

# ROLACC ANNUAL REPORT



مركز حكم القانون ومكافحة الفساد  
Rule Of Law & Anti-corruption Center

COVERING ACTIVITIES DURING 2016



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## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

The following abbreviations have been used in this Report:

AWARD      Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani international  
Anti-Corruption Excellence Award

ACAD      Anti-Corruption Academic Initiative

IAACA      International Association of Anti-Corruption  
Authorities

ROLACC      Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center

UNODC      United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

UNDP      United Nations Development Program

UNCAC      United Nations Convention Against Corruption



## FOREWORD

During the last decade, the international community has expressed its preoccupation about the spread of corruption which, in many cases, had taken the form of transnational organized crime and expressed its concern for the need to strengthen international cooperation to ensure effectiveness in combating this phenomenon, by strictly implementing the comprehensive approach adopted by the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC).

The serious effects of corruption are obvious, represented particularly in undermining the rule of law; principles of democracy; and violating human social, economic and political rights because of pillaging public funds and smuggling them to safe financial places that provide safe haven for immoral persons for not applying international standards against corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism, instead of investing such funds in sustainable development, health, education and fighting poverty.

To ensure optimal implementation of the UNCAC, Doha Declaration of 2009 following the third session of the Conference of the States Parties in the period from 9 to 13 November 2009, adopted the proposal of the State of Qatar represented in the creation of Review Mechanism and assess the member states' compliance with the provisions of the Convention.



During the presidency of the State of Qatar for that conference, His Highness the Emir, may God protect him, proposed the establishment of a center with international character in the name of "Rule of Law & Any-Corruption Center" (ROLACC) to be based in the city of Doha. The purpose of this Center is to work on building strategic partnerships to spread awareness, sensitization, education and training in the area of policies and mechanisms to prevent corruption, identify international standards and best practices to address this phenomenon in the world in General and in countries in which this phenomenon is spread in particular, through holding training courses, forums and conferences to effectively contribute to building capabilities, supporting capacities and providing technical assistance.

For putting the Qatari leadership's initiative, the ROLACC was established under to the Emiri Resolution No. (94) for 2013, on 05/08/2013. The Center is a private institution of public interest works in cooperation with national, regional and international institutions concerned with supporting the rule of law, good governance and combating corruption, particularly, with specialized United Nations Offices and Institutions. The vision of the ROLACC is based on the effective contribution in strengthening integrity, transparency, and wise governance and rule of law, which rhymes with Qatar National Vision 2030 announced by the General Secretariat for Development Planning in July 2008.

Moreover, the vision of the ROLACC is based on international standards and best practices in line with good governance and combating corruption. Thus, the Center contribute to achieving the goals of the United Nations in the sustainable development (2030 agenda). Especially, goal 16 on promoting the building of a just, peaceful and comprehensive communities to all people, since peace, stability, human rights and wise governance based on the sovereignty of law are important channels for sustainable development, which



contribute to substantially reducing illicit flows of money and weapons, and promote recovery and retrieval of stolen assets, in addition to combating all forms of organized crime by the year 2030, as well as to reduce significantly corruption and bribery in all its forms, and to establish effective and transparent institutions that are subjected to accountability at all levels, in order to provide an appropriate climate to achieve its vision that correspond to the objectives of the United Nations on Sustainable Development, the ROLACC since its inception set a long-term and multidimensional strategy linked to integrated subsidiary objectives that will lead to achieving that vision.

On that basis, the activity of the ROLACC during 2016 was characterized especially by launching new initiatives directly connected with the Center's activity, most important of which is H.H Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani Award for Excellence in Combating Corruption. It is an annual international award given on 9 December every year coinciding with the celebration of the world day to fight corruption. Besides, this award had been approved by H.H the Emir to motivate endeavors throughout the world to be engaged in the process of combating the blight of corruption in all its forms.

At the academic level, an agreement was signed with the British "University of Sussex" to teach master's program in Law, Governance and Corruption over two academic years to be held at premises of the ROLACC. This Program was inaugurated by H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior.

In this context, the Program of Combating Corruption was also complemented through education relevant to the Cooperation Agreement signed between ROLACC and the UNODC for capacity building in the fight against corruption through education. The organization of the remaining two training courses in cooperation with the Academic Initiative of UNODC (ACAD) came for the benefit of academics and students in the issue of combating corruption. The first



was an international course sponsored by ROLACC held in Doha in April 2016. While the second was regional dedicated for the Middle East and North Africa Region (MENA) held at the Faculty of Law in the Tunisian capital during September 2016. Presentations made by experts focused on various topics of UNCAC. The works of those sessions were culminated by the issue of a set of recommendations, notably the adoption of a new model curriculum for teaching the subject of combating corruption in faculties of law.

Furthermore, the year 2016 witnessed the election of the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ROLACC, who was unanimously elected as Chairman of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) during the meeting of its General Assembly held in the city of Tianjin in China on February 11 and 12, 2016. Accordingly, at the end of 2016 the ROLACC began coordinating with the concerned parties for setting a future action plan for the Association's works.

Within the framework of the Board of Trustees of the ROLACC representing in holding annual periodical meetings to follow up and evaluate the activity of the Center, the Board of Trustees held a meeting on May 2, 2016 in Doha. On the sidelines of this meeting, a roundtable was organized on combating corruption in the Arabic Region supervised by the Chairman and Members of the Board of Trustees.

Finally, the ROLACC is determined to move forward in accomplishing its duties optimally and providing opportunities to initiatives to keep abreast of latest developments internationally, regionally and locally aimed at boosting the elements of wise governance, combating corruption, money laundering and financing of terrorism.

