programme will consolidate the achievements materialized by Morocco in creating better moral life to the citizens and good governance and in compliance with the regional and international conventions that the kingdom has been a party to.

It goes without saying that the Kingdom's ratification of the UN Charter against Corruption came as a result of its awareness of the seriousness of this problem and the challenges it gives rise to. The Kingdom is committed to remaining engaged in the fight against corruption and seeking creative ways to improve the development outcomes at the economic and political levels. The creation of the Central Board against corruption by the kingdom comes as an example for the objective response of the country in the context of this choice.

In keeping with the Kingdom's accomplishments in this matter, this report aims, in its first part, at highlighting the efforts extended both legislatively and institutionally to fight corruption and spread the values of integrity and transparency in governance. Whereas, in the second part, the report will deal with the government programme in fighting corruption. The programme commenced in the month of May, 2005, leading to promoting the efforts which resulted in a set of legislative and institutional accomplishments which in its turn has given a new and developed perception opening a new and promising horizon in our fight against corruption and consequently in firmly establishing our National System for integrity and transparency.

# **Part one**

## **Legislative and Institutional Gains in combating and consolidating transparency values.**

The Phenomenon of corruption is so bifurcated that the public authorities in Morocco had to adapt common policies and practical programmes to combat it in all its shapes and forms. This has been clearly seen in the consecutive governments' serious attempts to put in place legal and institutional

mechanisms mainly for the purpose of fighting corruption and permeating integrity and transparency values in its place.

It is worth mentioning here the efforts spent in creating legislative tools and instruments and the rules of transparency pursued to have good governance and the moral principles consecrated in the public affairs. This part will also explore the institutional gains achieved.

## **I Legal Definition of Actions of and parties to Corruption Frameworks**

### **First: Acts of Corruptions**

#### **Corruption:**

For the sake of

- The request or receipt, directly or indirectly of any undue advantage for himself or herself or for anyone else, or the acceptance of an offer or a promise of such an advantage, to act or refrain from acting in the exercise of his or her functions
- In his/her capacity as a referee or an expert appointed by the administrative or judicial authorities or agreed on by the parties concerned makes a decision or gives an opinion for the interest of or against,
- Taking side with one of the parties to the dispute or against, in his/her legal capacity, member of the court, judicial or notary.
- False testimony in the case of there being a total disability or the lack thereof, or the cause of death in his/her capacity as a physician or surgeon or dentist or midwife (articles 248 and 249 of the Criminal Code.) the acceptance of an offer or a promise of such

#### **B- Bribing**

- the promising, offering or giving by any person, directly or indirectly, of any undue advantage ... for himself or herself or for anyone else, for him or her to act or refrain from acting in the exercise of his or her functions.
- Any response to the bribe extended even though with no suggestion from the person who requests the advantage. ( Article 251 of the Criminal Code).

#### **C- Favouritism**

Favouring of one over others or preferring of one over others.

It could also mean taking sides due to a hostility to the other party (This is a criminal act according to the two chapters 248 and 254 of the Criminal Code).

#### **d- Power Abuse**

It refers to a failure to take into proper consideration the facts and law relating to a particular matter or an unreasonable departure from precedent and settled judicial custom or in case of collection of levy prescribed as legal or refrain from executing judicial decisions or orders issued by established authorities. As per article 20, law No. 41.90 on the subject of administrative tribunals, it is stipulated that each administrative order issued by a body with no

mandate or due to an error in form or because of a deviation by the issuing authority or for the absence of the analytical power or in violation of law it is deemed an abuse of power and gives the right to the person offended

to refute it by appealing it before the judicial or administrative tribunals. This forms an act punishable according to chapter 257 to 260 of the Criminal Code.

#### **e- Embezzlement**

Every fraudulent remove, conceal or disposal or unlawful seizure by any person of any funds, public or private or bonds or deeds or contracts entrusted to the official by virtue of his legal position or because of it ( chapters 241-242 of the Criminal Code).

#### **F- Betrayal**

-Every request or receipt or the imposition of orders to collect what is unlawful or above and beyond the required be it that the collection is on behalf of the public administration or other persons on whose behalf the collection is being done or to self.

-Every unlawful collection of money, directly or indirectly,

- every unlawful grant of release from levy or exemption from tax or a general fee

- Every free of charge delivery of state revenues (Chapters 243-244 of the Criminal Code)

#### **G- Unlawful Advantage**

-every receipt of interest from a contract, an auction or an enterprise or a direct exercise of his or her functions, or having a supervising role therein (total or partial) at the time of committing the act by himself

or by a third person acting on his behalf

- every gain of benefit the public officer collects during an act he/she is asked to perform in case of facilitating a payment or in the conduct of a liquidation within five years after the termination of his tenure. (Chapters 245-246 of the Criminal Code)

#### **H-Abuse of Power**

Every request or accept of an offer or promise or receipt of a gift or any other undue advantage in order to enable or attempt to enable a person to be granted a decoration, a medallion or honorary rank or reward or a position or employment or service or any other advantage granted by the public authority, or, in that regard, any tender or project or any earnings resulting from a contract made with public authority or an administration under its auspices,

- every decision made by the authority or the administration and unlawfully used by the officer to his own personal benefit by virtue of the power invested in him by said authority (chapter 250- Criminal Code).

#### **I- The Illegal Exploitation of Public Property**

Every harnessing, in any shape or form, of the means and tools state-owned, or owned by local community or public or semi-public

establishments, in election campaign on behalf of the candidate is a criminal act pursuant to articles 54 and 84 of the election code

## **2. Parties to Corruption:**

In addition to the corruption parties who have committed the evil acts mentioned earlier, the criminal code stipulates that other parties will bear the consequences of corruption and corruption. Those can be summed up as follows:

### **A- The instigator:**

- every one who uses any means to convince others to commit a crime as defined in this law or causes him to or incites him to commit the crime will be liable to indictment pursuant to Chapter 218-5 of the Criminal Code.

