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**Summary
of the Meeting of the Inter-ministerial Working Group
on Sustainable Development and Green Economy
National Implementation Committee of EU4Environment project**

18 September 2022 (10.00-13.00)

Total present at the meeting - 95 participants, members of the Working Group/National Implementation Committee and invited persons (EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova, Implementing Partners, invited persons and local experts – OECD, UNEP, UNECE, UNIDO, the World Bank) (on-line, Zoom platform).

The meeting was opened and moderated by Mrs. Iordanca-Rodica IORDANOV, State Secretary, Ministry of Environment, NFP for EU4Environment from ME side, Co-chair of the Working Group/NIC. Moderation of the session 2 and 3 of the meeting - by Mr. Andrei Isac, National Action Coordinator, EU4Environment in Moldova.

Secretary of the WG/meeting – EU4Environment Technical NFP: Ms. Maria Nagornîi, Head of Division, Ministry of Environment.

The main objectives of the WG/NIC meeting:

- Launch of the Report on Green Growth Indicators and web platform in Moldova;
- Take stock of progress in implementing EU4Environment in Moldova in 2021 and presenting the revised work plan for 2022-23, including on the regional activities;
- Highlight the needs for support for the remaining period, in line with the Government priorities.

Participants received in advance the discussion documents in electronic format, presented during the meeting. The meeting took place in Green meeting/paper less and on-line format. Detailed final agenda of the meeting – annex 1.

Opening and works of the event

Ms Iordanca-Rodica IORDANOV, State Secretary, EU4Environment NFP, welcomed the participants and the members of the working group at the first meeting of the WG this year. In her greeting message, Ms IORDANOV stressed that "Today, according to the proposed agenda, we can make the totals of last year's achievements, launch one of the important products of the project and draw the plans for the next two years. In this context and in the Government Action Plan for the current year in the field of environmental protection, we have included measures in the priority areas, related to the activities of EU4Environment, such as:

- Elaboration and approval of the draft Environmental Strategy until 2030;
- Elaboration and approval of the draft of the Program for the promotion of the "green" economy for the years 2022-2027;
- Elaboration and approval of the draft of the Low Emission Development Program of the Republic of Moldova until 2030 and of the Action Plan for its implementation;
- Elaboration and approval of the draft of the Program for the extension of the forest vegetation areas for the years 2022-2032 (The program will foresee the extension with forest vegetation of 15% of the territory of the country);
- Development and approval of the draft National Waste Management Program.

All these policy documents will be accompanied by practical implementation actions, in order to achieve changes in the quality of the environment and the attitude of economic agents and the population as a whole. As you can see, the central environmental authority has ambitious and important tasks for the current stage, and in this regard we rely heavily on the continued support of EU4Environment, and because we are in the process of expanding our activities for another year - we encourage implementing partners and local beneficiaries to make every effort to achieve the planned results, but also to strengthen the institutional capacities of government agencies involved in ensuring the continuity and sustainability of all measures, policy documents or regulations developed."

Mr. Sergiu GAIBU, Minister of Economy, in the greeting message from the Ministry of Economy, stressed that "the environment is increasingly on the agenda and it is extremely important to discuss and find solutions and to optimize both the regulatory framework and the operational and support part. Within ODIMM we have a program related to new technologies and in fact the key objective of this program is to make technological changes that lead to the improvement and reduction of energy consumption, reduction of material consumption, reduction of

losses that are made, including waste, which then they are thrown away. To need to turn those ecological objectives we have where possible into a business opportunity and to enable the private sector to achieve these objectives for society. Afforestation of private land should be as favourable as for agricultural crops. Extended producer responsibility is a good tool to achieve a circular economy."

Mr Gintautas BARANAUSKAS, Deputy Head of Operations, EU Delegation in the Republic of Moldova, stated that "The EU congratulate the Republic of Moldova for being the first country in the Eastern Partnership to launch the Green Growth Indicators Report and web platform. This significant achievement will facilitate the evidence-based programming and advocacy and support the Republic of Moldova in its transition to green economy. An inclusive green transition will bring new jobs and growth, while making the Republic of Moldova's economy more competitive, resource efficient and sustainable, in line with the European Green Deal."

The Moderator thanked Mr Minister and Mr Baranauskas for their words of encouragement and expectations. She indicated, that during the meeting, we hope to receive a comprehensive response or information in all areas of common interest, as the EU4Environment Actions, which are currently being implemented for about 3 years, are complex, complement each other and have an efficient collaboration and continuous synergy between the implementing partners, but also between all the local actors involved: ministries, organizations, the associative, academic and business sector. We also welcome the fact that last year the component implemented by the World Bank was launched - the Result 4 on ecosystem services - we coordinated the work plans for this compartment - so all 5 objectives of EU4Environment are already in process of implementation.

