

Minutes of KRG –Kurdistan Vision 2020 Facility Steering Committee Meeting
Held on 20 February 2014 in Dedeman Hotel, Erbil

The first meeting of the Steering Committee (SC) began at 9:38a.m.

Mr. Zagros Siwaily (General Director of Capital Investment Budget (CIB)-MOP) moderated the Facility) Steering Committee (SC) meeting and led the introduction of participants. *Please see attached attendee list and agenda.*

Welcome Remarks

Minister of Planning, Dr. Ali Sindi, welcomed all participants and expressed the Government's deep appreciation of the partnership with the UN, particularly the UN Country Team's key role in bringing Kurdistan toward sustainable and sustained development.

Minister Sindi noted that since the war of 2003, Kurdistan has suffered neglect, under-development and lack of human capacity and welcomed in this regard the recently conducted infrastructure assessment that prioritized Kurdistan's investment plan needs. He said with confidence that UN is a vital partner to the KRG and the mutual collaboration takes them "from strength to strength".

Minister Sindi indicated that all projects under consideration of the JPF are of strategic importance and briefly touched on 4 current cost sharing projects amounting to \$2.6 million that are under implementation using separate mechanism of cost sharing. These are 1) SEINA, 2) KDMS, 3) Improving the Housing Delivery System in Kurani Ankawa 4) LADP second round.

Minister Sindi stressed that the KRG has been fully engaged at all levels of project implementation thus enhancing their partnership with the UN. This partnership modality is being adopted for future activities with the UN informing best practices for way forward.

Minister Sindi briefed on the history of the Kurdistan Vision 2020 and the subsequent establishment of Joint Programming Facility under which 20 projects have been identified for 2014 to be cost shared under the federal budget. He confirmed that once funds are transferred to the UN, KRG will be responsible for implementation and oversight of all approved projects along with the UN Agencies.

Minister Sindi congratulated UN and line ministries alike on the current portfolio where out of 20 project proposals, 13 are ready for endorsement at the total cost of \$14.6 million with KRG share of \$ 10.5 million, UN share \$4.1 million.

Minister Sindi stressed KRG's expectation that relevant UN Agencies work closely and collaboratively with line ministries and achieve results in a timely manner. He reminded representatives of line ministries that Kurdistan is entering a new era and reminded them of their responsibility to work hand in hand to ensure programs are implemented successfully and that all are engaged full time.

Minister Sindi concluded that after the SC approves projects, UN Agencies and line ministries will be in the driver's seat, he stressed that the success of the projects will depend on mutual support, devotion and equal commitment from all. He reminded that KRG is always willing to assist whenever required and wished everyone good luck.

UNAMI Deputy SRSG and Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator (DSRSG/RC/HC), Dr. Jacqueline Badcock, appreciated Minister Sindi's remarks particularly regarding partnership with the UN and stressed the UN equally values the KRG and the way the relationship has progressed and strengthened over time. She equally appreciated the confidence in the valuable strategic objectives.

DSRSG/RC/HC Badcock underlined that while considering the SC's work modality and JPF's Terms of Reference, it is also important to look at the function and role of the SC. She noted that while today's number of participants is larger than practical, closer look at the membership, quorum and frequency of meetings is needed. She suggested the SC function as more of an executive body and a technical level committee be formed as well.

DSRSG/RC/HC Badcock urged the relevant UN Agencies to complete the remaining 7 projects proposals as soon as possible.

DSRSG/RC/HC Badcock concurred with Minister Sindi that monitoring of projects is very critical and opined the mutual cooperation is a privilege.

DSRSG/RC/HC Badcock stressed that funds are limited and are issued for a purpose, therefore projects should be expanded wisely and in accordance with KRG's priorities. To this end, she expressed that similarly to Iraq UNDAF Fund, the participants should consider a quarterly update reporting.

DSRSG/RC/HC Badcock reminded the importance of technical capacity placed within the Ministry of Planning to facilitate monitoring and disbursement of funds. To this end, establishing a Secretariat with defined roles and expectations should be discussed and its funding needs reviewed today.

DSRSG/RC/HC Badcock stressed that until the KRG fiscal commitment is deposited to MPTF and MOU signed by all Agencies, we will not be able to move forward. DSRSG/RC/HC Badcock concluded with noting the exemplary way the JPF ties with Kurdistan's Vision 2020 that will likely translate into the UN using similar models globally, reminding that success, complimentary structures and mutual support are important for this reason.

Presentation of Steering Committee Terms of Reference, Key Operational Principles of Joint Programming Facility (JPF), JPF Secretariat Role

Mr. Namig Heydarov, Head of UNAMI Integrated Coordination Office for Development and Humanitarian Affairs (ICODHA) in KR, presented on the role of Steering Committee and TORs, thanking all for prior reviews and comments over the draft Steering Committee TOR, he announced the text of the TOR approved, unless any concerns No concerns were voiced and TOR was endorsed.

