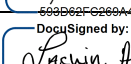
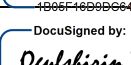
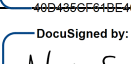
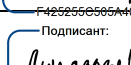
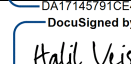


**UNDP Country Office in Turkmenistan
Minutes of the Local Project Appraisal Committee Meeting**

Date: May 29, 2025

Project Title: Partnering for SDG acceleration, Phase IV

1. Attendance

Name	Title	Signature
Tomica Paovic	UNDP DRR in Turkmenistan, LPAC Chair	 DocuSigned by: 8200F74A4EEA4B7...
Mary Risaeva	ARR for Operations	 DocuSigned by: BB6CF7123A0844F...
Gulalek Volmammedova	Programme Analyst, Governance, Economic Diversification, and Inclusive Growth	 DocuSigned by: Gulalek Volmammedova AAAFB47BB11A443...
Irina Gukasova	Project Manager	 DocuSigned by: 639D62F0269A49D...
Lachin Artykova	Human Rights Cluster Projects Manager, Gender Focal Point	 DocuSigned by: 1B06F16D9D66424...
Ogulshirin Yazlyyeva	M&A Associate, UNDP	 DocuSigned by: 40D435CF64DE46B...
Jahan Saparmamedova	Communications Analyst	 DocuSigned by: F4252550505A405...
Aynagozel Taganova	Administrative Associate, UNDP	 Подписант: DA17145791CE458...
Halil Veisov	Digitalization Analyst	 DocuSigned by: C9C97D43BAB5455...

2. Project Proposal is presented by: Irina Gukasova, „Partnering for SDG Acceleration, Phase III “project manager

Presentation of Project Document (Project Developer)

Brief Description of Project Document (including purpose and objectives of the project, source of funding, planned activities)

Background information on the project:

Project Title: Partnering for SDG acceleration, Phase IV

Project start date: January 1, 2026

Project end date: December 31, 2027

Implementing Partner: UNDP in Turkmenistan

National Partner: Ministry of Finance and Economy

Total Project Budget: 333,413 USD (Government of Turkmenistan)

Implementation: DIM

Summary of Project Document:

Project will contribute to components:

- I. Support in the preparation of Turkmenistan's third Voluntary National Review (VNR) on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- II. Assistance on financing issues within the framework of the Integrated National Financing Framework (INFF) for achieving the SDGs;
- III. Capacity building on SDG localization at the national level;

Contributes to achieving the Outcome 1, SDCF UN-TKM 2026-2030:

By 2030, the population of Turkmenistan will have access to an accountable governance system through improved public administration and strengthened fiscal capacity, based on commitments to human rights, the rule of law, and gender equity to ensure the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Output 1.1, UN SDCF:

Evidence-based and rights-oriented policy measures have been developed and implemented in support of the national SDG agenda, backed by adequate budgetary resources, and carried out and monitored using disaggregated data.

Gender marker: GEN2

3. Summary of LPAC member comments / Review of the QA Assessment

- Ms. Gukasova opened the session by expressing her gratitude to all participants for their engagement in the LPAC meeting and their support in developing the Project Document. She then delivered a comprehensive presentation outlining the three Outcomes of the ProDoc, along with related project details
- Mr. Tomica Paovic requested a revision of Activity 2.6 to ensure its alignment with the INFF logic and to improve the clarity of the activity.
- Ms. Volmammedova inquired whether the UNDP track for this project could be indicated as \$20,000.00 over a two-year period.
- Mr. Paovic noted that the track will be subject to scrutiny. While an allocation of \$10,000 per year is unlikely to cause any significant issues, the future of the track over the next two years remains uncertain due to ongoing cost-saving measures. He added that, for now, this arrangement is acceptable, but any future changes should be communicated with the Ministry.
- Ms. Risaeva agrees with Mr. Paovic that it's too uncertain regarding making any judgments on any sort of UNDP funding, but it is low risk because of negligible amount for 2 years and Mr. Paovic approach to keep it as 20,000.00\$ for project duration.
- Mr. Veisov emphasized the need to describe how digital technologies or solutions could enhance the experience of target beneficiaries and partners, and how these tools could be applied to address additional development challenges. He clarified that the intention is not to implement a digital platform, but rather to explore how digital technologies can be integrated

into the implementation of the project. He suggested that including this aspect would be valuable.

