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**United Nations Development Programme**

**Country: MOLDOVA**

**Project Title:** Engagement Facility Project for UNDP Moldova Country Office

**Expected CP outcome:** 2. Citizen expectations for voice, development, the rule of law and accountability are met by stronger systems of democratic governance

Output 2.1. Parliaments, constitution making bodies and electoral institutions enabled to perform core functions for improved accountability, participation and representation, including for peaceful transitions

**Initiation Plan Start Date:** 3 April 2017

**Initiation Plan End Date:** 30 June 2017

**Implementing Partner:** United Nations Development Programme Moldova Country Office

**Brief Description**

The CO Engagement Facility Project has been established by the CO as per renewed regulation and rules concerning integrated use of funds formerly known as Development Advisory Services or Development Support Services to provide rapid and flexible response mechanism to support upstream support new project initiation initiative.

New Project Proposal Objective/Outcome is the following: The electoral process in Moldova is based on an inclusive, transparent and efficient IT based framework providing for professional and trusted elections in line with the harmonized and tailored legislation that meets international standards.

New Project Proposal Expected Results:

1. Regulatory framework and quality of the electoral process improved providing for more democratic elections
2. Accessibility and awareness of the electoral process improved providing for a better representation of the men and women in Moldova

Programme Period:	2013-2017
Atlas Award ID:	.....
Project ID:	.....
Management Arrangements	DIM
PAC Meeting Date	Not required

Total resources required	\$ 60,000
Total allocated resources:	
• Regular UNDP	\$ 60,000
• Other:	
o UNDP In-kind	

**Agreed by UNDP**

**Doina Munteanu, Officer in Charge**

20/03/17

## 1. Purpose

The long-standing partnership between the Central Electoral Commission (CEC) and UNDP resulted in the establishment of a strong professional institution able to provide transparent and inclusive democratic elections. CEC, with UNDP's support, managed to move the electoral process in Moldova to an advanced level through the development and utilisation of the modern and innovative State Automated Information System "Elections" (SAISE). This system enables CEC to administer several tasks of the electoral process electronically and to ensure an improvement of the accuracy of data in the State Register of Voters (SRV) through a data exchange with the State Register of Population (SRP) owned and administered by the State Enterprise (SE) Registru. Considerable efforts towards improving the electoral process led to a higher level of transparency and inclusiveness, and ensured a considerable trust in the election results: Elections are considered fair and seen as a vehicle for political change.

In this context four key challenges need to be further addressed to enhance the transparency and inclusiveness of the Moldovan electoral process – an objective in line with the Sustainable Development Goal 16. First, to have a more accurate SRV, the quality of data shall be improved by reengineering the Civil Status Service (CSS) systems, fully developing the address register, and facilitating data exchange by developing decentralized registers for the different government agencies which, following the concept of interoperability, would be accessible through the data exchange platform M-Connect. The availability of specific data over the interoperability platform will be of high importance to the electoral process with respect to its transparency and accuracy of the SRV. Second, to better include the growing diaspora in the voting process, a remote voting tool needs to be assessed and developed by 2018 as the Law 101 prescribes. Third, a structured reform of the election related legislation need to be undertaken to erase ambiguities and respond to the technical developments and new legal requirements that emerged since 2014. Fourth, to support the efforts made to address the first 3 key challenges and sustain changes made, the public needs to be largely informed about those changes and improved processes, while the voters, in particular young and first time voters, women, and representatives of vulnerable and marginalised groups shall acquire knowledge and skills allowing them to participate independently in the elections.

The solid results achieved under finalized initiatives and the need to ensure finality and sustainability of the previous interventions require further support to stakeholders in implementing the new legal frameworks and the technical infrastructure to move Moldova's electoral and democratization process to the next level. Since the CEC does not have the ability nor the responsibility to restructure certain processes in the sphere of the public administration/ population registration, but intrinsic to the elections, the project will further engage the relevant external stakeholders through a comprehensive cooperation approach and improving their structures and processes important to achieve an inclusive and transparent electoral process. As the CEC was capacitated in the previous phases of the project, a topic based approach to support the CEC and the Centre for Continuous Elections Training (CCET) in specific areas where they still lack experience and knowledge will be applied.

Therefore, CO Engagement Facility Project has been established to provide rapid and flexible support to the preparation and launch of the UNDP project "**Improving Democratic Elections through efficient IT framework and public participation**" with a scaling up potential, and support the participating authorities of Moldova. Within the above overarching mandate, the Engagement Facility Project covers, though is not limited to the following:

1. Finalised, consulted with partners and stakeholders, and approved at pre-PAC and LPAC project document;
2. Resources mobilisation to cover at least 3/4 of the project total budget;
3. Project Advisory and Management Costs.

## 2. Expected Outputs

The Engagement Facility will support activities and contribute to the achievement of the following main output as below:

Output	Activities
Output 1: Finalised and approved project document /Mobilised funds to cover 3/4 of the project total budget	Communicate with potential donors in bilateral meetings Present the concept to the development community Finalise the project document and discuss/approve it at pre-PAC and LPAC
	Draft, coordinate and sign cost sharing agreements
Output 2: Project Advisory and Management Costs	2- Senior Project Officers
	Programme advisory costs 1-CTA, 1-IT expert
	Utilities and Communication

## 3. Management Arrangements

Since the Engagement Facility i) contributes the operational activities and results included in the CPD, ii) responds to the emerging needs identified by the government for which engagement has been explicitly sought, iii) responds to the Country Office Strategic Priorities stated in the Strategy Note; the resources for activities are committed by the project Manager (Country Director, and in his absence the ARR Programme ) as authorized by the Resident Representative, the Implementation modality is DIM and as per the Policy does not require HQ approval.

The commitment shall be approved by the Manager on a case basis. For example, if personnel will be hired through the Engagement facility, a Terms of Reference describing the background and expected results would be sufficient to justify the activity provided in line with the objective of the Facility. If a knowledge product or special event would be funded from the facility, a brief/concept note would be prepared to explain the objective, expected results and what evidence would be collected to assess results.

## 4. Monitoring and Reporting

The actual use of the facility shall be monitored on quarterly basis to ensure that it is being used for its intended purpose, and that its results are being recorded in UNDP Strategic Plan Integrated Results and Resource Framework or other corporate exercises.

5. Annual Work Plan 2017

Output	Key Activities	Time Frame		Responsible party	Planned Budget			
		Start	End		Fund	Donor	Budget description	Amount US\$
Output 1: Finalised and approved project document Funds mobilized to cover 3/4 of the project total budget	Pre - PAC and PAC Coordination with all stakeholders, government, civil society and development community Communicate with potential donors in bilateral meetings Present the concept to the development community	3/04/2017	31/12/2017	UNDP	04000	UNDP	75700 Workshops & Conference	1000.00
Output 2: Project Advisory and Management Costs	Two Senior Project Officers SPO (SB4.2) Programme advisory costs IT Expert (SB4.5),  CTA  Utilities and Communication	3/04/2017	31/12/2017	UNDP	04000	UNDP	71400 Contract Service Individuals SPO (SB4.2) 71400 Contract Service Individuals IT Expert (SB4.5)  61300 IP Programme /CTA  72400 Communications and audio visual	9,300.00 6,300.00  42,300.00  1,100.00
<b>Total Engagement Facility Project</b>								<b>60,000.00</b>