

**Initiative on Good Governance for Development (GfD) in the Arab Countries:
Conclusions and recommendations of the thematic panels' meetings convened
during the Dead Sea Conference, 6-7 February 2005.**

**Theme One
Civil Service and Integrity**

Participants agreed on the following conclusions and recommendations.

1. Importance of the political will and commitment to reform. Indeed, without a political decision driven by commitment, no reform can be achieved.
2. There is a strong need for dialogue, deliberation, clarifying the results, and laying down plans for development and reform before introducing any reform. The absence of that dialogue obstructs the progress towards modernization and advancement. In theory, the focus is placed on the need for reform and advancement, but the problem lies in implementation. Here the question emerges regarding the enhancement of democracy and the need for democratic regimes, which is the basis of all reform and advancement.
3. There is also a need to launch constructive dialogue and define the "new" role of the state in providing public services. Emphasis should be placed on integrity.
4. The appropriate conditions for introducing changes and the model of the Arab advanced state should also be defined.
5. There is a need to enact the necessary legislation to curb corruption; define mechanisms to monitor government operations and ensure that the constitution provides for such mechanisms.
6. All forms of corruption should be investigated, not only in the cases of crimes committed by officials or institutions but also those committed by politicians and private individuals as well. The core reasons that lead to corrupt practices (low salaries, political set up etc.) should be analyzed.
7. The prevailing corruption culture should be addressed. The public interest should prevail over private interests. The focus should be placed on transparency of administrative transactions and on accountability to achieve social peace.
8. Human resources at all levels should be trained in advanced public service management; training should introduce methods and models utilized in the private sector.
9. Establish a relationship with the citizens based on transparency and accountability.

10. There is a need to focus on the concept of “citizenship” and on the citizen's role in the modernization and reform processes.
11. The chance offered by the Initiative of Good Governance for Development should not be missed. The scope of the Initiative's themes may be enlarged during implementation.