

Minutes for the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meeting on the Human Rights Programme

1 December 2015

An LPAC was held to discuss the proposed new Human Rights Programme. The meeting started with opening remarks by the UNDP Country Director and a round of introductions by the members of the committee.

In her brief opening remarks, the Country Director mentioned that UNDP with a consortium of donors had been supporting the Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission (BNHRC) over a period of five years through the Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission-Capacity Development Project (BNHRC-CDP) and as that project was coming to an end a second generation of support to human rights in Bangladesh had been designed. She added that while the new programme will build on the gains of the BNHRC-CDP, it was much broader in scope. She highlighted that with the vast amount of work that was required in this field there was a strong requirement for cooperation, collaboration and coalition building amongst state and non-state actors to protect and promote the rights of the most vulnerable and marginalized groups in the country.

Without further ado she requested the presentation on the new programme take place.

Before the presentation started, a message was read out from the Honourable Secretary of the Legislative and Parliamentary Affairs Division of the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs that stated that the Ministry supported the new programme and human rights in Bangladesh as long as the programme was aligned with the various policies and plans and did not contradict the laws of the country.

The meeting then proceeded with a presentation on the new Programme highlighting key points from the project document.

After the presentation, the development partners agreed to the programme document in principle, subject to no substantial changes be made henceforth.

The Economic Relations Division (ERD) representative echoed the message from the Secretary of LPAD and said that ERD was there to facilitate the process and provide support as required. They also agreed to the programme document in principle.

The secretary of the BNHRC mentioned that NHRC should play a vital role in the new programme. As the state institution, they are the apex body for human rights in Bangladesh.

The Full Time Member of the Bangladesh National Human Rights Commission (BNHRC) thanked UNDP and the donors for their support over the past five years to the BNHRC. He mentioned that over the past year he had several high level meetings with development partners discussing the vision for the new programme and through those discussions he knew that the new programme would not be a continuation of the first phase, rather it would build on the previous project and would introduce new diversified ideas that would help protect and promote human rights in Bangladesh further. He appreciated the new programme document and agreed with it in principle, at the same time he recommended that for better implementation of programme activities, the roles of the commission and that of UNDP needs to be clarified and certain parts rephrased.

Key Recommendations from members

- Programme should be aligned with the various plans and policies and should not contradict the laws of the country
- Proposed amount devoted to management seemed high, UNDP was to look into the budget once again.
- Clarity on the structure of management and implementation
- The Programme Document should not be changed substantially as different stakeholders had already consulted with their senior management for vetting the document. If major deviations were drafted in the prodoc then a new round of consultations would have to take place.


Response

The governance team responded to the concerns and queries. It was agreed that the prodoc would be revised clarifying the management structure and a separate table would be inserted into the prodoc for ease of reference and that this would be sent on 2 December 2015 to all interested parties.

Decisions:

- The Human Rights Programme was agreed in principle and endorsed by the LPAC pending the above clarifications.
- The minutes of the meeting would be circulated as soon as possible.

Approved by



Pauline Tamesis
Country Director
UNDP Bangladesh

Participant List

1. Pauline Tamesis, Country Director UNDP
2. Kazi Reazul Hoque, FTM, NHRC
3. Md. Amjad Hossain Khan, Secretary, NHRC
4. Melina Papageorgiou, Programme Manager, SDC
5. Mohammad Nazim Uddin, Deputy Secretary, ERD
6. Maja Edfast, Second Secretary, SIDA
7. Nabeera Rahman, Poverty Cluster
8. Blerta Cela, ACD, RRMCC
9. Mahmuda Afroz, Programme Analyst, DGC
10. Rustam Pulatov, ACD a.i, DGC
11. Palash Das, ACD, Poverty Cluster
12. Sara Bumsted, Gender Policy Advisor, UNDP
13. Linda Germanis, Programme Officer, UNV
14. Shaila Khan, ACD, Local Governance Cluster

15. Heidi Chan, Programme Coordinator, Youth Project, UNDP
16. Khurshid Alam, ACD, CCED Cluster
17. Naiyar Afrin, Finance Assistant, DGC
18. Maybelline Mossey, JPC, UNDP
19. Yves Delmonaco, Project Manager, BNHRC-CDP
20. Sonja Moroz, JPC, UNDP
21. Shaikh Munir Hossain, Programme Specialist, RRMCC
22. Oliver Toohey, Human Rights Expert