

## ***Statement***

### ***On the implementation of Anti-Corruption Measures of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia for the Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Armenia for 2015 and 2015-2016***

#### ***Point 19 of the Measures***

Developing and implementing a complex programme on provision of electronic services in those areas of state-provided services, where the services have not yet been provided by electronic means

#### ***The outcome***

Back during the sitting of 28 August 2008, the Government of the Republic of Armenia has approved — by Protocol Decision No 35 — the “Concept Paper on Development of Information Technologies”, where the conceptual provisions and the schedule for the formation of e-Society in the Republic of Armenia are also enshrined based on the analysis and combination of the best international practice. At the same time — given the necessity of developing an Integrated Action Plan for the formation of e-Society in the Republic of Armenia — the Concept Paper on the formation of e-Society in the Republic of Armenia was developed, and on 25 February 2010 it was approved by the Government of the Republic of Armenia. The Concept Paper included the strategic approaches aimed at the formation of e-Society and the implementation of the Schedule of Measures for 2010-2012.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia has approved — by Protocol Decision No 14 of the sitting of 10 April 2014 — the e-Governance Strategic Programme, which prescribes that ensuring free and transparent mutual e-contacts and interconnection of citizens and the private sector with the Government is extremely important for the positioning of a centre of excellence for business and investment climates and for the formation of e-Governance in the Republic of Armenia, which

can be implemented through the provision of high-quality and customer-oriented e-services and the application of advanced methods for customer management, which will ensure the harmonious functioning of the main components of the e-Governance system (information databases, management information systems, websites and portals, a communication infrastructure for information, a legal system, a security system, standards, a unified secure identification system, an e-Signature). Taking into consideration the high rates of development of the e-Governance in the Republic of Armenia, a Schedule of e-Governance measures has been developed.

The main objectives of the e-Governance Action Programme are to improve the provision of public services and make them available and convenient for each citizen ensure the availability of e-services for everyone in the Republic of Armenia and permit access into the system on a round-the-clock basis, 24/7, from other cities, villages and even out of the country. Further enlargement and improvement of the e-Governance system will contribute to the reduction of possible corruption risks and provide the opportunity to track decision-making processes.

The e-Governance Action Programme encompasses the provision of new e-services, the continuous implementation of the e-Governance system within all state and territorial government bodies (e-education, e-healthcare system, unified information system of the social protection sector (including e-pension), the e-system for the Civil Status Acts Registration (CSAR), the e-statistical reporting system, etc.) aimed at increasing transparency of transactions made between the state and citizens ensuring efficient collaboration between the state, the private sector and citizens and improving the business climate.

Back on 25 October 2012 the Government of the Republic of Armenia has approved — by its Protocol Decision No 43 — the Programme for the introduction of a unified electronic information system in the healthcare sector of the Republic of Armenia and the Schedule of Measures. The Unified electronic information system in

the healthcare sector of the Republic of Armenia — as an integrity of information and infrastructures — must ensure the collection, archiving and use of medical information for each member of the society by the professionals of the healthcare sector in the e-environment. The aim of introducing the system is to create a necessary infrastructure in the healthcare sector in the Republic of Armenia, which will ensure the provision of complete medical information on each inhabitant of the Republic in a unified and complete format, through which the collected electronic information can also be used for various purposes, particularly for receiving detailed medical information about a person and for providing relevant medical services while making compensations for medical services for the purpose of research, analysis, etc. Any medical institution operating in the Republic of Armenia, as well as any insurance company providing medical insurance services may become a participant of the system. All the participants of the system will be provided with computers connected to the unified information system and having sufficient technical features; the computers will be acquired and installed by the participants. The unified electronic information system in the healthcare sector of the Republic of Armenia will be integrated jointly with the e-digital signature certification centre certified in the manner prescribed by law.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia has — by Decision N 1093-N of 31 August 2015 — prescribed that taking into account security, interoperability and common technical requirements for e-systems will allow to describe the information system of e-social services, the main components thereof (including infrastructures ensuring the provision of relevant social services), the sources for updating information, the principles, methodology for entering (maintaining, archiving) data into the information system. As a result, a data list will be formed according to social services, including the sources where and ways through which they can be obtained (whether they are entered manually, are automatically received from other information bases, are generated in the information database). Besides, the procedures for

providing social services will be described, including the principles, methodology for entering data into the information system of e-social services, the conditions for making decisions on the basis of the data entered, the practical importance of each unit of information, etc.

