

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**  
**Second meeting of the Coordination Mechanism**  
**on the Country Programme development**

**Project: “NDA Strengthening and Country Programming support for Turkmenistan and initiating a Regional Approach to Climate Action” by GCF.**

**Main goal of the meeting:** consideration of the draft Country Programme, section “Priorities of Turkmenistan”, discussion and finalization of the document.

**Venue:** online

<https://zoom.us/j/96308993501?pwd=N2hsTVA2TVNxWU9DdE1tcUZKQU14dz09>

**Conference ID: 963 0899 3501**

**Access code: 297582**

**Date and time:** September 9, 2021, 11.00 - 13.00

**Number of participants:** 24

**Hosted by:** **Bagirova Irana** (CAREC Project Coordinator in Turkmenistan), **Berdiyev Berdy** (Head of the Department on Coordination of International Environmental Cooperation and Projects, Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan, National Focal Point for the GCF).

**International experts:** **Pavel Činčera** (International Consultant for the introduction of the Coordination Mechanism and No Objection Procedure in Turkmenistan, and for the development of the GCF Country Programme for Turkmenistan) - Event Moderator

**National experts team:** **D. Orazdurdiyeva** (Senior National Consultant for Stakeholder Analysis, Engagement and Support to Country Programme Process).

**Coordination Mechanism Members:** representatives of the Mejlis (Parliament) of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan, the State Committee for Water Resources of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Adalat (Justice) of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Finance and Economy of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Health and Medical Industry of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan, the Ministry of Energy of Turkmenistan, the State Committee on Statistics of Turkmenistan, Academy of Sciences of Turkmenistan, Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs of Turkmenistan, “Rysgal” JSCB, “Daykhanbank” State Commercial Bank.

**International partners:** **Batyr Balliyev**, **Kurban Allaberdiyev** (UNFCCC), **Farhat Orunov** (United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Turkmenistan), **Ivette Zenina** (FAO), **Maral Nuriyeva**, **Maya Ashirova** (GIZ)

Prepared by O. Harchenko

***Welcoming speech:***

The meeting was opened by **Irana Bagirova (CAREC Project Coordinator in Turkmenistan)**, who informed that the meeting is being held in the frame of the Project “NDA Strengthening and Country Programming support for Turkmenistan and initiating a Regional Approach to Climate Action” funded by GCF. Ms. Bagirova recalled that during the second meeting of the Coordination Mechanism, which took place yesterday, on September 8, 2021, the participants had already familiarized themselves with and discussed the basic document - ToR, as well as the criteria for selection the project documents. The purpose of today’s meeting will be the Country Programme, which reflects all the priorities of Turkmenistan and possible projects for the coming 2-5 years. During the meeting, a presentation on the Country Programme focused on country priorities will be made, as well as a report on new projects: what we need to do and what we are missing.

Then the floor was taken by **Pavel Činčera (International Consultant for the introduction of the Coordination Mechanism and No Objection Procedure in Turkmenistan, and for the development of the GCF Country Programme for Turkmenistan)**, who recalled that the GCF supports the goals of the Paris Agreement and co-finances only projects that meet the goals of the Paris Agreement and the goals of the country.

In his presentation, Pavel Činčera spoke in detail about the project cycle and the areas of responsibility of the country and the GCF. The most important point in the project cycle, which is in the country's area of responsibility, is the development of the Country Programme (CP), based on which the country develops all future project proposals for cooperation with the GCF. Due to the fact that the period of the GCF is 5 (five) years, the CP should include all the priorities of the country, as well as specific climate projects that the country plans to develop and for which it wants to receive funding for the next 5 years. According to Pavel Činčera, based on the experience of other countries cooperating with the GCF, Turkmenistan can count on funding in the range of US \$ 100-150 million. At the same time, it is very important to develop priorities at the very beginning of work and find such projects that exactly correspond to national strategies, since all future GCF projects will come from this document.