**Dr. Ali Bin Fetais Al-Marri**  
**Chairman of the Board of Trustees**





The activity of the Rule of Law and Any-Corruption Center (ROLACC) during 2016 was characterized by to the continued process on the path of openness and constructive cooperation with international, regional and national institutions, which specialties attitudes are identical to the ROLACC's vision, interests and goals. In this sense, the ROLACC was keen to enhance its strategic partnerships, whether to complement the implementation of the yet unachieved medium-term programs, or to update its activity by launching new initiatives in line with its aspirations and future perspectives as a Centre enjoying an international status.

Accordingly, the ROLACC's activity during 2016 was characterized by its diversity and innovation, whether (1) at international level, or (2) in academic field, or (3) at the domestic level.

### **1. International Activity**

The support of international efforts to combat corruption falls within the core duties of the ROLACC that are related to the trends and policies aimed at setting effective strategies to combat corruption, as well as strengthening cooperation with the various parties concerned with enforcing the measures and mechanisms of combating corruption. This includes the Judicial Authority; Public Prosecution; Central Authorities; Anti-corruption bodies; Financial Intelligence Units; Private Sector; Non-Governmental Organizations; Academia and Information Media.

Therefore, the ROLACC's international activity during 2016 witnessed the launch of Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani Excellence Award (A). The award is designed to encourage the adoption of best practices to ensure proper implementation of measures and





mechanisms in combating corruption through the stimulation of initiative and innovation, and to take advantage of leading experiences in combating corruption, for the purpose communicating this advantage to all concerned parties, apart from the active participation in running the works of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Bodies (B), and to support international efforts in this field (C).

### **A) The Launch of Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani Excellence Award in combating corruption.**

The most prominent activity achieved by the ROLACC in 2016 was the launch of Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani Excellence Award in Combating Corruption. This idea originated when the ROLACC in October 2015 organized the 8<sup>th</sup> meeting of the General Assembly of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities in the city of "Saint Petersburg" of the "Federal Republic of Russia. Article 20 of the Saint Petersburg Declaration welcomed the initiative announced by H.E. Dr. Ali Bin Fetais Al-Marri, in his capacity at that time acting President of the IAACA, before being unanimously elected as President of the Association in May 2016, represented in the launch an international award carrying the name of H.H. Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of Qatar, for Excellence in Combating Corruption.

The launch of this Award comes in line with the UN General Assembly Special Summit in September 2015, "Agenda 2030" and its sustainable development goals, to advance global priorities such as poverty eradication, health promotion, education, food security as well as social, economic and environmental goals. thus, Goal 16 is based on the need to "strengthen the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure access to justice for all as well as to expand and strengthen the participation of developing countries in global



governance institutions, which justifies the need to eliminate corruption and bad governance in all its forms.

To support these goals, Qatar announced in November 2015 at the 8th Annual Conference of the IAACA held in St. Petersburg, the establishment of the Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani Excellence Award in Combating Corruption. The Award not only limited Qatar's commitment to preventing corruption, but also demonstrated its dedication to achieving the United Nations' Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Award is given annually coinciding with the celebration of the International Day against Corruption (9th December) and in recognition of the contribution to the global campaign of individuals and institutions who have dedicated themselves to combating corruption in accordance with international standards in this field.

The Award aims to serve as a tool to highlight best practices and to assess, promote, collect and disseminate the most widely used examples of anti-corruption worldwide, as well as raise awareness, support and solidarity to ensure greater effectiveness in combating corruption, in addition to stimulating similar and new initiatives and mobilizing them towards a society free of corruption.

For these reasons, the Award was divided into several categories, in recognition of the outstanding efforts in various fields within the international endeavors to fight corruption. These categories are:

- Anti-corruption lifetime/outstanding achievement
- Anti-corruption academic research and education.
- Anti-corruption youth creativity and engagement.
- Anti-corruption innovation.

Through its general background, the Award aims not only to identify those whom are fighting corruption effectively but also to celebrate them around the world, as well as to stimulate governments, academic institutions, media and civil society to adopt the principles of UNCAC and cooperation for their good implementation.

The award is a recognition of the best practices of anti-corruption activists and practitioners in accordance with the Doha



Declaration of the 13th United Nations Conference on Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention held in Qatar on April 12 and 19, 2015 on the integration of Criminal Justice and Crime Prevention on the broader United Nations agenda to address social and economic challenges and to promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and public participation. The Declaration also noted the strong relationship between the rule of law and sustainable development, since the prevention of corruption is the cornerstone of the fight against this plague.

The conference was preceded by the Doha Youth Forum, the world's first youth forum on criminal justice and crime prevention. The officials highlighted the need to enhance youth participation in the formulation of international and national decisions.

Following the announcement of the Award, the ROLACC cooperated directly with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to conduct a study on best practices in similar awards, prepare the Terms of Reference, establish the Award Secretariat, the Assessment Advisory Board and the High-Level Committee.

### **Award Secretariat**

The Secretariat was established as the administrative office of the Award, and carries out the essential administrative and procedural work necessary to support the High-Level Award Committee and the Assessment Advisory Board. This is to ensure that the selection committees can carry out their functions and duties to the best of their abilities.

The Secretariat provides relevant communications and meeting facilities, administrative support as well as logistical assistance. Working year-round, the Secretariat seeks to ensure and approve upon the Award's nomination and selection procedures to establish a fair and transparent implementation of the Award. The Secretariat also ensures the selection committees that the nominations they receive are valid and comply with all the requisites put forth by the guidelines to Nominations.



## **Assessment Advisory Board**

The role of the Assessment Advisory Board is to assess and review all nominations that have been accepted by the Secretariat and select the best nominations from each category for the High-Level Award Committee to give their final selection.

The Assessment Advisory Board is composed of internationally renowned experts in varied fields of Anti-Corruption.

## **High -Level Award Committee**

The High -Level Award Committee, composed of the members of the Board of Trustees of the ROLACC and headed by the Chairman himself, is trusted to exercise its good judgement and select the final winners for each of the Award's categories.

