

**Minutes of the
Local Appraisal Committee meeting**

Project name: Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System to increase resilience of Uzbekistan communities to climate change induced hazards

Project Atlas ID: 00120487/00116677

GCF ID: SA022

PIMS ID: 6218

Date: 17 June, 2021 at 9:30 a.m.

Mode: Hybrid (off line and on-line)

Venue: UNDP CO premises (4, Taras Shevchenko str., Tashkent) and on-line via Zoom platform <https://undp.zoom.us/j/84136329416?pwd=b1FSLzRxeU03TUE0WIFUSFIZVUxQT09>

Meeting objectives:

The meeting is convened to discuss the project “Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System to increase resilience of Uzbekistan communities to climate change induced hazards” providing an opportunity for all stakeholders of the project understand the substance of the project, its goal and objectives and other implementation details.

Participants:

Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan

1. Mr. Pyotr Volkov, Deputy Head of Department for ICT, communication systems and warning
2. Mr. Jakhongir Isaev, Head of Department for International Cooperation

Centre for Hydrometeorological Services of the Republic of Uzbekistan

1. Mr. Ibrat Karimov, Deputy Director General of the Center of Hydrometeorological Services
2. Ms. Natalya Agaltseva, Head of Department of the Center of Hydrometeorological Services
3. Ms. S. Abdullaeva, Head of the Climate Monitoring Department of the Center of Hydrometeorological Services.
4. Ms. Asilkhodjaeva, Head of the Department of Communications and Public Relations and Mass Media at the Center of the Hydrometeorological Services.
5. Ms. K. Kucharova, Chief Specialist of the International Cooperation Department of the Center of Hydrometeorological Services

Ministry of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan

1. Mr. Badriddin Abidov, Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan
2. Mr. Bekzod Teshabaev, Head of Department on attraction of grants

UNDP (Uzbekistan, HQ, Istanbul IRH)

1. Ms. Matilda Dimovska, UNDP Resident Representative
2. Ms. Doina Munteanu, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative
3. Mr. Bakhadur Paluanliyazov, UNDP ECA Cluster Lead
4. Mr. Armen Grigoryan, UNDP IRH Cluster Lead (on-line)
5. Ms. Natalya Olofinskaya, UNDP IRH Climate Specialist (on-line)
6. Mr. Stanislav Kim, UNDP Programme Specialist (on-line)
7. Ms. Rano Baykhanov, UNDP Climate Specialist
8. Ms. Elvira Izamova, UNDP Programme Associate
9. Mr. Alexander Merkushev, UNDP Project Manager
10. Ms. Naira Inogamova, UNDP AFA

UNDP project and programme staff on-line.

Chairperson: Ms. Matilda Dimovska, UNDP Uzbekistan Resident Representative

Agenda of the meeting (detailed Agenda is enclosed to minutes):

1. Welcome remarks of UNDP and partners
2. Presentation of MES and Uzhydromet
3. Presentation of the GCF project
4. Discussions
5. Conclusion

1. Welcome remarks

The meeting started from welcome remarks of Ms. Matilda Dimovska, UNDP RR, followed by Mr. Badriddin Abidov, Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade of the Republic of Uzbekistan, Mr. Jahongir Isaev, Head of Department for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Uzbekistan and Mr. Ibrat Karimov, Deputy Director General of the Centre for Hydrometeorological Services of Uzbekistan.

Ms. Dimovska, UNDP Resident Representative - welcomed the participants of the meeting on new project “Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System to increase resilience of Uzbekistan communities to climate change induced hazards”. It has been noted that the project proposal development has started in 2017, and more than 15 international & national experts have been involved in its development. It was stated that this project (with the budget of almost \$10 million) submitted to the CGF board for review and approved in March 2021 for funding, to be implemented next 6 years. Ms. Dimovska congratulated all stakeholders and expressed UNDP’s gratitude to key partners (Ministry of Emergency Situations, Uzhydromet, MIFT) for actively supporting the project development and confirming co-financing for the project in the amount of \$30,6 million.

Ms. Dimovska thanked colleagues from HQs and regional office in Istanbul for all efforts to make this project successful for funding. She noted that this meeting is as an opportunity for all parties involved in the project to understand their roles, functions, and responsibilities within the project’s implementation process. She highlighted that this project is very timely as frequent and more intense floods, mudflows, landslides, avalanches and other climate change-related disasters in Uzbekistan are putting lives and livelihoods at risk and slowing progress to reach targets outlined in the Paris Agreement and Sustainable Development Goals. The situation is further worsened by the continuing disappearance of the Aral Sea, barely 10% of which is left now. Reductions in water resources and changing precipitation patterns are predicted to further exacerbate prolonged droughts and extreme weather events. Climate aridity is also expected to increase across the entire country.

