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UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
Regional Bureau for Latin America and the Caribbean

INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

To: Lenni Montiel
Director a.i.
Regional Bureau for Latin American and the Caribbean

Date: May 10, 2018

From: Christian Salazar Volkmann
Resident Representative

Subject: Extension of DIM authorization for SNS4UNCAC Project

Please find attached for your consideration a request from the Belize Country Office (CO) to extend the Direct Implementation Modality (DIM) for the Strengthening National Systems to Support UNCAC Implementation in Belize Project for 2018. The requested extension is for the period from April 1st, 2018 to December 31st, 2019.

Background

The project focuses on improving governance by supporting the strengthening of national structures based on recommendations from the national self-assessments, institutional and capacity strengthening for public procurement, and asset recovery as well as promoting advocacy and information sharing.

In December 2016, the country of Belize, one of the few remaining states that had not ratified the UNCAC, joined the over 180 countries globally and acceded to the anticorruption convention. Since its accession to the UNCAC, the Government of Belize, with assistance from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the wider reaching United Nations System, have initiated preparatory works enabling full UNCAC implementation. This partnership has also benefitted from close accompaniment of the private sector and civil society in ensuring that implementation is inclusive and transparent. The partnership supports a national assessment informing the elaboration of an implementation roadmap which targets priority



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reform actions supporting UNCAC compliance. The partnership, also ensures the availability of necessary accompanying capacities within the national and civil society sectors.

Relevance of the Project to National Development

There was a consensus that corruption in Belize is widespread and starts with petty corruption, bribes and goes up to political corruption. The conviction rate of corruption-related crime is very low and citizens do not have much trust in law-enforcement bodies. Corruption has, over time marred Belize's economic growth and both the previous and current Governments have recognized corruption as a key obstacle to development and economic growth, that has plagued the Belizean economy and society. Thus, strengthening integrity and reducing corruption have been emphasized and became a national priority of the teachers and unions when they went on strike for ten days back in October 2015, and demanded that the Government signed on to the UNCAC.

The project was implemented in March 2017 and directly implemented and funded by UNDP for the first year. In September 2017 the U.S. Department of State through its CARS grant funding approved additional funding of USD\$250,000.00 to continue with the implementation of the project over a 24-month period, hence the request for extension of DIM.

Project Strategy, Outputs and Financing

The project's two activities are informed by the overarching outcome '**Belize has improved and inclusive national systems in place to facilitate the effective implementation of anticorruption reforms aligned to the UNCAC.**' The project's outcome is served by two main outputs:

- 1.) Institutional architecture, and national capacities for anti-corruption enhanced
- 2.) Increased awareness nationally of corruption and the national anticorruption reform agenda.

The project's two main objectives are:



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- 1.) Enhanced state institutions/human resource and CSOs capacities to implement anti-corruption programmes and policies nationally.
- 2.) Undertake anti-corruption advocacy utilizing a multi-sectoral approach.

The project implementation is supported by the Attorney General's Ministry. The UNCAC project was initially funded by UNDP in its first year of implementation. The U.S. Department of State is the current donor as per contributing agreement signed September 29th 2017.

Implementation Arrangements

The CO is identified as the current Principal Recipient, responsible for executing the project and will report to the U.S. Department of State for the management of the fund allocated. This includes obligation for financial and programmatic management, procurement, monitoring and evaluation and reporting. The Country Office has the experience and capacity for DIM and will continue to ensure that all necessary measures are applied for quality control in line with CARSI's requirements to safeguard UNDP's financial responsibilities, and accountable use of UNDP and our partner's resources. All financial resources will continue to be managed according to the rules, procedures and requirements as defined in UNDP's Programmes and Operation Policies and Procedures (POPP).

Budget revision has been completed to reflect funds being received from new donor to continue with the implementation of the project over another 24-month period.

Recommendation

The DIM authorization expired March 31st, 2018; therefore we now seek extension until project completion date of December 2019. We recommend DIM modality based on the sensitivity of the anti-corruption project and the need to ensure equity and neutrality in programme implementation.

Approved by: _____

Date: _____

16/5/18

