

**Minutes of the Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meeting between
Central Commission for Holding Elections and Referendums in Turkmenistan and
United Nations Development Programme**

Date: April 12, 2024

Place: Building of the Central Commission for Holding Elections and Referendums in Turkmenistan (CEC)

1. Attendance

Name	Title
Gulmyrat Muradov	Chairman, Central Commission for Holding Elections and Referendums in Turkmenistan
Maksatmyrat Geldyev	Head of the Organizational Department of the Office of the Central Commission for Holding Elections and Referendums in Turkmenistan
Hekimberdy Ovezov	Secretary-Referent of the Office of the Central Commission for Holding Elections and Referendums in Turkmenistan
Tomica Paovic	UNDP Officer-in-Charge in Turkmenistan, LPAC Chair
Akmyrat Danatarov	Programme Analyst, Governance, Economic Diversification, and Inclusive Growth
Ogulshirin Yazlyyeva	Programme Associate, Governance, Economic Diversification, and Inclusive Growth, M&E focal person, LPAC Member

2. Project Document was presented by: Akmyrat Danatarov, Programme Analyst, Governance, Economic Diversification, and Inclusive Growth, UNDP

Background information on the project:

Project Title: Assistance in capacity building of the Central Commission for Holding Elections and Referendums in Turkmenistan

Project start date: March 1, 2024

Project end date: April 30, 2025

Implementing Partner: UNDP in Turkmenistan

National Partner: Central Commission for Holding Elections and Referendums in Turkmenistan

Total Project Budget: USD220,022

2. Summary of Project Document:

Project will contribute to:

UNSDCF Outcome 1: By 2025, people have access to more effective, innovative, and transparent public administration based upon the rule of law, human and labour rights, gender equality and quality data.

- **CDP Output 1.3.:** Legislation, policies, programmes and their implementation are strengthened to address recommendations from United Nations human rights

mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review, treaty bodies, and special procedures, with civil society participation.

- Gender marker: GEN 2 (Gender equality is a significant objective)

The Project will be implemented in Direct Implementation Modality (DIM).

The main goal of the Project is to further support electoral reforms and strengthen the capacity of the election commissions of Turkmenistan by sharing best international practices and organizing relevant training activities.

Project Document consist of following components:

Component 1: The project will support the CEC and other national stakeholders to familiarize themselves with and learn from relevant regional and international examples and best practices in establishing a single, unified voter register with gender disaggregated data.

Component 2: The project will identify issues of capacity building for election officials and consequently organize BRIDGE workshops targeting relevant subjects with gender responsive approach.

Component 3: The project will support the Parliament, CEC and other stakeholders to learn about Temporary Special Measures (TSM) from relevant examples in the region and globally, as well as by reviewing relevant literature on the subject. At least one seminar/workshop will be held centrally, in addition to several smaller workshops in the regions, to both gather opinions of the stakeholders as well as sensitize the population towards possible introduction of TSM.

5. Summary of LPAC member comments and suggestion:

- Mr. Muradov thanked all participants for arranging the LPAC meeting and supporting in the development of the project. Mr. Muradov also expressed the CEC's willingness to support the successful implementation of the project.
- Mr. Paovic thanked everyone for attending LPAC meeting organized to discuss a strategically important project for UNDP and CEC, and for active participation in the development of the project document. He also stated that UNDP used to provide similar support in the past and it is pleasure for us to initiate such project again to build capacities of the Central Commission for Holding Elections and Referendums. Mr. Paovich underlined that UNDP has been implementing projects on capacity building of electoral bodies in many countries of the world. He noted that one of the important points of discussion at this meeting is that according to the request from the MFA and financial authorities the total budget of the project has been revised from US\$220,022 to US\$166,414 and, therefore, it is necessary to re-sign the project document. Another important issue is that the current mandate for electoral assistance as granted by the UN-wide focal point for electoral assistance, the Under-Secretary-General for Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, expires on 30 June 2024. Any assistance provided beyond that date is subject to Focal Point's extension of the said mandate.
- Mr. Danatarov also informed that to accelerate the launch of the project, the process of hiring a Project Manager has been initiated already.

- Ms. Yazlyyeva introduced the meeting participants with Direct Implementation Model where UNDP will be responsible for hiring consultants, procurement and payments under the project, reporting to the donor, as well as the main responsibilities of the Project Manager and the main role, structure and responsibilities of the Project Board. The Terms of Reference of the Project Board will be submitted to CEC for review and signature by the Project Board Members.
- Mr. Ovezov noted that as it was earlier mentioned CEC has implemented projects with UNDP and conducted the BRIDGE trainings in velayats and it would be a good opportunity for a wide coverage of training participants to arrange the trainings in regions this time too, which would also save the project budget. Taking into account the decrease of the project budget and the willingness of the CEC to provide substantive support in the implementation of project activities, CEC as in-kind contribution will cover the transportation costs and DSA of its own staff, cover the rent of the conference hall.
- Mr. Geldiev stated that the CEC is very interested in experienced and highly qualified BRIDGE trainers.
- Mr. Danatarov assured that UNDP has the database (roster) of high qualified BRIDGE trainers with substantive relevant experience in this field and UNDP guarantees the selection of experienced trainers.

6. Final LPAC recommendations:

The LPAC members recommended approval of the project with the following changes:

- The total project budget to be reduced from US\$220,000 to US\$166,414.
- UNDP will follow up with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan to speed up the procedures for re-signing the Project Document considering the reduction of project funding.
- Both parties expressed their readiness to implement a new joint project between UNDP and CEC.

The LPAC can result in the following decision (in line with the Project QA Assessment Report):

- **APPROVE** – the project is of sufficient quality to continue as planned. Any management actions must be addressed in a timely manner.
- **APPROVE WITH QUALIFICATIONS** – the project has issues that must be addressed before the project document can be approved. Any management actions must be addressed in a timely manner.
- **DISAPPROVE** – the project has significant issues that should prevent the project from being approved as drafted.

Prepared by:



Ogulshirin Yazlyyeva, UNDP Programme Associate

Minutes approved by:



Tomica Paovic, UNDP Officer-in-Charge in Turkmenistan, LPAC Chair



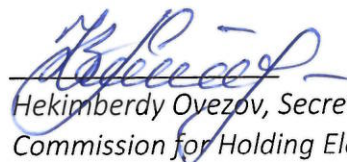
Akmyrat Danatarov, Programme Analyst, Governance, Economic Diversification, and Inclusive Growth



Gulmyrat Muradov, Chairman, Central Commission for Holding Elections and Referendums in Turkmenistan



Maksatmyrat Geldyev, Head of the Organizational Department of the Office of the Central Commission for Holding Elections and Referendums in Turkmenistan



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