

Transparency Maroc's Statement Regarding the Criminalization of Illicit Enrichment

In a context marked by systemic corruption and the freezing of the national anti-corruption strategy, the government withdrew the draft amendment to the penal code that introduced the criminalization of illicit enrichment. This withdrawal has sparked numerous reactions in public opinion. They all converge on the government's intention to exclude this offense from future code revisions. The statements of the Minister of Justice on the national radio channel confirm this outlook, even though the government seeks to maintain ambiguity about its true intentions.

Transparency Morocco reaffirms its position on the criminalization of illicit enrichment, as enshrined in the United Nations Convention against Corruption, and considers that:

- This criminalization is necessary, given our country's alarming level of corruption.
- It must be designed following the fundamental principles of the Constitution and the international conventions ratified by Morocco, with asset control being the most appropriate mechanism.
- The penalty of imprisonment, accompanied by asset confiscation, should be retained so that this criminalization fully serves its deterrent function.

The association regrets that the government's initiative to withdraw the bill marks the culmination of the freeze it has faced since its presentation to Parliament in 2015. This act sends a message, at best, of indifference and, at worst, of encouragement regarding corruption and the squandering of public funds.

Transparency Morocco calls on the government to clarify its position on this issue and outline its intentions and action plans for fighting corruption.

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The Executive Office