### **B- the contributor:**

He who has directly contributed to committing a crime is deemed to be a contributor to the act pursuant to Chapter 128 of the Criminal Code.

### **C- The participant**

Every one who has done one of the following acts is deemed a participant in committing the felony or misdemeanour even though he has not been directly involved in the act.

-gave orders to commit the crime or incited the person who committed it by a promise of compensation or by a threat or by an abuse of power or commission or by fraudulent means or criminal deception

-Aided and abetted a person or persons who committed the crime during the early stages of preparing for the execution of the crime, knowing that a crime is to be committed. Such a person or persons will be indictable pursuant to Chapters 129 and 130 of the Criminal Code

### **D- THE BENEFICIARY**

He who benefits from tax concessions or free delivery of state Proceeds (Chapter 244 of the Criminal Code).

### **E- THE INFORMANT:**

The person who informs the legal authorities about the crime of corruption before its execution or if proved in case of it being executed that the officer has requested it and he was obligated to give it will not be charged with committing an indictable offence within the meaning of Chapter 251 of the Criminal Code.

## **II- LAYING DOWN THE RULES OF TRANSPARENCY AND ETHICAL PRINCIPLES FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS.**

First: Consecration of General Ethical Principles in the Public Affairs

Apart from the general principles governing public affairs as stipulated in the legislative texts, such as equality, neutrality, legitimacy and continuity, Morocco has also adapted a set of rules and

principles leading to consolidate morality, transparency and integrity in the public affairs to be the foundation upon which hinges the work of good governance and the relationship of the administration and those who deal with it. Some of these rules and principles are the following:

### **1- Explanation of Administrative Decisions:**

This principle allows to elucidate, in writing and within the body of the decision, the legal and the actual reasons that lie behind taking negative administrative decisions issued not for the benefit of the person under the

Illegitimate state. This principle has been consolidated by the law No. 03.01 issued in 2003 to enjoin public administrations, local communities and their boards, all public establishments and all other departments in charge of public facility to explain their negative administrative decisions.

### **2- Freedom of Competition:**

This principle calls for competition leading to the realization of good governance through the following:

- the law pertinent to free prices and competition which stipulates, *inter alia*, the prevention of deliberate acts, contracts, alliances, open or implied, in whatever form or cause that are meant to block competition or limit it or divert its direction.

Also a competition council was created to ensure that a free and honest competition is protected. The council also offers informative opinion in each regulatory text dealing with the imposition of practical restrictions upon practicing a career or entering the market or the establishment of monopolies or consulting rights or any thing else related to the Moroccan land, or the enforcement of unifying practices concerning prices and sale conditions. The council also offers its consulting services to the government and the permanent committees in Parliament in any matter related to competition.

- The law concerning the management, devolved to the public facility, which consolidates mechanisms for competition which are adapted in case of devolving management of services the local communities are entrusted with fulfilling,

- The Criminal Code, particularly Chapter 292 thereof which prevents blocking free auctions or bidding if it came to ownership or use of, lease, supply, or exploit,

- the decree related to defining conditions and forms of state contracts. The requirements of this decree are based on a set of principles of transparency in the choice of the bidder, and equality and competition in public auctions.

### **3- Accountability:**

apart from the instruments used to control expenditures (after or before) the Moroccan legislator has consolidated the principle of accountability by means of a set of procedures and initiatives, such as,

- the law governing the Supreme Council for Accounts whose Accountability goes even to the level of realizing the goals set and the instruments used and the expenses of things and services and the actual prices offered and the financial outcomes. Also

the legitimacy and straightforwardness of the controlling departments and the physical nature of their operations

- builds the principle of comprehensiveness in appropriations in the field of programming and executing the budget which aims at identifying the indicators of the goals which allow the building of strong bonds between the appropriations extended to materialise a programme or a project or an operation and the expected results thereof
- the adaption of mechanisms to evaluate the government programme at different levels:
  - reports by sectors evaluating the degree of accomplishments in the five-year plans which are to be sent to the Higher Commissioner for Planning.
  - Annual reports by sector reflecting an evaluation of the government activities which are to be presented to the Prime Minister.

## **2- Avoiding Conflict of Interest:**

The Moroccan project is keen on placing a series of safeguards and restrictions which will prevent a conflict of interests among the administrative contact persons in the several legislatives and laws regulating responsibility positions.

-ARTICLE 2 Bis –the Decree regulating government members and their departments) prevents the members from indulging in any professional or commercial activity in the private sector, particularly when they have participation in the management of private establishment.

-Articles 17, 18, and 22 of the law regulating the Assembly of Representatives, and articles 17, 18 and 22 of the law regulating the Assembly of Councillors stipulate that membership in any of the two assemblies prevents any activities by the member as chairman of the board or acting executive. This also applies to the position of director general and directors and this can be extended to include the duties of a member in the board of a community council or a member of the supervisory board in joint stock companies which the state owns more than 30% of its capital.

- articles 245-246 of the Criminal Code prevents collecting unlawful benefits in the operations supervised by the official and this offence comes under the crime of Betrayal.
- Article 22 of the Community Charter prevents local elected members from having any personal advantages in the community they come from.
- Article 75 of the Community Charter deems null and void the settled [amount] when community advisor has participated in the making of it when the resolution made effects him, his wife or offspring.
- Article 16 of the General Regulations of the Public Service prevents any employee, no matter what position he or she holds, from any involvement , directly or indirectly, or under any other name or entity in the contract under the control of the management which the employee belongs to or related to.
- Article 15 of the Decree regulating judicial members prevents judges to practise outside their post confinement, even if accidentally, any activity of whatever kind, with or without payment. If the judge or his/her spouse possesses in any contract an advantage that could affect the judge's job, he/she has to bring the matter to the attention of the Minister of Justice.
- Article 94 of the decree regulating public tenders prevents participants in the public transactions establish any relationship with any of the contestants, a relationship that could touch their objectivity and integrity.
- The Moroccan legislator has enacted laws preventing employee's

- involvement in the tenders or contracts the administration is a party to for the duration of five years from the day the employee leaves job. This is done to obstruct the employee from using his/her information, relationship or job connections.

