



## MINUTES

### PROJECT APPRAISAL COMMITTEE (PAC - online)

#### Support to Armenia's Rule of Law and Justice Reform: Bringing Justice Closer to People"

12 February 2020

#### PAC participants:

Ms. Mihaela Stojkoska	UNDP Deputy Resident Representative,
Ms. Kristinne Grigoryan	Deputy Minister of Justice of RoA
Ms. Amalia Hovsepyan	Advisor to Deputy Minister of Justice of RoA
Mr. Hayk Hovhannisyan	Member of Supreme Judicial Council
Mr. Vigen Kocharyan	Member of Supreme Judicial Council
Ms. Alla Bakunts	UNDP, DG Portfolio Manager
Ms. Marina Malkhasyan	UNDP, ROLJHR Focal Point

#### Purpose:

Approval of the final project proposal on "Support to Armenia's Rule of Law and Justice Reform: Bringing Justice Closer to People" project.

#### Documents presented:

- Project Document;
- Quality assurance

The Project Document package was shared via e-mail for PAC to Ministry of Justice and Supreme Judicial Council as key beneficiaries of the Project.

**The Project components, key outputs and activities were earlier discussed and with the Ministry of Justice and the Supreme Judicial Council, at the stage of development of Project Concept.**

**The following was presented to the PAC members:**

- Detailed project background, aim and project components, expected outcomes;
- Project objectives, implementation strategy and management framework;
- Next steps for possible project expansion and resource mobilization was discussed via e-mail communication. Described future steps necessary to launch the project implementation.

**Questions and comments:**

- Ms. Grigoryan suggested to concentrate within the scope of this initiation project and given the limited funds, on the psychological testing of the judges' recruitment process as part of the judicial integrity mechanism. As well as make connections of the recruitment process and testing to the anti-corruption and the integrity check system under Corruption Prevention Commission.
- Ms. Grigoryan also suggested during the implementation phase to have due connections of the e-court/case management component to the e-justice work implemented by the EU; she also suggested to discuss and thoroughly prepare for possible Justice Innovation Forum for best possible experience sharing.
- The CO gave them due consideration to the suggestions and noted to reflect the amendments accordingly in the Project Document.
- Mr. Vigen Kocharyan from SJC suggested to cut down the activities given the current funding limitations. However, another member of the SJC Mr. Hayk Hovhannisyān suggested that all mentioned areas and activities are still interdependent and need to be covered in parallel, so that they support mutual progress. He advised to keep the range of additional activities broader with a view for further expansion and resource mobilization as planned before.
- In particular, Mr. Hovhannisyān was suggesting to consider under Output 2 on "Access to justice improved through increased service orientation of the judiciary" it is advisable to see some words on developing mediation as ADR, including capacity building for court annex-mediators (develop their website, e-selection mechanism to enhance judges to select dispute specialized mediators), public awareness rising, train judges, advocates and mediators, including recruiting, licensing via MoJ) and training new mediators.
- Mr. Hovhannisyān also suggested to consider establishment of a model call center/customer care point in one of the courts, where citizens may really reach the court and receive exhaustive answers to their quests, regarding their cases and or general info issues, this will be a reality shifting event, that further can be multiplied to all courts. Mr. Hovhannisyān mentioned that SJC should work with UNDP and MoJ to mobilize more resources to cover the full implementation of the mentioned broader range of urgent needs and the e-court/e-case management component in particular.
- Ms. Malkhasyan agreed that the activities as described in the ProDoc will be limited to current funding, but in the strategy section of the Project, broader range of activities will be described as potential areas for expansion. Also, the mentioned needs will be taken into consideration for a comprehensive support package that is being developed, given availability of additional funds.

Additional Comments/Feedback:

**Quality Assurance, M&E, Reporting, Next Steps**

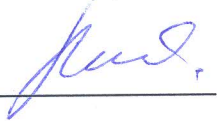
Ms. Malkhasyan informed that quality and reporting will be assured against UNDP's quality standards, and the results will be regularly monitored against Project Document Results and Resource Framework. In addition, it was noted that all possible revisions of the Project for resource mobilization will be done jointly with the Ministry of Justice and Supreme Judicial Council and other partners as parties to the Project Board.

**Gender Mainstreaming**

The project corresponds to UNDP Gender Marker GEN-2 score, in line with the respective output(s) of the 2016-2020 Country Programme Document. Gender equality and women's empowerment parameter is aimed to be a significant objective of the output(s).

**Recommendations and Actions:**

- To proceed with the signature of the Project Document and submission for funding authorization.
- It was agreed that the Project current activities will be implemented as planned to the limited extent and funding and joint preparation of next stages of the Project for further resource mobilization will be done.



Mihaela Stojkoska

UNDP Deputy Resident Representative

PAC Chair