

Building the Capacity and Raising Awareness the Next Move to Fight Against Corruption

Kabul, April 9, 2009 —The High Office of Oversight for implementation of the anti-corruption strategy and UNDP signed a partnership agreement to launch the second phase of the Accountability and Transparency (ACT) project.

Realizing that the fight against corruption is one of the top priorities of the Government of Afghanistan (GoA) and after extensive consultations with government counterparts, civil society and donors, UNDP extended its Accountability and Transparency (ACT) project for three more years until 2012. ACT project extension includes extensive support to the High Office of Oversight and four other key government institutions.

This project is in line with the Afghanistan Compact and the Afghanistan National Development Strategy (ANDS). The reformulated project which initially started as a small project in 2007 to support government's anti-corruption efforts now has a total budget of 22 million USD funded mainly by DFID, Italy and Norway.



"We expect that this project will play an effective role in building the capacity of the High Office of Oversight and other government counterparts, raise public awareness on anti-corruption efforts and help us move forward in the fight against corruption." said the Director General of the High Office of Oversight, Prof. Yasin Osmani.

The decision to reformulate and expand the project was taken in response to the government's demonstration of strong commitment to fight against corruption including the establishment of the High Office of Oversight and Anti-corruption and the clear commitment of the international community during the Paris Conference to fight against corruption. The reformulated project takes a much more comprehensive approach with a clearer focus on capacity development and engagement with a larger number of government institutions and civil society organizations.

"It is a pleasure for us to enter into a partnership with the High Office of Oversight and Anti-corruption in the fight against corruption. This project, with the support of our donors, will provide an opportunity for us to strengthen our partnership with the Government of Afghanistan in anti-corruption efforts." said Mr Manoj Basnyat the UNDP Afghanistan Country Director.

The main partner of the ACT project will be the High Office of Oversight. The project will also partner with four other key government institutions - Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Education and Ministry of Interior and Control and Audit Office. In addition to the project will provide support to the Afghan Civil Society to develop their capacity to effectively contribute to the anti-corruption efforts. The project will focus on four main areas: improve institutional and policy environment for effective implementation of the national anti-corruption strategy; promote accountability, transparency and integrity in key government institutions; enhance the capacity of civil society and media; and increase awareness and understanding, amongst civil servants and public in Afghanistan of their role in the fight against corruption.