



ANTI-CORRUPTION AGENCY
OF THE REPUBLIC OF UZBEKISTAN



MINUTES
of the Project Appraisal Committee meeting

Project: “Strengthening Civic Space and Voice of Women and Youth to Enhance the Role of Anti-Corruption Agency in Uzbekistan”
Date: Tuesday, November 23, 2021, 17:00-18:00
Venue: Online, zoom <https://undp.zoom.us/j/83928420470>

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

for LPAC meeting on project “Strengthening Civic Space and Voice of Women and Youth to Enhance the Role of Anti-Corruption Agency in Uzbekistan”

Date and venue: November 23, 2021, 17:00-18:00, online

#	Name	Position	Initials
Anticorruption Agency (ACA)			
1.	Akmal Burhanov	Director	AB
1.	Umida Tukhtasheva	Deputy Director	UT
2.	Akmal Muratov	Department for Public Relations, Work with Appeals and International Cooperation, ACA	AM
3.	Ainura Smailova	Department for Public Relations, Work with Appeals and International Cooperation, APC	AS
UNDP			
4.	Doina Munteanu	UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Uzbekistan	DM
5.	Khachik Kharutyunyan	Advisor on Anti-corruption and Good Governance	KhKh
6.	Kamila Mukhamedkhanova	Lead of Effective Governance Cluster	KM
7.	Gulnora Ibragimova	Strategic Planning and Integration Unit Associate	GI
8.	Nariman Muradasilov	Program Analyst on the Effective Governance a.i.	NM
9.	Rimma Mukhtarova	PR Specialist	RM

AGENDA**Project Appraisal Committee meeting****“Strengthening Civic Space and Voice of Women and Youth to Enhance the Role of Anti-Corruption Agency in Uzbekistan”****Date:** 23 November 2021**Time:** 17:00-18:00**Venue:** online, zoom <https://undp.zoom.us/j/83928420470>**Objective:**

Presentation and discussion of the new joint project with the Anticorruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan “Strengthening Civic Space and Voice of Women and Youth to Enhance the Role of Anti-Corruption Agency in Uzbekistan”

Time	Activity
17.00 - 17.10	Opening remarks by the Director of the Anti-Corruption Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan Akmal Burhanov
17.10 - 17.20	Opening remarks by the UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in Uzbekistan Doina Munteanu
17.20 - 17.40	Presentation of the UNDP Effective Governance Cluster on new joint project (N.Muradasilov): “Strengthening Civic Space and Voice of Women and Youth to Enhance the Role of Anti-Corruption Agency in Uzbekistan”
17.40 - 17.50	Discussion, questions and answers
17.50 - 18.00	Decision-making, wrap-up and closure

AGENDA:

1. Presentation of the Project “Strengthening Civic Space and Voice of Women and Youth to Enhance the Role of Anti-Corruption Agency in Uzbekistan”;
2. Signing the Project “Strengthening Civic Space and Voice of Women and Youth to Enhance the Role of Anti-Corruption Agency in Uzbekistan”.

AB	<p>Having expressed the readiness of the Anti-Corruption Agency to implement the project, Mr. Burhanov thanked UNDP in Uzbekistan for comprehensive and effective cooperation, noted the special friendly nature of relations between the two organizations. Gave an overview of measures taken in Uzbekistan to combat corruption. It was noted that strong political will is the foundation for successful reform. In recent years, many projects have been implemented, and the Anti-Corruption Agency has been established, which is developing relations with many international partners. He also noted that he got acquainted with the content of the project and believes that this project has taken into account all the previous accumulated experience. In addition, Mr. Burhanov highlighted that gender equality, empowerment of women and youth are among the first topics on the government's agenda, and the Agency welcomes that this project is aimed at strengthening the role and voice of women and youth in anti-corruption. He expressed hope that this project will give real practical results and become a really working project.</p>
DM	<p>Thanked the participants for attending the meeting of the Committee, announced the purpose of the meeting and invited everyone to an active discussion. She highlighted the importance of this new initiative, referring to the recognition of inclusive approaches towards anti-corruption as key elements of the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework for 2021-2025, signed between the Government of Uzbekistan and the UN Country Team. These priorities are also reflected in UNDP Country Programme Document for 2021-2025, which implementation started as of January this year. Ms Munteanu highlighted the negative impact that corruption has on the status and opportunities of women in society, especially during public health crises, as was evident during the Covid-19 crisis. She also said that the fight against corruption is important for young people for their equal access to opportunities. Women, youth and civil society can and should play a key role in promoting equality and justice, and be powerful agents of change by developing innovative and effective solutions in their communities, with the support of anti-corruption decision makers. That this is the key objective and task of the proposed project. In conclusion, she noted that this project will represent an initial contribution for a dedicated, stand-alone partnership with ACA, and the shared objective of UNDP for the project to serve as a foundation for future cooperation, mobilization of resources for larger scale interventions with the ACA.</p>
NM	<p>Reported to the participants of the meeting about the purpose of the project, its duration, legal framework, approaches, activities planned within the framework of the project, expected results.</p> <p>First of all, it was noted that the key development challenge is, on the one hand, to ensure that the ACA has strong legal and institutional capacity to carry out its mandate; on the other hand, it is equally important to support in nurturing public demand for integrity through creating anti-corruption civic space consisting of civil society organizations, women NGOs, media, social communities that would play the role of anti-corruption watchdogs and serve as a bulwark and support for progressive reforms of the ACA, but at the same time observe its operational autonomy and ability to function free from any undue influence and without political interference, and overcome resistance of corrupt. The voice and role of women and youth, and the groups most vulnerable to corruption (PWD, elderly, and others) should be strengthened.</p>

