



**UNDP Democratic Governance  
Human Rights for Ukraine (HR4U)  
Project Board Meeting**

**Minutes**

11 October 2021

*Kyiv*

**Agenda**

- 14:00-14:30 Introduction and Welcoming Remarks  
*Ms. Manal Fouani, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative*  
*Mr. Mogens Blom, Chief Technical Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark*  
*Mr. Daniel Andersen, Programme Officer, Department for European Neighbourhood Programme, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark;*  
*Ms. Natalia Fedorovych, the Head of the Ombudsperson's Office;*  
*Ms. Nataliia Alyushyna, Head of the National Agency of Ukraine on Civil Service;*  
*Adoption of the agenda.*
- 14:30-14:35 Video of the Third Human Rights Progress Study
- 14:35-15:25 Presentation of project results mid-2021, challenges and lessons learnt.  
Presentation of plans 2021  
*Ms. Svitlana Kolyshko, Human Rights Team Lead, UNDP*
- 15:25-15:55 Discussion on project results and further plans 2021  
*All Project Board Members*  
*Assessment of the work undertaken by the Project*
- 15:55-16:00 Any other business / Conclusions  
*All Project Board Members*

**Participants:**

- Ms. Natalia Fedorovych, the Head of the Ombudsperson's Office
- Ms. Nataliia Alyushyna, Head of the National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service
- Mr. Mogens Blom, Chief Technical Advisor, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
- Mr. Daniel Andersen, Programme Officer, Department for European Neighbourhood Programme, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark
- Ms. Olena Prokopenko, Development Advisor, Royal Danish Embassy
- Ms. Manal Fouani, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative
- Mr. Nicolaj Sønderbye, UNDP Senior Democracy and Human Rights Advisor
- Ms. Olena Ursu, DG Team Leader, UNDP
- Ms. Olena Kulikovska, Programme Analyst, UNDP
- Ms. Svitlana Kolyshko, Human Rights Team Lead, UNDP
- Ms. Olena Kryvko, OO Human Rights Analyst, UNDP
- Ms. Tetiana Sheburenkova, OO Communication Expert, UNDP
- Ms. Ksenia Semiorkina, Human Rights Advocacy Associate, UNDP (minutes' taker)
- Mr. Igor Gutsuliak, Leading Strategic Advisor to the Ombudsperson's Office of Ukraine

- Ms. Inna Grydiushko, OO Project Associate, UNDP

### **The main points discussed/suggested**

- Charing the Human Rights for Ukraine (HR4U) project Board meeting, Ms. Manal Fouani, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative, welcomed the representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and the project stakeholders. Ms. Fouani noted that the first half of 2021 was marked by the reinforcement of the human rights agenda, the government has made several important steps to promote human rights values, inclusiveness, accessibility, and non-discrimination in Ukraine, by adopting two strategically important documents – the National Human Rights Strategy, and the National Strategy on Building a Barrier-free Environment in Ukraine. The DMFA funded Human Rights for Ukraine project provided expert and technical support to the government of Ukraine in enhancing the human rights agenda in Ukraine for developing the abovementioned strategies, as well as supported the Office of the President of Ukraine in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea in conducting a national sociological study on the attitudes of Ukrainians to issues related to overcoming the negative consequences of the armed conflict in Ukraine. The results of the survey were presented internally to the Office of the President and the National Security and Defense Council to provide them with data for relevant peacebuilding and social cohesion policies.
- Ms. Manal Fouani confirmed UNDP's commitment to continue prioritizing the strategic partnership with OO and providing the required technical assistance, focusing on strengthening the Ombudsperson's Reform Office and the Regional network.
- The project will also promote the recently adopted National Strategy for Barrier-Free Environment in Ukraine by extending its partnership with the Office of the First Lady, Ministry of Digital Transformation, and the National Agency for Civil Service in Ukraine.
- Mr. Mogens Blom, thanked that despite the pandemic, the project continued to implement its tasks and also noticed positive steps in the human rights agenda, specifically the recently adopted by the Government of Ukraine the National Human Rights Strategy and the National Strategy on Barrier-free environment in Ukraine.
- Ms. Natalia Fedorovych, the Head of the Ombudsperson's Office thanked the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and UNDP for supporting the Human Rights for Ukraine project. Ms. Fedorovych called on the Project Steering Committee to continue supporting this initiative on an ongoing basis and to allocate the necessary funds. It is hoped that the new Danish Eastern Partnership Program (DANEP) from 2022 will take into account the positive experience of the 2017-2021 program in support of UNDP human rights projects. Ms. Fedorovych reaffirmed the need to continue supporting the development of a comprehensive multi-year Strategy of the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Commissioner for Human Rights based on the GANHRI recommendations, including the development and adoption of the following strategic documents: Communication strategy, Professional development strategies, Regional Strategy of the Secretariat.
- She expressed hope that the Office of Strategic Advisers would be expanded soon to enhance the strategic capacities of the Ombudsperson Office. She noted that the Secretariat is actively attracting new staff who need proper training in various fields. She asked for further support of capacity development activities for the staff of the Secretariat,

as well as support for the development of electronic courses for continuous professional development of the staff, especially the course for the newly appointed staff. Ms. Fedorovych stressed that the support of the conference on the detection of cases of latent torture in November this year (as part of continued cooperation on NPM) and a study of case law in ensuring access to public information under the project's grant program would be highly beneficial. Ms. Fedorovych also stressed that the Office requires support for the Secretariat's strategic planning session in November-December this year to enhance their strategic and planning capacities.