They receive the shortlist of nominees provided by the Assessment Advisory Board, which includes the Board' recommendations for each of the selected nominees.

the first ceremony of the Award was held in Vienna on 9 December 2016, with the honor of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar, H.E Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations Organization, Senior officials from politicians, academics, jurists and intellectuals from around the world.

118 candidates competed for the Award. The winners were chosen with great care by the Assessment Advisory Board for Evaluation of Candidates and the High-Level Committee, which was keen to review all the work submitted with impartiality, objectivity and professionalism.



The event received considerable regional and international attention, which would reflect increased regional and international awareness of corruption issues and support efforts to combat it.



**Ceremony of Delivering Awards to Winners of  
Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani Excellence Award  
held in Vienna on December 9, 2016.**



## **B) Management of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA).**

The ROLACC participated with a delegation headed by H.E. Dr. Ali Bin Fetais Al-Marri, Chairman of the Board of Trustees in the 9th General Meeting of the IAACA held on May 10 to 13, 2016 in the city of Tianjin-China.

It should be noted that the St Petersburg Declaration issued after the 8th Annual General Meeting and Conference of IAACA held from October 30 to November 1, 2015, included under Article 19 that according to the Resolution of the Executive Committee in accordance with the Association's Statute prescribing the appointment of H.E Dr. Ali Bin Fetais Al-Marri, as the Attorney General of the State of Qatar, as Acting Chairman of the Association until the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference and the General meeting on 2016, with the support of his appointment as Chairman of the Association. During the ninth plenary meeting, His Excellency was elected unanimously to be the President of the Association.





**Election of His Excellency Dr Ali Bin Fatis Al-Merri unanimously as Chairman of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Bodies during the Association's general meeting held in Tianjin, China, on 11 and 12 May 2016.**

While holding the 9<sup>th</sup> Conference and General Meeting in May 2016, the Association's President H.E. Dr. Ali Bin Fetais Al-Marri, expressed his interest in developing the work procedure of this important international institution. In that regard, he proposed the amendment of the Association's Statute in line with the requirements of this stage calling for further coordination of international efforts to combat corruption quickly and effectively. Also, the Executive Committee instructed the Secretariat of its interest in reviewing the Association's work Plan, provided the outcome of audit work shall be proposed to the Annual Conference and General Meeting in its 10<sup>th</sup> session for examination and approval, as appropriate.





Accordingly, the Executive Committee begun under the supervision of the President of the IAACAC, coordinating works on preparing preconception on reforms to be introduced to the Statute of the IAACAC, apart from reviewing the future action plan of the Association's work procedure.

After finishing the audit works, the annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the IAACAC was held in Doha on February 27 and 28, 2017. The meeting was chaired by H.E Dr. Ali Bin Fetais Al-Marri, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Center, in his capacity as President of the Association.

The meeting discussed many issues listed in the agenda, including the review of the outcomes prepared by the Working Group in charge of the amendment of the Association's statute. Regarding that the Executive Committee had held a meeting at the Center on February 28, 2017 and raised its recommendations to be considered by the Executive Committee. The Association's work plan was also discussed, including the time and venue of the next annual meeting of the General Assembly.

During the meeting with members of the Executive Committee, H.E. Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ROLACC welcomed the members of the Executive Committee, and expressed his hope in the development of the Association and its role to become an international assembly concerned with the fighting of corruption, and ensure continuing communication among anti-corruption Authorities worldwide and promote cooperation among them.

The works of the Executive Committee during its meeting resulted in taking the following decisions:

- Adoption of the draft revision of the Statute of the IAACA signed by the Working Group formed for this purpose.



- Reviewing and discussing the work plan project of the Association proposed to it, which called for the necessity of exerting further efforts to ensure the proper application of the new proposed work plan to be as an added value by updating the website of the Association, and enhance cooperation and mutual assistance between members, as well as emphasizing the importance of training courses and studies in the field of combating corruption. The Committee also decided the proposal of this work plan project of the Association to its members to express any observations and proposals over the plan. The Executive Committee should examine such observations and proposals in its next meeting before submitting them in the General Meeting.
- The Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center shall be authorized to assume the secretarial tasks of the IAACA.



**Meeting of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Bodies Held at the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center in Doha (27-28 February 2017)**



The Executive Committee has observed that its works should be consistent with the directives and recommendations of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. Particularly, with the outcome of works carried by the open-membership of the international-governmental working group concerned with the prevention of corruption in its seventh session held in Vienna (August 22 -24, 2016) concerning the implementation of the Conference Resolution 6/6, titled "Follow-up of Marrakesh Declaration on the Prevention of Corruption". In respect of this Declaration, the Secretariat prepared a basic information paper on public sector about the body or bodies concerned with combating corruption. In this connection, the Conference recommended the Member States to "ensure that those bodies concerned with combating corruption should enjoy the necessary independence, in accordance with the fundamental principles of their legal systems. Also, those bodies should be provided with material resources and specialized staff to enable them to discharge their duties effectively regardless of any unjustified influence, pursuant to Paragraph 2 of Article 6 of the Convention (Paragraph 3) 8. For the support of this recommendation, the Office continued its close collaboration, at global level, with the IAACA and its support to this Association in various methods, including the participation in its ninth general annual meeting held in Tianjin, China, during the period from May 10-13, 2016 for discussing the future of anti-corruption Authorities and the lessons learned from past experiences. In the final document of the Conference - "**Tianjin Declaration**", the States Parties were called among other issues to be guided by the Convention while forming Anti-Corruption Authorities or reforming the power vested therein.



**Technical presentation done by a representative of ROLACC in the Events of the IAACAC on International Cooperation in the fight against Corruption (Tianjin-China from 10 to 13 May 2016)**





## **C) Supporting International Efforts in Combating Corruption.**

The international involvement is included within the priorities of the strategic vision set by ROLACC since its establishment, as a result of the urgent need for Arab and African countries to be assisted in combating corruption and to support the elements of the rule of law and integrity, which will contribute to establishing the values of democracy and social justice, which would lead to realizing social and political security, and to go ahead in achieving sustainable development.

