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MINUTES OF STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION MEETING

Project proposal: “Strengthening institutional and technical Macedonian capacities to enhance transparency in the framework of the Paris Agreement”

Venue: UNDP CO Skopje – Conference room

Date/Time: 31 August 2018, 11:00-12:30 h

Attendees:

- Mr. Krum Efremov, Ministry of Foreign Affairs State Counselor
- Ms. Teodora Obradovikj Grncharovska, Ministry of Environment and Physical Planning (MoEPP), State Counselor on Climate Change and UNFCCC Focal Point
- Ms Elena Ivanova, Ministry of Defense, Senior Associate
- Ms Svetlana Gjorgjeva, MeEPP, Head of Macedonian Environmental Information Center
- Ms Snezana Rashkova, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Assistant Head of Spatial Planning Sector
- Mr Bojan Durnev, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry & Water Economy, Water Economy Directorate
- Mr Nehri Emrula, Energy Agency, Director
- Mr Pance Atanasovski, Energy Agency
- Mr Vladimir Sarach, Energy Agency
- Ms Bojana Stojchevska, Legislative Secretariat
- Ms Valentina Stardelova, Ministry of Economy, Energy Department
- Ms Gabriela Madjoska, Ministry of Labor and Social Policy
- Ms Nevena Smilevska, NGO Eko-svest
- Mr Jurant Dika, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Water Economy, Head of Silviculture and Afforestations
- Ms Gordana Gapikj Dimitrovska, Ministry of Information Society and Administration (MIOA)
- Ms Ana Tuneska, Cabinet of the Vice Prime Minister in charge of Economic Affairs
- Mr Daniel Josifovski, Cabinet of the Vice Prime Minister in charge of Economic Affairs, Economic Advisor
- Ms Sanda Mitkovska, REC Macedonia, Office and Operational Assistant

Other Participants:

- Ms. Anita Kodzoman, Head of the Energy and Environment Unit, UNDP
- Ms. Pavlina Zdraveva, UNDP Project Manager
- Mr. Marijan Djima, Project Assistant, UNDP (note taker)

Note: 32 people, members of the National Climate Change Committee and representatives from relevant institutions were invited to attend the stakeholder consultation workshop or to submit comments on the draft project document by Friday September 7th, 2018. 18 people (61% woman) attended the workshop.

Agenda:

Time	Agenda item	Person	Supporting documents
11:00 – 11:15	Welcome remarks, objectives of the meeting, proposed agenda	Ms. Anita Kodzoman	n/a
11:15 – 11:25	Background overview of climate change mitigation efforts in Macedonia	Ms. Teodora Obradovikj Grncharovska	n/a
11: 25 – 11:45	Presentation of the project proposal, goals, objectives, components and context	Ms. Pavlina Zdraveva	Power point presentation Video
11:45 – 12:15	Q & A session / Discussion	All	n/a
12:15– 12:30	Concluding remarks	Ms. Anita Kodzoman	n/a

Annexes:

- Drat CBIT Macedonia PRODOC for public consultation
- CBIT Fact Sheet

Welcoming remarks, overview and presentation of project outputs

Ms. Kodzoman elaborated the general overview of the project document, the process, the timeframe and the expectations of this consultation meeting. She highlighted that this project enables coordinated efforts underlying UN and EU climate change reporting requirements of the country, in order to avoid overlaps, as well as misunderstanding/misrepresentations, etc.

Ms. Grncharovska presented a background overview of climate change issues in the country, the raising obligations the country has towards UNFCCC, EU and Energy Community opposing the current scarce institutional capacities. She highlighted the strong linkages of the project activities with the expected IPA project for development of Law and Strategy on Climate Action (expected to start in October 2018). She also highlighted that the lack of climate relevant institutional capacities, opposite strong national capacities in the expert community and academia, all stipulated in the National Communications and Biennial Update Reports on Climate Change.

