



Norwegian

Norway Funding on UNDP SDG 16 Portfolio - Annual Review 2018-2019

Minutes of Meeting

Date: 13 November 2019

Time: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Venue: UNDP Conference Room 1

Participants:

Royal Norwegian Embassy, Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Ms. Monica Svendskerud	Counsellor/Deputy Head of Mission
Ms. Thilini Kahandawaarachchi	Political Adviser
Ms. Margrete Rydjord	Political Advisor

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Ms. Faiza Effendi	Deputy Resident Representative
Mr. Mohamed Muzain	Programme Manager
Ms. Nimmi Ariyaratne	Programme Quality and Design Analyst
Ms. Chandrika Karunaratne	Policy Specialist
Ms. Shihara Rajakaruna	Technical Specialist Independent Commissions
Ms. Shashini Kulanayake	Project Specialist – Parliament and Access to Justice
Ms. Dilshana Kareema Sathar	Programme Associate
Mr. Jothirajah Karunenthira	M&E and Knowledge Management Specialist
Mr. Upul Ranaweera	M&E Associate
Mr. Iftikar Alam	Project Operation Assistant

UNDP welcomed attendees from the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) to the progress review meeting and provided an overview of the objectives of the meeting which were, to take stock of project progress; share experiences from the implementation process and discuss the implications of the 2019 presidential elections on UNDP's programming and its strategies going forward to ensure that UNDP's and Norway's shared development objectives are met.

UNDP acknowledged the Norwegian Government for funding provided under the SDG 16 Portfolio and emphasized the long and valued partnership with Norway towards UNDP's work in Sri Lanka.

Counsellor/Deputy Head of Mission welcomed UNDP's new Deputy Resident Representative to the country and appreciated UNDP's commitment to achieving the development objectives under the SDG 16 Portfolio. UNDP continues to be an important and close partner to Norway, and UNDP's priorities and ambitions on the Sustainable Development Goals are closely aligned with those of the Norwegian Government, including in relation to strengthening of conflict prevention and promoting action on



climate change. Norway is one of the largest contributors to UNDP globally and is one of 36 countries on its Executive Board.

In Sri Lanka, Norway has been a close collaborator to UNDP's work on reconciliation and resettlement and most recently towards strengthening good governance in the country. The Deputy Head of Mission highlighted that Norway is pleased to partner with UNDP on the Flagship SDG 16 Portfolio which it considers as a highly relevant programme in consolidating the Government of Sri Lanka's commitment towards SDG 16. This information meeting and UNDP's efforts towards sharing information and creating transparency with donors was very much appreciated by the Embassy. It was also emphasized that the Norwegian MFA is very much aware of the constraints faced by UNDP over the last year, including the constitutional crisis, Easter attacks and the upcoming elections and congratulated UNDP on the significant progress made on the SDG 16 Portfolio in spite of these challenges.

UNDP presented the key results for 2019-2020 and shared lessons learned, and challenges faced during project implementation. In conclusion UNDP highlighted the way forward with regard to some of the key strategic priorities for UNDP in 2020 and shared the resources mobilized from different donors towards the Portfolio thus far.

(The PowerPoint Presentation is included as Annex A.)

Action Points

- **Implementation Partners:** The meeting recorded for more detail on partners mapping on different activities.
 - UNDP will include references to implementing partners in the revised report.
- **Deviations from plans and challenges addressed:** additional details to be included in the report on deviations from the work plan, and impact of the delays and how they have been dealt with.
 - UNDP will include information on deviations from work plans, impact of delays and how they have been dealt with.
- **The report on finances** to include information on all forms of other resources as well as an overview of the amount received in thematic funding per donor as well as the total amount of cost recovery.
 - UNDP will include information on the resources mobilized from other donors based on thematic funding for the portfolio in the revised report.
- **Narrative report to include:** (i) more clarity on assessment of impact and (ii) additional detail on project activities.
 - UNDP will update report with more detail on assessment of impact and project activities.
- **Activities which were started/conducted before Norway support** to be clearly indicated: The Deputy Head of Mission, Norwegian MFA shared that many activities were started/conducted before Norway's support and these activities should be clearly indicated.
 - UNDP will update report accordingly.



Norwegian

- Cross Cutting Issues: request for more information on cross cutting issues relevant to the SDG 16 Portfolio – e.g. human rights, women’s rights, anti-corruption and environment concerns.
 - UNDP will update report accordingly.
- Financial Report: UNDP stated that going forward they provide a more detailed financial report. Once the finalized ‘Combined Delivery Reports’ are available for each year, the final financial report for 2019 can be provided around February/March 2020. Similarly, a detailed final financial report for the year 2020 will be submitted in March 2021.

The meeting concluded with appreciation for UNDPs presentation which provided additional details on the report submitted and UNDP was informed that the next disbursement is scheduled for 2020.

****END****

Approved:

Faiza Effendi
Deputy Resident Representative
UNDP
Date:

Monica Svenskerud
Counsellor / Deputy Head of Mission
Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Date: