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MINUTES
OF LOCAL PROGRAMME ADVISORY COMMITTEE (LPAC)
“Green Urban Lighting” UNDP-GEF/00074869 Full-Size Project
UN House Conference Hall
23 September 2013, 17:00 - 18:00

LPAC Members:

Claire Medina	UNDP Deputy Resident Representative
Simon Papyan	First Deputy Minister of Nature Protection of RA, UNDP EG Programmes National Director
Armen Harutyunyan	Head of Development and Investment Programs Department of Yerevan city Municipality, contact person for the Project
Aram Gabrielyan	UNFCCC National Coordinator
Gegham Tovmasyan	Ministry of Economy of RA, Division of Donor Coordination of the Department of Economic Development Policy, Chief specialist
Narine Avetyan	Ministry of Urban Development of RA, Residential sector policy and Communal Infrastructure Department
Vardan Galstyan	Ministry of Urban Development of RA , Department of engineering and technical works and technical norm-setting methodology, Division of engineering and technical works, Chief Specialist
Susanna Sargsyan	Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources of RA, Development Department, Energy Savings and Technical Standards Division, Chief Specialist
Artashes Bakhsyan	Deputy Minister of Territorial Administration of RA
Samvel Gabrielyan	Director of Yerevan Municipal Illumination CJSC
Vladislav Harutyunyan	Chief Engineer of Yerevan Municipal Illumination CJSC
Tigran Sekoyan	Expert of Armenia Renewable Resources and Energy Efficiency Fund
Anahit Gyulazyan	Deputy Mayor of Spitak town
Karen Hayrapetyan	Spitak town Municipality Deputy Head of Construction Division
Rudik Ghukasyan	Mayor of Sevan town
Gevorg Grigoryan	Sevan town Municipality
Armen Vorosyan	Counterpart International Armenia, Senior local government technical adviser
Armen Martirosyan	UNDP CO, Environmental Governance Portfolio Analyst
Diana Harutyunyan	UNDP CO, Climate Change Program Coordinator
Babken Babayan	UNSP Community Development Program Coordinator

Purpose:

Consideration of “Green Urban Lighting” UNDP-GEF/00074869 Full-Size Project and provision of recommendations on the formulation and approval of the project.

Documents presented:

- Project Document (Armenian and English);
- PP Presentation.

Reporting:

Welcome remarks were delivered by Ms. Claire Medina, UNDP Deputy Resident Representative and Mr. Simon Papyan, Deputy Minister of Nature Protection, Portfolio National Director.

Ms. Claire Medina

Informed on the purpose of the LPAC and gave floor to Ms. Harutyunyan.

Ms. Diana Harutyunyan:

Welcoming the participants, appreciated the high level of involvement of stakeholder ministries and municipalities who found it necessary to take part in the meeting. She presented in detail the project background, preparation process, aim and objectives, expected outcomes and outputs, global and national benefits, as well as project implementation and reporting arrangements; described major principles and approaches used for pre-scoping of pilot projects; informed on consultation processes conducted with national stakeholders and international organizations at the preparation stage; emphasized the necessity of collaboration with similar on-going initiatives; noted the importance of ensuring long-term sustainability of results and the need for elaboration of financial means for replicability potential of the proposed activities; and stressed the relevance of project outcomes to the country strategic priorities.

Questions and comments:***Mr. Simon Papyan:***

Welcomed the participants and attached high importance to the smooth commencement and efficient implementation of the project. Reflecting on different countries’ experience, he stated that energy efficiency is a priority for Armenia, and hoped that the authorized bodies, hopefully, would support the project as many of them did within the PPG phase. He further referred to the project’s structure and pre-scoping of pilots, noting the relevance of energy efficient design of street lighting and of sector development programs adopted by the national and local authorities.

Armen Martirosyan:

Invited the members to question and comment.

Armen Harutyunyan:

Welcomed the project’s inception and commented on co-financing to be provided by the Yerevan city municipality.