Ms. Dimovska outlined that Uzbekistan sets climate change adaptation as a priority in its first Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement. To support this process, UNDP with GCF support launched its National Adaptation Planning project last year to advance medium- and long-term adaptation planning in Uzbekistan. Notably that NDCs clearly highlight the need to establish a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System in Uzbekistan. This project is an important step in the process of restructuring and upgrading of the existing hazard forecasting and warning system in Uzbekistan, so it can effectively deal with the additional pressure of increased climate variability and change. This is especially in line with the national priorities of the Government of Uzbekistan including the resolution (Nov/20) of the President on further improving the hydrometeorological services in Uzbekistan. The resolution of the Cabinet of Minister (April/19) on measures for implementation of the Sendai framework programme on disaster risk reduction for 2015-2030 in Uzbekistan. In the face of increasing climate risks, the Multi-Hazard Early Warning System will serve to enhance climate resilience of more than 34 million people of Uzbekistan (indirect beneficiaries), including the most vulnerable and poor rural communities living in remote desert and mountainous areas currently at risk by climate-induced hazards. Specifically, the project will improve methods and capacities for monitoring, modelling and forecasting climate hazards and risks. The improved early warning systems will inform future planning and reduce risks for vulnerable communities, support

resilient livelihoods, good health and well-being, and improve food and water security for the people of Uzbekistan. Investing in the modernization of Uzbekistan's climate services and early warning systems is an investment in the future. Taken together with other actions, they pave the way for low-carbon, climate resilient development and a better future for generations to come. **Ms. Dimovska** expressed her hope that proposed interventions of the project will demonstrate the potential benefits of the upgraded system and contribute to the transformation of the climate and disaster risk management in the country.

Mr Badriddin Abidov, Deputy Minister of Investments and Foreign Trade - noted MIFT values the constructive cooperation with UNDP making considerable contribution to Uzbekistan's SDGs and approval and funding of this project by GCF is a great testament of its commitment and dedication to this end. Climate change has dramatically increased exposure of Uzbekistan to more frequent and intense hydrometeorological disasters, this is of utmost importance for the whole world and to CA region. Climate change adaptation is a priority in NDC of the Paris Agreement specifying the need of establishing well operational multi-hazard early warning system. This project is an important step in restructuring and upgrading of the existing hazard forecasting and warning system in Uzbekistan. It can deal with additional pressure of climate variability and change. This is well aligned with the national priorities of the Government of Uzbekistan and the recent Resolution of the President of Uzbekistan of November, 2020 on further improving the hydrometeorological services in our country. We expect that the project will effectively respond to the critical need of modernizing the early warning system into the MHEWS as an essential element of the country's climate risk management framework, enhancing the climate resilience of 34 million people of Uzbekistan and direct beneficiaries, particularly, living in remote areas with high risk of climate induced hazards. An effective MHEWS with satellite based monitoring, modelling and forecasting climate hazards and risks, a central depository for hazard and risk information, improved regulations, coordination and institutional mechanisms will enhance the quality and timeliness of climate and disaster related information available to decision-makers and the general population. We hope that our cooperation with GCF and UNDP and successful implementation of the project will serve as flagship initiative and expand the existing and build new partnerships with development partners. UNDP has unique opportunities to assist the Government in mobilizing a wide range of development financing to support and advance national development priorities in line with SDGs. This week we had the meeting with Ms. Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director of the Regional Bureau for Europe and the Commonwealth of Independent States, where we discussed all these matters and agreed on concrete actions on all mechanisms that exist between UNDP and Uzbekistan including the UNMPHSTF for Aral Sea and our cooperation within the COP26 and other mechanisms. We are ready to continue working closely together with UNDP team to mobilize UN resources as well as jointly engage MIFT as an NDA and expand partnerships with development banks, donor countries and international funds so we can work together. Professional experience, commitment and dedication of our teams will enable us to successfully complete the project and jointly mobilize and enhance our partnerships with benefit to Uzbekistan and its people.