The Government of the Republic of Armenia has approved — by Protocol Decision No 47 of 22 October 2015 — the Schedule of Measures ensuring the introduction of a unified information system for the social protection sector, the minimum information list containing a Terms of Reference for the information system of e-social services. It has been noted by the Decision that the activities for introducing the information system of e-social services are funded from the proceeds of the Social Protection Administration II Project (credit N 5398-AM) signed between the Republic of Armenia and the International Development Association on 23 May 2014. Besides, the Minister of Labour and Social Affairs of the Republic of Armenia was given an assignment to carry out the activities for introducing the information system of e-social services taking into account the security, interoperability and common technical requirements for e-systems used for the provision of e-services or implementation of actions by state and local self government bodies prescribed by Decision No 1093-N of 31 August 2015 of the Government of the Republic of Armenia.

According to the national survey conducted in 2014, the level of e-readiness in Armenia is estimated to be high. The main infrastructures and actors are available, so the population is mostly ready to move towards the development of e-society. More specifically, 82 percent of households in Armenia have access to the Internet and 62 percent of the population uses it on a daily basis. For more than a half of the population, the Internet has become an essential part of everyday life, education, work and social life. In the future, the e-society will develop even faster since the younger generation has quite advanced e-skills and frequently uses the Internet in everyday life. Hence, it could be assumed that in the years to come there will be a higher

demand for e-services, and the Government must make efforts aimed at development of relevant infrastructures.

Ministries and state institutions are in different stages with respect to development of e-Governance programmes. The majority of state organisations are connected to the network of the Government and have internal IT units. All ministries use the Mulberry system. The widely applied information systems include the Human Resources Management System, the AS-Accountant, the LSFinance, the Client-Treasury, the Electronic Tax Filing System, the Public Procurement System and the Integrated Internal Audit Management Information System.

The Ministry of Finance has a more improved system of e-Governance. The information system of the Ministry is certified according to ISO/IEC 27001: 2005 international standard; thus, it includes working plans for cyber-security, data protection, digital archiving and the development of databases. The databases of the organisation are being documented. This Ministry can set an example for all state organisations. An important point is that the majority of ministries have highlighted the need and their willingness to develop co-operation, interoperability and communication with other state agencies.

The assessment of twenty basic e-services serves as the main standard for general assessment of public services in the country. The assessment of the basic services has been carried out. The advantages and disadvantages of all services have been identified, and relevant recommendations for further improvement have been submitted.

The comparison of the e-services of 28 EU states shows that Armenia is at quite a high level with respect to certain e-services. This primarily refers to business services such as income tax, registration of companies, VAT and profit tax. As far as the services provided by the Government to citizens are concerned, Armenia is lagging behind in almost all cases. In particular, considerable efforts should be made aimed at providing

essential e-services with respect to personal documents, getting higher education and healthcare services.

The general assessment of the current situation provides the opportunity to claim that the Government, as well as the population of the Republic of Armenia are ready and willing to improve e-Governance and that now is the right time to create a partnership network for development of more and better e-services.

The following have been included in the List of Measures for e-Governance in the Republic of Armenia for 2015-2016:

1. a Unified technological platform for e-Governance;
2. Education and science;
3. Healthcare;
4. Ongoing development of e-services;
5. Digitisation of documents and data archiving.

The following have been carried out in the 3rd quarter of 2015 within the scope of the Measures for e-Governance in the Republic of Armenia for 2015-2016: analysis of the current state of e-governance systems, development of the scope of interoperability and drafting of requirements for the integrated infrastructure of e-services the designated authority responsible for the implementation of which were the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and the e-Governance Infrastructure Implementation Unit CJSC (EKENG).

### ***Point 22 of the Measures***

Encouraging the state bodies to issue the licences by electronic means considering the possibility of issuing licences (at least the licences issued by a simple procedure) by electronic means.

### ***The outcome***

Back in late 2010 the types of activities subject to licensing were reduced by the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On making amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On licensing”” adopted by the National Assembly of the Republic of Armenia and 15 other Laws of the Republic of Armenia adopted attached thereto. The purpose of the Law was to relieve businessmen from unnecessary workload and reduce corruption risks. Keeping up with the times and with the purpose of improving the quality of services provided to citizens, back in 2011-2012 the Government of the Republic of Armenia undertook the initiative of introducing the system of e-Governance as a result of which the Government of the Republic of Armenia introduced the electronic system for acceptance of licences for different types of licensing - [www.e-gov.am/licenses](http://www.e-gov.am/licenses), by which the process of applying for necessary documents is automated and by which the applicant simply needs to visit a government agency once and receive the licence, and — in case of having electronic signatures — applicants may receive the electronic licence via their personal electronic mail without showing up to a state body in person.

Almost all state institutions issue licences in this format, except for the Central Bank of the Republic of Armenia, which has much more complex procedures. Several other types of licences with respect to nuclear energy and the sale of weapons are also among exceptions. The licences issued by the Public Services Regulatory Commission of the Republic of Armenia have not been digitised yet. Thus, this has created an environment that has allowed reducing the chance of “physical” contact between citizens and state officials, which, in its turn, implies the reduction of corruption risks. Besides, the scope of legal acts regulating the sphere of licensing has been examined,

certain issues have been identified and solutions have been proposed. The main issues are listed below:

- To be involved in an activity subject to licensing, persons need to meet certain requirements and submit relevant documents for verification;
- The issuance of certain types of licences is costly and time-consuming, but, in fact, it does not contain essential control mechanisms;
- In some cases, to obtain a licence it is required to submit data and documents for which there is no need;
- When issuing simple licences, the authorised body, in fact, performs the function of registration and, when issuing certain types of complex licences, it conducts only examination of documents.
- The Government of the Republic of Armenia — by adopting the policy of raising the level of effectiveness of state regulation of economic activity, eliminating the provisions impeding the development of the business climate and the market economy, improving and simplifying the services provided by the State to citizens and businesses and improving the existing regulatory legal acts — has brought forward a number of solutions:
  - Introducing a notification mechanism for the implementation of certain types of activity within the territory of the Republic of Armenia, including implementation of types of activities subject to licensing through notification;
  - Reducing significantly the number of documents required;
  - Establishing a procedure for registration of legal persons, individual entrepreneurs and natural persons — having submitted a notification — within an authorised body.

As a result of all this, the Law of the Republic of Armenia HO-121-N “On making amendments to the Law of the Republic of Armenia “On licensing”” was adopted on



13 November this year. By enforcement of the latter, a notification mechanism will be introduced in place of licensing for the implementation of activities in the corresponding sectors in the territory of the Republic of Armenia, as a result of which unnecessary administrative actions will be shortened and the expenses of economic entities will be minimised.

### ***Point 24 of the Measures***

Revising the standards for issuance of licences in all sectors; simplification of additional requirements to the extent possible.

### ***The outcome***

The Council of Legal Acts Reforms Regulating the Economic Sphere of the Republic of Armenia has assigned the “National Centre for Legislative Regulation” State Institution of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia (hereinafter referred to as “the NCLR”) to examine the regulations in a number of sectors and submit recommendations for the reduction and simplification of legal acts regulating the corresponding sector, as well as for the reduction of economically ineffective and inappropriate mechanisms prescribed thereby.

The NCLR has examined — among other sectors prescribed — the scope of legal acts regulating the licensing sector also for simplification of additional requirements to the extent possible. As a result, the following issues have been identified:

- When issuing a licence, the requirement for the qualification (professional training) of specialists to be involved in the given activity, as well as at least three years of work experience of a specialist involved in the sector of activity requested are prescribed as a requirement for the issuance of a licence, however, it can be said that, in practice, such a mandatory requirement establishes a counterargument that the requirement concerning submission of information regarding the professional training of a specialist may take a formal nature, since the information can change, or those

specialists may be replaced on the very day following submission thereof, especially immediately after the licence is obtained;

- Only legal persons and individual entrepreneurs (hereinafter together referred to as an “organisation”) may carry out a passenger-taxi activity in case of having a licence. Moreover, for obtaining a licence legal persons must have an assembly point, undergo daily medical examinations and technical inspections, while individual entrepreneurs must undergo only daily medical examinations and technical inspections that are actually formal and turn into a purchase of a document, since there are no specific control mechanisms. To obtain a licence, organisations must take seven steps/actions, five of which are aimed at obtaining a yellow licence plate. In particular, the organisation must contact the Ministry of Transport and Communication of the Republic of Armenia, receive a relevant reference, submit it to the Road Police, etc. This takes additional time and entails additional costs. As regards the organisations located outside of Yerevan, the latter have to come to Yerevan and apply to the licensing authority in Yerevan. Perhaps, this issue concerns all the sectors subject to licensing. The licensing process is rather time-consuming and there exists unnecessary circulation of documents. When receiving a yellow licence plate, organisations must hand their main licence plates to the Road Police; this restricts the use of an automobile for other purposes and, at the same time, it does not settle any issue from the perspective of the State:

- Organisations providing regular passenger transportation services by public automobile transport undergo two processes- licensing and a tender. Moreover, having a licence is a prerequisite for participation in a tender. It should be mentioned that there is almost no requirement to the organisations during licensing and the few requirements (for example, the age of the means of transportation) are included in the procedure for holding a tender. It turns out that organisations undergo another additional stage:

- According to the regulations in the electronic communication sector, carrying out an activity without a corresponding licence is prohibited in that sector. Pursuant to the Laws of the Republic of Armenia “On licensing” and “On electronic communication” the “network of public electronic communication (operation of a network)”, which is a type of complex licensing and the “provision of sound services”, the “provision of data transmission and Internet access services” simple licences were prescribed that are all issued by the Public Services Regulatory Commission (hereinafter referred to as “the PSRC”). Several issues have been identified in the procedure for licensing approved by the PSRC, including unnecessary requirements for documents and grounds for rejection that concern all three types of licences. The most disputed and unfavourable regulation is prescribed for the issuance of the complex licence “public electronic communication network (operation of network)”. In particular, the number of required documents is unreasonably exaggerated and, most importantly, the required documents are not exhaustively prescribed. At the same time, it is prescribed that the examination of an application for a licence lasts six weeks, may be extended for another three months; moreover, it is prescribed that after all the requirements are met, the licence may be issued no sooner than six months later, and it is not prescribed when, in general, it is issued after the six months, since there is no deadline stipulated.

Taking into consideration the fact that the Government of the Republic of Armenia has adopted the policy of raising the level of effectiveness of state regulation of economic activity, eliminating the provisions impeding the development of the market economy, improving and simplifying the services provided by the State to citizens and businesses and improving the existing regulatory legal acts and with the purpose of improving the business climate, including through the reduction and revision of legal acts regulating the sector, the NCLR has suggested turning 13 types of activities subject to licensing within the territory of the Republic of Armenia into activities carried out through notification taking into consideration the current situation recorded through a study,

the above mentioned issues and the experience of a number of developed and developing states. This means that it will be necessary to submit a notification in the form prescribed by the Government of the Republic of Armenia and pay the state fee prescribed by law in order to be involved in the types of the given activity. The types of the activity include:

- Production, import of or trade in pyrotechnical articles
- Types of activity in the agricultural sector
- Public electronic communication services, except for the services the provision of which requires mastering and operating an electronic communication network
- Production of distilled alcoholic beverages (except for liqueurs classified under code 220870 of the Commodity Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activities (CN FEA) classifier, other spirituous beverages with an alcoholic strength by 9% vol. or less as classified under code 220890, as well as production of distilled alcoholic beverages with an alcoholic strength by 40% vol. or more made from fruits and berries only (except for grapes) as classified under code 2208); and production of ethyl spirit from fermentation substances
- Production of liqueurs classified under code 220870 of the Commodity Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activities (CN FEA) classifier, and other spirituous beverages with an alcoholic strength by 9% vol. or less as classified under code 220890
- For production, import of vodka classified under the index code of 2208 of the Commodity Nomenclature of Foreign Economic Activities (CN FEA)
- Production of wines from grapes, apples and other fruits and berries
- Beer production
- Hallmarking and determination of fineness of items made from precious metals
- Operation of trading centres

