UNODC and UNDP Convene Regional Meetings on Judicial Integrity

From 30 June to 1 July 2013, UNODC and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), in cooperation with the Jordanian Anti-Corruption Commission (JACC), held a High-Level Judicial Integrity Meeting in Amman. A second meeting was held in Bangkok from 11 to 12 July 2013. These meetings brought together senior judicial and prosecution officials from throughout the two regions to discuss issues and challenges relating to strengthening the integrity and independence of the judiciary and prosecution service. UNODC is currently developing a draft Implementation Guide and Framework to assist in the evaluation of Article 11 of the UNCAC, which addresses integrity and independence of the judiciary and the prosecution service. After feedback from the two meetings has been incorporated, the draft will be presented to the Fourth Session of the Working Group on the Prevention of Corruption, to be held at the end of August in Vienna, and later formally submitted to the Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties to the UNCAC.

For more information, please contact Jason Reichelt (jason.reichelt@unodc.org), or Jonathan Agar (jonathan.agar@unodc.org).

Promoting UNCAC Implementation in Ivory Coast and other West African Countries

At a seminar organized by the National Secretariat on Governance and Capacity Strengthening of Côte d'Ivoire and UNDP on 28 May 2013, the UNODC Regional Office for West and Central Africa trained more than 200 participants from civil society and the media on the provisions of the UNCAC and its relationship with the African Union Convention on Preventing and Combating Corruption and the ECOWAS Protocol on the Fight against Corruption. From 4 to 5 July 2013, UNODC trained a team of technical experts on the UNCAC review process and the UNCAC self-assessment methodology, including the UNCAC self-assessment software. In West Africa, UNODC is also working closely with partners in Nigeria, Ghana and Liberia in preparing their respective UNCAC self-assessment reports for the 4th year of the first review cycle.

For more information, please contact Samuel de Jaegere (samuel.de.jaegere@unodc.org).
Public Procurement for Small Island Developing States

In July, UNODC conducted two three-day workshops on Public Procurement in Small Island Developing States (SIDS), in Bangkok and Panama City. Representatives from Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Palau, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands, the Cook Islands, the Maldives, Mauritius, and Fiji were in attendance. Experts, including government officials from a range of different agencies, civil society and academia, discussed implementation of Article 9 in their respective jurisdictions, with a particular focus on challenges faced by SIDS in balancing procurement requirements with available resources. While procurement systems continue to be improved, challenges were identified in terms of consistent political will, adequate resources, and the need to strengthen enforcement, including the capacity of justice system actors to understand procurement systems, public financial management and associated risks of corruption. Input collected at the workshops will contribute towards a forthcoming resource guidebook on anti-corruption in public procurement to strengthen compliance with Article 9 of the UNCAC.

For more information, please contact Claudia Sayago (claudia.sayago@unodc.org).

Expert Group Meeting on Ethical and Professional Reporting on Corruption

International media and anti-corruption experts from over 20 countries gathered from 10 to 12 April 2013 in Vienna to discuss good practices and key elements of ethical and professional reporting on corruption. Article 13 of UNCAC encourages free and open dissemination of information and discourse, with the understanding that anti-corruption efforts flourish best with the help of an informed citizenry. The meeting was part of a project, funded by the Government of Austria, which will result in a Guide for Governments and Journalists, to be released at the Fifth Session of the Conference of the States Parties.

For more information, please contact Julia Pilgrim (julia.pilgrim@unodc.org).

Integrating Anti-Corruption Principles into the UN Programming Process

At the global and country level, an increasing number of UN agencies and organizations are assisting Member States in the development and implementation of corruption risk mitigation measures. The integration of such anti-corruption elements is important to ensure sustainable development. Against this backdrop, UNODC and UNDP, with support from DOCO and coordination of the UN System Staff College (UNSSC), brought together various UN agencies to roll out the first anti-corruption training for UN programming processes, striving to have a sustained and standard approach for anti-corruption programming. Twenty-eight participants from UNDP, UNODC and WHO participated in a Training of Trainers workshop at the UN System Staff College in Turin, Italy, from 15 to 18 April 2013. The certified trainers are now available to provide training at the country level to support UN Country Teams in the integration of anti-corruption into UN Programming (UNDAF).

For more information about training opportunities at the country level, please contact Constanze von Soehnen at (constanze.vonsoehnen@unodc.org).