

PROJECT
“MODERNIZATION OF SUSTAINABILITY AND EFFICIENCY OF ICT INFRASTRUCTURE AND ICT
SERVICES IN THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN”
LOCAL PROJECT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

Date: 02 July 2013
Venue: UNDP office
Chair: Nato Alhazishvili
Participants:

Ms. Nato Alhazishvili, Deputy Resident Representative
Ms. Jamila Ibrahimova, Head of Programme Unit
Mr. Shamil Rzayev, Senior Programme Adviser
Mr. Elnur Khalilov, Programme Adviser
Mr. Chingiz Mammadov, Senior Programme Adviser
Ms. Leyla Fathi, Programme Associate
Mr. Nariman Hajiyev, National Project Manager
Mr. Barat Talibov, Project Admin/Finance Officer
Mr. Ayaz Bayramov, Head of the International Relations Department, Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan (MoCIT)

Project Presenter:

1. Introduction

Ms. Nato Alhazishvili welcomed participants and noted that the purpose of the appraisal committee meeting is to review the project document and suggest any amendments/changes before it is presented to the signature of the Government and UNDP.

2. Presentation of the project

Mr. Elnur Khalilov informed that letter from Mr. Ali Abbasov, the Minister of Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies (No.MoCIT-22/66) with new initiatives to be implemented jointly with UNDP was send on 14th January 2013. Following the letter the meeting between Mr. Abbasov and Mr. Antonius Broek, UNDP Azerbaijan Resident Representative were organized and parties discussed proposed initiatives. It was agreed to develop a new Project and submit for review and comments.

Mr. Khalilov informed that the “Modernization of Sustainability and Efficiency of ICT infrastructure and ICT services in the Republic of Azerbaijan” Project will assist the Government of Azerbaijan to extend the reach the Information and Communication Technologies with a view to increase efficiency of the public sector institutions, maximize socio-economic impact of ICTs on businesses and people, and to maintain multi-stakeholder dialogue about bridging the digital divide at the regional level. To achieve this complex objective, the Project will pursue multiple partnerships with international organizations (UNDESA, UNECE, UNPAN and others), national and local authorities in Azerbaijan, civil society, business circles and bilateral partners.

He also informed that this Project will contribute to the improvements of above listed dimensions of ICT environment by supporting the Government in pursuing the following goals: Develop a comprehensive national ICT strategy; Enhance country-wide ICT infrastructure through expansion and modernization of AzDataCom network; Promote ICT integration in business through establishment of Public Private Partnership Specialist Centre on ICT Use; Maximize use of ICTs for greater social and economic impact at the national and regional levels

by expanding citizens' opportunities for e-participation, giving access to Open Government Data and initiating Eurasian Connectivity Alliance to bridge the 'digital divide'.

He mentioned that the Project will be implemented in UNDP NEX modality with UNDP Support service and total budget of USD 10,450,000 (10,000,000 from Government and 450,000 from UNDP), duration of 2013 - 2016.

3. Summary of discussions

Mr. Khalilov made a comprehensive presentation of a new Project and in this light, as he has accentuated the project will have 6 components: 1) development of National ICT Strategy (2013 - 2020); 2) expansion and upgrade of AzDataCom network; 3) establishment of Public Private Partnership Specialist Centre on ICT/Broadband; 4) building of national capacities for e-participation; 5) awareness raising on Open Government data; and 6) establishment of operational framework for EurACA. In addition the IGF will be project activity within the framework of "Modernization of Sustainability and Efficiency of ICT infrastructure and ICT services in the Republic of Azerbaijan" project.

The floor was given to **Mr. Ayaz Bayramov** for his comments and suggestions. He informed the participants that the Ministry of Communications and Information Technologies of the Republic of Azerbaijan will provide support to the implementation of the Project from the very early beginning. He noted that the successful cooperation between MoCIT and UNDP started in 2004 and number of initiatives such as creation of the national backbone data transmission network - "AzDATACOM", development machine translation system - "Dilmanc" project, organization of the 7th Internet Governance Forum in Baku. He also mentioned that UNDP Azerbaijan provided several international consultancy services using UNDP network of international consultants. He underlined that UNDP Azerbaijan has a well-deserved reputation as a long-time supporter of a number of ICT-for-Development and g-Governance projects in Azerbaijan. Mr. Bayramov informed that he had no comments on this project document and added that a new Project will be an effective mechanism for continuation of successful partnership between UNDP and the Ministry.

During discussions it was agreed that Project will be implemented using UNDP supports services modality for procurement, recruitment, travel and e.t.c.

In conclusion, **Ms. Nato Alhazishvili** thanked everybody for their contribution and noted that she is very glad that UNDP Azerbaijan will jointly with MoCIT implement "Modernization of Sustainability and Efficiency of ICT infrastructure and ICT services in the Republic of Azerbaijan".

4. Follow-up Actions

The committee did not see the necessity to make any changes/amendments to the project document.

5. Decision

The LPAC decided to recommend approval of the project.

Prepared by: Signature 
Mr. Elnur Khalilov, Programme Adviser

Approved by: Signature 
Ms. Nato Alhazishvili, Deputy Resident Representative