

**THE VISIT OF H. E. THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MR. ANTONIO MARIA COSTA
TO EGYPT
1-5 October 2004**



During the Visit of H. E. The Executive Director Mr. Antonio Maria Costa to Egypt, he discussed with high officials of the Egyptian Government, hosting the Regional Office, issues of mutual interest and explained UNODC's vision, with special emphasis on co-operation and activities foreseen for implementation not only in Egypt, but also in the region at large. These included meetings with the First Lady Mrs. Suzanne Mubarak, The Ministers of Foreign affairs, International cooperation, Justice, Interior, Health, the President of the Parliament, the National Committee on Combating Terrorism, the Anti-Narcotics General Administration (ANGA), and the National Centre on Criminal and Social Research. He also visited drug rehabilitation facilities and prisons.

The Executive Director's visit began by a working dinner, hosted by H. E. Ambassador Reedy, President of the Egyptian Council for Foreign Affairs. The Council is the think tank body responsible for the promotion of ideas and insights into foreign policy issues focusing on strategic, economic and political fields. The dinner was attended by the Deputy Minister of Justice and 25 former Ministers and Ambassadors, who are members of the Council, as well as judges associated with the International Criminal Court. At the outset, the ED provided an overview of UNODC vision regarding drug and crime matters, focusing on thematic areas, including drug trafficking and drug abuse, terrorism and organized crime, corruption and criminal justice reform, stressing the strategic location of Egypt and its political weight in the region in dealing with these issues and in promoting regional and international co-operation in criminal matters. In this regard, he informed of the intention of UNODC to establish a United Nations regional training centre against organized crime in Cairo to serve as the main operational infrastructure providing training to the

countries of the region in the field of combating organized crime, terrorism and corruption. He also emphasized the need to establish a co-ordination centre to promote law-enforcement co-operation and the sharing of criminal intelligence in the Gulf. The ED presentation was followed by an extensive discussion of various issues ranging from threats, dimensions, root causes and impact of terrorism and organized crime, to reform of criminal justice systems and its contribution to the rule of law and democratic processes.

During his visit, the ED was interviewed by representatives of various newspapers and magazines as well as radio and television stations. An exclusive interview was conducted by the Nile TV. At the end of his visit, a press conference was organized in the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC). On that occasion, the ED briefed journalists on UNODC activities, its new initiatives at the national and regional levels. He also provided a brief account on the results of his visit to Egypt. At the end of his presentation, the ED responded to queries from journalists. The press conference had a very wide coverage in various newspapers and magazines.