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DRAFT PROTOCOL

Of the first meeting of the Coordination Committee of the National Policy Dialogue on Integrated Water Resources Management in the Republic of Moldova

**(the twenty-third meeting under the EUWI National Policy Dialogue on
Integrated Water Resources Management in the Republic of Moldova)**

26 May 2016

Summit Events and & Conference Center
(Chisinau, Tighina St., 49/3, room New York, floor 2)

Attendance:

The meeting was attended by 30 members of the Coordination Committee and invited persons (experts, NGOs and donors). The meeting was chaired by Mr. Munteanu, Minister of the Environment of RM, who opened the meeting and addressed a welcoming speech to the participants. The participants of the meeting were also welcomed by Mr. Guznac, Deputy Secretary-General (deputy Head of Staff) of the Government of the Republic of Moldova, Mr. Shaumberger, ADC/ADA Head Office in Moldova, as a representative of the EU Member States, and Mr. Martusevich, OECD EAP Task Force Water program - he also briefly presented the agenda, which was adopted.

Issues discussed:

During the first session Ms. Celac, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, gave a presentation on the progress made by the Republic of Moldova, in the transposition of the requirements of the EU Directives on water issues in the national legislation of Moldova and regulation of the water sector, and answered to the questions and comments from the meeting participants.

During Session 2, Ms. Tronza, Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Moldova, spoke about the (almost complete) project, sponsored by SDC and the UNECE and aimed at fulfilling the targets set by the RM under the Protocol on Water and Health, through the development of relevant National program. She answered to the questions and informed about the upcoming Steering Committee meeting under the project scheduled for June 2, 2016. Speaking from the floor in the debate, Mr Salaru, Public Health Center, the Ministry of Health, presented further details on this project. The participants of the meeting appreciated the results of the project.

Session 3 was devoted to discussing intermediate results of the current project of the OECD EAP Task Force aimed at assisting the Government of Moldova in establishing a sound system of economic regulation for the water sector in Moldova. Mr. Martusevich, OECD EAP Task Force Water program, briefly presented the project background, followed by Mr. Poghosyan, head of the implementing project team, who reported on project interim results and responded to the questions and comments from the participants, who acknowledged the urgency of the task and of the project.

During Session 4, Mr. Bordenyuk, Moldovan expert on water supply and sanitation, informed the participants about the interim results of a project, also sponsored by SDC and the UNECE, which aims to develop new design and construction standards for small water supply and sanitation systems, with installed capacity at no more than 200 m³ a day, and briefly presented the outcomes of an expert workshop on this topic held a week before. The work could be finalised if the Ministry of Regional Development and Construction of the Republic of Moldova would in principle approve the idea of developing a separate standard for small-scale water and wastewater systems, and the developed the first draft of this standard. (in such a case, the OECD has expressed its willingness to support the completion of the work). The participants acknowledged the benefit of the development of a separate standard for small-scale WSS systems.

Finally, in the framework of Session 5, representatives of several donors and international organizations, presented their water projects in the Republic of Moldova and the projects in the EECCA region, the content of which may be of interest to the Republic of Moldova. A representative of the Ministry of Environment of RM reported on the priorities in the water sector on which the Republic of Moldova needs external assistance in the first place.

Based on the discussion at its meeting, the NPD Coordination Committee:

1. Acknowledges:

- Significant challenges associated with the transposition of the requirements of the water-related EU Directives into national legislation and regulation;
- The need for a significant strengthening of administrative and expert capacity in the Ministry of Environment and other relevant agencies, as well as the capacity of local public administrations

and thanks the EU and other donors and international organizations for their continuous support on these issues.

2. Welcomes the progress in the development of the National Programme for the implementation of the targets set out under the Protocol on Water and Health,

3. Notes the progress in the implementation of the OECD project aimed at assisting the Government of Moldova in establishing a sound system of economic regulation for the water supply and sanitation sector, and asks the members of the Coordination Committee:

- no later than by 20 June this year, to present their opinion on the issues raised in the presentation of the project consultant at the NPD meeting; and

- to submit comments and suggestions on the draft interim report within the period of 3 weeks after receiving it.

4. Underlines the importance of promptly developing new design and construction standards for small-scale WSS systems (with installed capacity at up to 200 m³ per day), which will significantly increase the effectiveness of capital investments in the modernization and development of small-scale water supply and sanitation systems in rural areas of Moldova, in particular in settlements with the number of population of up to 2,000 people, and asks the international partners to support the development of this and other related standards.

5. Takes note of, and welcomes, the water projects sponsored by donors and international organizations, including the EBRD and the EIB, the governments of Austria and Switzerland, OECD and UNECE; and recommends to relevant agencies and NGOs to approach development partners with requests to initiate new projects in accordance with the country's priorities in the water sector.

6. Recommends that at the following meetings of the NPD Coordination Committee all members of the Committee would present in turn positions and proposals of their respective organizations on key challenges and issues, and priorities in the water sector of Moldova. The order of such presentations will be defined further and brought to the attention of the Coordination Committee members.

7. Recommends including in the NPD work plan thematic meetings of the Coordinating Committee on the topical issues of water policy.

Chairman of the NPD Coordination Committee

Munteanu, Minister

Executive secretary

Celac