The second one in the Country Programme development at the national level is the preparation of a concept note, which is subsequently transformed into a full funding proposal for funding and a subject for a No Objection Procedure and approval by the NDA. The next stages of the project cycle, such as reviewing a full funding proposal by Technical Experts Group, evaluation in accordance with the GCF Investment Criteria, making a decision and legal agreements, is the responsibility of the GCF.

Then Pavel Činčera acquainted the meeting participants with the content of the document "GCF Country Programme for Turkmenistan". The international expert noted that since the Country Programme and GCF projects are aimed at supporting the country's climate resilience, it is expected that at the end of the Programme period the country will have to assess its progress and whether the funding has led to the improvement in the climate situation.

In his presentation, Pavel Činčera noted that setting the country priorities is the main part of the Country Programme. The priorities are selected based on the already approved plans and national climate-related strategies of Turkmenistan, which can be co-financed by the GCF. Based on the selected priorities, the country prepares the project portfolio. At the same time, the number of project ideas is not limited (there can be either 20 or 3 only) and completely depends on the priorities of the country. Mr. Činčera also gave the examples of the country priorities for the use of GCF funding and the GCF pipeline of priority projects and programs.

During the next session, Pavel Činčera briefed the meeting participants in detail on the working version of the Turkmenistan Country Programme document and noted that funding comes only through accredited organizations of the GCF. In addition, Mr. Činčera underlined, there are international organizations operating in Turkmenistan that have the GCF accreditation to implement all range of potential GCF projects, from small to large.

Mr. Činčera also stressed that the GCF finances the two types of projects. One of them is large (up to \$ 200-300 million) investment projects that support the goals of the Paris Agreement. Others - with a budget of \$ 50-60 million - have special support called the Readiness Program.

Further, the international expert briefly described the proposed projects in different program areas and urged the participants, upon receipt of the document, to carefully read the proposed programs and, from the point of view of their expertise, add or remove priorities from the Country Programme document.

Special attention was paid to the pipeline of priority projects. Irana Bagirova asked representatives of international organizations to think about their plans for the next five years and be sure to indicate them in order to include them into the Country Programme, even if now it is a project idea only as the GCF considers those projects that are included into the Country Programme.

#### **Questions and answers:**

- **Sapar Durdiyev (Head of the Department, National Institute of Education under the Ministry of Education of Turkmenistan):** Thank you for the presentation, everything is clear from your presentation. You have developed a very serious document and we would like to read it more careful to be able to give our feedback. Thank you very much for the work done.

- **Irana Bagirova (CAREC Project Coordinator in Turkmenistan):** Thank you very much, after the meeting we will share this document with all participants.

- **Batyr Balliyev (UN FCCC, focal point):** Thank you, Pavel, for a detailed, well-prepared and very interesting presentation. I hope that soon we will receive the first draft of the Country Programme to give our comments and suggestions. At first glance, it will be necessary to carefully look at the section "Programmatic Areas" again, in order not to completely duplicate what is indicated in the national strategy, it may be necessary to review something. As we get the draft, we, as the UN Development Program, and I, as a focal point for the UN FCCC, will give our suggestions and comments.

- **Question from Irana Bagirova to Batyr Balliyev:** As this is a very preliminary draft, do you want us to send the document via official channels or by e-mail as a working version?

- **Batyr Balliyev (UN FCCC, focal point):** If you intend to finalize and then submit this document, then it is better to e-mail it in order to receive comments and additions in a working order. And later, it can be sent for approval via official channels.

- **Pavel Činčera (International Consultant):** The purpose of this document is to select the priorities that can be used for engagement with the GCF and include them into the content of the document. Since national climate change strategies and GCF target priorities overlap here, it is our job as experts to find matching priorities in both directions.