Accordingly, the introduction of a procedure for notification of activity instead of licensing has provided the opportunity to:

- Reduce significantly the number of documents being submitted;
- Save time;
- Establish a procedure for the registration of legal persons, individual entrepreneurs and natural persons — having submitted a notification — within an authorised body.

The following processes have been recommended and implemented:

- The concept of simple and complex types of licences and the distinction between them do not exist anymore. Henceforth, there will be a licence without any note regarding its type.
- A relevant amendment has been made to the Civil Code of the Republic of Armenia providing for the introduction of an institute of notification for the implementation of a relevant activity on the part of a person.
- The requirement for the qualification (professional training) of specialists to be involved in a given activity, as well as the requirement for submitting, in advance, the documents verifying at least three years of work experience of a specialist to be involved in the sector of activity requested has been removed from the procedure for the issuance of a licence. It has been prescribed that the copies of documents verifying the professional qualification of that person must be submitted to the licensing body five working days prior to the start of implementation of the licensed activity.
- The requirement of a licence for the provision of regular passenger transportation services by public automobile transport has been removed.
- The opportunity of providing passenger transportation services by passenger-taxi automobiles has also been reserved to natural persons.
- The “one-window” principle has been introduced in the licensing and registration process. The applicant applies to one state body.

- The requirements for the availability of a parking lot required for the provision of passenger transportation services by passenger-taxi automobiles, the control of the technical condition of automobiles prior to setting out for passenger transportations, the daily medical examinations of drivers have been removed.
- Unnecessary administrative actions have been shortened, particularly in terms of time and the circulation of documents.
- The “provision of sound services” and “provision of services for data communication and Internet access” types of simple licences have been removed and the procedure for issuance of the “public electronic communication network (operation of network)” complex licence has been significantly simplified.
- The requirement for submitting a written notification to the Regulating body has been provided for as a precondition for the provision of public electronic communication services.
- The period for issuance of a licence has been defined as per working days; the current 30 calendar days have been changed to 23 working days.
- It has been prescribed that shorter periods for issuance of a licence may be defined through licensing procedures.
- It has been prescribed that the state fee for the issuance of a licence may be paid within five working days following a positive decision taken by a relevant licensing authority and that the applicant does not have to submit a receipt verifying the payment. The licensing authority verifies the payment of the state fee through an electronic system.
- The licence for construction or recovery of production capacities has been repealed; it has been prescribed that the person with a licence for the production of electric energy or thermal energy is also granted the authority to build electric or thermal energy stations.

- The licences for the distribution of electric or thermal energy and natural gas or the construction of transmission (transportation) networks have been removed; it has been prescribed that persons with a licence for the distribution or transmission of electric or thermal energy and natural gas are authorised to build a network for the distribution or transmission of electric or thermal energy or natural gas within the geographical territory prescribed by the licence.
- The mandatory requirement for posting an announcement in the press and the requirement for submitting documents verifying publication of the announcement to receive the duplicate of the licence have been removed.

Therefore, the outcome expected through the indicated amendments is the improvement of conditions for regulating the sector and starting a business and the elimination of current issues in the meantime making changes in the regulatory framework so that organisations and natural persons are provided with the opportunity to engage in entrepreneurial activity without unnecessary requirements and expenses. By shortening unnecessary administrative actions and the circulation of documents, it is expected to raise the level of effectiveness of applying the regulatory mechanisms prescribed by legislation.

### ***Points 26 and 27 of the Measures***

Appointing entities (person/unit) responsible for implementation of anti-corruption programmes in the republican executive bodies and enshrining the functions thereof in the relevant documents.