### **1) Supporting Efforts of Combating Corruption in Africa.**

Since its establishment, the ROLACC set a comprehensive approach aims at the international and regional effective contribution to building capacities and providing technical assistance in all areas related to establishing the values of good governance and prevention of corruption of all its forms. From this perspective, supporting the combating of corruption in Africa was included within the programs of priority of the ROLACC's activities.

Therefore, in April 2015, an agreement was signed between the ROLACC and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), to organize training courses for judges, lawyers, prosecutors and security officers in the continent of Africa, with a view to strengthening the rule of law and combating corruption in Africa. The agreement provided a special budget should be allocated for those courses, and this budget shall be contributed to support the countries interested in African Affairs, including the State of Qatar.

According to the participation of the ROLACC in managing and organizing the Conference in enhancing the rule of law and combating



corruption in Africa, held in Dakar on June 2-4, 2015. Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ROLACC H.E Dr. Ali Bin Fetais Al-Marri, with H.E. Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Republic of Senegal, and His Excellency Mr. Abdullah Mar, Assistant Secretary General of the UNDP in Dakar, and in the presence of ministers of justice from (16) African countries, inaugurated this Conference. Meanwhile, H.E Dr. Al-Marri stressed during his address to the Conference his full commitment in supporting the rule of law and combating corruption in different countries through the partnership established by the ROLACC with the UNDP and the UNODC.



**Ministerial Conference on the fight against corruption in Africa  
Under the auspices of H.E Mr. Macky Sall, President of the Senegal  
Organized jointly between  
ROLACC, Government of Senegal and UNDP  
Dakar on June 2-4, 2015**



On the sidelines of the Conference, H.E Dr. Ali Bin Fetais Al-Marri also met with the Ministers of Justice from Niger, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Chad, Guinea and Nigeria. they exchanged views on ways and means concerning support of ROLACC for African States in the field of promoting integrity, transparency, good governance and combating corruption.

As part of this cooperation, a meeting was held on February 21, 2016 at the premises of the ROLACC in Doha between a delegation chaired by H.E Mr. Sidiki Kaba, Minister of Justice in Senegal, a delegation from the ROLACC, chaired by H.E Dr. Ali Bin Fetais Al-Marri, Chairman of the Board of Trustees and a delegation from the UNDP. The meeting discussed prospects of cooperation between the Ministry of Justice in Senegal and the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center, especially on the establishment of the Rule of Law and Enhancement of Judicial Institutions Center in Dakar, to be concerning with strengthening the powers vested in the law enforcement authorities in entrenching the principles of integrity, transparency, accountability and combating corruption, in addition to training on corruption, prevention mechanisms and technical investigation in financial and economic crimes in accordance with best practices and international standards adopted in this regard.





**H.E Dr. Ali Bin Fetais Al-Marri, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ROLACC with H.E Mr. Sidiki Kaba, Minister of Justice in Senegal Doha on February 21, 2016.**

The meeting was culminated by signing on April 7, 2016 an agreement of cooperation between the Ministry of Justice in Senegal, represented by H.E Mr. Sidiki Kaba, Minister of Justice, and the ROLACC, represented by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, H.E Dr. Ali Bin Fetais Al-Marri, concerning the establishment of the Rule of Law and Enhancement of Judicial Institutions Regional Center, based in Dakar. The established center shall work in close cooperation with the ROLACC.

The African Center shall assume the following basic tasks:

- Employing all necessary efforts to raise awareness and spread knowledge among the public about the importance of the rule of law;
- Promoting research, education and training in the field of the rule of law;
- Organizing training courses for the benefit of practitioners from the judiciary corps, including (prosecutors, judges, lawyers, notaries, investigators, experts, etc.), in addition to groups from the civil society in the field of combating organized crimes, particularly, those



pertaining to corruption and money-laundering, terrorism and its financing, illicit enrichment, trafficking in persons, drugs, and electronic crime, etc.

- Organizing lectures, seminars and forums within the Center's competence;
- Coordination with international, regional and national organizations, and civil society organizations active in supporting the rule of law and combating corruption;
- Exchange of information and experiences with similar regional and international centers;
- Achieving researches and studies related to the tasks and objectives of the Centre;
- Ensuring the issuance of periodicals and magazines which contents are in line with the Center's tasks and goals;
- Promoting the establishment of regional and national projects aimed at supporting the rule of law and combating corruption;
- Strengthening international and regional cooperation in the areas of the Center's competence;
- Establishing cooperation relationships with members of parliaments network, International Association of Prosecutors, especially the Francophone Association of Prosecutors and the International Association of Prosecutors
- sharing experiences and best practices to address corruption and prevent impunity from punishment of all kinds to ensure an independent, effective and successful judiciary system;
- Creating alternative mechanisms in the settlement of disputes both in case of peace or in dispute.



## **2) Providing Technical Assistance to recover stolen assets in the Arab Region.**

The United Nations Convention against corruption paid special attention concerning asset recovery by allocating Chapter Five to this topic.

In the light of the magnitude of corruption revealed by the Arab revolutions, and the transfer abroad of significant portion of those funds in search of a safe financial arenas sponsored by foreign countries, that are included in their economic cycles by resorting to the typical methods of money laundering, that is why the ROLACC put at the top of its priority the task of providing assistance in the recovery of stolen assets in order to save people affected by corruption and tyranny.