## **5-Prevent Combination of occupations:**

This principle is crystallised in the fact that the law has forbidden any combination between the employee's occupation and other gainful practice or activity or duties done by the employee . Such combination would affect good governance and public service. This principle has been demonstrated in the following:

- Chapter 15 of the General Regulations of the Public Service prevents the employee to practise in his/her professional capacity any gainful activity outside his post. This prevention can only be counterbalanced by a ministerial order on a temporary basis before cancelation. Chapter 15 also compels the employee to declare to the administration any gainful activity undertaken by his/her spouse.

It should be noted that this chapter has been amended and is before the authentication procedure. The essential part of it is to define the scope of exception from the rule of the prevention of combination of occupations when it deals with occupations in the scientific, literary and artistic works as well as use of expertise and consultation or field of studies or teaching on condition that it not be predominantly commercial in nature.

It is worth mentioning also that another amendment was made to the General Regulations of the Public Service, where an addition has been made preventing the combination of two or more earnings offered for an occupation of temporary nature.

## **6- Defining responsibilities in the management of public expenditure:**

Law No. 61.99 of the year 1999 specifically defines the responsibility of employees with the spending power, controllers and government public accountants and the local communities and their boards and all the other establishments and public contracts under financial control of the state in regard to the decisions made or signalled by them or to be executed during exercising their work with all the ramifications of responsibility resulting from such decisions be it disciplinary, civil or criminal, notwithstanding the punishments issued by the Supreme Council of Accounts, or local councils of accounts in this regard.

### **Second: Transparency of the Political life and Pursuing Party Code of Ethics**

The Kingdom of Morocco has earnestly worked to consecrate a set of legal and institutional mechanisms aiming at bringing into the political field transparency and code of ethics. This can be done as follow:

- Excluding all forms of secret financing for political campaigns and instead the state will grant public funds to the party in a form of financing the parties election campaigns.
- Securing candidates' respect to the defined ceiling for the election expenses
- Punishing violations committed during the election at all levels.

### **1) Parties Law**

This law is meant to restructure political parties and consolidate their role through :

- Specifying the role of parties in politically coaching and representing citizens, and contributing in the education and training of an elite capable of revitalizing political life;
- Implementing a transparent financing mechanism for political parties:
  - i. The state's granting to political parties of financial subsidies from the general budget;
  - ii. Distribution of these subsidies based on objective criteria;
  - iii. Obligation of parties to use cheques for any transaction beyond 5000 dirham;
  - iv. Obligation of parties to hold an annual accountancy and certification of accounts by an accountant, member of the accountants' association, and expect and an annual financial audit by the Supreme Account Council.

### **III- Adoption of a Global System to Control Public Funds**

The global system of public expenditure control is managed by a legislative act, characterized by plurality, diversity and comprehensiveness. Thus, this system can be described as follow:

#### **1. Political Control**

This control is executed by parliament, which authorises the government to collect revenues and carry out expenses through annually ratifying finance law. This control is equally executed by the setting up of committees responsible for investigation where relevant. Additionally, it is executed by the presentation of motion of non-confidence and direct warning to the government, as well as discussion of regulation bills, plus the presentation of MPs' oral and written questions to the government.

#### **2. Judicial Control**

This control is managed by the court of audit for state services, local councils and their organisms, public enterprises or licensees of a public service, enterprises, two third of whose capital is directly or indirectly, individually or jointly detained by the state, local councils or public enterprises. The court of audit is a judicial authority specialised in auditing the execution of finance laws and the disciplining in budgetary and financial matters against any civil servant, senior executive or agent under its control.

The court of audit control equally concerns any aspect related to the management of the different institutions subjected to its control through:

- Assessment of the extent of achieved objectives, means of implementation, price used and financial results;
- Formulation of suggestions related to means which would improve performance and increase efficiency and productivity.

#### **2. Financial Control**

This control is carried out by the General Treasury of the Kingdom and the General Inspection of Finance.

The General Treasury of the Kingdom's control has to do with expenditure initiation and can be considered at the level of form, as a preventive control in a way that it essentially focuses on the state's administrative decisions to initiate expenses, thus making a rigorous control on the state's resources to protect them from eventual deficiencies. It is considered as a legal control aiming to ensure that the utilisation of funds is in strict conformity with law.

As to the General Inspection of Finance, its control extends to public funds wherever it is and whatever the amount controlled. Being under government authority in charge of finance, the General Inspection of Finance (IGF) is mainly in charge of carrying out inspection, audit operations and control of public accountants and fiscal officers in any administration or public service.

This body is also in charge of other missions essentially consisting on the carrying out of accounting, financial, administrative and organisational audit, in addition to the strategic auditing of any project financed by the World Bank, the EU, the African Development Bank or the Arab Development Bank.

