

## G8 BMENA Civil Society Dialogue on Transparency and Anti-corruption

The G8 Broader\* MENA Civil Society Dialogue (CSD) on Transparency and Anti-corruption is one of four civil society dialogues within the Forum for the Future 2005 in Bahrain. It has been supported and financed by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), within their mandate of the G8 Presidency.

The Forum for the Future is the centrepiece of the BMENA partnership which was launched at the Sea Island Summit in 2004, where the G8 agreed to establish with regional partners a Forum for the Future to further reform in the BMENA region. The first Forum for the Future was held last year in Morocco. The third and final Forum will be held in Jordan in 2006. As part of the Forum, the four CSDs have been involved in various activities since summer 2005, preparing respectively their sets of recommendations and Platform for Actions to Foreign Ministers of G8 and BMENA countries, in November in Bahrain.

The main activities of the CSD on Anti-corruption and Transparency consisted of three meetings in the BMENA region since mid July 2005; a small brainstorming session in Cairo, a working group meeting in Amman and finally a conference in Beirut, where a Platform for Action was adopted. In total, the CSD invited and gathered representatives from TI national chapters, other CSOs and the private sectors from all the G8, 16 BMENA and Turkey.

The process of the CSD on Transparency and Anti-corruption has produced a highly concrete and practical Platform for Action including three core recommendations, which have been highly commended for its concrete design, at the Forum for the Future and by various official delegations and international organisations. The Platform also mentions and recommends governments to use the TI Sourcebook of the Arabic world as well as the GCR 2006. It has equally been mentioned in the Chair's Summary of the Forum for the Future in Bahrain (see weblink below). The Platform for Action focuses on three themes and recommendations:

Good governance

*Rec. 1: Ratification and Implementation of the UN Convention Against Corruption*

Economy and key actors

*Rec. 2: Implementation of policies and practical measures to ensure transparency in public financial management*

Social capacity-building

*Rec. 3: Anti-corruption action to address the social deficit*

The CSD has also provided a valuable networking platform for experts in issues of corruption and the above mentioned subject areas. The network consisting of representatives from the TI National Chapters, NGOs and the private sector, together with the Platform for Action are aimed to serve as a sustainable ground to implement and follow-up on the outcomes and concrete recommendations. In the long-term, civil societies in the BMENA region are to build upon these structures of cooperation and share experiences in a way that strengthens and improves their efforts in formulating anti-corruption strategies and putting them into practice in their respective countries as well as at a regional level.

\* Broader MENA has in this project included: The Middle Eastern and North African countries, Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan.

Important Links

The Platform for Action (English and Arabic)

[Platform for Action - Transparency and Anti-corruption \(English\)](#)

[Platform for Action - Transparency and Anti-corruption \(Arabic\)](#)

Forum for the Future Bahrain 2005

<http://www.mofa.gov.bh/FutureForum/e/index.asp>

For other relevant documents, including the Chair's summary and background material, please visit:

<http://www.mofa.gov.bh/FutureForum/e/forum-documents.htm>