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## PROJECT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

### “Curbing corruption by building sustainable integrity in the Republic of Moldova” Project

**Venue:** 131, 31 August Street, United Nations House, Conference Room

**Date:** 14 January 2019, 14:00 – 15:30

#### Agenda:

- Introduction and opening remarks
- Presentation of the Project Strategy “Curbing corruption by building sustainable integrity in the Republic of Moldova”. Presentation of the Project management arrangements
- Discussions and recommendations
- Closing remarks

#### Participants:

##### National Anticorruption Center (NAC):

- Lidia CHIREOGLO, Deputy Director
- Tatiana PAVALACHI, Head of the Professional Integrity Testing Department
- Ion PRUTEANU, Head of the Anticorruption Education Department
- Arcadie ROTARU, Head of the Analytical Department
- Olga POJILȚOV, Deputy Head of the International Cooperation Department

##### United Nations Development Programme (UNDP):

- Stefan LILLER, Deputy Resident Representative
- Alla SKVORTOVA, Programme Specialist, Effective Governance Cluster Leader
- Alexandru COCÎRȚĂ, Programme Analyst, Effective Governance Cluster

##### Other participants:

- Călin BĂLAN, Superior Consultant, State Security, Defense, Public Order, and Justice Financial Division, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Moldova
- Natalia CALENIC, Deputy Chairperson, Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Moldova
- Giulia RE, Project Manager, “Controlling Corruption through Law Enforcement and Prevention” (CLEP) Project, Council of Europe in Moldova
- Olga BÎTCĂ, Resource Center for Human Rights (CReDO)
- Liudmila BRAGARENCO, Head of Anticorruption Section, General Police Inspectorate
- Vadim JURAVSCHI, Principal Specialist of the Policy Evaluation, Prevention and Implementation Department, National Integrity Authority of Moldova
- Nicolae DORIN, President, Moldovan Banks Association
- Dumitru ROMAN, Head of the Monitoring and Reporting Division, People's Advocate Office
- Lilia CARASCIUC, Executive Director, Transparency International - Moldova

#### 1. Introduction and opening remarks

**Mr. Stefan Liller**, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative has welcomed the participants of the Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) meeting of the “Curbing corruption by building sustainable integrity in the Republic of Moldova” Project. Mr. Liller has informed that according to the UNDP rules, all the Projects are subject to approval by the Appraisal Committee, therefore the initiated PAC meeting aims to gather all the partners and stakeholders to provide comments and feedback on the Project’s Relevance, Feasibility, Commitment by the partners, imbedded Accountability and Sustainability principles, Cost effectiveness, potential Environmental and Social Impacts, and the Risk Management and Monitoring and Evaluation systems. Anticorruption is a very important and actual topic for the Moldovan society, as per the numerous public opinion surveys. The Project is in line with all the relevant frameworks that Moldova has adhered to, such as: “Moldova 2030 National Development Strategy”, the “United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF)”, “National Action Plan for the Implementation of the Association Agreement between the Republic of Moldova and the European Union during 2017-2019”. The Project has been designed upon the request of the National Anticorruption Center (NAC) of Moldova, to support the Institution, primarily in implementing the “National Integrity and Anti-corruption Strategy (NIAS) 2017-2020”, aligned to the nationalized SDGs. To this end, UNDP has mobilized funds from the Norway Government for implementing the Project.

Mr. Liller has highlighted that there are numerous initiatives ongoing in the same area, such as the Council of Europe Project, new EU funded Projects to be implemented by GIZ and various Civil Society projects, therefore, a close coordination will be required to synergize the efforts towards the same result.

Mr. Liller has also informed that after the PAC meeting, the Project’s Steering Committee will be established to ensure the implementation of the Project in line with the approved Multi-Year Work Plan. Following the PAC meeting, the Project Document (ProDoc) will be revised and/ or amended in line with the comments received and after that will be signed by the NAC and UNDP.

## **2. Presentation of the Project Document “Curbing corruption by building sustainable integrity in the Republic of Moldova” and of the Presentation of the Project management arrangements**

**Ms. Alla Skvortova**, UNDP Effective Governance Cluster Lead, has presented the general information on the Project (implementation period, donor, available funds), Project strategy and its principles, objectives and components, Project’s management and organisational structure, a financial summary and the risk log, in line with the Draft Project Document that had been shared with the invitees in advance of the meeting.

Ms. Skvortova has also explained the Project Steering Committee key functions, a suggested list of the institutions and organisations to be Members of the Steering Committee and invited the participants to express their views on the final composition of it.

*(The detailed Power Point presentation is available upon request).*

## **3. Discussions and recommendations**

**Mr. Stefan Liller** has opened the discussions session for questions, remarks and clarifications.

**Ms. Lilia Carasciuc**, the Executive Director of “Transparency International-Moldova”, has stated that the relevance of the Project is very actual, and it will play an important role in establishing functional mechanisms and systems for curbing corruption in Moldova, although the major role in the phenomenon elimination should be undertaken by the State, in collaboration with Civil Society. Ms. Carasciuc has expressed her hope that UNDP will contract strong experts in the area, to provide an objective overview of the sector. Nevertheless, her concern is the Project’s “Private Sector” component, as it has been established by the Government and Moldovan Development Partners through the years that the NAC would focus on corruption in Public Sector and Fiscal Service would focus on tax evasion.

Ms. Carasciuc has pointed out that the Indicator percentage related to the NIAS implementation might need revision, as even 96% achievement has been once registered, but did not entail significant changes in the level of corruption

As "Transparency International-Moldova" has been involved in numerous conferences, seminars, evaluations of policies, provision of legal framework expertise, all related to corruption issues - the entity would rather prefer to provide similar services to the Project, than being selected as Board member, causing a potential conflict of interest. Ms. Carasciuc has suggested that relevant NGOs might be contracted by the Project to develop various policies in the field.