- Ms. Nataliia Alyushyna, Head of the National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service thanked for the project support in terms of launching a comprehensive training programme for public officials on human rights values, non—discrimination principles, and HRBA. According to her, in 2022-2024, more than 6,000 people will require training in this area. That is why one of the key priorities in this regard is to develop appropriate training programs. In particular, the Ukrainian School of Governance, together with the Human Rights for Ukraine project, has completed the development of a human rights training course for civil servants and launched an online course on Human Rights for Civil Servants on the national educational platform Prometheus. 15 webinars were held for a group of civil servants as part of the piloting training course "Human Rights". Besides, a general professional training program for civil servants "Human Rights" was launched and 15 trainers were selected for a special certificate program "Training for trainers on human rights". Natalia Alyushyna also spoke about the Agency's research on the issues of non-discrimination.
- Ms. Alyushyna stressed the importance of joint work on promoting barrier-free principles among public officials. In particular, Natalia Alyushina thanked for the opportunity to participate in the preparation of a video course for civil servants "State without Barriers", which will certainly help to implement the principles of barrier-free public service.
- Natalia Alyushyna highlighted that the National Agency of Ukraine for Civil Service highly values cooperation with UNDP Ukraine and is motivated to launch new successful projects.
- Following introductory remarks, Ms. Svitlana Kolyshko presented the project achievements over January 2021 – June 2021 and updated about ongoing project activities, initiatives, challenges, and plans. The presentation was focused on: 1) Enhancing NHRI's capacities, OO Strategic Development, OO regional network sustainability, and efficiency in figures. 2) Human rights for journalism education. More journalism universities are now committed to promoting human rights values in journalism education. Journalism professors started to launch their local initiatives on promoting human rights values among students, such as contests, workshops, events, which demonstrates the sustainability of results achieved during the Human Rights Academy 3) Human rights advocacy 4) Human Rights for Public Officials. The human rights programme for civil servants was developed, piloted, and certified as obligatory by the National Agency of Ukraine on the Civil Service (NACS). The project launched partnership with the CSO Barrier-free, Ministry of Digital Transformation, and NACS to produce special learning series to equip civil servants with relevant knowledge and skills, along with practical examples of the application of inclusiveness and accessibility principles. In cooperation with the Working Group on the reintegration of the temporarily occupied territories of the Legal Reform Commission under the President of Ukraine, UNDP supported the all-Ukrainian public opinion survey on post-conflict arrangements and transitional justice framework. Ms. Svitlana Kolyshko also highlighted

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the challenges and lessons learned in terms of the project implementation. During the meeting, Ms. Kolyshko also presented two newly launched initiatives on promoting business and human rights, and on promoting mediation as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism for free legal aid.

- Ms. Manal Fouani thanked for the presentation and suggested participants to go for field visits to meet with local partners when the COVID-19-related travel restrictions will be lifted.
- Ms. Fedorovych expressed her expectation that OO requests will be addressed and supported as well as confirmed readiness of the Office to collaborate with the project.
- Mr. Mogens Blom expressed gratitude for the presentation and welcomed the initiatives launched by the project.
- Ms. Olena Prokopenko thanked for the presentation and informed that the Embassy of Denmark in Ukraine together with UNDP are planning to enhance communication of the UNDP-DMFA projects through the Embassy's channels.

#### Decisions made and actions to be taken

- 1) Board members approved the Project Mid-Year Progress Report for 2021 and Sustainability Strategy.
- 2) Board members approved updated HR4U Grant Selection Committee (Annex 1)

#### Prepared by:

Svitlana Kolyshko, HR4U Project Coordinator, UNDP

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Svitlana Kolyshko

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#### Cleared by:

Ms. Olena Ursu, Programme Specialist, DG (Team Leader)

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#### Approved by:

Ms. Manal Fouani, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative

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Manal Fouani

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Ms. Natalia Fedorovych, the Head of the Ombudsperson's Office

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Natalia Fedorovych

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Ms. Nataliia Aliushyna, the Head of the National Agency of Ukraine on Civil Service



Mr. Daniel Andersen, Programme Officer, Department for European Neighbourhood Programme, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Denmark

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Daniel Andersen

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## **HR4U Grant Selection Committee<sup>1</sup>**

### ***Permanent members:***

HR4U Human Rights Specialist  
Programme Analyst, Governance  
Digital Literacy Specialist (DIA Support Project)  
RPP Social Cohesion and Community Security Specialist  
Gender Specialist

### ***Alternative members:***

DG Portfolio Manager  
Coordinator of Human Rights for Ukraine project  
DIA Support Project Manager  
SPPRBM Unit representative

### ***Secretary:***

HR4U Project Associate, Human Rights for Ukraine

### ***Alternative Secretary:***

DIA Support Project Associate

### ***Member with an advisory vote:***

Procurement Associate  
Invited experts

### ***Alternative members with an advisory vote from Operations:***

Procurement Analyst  
Finance Associate

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<sup>1</sup> New members marked with yellow