Session 2. Special session on Green Growth Indicators in the Republic of Moldova: Launch of Report and web platform (EU4Environment Activity 5.3): Towards Green Transformation of the Republic of Moldova: state of play 2021. Monitoring progress based on the OECD set of GGIs (February 2022)

After the video on GGIs and a brief introduction to the GGIs framework and EU4Environment Activity 5.3 by Krzysztof MICHALAK, Senior Programme Manager, Environment Directorate, OECD the presentation of the Report of the Green Growth Indicators of Moldova and new web GGIs platform was made by Expert-Grup (see the PPT).

Interventions and closing remarks by high-level participants on the use of GGIs for promoting evidence-based policies took place, including by Iordanca-

Rodica IORDANOV, State secretary, Ministry of Environment and Oleg CARA, General Director of the National Bureau of Statistics.

Conclusions (from the Ministry of Environment): The Ministry of Environment welcomes the launch of the updated Report on Green Growth Indicators and the list of new indicators presented. Being updated, this list serves as a basis for assessing the current situation regarding the promotion of the green economy in our country and will be a new starting point for developing the measures of the green transition, including performance indicators for the Program on the promotion of Green Economy for 2022-2027.

The elaboration of this policy document is included in the Government's Action Plan for 2021-2022, and its elaboration will take place in synergy with the elaboration of the Environmental Strategy 2030. Here, based on the experience already gained, we hope to receive UNEP support within EU4Environment for this. At the same time, it is important to ensure continuity and transparency in the collection, periodic updating and presentation of the given indicators, accessible to the general public on the pages of the responsible institutions. The institutional framework must be clearly established for the indicators that are collected, but also for those that require calculations and analytical evaluation.

The list of new indicators needed to assess change - such as green jobs, green services and goods, green investment, etc. - will also be used for decision-making or argumentation on certain sectors of the country's socio-economic development at the current stage.

On behalf of the National Bureau of Statistics, Mr. Oleg CARA, General Director, stressed the importance of the Report presented and mentioned that the indicators of green growth can be integrated in the draft Strategy for the Development of the National Statistical System 2022-2030.

Session 3. Implementation of EU4Environment in Moldova in 2021 and plans for 2022-23

In line with the agenda, Mr Andrei Isac, National Coordinator, EU4Environment presented and gave the floor to the Implementing Partners (OECD, UNEP, UNIDO, UNECE and the World Bank).

This session takes stock of progress on the activities under EU4Environment sub-components for January-December 2021, detailed plans for the first half of 2022 and general plans for 2022-23 (extension), including the regional activities: Result 1: A “greener” decision-making process, Result 2: Circular economy and new growth opportunities, Outcome 3: Ensuring compliance with environmental requirements, Outcome 4: Ecosystem services; Outcome 5: Knowledge exchange and regional coordination. After the presentation, GL members were invited to

comment on the actions taken / planned. The presentation in English was sent to all participants by e-mail (annexes).

Main results presented by Implementing Partners (IPs) (OECD, UNEP, UNECE, UNIDO and the World Bank:

- Ensuring the continuity of the inter-ministerial dialogue on the green economy and EU4Environment coordination: 6 meetings of the Inter-ministerial Working Group for Promoting Sustainable Development and the Green Economy / EU4Environment National Implementation Committee in Moldova, plans examined and coordinated (previous meeting – 10 September 2021) (activity 1.1.3, UNEP);
- Agreement with the Academy of Public Administration, which will host and conduct the introductory online course on the Green Economy. Launched the online course on the green economy in Romanian (29.01.2021) and took place the moderated course on the green economy for the nominated civil servants from MEI, MADRM, ODIMM and AAP (activity 1.1.1, UNEP);
- Legislative support was provided for the assessment of legislation in the field of environmental impact assessment (EIA) and Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and the development of two Guides / Methodologies on (1) Quality control of SEA documentation, (2) Quality control of EIA documentation in transboundary context (activities 1.3.1 and 1.3.2, UNEEC);
- The National Coordinator for the RECP component and the local expert on Eco Industrial Parks were selected and the activities of the sub-component on RECP and EIP started: First RECP stakeholders group meeting; approval of regions for RECP Clubs, contracting the Clubs implementing partner and launching the search for companies in Cahul and Gagauzia. Progress in EIP feasibility assessments of IP Tracom and SEZ Valkanesz; 2 EIP workshops and a consultation on IP Tracom updates (activities 2.1, UNIDO);
- The process of drafting the Regulation on eco-labelling in progress (consultations, governmental process) (UNEP, EcoContact);
- Consultations with ODIMM on assistance in the field of eco-innovations and training took place (activities 2.6.1 and 2.6.2); The first national workshop on eco-innovation for SMEs took place on February 4, 2021; activity within the component - in progress (UNEP);
- The draft Program on Waste Management (activity 2.4) was developed with the integration of the circular economy provisions and the integration of climate change adaptation requirements (synergy with EU4Climate) (UNEP);
- Evaluation and reform of the management of the National Ecological Fund: in the process of finalization is the Operational Manual - the draft was submitted to the Ministry. Support for the development of the new draft Regulation of the NEF and of the amendments in the laws provided (OECD);

