

## Minutes

### of the Virtual Local Programme Advisory Committee (LPAC) for: “Access to Justice in Tajikistan” Programme, Inception Phase (Dec. 2012 – Nov. 2103) over the UNDP Direct Implementation and NGO Implementation modalities

#### Participants:

Chairperson:	1. Ms. Aliona Niculita, UNDP Deputy Country Director
Members:	2. Mr. Sukhrob Khoshmukhamedov, UNDP Assistant Resident Representative/Programme
	3. Nargizakhon Usmanova, Programme Analyst, UNDP
	4. Yokubjon Abdukholikov, Programme Analyst, UNDP

The Virtual Local Programme Advisory Committee consisting of Ms. Aliona Niculita, UNDP Deputy Country Director, Mr. Sukhrob Khoshmukhamedov – UNDP Assistant Resident Representative/Programme Coordinator, Miss Nargizakhon Usmanova – UNDP Programme Analyst and Mr. Yokubjon Abdukholikov – UNDP Programme Analyst was conducted on 13-14 December 2012.

Both project documents “Access to Justice in Tajikistan: Effective Rule of Law Policy Dialogue” and “Access to Justice in Tajikistan: Provision of legal aid to marginalized groups”, as part of the Access to Justice Programme, were distributed among LPAC members for their consideration and inputs on Thursday, December 13, 2012.

A broad consultative process was undertaken with national counterparts, development partners and SCOs before the Virtual Local Programme Advisory Committee. UNDP management, the Head of Swiss Cooperation Development in Dushanbe and Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation Country Director in Tajikistan met with the State Advisor of the President on Legal Issues and the Deputy Minister of Justice to inform and consult on the general strategy of the programme and ways of cooperation and coordination. The concept of the programme and implementation approach of the two projects were well accepted by national state institutions.

During the programme preparation stage, joint UNDP and Helvetas team had series of meetings with law enforcement agencies at the national level (General Prosecutor Office, Supreme Court Office, Council of Justice and other national NGOs working in the field of access to justice) in order ensure stakeholder participation and ownership the suggested programme strategy.

At the same time UNDP organized consultations with national NGOs that are involved in legal aid provision for last years to take stock of the lessons learnt and to discuss possibilities of further cooperation.

“Access to Justice” is a UNDP Programme which contains two complementary projects. Under the overall programme, the 1st project is going to be directly implemented by UNDP and will


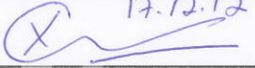
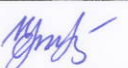

focus on policy dialogue related to access to justice; and the 2nd project will be implemented by the NGO (Helvetas) and will focus on grassroots level interventions. The selection of the implementation modality was determined based on comparative advantages of the organizations and their capacities in the area.

UNDP conducted capacity assessment of Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation as an implementing partner of the "Access to Justice in Tajikistan: Provision of legal aid to marginalized groups". Taking into consideration Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation extensive and successful experience in the field of legal aid provision to vulnerable, INGO Helvetas was found as a successful implementing partner.

The given programme objectives are in line with the newly developed national strategy: "The Livelihoods Improvement Strategy of the Republic of Tajikistan for 2013-2015 and would assist into the establishment of an efficient government – civil society rule of law policy dialogue enabling top-down and bottom up approach. This programme is also a part of the Development Coordination Council flagship initiative presented at the Development Forum (11 December 2013).

The Virtual LPAC Committee made the following recommendations:

- Agree that the process of Project Document development was transparent and coordinated with all stakeholders
- Approve a Project Document, namely "Access to Justice in Tajikistan: Efficient Rule of Law policy dialogue" with direct implementation modality by UNDP
- Approve a Project Document "Access to Justice in Tajikistan: Provision of legal aid to marginalized groups"
- Based on the successful capacity assessment, Helvetas Swiss Intercooperation was selected as an appropriate implementing partner of "Access to Justice in Tajikistan: Provision of legal aid to marginalized groups" Project
- Once the LPAC minutes are signed, Project Documents should be signed with partners as soon as possible.

Chairperson:	 17.12.12	Ms. Aliona Niculita, UNDP Deputy Country Director
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