Next, **Mr. Jahongir Isaev, Head of Department for International Cooperation of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Uzbekistan** - welcomed the participants and expressed gratitude for the on-going work in strengthening partnership in the area of protection of population and territories from disasters. Referring to the key requirements of the Sendai Framework and considering importance of the preventive activities on mitigation and preparedness to potential disasters, UN system pays special attention to support the Government of Uzbekistan in implementation various projects in this area. Starting from 2010, the main direction of UN agencies within the UNDAF on DRR, was strengthening national capacities of MES and other stakeholders, expanding the measures to DRR on level of communities. Activities held within the joint projects of MES and UNDP, strengthening national capacities in DRR demonstrate good framework for effective and productive cooperation. Provided support of UNDP to MES, and implemented activities including the introduction of ICT allowed to bring to the highest level the readiness of respected units of MES and population to disasters response. The joint points for cooperation between UN agencies and MES is the implementation of Sendai framework, which identifies a number of strategic and conceptual directions of the state policy in the area of protection of people and territories from natural and technological disasters. This policy is taken by the Government for many years successfully and we are ready to develop this work with your

support. Uzbekistan committing itself to Sendai framework and in line with SDGs, through the Decree of the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan in April 2019 approved the Strategy on achieving the target of Sendai Framework as well as National Action Plan on implementation of Sendai framework in Uzbekistan. For effective solution of existing challenges in DRR prevention it is important to establish international partnership, wide use of international experience. Through international cooperation it is important to introduce the ICT; EWS in Uzbekistan has its institutional potential requiring enhancement of this system through introduction of advanced technologies. This proposed project on MHEWS to be funded by GCF will be aimed at modernization and improvement EWS system of the country. Considering increase climate vulnerability of the country, the proposed system will facilitate the increase in climate sustainability of the population of Uzbekistan including the most vulnerable people living in the mountainous areas of the country. On behalf of MES of Uzbekistan I would like to express gratitude UNDP, Uzhydromet, MIFT and other partners for development of the very important project approved by GCF in March this year with funding of almost 10 mln. USD and we express readiness in implementation of this project working jointly with all partners to achieve practical results. Mr. Isaev reiterated appreciation to UNDP for contribution to the work to ensure safety of the people and strengthening potential of MES of Uzbekistan.

Next, **Mr. Ibrat Karimov, Deputy Director General of the Centre for Hydrometeorological Services of Uzbekistan** - welcomed and congratulated the participants of the meeting with this new project. On behalf of the Center for Hydrometeorological Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan, he welcomed the participants of the working meeting to discuss and evaluate a new joint project of UNDP, Uzhydromet and the Ministry of Emergency Situations funded by the Green Climate Fund. He noted that the problem of climate change is not only a high rise in global air temperature, which in our country exceeds the rate of warming throughout the northern hemisphere. Climate change brings to an increase in climate variability, an increase in the frequency of extreme weather events such as more frequent heatwaves, droughts, dust storms, mudflows, which can increase the scale of disasters, leading to significant economic losses, health problems and increased mortality.

Recognizing the importance of the problem of climate change and expressing concern about the increase in climate risks, Uzbekistan actively participates in the global fight against climate change and is actively pursuing an internal climate-resilient policy.

In his speech at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly, President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev noted that "Another acute problem of our time is global climate change. Today every country is feeling the destructive impact of this process. Unfortunately, these negative changes pose a serious threat to the sustainable development of Central Asia. "

The President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev, in his speech at the II International Summit "Partnership for Green Growth and Global Goals-2030" (P4G), confirmed that Uzbekistan has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 within the framework of the Paris Agreement. The head of state came up with initiatives: to hold the International Conference "Green Energy for Developing Countries" in 2022, proposed to launch a special program to attract young people to create a "green" economy to form a culture of "green" consumption. The implementation of these initiatives will make a significant contribution to mitigating climate change and thereby reducing climate risks.

An important step in response to climate change, in pursuance of paragraph 253 of the State Program for the implementation of the Action Strategy in five priority areas of development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2017 - 2021 in the "Year of Support for Youth and Strengthening Public Health", approved by the Decree of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan No.UP-6155 of 03.02.2021, in the country, Uzhydromet and national partners began developing a climate change strategy. The strategy is aimed at the formation and implementation of a unified state policy of the Republic of Uzbekistan within the country and in the international arena on issues related to climate change and its consequences and is designed to provide a strategic platform for national actions to prevent climate change and adapt to its negative consequences, as well as for integration climate aspects in development activities and planning. Mr. Karimov stated that this year, Uzhydromet, together with UNDP and MIFT, began preparing a National Sectoral Adaptation Plan aimed at the most vulnerable sectors of the economy, water and agriculture, health, disaster risk reduction, and energy efficient

construction. In November 2020, the Resolution of the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan "On measures to further improve the activities of the Center of the Hydrometeorological Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan" (No.PP-4896 17.11.2020) and the Concept for the Development of the Hydrometeorological Service of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2020 - 2025 were adopted.