#### **IV- Consolidation of the Institutional Framework of Protection of Citizens' Interests and Rights**

##### **1. Judicial Reform and Development of the Judicial System**

The main undertaken reforms refer to the following:

- Consolidating of the unity of justice and guaranteeing equality of everyone before legal rules and procedures through the annulment the justice of exception in matters related to the fight against corruption. The objective of such an action is to consolidate and guarantee equitable trial conditions in the case of embezzlement, corruption and dilapidation of public funds;
- Consolidating specialisation in the domain of justice, in consistency with the evolution of the economic commercial, financial and administrative conditions. This can be done through the setting up of administrative and commercial courts to promote the principle of citizen protection against administration abuse, to consolidate rigour and good conduct in the business environment, and to support the country's economic development;
- Reviewing of penal law by:
  - Considering corruption acts as acts of money laundering if the funds arising from them are used for laundering purposes;
  - Promoting the principle of denunciation of corruption acts by protecting the denunciators and by forbidding legal action against people involved money laundering when they declare their suspicion as to the suspicious evolution of asset capital of the entity of financial information treatment, even if their declarations are not exact;
  - Recovery for the benefit of the public Treasury of funds seized in operations of revealed corruption;
- Setting up of a representation within the General Attorney's office to receive complaints and denunciations related to corruption;
- Consolidating the judicial authority by activating the execution of sentences through:

- Executing sentences not yet executed (71 000 files on 129 000 in 2003 and 87 000 on 157 000 in 2004);
- Setting up of a follow up entity to ensure continuity of the operation and the execution of sentences;
- Coordinating the effort with the Ministry of Economy and Finance to execute sentences issued by the special tribunal of justice in the field of corruption, which amount to 136 billion centimes.

## **2. Creation of the Institution Diwan Al Madalim**

This institution was set up by Dahir n° 1.01.298 in view of consolidating the institutional framework that aims to protect citizens' rights and interests from the administration's abuse. It is worth noting here that by virtue of the above-mentioned Dahir, Diwan Al Madalim is in charge of encouraging and consolidating communication between the citizens, be they individuals or groups and the ministries. It is responsible for looking at the means to elude injustice cases brought about by situations contrary to the exigency of equity.

### **V- Support Mechanisms of Partnership with the different economic, social players and civil society**

Convinced that partnership has central role in consolidating a system of integrity, and transparency, the Kingdom of Morocco has worked to set its foundation and promote its concept. It then provided the appropriate framework to ensure the participation of citizens and civil society in the management of public policies. This has allowed the emergence of different partnership mechanisms at the national level:

- Partnerships related to consultative councils, be they in matters of human rights (the Consultative Council on Human Rights, Equity and Reconciliation Body) or related to media (the High Authority on Media), or to civil service (the High Council on Civil Service);
- A partnership related to social dialogue, be it in matters related to the involvement of civil society in the preparation of economic and social development plans within the framework of thematic or sector-based commissions, or in matters related to the consensus or compromise with social partners in terms of human resource's reforms, that include salaries, civil servants' career development, as well as the development of a work code to well manage employer-employee relationship;
- Partnership for the management of local affairs that involves the 2002 communal chart, which describes the missions afferent to the management of this partnership; that is,
  - i. Supporting and assisting organisations with social, cultural and sport orientation, as well as encouraging rural associations and any organisation or person working in the economic and social domain;
  - ii. The realisation of any cooperation and partnership programme likely to give an impetus to economic and social development of the community with the administration, economic and social partners, the private sector and any group or organisation.

- Partnership mechanisms between administrative divisions and actors at the local level, in conformity with the dispositions of the Prime Minister's circular dated 27 June 2003, which stipulates developing partnerships with local actors (local councils, associations and the private sector) through:
  - Contribution and joint utilisation of the financial and human resources;
  - Exemption of the department of budget visa related to the granting of aid to associations within partnership projects;
  - Setting up of committees within each ministerial department to assess qualifications and the rate of public financing of partnership projects;
  - Granting of public financial subsidies based on transparent and objective criteria as stipulated in the procedure manual, and based also on certified accounts if the annual contribution exceeds 500 000 dirham;
  - Assessment and follow up of the carried out projects, within the framework of partnership through the preparation of bi-annual progress reports.
  
- Partnership mechanisms related to the setting up of economic utilities, with respect to law n° 13.97 of 5 February 1997, in view of implementing partnerships between one or many public institutions, and one person or a group of people, be they private or public. This legal framework allows a joint utilisation of the means available for the parties concerned in the field of education, training, technological research and development. It is also an opportunity for users to make use of the equipment at hand to carry out their projects.

Private partnership mechanism to fight corruption, especially that the decree institutionalising the central Authority to fight corruption stipulates that this entity includes representatives from the different social operators to fight this phenomenon according to a participative approach that enjoys a national consensus.

## **PART TWO**

### **The Government's Action**

### **Plan to Fight Corruption**

## **I. Programme Basis and Objectives**

### **1. Basis**

The elaboration of a national strategy to fight corruption is part of a national dynamic marked by transparency, openness, and a growing awareness of corruption among ordinary citizens and civil society practitioners. The issue is no longer considered a taboo, reflecting Morocco's support of international efforts to eradicate corruption, through the ratification of the U.N convention against corruption, the good governance initiative for the development of the Arab world, under the aegis of the Organisation for Cooperation and Economic Development and the United Nations programme for development.

It should be noted that the national strategy to fight corruption is based on the objective realisation that fighting and eradicating corruption is a national cause, requiring the commitment and mobilisation of all parties to create a national momentum against corruption.

The strategy is further supported by the conviction that it is necessary to design an extensive national programme including prevention, repression, and sensitisation, as well as international cooperation and coordination, as important mechanisms to address the geographical dimension of corruption and learn from successful experiences and good practices in this respect.

### **2. Objectives and Specificities of the Programme**

The aim of this programme is to achieve well-defined goals to support the national system, and improve Morocco's ranking in the index regarding the perception of anti-corruption activists, besides strengthening reporting procedures related to corruption practices and cases.

The programme is designed to be transversal, as it is overseen by the Prime Minister, to ensure the achievement of objectives in a harmonious and consensual manner. The programme includes facets regarding prevention, sensitisation, and repression, thanks to measures common or specific to different sectors. It also has a judicial, institutional and operational framework required in the fight against corruption.

