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**MINUTES**  
**LOCAL PROJECT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (LPAC virtual)**  
**“Support to Armenia’s Justice and Rule of Law Reforms: Phase 2”**

*02 February 2022*

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**Purpose:**

Presentation and validation of the key objectives of the “Support to Armenia’s Justice and Rule of Law Reforms: Phase 2” Project to kickstart the Project implementation.

The Committee shall review and validate the following aspects of the Project:

- Necessity of the Project and its relevance to the reforms in the field
- Strategy and Theory of Change
- Results and Resources Framework ( RRF)
- Risks
- Governance and Monitoring framework
- Social and Environmental standards

**Documents presented:**

- Project Document;
- Quality Assurance

**Date:** 12 January 2022 (virtual format)

**UNDP:** During 2020-2021 UNDP Armenia Country Office (CO) implemented "Support to Armenia's Justice and Rule of Law Reforms: Bringing Justice Closer to People" Project with a total budget of USD 398,000. The Project created a ground for UNDP to support the Government in implementation of a broad and long - term reform agenda in the three main areas: a) integrity, independence and efficiency of the judiciary, b) access to justice and improved service orientation of the judiciary, c) effective and sustainable anti-corruption ecosystem in the country.

In September 2021 the CO ensured mobilization of resources for the next stage of justice and rule of law program to build on achieved results and continue support.

“Support to Armenia’s Justice and Rule of Law Reforms: Phase 2” Project aims to further support institutional strengthening to uphold the rule of law and promote justice and legal reforms in line with the international principles and standards in the field.

The Project’s support, in particular, will focus on

- ✓ Support integrity, independence and efficiency of the judiciary for ensuring merit-based judicial recruitment;
- ✓ Assistance to measures on enhancing access to justice and free legal aid mechanisms;
- ✓ Support to the Police Reform, through assessing results and impact of the training program delivered to the newly recruited patrol officers;
- ✓ Assistance to the establishment of the Arbitration Centre in Yerevan.

**Ministry of Justice:** The Project Document describing main objectives, outputs, activities and timelines of the Project has been generally approved by the key stakeholder, Ministry of Justice (MoJ). At the same time, it was suggested to add new activities deriving from the 2021-2026 Government Action Plan on Legal and Judicial Reforms.

Special attention will be paid to the processes of enhancing access to justice and free legal aid mechanisms, as prescribed by the Project Document.

MoJ informed that there had been reassessment and reconsideration of MoJ’s needs, which may impact the Project’s activities in relation to support to the Arbitration center. At this stage the MoJ is in need of technical support and assistance in development of marketing plan and strategy. Hence it was recommended to agree on a roadmap before initiating activities in this field.

MoJ also mentioned that Legal and Judicial Strategy does not envisage mediation. Yet, there is a separate package of legal amendments relating to mediation, including education, qualification, and training of mediators which will require involvement of international experts. The package

also includes provisions relating to development of tools and software for the registration and selection of the mediators. Depending upon the UNDP's position, MoJ is ready to collaborate in this field too. Additionally, technical support may be needed to develop amendment to the Law on Mediation.

**Supreme Judicial Council and Chamber of Advocates:** Both stakeholders reviewed the Project Document with no particular comments. The general approach from both sides was approval of the initiative, high relevance to the national priorities and suggestion to have in depth consultations for implementation of the activities.

**Recommendations and Actions:**

- The LPAC members agreed on the current scope of the Project including the objectives and results and approved for signature.
- The Project Team will be in touch with the stakeholders to finetune the timeline in accordance with the Legal and Judicial Action Plan for 2022.
- The Project Team will initiate respective consultations with Supreme Judicial Council and Chamber of Advocates to coordinate actions with well planned, scheduled and budgeted activities, under the overarching umbrella of the Project outcomes.
- The SC recommended to keep the initial agreed duration of the Project until September 2022.

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Natia Natsvlishvili

UNDP Resident Representative

10-Feb-2022