Ms. Zdraveva presented in detail planned project outcomes, outputs and activities. She pointed out that the project focus is to “transparently reduce and report anthropogenic GHG emissions”, as required in article 13 of Paris Agreement. She explained in detailed planned activities within each of the three outputs:

- 1) Institutional Capacity Strengthening for MRV
 - Will be carried out through: 1) strengthening the capacity of the MoEPP; 2) strengthening the capacity of other line institutions and organizations; and 3) establishing a network of national practitioners.
 - Staff trained is supposed to continue working in the respective institutions. Similarly to the public administration admission/licensing tests, the CBIT trainings are meant to become mandatory as refreshment for existing staff and upon entry of future staff working in the field from within public administration institutions.
- 2) Training and tools for activities conducted under Article 13;
 - Provide organizations and individuals with the necessary training and tools to conduct MRV activities, including provision of reporting templates, learning by doing and piloting processes of mainstreaming MRV into sectoral policies and legislation in energy supply, buildings, transport, agriculture, forestry and other sectors.
- 3) Design and implementation of a sustainable domestic MRV system
 - A sustainable national MRV system will be designed and implemented, based on open access coding in order to avoid difficulties from proprietary software and to allow for potential innovations from the broader research and technology community.
 - The point is to consolidate the key functions of all existing/once existing smaller specialized MRV systems to streamline them as input to a principal “Umbrella” MRV system.

Discussion

Ms Grncharovska (MoEPP) additionally presented other planned projects that shall be relevant to this one, such as merging of climate change and energy plan (requested by the Energy Community), that should be financed by the UK bilateral support.

Ms Gjorgjeva (MoEPP) has pointed out the importance of larger financial governmental contributions in future relevant projects, as a booster to implementation of the Macedonian NDC.

Ms. Stardelova has confirmed the low level of institutional capacities and lack of competent staff in the Ministry of Economy. The Ministry of Economy has required new employments from the Government and she expressed appreciation for project objective to train future staff on transparency and climate change as valuable input for raising the capacities of the Ministry of Economy.

Ms. Ivanova suggested closer involvement of the Ministry of Finance (not present at the meeting), to timely consider appropriate new employees allocations within the governmental budget for the next year.

Participants discussed that among the reporting requirements towards EU is preparation of functional analysis on institutional capacities; and that some of the institutions have already developed ones. They agreed that new units within the key ministries are not necessary, but new employments within the existing units are essential.

- **Ms. Dimitrovska** from MIOA explained the importance of the functional analysis in order to identify the new needs and modify accordingly the existing HR system to adapt. She said that the trainings and capacity building activities can be further adopted as regular trainings of the Macedonian administration, so that every newcomer can easily obtain necessary climate change/transparency training, thus contributing to enhancing sustainability of the climate change agenda in the country. Additional support to project implementation, MIOA can support through the open data portal available to all institutions, but they have to contribute and maintain their own data – however, few do so
- Would be interested in a more detailed overview of all MRV systems operational at the moment

The representatives from the Energy Agency, highlighted their need for energy/energy efficiency and climate data transparency, as they are the institution responsible for monitoring and verifying energy and energy efficiency data in the country. They also suggested exploring possibilities for closer cooperation with neighboring countries which MRV systems are way advanced than Macedonia's – e.g. Croatia and Slovenia.

Closing remarks

- Participants recognized GEF support as fundamental for building the climate change agenda in the country in the last 18 years;
- Participants recognized importance of the project, as the institutional capacities in the country related to climate change transparency activities are infrequent;
- Participants highlighted the need for institutional capacity building;
- Participants agreed that all institutions need to be closely involved in project implementation in order to receive strong feedback and relevant contribution;
- Participants endorsed the planned project outcomes and outputs;
- Participants recognized the need for closer institutional cooperation in light of more demanding UN and EU reporting requirements.

Additionally, as stipulated in the invitation for the stakeholder consultation workshop, participants have been asked to send any further comments/suggestion by mail, latest by Friday, 7th September 14, 2018.

Additional written input has been received by the Ministry of Transport and Communication, Ministry of Interior, NGO GO Green and the president of the National Climate Change Committee, all of them recognizing and endorsing the objectives stipulated in the project document and reaffirming the value of this project for the country.