- Finalization of Report on the compliance assurance system and system of administrative sanctions (meeting on 15 September; a session at the regional seminar on 17 November 2021) (OECD);
- Clean Public Transport (CPT) Programme, with the kick-off meeting on 5 Feb 2021, training on 15-16 Dec 2021 and two draft reports (OECD);
- The process of implementing EU4Environment Result 4 of the World Bank on ecosystem services, focusing on forests and protected areas to conserve the country's natural capital and improve the living environment was launched; Detailed Country Work Plan for 2021-2022 and general until 2024 elaborated and coordinated. Assistance to be provided to the MoE on drafting the document of the National Afforestation and Reforestation Plan 2022-2031 (The World Bank);
- Launched the Report Towards Green Transformation of the Republic of Moldova: state of play 2021 and web platform. Monitoring progress based on the OECD set of GGIs (February 2022) (activity 5.3) (OECD);
- Information and awareness campaign: High Level National Round Table “Green Economy - Made in Moldova: from the Green Economy to the European Green Deal” (6th edition at regional level, 29.01.2021); preparation and conduct of the national campaign for European Green Week 2021 (31.04-04.06.2021) and World Environment Day / WED2021 (05.06.2021) and European Week for Waste Reduction 2022 (November 2022);
- Promotion of EU4Environment on the project and national web pages, newsletter, video spots and promotional materials (activities 1.4 and 5.1); EU4Environment visuals were placed on the FB pages of the EU Delegation to the Republic of Moldova and Europe Cafe (European Green Week and project activities); the progress regarding the implementation of EU4Environment was reflected in all the Newsletters of the EU Delegation in the Republic of Moldova. The EU4Environment information on the page of the Ministry of Environment updated: <https://mediu.gov.md/ro/node/2700>.

More details on the results for 2021 and the general plans for 2022-2023 - in the joint presentation and information document (CWP, PPT - annexes).

The main conclusions and decisions of the meeting:

Based on the presentations from the 2 basic sessions of the meeting, the following conclusions were made:

- Was welcomed the launch of the Green Growth Indicators Report and of the web platform and encouraged their practical application for decision-making and monitoring of the country's green transition performance;

- Were approved the general report for 2021 and the submitted plans (the detailed work plan of the project for the first half of 2022 and the country work plan for the period 2022-2023 from EU4Environment with all the proposals and amendments presented);
- The regional events of the current year have been taken into account and the active participation of the representatives of the institutions in the given events is encouraged;
- The active involvement of WG members in the process of drafting the Program for the Promotion of the Green Economy for 2022-2027 is encouraged;
- The implementation of the measures planned for the first half of the year will be discussed and organized, working with each implementing partner;
- The next meeting can be organized - preventively in September 2022, before the Regional Assembly of the project;
- The Co-Chairs expressed their gratitude for the EU's financial support for EU4Environment in Moldova, the EC for effective coordination and methodological support and the Implementing Partners for effective collaboration in implementing the planned actions.

The Ministry of Environment will actively contribute to the achievement and implementation of the objectives of this project, in coordination with the Ministry of Economy, the national institutions involved, the implementing partners and will contribute to the continuous development of a well-coordinated process for implementation and reporting at national and regional level and the implementation of the concrete measures provided for in this project, which fall within its competence.

**State Secretary,
Co-Chair of the WG/NIC**

Iordanca-Rodica IORDANOV

Secretary of the WG/NIC

Ms. Maria Nagornîi, Head of Division on Policies for Pollution Prevention and Environmental Assessment, Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and Environment, EU4Environment Technical NFP

Annexes to these Summary:

- Agenda of the meeting (Eng/Rom);
- Revised EU4Environment work plan for 2019-2023 for Republic of Moldova (February 2022) and regional work plan;

- Towards Green Transformation of the Republic of Moldova: state of play 2021. Monitoring progress based on the OECD set of GGIs (February 2022);
- Copy of documents presented and discussed (Word materials);
- Presentations at the meeting (PPT, Eng/Rom).