### **3. Programme Orientations**

According to the presentation above, this programme comprises six main orientations regarding :

- nurturing ethical principles and values
- reinforcing the institutional framework to fight corruption
- formally endorsing transparency in the execution and the management of public contracts
- developing monitoring, control and audit systems
- simplifying administrative procedures to fight situations and contexts where corruption may thrive
- education, sensitisation and communication

## **II. Programme Assessment: Horizontal Levels of Achievement**

At the horizontal level, the achievements of the government's action programme can be presented as follows:

- ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption on May 9<sup>th</sup> 2007
- enactment of a law relating to the delegated management of public services aimed at promoting fair competition and transparency in the management of all services provided by public entities and local authorities, to improve standards, reduce costs, and raise security standards and abide by environmental regulations. This law also sets out regulations for delegated management contracts for public entities and services, making provisions for a participatory approach for the public and private sectors, based on an equitable relation between delegated and delegating parties.
- Enactment of a money laundering law designed to include corruption, embezzlement, and abuse of power in money laundering offenses. The law also makes strict demands on individuals involved to exercise vigilance and follow up on suspect reports with the financial information processing unit linked to the Prime Minister's office, and in charge of research and investigations. The law makes provision for the protection of individuals being investigated, even in case of suspicion of false statement.
- Setting up the financial information processing unit on April 10<sup>th</sup> 2009
- Setting up the central authority for the prevention of corruption to comply with the dispositions of Article 6 of the United Nations Convention against Corruption. This authority is a milestone in the prevention of corruption because Morocco will, for the very first time, have an institutional framework to remould all the facets of the fight against corruption and to focus solely on that objective.

It should be noted that the authority is representative of all sides and parties, bringing together representatives from different ministries, NGOs, professionals, trade unionists, and academics, to find solutions and reach a national consensus to press ahead with the prevention and the reduction of corruption.

One of its prerogatives is to define the main orientations for the prevention of corruption, as well as to collect and disseminate relevant information, and then oversee the coordination, monitoring, and the activation of policies for the prevention of corruption. The Authority also informs the judiciary of corruption cases which come to light.

The appointment of the president of the central authority for the prevention of corruption, and of the members of its general assembly, and its secretary general.

- The appointment of members of the central authority dated December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2008.
- The publication of the decree pertaining to new public procurement provisions aimed at promoting fair competition and transparency in awarding public contracts, by simplifying tender notice procedures and providing assistance to awarding procedures for public contracts (standard contracts, administrative documents, data bank on suppliers...), as well as the posting of tender bid results online, following the creation of the Moroccan portal for public procurements : [www.marchespublics.gov.ma](http://www.marchespublics.gov.ma)
- The law pertaining to the declaration of assets (O.B n° 5679 of November 3<sup>rd</sup> 2008), designed to address the shortcomings and lack of balance of existing laws, requires government and parliament members, elected officials, judges, authority agents, and top civil servants, to declare their personal assets, and establishes a list of officials required to declare their assets if their position as managers of public assets makes them vulnerable to corruption. This law also defines the types of assets to be declared, giving a mandate to the Supreme Court of Accounts to receive, process and monitor declarations, and sets sentences for failure to declare or for false declaration. Finally, this law

introduces the principle of declaration of assets in the legal regulations of all entities where the declaration of assets is required.

- The approval, during the cabinet meeting held on April 14th 2009, of the draft-project of a decree setting a model for the mandatory declaration of assets, for the acknowledgement of receipt, and for the minimum value of transfer funds.
- The appointment of the president and the members of the Fair Competition Council.
- Official nomination of the Fair Competition Council on January 6th 2009.

Improving the monitoring, control and audit system, by restructuring the preparation and the management of the general budget of the state, and adopting a new approach to financial management, based on the generalisation of credit pooling and result-based management, as well as the improvement of the CDMT multi-annual plan with the publication of the internal note from the Prime Minister dated February 8th 2008.

Improving the monitoring system designed to reinforce post-spending control of state expenditure, by merging the control of state expenditure with the General Treasury of the Kingdom, to ensure efficient spending and achieve better interaction and reactivity between different departments. On February 13th 2006, a decree was published to seal the merger of the general control of state expenditure and the General Treasury of the Kingdom, and the transfer of the responsibilities of the general auditor of state expenditure to the General Treasurer of the Kingdom.

The simplification of administrative procedures through the law introducing electronic national identity cards and its implementation decree, will contribute to reducing corruption opportunities. Electronic cards will replace a whole set of documents, such as birth, residence, life, and nationality certificates, reducing the number of documents citizens have to submit for certain administrative procedures.

Likewise, the government is aware that developing electronic administrative procedures is an effective way of providing citizens proximity-services at a lower cost, and of preventing corruption by limiting the interaction between citizens and administrative staff. In recent years, much effort has been focused on electronic management and providing access to a whole range of services and procedures using different information technology means.

In this regard, the law pertaining to the electronic exchange of judicial data was published in the Official Bulletin, while more than 190 administrative services were made available online. The « Idaratouk » programme, launched to provide information on the most common procedures, has three main objectives : the production of an « Idaratouk » T.V programme comprising 52 episodes in coordination with the 2M T.V channel, the creation of a call centre for administrative procedures (082 003 737 – C2A) which has already processed 5073 telephone inquiries and more than 13700 emails relating to administrative procedures, and putting online the public services portal [www.service-public.ma](http://www.service-public.ma), which comprises 566 procedures, 54 models and forms.

### **III. Programme Assessment: Sector-based achievements**

Besides horizontal levels of achievement which the Moroccan government has secured and which make up the general framework of the government's strategy in the fight against corruption and the promotion of ethical conduct, several ministerial departments have taken measures extending the scope of government policy.

#### **The Justice Department**

The Justice Department has taken many initiatives regarding ethical conduct in public life, fighting corruption, and taking action at the legislative and judiciary levels.

### **The Legislative level**

Legislative provisions, especially penal provisions pertaining to the fight against corruption, have been reviewed to modify the provisions of the Penal Code n° 03.79 stipulating changes in penal law and the abolition of the Special Court of Justice. Sentences for corruption offences have also been increased, while supplementary sanctions such as confiscating for the benefit of the state assets obtained from corruption, be they in cash, in stocks and shares, or in any other product.