Diana Harutyunyan:

Briefly referred to the GEF procedures on co-financing, which requires 3 fold co-financing of the GEF funding. She appreciated the Municipalities’ consent to promote energy efficiency in their capacity and cooperate in the frames of the project.

Rudik Ghukasyan:

Inquired for details on technologies of lighting to be covered by the pilots and its compatibility with ongoing urban improvement projects in Armenian towns.

Gevorg Grigoryan:

Added that, for instance, Sevan town has 245 sun days, so solar energy could be utilized for lighting purposes.

Diana Harutyunyan:

Mentioned that GEF encourages new technology applications, however, to be done after proper feasibility assessment, and mentioned that PV solar systems were mainly applied in areas with no access to electrical grid.

Armen Martirosyan:

Welcomed the proposition and solicited that for further consideration.

Artashes Bakhshyan:

Welcomed the project, inquired clarification on the discrepancy between numbers of illuminated ads being 'zero' for Yerevan and 'non-zero' for other cities according to Table 1 of the project document, as well as asked on selection criteria of towns to cooperate.

Samvel Gabrielyan:

Clarified that the data for Table 1 was provided by his entity and 'zero' signified that none of the illuminated ads were on the city's accounting balance.

Diana Harutyunyan:

Briefly presented survey findings that covered 30 cities; however, full responses were received from 17 municipalities, mentioning the on-site revealed insufficiency of energy management specialists in the most towns' administrations. She pointed out that the main activities must be concentrated in Yerevan, but some pilots can be conducted in the towns based on the co-financing availability.

Anahit Gyulazyan:

Commented that the Spitak town co-financing commitment letter was provided according to the relevant sections of the town's four-year development program (2013-2016).

Diana Harutyunyan:

Further commented on other highly relevant topics, such as introducing proper standards on minimum energy performance and its enforcement through public procurement rules as well as establishing mechanism to prevent import of low-quality products. Another complicated topic to be covered by the project is identification of cost-efficient options for utilization of mercury lamps' waste, although mercury waste issue is not a focus of the project as the project is not aimed to residential sector (where the most applicable energy efficient technology for the time being is CFLs).

Vardan Galstyan:

Commented that lamp procurement process was a part of construction procurement according to the Government procedures.

He also inquired if the project will promote local production and, in this regard, what the state of cooperation was with Shirak Technopark that envisaged full chain local production of LEDs.

Diana Harutyunyan:

Informed that the project experts conducted a market study, including situation with "Grand Sun" company, as well as other small businesses of LED lamps assembly only. No organization was selected to act as the project's beneficiary for that purpose yet.

Armen Martirosyan:

Added that UNDP, taking into account the Technopark's specialists' findings, would perform own assessment for substantiation of the project's assistance to any local production.

Aram Gabrielyan:

Inquired on the project's relevance to zero-level sites, such as non-lit streets.

Diana Harutyunyan:

Clarified that the mentioned case is considered as 'suppressed comfort level' and their baseline could be calculated accordingly, using e.g. Clean Development Mechanism methodologies. She mentioned the apparent tendency of local authorities to tackle that issue, so the co-financing for such cases could be available.

Narine Avetyan:

Asked if intended energy efficiency improvement measures covered 'lamps only' or 'lamps and wires'.

Diana Harutyunyan:

Clarified that the project included lamps and adjacent equipment/devices, but not wires; rather, lighting systems' good design and dispatcher services' improvement were emphasized within the project.

Armen Martirosyan:

Noted the consent of the members to approve the project with proper consideration of the comments made within the meeting as well as to continue cooperation in the frames of the project.

Conclusions:

Based on discussion outcomes and positive feedback from the project partners and stakeholders, considering the importance of the project outcomes for the municipal as well as national energy efficiency policy making process, recognizing its timeliness and consistency with national and global development goals, LPAC recommended FSP document for further approval by GEF Implementing Agency and National Implementing Partner.



Claire Medina
UNDP Deputy Resident Representative
LPAC Chair