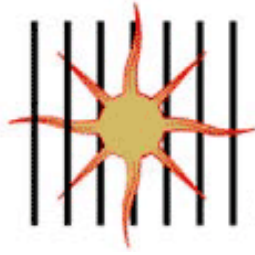




برلمانيون عرب
ضد الفساد
arab region parliamentarians
Against Corruption



JOINT PRESS RELEASE

Arab Region Parliamentarians Against Corruption / *Association pour la Défense des Droits et des Libertés* / Lebanese Transparency Association / American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative

Multi-Sectoral Alliance Formed to Enhance Transparency and Rule of Law in Lebanon through Freedom of Information and Whistleblower Protection

April 11, 2008

Sixteen representatives of the Lebanese parliament, government ministries, private sector organizations, unions, media, non-governmental organizations and Lebanese youth met on Friday, April 11, 2008 to form an Alliance which aims to develop, advocate and lobby for legal and policy reforms to enforce access to information and whistleblower protection in Lebanon.

The participating organizations agreed on an 18-month workplan commencing with the development of draft laws on Freedom of Information and Whistleblower Protection to be led by a group of legal and policy experts. The program will be supported by an advocacy campaign which aims to raise awareness in all sectors of the significance of such laws and protections in efforts to increase governmental transparency and to combat corruption, at all levels, in Lebanon.

By recognizing the role and responsibility of public and private sector institutions as well as youth and citizen groups, the Alliance aims to overcome traditional boundaries to anti-corruption efforts and to draw on the common interests of all stakeholders.

This initiative has been developed by the Lebanese Chapter of the Arab Region Parliamentarians Against Corruption (ARPAC), Lebanese Transparency Association (LTA) and Association pour la Défense des Droits et des Libertés (ADDL) in collaboration with the American Bar Association Rule of Law Initiative (ABA ROLI). Joining them on the Alliance are representatives of the following Ministries, unions and associations:

Ministry of Finance	General Confederation of Labor Unions
Ministry of Justice	Syndicate of Journalists
Office of the Minister of State for Administrative Reform	Press Syndicate
Beirut Bar Association	Association of Audio-Visual Media
Tripoli Bar Association	Maharat
Lebanese Chamber of Commerce	Nahwa Al Muwatiniya
	Youth Shadow Government

Other organizations and individuals will be invited to join the Alliance in the coming weeks to support specific segments of this initiative.

Financial assistance for this program is provided by the United States Department of State, Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights and Labor via a grant to the American Bar Association.

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