In this context, **Ms. Skvortova** has informed that according to the UNDP rules and regulations, all the entities willing to provide certain services to the UNDP are subject to tendering procedure and indeed, if the entity is part of the Project Board, it shall be disqualified in the competition, due to the conflicts of interest.

**Ms. Natalia Calenic**, the Deputy Chairperson of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) supported the Project objectives, first of all those related to the "*Private Sector*" component, as the CCI is the biggest business association of Moldova, representing the interests of the Private Sector in the relation with the state's institutions. Ms. Calenic informed the participants that CCI is currently involved in the promotion of anticorruption standards and takes part of the monitoring group of NIAS Action Plans and it is continuously collaborating with NAC (according to the NAC-CCI signed MoU). As per this successful partnership, Ms. Calenic has expressed the willingness of CCI to contribute to the implementation of the Project, especially in regard to the Private Sector component. Ms. Calenic has noted that the "Integrity Award" might eventually be integrated within the CCI annual "Moldovan Business Gala" awarding private entities for their quality achievements in different categories, such as the trademark, gender equality, or social responsibility and other. Yearly, a new award category is added and the CCI might introduce the "Integrity Award" category within the Gala.

**Ms. Lidia Chireoglo**, the Deputy Director, NAC, has thanked for the efforts on the Project elaboration, outlining that the previous Project has brought fruitful results towards curbing corruption in the Republic of Moldova – these results being felt by the entire society. Under the upcoming UNDP Project, the NAC is willing to further promote Integrity Standards, in both Public and Private Sectors. Ms. Pojilțov has informed that in December 2018, the NAC has launched a platform for public discussions with the Private Sector, where the "Integrity Award" can be promoted. The Institution is glad to further improve all the developed systems with UNDP support in the framework of the new Project. The innovative methods that will be used within the Project under discussion will bring many tangible results.

**Mr. Ion Pruteanu**, the Head of the Anticorruption Education Directorate of NAC, has thanked UNDP for considering the NAC initiatives that have been included in the Project Document. As NAC is currently implementing several initiatives at the Institution's level, Mr. Pruteanu has informed that support of the project might help to expand them to the National level.

**Ms. Giulia Re**, the "Controlling Corruption through Law Enforcement and Prevention" (CLEP) Project Manager has required clarifications in regard to the Project's expected result, namely "A standardized anticorruption compliance mechanism based on legal incentives for integrity in the private sector established". Ms. Re has inquired which legal incentives will be used, and whether the Project will take over the Donor Coordination Mechanism and will also address the coordination between the public institutions with the anticorruption mandate.

**Ms. Skvortova** has replied that the mentioned result is related to the "Integrity Award" Pilot for Private Sector, where businesses will be supported by experts to integrate the methodology into their work. In case the pilot provides the evidence that the Integrity Award in the private Sector is an effective mechanism and any legal amendments would be necessary for its expansion at the national level, the project will support developing the legal proposals. Anyway, the formula about the legal incentives will be further clarified in the text of the Project Document. Replying to the question on coordination, Skvortova explained that the

new Project will support NAC in running the Donor Coordination mechanism, similarly as it was done by the previous project, but what refers to the coordination between the public institution, that shall be done by the institutions themselves. **Ms. Olga Bîtcă**, on behalf of the Resource Center for Human Rights (CReDO), has highlighted the importance of the Project in the curbing corruption. The Project will try to encourage the institutions to apply the 9 sectorial plans and to carry out the ex-post assessment of impact of this mechanism.

**Mr. Călin Bălan**, representing the Ministry of Finance, has pointed out that according to the GD 377 of 25.04.2018, the State Chancellery has been appointed as the Coordinator of technical assistance projects in R.M., therefore the pre-nominalized SC member - Ministry of Finance should be replaced by the State Chancellery. The information will be verified, in order to appoint the most appropriate institution for the Steering Committee/ Board.

Mr Dumitru Roman, representing the People's Advocate Office, has confirmed the willingness of the institution to serve as a Member of the Project Steering Committee.

#### 4. Closing remarks

Ms. Skvortova has informed that all comments expressed in the meeting will be addressed in the final version of the project Document and invited the participants to send any additional comments in written by Friday, January 18. and the Minutes of the meeting will be circulated to the participants for the revision, and then for the signature.

Mr. Liller has thanked all the participants once again for their cooperation and inputs and concluded that the Project Document is considered approved by the Project Appraisal Committee.

*Approved by:*



*Mr. Stefan LILLER, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP Moldova*

*Signed by:*



*Ms. Lidia CHIREOGLO, Deputy Director, NAC*



*Mr. Călin BĂLAN, Superior Consultant, State Security and Defense, Public Order, and Justice Financial Division, Ministry of Finance of the Republic of Moldova*



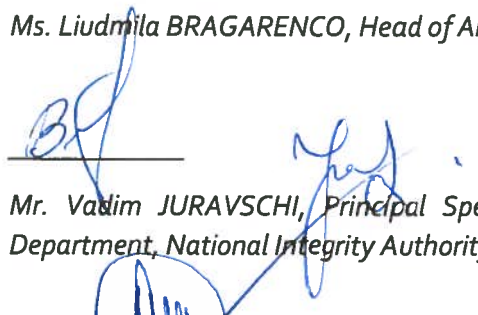
*Ms. Natalia CALENIC, Deputy Chairperson, Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Republic of Moldova*

  
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Project, Council of Europe in Moldova

  
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