- Mr. Paovic recommended that this topic be considered during the LPAC discussion, emphasizing that it does not imply the need to implement a digital solution. However, he noted the importance of exploring whether a digital approach or solution could support the project in achieving its goals. He added that some reference should be included in line with Mr. Veisov's remarks, while clarifying that there is no requirement to implement any specific digital solution
- Mr. Veisov informed the group that he would share the link to the guideline on embedding digital elements in project design, so it can be reviewed collectively.
- Ms. Risaeva highlighted the importance of mentioning the existing platform with a database designed to monitor SDG localization and implementation, collect statistical data, and provide region-specific insights across Turkmenistan. She emphasized that this is a practical digital tool that can support decision-makers effectively.
- Ms. Lachin Artykova mentioned that, if approved by national partners, the introduction of gender budgeting would be a valuable addition. She emphasized that it represents a significant component of gender mainstreaming
- Ms. Mary Risaeva noted that during the presentation of the ProDoc, the Management Structure section did not mention a Project Manager. Instead, it referred to 'project coordination,' which she emphasized is not the same
- Ms. Risaeva also emphasized the importance of engaging the Ministry of Finance, if possible, to consider assigning a project manager who has experience with similar tasks in comparable projects. She noted that this would have implications for the project budget, as one project associate could support multiple related projects within a single portfolio. She suggested exploring the possibility of including responsibilities for similar projects—particularly those involving the Ministry of Finance—within the scope of the project coordinator's role
- Ms. Risaeva suggested that the ProDoc should reflect UNDP's consideration of assigning additional projects of a similar nature to the Project Manager under this initiative
- Ms. Yazlyyeva noted that the indicators listed on the cover page need to be updated to reflect indicators 1.3 instead of 1.1
- Ms. Yazlyyeva reviewed the risks outlined in both Phase III and the current Phase IV and noted that two out of three risks remain unchanged from the previous phase. She emphasized the need to revise these risks, as maintaining them in their current form could lead to repeated comments during the certification process conducted by HQ. Additionally, she inquired about the preparation of the mandatory annexes and the deadline for submitting the English version
- Based on the urgency of the request to send the ProDoc to partners, Mr. Paovic recommended that the annexes are prepared before sending the final version of the ProDoc. , and all necessary preparations are completed before signing. .
- Ms. Jahan Saparmammedova inquired whether any activities related to communications are planned, and if there are possibilities to allocate budget lines for communications.

- Ms. Volmammedova noted that if budget lines are directly allocated for communications, national partners might raise questions. She suggested allocating these lines to the project assistant and then use them for communications.
- Ms. Jahan Saparmammedova noted that although the sum will be hidden, it is important to plan for it, as strong communication is crucial for successful project implementation.
- Mr. Paovic concluded the meeting by thanking everyone and congratulating the team on an ambitious project with many important elements that will support the government in areas such as the VNR, localization, updating the development finance assessment, and continuing work with the INFF. He emphasized the project's strategic importance and highlighted the need to include a communications budget, as it appears that this could be effectively utilized to achieve positive results.

4. Final LPAC recommendation:

To conclude, the LPAC members recommended to implement the following changes in the Prodoc:

- It was recommended to revise the Activity 2.6., so the activity will be in line with INFF logic and adding the clarity the activity.
- Revise the risks to ensure clarity and alignment with project context;
- Include the section "digital solutions" in Prodoc to better reflect the project's scope and strategic focus;
- Indicators 1.1 and 1.3 are the same and needs to be merged. Consultations part needs to be more specific, its either number of people consulted or stakeholders consulted and if stakeholders consulted, which stakeholders.
- Number of indicators needs to be reduced and improved.
- Indicator 3.3 needs to be revised as well, beacuse it doesn't say what it is going to measure.
- Communication budget line needs to be included
- Consideration of assigning a project manager who has experience with similar tasks in comparable projects
- Until final approval, Project team is tasked to prepare the following:
 - Terms of Reference for the Project Board
 - Quality Assurance at the Design Stage
 - Project Risk Registe
 - Social and Environmental Screening Procedure (SESP)

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

APPROVE WITH QUALIFICATIONS - *The project design requires some modifications, noted in the LPAC minutes, which must be addressed before the project signing/implementation.*

Prepared by:

Подписант:

Aynagozel Taganova

BA171467916E468...

Aynagozel Taganova, UNDP Administrative Associate

LPAC minutes are approved by:

DocuSigned by:

Gulalek Volmammedova

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*Gulalek Volmammedova, Programme Analyst, Governance,
Economic Diversification, and Inclusive Growth*

DocuSigned by:

Tomica Paovic

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*Tomica Paovic, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative in
Turkmenistan, LPAC Chair*

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Irina Gukasova

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UNDP Headquarters

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United Nations Development Program

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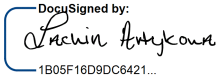
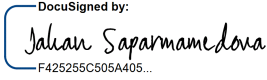
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