- **Batyr Balliyev (UN FCCC, focal point):** thank you, Pavel, you explained very well about the priorities of the GCF and the directions in which the draft proposal should be prepared. This is very important, given that our next meeting is scheduled for October, since we, in turn, are currently preparing NDC that is already at the final stage and it would be good if the CP reflects the priorities that will be indicated in the NDC. In addition, the UN Development Program, together with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan, began to develop two very important documents:

1. The first stage of development and implementation of a national greenhouse gas inventory system. It is a very large area at the country level
2. Preparation for the development of a national low-carbon development strategy.

Therefore, taking into account the fact that we are completing the NDC and starting the development of the above documents, we will try to reflect all this in your documents. Additional request: before the second meeting, we would advise to share a draft of the updated document with the changes made.

- **Farhad Orunov (United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Turkmenistan):** thanks for the good presentation. I would like to note and appeal to representatives of national ministries that UNDP is an active player and accredited organization of the GCF in Turkmenistan, which has a very large, wide range of projects in the field of energy efficiency, adaptation and mitigation. For our part, as an accredited agency, with the help of which GCF projects are mainly to be implemented, we are ready and open for cooperation, including when national institutions make their own adjustments to this plan. We are ready to discuss this with them and offer our help, because we have a huge technical potential, as the largest accredited agency in Turkmenistan, which has many years of experience of successful cooperation in the field of such projects, both with the Ministry of Agriculture and Environmental Protection of Turkmenistan, and other ministries.

- **Farhad Orunov (United Nations Development Program (UNDP) in Turkmenistan):** Pavel said that the Readiness Program helps to develop projects for national stakeholders. What is this help? Because an international expert and a group of national experts are involved in the development of any project proposals.

- **Pavel Činčera (International Consultant):** I will explain in the next presentation when we talk about the Readiness Program.

Then Pavel Činčera moved on to the next section in the Country Program document - Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme.

As it was stated many times, the GCF supports projects that seek to achieve the goals of the Paris Agreement. The budget for these projects ranges from 10 to 300 million US dollars. The development of large projects at the national level requires a lot of expert work, involving all stakeholders and national experts, and guidelines and methodologies must be developed. This is a prerequisite for the successful development and implementation of such projects and requires certain costs. Therefore, the GCF has established a special budget, a small part of the larger budget, called a Readiness Programme. This special budget is aimed to support countries in the development and implementation of large projects. The Country Programme should accurately describe what goals and needs the country seeks in the country's Readiness Programme.

During the next session, Pavel Činčera made a presentation on Readiness Needs and explained that not only investment projects, but also the projects related to the readiness of the country, are planned, i.e. what is required / necessary for the country to successfully develop the project proposal and implement the project. Thus, the Readiness Programme is a special support from the Green Climate Fund. The Readiness Program supports the NDA strengthening, knowledge expansion, trainings for NDA team, and development of strategic documents. There are several types of support for accredited entities. For example, the Program supports the preparation of an entity for the GCF accreditation. Often, the Readiness Programme supports the development of projects pipeline and concept notes. It is

possible to use the support of the GCF to provide financial resources - payment of international and national experts, dissemination of information. Mr. Činčera also briefed on who can apply for the Readiness Programme and showed a sample of the CP.

During the presentation of the document “READINESS NEEDS ASSESSMENT FOR CLIMATE FINANCING – TURKMENISTAN”, Pavel Činčera outlined the main parts of the document's structure, such as the institution of governance, environment policies and strategies, pipeline development, information, data and knowledge, and Readiness Needs Recommendations for future projects, as these recommendations are planned to be included in the CP as priorities for future Readiness Programmes. After describing each section in detail, Pavel Činčera and Irana Bagirova asked the participants to carefully study these recommendations and make their own changes.

#### **Questions and answers:**

- **Batyr Balliyev (UNFCCC, focal point):** thank you, a lot of work has been done; we will share our comments and corrections. At first glance, the recommendations are very detailed; we will study, work on the document and give our feedback.

#### ***Closing speech:***

**Irana Bagirova (CAREC Projects Coordinator in Turkmenistan)** - summed up the results of the meeting, thanking everyone for their participation and emphasizing once again that it is very important to receive written comments from all departments for the development of the Country Programme document.