

Project Document

The Promotion of Cooperation Between Public Prosecution Offices and Civil Society Organizations

Background and Objectives:

Civil society organizations (CSOs) play an effective role in the promotion of human rights and in the fight against crime.

For this reason, the Project aims to promote the cooperation between public prosecution offices and CSOs by:

- 1- Building and promoting communication avenues between the two parties.
- 2- Promoting the contribution of CSOs to the fight against crime by strengthening their capacities through training programs and knowledge building.
- 3- Promoting and reinforcing human rights principles that a large number of CSOs are attempting to disseminate.
- 4- Advancing the establishment of needed organizations in case they do not exist.

In order to achieve the goals of this pillar, we need to build up further on the existing information in order to identify the following:

1. The functions and activities of the civil society organizations within their respective practice areas, their sponsors, the number of projects that they are working on, and their achievements.
2. The organizations that are the most active and effective.
3. The relation between the civil society organizations and the official authorities.
4. The capacities of the organizations.

The analysis of the points mentioned above should allow:

1. To highlight the points and issues, as well as the instruments, that permit the promotion and the establishment of an effective and fruitful dialogue with the public prosecution.
2. To promote the activities of these organizations in the fight against crime.

Action Plan:

In the implementation of the plan of action, the Project proposed a number of activities that shall be organized in each pilot country.

Relationship with the civil society

- Conduct studies that depict the advantages and benefits of cooperation, that reveal possible means and forms of cooperation, and that define, in detail, the scope of cooperation between CSOs and the public prosecution.

- Hold training sessions for the public prosecution and CSOs regarding the role of each in rectifying the criminal policy in each state and clarifying its role in combating and reducing crimes.
- Set a master plan for CSOs, train them to promote their working methods, and ensure their efficiency in combating crimes.

The action plan of this pillar encompasses the following activities:

1. Identification and listing of civil society organizations working on crime-related topics such as: human rights, rights of the child, drugs... In this phase, a stocktaking will be conducted, and the results will be exposed in charts.
2. Drafting a detailed questionnaire which includes specific questions that allow us to build a scientific file on the scope of work of these organizations, date of establishment, members, and activities...
3. Once the questionnaire has been elaborated, the information will be gathered from the selected organizations by:
 - a) Conducting individual interviews with representatives of these organizations;
 - b) Obtaining information on the organizations via international organizations or governmental and non-governmental organizations that have worked with them in the implementation of initiatives (UNDP, Ministry of Social Affairs, Ministry of justice, the Administration of Prisons...)
4. Preparing an evaluative and analytical report outlining the information that was gathered from the chosen organizations and inputting it in a database. The report will also assess the activities and achievements of these organizations with regard to their contribution to public prosecution related topics such as fighting crimes, fighting drugs and promoting human rights.
5. Drawing an action plan (preliminary plan) according to the evaluative and analytical report. This plan aims to promote the goals of this pillar by:
 - a) Developing development projects that specify means and instruments for communication (coordination) between public prosecution offices and civil society organizations. This permits to improve the image of the public prosecution in the mind of civil society and the public.
 - b) Build the capacity of civil society organizations (training, equipment, materials) in order to make them effective partners that can aid the public prosecutor in the accomplishment of his duties, in particular those related to the fight against crime.
6. Holding a discussion session to discuss the first draft of the action plan and change it accordingly. This session shall include representatives from a number of civil society organizations.
7. Holding workshops between representatives of civil society organizations and the public prosecution offices in order to inform them about the action plan, and to draw the instruments of their relation and participation. The approval of the public prosecution offices on the reform projects will be sought during these workshops.

8. Holding training sessions for the selected civil society organizations on capacity and knowledge building in fields that will help them contribute to the work of public prosecution. The training sessions shall also focus on the procedures related to the implementation of development projects outlined in the action plan, and the drawing of new projects, as deemed necessary.

The established activities will be implemented in each pilot country.

- The expert shall be responsible for the following tasks:
 - Identifying CSOs whose objectives are related to the goals of the Project and collecting specific data about these organizations. The expert shall build on the data that was collected during the previous phase of the Project.
 - Drafting a report that will define the status of CSOs in the four pilot countries, and highlight themes and points of discussion for the focus groups and roundtables. The report shall also contain information on existing legislation that regulates, prevents or restrains the establishment of a network of communication between Public Prosecutions and CSOs.
 - Drafting a concept paper for the approved focus groups and roundtables.
 - Preparing all the materials for the focus groups, including the tentative list of participants, the agenda, etc.
 - Coordinating with UNDP-POGAR operating unit and the Project Management Team, as well as with the national experts in each of the four pilot countries.
 - Monitoring and attending all the focus groups and preparing the related reports.
- Participation in the focus groups and their duration shall later be determined based on the results of the data collection concerning CSOs in the concerned pilot countries.

Outcomes:

Through focus groups and roundtables with CSOs, the Project aims to:

- Advocate and raise awareness regarding the essential role of CSOs, and the importance that they maintain a clear and functioning relationship with public prosecutions,
- Disseminate knowledge among the concerned CSOs regarding the efforts that the public prosecution office is making in the fight against crime and in the protection of human rights,
- Promote the establishment of new types of CSOs, as deemed necessary.

1. The preparation of an evaluative and analytical report to be shared with the civil society organizations working in each pilot country.
2. The implementation of activities to promote the capacities of these organizations, and their cooperation and communication with public prosecutions offices.