	<p>Briefly described the Strategy for Project Implementation, which includes four components: 1. Integrated, multidimensional, preventive, inclusive, gender-sensitive and people-centred approach building on the current political momentum; 2. Leverage of innovation and digitalization with focus on engaging and empowering women, youth, and the most vulnerable and marginalized communities, at the same time demonstrating complementarity with other partners (donors) interventions; 3. Draw on global expertise and best practices on anti-corruption (UNDP's Global Anti-Corruption for Peaceful and Inclusive Societies (ACPIS) Project and UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub), and build on the previous experience of UNDP PCEAT project, lessons learned, including the need to focus on gender equality and benefits for the most vulnerable and marginalized communities; 4. Ensuring Gender Marker 3: integrate gender-sensitive approaches in the design and implementation of the anti-corruption policies in Uzbekistan, ensuring women not only equally benefit from the capacity-building activities implemented, but are also engaged as active agents for change and inclusion. The key expected output of the project is enhanced transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness of the national anti-corruption system, which will contribute to the creation of a coherent and inclusive ecosystem through: <i>a)</i> Improved policy making role and capabilities of ACA to develop and implement national inclusive and gender-sensitive anti-corruption policy; <i>b)</i> Empowered and strengthened civic engagement of women, youth, the elderly and people with disabilities, among others, to: exercise public oversight over state authorities, increase participation in decision-making, and ensure a greater public awareness to foster zero-tolerance towards corruption. Further, Mr. Muradasilov dwelled on the organizational aspects of the project, briefly spoke about the project governance structure. In conclusion, it was noted that the project passed the Quality Assurance Review at the design and appraisal stage in accordance with UNDP procedures and received a highly satisfactory assessment for compliance with seven main criteria.</p>
KhKh	<p>Thanked the participants for the warm welcome, noted that the issue of mainstreaming gender equality in anti-corruption processes is very acute, and not only in Uzbekistan, but globally. That the project has been developed thoroughly, and its implementation should effectively improve the position of vulnerable groups in this direction, and that he is ready to provide in every possible way advisory and other support for the implementation of the project, and the work of the ACA in general.</p>
UT	<p>Thanked UNDP for the offer of cooperation and asked what concrete results of work would demonstrate the success of the project.</p>
KM	<p>Answered the question in detail, noting that indicators of the project's success will be the results obtained from the implementation of each activity of the Plan, which will be developed jointly, including the quantity and quality of regulatory documents, policies and programs developed within the framework of the project, training campaigns and awareness raising with respect to target groups of the project on the topic of anti-corruption, the results of encouraging their active participation in decision-making processes, and other aspects. She noted that after the signing of the project document, a detailed Annual Work Plan and budget will be developed for submission to the Project Board for approval.</p>



AB	Thanked for the informative presentation, expressed readiness to cooperate in the implementation of the project, while noted that according to the internal procedures, the ACA must notify the relevant authorities and receive their attitude to the implementation of the project, after which the ACA will be ready to sign the project document and start work. He promised to speed up the approval process as much as possible.
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The following decisions have been adopted by PAC meeting of the Joint Project “Strengthening Civic Space and Voice of Women and Youth to Enhance the Role of Anti-Corruption Agency in Uzbekistan”:

1. To note and approve the Project Document, including information on the goals, objectives and main activities of the joint project of the Anticorruption Agency and UNDP “Strengthening Civic Space and Voice of Women and Youth to Enhance the Role of Anti-Corruption Agency in Uzbekistan” for 2021-2022;
2. To note and approve the Project Quality Assurance Assessment at the design and appraisal stage;
3. Develop jointly a detailed Annual Work Plan and Budget for the period of December 2021 – November 2022, and submit it for consideration and subsequent approval by the Anticorruption Agency and UNDP;
4. Start the recruitment process of the project staff in accordance with the terms of reference attached to the Project Document;
5. To the Anticorruption Agency to consider allocation of the project team in the building of the ACA in Tashkent, with the provision of a telephone line and connection to the Internet, as well as computer equipment, furniture and office equipment as in-kind contribution by the ACA;
6. Prepare the Minutes of the meeting of the LPAC and the approved decisions of the meeting, and submit it for consideration and subsequent signing by the parties.

Appendices:

1. Presentation of the Effective Governance Cluster (UNDP) on the main directions of the project for 2021-2022.
2. Project Document.
3. Letter of Agreement.



Akmal Burhanov
 Director of the Anti-Corruption
 Agency of the Republic of Uzbekistan
 November __ 2021



Doina Munteanu
 Deputy Resident Representative
 of the UNDP in Uzbekistan
 November __ 2021
 28-Nov-2021