

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

**Theme Five  
Role of the Judiciary and Law Enforcement**

Participants discussed core issues and agreed on the following conclusions and implicit recommendations:

1. The need for judiciary independence.
2. Reform priority: “justice” or the “judiciary”? Both must be modernized.
3. Accountability:
  - Unity of judicial system, prosecution and investigation, rule of law, specialization, high quality courts.
  - Impartiality and integrity.
  - Codes of conduct and code of ethics.
4. The need to accelerate litigation.
  - Alternative methods for dispute resolution such as arbitration and reconciliation.
  - Develop case management systems.
5. Type of judgments.
6. Selection of judges:
  - Criteria of merit and integrity only.
  - Judicial training.
  - Increasing female judges in different specializations.
7. Review of litigation cost.
8. Enforcement of court judgments.
  - Paying attention to persons interested in justice outside the courts.
  - Serving notices.
  - Forensic medicine.
9. Public opinion polls and dealing with the media to disseminate the culture of justice.
10. Accessibility to justice systems. Developing information systems and using modern technology.

11. Adopting the rule of consensus between the government and judges.
12. Applying international criteria in trials and respect of human rights.
13. The need for Arab judicial cooperation.
14. The infrastructure of litigation and courts, strengthening judicial support services, documentation and notary public.
15. The public prosecution institutions and human rights; avoidance of political intervention.
16. Rationalizing the legislation; relationship between legislation and court judgments.
17. Judges' salaries and remuneration system and judicial inspection and accountability.