

Russian Federation-UNDP Trust Fund for Development
Minutes of the Steering Committee Meeting

Venue: Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation building
Date and Time: 06 July 2017, 15:00 Moscow time
Subject: 7th Meeting of the Steering Committee of the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development

Participants:

From the Russian Federation:

Dmitry Maximychev, Deputy Director, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation (on behalf of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation);

Igor Korelsky, Division Deputy Head, Department of Europe, North America and International Organizations, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation (on behalf of the Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation);

Sergey Vasiliev, Expert, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation (on behalf of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation);

Anastasia Zhilova, Leading Counselor, Department of International Financial Relations, Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation (on behalf of the Ministry of Finance of the Russian Federation);

Grigory Ustinov, Division Head, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation;

Anastasia Pankova, Chief Expert, Department of Europe, North America and International Organizations, Ministry of Economic Development of the Russian Federation.

From the United Nations Development Programme:

Rastislav Vrbensky, Deputy Regional Director, Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS - Chairperson of the Steering Committee (on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme);

Joanna Kazana, Head of Country Office Liaison and Oversight Unit, the United Nations Development Programme Regional Bureau for Europe and the CIS (on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme);

Ivan Zverzhanovski, Team Leader, New Partnerships and Emerging Donors, the United Nations Development Programme Bureau for External Relations and Advocacy, Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS (on behalf of the United Nations Development Programme);

Alexander Averchenkov, Manager of the Russia-UNDP Trust Fund for Development, the United Nations Development Programme Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS

Anastasia Maximova, Partnership Support Analyst, New Partnerships and Emerging Donors, the United Nations Development Programme Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS

Natalia Voronkova, Project Manager, New Partnerships and Emerging Donors, the United Nations Development Programme Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS

Summary of the points discussed and the decisions taken

1. Opening of the Meeting and Adoption of the Agenda

Chairperson:

- Welcomed the SC members and all participants;
- On behalf of UNDP thanked representatives of Russian Ministries for their constructive engagement in preparation of this meeting and for working consultations;
- Introduced the Provisional Agenda and highlighted the main expected results;
- Invited the SC to adopt the Agenda of the 7th SC meeting.

Decision: The Agenda of the SC meeting has been adopted (doc. SC 7/1).

2. Discussion and possible funding decision on the project “Climate Change Education and Awareness Project – Climate Box”

Chairperson:

- Invited the TFD Manager to present the project document and report on incorporating the 6th SC meeting’s recommendations;

TFD Manager:

- Presented the project and highlighted some important corrections/adds made in the project document in accordance with the C recommendations made at the 6th meeting;
- Stakeholder Engagement Strategy has been elaborated. More focus has been given to rural areas (e.g. rural schools, rural clubs) and higher education institutions (universities, colleges, etc.);
- A new activity has been added to Component 3 “Dissemination/sharing other educational materials and training modules on climate change and energy efficiency developed with UNDP projects in Russia with educational institutions (universities, colleges, etc.) in beneficiary countries”.
- Section ‘Resources Required to Achieve the Expected Results’ now specifies how the resources provided by the TFD will be spent and which needs would be covered from other sources;
- An additional position, a Country Project Manager, has been added with a detailed description of his/her proposed role and functions under the project.

MED:

- Asked about the measures been taken to confirm with the decision of the 6th Meeting of the Steering Committee in terms of dissemination of education materials among universities. Appreciated the changes introduced to the project document.

MoF:

- Confirmed the importance of engagement students of universities, vocational training institutions, rural clubs and schools;
- Expressed concern about the translating and printing costs in the project budget, and recommend exploring a possibility to reduce these costs and reallocate funds towards organizing workshop and seminars.

UNDP (Joanna Kazana):

- Noted low administrative costs of the project due to the project management functions to be performed by current UNDP staff;

- Highlighted the fact that project is based on the successful Russian experience and would provide opportunity for visibility of Russian expertise.

TFD Manager:

- Noted that the project would have wide informational impact on members of families through schoolchildren who use the toolkit ;
- Reiterated the fact that printing would be done locally in the target countries, as well as mobile applications would be produced; confirmed that strong and careful assessment of cost will be ensured and the toolkit would be spread widely among target audience;
- Noted that the toolkit could be used and helpful for education on climate change issues, the toolkit opportunities and materials could be presented in specific format to students, some data and information would be adapted to specific countries.

Decision:

The Steering Committee approved the project “Climate Change Education and Awareness Project – Climate Box” and allocated \$469,800 for funding this project in 2017-2019;

The Steering Committee recommended to the project team to explore reserves in the budget for printing and translation.

3. Discussion and possible funding decision on the project “Regulatory Framework to Promote Energy Efficiency in Countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU)”

Chairperson:

- Invited the TFD Manager to present briefly the draft project document and highlight the progress made by UNDP COs in elaboration of this regional project.

TFD Manager:

- Presented the project document elaborated in accordance with the SC recommendations, in particular, on ensuring the close cooperation with the Russian ministries and agencies as well as with Eurasian Economic Commission in the field of improvement and /or harmonization of energy efficiency requirements and their introduction in the EEU countries.

