

**Transparency & Accountability
Maison du Futur, Serail Bikfaya
18 November, 2016**

BACKGROUND:

As part of its focus on the importance of sound governance in enhancing democratic practice in Lebanon and the region, MAISON du FUTUR is launching a Program on transparency and accountability, covering this crucial topic from the theoretical and practical levels, drawing on comparative assessments to determine best practices of relevance to the Lebanese context, and providing analysis of case studies in which the application of transparency and accountability principles would result in considerable gains for the citizens. This Program will be launched with the first seminar, to be held on November 18th, 2016.

AGENDA

8:30 – 9:00

Registration

9:00 – 9:15

Opening speech: President Amine Gemayel

Peter Rimmele: Resident representative, Konrad Adenauer stiftung/ Lebanon

Mme Nada Abdel Sater, Transparency International, International Board Member

9:15 – 10:45

Session 1: Corruption

Session Objectives: This introductory session will serve as an information session to ensure that all participants are familiar with the definition of corruption and the different forms of corruption, as well as beginning to identify the key factors within the national system which lead to corruption. This session will also highlight ‘why’ it is worthwhile to engage in the fight against corruption by advocating for improved transparency and accountability, as well as identifying some of the different tactics and mechanisms which citizens and governments can use to that end

Points of Discussion:

- Defining Corruption
- What are the different Forms of Corruption?
- What Enables Transparency and Accountability to Flourish?
- Is there a Business Case for Transparency and Accountability? (Why fight against corruption?)
- What can Lawmakers and Citizens do to Promote Transparency and Accountability?

Moderator: Abboud Bejjani: Vice president MEA region , Abbvie.

Panelists: Khaled Kabani, former Lebanese Minister, Badri El Meouchi, Chairman of the Lebanese Transparency Association, Amer Khayat Secretary General of the Arab Transparency organization.

10:45 – 11:00

Coffee Break

11:00 - 12:30

Session 2: Transparency and Accountability in Lebanon

Session Objectives: This session will focus on the current challenges being faced in Lebanon regarding good governance, transparency and accountability. The session will also focus on the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC), which was signed by Lebanon in 2008 but has not yet been applied.

Points of Discussion:

- What is the potential impact of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC) for Lebanon? (Gap Analysis of Current Lebanese Laws)
- Why are Transparency and Accountability so Weak in Lebanon?
- How Can Transparency and Accountability be Strengthened in Ministries and Other State Institutions – (Case study: The Role of the Ministry of Justice)
- What are the Challenges to strengthening Transparency and Accountability in Lebanon? What are the Best Ways to Address/Overcome these Challenges?
- How can Citizens be Encouraged to Engage in the Fight to Promote Transparency and Accountability?

Moderator: Badri El Meouchi (Chairman – Lebanese Transparency Association)

Panelists: Arkan El Siblani, (UNDP Regional Program Manager), Ghassan Moukheiber (MP), Judge Marcel Bassil.

12: 30 – 13:30

Session 3: Case Studies

Session Objectives: This session will address two on-going issues in Lebanon, which are also a cause of considerable public frustration, from a Transparency and Accountability perspective. Presentations will cover: (a) The continuing failure of the electric public utility, since the end of strife in 1990 to provide adequate supply to cover the country's domestic and industrial needs; (b) the opaque assignment of the waste management functions to a private contractor, and the severe breaches in sound practices by both government and contractor, at the detriment of society and environment

- **Electrical sector:** How can Good Governance, Transparency and Accountability be strengthened in EDL?
- **Garbage sector:** How can Good Governance, Transparency and Accountability be strengthened in Waste Management?

Moderator: Sami Haddad

Panelists: Ziad Hayek (Head of Privatization Council), Gina Chammas (Former Consultant of EDL), Mervat Al Hoz (Head of Environmental Engineering program, Balamand University).

13:30 *Lunch, Keynote speaker*

- **Dr Ziad Baroud**, Former Minister