

Minutes of the Project Board Meeting in the frame of joint project between UNDP Turkmenistan and Ministry of Finance & Economy of Turkmenistan “SDG platform, II phase”

Date: 4.02.2022, 15:00-16:30

Project: “SDG platform, II phase”

Location: Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan

List of participants:

Galina Romanova - Head of the Consolidated Department of Public Finance and Economic Policy of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan;

Atadjan Atayev - Head of the Strategic and Sustainable Development Department of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan, National Project Coordinator;

Elita Shumskaya - Chief Specialist of the Strategic and Sustainable Development Department of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan;

Narine Sahakyan – UNDP Resident Representative in Turkmenistan;

Rovshen Nurmuhamedov – UNDP Assistant Resident Representative in Turkmenistan

Akmyrat Danatarov – Programme Analyst on DG portfolio

Irina Gukasova – SDG Project coordinator.

Agenda:

1. Introductory part.
2. Project Results of the work for 2021.
3. Presentation of the annual work plan of the project "Platform for the implementation of the SDGs, II phase" for 2022.
4. Discussion of additions / changes to the planned types of work, resetting of the Annual Work Plan for 2022.
5. Conclusion

Mr. Atadjan Atayev summed up the results of the work of the 2nd phase of the project for 2021 and the activities carried out, and also noted that within the framework of joint cooperation, fruitful interaction has been established with the UN Development Program, UN agencies in Turkmenistan, and some progress has been made on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in the country. A lot of work has been done during the implementation of the first phase of the joint project "Platform for the implementation of the SDGs". With the active assistance of the project, the State Statistics Committee of Turkmenistan created a national platform for reporting on the SDGs, which will ensure the collection, processing and dissemination of data - indicators of the SDGs in accordance with

international approaches, which will serve as the basis for timely reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals in global SDG databases. Fruitful cooperation has been established between national ministries and departments, the private sector and other organizations responsible and involved in the implementation of the SDGs.

Currently, the Government of Turkmenistan, together with the UN country team, are preparing the second Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the implementation of the SDGs in Turkmenistan for presentation at the ECOSOC High-Level Political Forum in 2023. In this regard, the Ministry also expresses hope for assistance within the framework of a joint project in the preparation of the second VNR.

Mrs. Narine Sahakyan noted that trusting relations and fruitful cooperation have been established between the UN Development Program and the Government of the country in recent years, and with the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan (MFET), which is the coordinating body for the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals in Turkmenistan. At the same time, Ms. Sahakyan thanked the MFET for the signing in December 2021 between UNDP and MFET of the Annual Work Plan of the Country Component for Turkmenistan of the Regional Project "Creating an SDG Platform for Central Asia", funded by the European Union and implemented as part of the second phase of the joint project.

As a continuation of the agenda of the meeting of the Project Board, it was proposed to discuss the work plan of the 2nd phase of the project for 2022, as well as areas of joint cooperation with the Regional Project. On the issue of creating a national SDG database platform, they expressed hope for the assistance of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan in ensuring the open publication of SDG indicators, including data from the first Voluntary National Review of Turkmenistan.

Ms. Irina Gukasova presented a brief overview of the completed activities for the period September-December 2021. Budget 2021 – \$12,675. For the period September-December 2021, budget funds were fully disbursed.

- for component one, a draft periodic national report on the progress of achieving the SDGs in Turkmenistan for the period 2015-2020 was prepared for the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan.

Together with the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, terms of reference were prepared for hiring national and international consultants to prepare a mid-term review of SDG achievements, an inventory and update of the SDG matrix, and meetings of experts with specialists from ministries and departments responsible for reporting on the SDGs were held.

- **within the framework of the regional project** and the joint project "Platform for the implementation of the SDGs, phase II" in November 2021, representatives of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan took part in the official launch of the Regional project "Creating an SDG platform in Central Asia" in an online format, which was presented an overview of the current state and progress of SDG achievements in Turkmenistan.
- In December 2021, with the assistance of the project, a regional online seminar was held on the topic "Assessment of financing for development - the basis for the development of integrated national mechanisms for financing the Sustainable Development Goals", in which the employees of the MFET, as well as representatives of national ministries and departments of economic and banking sectors involved in the SDG financing process.

Further, Irina Gukasova presented a brief overview of the planned activities for 2022, which includes 2 components:

1. Assistance on financing for development in the context of the implementation of the SDGs;
2. Building national capacity to improve the trading system

Budget (1.01.2022 r.- 31.12.2021): 94,643.00 USD

Government of Turkmenistan: 89,643.00 USD

UNDP: 5,000.00 USD

The following activities are planned for 1st Component FY 2022:

- Preparation of a draft periodic national report on the progress of achieving the SDGs in Turkmenistan for the period 2015-2021 and translation of the report into Turkmen.
- Technical support for the preparation of the Voluntary National Report.
- Conducting assessments of national, sectoral strategies and plans, including issues of climate change adaptation for sustainable development and targeted climate finance. Assistance in the Development Finance Assessment.

Budget of the 1st Component - 50,248.00 USD

2nd component:

- FY 2022, it is planned to conduct an analysis of WTO membership, taking into account the socio-economic impact of the global pandemic, develop a draft Roadmap for WTO accession and hold a seminar.

Budget of the 2nd component - 23,051.00 USD

As part of the action plan of the Country Component of the Regional Project "Creating an SDG Platform in Central Asia for 2022", it is planned to conduct DFA and hire an international expert and national consultants.

Budget of the Regional Project FY 2022 - 58.850,00 USD, including DFA - 45.000,00 USD.

Mrs. Galina Romanova, Head of the Consolidated Department of Public Finance and Economic Policy of the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan, noted that within the framework of the 2nd component of the current project to improve the trading system, it was proposed to include in the planned event the preparation of a draft Roadmap for Turkmenistan's accession to the WTO.

It was also noted that as part of the development and improvement of the financial system, issues of the development of the securities market, the insurance sector, the development of the regulatory framework, and methodological developments on these issues are being updated. In this context, it was proposed to initiate the organization of training seminars within the framework of ongoing projects, and / or consideration of this topic as part of the creation of a new joint project.

In the future, UNDP assistance and cooperation in the field of energy and on the use of alternative energy sources was proposed. It was also suggested to study best practices of countries and examples on integrating SDG indicators into budgets and programs. As part of the continuation of

the 3rd phase of the joint project between the MFET and UNDP, it was proposed to consider the issue of UNDP assistance in the implementation of medium-term budget planning.

The members of the Project Board submitted their proposals and recommendations for inclusion in the work plan and approved the annual work plan, considering the additions.

Mr. Atajan Ataev thanked the participants of the meeting for constructive discussions and informative presentation.

Conclusion/Recommendation:

1. As part of the implementation of the second phase of the project, start implementing the activities of the annual plan for 2022 and make additions, considering recommendations and suggestions.
2. Develop terms of reference for attracting international and national experts.
3. Conduct project work in coordination with the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan and with UN agencies.
4. Within the framework of ongoing activities with the Regional Project, conduct the work of the project in coordination with the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan.
5. Prepare the final version of the annual work plan for 2022, considering the proposals of the members of the Project Board, and recommend the implementation of the plan for 2022.