AFGHANISTAN (EIGHTH MEETING)

Experiences and Successes

Notable accomplishments of the government of I.R of Afghanistan in regard with fight against corruption:

- Creation/development of the Case Management System, which includes all the information regarding any case from discovery of the crime to prison/execution all in one place.
- Creation of High Council of Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption.
- Creation of National Procurement Commission
- Creation of Anti-Corruption Judiciary Centre
- The government of I.R of Afghanistan has approved the Law of Access to Information with the purpose of transparency, accountability and availability of information to public and entities.
- The government of I.R of Afghanistan has created the Commission of Monitoring the Access to Information with the membership of government representatives, CSO and media.
- A presidential decree has been issued in order to increase the speed of information dissemination.

Activities and achievements of High Office of Anti-Corruption (HOAC):

- Regular review/verification of government entities.
- 10 MoUs have been signed with government entities for training and capacity building of civil servants.
- 2 MoUs have been signed with CSO with the purpose of participation and attracting the support of public.
- 116 anti-corruption workshops have been held with the participation of 6455 public and private sector employees. HOAC has prepared and executed the Classification and to Access to Information Manual.
- HOAC has established the anti-corruption call center with four numbers, in addition complaint boxes and email addresses are also active for receiving information and complaints regarding corruption.
- The list of officials who have declared their assets and those who have not, is published in the official website of HOAC.
- 240 TV program and 240 radio program with the participation of high ranking officials, under the title Transparency has been broadcasted live throughout the country, with the help of Afghanistan National TV-Radio.
- Director General and the spokesperson of HOAC have been present in 400 media programs for accountability and presenting related information.
- Registering, publishing and verifying the assets of eligible government officials:
Registered assets: 9322, Published Assets: 260, Verified assets: 278
- Simplification of complicated procedures and review and amendment of laws and regulations
  64 procedures have been simplified in 14 government entity, 30 Laws and regulations have been reviewed and amended in 25 government entity.
- The simplified procedures have been monitored.
- 544 corruption cases were reviewed and submitted to AOP and other competent authorities.
- Receiving and verification of complaints and information: 4685 complaints and information are received and verified.
- Cooperation in arranging the anti-corruption plans for all government entities and some private sector entities.

Lessons Learned:

- Holding anti-corruption workshops and awareness programs for civil servants in public and private sector has resulted in positive changes in transparency and faster execution of affairs.
- Raising public awareness and raising awareness among government employees has increased cooperation and information sharing in corruption cases.
- Access to information and accountability regarding the corruption cases, has caused a positive change in public opinion regarding the performance of government in regard with the fight against corruption.
- Building the capacity of law enforcement agencies and competent authorities on financial investigation is a key component to fight against corruption. In 2016, FinTRACA has reinforced the number of analytical products and better utilization of analytical products and financial investigation is a key need for competent authorities.

Challenges

- Current problems regarding the approval of the new anti-corruption law in the parliament.
- In accordance with the opinions of the authorities in Education Entities, adding corruption related lessons/subjects in the curriculums is currently inapplicable due to large volume of subjects, however distribution of advertising packages among students is applicable and Ministry of Education is ready to cooperate.
- Weak cooperation form media in raising awareness and broadcasting anti-corruption programs due to lack of financial resources.
- Weak cooperation of CSOs for participation in the process of the fight against corruption due to lack of technical and financial resources.
- Security challenges in some provinces.

Technical Assistance Needed:
- Capacity building in different levels and instances of law enforcement entities, like preventive measures and financial investigations.
- Modern technical equipments.

Suggestions:
- Creation of a Case Management System that includes all the information regarding any case, from discovery of the crime to prison/execution can help countries in a more effective management of the cases.
- Attracting the cooperation from media, religious scholars and SCO in the fight against corruption.
- In order to prevent and decrease corruption crimes, it is necessary to institutionalize the anti-corruption culture with the help of public and private sectors specially education entities.
- Decrement in the volume of laws and bringing simplicity and transparency in them.