



German Cooperation with Afghanistan

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Fighting Corruption and Terrorism: Training for Key Staff Members of Afghan Anti-Corruption Justice Centre in New Delhi

New Delhi, India, 07th February 2019 – Today, 12 key members of the Afghan Anti-Corruption Justice Centre (ACJC) participated in a specialised training on anti-money laundering and combatting terrorism financing in New Delhi, India. Since 2018, the Afghan-German Cooperation's Open Policy Advisory Fund (OPAF) financed and facilitated three consecutive training to strengthen ACJC's capacities for a total of 28 key staff members. They are now able to carry out their important work professionally and more effectively.

ACJC's Chief Judge, Ms Anisa Rasoli, appreciated the training activities and emphasised, 'As you all know, anti-money laundering is a very new field of expertise for us and we urgently needed this knowledge to deal with the rising issues of money-laundering in our country.'

Participants of the training in New Delhi included two judges and ten prosecutors who could strengthen their capacities in the field of anti-money laundering and terrorism financing. Throughout the training, international experts imparted relevant theoretical and practical knowledge. Participants learned about important aspects of existing international laws and legal frameworks on anti-money laundering as well as financial methods for countering terrorism. Practical skills included tracking suspects, techniques for financial intelligence and analysing offshore structures and trusts.

Ms Rasoli thanked the Afghan-German Cooperation and OPAF in particular. She concluded, 'There were some cases of money-laundering we encountered which were very hard to solve. Reaching a conclusion that was acceptable and pleasing to the court and prosecution was difficult. Acquiring the knowledge of international laws and frameworks as well as new skills and techniques applied by international agencies will surely help us to process more cases in an efficient and effective manner'.

The ACJC was established in 2016 to fight corruption in the Afghan public sector. It addresses high level cases of corruption exceeding AFN 500,000 and major crimes involving high-ranking officials. Currently, ACJC receives donor support in different operational fields but lacks capacities to handle the huge variety of different corruption cases. Therefore, ACJC's executive directorate created a capacity development plan in 2018 that included training on relevant topics for ACJC staff.

The Open Policy Advisory Fund (OPAF) is implemented by the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH on behalf of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ). Since 2009, the project has been financing the deployment of expertise in Afghan institutions and training their staff to build capacities and facilitate the implementation of reforms in line with good governance criteria. Among other activities, the project has been organising professional or job-specific trainings for 130 employees working at state institutions so far, including courses on finance, data analysis and corruption assessment. At the same time, the project has been supporting the Independent Joint Anti-Corruption and Evaluation Committee (MEC) in producing eight reports on state institutions' vulnerability to corruption.