

Information to be submitted to UPR

The Project “Cooperation on Enhancing Electoral System and Processes in Turkmenistan”

Objective

The objective of the project is to provide technical assistance requested by the Government of Turkmenistan to deepen democratic processes based on the national tradition of genuine people's rule. UNDP Turkmenistan provides technical support with the aim of making available to national institutions appropriate expertise to embark on a long-term democratization exercise, starting with electoral processes. The project has adopted a gradual and long-term approach. The project will also link and reinforce the joint UNDP/OHCHR initiative on capacity building for human rights and treaty body reporting, and the UNDP-supported project with the Parliament of Turkmenistan on capacity-building for local governance and development. The project will promote the use of new technological and methodological innovations at different stages of the electoral process according to the best global practice and international standards in areas such as voter registration, electronic voting, and public information. The project is closely cooperating and coordinating activities with major international stakeholders and donors such as OSCE, EU and US.

Outputs and results achieved

Output 1. Improved electoral legal framework and processes.

The project provides expertise to the Government of Turkmenistan, Parliament and other stakeholders to assess the advantages and pitfalls of any suggested legislative changes and provide technical assistance for necessary amendments. As of today, the project has set up a quadripartite legal working group for coordination of elaboration and discussion of new electoral legislation. The group has established working contacts with relevant national bodies and worked out a strategy of elaboration of new electoral legislation with the assistance of a Senior International Election Specialist invited by UNDP Turkmenistan for coordination of election legislation reform. A comprehensive review and assessment of existing election legislation is currently under way. As a long-term objective, all election related legislation will be combined in Electoral Code of Turkmenistan.

Output 2. Capacity of Central Electoral Commission (CEC) and its local branches developed

This project has employed a Senior International Election Specialist for election administration capacity building who is developing rules and regulations for CEC and reviewing CEC managerial structures, procedures and regulations on internal management. The expert is also working on professional curriculum, recruitment and career advancement procedures, learning tools, Election Training Manual. Training programmes for election commissions' staff are being prepared and will be implemented in September-December 2008. Training of trainers (TOT) is scheduled for November 2008, and a study tour to the Republic of Latvia for chairpersons of regional election commissions to learn best election administration experience and practices is also scheduled for August 2008.