

Minutes of the Coordination Meeting on the launch of a joint project between State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan and UNDP

Date: 20.01.2021, 11:00-12:00

Venue: online, Zoom conference

Name of jointly implemented project:

1. "Strengthening the institutional, statistical and information-technical potential of the State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics."

Agenda:

1. Opening. Welcome words.
2. Presentation on the conception of the goals and objectives of the project - Gulalek Berdiyeva, project manager of the United Nations Development Program in Turkmenistan, and Discussion of planned project activities in 2021.
3. Discussion of the composition of the Project Board and appointment of the National Project Coordinator.
4. Other questions.

Presented:

1. **Silap Velbegov, Chairman of the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan;**
2. **Ms. Natia Natsvlishvili**, UNDP Resident Representative a.i. in Turkmenistan;
3. **Ms. Gurbangul Ataeva**, Head of the Office of Consolidated Economic Analysis and Information of the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan, National Coordinator of the Project "Strengthening the Institutional and Statistical Capacity of National Accounts";
4. **Mr. Kadyr Kadyrov**, head of the Office of National Accounts of the State Committee for Statistics of Turkmenistan;;
5. **Mr. Pirnazar Begmyradov**, Head of the International Relations and Special Works Department of the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan
6. **Mr. Rovshen Nurmammedov**, Head of the Programme Department, UNDP;
7. **Mr. Akmyrat Danatarov**, Programme Manager for Management, Economic Development and Social Policy, UNDP;
8. **Ms. Gulalek Berdiyeva**, Project Manager;
9. **Ms. Ogulshirin Yazlyyeva**, UNDP Programme Assistant;
10. **Ms. Kristina Kalinka**, UNDP Project Assistant.

Minutes of the meeting

1. Ms. Natia Natsvlshvili - The UNDP Resident Representative a.i. in Turkmenistan greeted the participants of the meeting and thanked for participation in the Project Council for the launch of the joint project “Strengthening the institutional, statistical and information-technical potential of the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan (TurkmenStat)”.

First of all, Ms Natia Natsvlshvili noted that trusting relationships and good cooperation have been established between the UN Development Program and TurkmenStat in recent years. UNDP and the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan work closely on the Sustainable Development Goals, and have also implemented a number of joint projects, including a project on foreign trade statistics, procurement of server and computer equipment for TurkmenStat, and a project on national accounts.

Regarding previously implemented projects, it was reported that UNDP sent a note on January 7 of this year on the return of unspent funds and asked to send the bank account details for the transfer of these funds. As soon as the bank account details are received, unspent funds will be returned, and these projects will be closed. In this connection, UNDP hopes that the details will be sent soon.

At the end of last year, by joint efforts of the UN Development Program and TurkmenStat, the project “Strengthening the institutional, statistical and information-technical potential of the State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics” was developed, which was signed in December 2020.

In this connection, Ms. Natia Natsvlshvili expressed gratitude to Mr. Chairman and his staff for the support provided in promoting this project at the level of the Ministry of Finance and Economy, the Cabinet of Ministers, and other authorities. For UNDP, this is an indicator of the relevance and necessity of this project for the country, and great responsibility for achieving the goals of this project.

Further, Ms. Natsvlshvili dwelled on the main issues of project management and noted that the Project Council is the main project management body, which considers and approves work plans and reports on project implementation. The project manager and the national project coordinator are responsible for the implementation of the project. In this connection, UNDP asked the State Committee of Turkmenistan to appoint a national coordinator for this project.

The procedure for the implementation of project activities was also agreed and it was noted that the procurement of goods and services, the recruitment of international and national consultants, the organization of events is carried out in strict accordance with the rules and procedures of UNDP. UNDP submits a financial report on a quarterly basis, which is sent for signature to TurkmenStat. In case of non-receipt of the signed financial report or justified reasons for not signing, these reports are considered accepted by the Turkmen side.

2. Further, Gulyalek Berdyeva, project manager, presented a presentation on the new project, its goals and objectives, as well as an action plan for 2021. (Presentation attached).

3. Mr. Chairman of the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan – Mr. Silap Velbegov thanked all participants for the meeting and confirmed that all financial statements provided by UNDP had been received, reviewed and confirmed. Mr. Velbegov said that TurkmenStat, for its part, is ready to appoint a National Coordinator for a new project “Strengthening the institutional, statistical and information-technical potential of the State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics” represented by Kadyr Kadyrov, Head of the Department of National Accounts of the State Committee of

Turkmenistan on Statistics. It was also noted that all correspondence with UNDP will be reviewed immediately upon receipt, and bank details will be provided as soon as possible for the return of unspent funds from previous projects.

Kadyr Kadyrov, Head of the Department of National Accounts of the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan, in turn, noted that TurkmenStat had already got acquainted with the plans of the annual work plans for the project in the process of preparing the project and did not have any additional questions, and also hoped for fruitful cooperation and successful implementation of all planned activities. 4. Following the results of the project council, Ms. Natia Natsvlishvili once again thanked for cooperation in the implementation of joint projects, congratulated Kadyr Kadyrov on his appointment as National Coordinator, and also noted the need to make great efforts on both sides for the successful implementation of the new project and expressed readiness UNDP to work intensively and comprehensively for the sake of fruitful cooperation.

Mr. Silap Velbegov, Chairman of the State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics, also noted the enormous contribution to the preparation of the new project from UNDP and personally thanked Ms. Natia Natsvlishvili for her support and participation in all aspects of the joint work.

Akmyrat Danatarov, UNDP Program Manager for Governance, Economic Development and Social Policy, added that, as noted earlier, the third component of the project "Strengthening the institutional, statistical and information-technical potential of the State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics" focuses on working with the Base of the Sustainable Development Goals. Mr. Danatarov called on TurkmenStat to pay great attention to this issue, since this direction is one of the most important dialogues of the joint partnership between UNDP and TurkmenStat.

The meeting was concluded with the following:

1. The parties expressed their readiness to implement a new joint project "Strengthening the institutional, statistical and information-technical potential of the State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics", implemented between UNDP and TurkmenStat.

2. The State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan will provide bank details for the return of unspent funds from previous projects.

3. The State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan will provide an official letter on the appointment of the National Coordinator for the new project "Strengthening the institutional, statistical and information-technical potential of the State Committee of Turkmenistan on Statistics" represented by Kadyr Kadyrov, Head of the Department of National Accounts of the State Committee on Statistics of Turkmenistan.