

2018 National Donor Coordination Forum “Partnership for Development” Declaration

December 3, 2018

Ukrainian Prime Minister Volodymyr Hroisman and Heads of Missions and Heads of Cooperation met December 3, 2018, in Kyiv, Ukraine, to launch the National Donor Coordination Forum “Partnership for Development.” This meeting was an opportunity to start an ongoing dialogue on strategic issues between the Government of Ukraine (GOU) and the international donor community, as envisaged in the Medium Term Government Priority Action Plan 2020. The purpose of an annual cycle of strategic dialogue is to systematically coordinate and align GOU and donor priorities. This meeting also builds upon the successful reform conferences held in London and Copenhagen and was a key step in preparing for the next Ukraine Reform Conference, expected to be held during June 2019 in Toronto, Canada.

Prime Minister Hroisman and co-chair on behalf of the donor community, Roman Waschuck, Ambassador Plenipotentiary of Canada to Ukraine, acknowledged progress Ukraine has made recently, yet both noted that there is still more to do. Continued effort is required to progress further, to protect reform investments and achievements so far and to ensure implementation stays on track. They also reiterated that cooperation between the international donor community and Ukraine is based on common interests and shared values, including support for an independent, democratic, prosperous, and healthy Ukraine united around core European values. Ukraine is a key UN member and has also signed onto several international agreements, including human rights. Both sides underscored that their overall shared aim is to achieve tangible impact on the daily lives of all Ukrainian citizens.

The GOU committed to developing an architecture for greater strategic coordination between the centre of government, line ministries and donor community, including regular high-level meetings on development cooperation:

- Meetings with heads of Missions and Cooperation on the regular basis;
- Meeting with Heads of Cooperation at the working level to follow-up on this Forum.

The discussion focused on key reforms, including decentralization, anti-corruption, Public Administration Reform, business climate, privatization and SOE, education, healthcare, infrastructure, and energy. Participants emphasized the continued need for strong political leadership in Ukraine to push these

reforms forward, ensure proper implementation, and make reforms irreversible. Both sides agreed this was a desirable goal and donors are ready to provide support in achieving it.

The GOU and the international donor community agreed to the following steps to address current issues with maximizing existing donor support: 1) to establish a joint task force to accelerate implementation and disbursement of already committed and approved investment projects of International Financial Institutions; 2) to follow-up with international partners on donor coordination and alignment to the budget; 3) to establish a joint task force to simplify GOU regulations to make it easier for international technical assistance donors to operate, including streamlining registration procedures.

The GOU and the international donor community look forward to further strengthening the partnership with Ukraine and strategic dialogue on reforms, and to reconvening at the Ukraine Reform Conference in Toronto. In the lead up to the Conference they will continue to work together to help achieve Ukraine's reform priorities.