The Code was completed with Article 1.256 of the Penal Code to incite the reporting of corruption offences, with the party offering bribes exonerated from prosecution if the corruption occurrence is reported.

### **The Judiciary level**

The judiciary system has doubled efforts to fight corruption, as can be inferred from the number of corruption cases handled by courts, and presented in the following table :

<b>Judiciary year</b>	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Number of corruption cases reported</b>	3435	4838	3948	5799	7258	6548

As the table below shows, a similar trend with regard to the number of individuals prosecuted for corruption offenses emerges :

<b>Judiciary year</b>	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
<b>Number of individuals prosecuted in court</b>	3537	5051	4166	5862	7290	6746

The simplification of procedures and the insistence on transparency in the management of the different departments, as well as the promotion of the ethical conduct and professionalism of staff, can be added to the achievements of the sector.

### **3. Economy and Finance Sector**

This sector has introduced a range of juridical, regulatory, and organisational provisions, as part of a comprehensive and integrated strategy based on measures taken at the legislative, regulatory, organisational, preventive and coercive levels.

## **At the legislative and organisational level**

- Law n°15-97 of the public debt collection Code
- Law n° 02-99 modifying the Customs, Duties and Indirect Tax Code
- Law n°17-99 of the insurance Code
- Law n°69-00 pertaining to state financial control of public and other institutions
- Decree n°2.07.1235 on state spending control
- Decree n°2.08.229 relating to the publication of legislative and regulatory texts

## **At the level of prevention, communication and internal rules**

Several measures have been taken in the sector in terms of prevention, communication and internal rules, notably :

- Sensitise staff by disseminating the good conduct charter, promoting transparency and clear procedures, while reducing the scope of administrative interference
- Monitor the granting of specific types of licence
- Set up a toll-free line at the Customs & Indirect Tax Department and the General Tax Department, with a view of extending it to all departments
- Reply to all users' complaints and justify administrative decisions
- Change processes and procedures which are open to abuse leading to corruption, by reducing contact with administrative staff and resorting to information technology, in terms of customs or tax procedures and in terms of human resources management.
- 
- Set and abide by timeline to respond to users' complaints and inquiries
- Sensitise to and involve partners in the department's efforts to fight contraband and tax fraud
- Take punitive measures and, if need be, prosecute in court any member of staff guilty of corruption, without derogating from disciplinary measures
- Strengthen the role of the ministry's inspectorate in promoting ethical conduct within the administration and in monitoring the work of accountants.
- Support the work of legislative authorities by providing all necessary documents to facilitate their constitutional task
- Speed up the execution of judiciary sentences : the Budget Department is represented in the unit in charge of executing judiciary sentences at the Ministry of Justice.

## **3. Housing, Urban and Open Space Planning Sector**

### **General action taken**

- Stengthen the role of the ministerial committee and sector-based committees on the simplification of administrative procedures.
- Prepare and make use of procedure manuals.
- Abide by procedures and provisions regarding public contracts.
- Adopt the commercialisation charter for « Al Omrane » product which is based on transparency and fair distribution of product, as well as on the protection of the citizen-customer.
- Abide by procedures to award public contracts according to clear terms of reference.
- Sign cooperation contracts with the private sector for ethical control of work completed and costs.
- Set up control mechanisms, internal and external auditing, and random control campaigns on site.

### **Specific action taken**

- Preparing a legal draft-project related to boosting ongoing control, prosecuting offenders and implementing repressive measures against any illegal act.
- Issuing a joint-document with the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Interior to activate juridical provisions regarding planning and building.
- Criminalising any act by 'Adouls', notaries, contract writers, land registry officials, registry agents, which contravenes the provisions of Law n°25-90 pertaining to property development.
- Prosecuting in a court of justice professionals or civil servants who contravene building and urban planning provisions.
- Generalising one-stop desks and simplifying administrative procedures
- Preparing the urban planning code project to outline the responsibilities of all those involved
- Auditing projects carried out by public institutions attached to the Ministry of Housing.

#### **4. National Education Sector**

**1st domain :** Signing a cooperation convention with the Moroccan Association for the Fight against Corruption (sensitisation, training, promotion of transparency culture in school programmes...)

**2<sup>nd</sup> domain :** Developing competences (trainer training, training orientation and planning teachers, local and regional training), organising, monitoring and supporting central and regional trainers, work groups.

#### **3rd domain : pedagogical kits**

The education sector and the Moroccan Association for the Fight against Corruption have both shown an interest in multimedia and pedagogical tools. In this regard, pedagogical tools have been developed to help achieve objectives with regard to the introduction of ethics in the reform of the education and training system. The following documents were published :

- A teacher's manual : « Training to fight corruption »
- A book on fighting corruption for young people
- A guide to anti-corruption education

#### **4th domain : Procedures and Processes**

- Promoting integrity and transparency when designing school books.
- Setting criteria for the appointment of managers and directors, and generalising selection criteria for central or regional positions of responsibility, and in schools.
- Implementing recommendations made in relation to good governance and ethical management.

#### **5. Equipment and Transport Sector**

The sector has seen extensive reforms to promote ethical conduct in public matters, and to counter vested interests and privileges, while allowing for more transparency and objectivity. This can be achieved by introducing new procedures, as part of organisational reforms, or improving existing procedures and adopting different approaches for different sectors (road, maritime, or sea transport...). Measures taken thus include :

- Liberalising access to relevant activities by doing away with permits or licences when deemed necessary, or by replacing them with a declaration determined by existing permits and licences.

