



Belgrade, 12 April 2021

Minutes of the Project Board Meeting

Project: “Establishing Transparency Framework for the Republic of Serbia”

Participants:

On behalf of the Ministry for Environmental Protection:

Dragana Radulovic, UNFCCC Operational Focal Point, Ministry of Environmental Protection
Ana Repac, Head of Climate Change Adaptation Unit, Ministry of Environmental Protection
Martin Budimir, Ministry of Environmental Protection

On behalf of UNDP:

Francine Pickup, Resident Representative, UNDP Serbia
Tatjana Strahinjic Nikolic, Resilient Development Programme Analyst, UNDP Serbia
Miroslav Tadic, Portfolio Manager, UNDP Serbia
Snezana Ostojic-Paunovic, Project Coordinator, UNDP Serbia
Milan Cerovac, Portfolio Associate, UNDP Serbia

Objective: To present the project progress and findings of Mid-term project review, achieved results and planned activities for 2021.

Ms. Dragana Radulovic, the UNFCCC Operational Focal Point and **Ms. Francine Pickup**, UNDP Resident Representative, welcomed the participants. Ms. Pickup congratulated to the Ministry on the adoption of the Climate Change Law. This is an important step for Serbia towards low carbon development and sets clear trace for the transformation of the Country’s economy. Ms. Pickup stressed that this year is a critical year for climate action, and all parties to the UNFCCC have great expectations of the forthcoming Conference of Parties in Glasgow. Ms. Radulovic underlined the importance of the project in establishing national transparency framework in the field of climate change and emphasized the importance of the project in improving the inter-institutional collaboration. Ms. Radulovic expressed the gratitude to the UNDP for years long successful collaboration and pointed out that Serbia had been selected as one of the vice presidents on the forthcoming UNFCCC CoP26, as a member of the Convention Bureau on behalf of the Eastern European Group of Countries.

UNDP project team briefly presented the project background, main activities, achieved results and MTR recommendations, along with the important follow up actions and workplan for 2021. The CBIT inter-institutional working group was reestablished, upon elections in 2020, comprising of more than 60 representatives of governmental institutions (ministries, agencies, institutes), business sector, academia and CSOs. The project supported the revision of Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and is helping the Ministry in further strengthening its coordination role and enabling implementation of the Climate Change Law. During 2020, in collaboration with Global Support Programme trainings on improvement of GHG Inventory for Energy and Waste sectors, and various capacity building and knowledge sharing events were organized, and NDC capacity building through regional peer exchanges will be continued in 2021 as well.

Under the Climate Promise initiative, different studies and assessments were developed to improve revision of NDC, such as: First Climate Financing Study, Initiating the Just Transition, Assessment of Short-Lived Climate Pollutants (SLCPs), for better linking climate change and air quality policies, and detailed assessment of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) within the CCA & CCM measures of revised NDC.

Methodologies, procedures and guidelines (MPGs) as well as IT system, as supporting tool for MRV system is under development. The strong synergies with other ongoing projects are ensured, such as with GEF-funded Climate Smart Urban Development Challenge, and GCF-funded National Adaptation Planning. Sector specific trainings on MRV system are planned in the period May - November 2021, and various self-

study guides for national experts in adaptation and mitigation on the ETF will be developed and shared with all relevant stakeholders.

All major project activities will be finalized by the end of 2021, and project terminal evaluation should be initiated in November 2021.

Additional funding received from Austrian Government in 2021, will be used for MRV related capacity building activities for local self-governments and better linking LGS reporting requirements under recently adopted climate change law.

The Mid-term Review (MTR) was conducted during January and February 2021. Overall, the progress towards the results of the project is adjudged as 'Satisfactory' and the project is expected to achieve planned targets. Project team prepared the management response to the MTR recommendations and it was acknowledged by the Project Board. Most recommendations were accepted, and action plan developed.

Opening the discussion, Ms. Pickup acknowledged good project results, and stressed the importance of appropriate communication of all project results and achievements. The proposed event ahead of CoP 26 "Serbia's Climate Talks" is a great opportunity to present Serbia's increased climate ambition, revised NDC, developed reports to the UNFCCC and main results of GEF projects supporting low-carbon, innovative solutions. UNDP will provide support to the Ministry in organization of this event, and various side events before and during the Conference of Parties in Glasgow. UNDP's communication team in collaboration with project team and Ministry's PR team will develop detailed communication plan related to pre-CoP events. Ms. Radulovic confirmed that due to Covid19 pandemic and elections in 2020, final broad stakeholder consultations on revised NDC was postponed for 2021, as well as Government adoption of Second BUR. This remains as a priority of the Ministry to submit developed reports to the UNFCCC prior to CoP 26 in Glasgow. The Ministry is open for suggestions related to information sharing events in 2021.

In closing remarks, Ms. Strahinjc Nikolic aknowledgeged that mid-term review was a good exercise, stressing the importance of contunous capaity building in order to ensure sustainability of project results. Furthermore, approved MTR recommendations and response plan must be taken seriously, as it requires efforts on both sides, the Ministry and UNDP, so as to achieve defined goals and results till the end of the project, It was mutually agreed to further work on better communication of all results.

Conclusions and follow up actions:

- Combined Delivery Report (CDR) for 2020 is finalized and signed
- Most recommendations of Mid-term review are accepted, and action plan is developed
- The prepared Annual Work Plan for 2021 is ready for signatures
- Funds received from Austria will be used as complementary funds for capacity building activites related to MRV system establishment
 - Austrian Environment Agency will conduct relevant trainings and workshops
- UNDP will share with the Ministry detailed communication plan for 2021 by mid-May
- All major project activities should be done by the end of 2021
- Terminal Project Evaluation will start in Q4 of 2021
 - TE report will be finalized by February 2022
- Project end date is 8 March 2022.

Record approved by:

Aleksandra Dostic

Aleksandra Dostlic, on behalf of National Project Director, Ministry of Environmental Protection

Francine Pickup

Francine Pickup, Resident Representative, UNDP Serbia