On the occasion of the first session of the Arab forum on asset recovery hosted in Doha from 11 to 13 September 2012, which was then inaugurated by HH Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani, with the participation of H.E Dr. Mohamed Al-Moncef Al-Marzouqi, President of the Republic of Tunisia, and in the presence of a number of Ministers of Justice, notary publics, judges and representatives of law enforcement authorities, and representatives from the World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in addition to the StAR Initiative for the recovery of stolen assets, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, once appointed as United Nations Special Attorney for the asset recovery, proposed in September 2012 to Arab States, which faced difficulties in recovering funds derived from corruption and smuggled abroad to coordinate with him to help them in implementing requests for international cooperation aimed at freezing, seizure and confiscation of funds for the purpose of returning such funds ultimately to the affected States.



In December 2012, the Tunisian Government represented by then the Minister of Justice, signed an authorization to United Nations Special Advocate. This authorization was for representing and assisting the Tunisian Government in the implementation of a mutual judicial assistance addressed previously to the concerned authorities in Lebanon aimed at the recovery of the sum twenty-eight Million and eight hundred thousand US dollars (28,800,000.00 USD) that was frozen in one of the Lebanese banks to the Tunisian State.

Indeed, the United Nations Special Advocate was able to recover the funds in coordination with ROLACC and with both the Tunisian and Lebanese authorities to overcome the legal and actual difficulties which prevented from responding to that request. In this case, the UN Advocate received a check of the above claimed amount, as a result of a civil judgment bestowing exequatur on the criminal judgment which decided the confiscation of that amount, issued by the Criminal Court in Tunisia in 2011. For enforcing the above judgment, the United Nations Special Advocate moved in April 2013 to Tunisia where he delivered the check to the President of the Republic of Tunisia.

In this connection, the "Star" Initiative affiliated to the World Bank and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, has commended the recovery of stolen assets within a record time of about four months only. Also, the Initiative considered the success in this case to be the fruit of efforts exerted by United Nations Special Attorney, in addition to the unprecedented coordination in the Arab region and the strong political will of Lebanon in this case<sup>1</sup>. Besides, this success represents a

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#### <sup>1</sup> The Stolen Asset Recovery Initiative (StAR)

**Jean-Pierre Brun**, Janvier 14, 2014

«... En Avril 2013, un nouveau succès, le recouvrement par la Tunisie de 28,8 millions de dollars dissimulés sur un compte en banque au Liban appartenant à l'épouse de M. Ben Ali, a clairement démontré que les efforts constants et persistants des autorités tunisiennes et d'autres entités intéressées pouvaient s'avérer payants. Ce succès, qui doit encore être confirmé par les juridictions suprêmes libanaises, est le fruit d'une collaboration sans précédent dans le monde arabe, une forte volonté



strong message in that the recovery of looted funds is possible if there is political will and knowledge of the legal procedures to be followed in this Area.

Depending on the success of that case, following official working visit made by the Chairman of the Board of Trustees in June 2015 to Tunisia, during which the Chairman held several meetings with the President of the Republic of Tunisia; Prime Minister and Chairman of the People's Parliament; Minister of Justice; Minister of State for Real Estate Affairs; Governor of the Central Bank; and with the Truth and Dignity Authority in charge of overseeing the process of transitional justice in Tunisia; the Tunisian Minister of Justice signed a second mandate on July 7, 2015 on behalf of the Tunisian Government delivered to the President of the Board of Trustees of the ROLACC, in his capacity as a Special UN Advocate for combating corruption. This post was assumed by the Chairman in October 2014, and this mandate permits him to represent the State of Tunisia before foreign authorities in pursuing international judicial procedures and to assist in implementing them in respect of asset recovery. According to the mandate mentioned earlier, His Excellency held meetings in July 2015 with Swiss officials at premises of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland (Department of International Law), who proposed to them to consider the possibility of recovering the money frozen in Switzerland in simplified procedures, needless to wait until a judgment is issued in the indictment, as stipulated in the United Nations Convention Against Corruption. In this connection, it was based on the consent of the person concerned in writing, and according to an authorization sign by him issued to the special UN Advocate to transfer his frozen funds in Switzerland in order to be deposited with the Central Bank of Tunisia until a final decision is taken in the current case

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*politique au Liban, et les efforts de l'avocat spécial des Nations Unies, le Procureur Général du Qatar Al Marri, ainsi de l'initiative StAR, en vue de développer des contacts bilatéraux entre les praticiens libanais et tunisiens... ».*



in preparation for reconciliation as it was stated by the concerned official to be done with the State of Tunisia. In this context, As a result, on May 5, 2016 the first reconciliation agreement was signed between the Tunisian State and the Truth and Dignity Authority that is in charge of supervising the transitional justice process in Tunisia, on the one hand, and the official concerned with judicial prosecution in respect of the financial corruption crimes, who in his turn signed an official authorization to the United Nations' Advocate concerned with combating corruption in order to represent him before the Swiss Authorities, on the other hand. This agreement aims at returning the frozen funds in Switzerland to Tunisia in simplified procedures, and to be secured pending legal proceedings. The funds were transferred from Switzerland to the Public Treasury in Tunisia in June 2017.

According to this general authorization, the United Nations' Special Advocate sent in October 2015 a file to the Attorney General of the Kingdom of Luxembourg for the transfer of the frozen funds in Luxembourg to Tunisia according to simplified procedures prescribed in the Law of Luxembourg. This file was approved in November 2015 by the investigating judge concerned with this case in Luxembourg, where the Tunisian Ministry of Justice was notified of this procedure in December 2015 to communicate this issue to the investigating judge in Tunisia for signing a permission for transferring the funds through diplomatic way to the judicial authorities in Luxembourg. At the beginning of 2016, the Tunisian judicial authorities began assuming the procedures required to recover the funds in simplified procedures pursuant to the approval obtained by the United Nations Special Advocate from the competent judicial authorities in Luxembourg, in coordination with the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center.

The United Nations Special Advocate is still working in collaboration with the ROLACC on a number of stolen asset recovery



cases, particularly concerning Libyan funds smuggled abroad, which requires more time to finish them, until the security and political climate becomes appropriate for cooperating with the State of Libya in this field.





