

**Minutes of the High-Level Strategic Committee Meeting
of the Uzbekistan Vision 2030 Fund
20 March 2023, at 09:00 Bern time / 13:00 Tashkent Time**

Participants:

- Mr. Patric Franzen, Deputy State Secretary at the Swiss Federal Department of Foreign Affairs.
- Mr. Kuchkarov Jamshid Anvarovich, Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

Opening remarks

The meeting began with Mr. Franzen and Mr. Kuchkarov expressing their appreciation for the bilateral cooperation between Uzbekistan and Switzerland.

Mr. Franzen informed the Committee that he was pleased to note that the Fund was becoming operational. He referred to the two documents that required validation by the High-Level Strategic Committee: The first Resource Allocation Strategy (RAS) and the Terms of Reference for the Civil Society Advisory Committee (CSAC).

Mr. Kuchkarov expressed his gratitude for the cooperation with Switzerland and support in restituting the stolen assets. He emphasized that the funds should benefit the people of Uzbekistan. Mr. Kuchkarov also acknowledged the support of Ambassador Obolensky and his team at the Swiss Embassy in Tashkent and appreciated the work of the UN and the Secretariat in bringing the Committee to where they were today.

Resource Allocation Strategy

The Management Committee had reached a consensus on the two key priorities for the first tranche of the Fund, namely: 1) reduced maternal and infant mortality and 2) inclusive and equitable quality public education. Mr. Kuchkarov explained that the need for these two priorities arose due to the demographics of Uzbekistan.

During the meeting, Mr Franzen and Mr Kuchkarov discussed the importance of addressing both the hard and soft components in the projects of the Fund. Eligible programs to be financed by the Fund should address soft and hard components in an appropriate manner, depending on the nature of each program.

The importance of anti-corruption measures was stressed by Mr Franzen. Mr Kuchkarov agreed and added that anti-corruption should not be treated as a stand-alone project but rather be integrated into interventions. He highlighted the lack of infrastructure and equipment in both health and education sectors, especially in rural areas, and suggested that the Fund could utilize the procurement systems of the UN to address these needs.

Both sides agreed to validate the RAS without objections.

Terms of Reference for Civil Society Advisory Committee

Mr Kuchkarov expressed his appreciation for the role played by Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and individuals in the process. He emphasized that CSOs can help enhance transparency, establish good communication with the population, and gather feedback on the results of Fund activities and projects.

Mr Franzen supported this view and cited Switzerland's experience with other restitutions, highlighting the critical role played by the Civil Society Advisory Committee (CSAC) in the restitution framework.

Both parties agreed to endorse the terms of reference (TOR) for the CSAC with no objections.

NEXT STEPS:

Moving forward, the High-Level Strategic Committee members will contact the Fund Secretariat via email to confirm the endorsement and non-objection of both documents. The Secretariat will prepare the minutes of the meeting and share them with the High-Level Strategic Committee for approval. Once approved, the minutes will be made available to the public on the Fund Gateway Page.