- Including in legal texts pertaining to the reform of vital sectors the obligation to set terms of reference for all tender notices.
- Putting out to tender on a systematic basis even when legal texts do not stipulate so.
- Introducing a legal framework to regulate new professions and the exercise of unregulated professions
- Drawing up internal rules and procedures with regard to the management of civil servants to ensure fairness and equity, and fight all forms of discrimination. Promoting deconcentration policies, consolidating dialogue with social partners, and formalising recruitment processes...

## **6. The Interior Sector**

The Ministry of Interior has taken action to boost territorial management efficiency by adopting new management approaches based on :

- efficiency, transparency, and ethical conduct in the management of local public matters
- developing control, monitoring and audit mechanisms
- simplifying procedures
- protecting public interests
- creating a new and healthy climate to gain the trust of ordinary citizens

These initiatives can thus be summarised :

### **6.1. At Central Level :**

The Ministry has created new structures at central level and modernised its management approaches, thanks to the rehabilitation of its information system and the development of human resources and competences. The information network management has also been upgraded to ensure better and more efficient proximity services.

### **6.2. At the Control and Inspection Level :**

Several measures have been taken to turn the Territorial Administration General Inspectorate into one of the levers of good local governance and ethical conduct in local affairs. For instance, these measures are designed to :

- upgrade the body of controllers through training, diversifying competences, and making modern tools and techniques of control and audit available.
- assist communal managers with all necessary means and orientations, without omitting on-going control and, if need be, disciplinary measures to be taken against communal council presidents or their deputies accused of unlawful acts. This should allow courts of justice, as well as the Supreme Court and regional courts of accounts, to process and investigate these cases.
- promote within communal services the principles of auditing and inspection as a means of good governance and an alert system to prevent management errors.
- put in place and follow clear procedures to communicate with presidents of communes with regard to the findings of reports and studies. This will enable presidents to respond and be informed of corrective measures to be taken to avoid management errors often pinpointed by control bodies.

In this respect, and from early 2008 to the end of April 2009, 150 measures were taken, including :

- 31 dismissal cases of council presidents and deputies

- 8 dismissale cases of commune advisors
- 24 cases submitted to the court of accounts and regional accounts
- 59 cases of deficient management
- 19 disciplinary measures were taken against government officials and civil servants

### **6.3. At the Territorial Administration Level**

Measures taken at this level relate to different areas, such as the administrative, organisational, and legal framework, alongside other measures taken to review pedagogical and training programmes at the Royal Institute of Territorial Administration.

- The administrative and organisational framework

Measures taken in this respect pertain essentially to the institutionalisation of special units responsible for processing and monitoring complaints made against government officials and employees accused of corruption while providing a public service, or who failed to enforce urban planning regulations.

- The legal framework

Measures taken relate to rigorous and on-going monitoring process of all complaints issued against officials and agents accused of corruption or negligence.

- The promotion of human rights

The Ministry has reviewed and improved training programmes at the Royal Institute of Territorial Administration, to include training designed to promote human rights, and to hold workshops and training sessions to promote ethical conduct and transparency.

### **6.4. The Management of Local Affairs**

Promoting transparency in the management of local affairs as follows :

- Reform of the commune charter : the charter comprises several provisions designed to underscore the legality of all acts and procedures, and to promote transparency in the management of local communes, and to serve the public interest. Some of the provisions are :
  - o Separating transferred attributions from executive attributions at the level of communal councils, and removing the legal right to interfere in local administration attributions from elected officials.
  - o Delegating the right to sign official documents to deputy-presidents only, with regard to one sector for each deputy to engage responsibility and ensure transparency.
  - o Prohibiting private dealings between elected local officials and the commune and local development companies set up by the commune.
  - o Strengthen external inspection mechanisms by resorting to financial tribunals.
  
- Adoption of the new law pertaining to local finance :

This new law makes provisions for the control of communal councils and the investigation of executive bodies on the execution of budgets, with the aim of ensuring good management of public services, and promoting the rule of law and transparency. To this end, new regulations have been included to ensure that communal councils adhere to fair competition and transparency when awarding public contracts.

- Preparation of a draft-project for a decree pertaining to public contracts : The aim of the decree is to provide local communes a system that is accessible to elected local officials, with simplified

procedures for development projects, and with efficient internal control mechanisms, to consolidate transparency, fight corruption, and improve the management of local spending.

- Providing local communes with Official Bulletin issues.
- Measures relating to agencies and services can be summarised thus :
  - Working towards the generalisation of financial auditing to all agencies and services by setting up a permanent audit entity made up of representatives from the Ministry of Finance and from the Ministry of Interior.
  - Simplifying and standardising administrative procedures and defining model services provided to the public.
  - Providing the public with procedure manuals for different agencies.

## **6.5. The General Department for National Security**

The department has taken a series of measures which include training and supervision programmes, as well as contributions to international efforts to fight corruption. The department's experience in this field can be summarised as follows:

- Enforcing disciplinary procedures: In the year 2007-2008, the enforcement of these procedures resulted in punishment for civil servants guilty of unethical conduct. Punishment consisted in disciplinary removal and sentence without loss of retirement benefits. Nine cases were recorded in 2007, and fourteen cases in 2008.

- Training and in-service training : These activities are designed to :
  - Upgrade national security staff competence according to their attributions to help with the fight against corruption
  - Prevent national security staff, at all levels, from involvement in unethical conduct
  - Sensitise and support national security staff to promote dedication and professionalism which can in themselves do away with unethical conduct, regardless of existing legal provisions.

### **The Judiciary Police**

Fight against organised crime in the financial sector nationwide :

As a reminder, the Department of Judiciary Police comprises several units in charge of financial fraud of all types. These units include the financial and economic fraud unit, the national office for the fight against economic and financial crime, as well as regional units for the fight against economic and financial crime. The GDNS, through its JP representatives, is a member of the financial data processing unit, as stipulated by laws pertaining to money laundering.