Chairperson:

- Noted that UNDP Armenia is the leading office in the project and underlined the strong request of recipient countries for using Russian expertise;

MED:

- Noted that the project document reflects the SC recommendations in a proper manner.

Decision:

The Steering Committee approved the project “Regulatory Framework to Promote Energy Efficiency in Countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU)” and allocated \$1,500,000 for funding this project in 2017-2019.

4. Discussion and possible funding decision on the project “Addressing climate change impact through enhanced capacity for wildfires management in Armenia”

Chairperson:

- Invited the TFD Manager to present briefly the draft project document and highlight on how the project team has addressed the SC recommendations.

TFD Manager:

- Presented the project document and outlined in detail the expected collaboration with Russian partners: the Federal Agency for Forestry of Russian Federation, EMERCOM, “Telegraph equipment plant” JSC Kaluga; and with the Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University;
- Noted that for the “Capacity building” activity the Armenian respective ministries and academia/research institutions will collaborate with “Intergovernmental council for the forest industry and forestry” of the CIS countries.

MoF:

- Suggested to consider participation of EMERCOM in the Project Board as the agency could bring the specialized expertise to the project.

MFA:

- Noted that there is an established practice that respective Embassies represent the Government of Russia in project boards. If there is a need in specific expertise of the Russian ministries, the project management could address the Russian Embassy for communicating these needs and taking appropriate actions.

TFD Manager:

- Noted that Russian experts from Rosselkhoznadzor, Roshydromet, EMERCOM and other ministries and agencies are engaged in implementation of UNDP projects through UNDP’s communications with MFA;
- Referred to the Russian Experts on Demand programme, as an additional mechanism for engaging experts from the Russian ministries and institutions to programme countries.

Decision:

The Steering Committee approved the project “Addressing climate change impact through enhanced capacity for wildfires management in Armenia” and allocated \$1,000,000 for funding this project in 2017-2019;

The Steering Committee recommended to the project team actively partner with Russian institutions to be included in the projects oversight and implementation.

5. Discussion and possible funding decision on the project “Adapting to drought: Strengthening sustainable water planning and management in Santiago de Cuba, for greater resilience and adaptation to climate change”

Chairperson:

- Invited UNDP Partnership analyst to present briefly the draft project document and highlight on how the project team has addressed the SC recommendations

UNDP (Anastasia Maximova):

- Presented the project document and noted that links to Russia-funded projects Links to Russia-funded projects are explained in the special section;
- Co-funding has been explained in the section on “Resources Required to Achieve the Expected Results”;
- Use of relevant Russian expertise and equipment is explained in the project document and includes reference to potential use of specialized technology, technical training, technical advice from experts, software for the analysis and forecasts, reproduction of instructions and technical standards.

MNRE:

- Noted that the Roshydromet has close working relations with partner organizations in Cuba that could be useful for the project implementation.

Decision:

The Steering Committee approved the project “Adapting to drought: Strengthening sustainable water planning and management in Santiago de Cuba, for greater resilience and adaptation to climate change” and allocated \$1,000,000 for funding this project in 2017-2020;

The Steering Committee recommended to encourage the project team to cooperate closely with Roshydromet.

6. Discussion and possible funding decision on the project “Facilitating Climate Resilience in Tajikistan”

Chairperson:

- Invited UNDP Partnership Analyst to present briefly the draft project document and highlight the progress made by the UNDP CO in elaboration of this project.

UNDP (Anastasia Maximova):

- Presented the project document and noted that UNDP in Tajikistan plans to develop at least 3 project proposals to access climate finance in the following thematic areas :
 - Avalanche Management
 - Flood Management
 - Increasing Resilience of Rural Communities
- Noted expected collaboration with the regional project “Enhancing Access to Climate Finance in the ECIS region” to facilitate knowledge exchange on leveraging and management of the climate finance, through participation of relevant Tajikistan Government officials and experts in the trainings, workshops and study tours to successful/experienced countries in terms of leveraging and managing climate finance.

Decision:

The Steering Committee approved the project “Facilitating Climate Resilience in Tajikistan” and allocated \$950,130 for funding this project in 2017-2019.

7. Discussion and possible funding decision on the project “Support towards Implementing Zimbabwe’s Nationally Determined Contributions”

Chairperson:

- Invited UNDP Partnership Analyst to present briefly the draft project document and highlight the progress made by UNDP CO in elaboration of this project.

UNDP (Anastasia Maximova):

- Presented the project document and outlined the linkages between co- and parallel financing in detail;
- Noted that the partnership with Russian businesses and academics is described under Output 2 and 3, and under the section on triangular cooperation. The project proposal multiyear work plan and budget reflect the proposed cooperation activities with experienced Russian think tanks, academic institutions and business actors

MNRE:

- Suggested to clarify in the project name that Nationally Determined Contributions refer to the climate change;

MFA:

- Supported the comment by MNRE and suggested to change the project name to “Support towards Implementing Zimbabwe’s Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.”;

Decision:

The Steering Committee approved the project “Support towards Implementing Zimbabwe’s Nationally Determined Contributions” and allocated \$998,827 for funding this project in 2018-2020;

The Steering Committee recommended to the UNDP project team to revisit the project title.