## II. ACADEMIC ACTIVITY

Given the important role of education in the prevention of corruption, the academic programs of the ROLACC since its establishment were given special attention due to the constructive cooperation with the concerned academic institutions at the international, regional and national levels.

Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ROLACC has confirmed the important academic role in combating corruption through his lecture delivered in April 2015 on promoting standards against corruption, and the role academic resources against corruption, on the sidelines of the 13<sup>th</sup> Conference of the United Nations on combating crime and criminal justice, held in Doha.

In this regard, the ROLACC during 2016 launched an educational initiative represented in the teaching of the Master program in law, governance and corruption in collaboration with the British University of Sussex (1); and updating the fight against corruption program through education, in collaboration with the Academic Initiative affiliated to the UNODC (2); as well as expanding scope of cooperation concerning the establishment of a chair at universities for combating corruption (3).



## 1. Launching Master Program in Law, Governance & Corruption.

The ROLACC in conjunction with the British University of Sussex, succeeded in launching the Master Degree Program in October 2016 in law, governance and corruption. This Program was designed by an elite of senior lecturers from the University of Sussex according to the University's standards. The academics came to the State of Qatar to teach students who have satisfied the required qualifications for attending this University, whether the students are from the public or private sectors, or from non-governmental organizations. Provided they should meet the usual standards adopted by the University. Besides, the Program is considered a supporting element for the development of the legal and technical framework for professionals and workers in all sectors in combating corruption.

It is well-known that the Sussex University is an academic institution that is recognized for its global leadership in combating corruption. Especially, "Sussex Center for the Study of Corruption", which is a research centre at the Faculty of law, politics and sociology at the University.

The ceremony was attended by His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior, which reflects the eagerness of executive power at the highest levels to promote these activities and spread awareness of combatting corruption at all levels.

In the same context, the ROLACC is working on launching more of these programs with many prestigious universities in the world. An agreement is now in underway on final details with each of the British Oxford University and the University of Mohamed Fifth of Morocco, as well as with the American Colombia University and the University of



Geneva of Switzerland on the launch of those Programs will be announced soon.



**Under the Supervision of HE Sheikh Abdullah Bin Nasser Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Prime Minister and Minister of Interior in the celebrating of the inauguration of the Master Program in Law, Governance and Corruption, launched by the ROLACC in collaboration with the Sussex University, Doha on October 2, 2016.**



## **Master's Lecturers and Students in Law, Governance and Corruption for the University Academic Year 2016-2017**

### **2. Complementing the fight against Corruption Program through Education.**

The cooperation agreement signed between the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime signed on October 15, 2014, aimed at capacity building for academics in the field of teaching integrity and combating corruption within the higher education programs in different countries of the world. This agreement is concerned with combating corruption through education for raising awareness of the risks of corruption and



preventing it on large scale. The agreement included the organization of academic events in cooperation with the academic initiative of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna (ACAD), related to the curricula and programs of teaching the fight against corruption at universities. After organizing the two sessions scheduled for the year 2015, the other two sessions were organized during the year 2016.



**Training course on combating corruption through education, in cooperation between the ROLACC and the ACAD Initiative  
Doha, April 13, 2016**

The first session that took an international form was held on the 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> days of April 2016 held at the ROLACC in Doha for the benefit of academics and students interested in fighting corruption. The session discussed the following topics:

- The priorities of the ACAD Initiative of 2016 and beyond;
- How to provide technical assistance in teaching the fight against corruption in various universities;
- How to develop the means available in the website of the ACAD Initiative.





Experts in combating corruption participated in this session. The presentations included various topics contained in the UNCAC that are taught in universities. Some of those presentations were broadcasted directly via video in three universities in USA and Eastern Europe. The presentations included extensive discussions with students and university teachers who participated in the workshop. As a result of the works of that session, a number of recommendations were issued, notably the adoption of new typical curriculum for teaching the fight combating corruption in the faculties of law.



**Technical presentation about recovering stolen assets (challenges and solutions) made by the Advisor Judge of the ROLACC during the training course on combating corruption through education.**

According to the agreement referred to above, a regional workshop was organized on September 26 & 27, 2016 at the Faculty of Law and Political Sciences in Tunisia. About 30 university professors from 11 countries of the Middle East and North Africa participated in this workshop. The aim of this workshop was to enhance the capabilities of academics in the field of combating corruption, in accordance with the



principles contained in the UNCAC, and to assist in the establishment a university Arab Network to be concerned with combating corruption.

### **3. Supporting Cooperation on the Chair of the fight against Corruption at Universities**

Since its establishment, the ROLACC has adopted an open policy on the academic arena due to the education important role in instilling the values of integrity, transparency and rule of law which contribute significantly to the prevention of corruption and reducing its negative effects. So, the ROLACC has, as a first step and pursuant to its medium-term work plan, established strategic partnerships with universities, until cooperation is expanded in the area of combating corruption through education, so as to include the preparatory and secondary schools as well.

In this context, the first cooperation agreement in the academic field was signed with Qatar University in 2014, by creating a Chair at the University for combating corruption. Regarding that this is the first University in the region in which this typical initiative is launched.

In the light of the success of this typical experiment with met approbation among professors and students in the Arab Region, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ROLACC, signed in March 2015 a cooperation agreement with the President of the University of Jordan to create a Chair at the University of Jordan for teaching the topics included in the UNCAC. On this occasion, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ROLACC delivered a lecture at the University of Jordan about the topics included in the UNCAC and the mechanism of checking their implementation, with emphasis on preventing corruption. In his lecture, the Chairman also touched on many topics,





most notably the mechanisms of the UNCAC procedures in combating corruption, and the independence of the judiciary and public prosecution systems. The lecture was attended by many Jordanian officials, including the Minister of Justice; Attorney General; the former Prime Minister; Chairman of the Judicial Council, in addition to a number of Deans, professors and students of law faculties in various Jordanian universities.

