

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

between

the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus

and

the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe

on collaboration to implement the recommendations of the

INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REVIEW OF BELARUS

A. Background

1. At the request of the Government of Belarus, the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) undertook the project *Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Belarus* (“the project”) in 2016-2017.
2. The project was implemented in close cooperation with the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus as the national focal point.
3. The objective was to review reform progress against the recommendations of the *Innovation Performance Review of Belarus* in 2011, identify additional policy actions aimed at further stimulating innovation activity in the country, and to analyse existing and prospective policies to facilitate innovation in support of the national priorities of Belarus under the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
4. The project was carried out by a group of international experts mobilised by UNECE. Its implementation involved consultations with a large number of entities of the national innovation system of Belarus.
5. International experts and policy makers, as well as stakeholders of the Belarus national innovation system reviewed and validated the main findings and recommendations of the Review at a peer-review seminar in Minsk. National participants confirmed their practical value and the need for follow-up actions to support implementation.
6. The findings and recommendations were revised in light of the feedback received during the peer review and were presented to the Government of Belarus on 18 July, 2017.

B. Joint Work

7. On the basis of the review and numerous consultations, the UNECE and the State Committee on Science and Technology of Belarus) (“the Parties”):
 - a. welcome the successful completion of the project *Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Belarus*;
 - b. notes that the Review has identified a range of important achievements of Belarus in promoting innovation since the initial Innovation Performance Review in 2011;

- c. highlights that, at the same time, the Review has identified areas with substantial potential for further improving the national innovation system and strengthening the role of innovation in achieving the priorities of Belarus under the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- d. agree to work together to bring the conclusions and recommendations of the *Innovation for Sustainable Development Review of Belarus* to the attention of all organisations and institutions concerned;
- e. agree to work together on the reforms in line with the recommendations of the Review in cooperation with other interested parties in Belarus through capacity building;
- f. agree to work together to share, as appropriate, the experience of Belarus with the implementation of the project with other countries undertaking similar projects.

C. Implementation

8. In no event shall this Memorandum, or any amendment hereof, operate to create financial or administrative or legal obligations on the part of either Party, nor does it prevent the parties from pursuing the objectives set forth in this Memorandum on their own or with other third parties
9. All assistance provided by UNECE under this MoU shall be subject to inclusion in the Programme of Work adopted by the Committee on Innovation, Competitiveness, and Public-Private Partnerships, as well as to the availability of extrabudgetary resources.
10. The parties shall agree separately on all activities envisioned under this MoU, along with the responsibilities of each party.

D. Use of Name, Emblem or Official Seal

11. Unless expressly authorised in writing by the other Party, neither Party shall in any manner whatsoever, use the name, emblem or official seal of the other Party in connection with its business or otherwise.

E. Settlement of disputes

12. The Parties agree to work towards the resolution of any dispute arising in connection with the application and/or interpretation of the present MoU in a spirit of cooperation and good faith, through communication between each Party's authorised representative.
13. If a dispute cannot be resolved at the operating level, the subject of disagreement will be recorded in writing by each party and presented to the other party for consideration. If resolution to the dispute is not reached within thirty (30) days, the authorised representatives of each Party will forward the written record of the dispute to the respective executive head for consideration and settlement.

F. Privileges and Immunities

14. Nothing in or relating to the present MoU may be understood as constituting or implying, a waiver from the privileges and immunities enjoyed by UNECE under the terms of the 1946 Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations.

G. Amendments

15. Any modifications or changes to the present MoU shall be made in writing with the consent of both parties, and shall take effect on the date of signature by the parties.

H. Extension and Termination of the Agreement

16. The MoU is concluded for a period of three (3) years with the possibility of an extension subject to the agreement of the Parties, and it shall enter into force upon signature by both parties. The MoU shall remain valid until such time as any Party provides a written notice of termination to the other Party with a minimum notice period of six (6) months.

I. Correspondence

17. The individuals with overall responsibility for implementing this Memorandum are listed below. The Parties may, by written notice to the other Party, designate additional or different persons as points of contact. But the Parties agree to have only one person at a time designated as the person with overall responsibility for all activities undertaken pursuant to this Memorandum.

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Commission for Europe:

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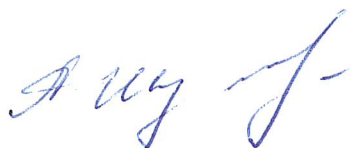
For the State Committee on Science and
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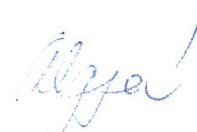
The present memorandum is signed in Minsk on 21 February 2018 in two copies, each in English and Russian.

For the State Committee on Science and
Technology of Belarus

For the United Nations Economic
Commission for Europe



Alexander Shumilin
Chairman
State Committee on Science and
Technology of the Republic of Belarus



Olga Algayerova
Under-Secretary General
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