Mr. Karimov hoped that the tasks set in the framework of the new GCF project will support those determined by the President's Resolution "Main directions of development of the hydrometeorological service", namely - the development and modernization of the observation network through the use of measuring instruments and modern methods; improvement of the system of rendering services in the fields of hydrometeorology and climatology, technical re-equipment of the observation network through the introduction of advanced information technologies, improvement of the early warning system of hazardous hydrometeorological phenomena based on satellite information and data obtained through remote sensing. In conclusion, he noted that Uzhydromet is always ready for broad cooperation and practical dialogue with UNDP and national partners for the successful implementation of the project and the achievement of the goals set by the project, to ensure climate resilience of the economic sectors and reduce the risk of climate-dependent hazards.

2. Presentations of partners

Then the floor was given to **Ms. Natalya Agaltseva, Head of Department on preparation and implementation of projects of the Centre for Hydrometeorological Services of Uzbekistan** to make the presentation on "Monitoring and prevention of mudflows and avalanche hazards in Uzbekistan". Further the floor was given to **Mr. Pyotr Volkov, Deputy Head of Department for ICT, communication systems and warning of the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan** to make the presentation on "A complex of software and hardware tools for an automated warning system and informing the population of the Republic of Uzbekistan about threats or emergencies".

3. Presentation of the new GCF project

Ms. Elvira Izamova, UNDP Programme Associate made the presentation of the project on "Enhancing Multi-Hazard Early Warning System to increase resilience of Uzbekistan communities to climate change induced hazards" describing the objectives financial details, project components and activities and also presenting the information on the next steps towards starting the project implementation.

Next, **Mr. Bakhadur Paluniyazov, UNDP ECA Cluster Lead** has proposed the next steps including the following:

1. The FAA Legal Agreement is agreed and signed between the UNDP and the FCF (**on 26th March/21**). The Financial agreement comes into force within 90 days after the date of its signing (**on 26th June/21**);
2. Preparation of the project proposal in the UNDP format and its translation into Russian (in process);
3. Coordination of the project document with the UNDP Regional Office in Istanbul and the UNDP SC (in process);
4. Signing of the project document of the UNDP format with the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Uzbekistan and Hydromet of the Republic of Uzbekistan and the UNDP, as well as signing of letters of agreements on the provision of services by the UNDP;
5. Start of the recruitment process for project personnel;
6. Receiving the first tranche from the GCF. The first payment must be requested no later than 90 days after the entry into force of the financial agreement (**by 26th September/21**);
7. The initial report (including the baseline estimates) must be submitted to the CCF Secretariat within 6 months of the entry into force of the financial agreement (**by 26th December/21**);
8. Conducting an Introductory seminar 6 months after the project launch. Preparation for the start-up workshop should be planned with this deadline in mind.

Note: Failure to comply with the legal deadlines (listed above) and failure to comply with all the terms and agreements in the signed FAA may result in the FAA terminating the project and the Fund cancelling the project.

4. Discussions

Then the floor was given for discussion and questions.

MES supported the project and expressed redlines to work further. Uzhydromet supported the project and all next steps. Also, Uzhydromet expressed the proposal that the project office will be located at Uzhydromet, for which MES did not object and agreed as well as UNDP. There are all conditions to place the project in the premises of Uzhydromet.

5. Conclusions:

Ms. Matilda Dimovska expressed appreciation to all presenters, and noted that this meeting was very informative and useful especially the presentation of Ms. Agaltseva on climate risks and vulnerabilities. It is great to see the broader vision and how you are placing the project within the broader developments. The project has the strategic importance for all. We have big task ahead of us, we have quite a time but we need try to accelerate considering the challenge with climate change we are facing. She noted on the importance to focus on substantive part of the work and that would be in 6 month Inception Workshop, where we will discuss the way forward and focus. Ms. Dimovska appreciated the offer of Uzhydromet to host the project, energy and enthusiasm to this and all other engagement that we have together. Ms. Dimovska noted on the importance of this engagement with MES and noted that would be looking forward to yet another partnership with the MES. Ms. Dimovska wished good luck to all with new cooperation.

Final conclusion:

- ✓ The Committee has supported the project and its three components and noted the importance of the GCF MHEWS project for the country and its alignment with the government priorities.
- ✓ All partners of the project including MES, Uzhydromet and MIFT expressed their readiness in implementing this project for the good of the country and its people.

Prepared by:

Ms. Elvira Izamova, UNDP Uzbekistan Programme Associate

Elvira Izamova 30 Jun-2021

Cleared by:

Mr. Bakhadur Paluanizayov, UNDP Uzbekistan ECA Cluster Lead

Bakhadur Paluanizayov 30 Jun-2021

Endorsed by:

Ms. Matilda Dimovska, UNDP Uzbekistan Resident Representative

Matilda Dimovska 30 Jun-2021