Mr. Heydarov informed that key elements of the JPF structure are still being developed and should be finalized before next SC meeting.

Mr. Heydarov clarified that the Secretariat is the engine of the Facility and that DSRSG/RC/HC and her office take a lead in coordination between UN Agencies jointly with Directorate of Coordination and Cooperation (DCC)/MOP.

Mr. Heydarov briefed on recent consultations between UNCT and KRG's line ministries that successfully yielded a very solid list of development objectives.

On funds allocation, Mr. Heydarov explained that unassigned funds can be allocated to new projects without the need for a new contribution from donors as per SC's decision.

Mr. Heydarov briefed on MOP's proposal that currently optional quarterly updates be mandatory and this be decided by the participants in today's meeting. He reminded that the annual report is obligatory as per SC's decision.

Mr. Heydarov thanked everyone for comments on the draft TORs, to be adopted at today's meeting.

On membership, Mr. Heydarov clarified that proposal on model of rotating membership (2 line ministries, 2 UN Agencies) is being finalized and will be shared with participants before next SC meeting.

On frequency of SC meetings, Mr. Heydarov presented the MOP and UNAMI's proposal that SC meet quarterly, to be considered by participants today. Currently only annual meeting is mandatory, however SC can be called as often as necessary.

Mr. Heydarov briefed on the composition of the Secretariat. The proposal under consideration is to place officers within the MOP structure, financed by the UN through JPF, to be elaborated further in Mr. Zagros Siwaily's presentation to the SC.

Mr. Heydarov discussed the issue of official designates in case one of the co-chairs cannot attend. MOP to consider.

Review & Endorsement of Project Documents & Fund Allocation, Secretariat Budget

Mr. Zagros Siwaily presented the 13 project documents for approval for a total of \$14,686,927

Mr. Zagros Siwaily explained that the Facility Secretariat does have an operational cost budgeted at \$140,000 that covers staff salaries and equipment, this budget will be funded through the JPF.

Mr. Zagros Siwaily asked whether participants had questions over the Secretariat function and budget. No concerns or questions were voiced and it was considered endorsed.

Mr. Zagros Siwaily reminded that all presentations are available in print at the meeting and electronic copies will be emailed to participants.

Endorsements and adoption

1. **By vote of hands**, the proposal of Steering Committee meeting quarterly was adopted at 10:30am by majority of participants.
2. **By vote of hands**, the proposal of reporting on quarterly basis was adopted at 10:31am by majority of participants.
3. **By vote of hands**, the proposal that Mr. Sokol Kondi, Head of Office, UNAMI Erbil, be UN official designate was adopted at 10:32am by majority of participants.
4. **With no objections** from participants, all 13 projects were endorsed and signed by co-Chairs at 10:46. The list of approved projects and budgets is attached to the minutes.
5. **With no objections** from participants, Steering Committee TOR was endorsed.
6. **With no objections** from participants, Joint Programing Facility TOR was endorsed.

Discussions and comments

Minister Sindi appreciated the decision to report every quarter on progress and delivery of projects and in that connection requested that JPF Secretariat design a unified reporting format and train both the UNCT and line ministries in this format to ensure consistency.

Mr. HayderSinjawy proposed that JPF hold a semi-annual retreat, noting that after project implementation it is necessary for SC and all concerned to review gaps, success, failures that would inform lessons learned. He further suggested that the retreat can be based on project cycles and could be defined for individual projects when conducted. Mr. Heydarov commented that JPF Technical Committee could also serve for the purpose of analysis and lessons learned and suggested that this could be reflected in the Committee's TORs.

Mr. Colin MacInnes, Deputy Representative of UNICEF Iraq, commented that UNICEF views KRG-UN JPF as an important form of partnership with shared responsibility and support and reminded that there are number of line ministries and implementing partners absolutely instrumental to the process and should be reflected in reporting and various tables.

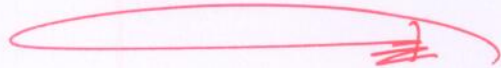
The meeting adjourned at 10:50a.m.

ACTION POINTS/FOLLOW-UP

1. JPF Secretariat to develop a quarterly reporting template and train Facility partners.
2. MOP to identify official designate.
3. Presentation copies to be shared with participants via email.
4. The proposal of retreat to be considered.
5. The comment to correctly reflect line ministries and implementing partners in project documents to be addressed.

Drafted by: P. Mikulasova, UNAMI.


Steering Committee Chair (KRG)
Dr. Ali Sindi



Signature

Date 20/2/2014

Steering Committee Chair (UN)
Dr. Jacqueline Carol Badcock



Signature

Date 18.3.2014