Appointing an official responsible for coordination of implementation of the anti-corruption programmes in all republican executive bodies (at least at the level of the chief of staff or deputy head of the body).

### ***The outcome***

On 20 November 2015 all republican executive bodies were given the assignment of the Prime Minister of the Republic of Armenia to designate units responsible for implementation of anti-corruption programmes, make the relevant changes in the job descriptions of the responsible officials and stipulate the functions deriving from the implementation of anti-corruption programmes.

On 1 December of this year the Anti-Corruption Programmes Monitoring Division of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia held a discussion with Gayane Safaryan, the Head of the Personnel Roster and Registry Maintenance Department of the Staff of the Civil Service Council of the Republic of Armenia, which resulted in solutions agreed mutually. Therefore, in all republican executive bodies, officials for coordination of implementation of anti-corruption programmes at the level of chief of staff or deputy head of body have been designated, and the prescribed changes have been made to the job descriptions of the relevant officials



### ***Point 40 of the Measures***

Introducing separate tools of e-democracy

#### ***The outcome***

The implementation of measures in this sector is provided for among the obligations assumed by the Republic of Armenia through the second Action Plan of the Republic of Armenia within the framework of the “Open Government Partnership” initiative.

The Ministry of Territorial Administration and Emergency Situations of the Republic of Armenia — jointly with the “Information Systems Development and Training Centre” NGO — regularly organises training courses on the operation of the Community Management Information System (CMIS) (general activities of the CMIS, the register of natural persons and organisations, management of the community budget, planning of revenues and expenses, management of financial resources, budgetary reports, management of community property, electronic documents, management of local fees and payments, electronic circulation of documents, assignments and a sub-system of the Council of Elders).

The introduction of the system commenced back in 2009. Through the CMIS, as well as using the principles of open government, the LSGs perform their functions and provide different types of services. In the first stage, the CMIS was introduced in 217 large and medium-size communities, and at present the CMIS is introduced in more than 580 communities of all 10 marzes of the Republic of Armenia where about 92 percent of the population of those marzes live. The CMIS is being constantly developed and improved as it is updated with new components and operational capacities.

With the view of improving the services provided to citizens, Citizens' Service Offices (CSOs) have also been established in 13 urban communities that operate and provide services through the CMIS. In 2016 Citizens' Service Offices are planned to be opened in 8 more communities.

A considerable part of the services provided through the CMIS may also be provided online. However, citizens — if they wish so — may be provided with the same services at regional administrations or CSOs (if available). The procedures for the provision of services are described in detail and are accessible through community websites. Citizens having applied for services may follow the process of the provision of services online; as necessary, they may turn to the specialists, as well as assess the quality of the services provided. Citizens may record online the issues identified in their communities and expect solutions from local authorities.

Other measures have also been undertaken to raise the level of transparency of activities of local self-government bodies and to raise the level of awareness of the population. In particular:

- SMS surveys have been held in Goris city of Syunik Marz, Aregnadem village of Shirak Marz and Ashtarak city of Aragatsotn Marz of the Republic of Armenia. The SMS survey is an accessible and unique tool that can contribute to the strengthening of relations between residents of the community and the LSGs, as well as ensuring of transparency in the decision-making process. The implementation of this measure as well is ensured due to the open government partnership. It is expected that through the fulfilment of this obligation local self-government bodies will have a clearer picture of the priority of community issues. It is also expected that the residents of communities will be involved in the survey; their answers will determine the necessity and urgency for the settlement of issues.
- Activities aimed at creating and updating websites for the communities of Armenia with population of 20,000 and more, publishing all the legal acts adopted by the community authorities, notifying about the sessions of the Council of Elders, public discussions and hearings, as well as online broadcasting of the sessions of the Council of Elders are underway.

- The results of the 2nd Annual OGP International Competition — launched in March 2015 — were summed up within the framework of the Global Summit “Open Government Partnership” (OGP) initiative held in Mexico city of the United States of Mexico on 27-29 October 2015. This year’s theme was “Improving Public Services through Open Government”. Over 35 member states (66 countries) of the OGP initiative submitted applications for participation in the Competition. Armenia presented the “Creation and introduction of community management information systems in RA regional administrations” initiative (during the Competition it was referred to as “Smart community” (“Smart Municipality”) and was qualified for the top award taking the first place in the region (Asia-Pacific). The applications were assessed by an independent honorary international jury comprised of 23 members.