## **Corruption offenses :**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of cases</b>	<b>Number of individuals prosecuted</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>

## **Embezzlement and financial negligence offenses:**

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of cases</b>	<b>Number of individuals prosecuted</b>
<b>2007</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>2008</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

- Efforts deployed as part of international security cooperation
- participation in the council of Arab Ministers of Interior and Justice Ministers meeting held in Cairo on November 2<sup>nd</sup> 2006, to examine the project of an Arab convention for the fight against corruption.
- participation in drafting the final project version of the Arab convention for the fight against corruption.

Moreover, follow-up work proceeded on the implementation of several rogatory commissions pertaining to corruption issues. Several international arrest warrants relating to corruption charges and abuse of power were issued, while warrants for foreign citizens prosecuted by foreign juridical authorities were also issued.

### **6.6. Inspectorate General of Auxiliary Forces**

The inspectorate has taken several general measures for all its units, as well as specific measures for territorial units deployed in situations and contexts which may be conducive to unethical conduct.

#### **General Mesures**

- Training and sensitisation of Auxiliary Forces Staff to professional and ethical conduct, as well as to disciplinary and administrative procedures put in place to deal with unlawful conduct and cases of corruption and abuse of power.
- Control and monitoring: the Inspectorate receives and processes complaints issued through the Control and Assessment Office.
- Administrative and judicial measures: the Inspectorate takes the necessary measures in cases of unethical conduct by members of Auxiliary Forces.

#### **Specific measures**

These measures are taken to better define rules and attributions for territorial units, under the supervision of local authorities, and in view of preserving law and order.

## **7. Health Sector**

Ethical conduct within the health sector is of particular significance, and the Ministry has prioritised the fight against corruption and the promotion of transparency. The Ministry's programme comprises 5 different domains:

Domain 1: good governance in the health sector and the promotion of transparency

- Preparation and publication of 2008-2012 action plan as a reference for accounting.
- Setting up a toll-free line, operational since April 2009, for patients.

Domain 2 : Human resources management

- Recruitment and internal mobility within the sector through coordination and dialogue with social partners, in a committee set up for the purpose.
- Disseminating news on managers' mobility on the Ministry's portal.

Domain 3 : Improving reception of patients

- generalising the display of signs and boards at the main gates of hospitals
- making badges mandatory for all members of staff
- setting up different desks for different medical cover schemes
- organising sensitisation campaigns for the fight against corruption in hospitals

Domain 4: Providing easy access to information

- posting lists of free services provided
- posting tariff lists for different hospitals
- posting monthly medical consultation and emergency service scheduled for specialist doctors

Domain 5 : Improving standards and services

- setting up mechanisms to monitor the performance of different hospital wards
- Preparing model terms of reference for purchases and supplies to ensure transparency

#### **IV. Promoting the fight against corruption through international cooperation mechanisms**

Morocco took part in the second session of the conference of member countries of the U.N convention for the fight against corruption, held in Indonesia from January 28th to February 1st 2008, to support the international campaign against corruption at a time when corruption has become a global issue. The Moroccan delegation was led by the Minister in charge of the Modernisation of the Public Sector. Morocco restated its commitment to the international fight against corruption with the signing of this convention in May 2007. Attending the meeting was an opportunity for the Moroccan delegation to present the government action plan on this issue.

Furthermore, Morocco clearly reaffirmed its position with regard to the two resolutions issued by the second session of the Conference of states party to the U.N Convention against corruption, and relating to putting in place mechanisms to monitor the effective implementation by member states of prescriptions made by the convention.

Morocco also responded positively and objectively to the two resolutions, restating its commitment to collaborating with the U.N mechanisms in question, either by filling in questionnaires or allowing consultations with governmental or non-governmental organisations, or even allowing visits on the ground. This can only underscore Morocco's position and intentions, and provide U.N monitoring mechanisms with a national interlocutor, in the guise of the central authority for the prevention of corruption, which comprises representatives of the Ministry and relevant bodies, non-governmental organisations and private sector representatives, as well as academics. This would greatly facilitate the monitoring and assessment work of the U.N.

As part of the current international campaign against corruption, and in recognition of Morocco's institutional and juridical achievements, Morocco was elected to preside over the first working group on ethical conduct and the fight against corruption, issues which form part of the good governance for

development programme for the Middle-East and North Africa. This initiative is supported by the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

This initiative will be extended until 2010, with an agreement reached to ensure that these projects fit in with the real needs of MENA countries, to set up a public policy assessment centre, to strengthen cooperation with the World Bank and the European Union, and to attract more funds from international donors to support the initiative.

## **V. Programme's Future Challenges**

It should be noted that the government's programme has resulted in the mobilisation and involvement of all sections of society in the fight against corruption, thanks to the mechanisms of consultation set up for its implementation in collaboration with non-governmental associations and the private sector. Moreover, its success is based on the excellence of its projects, on openness to other experiments and pilot schemes, and on its use of international cooperation channels.

Such a programme will very soon see qualitative change of approach, after the creation and appointment of the Central Authority for the Prevention of Corruption. In its general assembly, this authority will draw up the national strategy for the fight against corruption, which will provide a new framework for action with regard to the issue. This programme will be broadly inspired by and derived from the U.N Convention against Corruption, and will capitalise on the diverse profiles that compose the authority's general assembly, tapping into ideas, proposals and alternatives which can provide the basis of concrete government action and initiative.

The authority will also design a multiannual scheme with regard to technical assistance needs linked to the fight against corruption, as recommended during the second session of the conference of the convention member states, and will be responsible for coordinating and monitoring the national scheme mentioned above, to prevent overlapping efforts and facilitate communication with relevant bodies and institutions.

By the same token, the central authority will be the national interlocutor for the U.N mechanism derived from the conference of the convention member states responsible for implementing the convention and meeting its requirements. Likewise, the authority's attributions and the diverse profiles it comprises will provide the objective means necessary to assessment tasks to be carried out by the U.N mechanism previously mentioned.