8. Discussion on the Consolidated annual report on the Trust Fund in 2016

Chairperson:

- Referred to the annual certified financial statement on the Trust Fund and the draft Consolidated annual report on the Trust Fund operations in 2016 prepared in accordance with the Agreement for the Establishment of the Russian Federation – UNDP Trust Fund for Development;
- Invited TFD Manager to present briefly the documents.

TFD Manager:

- Noted that it is the first experience on preparation of the Consolidated annual narrative and financial report on the TFD operations, and of the TFD financial statement, therefore, it would be important to get a feedback from the TFD SC members on the format and content of the report;
- Underlined that the project teams unified the reports in accordance with the SC Template on project approved; and that CDRs attached to the project reports reflect all expenditures;
- Showed the TFD tranches cash flow and commitments and stressed that US\$ 2 million remain unallocated.

MoF:

- Noted low delivery of TFD projects in 2016 and asked for more information of projects’ progress to be shared with the SC.

MFA:

- Suggested to consider various options for allocation of US\$ 2 million and invited UNDP to present such options at the next SC meeting.

TFD Manager:

- Explained that the schedules of TFD's allocations to specific projects were determined in line with the projects implementation plans, and that the TFD commitments were documented in the special memoranda with respective UNDP Country Offices.

MoF:

- Suggested to consider changing schedules of tranches allocation to the projects taking into account low delivery in several projects.

UNDP (Ivan Zverzhanovski):

- Suggested providing details on each project delivery to the next Steering Committee meeting.

UNDP (Joanna Kazana):

- Clarified that delivery rates seem to be low, as the report presents the situation as of the end of 2016 when a number of projects were at early stage of implementation;
- Suggested that in the future UNDP can present more accurate and real time information available in Atlas.

Chairperson:

- Noted that the structure of information on projects progress in the TFD Consolidated annual narrative report should be unified.

MOF:

- Suggested that MoF needs to be involved in the project boards' decisions to provide comments to the project implementation;
- Informed on the progress achieved in consultations with the Eurasian Development Bank on the regional project "Strengthening capacities for sustainable development finance in the CIS region". Suggested to approve the revised project document;

Decision:

The Steering Committee took note on the annual certified financial statement on the Trust Fund and the draft Consolidated annual report on the Trust Fund operations in 2016.

The Consolidated annual report on the Trust Fund operations in 2016 revised in accordance with the comments raised should be submitted to the TFD SC members as an attachment to the Minutes of the SC meeting.

The Steering Committee requested TFD manager and the respective UNDP project teams to inform in advance the TFD SC members via e-mail on the planned project boards meetings and on the draft important decisions to be taken on the project implementation.

The Steering Committee invited UNDP to submit the revised project document "Strengthening capacities for sustainable development finance in the CIS region" for funding decision through e-communication in writing.

The Steering Committee encouraged UNDP to organize meetings with the UNDP county offices via teleconferences during following SC meetings so that to monitor key project updates and delivery of the funds.

9. Next Steering Committee date and agenda

Chairperson:

- Suggested to hold the 8th Steering Committee meeting in November 2017;

- The agenda of the meeting may include but not limited to:
 - ✓ Discussion and possible approval of the key parameters of the 2nd Call for Proposals under the TFD CCW;
 - ✓ Update and discussion on the progress in implementation the projects “Disaster resilience for Pacific small island developing states” and “Strengthening preparedness and response capacity, Tajikistan” with the project teams connected via videoconference;
 - ✓ Update on a progress implementation of the annual TFD work programme for 2017 and discussion on a draft Annual TFD work programme for 2018;
 - ✓ Update on TFD resources allocation and options for use of \$ 2 million unallocated funds;
 - ✓ Review a progress on the TFD projects delivery in 2017 and a rational for changing schedules of tranches allocation to projects with low delivery;
 - ✓ Discussion and possible approval of the Trust Fund’s operational budget for 2018.

Decision:

The Steering Committee decided to hold the 8th TFD SC meeting during the first decade of November 2017 in Moscow. Date should be defined through working level consultations.

10. Other business

MOF:

- Referred to the legal issues of secondments programme, suggested to accclerate formalizing the procedure of preparation, and a format of agreements/memoranda between ministries and UNDP.

MFA:

- Suggested that the respective ministries would discuss the legal arrangements of the secondments programme internally aiming to elaborate consensus solution.

Chairperson:

- Agreed that the consolidated position of the ministries would be needed for further progress on the issue;
- Noted that the Agreements/ Memorandums on the secondment arrangements should comply with the standard UNDP’s template.

Chairperson of the Steering Committee

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Rastislav Vrbensky

Secretary of the Steering Committee

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Alexander Averchenkov