#### ***Point 42 of the Measures***

Submitting recommendations and draft legal acts, in cooperation with civil society organisations, on introducing a monitoring system for implementation of state programmes and provision of public services

#### ***The outcome***

During the session of the Government of the Republic of Armenia held on 15 October of the current year, the Government of the Republic of Armenia approved — by Protocol Decision N 46 — the Agreement “On raising the level of and monitoring seismic safety at 46 general education schools in the Republic of Armenia” signed between the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and “Integrity Action” organisation, pursuant thereto an agreement was signed between the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia and “Integrity Action” organisation “On raising the level of and monitoring seismic safety at 46 general education schools in the Republic of Armenia”. This Program — funded by the Asian Development Bank — is aimed at contributing to the reduction of corruption in the Republic of Armenia and

improving the process of integration in the public services sector, which is of major significance. The duration of the Program is 3 years, during which the “Integrity Action” organisation will conduct courses devoted to good faith (integrity) for schoolchildren, teachers, parents of schoolchildren and representatives of local non-governmental organisations at 46 general education schools of the Republic of Armenia so that later they can provide feedback and be able to assess the level of satisfaction of the community and the compatibility between the construction works and the construction (legislative) requirements through the implementation of anti-corruption monitoring.

On 23 September 2015 the Ministry of Justice of the Republic of Armenia and a coalition established by a number of civil society organisations (about 70 non-governmental organisations) adopted a Joint Statement on co-operation between the State and civil society, which led to the establishment of an anti-corruption working platform and anti-corruption working groups. The purpose of the establishment of working groups is to examine the issues of more active participation of civil society organisations within the composition of the Anti-Corruption Council, proper implementation of the Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and its Implementation Action Plan for 2015-2018, the criminalisation of illicit enrichment, as well as other pressing issues relating to the area of fight against corruption.

### ***Point 53 of the Measures***

Developing and introducing a system of monitoring indicators for 2015-2018 Action Plan for Implementation of Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Armenia

#### ***The outcome***

On 10 April 2014 the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted the “Concept Paper for the Fight against Corruption within the System of Public Administration”. As a result of co-operation with international partners, the “Concept Paper for the Fight against Corruption within the System of Public Administration” and the new Anti-Corruption Strategy and its Implementation Action Plan has been focused on four main areas, including education, healthcare, state revenues and the police. On 28 October 2014 a meeting was held within the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia with international donor organisations having on the agenda the “Discussion of the Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Armenia and institutional systems”, during which the USAID expressed its willingness to provide financial assistance for the implementation of the 2015-2018 Anti-Corruption Strategy of the Republic of Armenia.

On 19 February 2015 the Government of the Republic of Armenia adopted Decision No 165-N “On establishing Anti-Corruption Council and Expert Task Force, on approving the membership composition of the Council, the rules of procedure for activities of the Council, the Expert Task Force and the Anti-corruption Programmes Monitoring Division of the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia”, which also covers the principles for the establishment of the Expert Task Force and the functions thereof.

On 28 July 2015 the first session of the Anti-Corruption Council was held during which the preliminary versions of the agreement to be concluded with the USAID and the documents attached thereto were approved. The agreement envisages providing the Staff of the Government of the Republic of Armenia financial assistance in the amount

of USD 750,000 for 1 year, which will enable to establish the Expert Task Force. By Decision of the Government of the Republic of Armenia No 165-N of 19 February 2015 and by the agreement to be concluded with the USAID, it is envisaged that the system of monitoring indicators for the 2015-2018 Action Plan will be developed by the Expert Task Force. Currently, efforts are made to finalise and conclude the agreement and the documents attached thereto. It is envisaged that that will take place by the end of this year.

***Anti-Corruption Programmes***

***Monitoring Division of the Staff of the***

***Government of the Republic of Armenia***