At a later stage, the scope of this experience was expanded by signing an agreement on January 4, 2016 of the Chair of H.H Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al Thani for Combating Corruption between the ROLACC and Neelain University in Khartoum of Sudan.

The Chairman of the Board of Trustees also signed a memorandum of understanding between the ROLACC and the Sudanese Ministry of Justice, with a view that the ROLACC in cooperation with the United Nations Organization shall provide courses to Sudanese professionals in the field of technical assistance for the implementation of the UNCAC.

The above two agreements were signed on the occasion of the visit done by the President of the Board of Trustees to the Republic of the Sudan. During the visit, he met with many high officials, led by H.E the President of Sudan and his two deputies, in addition to the Minister of Justice and Chairman of the Judicial Council, who discussed with them the need to move forward in enacting a law deciding the independence of the Public Prosecution from the executive authority and its positive impact on the role played by the Public Prosecution in the community, and on the judicial system in General. The Chairman of the Board of Trustees also discussed with the attendees the ways of supporting and accelerating the work of the National Commission in combating corruption, which was established recently in Sudan, in



order to integrate national efforts in the fight against corruption, especially in light of the Republic of the Sudan's authentication of the United UNCAC in the past year.

During that visit, the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the ROLACC, delivered a lecture at the Sudanese Ministry of Justice about the independence of the Public Prosecution and the theory of separation of powers. The lecture was attended by several judges; police and military officers; lawyers; university professors; jurists and intellectuals.



### III- DOMESTIC ACTIVITY

#### 1) Cooperation with Qatar International Court and the Dispute Settlement Center.

Within the framework of cooperation with institutions which tasks and objectives are identical to those of the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center, aimed at entrenching the values of integrity, transparency and accountability, rule of law and wise governance, a delegation from the Centre held on February 18, 2016 a meeting with officials from Qatar International Court and from the Dispute Settlement Center. During the meeting, viewpoints were exchanged on prospects of cooperation in the field of the rule of law and combating corruption. Meanwhile, the Executive President of the Court expressed his readiness to cooperate with the Centre in organizing scientific seminars and workshops, and to benefit mutually from the experiences of the two Institutions in various areas related to the rule of law and combating corruption.

Then further cooperation and coordination continued between the two sides, which led to an agreement on the joint-organization of the third session of Qatar Law Forum to be held in Doha on November 11 & 12, 2017 under the auspices of His Highness Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani, Emir of the State of Qatar.

The significance of the Forum is reflected in the presence of prominent personalities representing approximately 61 States,



including Chiefs of State; Prime Ministers; Ministers; Jurists; Judges; Lawyers and Experts from various areas.

The Forum aims at launching various topics concerning politics, economy, business and finance to be discussed with them from the legal point of view, within a dialog platform seeking legal solutions to confront current challenges to be bound by future prospects of sustainable development. This includes issues related to refugees and displaced persons throughout the world, and to facilitate the access of justice to all, in addition to the financial integration combating corruption. Those topics will be discussed in the presence of about 400 participants in the Forum works.

Qatar Law Forum is one of the most important legal forums held at international level. And it should be remembered that the Qatar Law Forum was held for the first time in 2009 with the support of the Government of Qatar under the auspices of His Highness Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al-Thani. While the second session was held in 2012, under the title "Rule of Law in a Time of Change".

## **2) Participation in Scientific Forum on Human Rights and Private Law.**

The Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center participated in this scientific conference organized in cooperation with the Legal Research Institute of Paris University 13, and the Law & Freedoms Lab law of the University of East Paris-Creteil, sponsored by the Embassy of France in the State of Qatar on 17 and 18 February 2016 on the topic "Human Rights and Private Law: Unity in Diversity". On this occasion, H.E Dr. Ali Bin Fetais Al-Marri, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of ROLACC, delivered a lecture in the opening session, in which he touched on the historical development of the human rights concept. He also stressed the comprehensive approach to human rights and its relevance to the



respect of the rule of law, wise governance and combating corruption. In addition to H.E Dr. Ali Bin Fetais Al-Marri, the opening session was also supervised by each of Mr. Eric Chevalier, Ambassador of France to the State of Qatar; and Dr Mohammed Bin Abdul Aziz Al-khulaifi, Dean of the Faculty of Law.

This scientific conference is arranged within the keenness of the French Legal Culture Club established by the Faculty of Law in the University of Qatar in mid-2015. This Club is working on spreading the French legal culture and promoting exchange and interaction among the francophone faculties of law through joint researches. From this standpoint, the Faculty of Law in cooperation with the Embassy of France in the State of Qatar worked on organizing the Scientific Conference referred to above for the purpose of highlighting the growing relationship between human rights and private law in its different branches, including Civil Law; Commercial Law; Business Law; Labor Law; Personal Law and the Procedural Law.

The topics of this Conference were addressed through interventions delivered by academic speakers on the part of the French and Qatari sides.

### **3) Organization of Roundtable on Combating Corruption in the Arab Region.**

On May 2, 2016 the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center organized a scientific seminar in Doha sponsored by the President and Members of the Board of Trustees on the topic of combating corruption in the Arab world (Reality and Prospects) on the sidelines of the meeting of the Board of Trustees of the ROLACC.

The Chairman and Members of the Board of Trustees respectively delivered lectures on combating corruption in the Arab Region and



reviewed major challenges facing law enforcement authorities in this regard, and solutions to overcome the obstacles that stand in the path of combating corruption and recovering stolen assets.

This was following by discussion in which participants expressed their remarks, suggestions and questions which were replied to by the Chairman and Members of the Board of Trustees each within the scope of his specialty.



**Roundtable organized by the ROLACC on combating corruption in  
the Arab Region  
supervised by the Chairman and Members of the Board of Trustees  
Doha on may 2, 2016.**





#### **4) Organization of the Meeting of the Board of Trustees.**

On May 2, 2016 and upon a call by the Chairman, the Board of Trustees of the ROLACC held its periodical annual meeting for discussing issues listed on its agenda.

The Board reviewed the annual report of the Center's activities and its achievements for the year 2015, and endorsed the draft annual budget of the Center and its final accounts.

Afterwards, the Board reviewed short-term strategic plan (2016) of the Center aimed at identifying the important role played by the Center in promoting the principles of the rule of law and combating corruption at the thought and practice levels in the near future in accordance with the strategic vision of the Center focused on effective contribution to the programs of strengthening the rule of law and entrenching the principles of social justice, integrity, transparency and accountability, so as to respond to the aspirations of peoples affected by corruption, and to enable those peoples enjoy their rights in education, health, employment, stability and dignity. This would help in reducing poverty, exclusion and ensures equitable distribution of wealth and contribute to ensuring security and political stability, which is the basis of sustainable development and economic prosperity.

The message of the Center through the activities included in its strategic plan proposed to the Board of Trustee is represented in affective contribution to the development of policies to address corruption in all its forms based on the Center's resources and the diversity of its experiences and the experiences of its partners, as well as its ability to participate actively in the consolidation of the principles of the rule of law by encouraging innovative solutions and distinctive initiatives.



Among the major values the strategic plan is based upon that is approved by the Board of Trustees of the ROLACC is manifested in commitment, respect, transparency, credibility and equity in confirmation of the rule of the law and its applicability to all concerned parties without discrimination.

The strategic plan is included within the framework of participatory approach adopted by the ROLACC since its establishment, which calls for the establishment of cooperative relationships with the public and private sectors; regional and international institutions; professional bodies; civil society; research and study centers and others, for the purpose of the establishment, implementation and exchange programs, operations and experiences in the areas of the Center's affairs.

The strategic plan was prepared based on analyzing the Center's current institutional situation, both at the internal and external level to identify the strong and weak points, as well as to identify possible opportunities and risks may face the Center while assuming its duties in achieving its objectives, and to work on overcoming, along with realizing equation between the Center's capabilities and its aspirations.



**Chairman and Members of the Board of Trustees of ROLACC  
Doha on May 2, 2016**

For the purpose of promoting the Center's role and upgrading its performance as it was included in its strategic plan approved by the Board of Trustees, a cooperation agreement was signed in 2016 between the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center, on the one hand, and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, on the other, calling for the appointment of specialized Expert in combating corruption and economic crimes to be affiliated to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in order to work on full time basis for the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center in Doha.

The referential conditions of the cooperation agreement prescribed that the delegated expert shall assume the following tasks:

- To provide technical and administrative assistance to the Director of the ROLACC and to its special lawyer concerning the activities



assumed by each one of them in lines with the program of their work.

- Providing technical and organizational assistance to the Presidency of the International Association of Anti-Corruption Authorities (IAACA) and its General Secretariat to enable them performing their tasks in a perfect manner.
- To assist in setting a short, medium and long-term strategic plan, while considering the priorities of each stage.
- Upgrading the use of the available resources and instruments for teaching the combat of corruption, and to spread this subject on a large scale, by relying on the existing partnership between the Rule of Law and Anti-Corruption Center and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in this domain.
- Providing technical advice and preparation of perceptions for the technical assistance programs for the benefit of the concerned parties at both the national and regional levels, concerning the proper application of the provisions of the UNCAC.
- Collecting, analyzing and organizing information in the field of combating corruption from various sources, and to lists in this connection as prescribed in the legal clauses, studies and essays in preparation for their publication.
- Providing technical assistance and expertise to coordinate the policies aimed at upgrading the procedures of combating corruption, including the review and analysis of issues, trends and to prepare evaluation operations and the like of the research and study activities.
- Providing legal and technical consultations to Governments in the Region according to the directives of the concerned department at the UNODC.
- Organizing consultative meetings, conferences and others, including preparation of programs, along with regulating the list of participants, presentations and documents.



- Launching and coordinating awareness activities, and managing training workshops and forums, and identify their topics and the presentation of demonstrations.
- Coordination with the UNODC and its branches specialized in combating corruption.
- Facilitating coordination between national authorities and the UNODC in matters concerned with combating corruption.
- Participation in delegation operations, and providing assistance to the concerned departments and advisers.
- Following up and reviewing best practices, curricula and programs in combating corruption.
- Assuming anything else related to the tasks mentioned above.

The expert affiliated to UNODC began working for the ROLACC at the beginning of 2016.



## CONCLUSION

Combating corruption and consolidating the principles of the rule of law is a long-term process and requires joint, coordinated and ongoing efforts by all concerned parties from UN organizations, governments, law enforcement authorities, the public and private sectors, media, educational institutions and civil society.

In this context, the ROLACC is keen to ensure that its activities in 2016 are diversified and based on close cooperation with various international, regional and national stakeholders in a comprehensive approach that considers all challenges and difficulties facing professionals and practitioners, and the mechanisms to win the war bet on corruption and reduce as much as possible its repercussions.

In view of the experience shown by the corruptors, the use of new forms of fraud, the thief of public and private funds, the exploitation of modern communication and information technologies for the rapid transfer of funds and the attempt to integrate them into the economic cycle through complex channels in order to hide their illicit origin through shell companies and pseudonyms, it is necessary to identify emerging methods of corruption and areas that pose a risk of money-laundering, so as to develop appropriate and effective mechanisms for their prevention.

Accordingly, the ROLACC is diligent to establish new strategic partnerships internationally, regionally and nationally to exchange experiences and information, draw on comparative experiences, keep abreast of developments in its area of competence and launch initiatives that will enhance its contribution to efforts to establish Rule of law and achieve Sustainable Development Goals.